**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**June 4, 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 March meeting. Minutes accepted.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

The opening ceremony for the internship program occurred this morning.

Job fair and White Cane Day planning continues.

John spoke at the Bay State Council for the Blind Conference at Perkins.

Moving towards the close of the fiscal year and preparing for FY25 roll out. We will have a little bit of money left on the state side. MCB was level funded for next year and the increases mandated by union contracts in chapter 257 were included in that.

Interviews continue for open positions at the agency. Last Friday our Chief Financial Officer moved onto a new position. We have a strong pool of candidates.

Earmarks have all been spent and services are wrapping up.

Brian asks for an update on new SAB members. John says that one member will be receiving their letter soon and the other member is still going through the background check. Both should hopefully be joining the next meeting.

Blair asks if White Cane Day will have a motivational speaker like last year? John says the format will be the same as last year with a speaker and question/answer. Blair asks if there was a remote broadcast last year? John says no as we want to encourage in-person participation but that this year we can invite the radio reading service if they want to participate. We will have staff positioned throughout the State House to direct visitors.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

Dashboard project update. Currently going through the methodology Nate uses to pull the statistics. Meeting Friday afternoon to discuss further.

Not a lot of changes in registration stats.

831 registrations this calendar year.

858 open SR children’s cases, 2,246 open SR adult cases, and 1,118 open DBES cases.

715 open VR cases, 217 open Pre-ETS cases, and 13 Youth in Transition cases.

111 closed SR children’s cases and 2,150 closed SR adult cases.

150 successful VR closures and 86 unsuccessful closures.

About 2,000 referred to Support Services this calendar year.

3,447 COBs, over 500 IDs, 157 EDP applications, and 37 disable placards.

Questions from the SAB or Public

Kathy asks if we ever do success stories for VR cases. We have done podcasts where we highlight success stories and talk about success stories at different community events. We will talk to Mike about posting success stories on our social media channels/website.

Brian asks if they can get a cheat sheet for all the agency acronyms with the new members joining. Nate will put that together.

Blair asked the difference between an open case and an unsuccessful closure. Nate says a successful case is when they reach their employment goal, and an unsuccessful closure is when they did not. It could be for a multitude of reasons. They can reopen the case with a different goal.

Blair asks if there are other job opportunities/openings for trainers and case workers and are any interns working towards becoming one or do they have different goals. John says the interns all are working towards a wide variety of career goals. Brian has had interns work with him.

Kathy asks if the internships are in person, remote, or hybrid. John says most are either in person or hybrid. They must complete 120 hours and receive a $1,000 stipend from MCB.

Deputy Commissioner will hopefully be starting in July.

Nona Haroyan asks for an update on the Boston office move. John says there has not been a new lease signed yet. We will stay in our current office through 2024. We will give plenty of notice to our consumers.

Nona asks if MCB gets final approval of the new office location/space. John says yes, we get to make the final decision after touring the properties.

Debbie M. says it would also be good to highlight SR success stories as well. She also says there is a lot of desire for technology training and advancements.

Leo Fuce asked how many board members there are and how many are active right now. Brian says there are currently three active members are two more are hopefully joining next month. The term is 5 years.

Leo also asks if there are new positions funded for at the agency this upcoming year. No there are no new positions. 3 additional positions were added throughout this year that will continue to FY25.

Meeting adjourned.