

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2020
MINUTES

Attendees: Suzanne Erb, Andrew Pennington, Damon Johnson/BBVS, Shari Brightful/BVRS, Kathy Fogel/BVRS, LaKeysha McLaurin/BVRS, Lynn Heitz/ASB, Michele Sparling/Networks, Nikkita Arnet/Networks, Joan Nelson, June Waters-Bey/Families First, Melissa Good & Steven Wall

WELCOME/Suzanne Erb (Chairperson of CAC)

INTRODUCTIONS/All In Attendance

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING APPROVED

PRESENTATION/Michele & Nikkita (Networks)

Networks for Training- Michele and Nikkita- provide a basic overview about what the group focus is. Refer to Powerpoint shared with the committee for more details.

Nikkita explains what is on the Philaonthejob website. Provides resources to the business community, how to create a diverse workplace by hiring individuals with disabilities, provides information to providers, upcoming trainings, things going on in the country about Employment First, links for Career Exploration sites for providers to use with consumers, Career Seeker Section- finding a job, advancing career, etc. Each page has questions the job seeker can answer about strengths, weaknesses, what they like about their job and action steps Section for transition- five stages- such as early intervention, high school, post-secondary, etc. They have provided information on helping students appropriately engage during the IEP and 504 plan meetings. They have information about general resources- there is information about advocacy, financial resources, legal, housing, childcare in an effort to take a more holistic approach to addressing the needs of those with disabilities in Philadelphia and outskirts. They also have an Instagram page as well. Information is posted almost daily. They post about the Employment Forum which is a Virtual meeting every other week now. They also have a Facebook page. They can also be reached by email They worked really hard to make this an accessible site. Please let them know if something isn't working properly with the site. Even update them if links aren't working properly.

June- Offers feedback about items on the site that need to be edited, some items that from a legal standpoint need to be changed. She agreed to follow up with Networks about the site. Michele briefly discussed the strategic plan. Please refer to PP to see the most recent strategic plan. You don't have to join the steering committee to help out on each of the workgroups. Nikkita briefly shares what the Marketing workgroup has been working on in relation to Employment First.

Michele shares who is the head of each workgroup and what they are currently working on regarding Employment First. Michele mentions getting people together in the workgroups have been a bit difficult due to COVID-19. Suzanne explains the Benefits workgroup activities and how CAP staff may want to volunteer to join this workgroup. The workgroup found last year that many customers, their parents and school staff don't have as much knowledge as we would like about Benefits and what happens when you begin to work. Suzanne says email her if you are interested in joining. Email her at suzannee@networksfortraining.org or call her at 215-313-0550. Andrew from CAP stated he would be more than happy to assist with the resource guide/fact sheet this workgroup is working on.

June Waters-Bey shared

BVRS REPORT- Shari Brightful

Telework and checking in with staff and then our customers
Murder of George Floyd and checking in with staff
Update the field regarding Telework Status we are open for business
Update regarding Supported Employment while in Telework status
Update Regarding PETS while in Telework status
Send information to Suzanne directly regarding (Supported Employment and PETS and what is re-opening)
Any questions????
Staffing- hiring is on hold for the agency
Goal- 212 closures (goal is to close 447)
Budget- focused on collecting invoices for services that began before 6/30/2020.
Providing education and training to providers and support regarding Period of Performance

BBVS REPORT-Damon Johnson

Damon did the same with his staff, made sure staff were ok with Teleworking. Making sure they have the tools to effectively do their jobs. Talked with staff about the Murder of George Floyd and provided support if they needed it.
Summer Academy will move forward but it will be Virtual. It will be held the 2nd week of July
Working with staff to make sure they have the equipment needed
Staffing- on a hiring freeze. Began interviews for Social Worker which is on hold due to COVID-19
Fiscal Assistant is doing well with fiscal, she is also going to assist BVRS Fiscal Assistant with fiscal as needed.
Goals-Social Workers exceeded goals this year/VRC- has 5 more cases to close to meet goal / O&M- met their goals

BBVS REPORT (CONT'D)

Period Of Performance Training, doing our due diligence with following POP
Shari and I work together to collaborate within the office. Eventually we will come up
with a plan to return to work and how that will look

Suzanne asked how are they doing Orientation & Mobility or VRT in light of COVID
with BBVS customers?

VRT and O&M doing customer wellness checks. Talks with them about what can be
done virtually and what can't be done. Equipment was sent to the customers that could
possibly be trained virtually, using FaceTime or Skype

SW are stepping up to call in and check in on customers

VRC's are doing the same activities

Andrew Pennington- asked if anyone heard anything regarding Post COVID-19 regarding
unemployment rates

Record high for Unemployment

Andrew asked if this has been a topic of discussion about the massive amounts of
individuals who are unemployed and how we will focus our efforts in assisting those
individuals with disabilities in gaining and maintaining competitive integrated
employment.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report at this time

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING INFORMATION

CAP has a conference geared to PA Residents. If you want to join you can find the details
on the Facebook Page

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

9/28/2020 10:00-11:30

10. Adjournment