**Statutory Advisory Board (SAB)**

**October 9, 2024**

**Minutes**

SAB Attendees: 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

Minutes from the August meeting will be voted on during November’s meeting as not everyone had time to review them.

Commissioner Update: John Oliveira

Budget process continues to move forward. We are now in the maintenance phase.

The new Budget Director started on Monday. Tomorrow interviews for CFO take place.

Reallotment funds update. We submitted a request for $700,000 and we received $100,252. RSA received more requests from agencies around the country than they had funds returned to them so not every proposal could be funded. 15% of what we received must be dedicated towards pre-ETS. Our projects will try to increase public knowledge of careers in our field.

Exploring the idea of bringing back the automated voice attendant to help direct/field calls. The price and installation time are both good.

John attended the American Printing House annual meeting and shared his experience with the Monarch, a 10-line braille device.

Deputy Commissioner Update: Justine Muir

Programs and services update.

First reverse job fair was held and day 2 is tomorrow. 20 job seekers attended day 1 and 22 are scheduled for day 2. There has already been 1 successful hire from day one.

Employer webinar occurred prior to the first job fair.

White Cane Day is coming up with exciting speakers and awards. 273 confirmed guests attending in person at the State House.

College Information Session is happening later this month for consumers. Family members are also encouraged to attend.

Regions have participated in various in-service trainings and health fairs around the state.

Dashboard Update: Nathan Skrocki

The new dashboard is complete. We are just waiting for it to be up and running on the MCB website.

1,377 total registrations for the year.

Not a lot of change in SR cases. 865 children’s cases, 2,235 SR adult cases, and close to 1,100 DBES cases. There was a slight increase in each of those.

Not a lot of change in open VR cases. 761 VR adult open cases and 222 pre-ETS cases.

103 closed cases for SR children and 1,836 closed SR adult cases. (calendar year)

67 successful VR cases closed, and 35 unsuccessful VR cases closed. (fiscal year)

3,700 consumers referred to Support Services. Approximately 7,000 COBs, 902 IDs, and 129 disabled placards.

SAB Questions

Kathy asks who the audience is for the in-service events. Justine said it ranges (senior centers, colleges, employers, homemaker companies, health fairs, support groups, etc...)

Kathy asks if this could evolve into a full-time position (in service events)? Justine said potentially. Nate said another advantage to doing it the way we currently do is that we can send someone from the region the event takes place in.

Kerlyne asks if the topics vary for the in-service events? Justine said the topics do vary.

Kathy asks if the college information session is new? John said it has been going on for years (at least 25 years).

Nancy asks how the in-service events are scheduled. Is it through the regional director? Yes, they are scheduled through the regional directors.

Questions from the General Public

Nona Haroyan asks if there’s a comment on the recent Boston Globe article involving the RMV? John said that since this issue was related to personnel, he cannot really discuss it, but changes have been made and procedures have been changed so that these issues have been eliminated. We are in the process of creating a written agreement with the registry, laying out everyone’s responsibilities.

Kathy says she would like to see some good publicity come out regarding all the positive things MCB does in the community. What can we do proactively to increase our positive PR?

John said there is a positive story coming out soon, the interviews have been completed. We do the best we can to get the good stories out as well.

Brian asks if it is the same reporter who has covered some of the issues in the past. John says yes and his assignment is to cover state agencies.

Meeting adjourned.