

DRAFT

Policy Committee
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111
October 7, 2021
11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Minutes

Attended: Naomi Goldberg, Sarah Wiles, Bill Noone, Christine Tosti, and James Carnazza.

August minutes: Will be approved at next meeting

The focus of the Policy Committee's work continues to be addressing the recommendation relative to procurement. The group had previously determined that there are four procurement related items on which it will focus. At this meeting the group confirmed that these were still items of interest and then identified next step actions that would be taken for each item.

1. Recommending changes to RFR language for CIES vendors that would address the need for providers to properly represent cultural and linguistic needs of consumers.
2. Seeking a mechanism for purchasing services/items when a contract is not in place. Is it possible to develop an RFR that would allow MRC to contract with a third party that would act as a conduit for making such purchases?

Naomi will reach out to Jennifer O'Callaghan to inquire as to what is and is not possible within the RFR process and request feedback on how the committee can work on these issues

3. Increasing the number of tutors. Participants had discussed increasing search for tutors beyond where they are typically found.

Naomi will request that a staff member from BIP attend a Policy Committee meeting to provide information about what they are currently doing to find tutors across the state and request feedback on if/how the committee can work on this issue.

4. Getting feedback from Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors about barriers they are receiving relative to procurement. Would it be possible for the committee to hold a focus group or send out a survey as a way to research the matter further?

Naomi will reach out to Joan Phillips to ask whether this would be possible and if so, request guidance on how to proceed.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Thursday, December 2, 2021