**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**July 2, 2024**

**Minutes**

SAB Attendees: Blair Wong, Brian MacDonald, and Kathy Petkauskos

MCB Staff Attendees: John Oliveira, 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 June meeting. Kathy seconds the motion. Minutes accepted.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

Preparing for internship program closing ceremony in early August.

Job fair continuing to move forward with an employer seminar in September. Reverse job fair coming up in early October.

White Cane Program underway- Ally Bull (Director of Orientation & Mobility) is on leave but will be back before program begins.

Closing of fiscal year occurred on June 30th. Currently ensuring vendors are submitting payment vouchers for services provided. Should wrap up early August and have final closure of state’s fiscal year.

Loaded a 1/12th budget- don’t have full signed budget yet but will load 1/12th of proposed governor’s MCB budget. Staff costs are covered for one month. Hoping for signed budget in July and full budget by August.

Lots of posted positions at MCB: CFO, Budget Director, Accounts Payable, Vision Rehab Therapists, Rehab Teachers, Vending Support

New Accounts payable starting in July. Deputy Commissioner starting 7/15. Decided on CFO candidate. Beginning interviews for Budget Director position. Hired an Orientation & Mobility person for Region 3. Promoted Supervisor for Randolph Shepard Program. In need of vision rehab therapists and rehab teachers.

Lots of openings due to retirement/other opportunities. Training new staff to make sure they are appropriately prepared to work with consumers.

Re-allotment projects will be solicited from agencies this month.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

Not a lot of variances in the statistics this year.

973 registrations this calendar year.

857 open SR children’s cases, 2,249 open SR adult cases, and 1,120 open DBES cases.

779 open VR cases, 222 open Pre-ETS cases, and 12 Youth in Transition cases.

72 closed SR children’s cases and 1,223 closed adult cases.

156 successful VR closures and 92 unsuccessful closures.

About 2,100 referrals to Support Services this calendar year.

4,057 COBs, 259 EDP applications, and 52 disabled placards.

Brian asks if MCB IDs have an expiration date. Nate says they expire 5 years after being issued, so the photo and information is kept up to date.

Dashboard project update. Currently creating the actual dashboard. Methodology has been shared and put into software that’s being built to collect data automatically. In the future, the dashboard will be able to generate reports with updated information and used in SAB meetings. Expecting completion in September but the final product could be finished sooner and shared during the meeting.

Working on creating larger MCB acronym cheat sheet for SAB.

Brian asks if the EDP includes other types of equipment for low vision screen readers or braille displays. Nate says if a consumer required that type of equipment, the worker would work separately to acquire that for them.

Kathy asks if using the re-allotment funds for the success story idea would be appropriate since they’ve been used for PSAs in the past? John says yes, and MRC is also looking for success stories from other agencies which will be distributed through their sites and newsletters. Director of Communication will work on furthering developing the stories and the distribution for MCB use.

Kathy asks what ideas MCB has internally for potential applications of the re-allotment funds. John says employees with ideas have been instructed to develop one-page documents. Currently waiting for announcement, but have mentioned to ACB, NFB, and other vendors.

Questions from the Public

None.

Brian asks if anybody has a preference about taking a month off, either in August or September. The board has planned to cancel their September meeting, but will make a final decision in August, keeping in mind the notification/posting guidelines.

Kathy wants to know how many meetings occur annually. SAB meets 11-12 times per year and is advertised as a monthly meeting.

Blair asks if the new Deputy Commissioner will be present at future SAB meetings. The Deputy Commissioner will be invited to the August meeting but does not typically attend SAB meetings.

Blair asks how many applicants and employers participate in the reverse job fair. John said last year, there were 40 applicants total and 30 employers.

Nancy asks for a description of a reverse job fair. John says job seekers give a short presentation via Zoom to employers who are then able to reach out to schedule an interviewer based on their presentation and resume.

Blair asks about the statistics on expiration dates on IDs that have been distributed and would it be possible to email reminders to consumers about upcoming expiration. Nate says this is an option and he will explore the system data to figure out how to implement a solution.

Meeting adjourned.