

CAC Meeting Notes for 4/20/2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Shad Goff - presenter
Amanda Turner
Craig Schield
Rachel, Interpreter for Craig
Holly Hollenbach
Marty Dombrowski – CIL
Chelsea Margic
Kristen Baker

Stacey Thompson
Madra Furman
Susan Friedenberger
Johnna Casale
Cali Olson
Beth Wineland
James Whitonis
Melissa Martin

Michelle Wright
Nicole Fisher
Sherri Hack
Jennifer Hilyer
Anita Johnson
Kirsten Butterbaugh
Andrew Pennington

Craig Schield opened the meeting. Craig introduced Shad Goff, Executive Director of Celularity who presented on The Next Evolution in Cellular Medicine.

He presented on ophthalmology and optometry regarding degenerative diseases of the eyes.

A quick overview: They have been in business for 20 years and they focus on 3 items:

1. Procure placentas – placentas are taken at the consent of the parents to help cure degenerative disease. Celularity maintains a procurement and cryopreservation facility. The placenta can then be used for cancer and other degenerative diseases.
2. Stem Cell Research – to study brain cancer, GI cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Stem cells are used from the placenta and umbilical cord.
3. Degenerative Disease – Foot ulcers to chronic wounds and orthopedic surgeries up to the eyes.

Basically, the Company has all 3 facets within one Company. It is an 80 million dollars facility where a lot of research and development is performed.

One such procedure is BIOVANCE 3 – Ocular – Tri layer human Amniotic membrane.

In this procedure – the inflammatory response needs to be inhibited. Tested in a blind study to see how the cells importation to healing compare to competitors so the best cell friendly product can be brought to market.

The same process was done with the eye. Two products were compared that were already on the market, and their product was superior across the board with cell viability.

It can treat degenerative diseases of eyes and severe dry eye in patients. It provides a barrier to the eye lid from scraping and causing infection and helps with regenerative healing. The procedure is covered under insurance and priced accordingly.

If you would like a brochure, reach out to Shad.

Updates from Craig Schield on BVS, as Andy Wagner could not attend meeting today.

BVS was able to post for the DA position. It has been posted for about a month now, awaiting next steps to be taken.

BVS is currently looking for an Orientation and Mobility instructor.

Two new VRC counselors were just hired, Beth Longwell and Chelsea Margic.

BVS Permanent Bureau Director's name is Dawn Sokol.

Chris Cowan, Acting Bureau Manager

BVS will have a Summer Academy at PSU in State College on June 24th thru June 30th. Any questions, please reach out to Andy Wagner, BVS for additional information.

BVRS Updates

Colleen Woodring, former DA of Altoona BVRS then promoted to Acting Regional Manager now has a new role in Central Office. So, our DA position is now officially vacant, and we are hoping for it to be posted soon. I (Craig Schield) have been Acting DA for 15 months.

I am happy to mention that BVRS Altoona is almost at full staff, recently hiring for 10 different positions (VRCs, BSR, and ERCs). We currently have 3 vacant positions as of today which are, DA, RCHD and clerical.

Craig introduced Melissa Martin who is the high school coordinator for all of transition services.

Missey updates on Summer Pre-ETS:

Pre-ETS is very busy with the following activities: An 8 week paid work experience for students is being offered called My Work Initiative. Currently, 55 students in 3 different counties, Blair (largest), Centre County and the Youth Forestry which is part of the Juvenile Justice System in Huntingdon County.

Professional Connections Experiences is a 2-week work readiness program which the Learning Community Agency will help with. Three sessions will be provided in, June, July and August. Students will be part of learning about the world of work.

We have 2 new ERCs that will be doing groups this summer, any questions please contact Melissa Martin.

Open Discussion

Jim Whitonis from Central Office discussed that he does outreach with the different CACs. Some of the CACs, starting with Reading, are going to use the OVR Facebook page to try and get more customer involvement in the meetings. If interested contact Connie Moonen in Central Office.

The Reading Office is also setting up meetings of CAC chairpersons, so if anyone is interested, Jim can forward their information to the chairperson at Reading.

Craig Schield stated that OVR finally got new equipment at the office Conference Room for Zoom Meetings, so we it will be used at the next CAC meeting.

Meeting ended at 10:40 a.m.