

## Unofficial Notes - Northwest PA BBVS Citizen Advisory Committee Agenda – July 13, 2023

### Call to order

Did not have a quorum

### Roll Call –

Priscilla, Cassie, Alecia, James Whitonis, Andrew Pennington

### Approval of Minutes

Couldn't approve April minutes because did not have a quorum.

### Updates

#### • BBVS Report

- Casandra Falkenhagen continues to manage the Erie BBVS office as Acting District Administrator and Alecia Beam is Acting Assistant District Administrator. Alecia still supervises VR and VRT and Karly supervises SW and OM.
- Erie continues to search for an OM Instructor. We have 4 individuals (3 year round and 1 summer only) we can contract with for services in counties they agreed to serve. This has allowed us to provide instruction to all of our priority cases.
- Envision Success Program was held June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> and we had 4 students from our Specialized Services Program participate.
  - They worked on communication skills – how to meet someone, eye contact, active listening skills, acceptable behaviors, asking for visual descriptions, describing their own visual impairments and they learned what it meant to be independent.
  - They also learned about advocacy and how to identify and solve problems.
  - They talked about career opportunities and volunteering opportunities. They participated in a hands on activity making blankets for donation the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie PA through Project Linus. They had an opportunity to listen to guest speakers and practice the skills they learned.
  - Did a ceremony at the end...asked their favorite parts and they all said blankets.
- Summer Academy was held June 24-June 20<sup>th</sup> and Erie BBVS had 1 student participate.
- IDEAL Program just began and we have 1 student from Erie BBVS participating.
- MY Work just started at the City of Erie Building. We have 2 students participating. They will have a paid part time work experience for the remainder of the summer. There is a meet and greet being held later today where the students will be able to present on what they are doing.
- We had 1 student participate in a paid summer internship this summer. He worked for a visual arts non-profit company setting up their computer systems.

#### • Venango County Association of the Blind (VCAB)

#### • Oil Valley Chapter for the Blind

#### • Keystone Blind Association

- IDEAL going on now...until August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Staffing – people started backing out of program...were able to fill back in and had program.
- 9 students all together
- 2 interns participating

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- **The Sight Center of Northwest PA**
- **PaRC Report**
- **Advisory Committee for the Blind of Pennsylvania (ACBP)**
- **Governor's Committee on Disabilities**

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

### **Next Meetings**

- October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00
- Choose dates for 2024

### **Motion to Adjourn**