

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

3/21/19 @1:15 PM – D.O.WILLIAMSPORT

In attendance were Robin Kiess, Pat Sterner, Karen Retorick, Susan Newcomer, Gaye Jenkins, Chris Tsai, Michele Howe via conference call, and Shirley Abernathy. Scott Miller has requested to be removed from the committee for personal reasons.

Approval of 12/20/18 minutes was unanimous by a group vote.

OVR updates – Chris Tsai

OVR's Youth Career Fair will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the OVR District Office in Williamsport from 1 – 4 PM. It will be held in the Conference Room. Although it is targeting the younger age group of disabled individuals, it was indicated at the meeting that any age job seeker will be welcomed.

The 2019 Transition Conference was held at Penn Collee on March 15, 2019. OVR services were presented to conference attendees, and a young man with multiple disabilities was the keynote speaker. Sue Newcomer felt the conference provided good information to the participants and their families.

The former Lycoming County Employment Committee for People with Disabilities has chosen a new name. It will now be known as the Lycoming County Employment Coalition. As the term of the current co-chairs of the committee is ending in June, new co-chairpersons will be selected. The Coalition was approached by a consumer to advocate for appropriate winter street and sidewalk maintenance in the Central Business District. It was noted that, by city ordinance, it is the responsibility of the property owner to make sure the sidewalks and corner crossings in front of their buildings are cleared following a snow or ice event. If this is not done, people are encouraged to call the Williamsport city codes office to report the problem.

Chris Tsai presented disability awareness information for March as Developmental Disability Awareness month, including facts and statistics concerning Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

CAC Goals – the discussion continued about the CAC having a seminar for the public on Social Security rules and regulations, as they relate to individuals on SSI and SSDI. At the previous meeting we had discussed approaching the YMCA for the use of their community room for the event, as well as the local Social Security Administration office for representation at the seminar to present and answer questions from the public. The group has decided on the week of May 20th 2019, 11 am – 1 or 2pm, for the seminar. Sue Newcomer will talk to the YMCA to see if there is a date that week that we can utilize the Community Room. She will also help with disseminating information such as flyers or posters once the date, program and location are confirmed. Chris Tsai will contact Social Security for a presenter/representative as soon as the date, time and location have been confirmed, and will get the information out to the OVR counselors to share with their consumers. Shirley Abernathy will work on the information for a flyer and get that to Chris, and find out about radio Public Service Announcements as well as television and newsprint Public Service Announcements. She will also prepare a sign-in sheet for the event. The committee members with computer access will receive a draft of the flyer for their input and approval ASAP. Pat Sterner would like to have the finished product mailed to her and Robin

Kiess would like the draft mailed to her for her input prior to approval. Karen Retorick will see that the Beacon Hub, Clubhouse and MH/ID all receives copies of the flyer. Gaye Jenkins will make copies of the flyer and have them available to STEP's clientele. Shirley Abernathy will drop copies off at the UPMC Health and Dental Clinic on Hepburn Street. Sue Newcomer will provide brochures to the YMCA and Community Baptist Church.

Gaye Jenkins reported on several new online trainings being offered by the WATCH Program through STEP. They include Front Office Administration, Medical Billing/Coding, Medical Records (electronic) and Phlebotomy. Each training is 14-16 weeks and a full-time tutor is provided to each participant. Every two weeks STEP gets a progress report on the participant. All participants complete a test of Adult Basic Education prior to entering the program, to determine their level of preparedness for participation in any of the training programs. STEP is also doing EMT, CNA, Home Health Aide and LPN trainings, and has entered into a partnership with Aramark to help meet their need for trained and certified medical personnel. For additional information go to www.MedCerts.com Another resource for training information is www.PAsmart.gov as well as your local CareerLink office.

In addition, Gaye Jenkins approached her brother Chuck Ranck, who has an extensive professional background working with individuals with disabilities, about being a member of the CAC. Much of his experience is within education. The committee feels his experience and input would be extremely valuable, and hope that he would be willing to take some of his time, 4 times a year, to provide his knowledge, expertise and input.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, June 20, 2019, 1PM at OVR. This may be changed due to the summertime availability of the members.