**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**December 3, 2024**

**Minutes**

SAB Attendees: Blair Wong, Brian MacDonald, Kathy Petkauskos, Nancy Rumbolt-Trzcinski

MCB Staff Attendees: John Oliveira, Justine Muir, Nathan Skrocki, Lucy Evangelidis, Loran Lang

Meeting Held via Zoom; Recordings made available to 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 November meeting. Minutes accepted.

Brian suggests having one of the 2025 meetings in person at MCB’s office in Boston.

Kathy says an in-person meeting would require her to take time off. She is asking what the purpose would be, would there be something special occurring?

Nancy agrees with Kathy. She says she has the issue of transportation.

Blair has created his teaching schedule around these virtual meetings so it might be difficult for him to get back in time for class. He also mentions this would be more difficult for the public.

Brian is saying this would just be occasional (once or twice a year) to foster comradery.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

Budget update. Funding came through for the earmark for training. Purchase orders will be issued soon. We are busy working on the FY26 budget which starts in July. It is projected that it might be a difficult year as far as bringing in tax revenue. Most of our positions will be filled at that time. We currently have 139 individuals working here. Our CFO is starting on Monday. We will be close to our cap of 141 staff.

John attended the Carroll Center Tech Fair.

Brian asks if the 141-person cap is based on cost/expenses or is it based on the physical number of employees? John says the cap is given to us by EHS and A&F based on our budget and payroll.

Programs and Services Update: Justine Muir

Our Vending Program Supervisor, Director of Programs and Services, and one of our consumers attended the BLAST (business leadership and superior training) conference. They learned about the latest developments in the Randolph-Sheppard Program.

The winter social for children and families in region 2 is being held on Saturday with the help from the MCPHS Low Vision Club students and the Memorial Foundation for the Blind.

The regions and programs continue to have strong participation in offering trainings both within their regions and through collaborative partnerships.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

We will look at the new dashboard. It starts with a glossary of our terminology. It will be updated monthly.

867 open SR children’s cases. 3,383 open SR adult cases.

218 open VR youth cases. 764 open VR adult cases.

There is a chart below with a description.

128 closed SR children’s cases. 2,162 closed SR adult cases.

94 successful VR closures and 48 unsuccessful VR closures. We added an age range demographic for the VR program.

8,104 COBs, 1078 MCB IDs, & 1713 new registrations.

Kathy asks if there are plans to add more demographic information? Nate said we have the ability to do that. There is also an internal facing portion where the diagnosis and ideologies of each case are added in. They can monitor trends through that. It would be possible to break out by region.

Questions

Debbie M thinks an in-person meeting is a great idea. It is a different beneficial experience to meet in-person occasionally.

Blair has questions regarding the dashboard. Is it possible to have the graphs and data audio described? Nate said he can ask about that.

Blair asks where the children’s event was held. It was held at our touchdown space in Worcester. Region 2 does this several times a year.

Blair asks if there are opportunities for leadership development amongst young adults in the visually impaired community. The WIOA act requires us to offer services to youth ages 14-21 that include self-advocacy. Justine added that our Pre-ETS and internship programs require a lot of self-advocacy and incorporates a lot of the important soft skills needed to enter the workforce.

Jerry B recommends a hybrid meeting so the public can still attend.

Debbie Malone thinks that an in-person meeting is a great idea.

Meeting adjourned.