

**Consumer Advisory Committee**  
**March 22, 2018**  
**1:00 pm at OVR in Williamsport**

**Present:** Robin Kiess, Karen Retorick, Scott Miller, Susan Newcomer, Pat Sterner, Chris Tsai, Shirley Abernathy

**Approval of 12/13/18 minutes:** Correction top of page 2, “Karen R.” replaces “Karen K”. Chris moved to approve the minutes, Scott seconded

**OVR Updates:** (Chris Tsai) Handouts were provided on National Women’s History Month as well as a listing of other job fairs being held within the serving counties of the Williamsport OVR District in 2018.

The OVR Spring Job Fair is scheduled for April 17, 2018, 1:00 – 4:00 at the OVR District Office in Williamsport, which will target the employment needs of both adults and youth with disabilities.

OVR can now pay for a licensed benefits specialist to discuss Social Security Work Incentives with OVR clients who receive SSI or SSDI. Clients will learn more about these work incentives and how working impacts on various benefits they are receiving through this benefits counseling.

There continues to be a lack of trained Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to fill positions, local and statewide, to replace counselors vacating their position due to retirement or other factors. This information was reported in the minutes of the last meeting, with the additional information that individuals can be recruited from “Social Worker 1” level of civil service employment to fill counselor vacancies. If an individual is a student in a Master’s degree in Rehab counseling, they could be hired as a VRC Intern. Also, someone with a Master’s Degree in such fields as psychology, special education, etc., can be hired as a trainee and goes through one-year training to become a VRC.

**Lycoming County Employment Committee for People with Disabilities:** (Karen Retorick) The committee is planning their yearly October event and would like to reach out to employers to encourage them to hire people with disabilities. They are also discussing how to grow their committee membership.

**CAC Handbook:** (Shirley Abernathy) A copy of the CAC handbook from the PaRC (PA Rehab Council) website was handed out to all committee members. Members are asked to read the handbook prior to the next meeting to be able to discuss the information as well as to discuss the scope and goals of our CAC.

28

**\*NOTE\* Next meeting date: June 7, 2018 at 1 pm at OVR, Williamsport, PA**