

Berks-Schuylkill CAC Meeting

December 9, 2019

Attendees: Angel Torres, Judy Vaskorlis, Sally Kneipp, Judy Yeasted and Yvelisse Gonzalez. Andrew Pennington (tried to call in).

Review and Approval of Minutes: The group continued discussion on the need for formal minutes that should be posted on the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council website. Ms. Gonzalez did post the October agenda & minutes on the PaRC website. There was question on the wording of Providers and changing that wording to Community Resources. A Motion was made by Sally and seconded by Judy V. to approve the October meeting minutes with the change in wording to Community Resources. Also submitting the meeting minutes for posted on the PARC website after they have been approved.

Discuss mission/objective of CAC: After reviewing the OVR CAC Handbook mission & purpose, discussion revolved around the idea of staying to the purpose of the CAC mission & purpose as noted in the handbook. We should stay away from non-OVR related issues and personal matters. There was discussion on the idea of writing letters to state legislators to support OVR services.

OVR Report:

- In January there will be a determination concerning the clients on the waiting list. Questions remain on how the process will be completed. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have many clients, and will the state funds be divided equally to the OVR districts?
- There was discussion concerning the idea of having an income cap for clients to spread out the available funds the state has for OVR services.

Discussion about community resources: OVR counselors have lists of community resources for referral purposes. Yvelisse will provide current OVR listing. Andrew Pennington volunteered to merge existing lists of community resources.

Other Business:

- Recruitment flyers have been updated.
- Follow-up is continuing with the individual who has expressed interest in joining.

- Angel spoke to the Laura W. who took picture of group at the April meeting. Laura stated she would forward picture but mentioned that another picture might need to be taken due to blurriness.
- Co-chair and secretary positions need to be filled.

Agenda for next meeting: Continue with building community resource listings for multiple counties. Decide on group picture. Promote CAC member recruitment.

Announcement for good: Judy V. informed the group about the Hear Now program with hearing aids available at a cost of \$125 for one and \$250 for two. PA Housing Search has several links to other helpful programs. Judy also mentioned that the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) holds their meetings the 2nd Friday of every month at the Community Health Center at 838 Penn Street, Reading at 10am.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Sally and seconded by Judy V.

Next Meeting is February 10, 2020, at 4PM at PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation - Berks.