

## **CAC MEETING August 4, 2023 Minutes**

This CAC Meeting of the Pittsburgh PA, BBVS office was held on the Teams Platform with most members attending virtually. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 8/04/2023. The office is located at 531 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15222.

### **In Attendance:**

Tom Burgunder (president of GTCB) and Co-Chair of CAC; Danielle Dawgiello (District Administrator Pittsburgh BBVS Office); Jeffry Durmis (Assistant administrator Pittsburgh BBVS); Carla Hayes (WCCB President); Chris Hunsinger (President PCB); Greg Lazzur (PATTAN rep); Harold Longmore (VR Supervisor Pittsburgh BBVS office); Bob Nagy; Spero Pipakis (BSR, Pittsburgh BBVS Office); Andrew Pennington (CAP Representative ); Sherry Roger; Michael Zaken (Co-Chair).

### **Approval of May 2023 Minutes:**

A discussion was held to correct May 2023 CAC attendance to show that Lynn Heitz was not in attendance and Spero's report was given by Danielle. Corrected May 2023 Minutes will be distributed.

Tom Burgunder made motion and Sherry(?) Seconded to approve the May 2023 minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

### **Staff Updates:**

Danielle gave the report. There is now a full complement of 5 VRC staff: 2 are new ones.

O&M Specialist starting on Monday, 8/07/2023. Fiscal assistant who will do the paperwork to pay providers of services returning soon.

### **Hiring:**

BBVS Pgh wants to have 3 Social Workers and 3 full-time CA2s. Also Looking for a second VR Supervisor position; posting another Social Worker position. Posting for another CA2 as well.

**Statistics Update:**

VRCs have 34 successful employment outcomes by June 30, 2023. ILOB has 96 successful outcomes.

O&Ms have 73 successful closures; that is 101% of the goal. VRTs have 121% of the expected goal.

Active cases currently in the office: VR = 434; ILOB = 239; Children = 53; O&M = 64; VRT = 120. SS Adult not working between ages 18 and 55; Specialized Services - Adult. Can be health and safety, but BBVS can only offer them O&M and VRT referral.

The question was asked from Andrew about how many of the staff have full caseloads. We only got 34 of the 64 goal for closures. Three with full caseload and two with less than full caseload. Two new VRCs in the office under a month as of this CAC meeting.

New goals are: 57 closures for fiscal year 2024, not 64.

Since ILOB cap has been lifted by the OVR Board, there is more money to spend for ILOB customers; no limit for ILOB now.

**Pre-ETS Programming:**

Greg asked if there is Pre-ETS specializing. Last year's goal was 103 and this year's goal is 95. There were 65 satisfactory Pre-ETS outcomes.

Special Ed people in Beaver and Butler counties are trying to be more active in this area to help students.

Greg asked about IEP meetings for counselors, how do they attend IEP meetings? Response was that they usually attend virtually.

Carla asked about home schoolers through and for BBVS. Greg pointed out that PATTAN doesn't even get info about the home-schooled kids. BBVS is wrestling with this issue. Although students are being home schooled, is the school district responsible for the

specialized learning like O&M, Braille, and other things that a TVI might usually offer - or where do those services come from?

### **Paid Work Experience:**

This seems to be more active in Beaver and Butler counties.

Job Shadow, Chick-Fil-A, janitor at a government site. Also, My Work - what kind of programs can the students get in to?

It appears that Butler County local government and ARC are active in this kind of My Work and Job Shadowing. Job shadowing with Giant Eagle. What about Project Adept with customized employment and discovery?

Carla brought up the accessibility issue with the website at Giant Eagle. Reasonable accommodations for the whole hiring process at that organization.

Spero said he would check with Stacy and Emily from Achieva. Giant Eagle now has store managers working with OVR hires, not an HR employee. So they have to do more educating on a store-by-store basis.

### **CMU Event Updates - 5/18/2023:**

Global Accessibility Day. This sounds like presenters and vendors, speakers, vendors, LAMP, Cart, BVRSP, Class, Carnegie Museum, Apple. And some CMU staff - Catherine Getchell and Kim someone.

Attendance – no information about students participating, who were the people that this event was supposed to reach? Were about 115 participants but not the ones that BBVS hoped would come. They have to analyze goals and expectations for such events. It is difficult to get student participation because of transportation problems since Covid. Also, students are not necessarily participating in programs just because they hear about them.

Game Masters- students to meet with a BBVS customer who can be thought of as an adult example of someone with vision loss who created his own business. He is the owner of a board game store in Westview. The BBVS office has 3 students who are interested in both having some game fun and learning more about accessibility. The BBVS office is shooting for 8/21/2023 as a day to have the students meet the owner.

**Summer Programs:**

CCAP, (Career and Community program at BVRSP): One student went to BVRSP for that program. BBVS and BVRSP are updating the MOU with inclusion of some way to help with transportation of the students who come for services.

Envision Camp at Penn State Behrend: Had a couple of students attend that program. ADL and socialization were part of the program.

Summer Academy: Had one from this BBVS office and one waitlisted.

Survey for customers originated from Specialized Services Children's Program - planning and results. A demographic survey for customers to try to fine tune the offerings of this office.

Staff will use the survey, and additionally, perhaps the CAC group will get involved before the survey goes out to customers.

**BVRSP Programming:**

Barb Peterson was not at the meeting to give a report, but BBVS staff gave a report based on what their customers are working on at BVRSP. PABT continues to have customers attend. Many are commuting, not staying at the hotel where BVRSP has accommodations. BOSS Program, Promote Program

White Cane Day was discussed, but since BVRSP usually is the lead on this event, Michael said that he would work with Barb Peterson and bring the information back to the BBVS office and GTCB.

Chris Hunsinger pointed out it is important that the White Cane be an important part of any presentation; it's not just blind people being added to someone else's event. Perhaps we need some education about APS, or White Canes along with awareness of what BBVS can do for people along with BVRSP. We also asked that GTCB be involved in any planning of events.

**Outreach:**

BBVS Field Staff try to do 2 outreach events a month. Includes with Low Vision doctors and other organizations. WPSBC Programs-update vocational instruction at the school is changing.

Customized employment is being taken seriously. Additional training for staff will make this work better. Discovery is the beginning of finding customized employment, but first a person needs an assessment.

**Training Update for BBVS:**

Train the Trainer program – part 2 (continue for new staff and for event in October 2023 with providers)

Training for newer staff and for providers: Getting to Know BBVS.

**BSR Update – Spero Pipakis:**

Apex helps people learn about cyber security; 10 weeks virtual class. Putting this virtual program into CWDS. Those who complete the program get IT Certification, Google, Cisco.

Spero talked about clusive(?) having a self-assessment tool which customers can use. The results are sent to the VRC if that information is given. He is trying to reach out to employers because OVR has raised the OJT time to 180 days, giving customers a longer time to fit in on a new job. He is particularly looking at State and Federal jobs because those jobs often have a track record of

accessibility or at least the staff is more familiar with accessibility issues. He is reaching out to the CareerLink offices as well.

### **VR Update:**

How Rapid Engagement will affect intake processes:

Now 5 VRCs (caseloads divided among 5). BBVS is monitoring the times for people going from referral to eligibility to IPE. The goal is to get someone from referral to eligibility in 60 days and then an additional 90 days for development of IPE. The office is not meeting the goals, but we don't have a good idea of how close they are on this topic.

CA-MSG tracking grades for college students and report cards. Diplomas for high school students (RSA requirement). BBVS is working on a system to get the records from the schools with customer consent which might be faster than asking students to provide them.

### **Adding New People to the Group:**

Greg suggested Tim Knight who is also a PATTAN consultant working with Greg.

### **New Business:**

Since we were told that ILOB doesn't have a dollar limit at this time, Chris Hunsinger asked what information is available to pass on to possible customers who could use the services: Being over age 55 and not working, being able to get items like hearing aids, Assistive Technology, CCTVs or other magnifiers which had usually been too expensive for BBVS to buy.

We talked about giving NFBPA and PCB members additional information on this topic, but making sure that it was accurate. Danielle took the email for Chris Hunsinger to send out info. The OVR Board has made this adjustment for at least this fiscal year July through June 2024.

**Next CAC meeting is Friday, 11/03/2023 beginning 10:00 a.m.**

Tom Burgunder made motion and Chris Hunsinger seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Hunsinger