

CAC Meeting

September 14, 2017

Present were: Shirley Abernathy, Chris Tsai, Pat Sterner, Scott Miller, Joanne Mondell, Robin Kiess, Susan Newcomer, Karen Retorick, Gaye Jenkins

New Members:

Robin Kiess – A former OVR customer, has been working at Wegmans for the last 21 years and plans to retire soon.

Gaye Jenkins – employed thru CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) – a coordinator of the local project WATCH (Work Attributes Toward Careers in Health). This project provides training funds for low income cash assistance recipients who are interested in the health care field mainly nursing. Gaye receives many referrals from OVR, Hope, CareerLink, etc. She also teaches part time at Penn College. She initially received services herself from Blindness and Visual Services and then OVR helped her get thru many obstacles and pay for some of her education.

OVR Events

FAB LAB – STEM Program for high school students to have experience in the field. Students learned how to use the 3-D printer to draw on the printer.

Public Meetings: This year the public meeting was conducted via video conference. It will be held like this in the future. Held this year on August 16th and August 29th. There were not as many local participants. It was a very thorough report with very detailed information. Please come to the Public Meeting next year.

Disability Awareness Month – October

OVR Job Fair – Fall – October 18th – Flyer will be out. Our Business Service Rep is hosting this job fair from 1PM to 4PM at the Williamsport District Office. Usually 10 to 12 employers. Bring your resume.

October 25th from 4 to 5 PM at the Williamsport District Office. AT Equipment Demo with the Q&A/Application Assistance and OVR-101

information regarding OVR services. **BLAST** can give assistance with **Assistive Technology devices**.

Lycoming County Employment Committee for Persons with Disabilities will host an event: **Employment First**. Will be held on **October 30th from 1 PM to 4 PM** on the 3rd Floor of the Trade and Transit Building. Employers hiring people with disabilities and employees will be recognized. Each committee member agency will explain the services of their agency.

October 5th – County Commissioner will recognize employers and employees with disabilities in honor of Disability Awareness Month.

August Message – WIOA message – There is an increase of minimum wage to \$10.25/hr. for anyone who works for the Commonwealth or any contractor doing work for the Commonwealth. The law is set.

PETS Message – New Services to Eligible Students at a Younger age.

- Career Guidance and Counseling
- Group Services
- Job Shadowing
- Work-Based Learning Experience
- On-the –Job Training
- Apprenticeships
- Voc-Technical Training/College

Inspirational Success Story – Pennsylvania Randolph Sheppard Program Funding to set up a retail business for persons with a visual impairment -Alycia Barras.

Member Reports/Questions

There was a group discussion about the difficulties people with disabilities face when seeking employment, especially when companies place stipulations on the educational level required for positions. Karen Retorick shared that many organizations that would hire people with disabilities are providing services licensed by the state, who stipulates the level of education required for certain positions.

Scott Miller shared that there is a group of young adults of varying abilities that meet at the JV Brown Library on Thursdays in the Youth area, 4:15 - 5:30, for socializing with many sharing interests in anime and comic con.

Next meeting: The date of the next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, December 13th, 1:00 at OVR in Williamsport. Please note this is a change from the regular schedule due to the proximity of the Christmas holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Mondell