**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**November 5, 2024**

**Minutes**

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

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

Kathy motions to accept the minutes from the August and October meetings. Minutes unanimously accepted.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

Fiscal updates. Putting the finishing touches on budget maintenance. Everything looks good for FY25. The earmark funding has been released to the agency. We are moving the funds into the proper budget centers. We have received a portion of our federal budget. We will receive another portion at the end of December.

We are still in the hiring process for CFO.

We received $100,000 in reallotment funds. We had a discussion with UMASS and will focus on community outreach to try to get more people interested in working in the rehabilitation field.

Programs and Services Update: Justine Muir

White Cane Day update. Great turnout.

The college information session was a great success. Over 45 participants. Planning to hold another session for spring.

Region 2 held a fall social for children and families.

Planning has started for the Visions of Collaboration conference. It is usually held in March. We will be looking for vendors to have exhibit tables.

There continues to be strong participation across the state in our training programs and services for consumers.

Kathy asks for an update on the career fair job placements from earlier this year. Justine said they are meeting to discuss the results tomorrow but that there have been some good placements. She can send out an email to recap.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

The new dashboard will be posted to the website shortly. An email will be sent to the SAB once it is up and running.

Over 1,500 new registrations for the year.

869 open SR children’s cases, 2,212 open adult SR cases, 1,098 DBES open cases.

770 open adult VR cases and 220 pre-ETS and transition youth services.

111 closed SR children’s cases for the year and 2,037 closed SR adults.

79 successful VR closures and 42 unsuccessful VR closures.

Over 7,500 COBs (certificates of blindness), 995 MCB IDs, 430 EDP applications, and 145 disabled placards.

Kathy asks how often the data will be updated to the new dashboard. Nate says it will be updated once a month. If there is a need to increase that, we can discuss it. There will be some additional demographic data.

Kathy asks for an update on the potential good news story that was supposed to come out after our last meeting. John says the story was not in the Globe, but it was a positive story about our reverse job fair. Fox 25 was also present at White Cane Day.

Questions from the General Public

None.

Meeting adjourned.