

CAC MEETING – August 5, 2022
Virtually via BBVS Pittsburgh Office

The CAC meeting of the Pittsburgh PA BBVS office for Friday, August. 5, 2022 began shortly after 10:00 a.m. on August 5. The meeting was held virtually on the Teams platform.

In Attendance:

Tom Burgunder, GTCB President; Danielle Dawgiello, Acting District Administrator, BBVS Pittsburgh office; Emily Gindlesperger, 2nd VP NFBP; Carla Hayes, President, WCCB; Lynn Heitz, NFBP President; Chip Hitt, Chris Hunsinger, PCB President; Greg Lazur, PATTAN; Harold Longmore, VR Supervisor, Pittsburgh BBVS Office; Bob Nagy; Andrew Pennington, CAP representative; Barb Peterson, BVRSP; Spero Pipakis, Business Service Rep, Pittsburgh BBVS office.

Approval of May 2022 Minutes:

Carla moved, Emily seconded, and the Minutes were Approved.

Staff and Hiring Updates:

The interviewing has begun for District Administrator for the Pittsburgh BBVS office.

Larry Shock's official retirement date will be Aug. 26, 2022.

Interviewing has begun for VRC position. 2 positions open and have a VRC Intern starting in August 2022. The VRC Intern has one class only.

Clerical CA2 position - 2 open positions, no internals but have external candidates.

The office had hired a Social Worker, a VRT, and an O&M in early May 2022, but the O&M got a school district position and left in early August 2022, so the BBVS office has to start over again.

The office now has 2 out of 3 VRTs and have 3 out of 4 Social Workers. Will have another O&M posted

Spero is back full time as a BSR in the Pittsburgh Office. He finished his TWOC with Central Office.

Statistics Update:

The statistics for last fiscal year: There were 38 out of 42 successful closures.

There were 309 Independent Living cases, and 67 cases are children.

There were 67 cases in O&M. The VRTs have a caseload of 63. VRTs have 74 closures out of 72.

O&M closures at 100% - 72 out of 72. And the Social Workers 90 percent closure rate.

There has been an amendment to the intake system to the rapid engagement method, but there is no real change in how much time it is taking to get someone from referral to a work plan.

Carla asked about using AIRA services paid for by the State for some job tasks for clients. Harold said this is not anything that Pennsylvania is using for accommodation.

Pre-ETS Programming:

Other summer programs customers have attended in 2022: Pre-ETS, Helen Keller National Center, and Astronomy through Edinboro University.

Bender has a virtual program that can be done through Pre-ETS. They are looking into Project Search doing something like what the OVR offices are doing, sort of a job shadowing system. There was a job shadow in Butler County.

They are working on Youth Ambassador Program. It is for 10th 11th and 12th grade students, giving younger students some employment skills. This would help students in building self-advocacy. Intermediate Units are hopefully going to be acting as providers of the services for the students.

BVRSP Programming:

Promote class from October 10 through November 4, 2022, and another in May of next year.

White Cane Day will be celebrated this year. Duquesne and BVRSP doing something in Market Square on October 5, 2022, including doing something with Blue Awning Yoga.

New Programming for BBVS:

STRIVE-On - starts in the Fall:
Job Readiness in the Spring and post-secondary in the Fall.

Outreach:

The Outreach really goes along with what Spero is doing but there will be a Senior Fair in Beaver County and senior living facilities for VRTs going to them.

WPSBC Programs - for Fall Outreach and presentations. BBVS will be going there in the Fall for presentations. Have had some activity in the past for SSD.

Training Update:

Train the Trainer program - How to educate providers on vision loss issues. Rush Blady and Koji Matsuda will go to Harrisburg and get the training. When they come back to this office, Rush and Koji will train other employees, who can then go to school districts, BVRS offices and families.

BSR Update - Spero Pipakis:

Spero has more activities at the office in Pittsburgh. He saw a job opening for resource navigators at United Way. It's a 24 hour a day position, \$14.00 an hour.

He reminded us that ADA Assessment is free if an employer wants it. There are job placement possibilities through Barb Graham working for Achieva embedded at Giant Eagle.

Christine Weber is the same kind of person recruiting for fresh foods manufacturing in Freedom PA. They have Central Fill Pharmacy at the same facility.

He has a meeting with a company called Clusive which is a learning platform company offering possible positions. A VRC from Harrisburg, Justin Christopher, is attempting to get them into the state provider system. The

Clusive company has a system that allows counselors to monitor their clients. Might already have contacts with VRS and Inclusive.

NDEAM is recognized in October as disability being part of the equity equation. Training centers are invited to present from all over the country. Tom brought up another possibility for BBVS to do another job fair. A Virtual job fair would have to be state-wide, but is that practical? Would employers want to think about applicants locally?

On his detail Spero was attempting to standardize both the information given to service providers and the reports that service providers give back to the office. That would mean the providers would know what the office expectations are for them with a client, and the office would better know what the services the providers are capable of providing to the client. That would also mean the office would clearly define the needs and abilities of the client.

Inspirotech has a new contract in Philadelphia and needs a Jaws scripter with Federal Clearance, TPGI, and Level Access.

Spero asked about programs able to be used to evaluate typing skills for clients. Lynn Heitz suggested Typing Tutor. There's another typing program suggested by Barb Peterson from BVRSP, but she has to get more information about the program.

Governer's intern program:

There were two interns working in the Pittsburgh office who were BVRS customers, but none of the BBVS customers wanted to do the internships.

VR Update:

Order of Selection is going to be open to all categories effective August 8, 2022.

Rapid engagement model is going to be adopted.

Raising the financial need limitation to \$100,000 and the maximum college pay per year for a student to the college rate not, the community college rate, for the next year. How will supported employment and provider services be affected?

Adding New People to the Group:

No good ideas but to ask folks who seem interested.

New Business:

Is it time to do elections in November?

Chris motioned and someone else seconded to adjourn.

Next Meeting – November 4, 2022, beginning 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
by Chris Hunsinger