**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**April 1, 2025**

**Minutes**

SAB Attendees: Blair Wong, Brian MacDonald, Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski, Kerlyne Pacombe

MCB Staff Attendees: John Oliveira, Justine Muir, Nathan Skrocki, Mike Saccone

Meeting Held via Zoom; Recordings made available to the public on MCB YouTube channel

Public invited to participate through Q&A made at end of the meeting.

Minutes

Blair motions to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Minutes accepted.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

Fiscal update. The budget testimony was completed in front of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. On April 15th we will testify in front of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

So far, our federal funding has not been impacted, and we have not been notified of any changes. We are waiting to see any changes made to the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Our new Chief Financial Officer, Mike Dennis, started last week. MCB currently has no positions posted. We will be fully staffed by early May.

We put out a social media post looking for people to test out a mobility device called Glide. It is still in development. The slots filled up quickly for testers.

Programs and Services Update: Justine Muir

2025 Visions of Collaboration Conference: Last Friday, we successfully hosted the 2025 Visions of Collaboration Conference. We had about 125 participants. The event featured insightful student panel discussion with current and recently graduated college students (also MCB consumers), breakout sessions on career pathways, and networking opportunities that fostered collaboration between agencies, schools, and our program partners.

Summer 2025 Internship Program: Recruitment continues for our Summer 2025 Internship Program. We are engaging with new employer partners to expand opportunities for our interns and putting the final touches on the soft skills trainings with are scheduled to take place in late April and May.

Employment Services Initiatives: Planning is underway for our Employment Services Reverse Virtual Job Fair and employment webinar, both of which aim to connect job seekers with visual impairments to potential employers and generally occur in the fall each year.

Carol and Dan from our Employment Services team have been selected to present at the upcoming National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB) conference. Their presentation, titled *"Getting Job Seekers in Front of Employers and Getting Them Hired!"*, will highlight how the Reverse Virtual Job Fair has successfully facilitated employment opportunities.

Regional Staffing Updates: We are excited to welcome a new Region 5 Case Services Worker (CSW), who will be filling the position left by Linda’s retirement in January. In Region 1, an offer has been extended for a new Rehabilitation Teacher, which will ensure full staffing across all regions.

Community Engagement: Requests for in-service training and participation in events are increasing after a brief winter slowdown. Our teams are actively engaging with local senior centers, participating in spring resource fairs, and providing training and outreach at various organizations and living facilities. These efforts are strengthening our presence in the community and expanding access to our services.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

883 open SR children’s cases and 3,313 open SR adult cases.

214 open VR youth cases and 772 open VR adult cases.

21 closed SR children’s cases and 671 closed SR adult cases. (calendar year)

144 successful VR closures and 85 unsuccessful VR closures. (fiscal year)

2,177 COBs, 331 MCB IDs, and 497 new registrations.

Blair previously asked the average length of a VR case which is 3.14 years.

Questions from the SAB Members

Blair asks if John can elaborate on the Glide event. The spots were all filled in one hour and there were 40 slots available for 2 sessions. John has tried this device at many national conferences. Blair asks if it would be possible to hear from one of the testers regarding their experience. John says yes if they are willing to share their personal experience.

Questions from the Public

Amy shares her thoughts on the Glide device and the company.

Nona Haroyan asks for clarification regarding what SR funds can be used specifically with purchasing technology. John says in previous years when ear marks have gone through for training, there was a pot of money left over that was used to purchase equipment and supplement the SR budget. This year we did not get those additional funds. We have a small amount of SR funds we use for equipment and training. Need is determined by the case manager.

Greg Donnelly says the Carroll Center also has a call with the Glide company if there is additional interest from the community.

Blair asks Justine to comment on MCB’s partnerships to help consumers prepare for medical appointments and give updates on the partnership with WPI. Justine says it is a partnership with Beth Israel to give tip sheets to their staff and will hopefully expand to trainings in the future. Justine says she can ask Alexander Pooler for a WPI update.

Meeting adjourned.