Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020

Council Members in Attendance: Carolyn Peters, Th.D., Chair, Matthew Sauer, Ph.D., Vice-chair. Andrea Kramer, David Baker, Alison McKay, Margie Hegg, Jane Gerhardt, Jeremy Morris, John Moore, Matthew Sauer, Ph.D., Karis Spence, Kevin Miller, Lisa Hickman

OOD Staff: Employer and Innovation Services Deputy Director Kristen Ballinger; Chief Legal Counsel Matt Lampke; Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired Deputy Director Greg Dormer; Assistant Director Erik Williamson; Vocational Rehabilitation Provider Program Manager Jay Burns; Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Deputy Director Susan Pugh; Legislative Liaison Alex Moorman; OOD Council Liaison Shirley Marchi; OOD Interpreter Marlena Smith; Interpreter Jane Allinder and Communications Chief, Kim Jump

Guest: Emily Turner, Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries, Cate Fopma, Autism Society of Ohio; Amanda Tipkemper, the Children’s Home; Amber Freeman, Capabilities, Colleen Sofing, YORK

Welcome and Introductions

OOD Council Chair Dr. Carolyn Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Suzanne Turner shared the National Federation ov the Blind of Cleveland is offering an introductory seminar, titled Adjusting to Blindness, and encouraged all Council members to attend. The seminar is being held on February 6.

Approval of Minutes

Council member John Moore moved to approve the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Council member Karis Spence. Motion carried.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Update

OOD Director Kevin Miller provided information about the 2020 Census, Ohio’s New Driver License and Identification Card, and the Communication Disability Law event.

*2020 Census*: By law, the U.S. government is required to count the number of people living in the United States every 10 years. The Census counts our population and households providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting and distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities’ vital programs such as housing, education, transportation, employment, healthcare, and public policy. There are temporary jobs available with the US Census bureau. Please share this information with your constituents.

OOD Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020 Page 2

*Ohio’s New Driver License and Identification Card:* Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will no longer consider standard driver licenses and identification cards as sufficient forms of identification for air travel. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will require a federally compliant driver license identification card or another acceptable form of identification such as a passport or military identification card to fly within the US. There are two different types of cards to choose from: Compliant Card or Standard Card. The Compliant Card meets national travel security requirements. Obtaining a Compliant Card requires more identifying documents than the Standard Card. The Standard Card does not meet national travel security requirements. A Standard Card will need to be used in conjunction with a passport or other acceptable documents approved by TSA. Obtaining a Standard Card does not require additional identifying documents, unless the Drivers license is being issued for the first time. Visit the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles website for more information.

*Communication Disability Law Event*: OOD is partnering with the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide the public with information that individuals with communication disabilities now have the option to enroll in a database so that if they are involved in a traffic incident, law enforcement would be alerted that a person inside the vehicle may have trouble communicating. This is the second video OOD is premiering. The first video was for law enforcement only. The event is being held at DPS on January 24 at noon. Speakers include Lt. Governor Jon Husted, DPS Director Stickrath and OOD Director Miller. The 2019 Verification Form statistics include 230 forms processed and 389 plates.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) 722 Report

Chief Legal Counsel Matt Lampke reported on OOD’s combined Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired RSA-722 report for October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 there was two (2) new requests for mediation. No requests for mediation were carried over from FFY 2018. There were 57 new requests for an impartial hearing filed and eight (8) were carried over from FFY 2018 for a total of 65 impartial hearing requests for FFY 2019. Of those 65 requests, 44 of those were resolved prior to proceeding to an impartial hearing, while 16 proceeded to an impartial hearing. Of the 16 cases that proceeded to a formal hearing, 15 hearing officer decisions were rendered. Lastly, in FFY 2019, there was two (2) requests for mediation. OOD did not consent to mediation in either matter. OOD had no civil actions carried over from FFY 2018.

Employer and Innovation Services Update

Employer and Innovation Services Deputy Director Kristen Ballinger reported on Embedded Talent Sourcing Coordinators (TSC) at Giant Eagle and OSU/OSU Wexner Medial Center. The TSC assigned to the Giant Eagle partnership assisted 103 Giant Eagle team members to obtain employment at Giant Eagle and GetGo stores in Northeast Ohio. Of the team members hired in 2019, 54 percent were transition age.

OOD Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020 Page 3

OOD also assisted 60 Giant Eagle team members with disabilities to maintain employment by addressing accommodation or other support needs. In addition, the TSC assigned to The Ohio State University and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center assisted 13 individuals obtain employment. The average hourly wage is $13.29 per hour and average hours worked is 36.15 per week.

Ms. Ballinger reported on Ohio College2Careers, which supports internship and permanent placement opportunities for college students with disabilities. OOD’s two (2) Career Development Specialists work closely with the Career Services Offices at the 15 public colleges and universities participating in the program.

Ms. Ballinger reported OOD’s Vocational Apprentice Program provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain work experience, exposure, and access to state government employment through paid apprenticeships with state agencies. There are 21 vocational apprentices working at 11 different state agencies/offices in a variety of positions.

Lastly, Ms. Ballinger reported every three years OOD produces a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment to assess the vocational rehabilitation service needs of individuals related to six primary disability categories. The next CSNA is to be published in September 2020 and will include a survey component. Feedback from the OOD Council is requested for the areas the survey will address.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program Update

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Deputy Director Susan Pugh reported on the Ohio College2Careers, OOD Jobs for Recovery, the Combined State Plan, Participant Focus Groups, Customer Satisfaction Survey Results, and the Provider Scorecard Satisfaction Survey.

*Ohio College2Careers:* The caseload has grown to over 200 students. The counselors have all developed outreach plans for implementation in Spring semester.

*OOD Jobs for Recovery:* Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) are signed and teams are in place in Butler, Franklin, and Lucas Counties. MOUS are in process for Ashtabula, Scioto, and Summit Counties. OOD is in the process of meeting with state partners to identify the additional counties to participate in the program.

*Participant Focus Groups*: OOD will hold Participant Focus Groups related to transition services in January. In January and February, OOD will also hold focus groups of providers and partners to discuss transition services and provider rules.

*Customer Satisfaction Survey Results:* During the fist quarter of FFY 2020, at total of 2,630 automated emails were sent to individuals after their cases closed and 154

OOD Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020 Page 4

surveys were completed by OOD participants. The survey link and toll-free number were also included on the closure letters sent during this time. The customer Satisfaction Survey presents an opportunity for OOD participants to share their experiences and for OOD to collect data to assist with improving our services to Ohioans with disabilities.

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired Deputy Director Greg Dormer reported OOD’s Independent Living Older Blind Program finished FFY 2019 with 1,160 individuals served. The BSVI team from central office met with each regional team to discuss programmatic updates and listen to the concerns from the field. Topics discussed include changes to bioptic driving program, changes in the VR Fee Schedule definitions and provider credential requirements, guidance on computer access training, and outreach and referral development. The BSVI program continues its positive trends in applications. Year-to-date ending December 31, 2019, shows an increase of four (4) percent statewide in applications received into the VR/BSVI program.

In addition, Mr. Dormer stated staff provided outreach and referral development at the Northeast Ohio Transition Symposium. The focus was on how to support schools in working with students with vision loss. Staff also meet quarterly with the Ohio Department of Health to share program updates and find intersections in the populations we serve.

Mr. Dormer stated BSVI’s Outreach Plan this quarter will focus on attendance at local advocacy chapter meetings around Ohio, developing “Tech Tips of the Month” highlighting different technology applications, outreach to optical and ophthalmological technician training programs, outreach to groups affect by neurological events such as stroke and traumatic brain injury, and developing a focus on the aging workforce who experience sensory loss due to age.

Also, Mr. Dormer reported the Deaf literacy partnership with ASPIRE and Ohio School for the Deaf to provide instruction in English literacy to six (6) deaf individuals from around Ohio.

Lastly, Mr. Dormer reported OOD has been working with the Department of Administrative Services to develop a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a research project to make recommendations for implementation of an Ohio standard in regards to American Sign Language Interpreting. Currently, Ohio is one of few states that do not have a statewide standard for certification or licensure.

**Chair’s Comments**

*VR Policy Subcommittee*: Chair Carolyn Peters stated the OOD Council has a responsibility to review VR policies. Based on this, a VR Policy Subcommittee would be

OOD Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2020 Page 5

created. The following Council members agreed to be on the VR Policy Subcommittee: Dave Baker, Lisa Hickman, Andrea Kramer, and Alison McKay. BVR Deputy Director Susan Pugh and Shirley Marchi will work with the Council members to create the meeting, materials, etc.

*1 OOD Council Member to attend the Spring NCSRC Conference:* There were two Council members planning to attend the spring National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils (NCSRC) Conference. One council member is unable to attend. Council member David Baker stated he is interested in attending the Spring NCSRC Conference.

Council member Matt Sauer moved to substitute Council member David Baker for Council member Karis Spence to attend the NCSRC Spring Conference, seconded by council member Jane Gerhardt. Motion Carried.

OOD Council Liaison Shirley Marchi to make arrangements for registration and travel.

**Council Member Discussion/Comments**

Chair Carolyn Peters stated future Council meetings will allow time on the agenda for Council members to provide discussion and input.

**Adjourn**

Council member David Baker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Jane Gerhardt. Motion carried.