

**Policy Committee**  
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111  
August 5, 2021  
11:00 a.m. -12:30 a.m.  
**Minutes**

**Attended:** Naomi Goldberg, Sarah Wiles, Olympia Stroud, Bill Noone, Christine Tosti, Rosanna Woodmansee, Rebecca Davis, and James Carnazza.

June minutes: Minutes approved by consensus.

The group engaged in a lengthy discussion about how to move forward with the recommendations. Naomi relayed that it was her intention from the last meeting to create a draft document that summarized the recommendations that the Policy Committee would be making to MRC relative to procurement. She relayed that when she sat down to write it that it didn't appear that the committee was yet clear on what it was recommending.

The following comments/suggestions were made for addressing this recommendation:

- The committee needs to consider the issue from the consumer perspective. All agreed that the original recommendation came out of concern that consumers' services can be delayed when the needed services are not on contract. Choosing to work on this recommendation is a commitment to improve consumers' services.
- Recommending changes to RFR language for CIES vendors that would address the need for providers to properly represent cultural and linguistic needs of consumers.
- It may make sense to hear from the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to get their perspectives and find out what they find most problematic and what they think would be reasonable solutions. Perhaps putting together a survey for VRCs on this subject or holding a forum would better inform the committee.
- Inviting BIP staff to an upcoming meeting. We may be in a slightly better position to ask questions and discuss since we know a little bit more about the issue.
- Making suggestions about potential connections MRC can make to find more tutors. There was a reference using to Mass Step and local colleges/universities as a resource for finding tutors.
- Ensuring there is clarity about the process of doing an incidental purchase.
- Looking further into/recommending that a fund or some other mechanism be in place to address the need for larger purchases to be made for consumers when there is not a corresponding vendor on contract.

- At the next meeting the committee will determine how to take action steps to address these issues.

**The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Thursday, October 7, 2021.**