DB Committee Meeting Notes 10/10/2023 at 4 pm – 5:30 pm

Trevor Turner, John Filek, Kim Johnson, Rocky Hart, Lindsay Escalera, Ann Mayes, Captioner – Angie

Lindsay Escalera’s Staff Report

Open Cases

DB: 48

Dual Sensory: 21

Pre-ETS vs. Adults: 23 Pre-ETS 46 Adult

Metro vs. Greater MN: 50 Metro 19 Greater MN

In Employment Stable and Not Stable: Stable:4 Not Stable: 7

Successful Outcomes

7/1/22 to 6/30/23- 4 DB, 1 Dual Sensory

7/1/23 – Today- 1 Dual Sensory

Staff Updates:

Ray McCOY – Employment Reasonable Accommodation Fund (ERAF) Program Coordinator – DEED Pilot Program

VR Techs – Cheryl Lavrenz, Jeremy Hoke (former SSB mailroom staff) and Jennifer Fischer (starts 10/11/23)

Evan Gardner – Low Vision AT Trainer

Woinitu Estifanos - Assistant fiscal coordinator

Committee suggested to have documents put in one place that will allow members to edit and make changes for everyone to see. This will eliminate having multiple documents of the same thing with different edits and cut down on so many emails. Also, suggest making the wording simpler/more concise on communication guidelines on SSB website.

Talked about reviewing these website links. Trevor asked if members could review these on their own and provide feedback to the teams group he is working on creating.

<https://mn.gov/deed/ssb/involve/srcb/new-member/communication-guidelines/> and <https://mn.gov/deed/ssb/involve/srcb/new-member/consumer-organizations/>

Trevor will work on setting up a teams group on MS Teams that will allow the members within the DB Committee to chat, edit documents in one place. The links were sent out to the members who attended the meeting to review in order to make suggestions for changes. He can send out reminders via teams as well. Trevor wants to make sure that teams is accessible to everyone on the committee first. He will work on this task.

The most recent goals and priorities (Dec. 2022) were shared with the DB Committee. During the meeting Trevor reviewed these with the committee.

This created discussion around collaborating with MN Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing (MNCDHH) to invite someone who works at the commission to join the DB Committee. Suggestion was to invite Maya Larson. Trevor will find out if he can also invite someone from MN Deaf and Hearing of Hearing Services Division (MNDHHSD) to join the committee.

Discussion about educating Greater MN Counselor/SSB Counselors on DB Awareness and working with DB customers. There seems to be struggle for DB services in Greater MN. Committee idea to provide more ongoing trainings to SSB Counselors and/or invite SSB Counselors to attend DB Committee meeting if they would like.

There has been internal training at SSB on the updated Deafblind Manual to Counselors. The training was recorded for counselors unable to attend the training. VR Counselor Lindsay Escalera provided this training and acts as a resource internally at SSB to consult with SSB Counselor’s who have DB Customers or would like to learn more about the DB population. Supervisor Sara Kreiling is also a resource within SSB to provide support to counselors about Deafblindness.

Another idea, to invite council members from the SRC-B or Corbb to DB Committee to learn more about the DB Committee. Getting more education out about Deafblindness.

Next Meeting January 9th at 4 pm on Zoom.