**Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council**

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

**July 14, 2021**

**Minutes**

In attendance

Alison McKay, Co-chair, Lisa Hickman, Co-chair, Dr. Carolyn Peters, OOD Council Chair, Susan Pugh, BVR Deputy Director, Greg Dormer, BSVI Deputy Director, Jo Hannah Ward, VR Policy Council member, Jay Burns, Supervisor, Provider ad Contracts Management Unit, Alana Evans, VR Human Services Program Administrator, Policy and Training Unit, and Shirley Marchi, OOD Council Liaison

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chairs Alison McKay and Lisa Hickman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

What is the Role of VR Policy Subcommittee?

VR Policy subcommittee members asked if this committee makes sense for OOD and if the subcommittee is productive for OOD.

Deputy Director Pugh responded, yes. OOD has adopted its processes to align with the VR Policy subcommittee and full Council meetings. OOD is receiving good feedback and uses that feedback to improve its policies. Some policies may be cut and dry, and other policies may require more dialogue.

Dr. Peters stated it is important the Council engage with OOD about policies because sometimes things get missed. This subcommittee can bring items to the full Council.

Ms. Hickman stated there is not a lot of public comment. How can the Council help OOD broaden their reach? Ms. Pugh stated any information the Council can share with their constituents is helpful.

Ms. McKay asked about the review of Administrative Rules. Ms. Pugh stated Administrative Rules are reviewed every five years. The process is longer for Administrative Rules than for policies because it involves the legislature, Common Sense Initiative, etc.

VR Policies

Ms. Evans provided updates on the following policies from the previous quarter:

Vocational Rehabilitation Application and Intake (80-VR-01) and Order of Selection (80-VR-06): OOD received no comment. OOD will implement these policies the end of August 2021.

Ms. Evans and Mr. Burns provided updates on the following upcoming policies. Public comment is targeted July 19-30, 2021.

Vocational Rehabilitation Case Closure (80-VR-02); Vocational Rehabilitation Provider Management (80-VR-09); and Post- Employment Services (80-VR-15). OOD will be posting these next week and the VR Policy subcommittee members can make comments before the policy goes out.

Council members provided input to the policies, such as adding hyperlinks, adding parent guardian and any authorized individual, provide notifications of the Client Assistance Program, self-employment, etc.

Administrative Rules

Ms. Pugh and Mr. Burns stated in June, OOD implemented a new service, START Up (Setup for Technology Access Readiness Training), to teach individuals to use technology so that they can effectively participate remotely in OOD’s VR Fee Schedule services. The service includes hardware setup, registration of devices, and installation and use of applications and/or programs required for remote services (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom). Both OOD staff and providers are excited about this.

In addition, Ms. Pugh and Mr. Burns provided information about the New Provider Rules that include provider management, background checks, protection of Confidential Personal Information, Significant Incident Reports, etc.

Council members engaged staff with questions about the Rules, and sought clarification about the sections.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Alison McKay adjourned the meeting.