

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

12/19/2019@1 PM OVR – D.O. WILLIAMSPORT

CALL IN #: 267-332-8737 PIN # : 449343

In attendance were Mickey McNamara, Robin Kiess, Shirley Abernathy and Chris Tsai (OVR). Andrew Pennington, Outreach Manager from the PA Client Assistance Program in Harrisburg, participated via conference call.

Approval of 12/19/19 Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Tsai, seconded by Robin Kiess.

OVR updates: The group was provided information on the Central PA Career Pathways Partnership, the mission of which is “to implement a comprehensive career education strategy to create and share resources and opportunities for schools, students, families and businesses that will provide a skilled, sustainable workforce”. Educational partners include public school districts in Union and Snyder counties as well as SUN Area Technical Institute, CSIU #10 and Pennsylvania College of Technology. Community partners include Central PA Workforce Development Corporation, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, Greater Susquehanna United Way, PA CareerLink, Susquehanna Valley Education Project, and OVR. If you would like a copy of this information, please contact the Chris Tsai at the OVR District Office in Williamsport at 570-327-3600.

Chris also reported on LEAN, a 5-stage program in progress at OVR. It is a statewide initiative to examine service provision and is being implemented with the goal of utilizing OVR resources more efficiently while improving workforce service delivery statewide. The first stage is to assess caseloads, evaluate progress and attempt to close the waiting list for services. The second stage is to collect OVR counselor data that will go to the OVR Central Office for evaluation. Chris will keep us posted during its implementation.

Lycoming County Employment Coalition Updates: Chris reported that the Social Security Program held for the community on September 25, 2019 from 1-3:30 at the River Valley Regional YMCA on Walnut Street in Williamsport was considered a success. The Social Security District Manager attended, as well as three additional staff who presented. Social Security felt the level of community interest warranted consideration of holding another program on this topic in 2020. There were approximately 25 community members present.

Committee member input: Micky McNamara, committee member and Penn College Instructor, presented on the challenges of individuals experiencing auditory hallucinations, followed by the outcomes of her class project on the subject. She also shared a class project on ageism, which raised the students’ awareness of human behaviors that marginalize older adults of all abilities.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, 1 PM at OVR

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!