**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**March 5, 2024**

**Minutes**

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

MCB Staff Attendees: John Oliveira, Nathan Skrocki, Lucy Evangelidis, Molly O’Brien, 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 February meeting. Minutes accepted.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

An all-consumer survey update will be given by Nate later at this meeting.

SAB member update. The two new members are waiting to receive accessible forms. John says they will be approved in a couple of weeks once those are submitted.

John met with Ashley Bloom, who is our director of digital accessibility, to discuss that any forms or software the state uses be tested for digital accessibility.

Pre-ETS conference is at capacity and will be held later this month.

Planning for our internship program continues. This includes the soft skills training, opening, and closing ceremonies, and placements.

White Cane Day planning has kicked off. Planning on a day in October.

Earmarks update. Vendors have received a large percent of the funds, and the last payment will be made in April. Services will continue to be offered through June 30th or as funds permit.

Budget update. MCB’s testimony to the legislature will be in Springfield on March 12th. We are level funded as discussed before.

John visited Carroll Center for the Blind and got to answer questions from staff and consumers. He also visited the Perkins internet radio show.

WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) updated state plan has been submitted.

Kathy asks if the intern program is still looking for employment hosts. John says yes, they are always looking.

Brian asks if there is an update on the SAB gaining access to the strategic mapping. Nate will also discuss this.

Blair asks to be filled in on the agenda for the pre-ETS luncheon. John says it is an all-day meeting with a whole series of presentations from 9 until 2:30. He says he can send Blair a copy of the agenda. The meeting is for teachers of the visually impaired and orientation & mobility instructors to learn about our programs and services as well as to learn about students’ experiences.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

369 total registrations for the calendar year. Not a lot of changes in open SR or SR children’s cases. 44 additional adults, 1 additional child, and 4 additional DBES consumers. Not a lot of changes in open VR cases. Decrease of 5 with VR adults and 7 additional pre-ETS.

24 SR children’s cases closed out this calendar year and 481 SR adults. 102 successful VR closures and 67 unsuccessful closures for the fiscal year.

457 people referred to support services. Over 1,000 COBs, 154 IDs, 27 EDPs, and 7 handicap placards.

Nathan and Molly will present the high-level results from the all-consumer survey.

MCB worked with Mass Inc. polling group. The survey went out to 24,364 consumers. We received around 3,000 responses.

The survey included 5 informational groups: visual function, MCB services, quality of life, living working and getting around in technology, and demographics. Consumers had a high level of satisfaction with MCB services. Consumers who received services from MCB had a higher quality of life and greater satisfaction with social relationships.

We found there to be some underrepresented communities we can reach out to. We could have better messaging and education on the services provided through reconnecting and checking in with folks. Some consumers have suggested more social services be offered such as housing assistance, local support groups, and legal/financial assistance.

Nate presents graphs and says the group will have access to these once the presentation is shared.

Molly shares a chart showing consumer satisfaction with MCB services. Kathy asks what the satisfaction scale was. Nate says the scale was very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not satisfied, and refuses to answer.

Nate discusses how this relates to our strategic plan. He says he’d be happy to schedule a time with the SAB members to review the entire plan. Kathy suggests waiting until the two new members join.

Kathy asks how the non-internet users are primarily getting their information. Nate says there are mailings, brochures, talking information centers, and support groups where information is shared.

Blair asks for statistics on employment such as salary range and employment success rates. Nate says there are statistics as well as projects with vendors he can share with Blair.

Kathy asks if we could get statistics for MCB job placement outcomes presented during these meetings.

Questions from the Public

No questions.

Meeting adjourned.