

## CAC Meeting Notes for 8/4/22

### Attendees:

Amanda Turner	Ina Clore-Dantzler	MaryAnne Silverstein
Andrew Pennington	Jacki Thornton	Melissa Kinser
Andrew Rupp	Jacki Thornton	Melissa Long
Andrew Wagner	James Whitonis	Michelle Wright
Andy Wagner	Janice Werfel	Rebecca Knaub
Anne Stollo	Joseph Thomas	Rebecca Miller
Autumn Temple	Josie Dively	Sherri Hack
Colleen Woodring	Justin Laffey	Steve Kechisen
Danielle Dawgiello	Kristie Sharer	Amanda Turner
Deborah Fox	Lori Mutchler	Andrew Pennington
Edward DeAgostino	Martha Futhey	Andrew Rupp
Gale Bretti	Marty Dombrowski	Waleska Lopez-Jimenez
Holly Hollenbach		

The presenter was Magdalena “Maggie” Felton, Nurse Practitioner with Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc. She spoke on Non-24 Sleep Disorder which affects individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Her contact information is Maggie.felton@vandapharma.com and 202-579-8035.

Colleen Woodring advised that The Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) employment requirements have been updated. The VRC qualifications include: A master’s degree in vocational rehabilitation, mental health, special education, social work, human services, psychology, business administration, human resources, public administration, or a closely related field.

HGAC is accepting referrals across all programs. They have returned to double occupancy in their dorms. HGAC accepts referrals year-round and is fast tracking screenings to get customers accepted and scheduled as soon as possible.

Outreach continues to be a focus. OVR’s referrals are down. We need a presence in the community again. Staff are doing face to face connections in the community once more.

Summer Programs for Pre-ETS are up and running. My Work program.

Anne Strollo shared that: Altoona BVS has two vacancies: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor/Intern and an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. The office recently filled an Orientation and Mobility Specialist Intern position by hiring Gus Laffey.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has announced that visually impaired Pennsylvania residents can now use Bioptic telescope lenses to obtain a learner's permit and ultimately earn a driver's license. Act 131 took effect on September 27, 2021, and directed the establishment of a safe program for eligible individuals to use Bioptic telescope lenses that can help them meet visual acuity standards to qualify for and obtain a driver's license. PennDOT has developed the program's training and licensing process and has now implemented the program. OVR is developing guidelines regarding implanting bioptic driver services for OVR customers.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, including Blindness and Visual Services and the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, met with the Center for Independent Living of South Central PA. During the meeting they discussed Pre-ETS services as well as other services. OVR is looking forward to continued discussions regarding service options.

Marty Dombroski from the Center for Independent Living commented: We are very excited to see where we can collaborate with OVR to fill the gaps in the programs. Seeking suggestions to help develop programs and make them successful.

Jacki Thornton advised that three Altoona OVR staff attended a Project Search Conference last week. Project Search was established to prepare young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive and integrated employment. BVS and BVRS are working together to create a Project Search in Altoona.

Anne Strollo closed the meeting.

Next meeting will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.