

**Interagency Council of Brevard
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2012**

Attendance: Laura Bingham, Donald Blair, Darryl Deal, Jill Dunham-Schuller, Jennifer Duros, Susan Erickson, Sherrie Fries, Jack Giordano, Lori Goodwin, Robert Gramolini, Ray Herring, Danielle Jones, Kathy Lowe, Colleen Middlebrooks, Cathy Osaisai, Laura Pichardo, Mariann Sampieri, Janice Scholz, Lynda Schuchert, Linda Seegraves, Heather Theobald, Jim Watson, Cindy Wickham, Maryjane Wysocki.

Meeting was held at Space Coast Center for Independent Living in Rockledge.

Minutes were taken by Danielle Jones.

Welcome and Introduction: Maryjane Wysocki opened the meeting followed by introductions.

Mission Statement: Linda Seegraves read the mission statement as discussed at PATH meeting in February. It is thought that the group will read the statement at the beginning of each meeting in order to remember the goals of our group.

Review of Minutes: Danielle reviewed April minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy provided the financial report, noting that she currently has \$2948.92 in the account, but school board has \$2971.60 listed as available (\$22.68 difference). She reports that money was taken out for registration for Visions conference so that she and Sandi Dacri could attend (\$500).

Kathy noted that \$1500 will need to be spent prior to October 1, 2012 and suggestions will need to be made on how to do so. Updated brochures were recommended but it was suggested to officially vote at June 2012 meeting. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Kathy also reported that she followed up on request for contact to Cocoa area Chamber of Commerce. In conversation with Ms. Clark, Kathy states that ICB can join as a nonprofit group for the fee of \$150. Meetings are held twice per month and a representative can be sent to attend. Kathy explained that she then emailed her school contacts to see if Project 10 monies could be used for this purpose. They reported that they are uncertain if State appropriated monies could be used for this purpose, but the grant could be amended to include the yearly fee. The group agreed that participation in the Chamber will allow for technical support and will add awareness to our organization as a whole.

Discussion regarding John Lipinski's (Bridges) creation of Disability Chamber Council began, but group agreed that exposure to non-disability related groups would be more beneficial. Jack noted that he is on the board of this council and was able to obtain

sponsorship to cover the annual fee. Maryjane suggested to explore the possibility of how ICB can cover the cost without assistance of school monies being utilized, the positives/negatives of joining in Chamber activities and if people would attend on behalf of ICB (which obtained a positive response by a show of hands).

Jack explained that the Disability Chamber changed its name to Space Coast Disability Council and exists to promote the hiring of people with disabilities. They assist with self-employment (creation of business plans) and provide an instant connection to businesses. The non-profit group branched off from the larger Chamber in order to promote the needs of the smaller business entities that have less money to spend in the process. Jack, Sherrie and Heather agreed to research more information about joining the Chambers in order to present at the June meeting.

Bylaws discussion: Maryjane requested to table this discussion until the June meeting as she inadvertently forgot the information at her office.

She also noted that the website (<http://disabilitybrevard.org/>) is set to expire and posed the question to the group if we want to keep it. She reported that it is not being utilized by ICB members as initially intended, with the exception of Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) reference resource. Price list to maintain is:

12 months at \$107.40/year
24 months at \$190.80/year for two years
36 months at \$250.20/year for three years

She also noted that she knows a young man who is trying to break into the field for employment purposes and requested to maintain the website for \$20 per month. When questioned about the number of hits received to the site, Maryjane conveyed that she had not been on recently, but at one time, the site received 450 hits and it was higher for DMD. She explained that a lot of the areas are closed to ICB members and may be more useful, if accessible to the public. When asked who in the room had visited the site in the past two months, no one raised their hand. Question was also posed if the school board would change restrictions on social media in the school, like Facebook and a negative response was received. The group voted unanimously to not renew the site. It is noted that the web address will need to be removed from all future brochures. Maryjane will follow up with Kim Bane to see if she is still managing the Disability Brevard Facebook page.

Kathy provided a report from the Visions Conference and explained that they were able to meet with other ICB organizations and share products. Others were impressed with our organization chart, brochures and transitional services spectrum book. Good information was obtained in all sessions attended. These included:

- Train the trainer to talk to parents and families about the transition process
- Crosswalk with Access that provided pointers for kids that receive special diplomas and how to access certain points of the regular curriculum

- Doctoral students at UCF presented about IND students to help them with interviewing skills by use of avatars. Pre- and post-interviews were completed to see how the students did. Possible grants were reviewed for different counties
- How to use iPods and speech journals as every student will get one through FIN. They were able to take pictures of things done during the day with a verbal text to attach to the picture since technology is a big thing.

Overall, Kathy reported that they had a wonderful experience and believes that every exceptional education teacher should be able to attend. She also mentioned that a former Hands On/Vocational Rehabilitation client was the executive chef that prepared lunch for the group.

Nominations: Maryjane reviewed suggested nominations at last meeting and requested review for any additions. Nothing noted and the nominations were unanimously approved as follows:

ICB Chair: Lynda Schuchert

Vice Chair: Jackie Yearby and Jennifer Duros

Secretary: Danielle Jones

Treasurer: Kathy Lowe

Elections will be held at June meeting.

Quarterly Presentations: Danielle posed the question about how many presentations would be held yearly since ICB only meets for 10 out of 12 months. Group's consensus was to still hold 4—two in fall and two in spring. The group viewed topics posted on today's schedule and an inquiry was made if any additions were needed at that time. Top choices of 1-4 will be made at next meeting via ballot.

Taskforce Updates: Groups meeting today are: Chamber discussion group, Best Practices, Marketing and Employment/Vocational.

Chamber Discussion: Provided by Jack Giordano

- Provided an overview of the Disability Council to the group members; including general make up of the group and plans to scan/email brochures and information to other group members.
- Jack will contact the Cocoa Beach Chamber regarding fee amount as he believes that it is a total of \$175 (\$150 for membership and \$25 for application fee)

Best Practices Provided by Laura Bingham

- The group's focus is on PATH and the Survey Monkey results obtained. The plan is to use the tools to assist the group with moving forward.
- Laura confirmed the Taskforce names to be:
 - Marketing: headed by Jackie Yearby
 - Chamber: headed by Jack Giordano

- Election: headed by Linda Seegraves
- Bylaws: headed by Heather Mack
- Vocational: headed by Jennifer Secor
- Best Practices: headed by Laura Bingham
- Transition: headed by Lynda Schuchert
- Group reviewed nominations presentations and requested any additions from the survey. Additional noted to include:
 - SSA/ Med Waiver, medical issues
 - Presentations from outside
 - Tax expert with loss of CWIC (ends as of June 30, 2012 due to loss of funding)
 - Having a luncheon at a high school and seeing the CTE program

Original from listing as reviewed at April meeting to include: accessible housing, government issues, Medicare/Medicaid/Med-Waiver, Social Security, new ideas for recreation/life plans/goals, medical issues for parents with children who have serious health concerns, Local/State/National news, short-term and long-term goals, return to work, employment based discussions, ages 0-5 transition, special education connections, referral processes, guardianship and advocacy, presentations from outside employers, technology for disabilities, county housing, human resources, taxes, alternative housing types.

Marketing: Provided by Maryjane Wysocki

- Group is looking into letter that Karen Orosz received from previous members and plan to send it out to agencies that are not currently participating as well as new agencies that the group would like to add.
- Group is working on updating the membership list, which will also include email and contact listings
- Group tentatively proposed to hold quarterly presentations in September, November, February and May as the networking meetings.

Vocational/Employment: Provided by Danielle Jones

- Group is in process of having a panel discussion for local area providers to assist with getting our clients who have criminal histories hired. In process of working out logistics, but looking to have representatives from law enforcement, legal, human resources, employment specialists and county court house to speak candidly about hiring people with criminal histories.

Guest Speaker: Janice Sholz, Career & Technical Education (CTE) Director for Brevard County Public Schools explained the programs offered at secondary schools. She explained that in Florida, the schools go through a process to determine what can be taught and this is called the “course bible”. It reviews certifications necessary to teach, what credits are given for taking the course, the graduation requirements, etc. Requests can be submitted to add programs, similar to what was done to obtain the new Health and Wellness Program.

Ms. Sholz went on to explain that the courses are measured on “completers”. In this, the advisory committee through the Department of Education (DOE) determines the content in the course and she used Drafting 1, 2 and 3 as an example. In this, they are required to teach 90% of the content provided and the teacher can change only 10% of the material taught. Federal Perkins requires that at the end of 3 credits, students must pass an industry credential, but the school can choose which certification to take.

Students with disabilities can enter into any CTE program, but the question is who can complete the class and obtain the requirements. She explained that if the student who has a physical disability and utilizes a wheelchair or crutches applies for the CNA program, they cannot physically lift the patients. Although they can get into the program and may be able to successfully complete it, they will have a hard time finding a job. Counseling and guidance is utilized to assist students with locating a more feasible field of study. Also, the background check is done prior to certification testing, which has also held up some students from successfully completing their classes/certification.

Graduation requirements are that the student must meet the rigorous course requirements:

- 3 courses honors or above (Honors, Dual Enrollment/IB) OR:
- Complete 3 courses in a sequential CTE program with a credential at the end (example: Drafting 1, 2 & 3)

Teachers are reviewed on the Appraisal system, which means that 50% of their pay is based on student assessments (FCAT). By the year 2014 or 2015, teachers pay will be solely based on these results. Teachers often get frustrated because if an ESE student has an IEP and needs more time, they have trouble learning the required information in the allotted class time. Ms. Sholz reported that a student in this situation can repeat the course multiple times as long as the course objectives are determined yearly. The objectives must be individualized for each student, they must be able to meet the graduation requirement and will be measured at the end of the year for those objectives.

Questions taken:

1. **What courses are offered?** Although she was able to name a good portion of the courses offered, group was referred to CTE website for the exact listing.
<http://ctebrevard.com/pos.htm>
2. **What are the placement rates?** This information is not offered by the State of Florida as they follow up on the “concentrators” only. They also do not know if the student had a disability.
3. **Availability of programs?** Ms. Sholz explained that there are 16 high schools in Brevard County and all offer career and technical education programs. They find that students are better served when the courses are offered in their current schools as opposed to leaving for part of the day to a separate vocational program. She also explained that there is CTE Choice available (for example the culinary program is offered in 5 schools). This will allow the students with the ability to go to a different school for part or the whole school day to take these classes.

4. **How much are parents aware of?** She explained that middle school students take a career planning course and paperwork for Technical Education, Business Education or Family/Consumer Science has to be signed off by a parent.
5. **Can the student obtain a partial certification with completion for job placement purposes?** Ms. Sholz explained that although this is not currently the case, it may be a possibility in some of the courses. A student who completes Drafting 1 is not as employable as a student that completes Culinary 1.

CTE website provided for future reference: <http://ctebrevard.com/index.htm>

Host Presentation: Ray Herring and William Stanziano presented information on Space Coast Center for Independent Living (SCCIL). William provided a quick synopsis of their program and that they focus on three areas: donations center, transportation and their home modification program.

Donations Center: SCCIL is trying to start a thrift store and are accepting all items to do so. He explained that if it is an item that they cannot sell, they plan to take them to auction houses and the money will be returned to SCCIL. There is no site available at this time, besides their office, but they can pick up donated items that cannot be easily transported.

Transportation: They have suffered from funding cuts and a news article in Florida Today incorrectly reported that they no longer provide transportation. He explained that their fleet has simply decreased from 5 vans to 2 vans due to the budget cuts. They strictly focus on transporting for medical appointments and grocery shopping. He also noted that they do have certain zones that they cover and suggested for the interested party to call SCCIL offices for more information.

In attempts to help with funding cuts, Kathy suggested to follow up with SCATS as they are able to provide van and insurance coverage, but the agency will need to provide gas and a driver. William noted that they are also in process of getting on Med Waiver so that the client will not have to pay directly.

Home Modification Program: William explained that they work in 3 areas for this project to include Titusville, Cocoa and Melbourne. He explained that Titusville's program changed to beautification, rather than modification. The other programs in Cocoa and Melbourne have funding remaining for another year to assist clients with their home modification projects.

William reported that he also runs the independent living services program.

Ray reported that he runs the **new nursing home transition program** for individuals from the ages of 18 to 59. In this, the client must be capable of returning to their own home. The state realizes that if they are able to successfully transition people from nursing home to in home care, there is a substantial financial savings for the State. Ray reported that an average person costs \$60,000 per year to live in a residential nursing

facility. If the person is able to live in their own (or family) home, he explained that the cost goes down to \$30-35,000 per year to cover meals, nursing care, etc.

Announcements:

- ❖ Kathy questioned if the group was interested in having an extended ICB meeting at one of the local high schools with a lunch (for fee). Maryjane suggested to place this on the ballot for June and Kathy will look into the cost of doing this.
- ❖ Maryjane reviewed two flyers handed out. The first is for May 17 **Disability Employer Expo** where 13 businesses and 10 agencies have already signed up to attend. They will review resumes, complete voter registrations and hold presentations to attendees. The second flyer is for June 15 **Family Café**, which is free to people with disabilities and those who accompany them. There are currently 5 businesses involved, but more are encouraged to attend for that date.
- ❖ Suggestion to look into the results of the Survey Monkey and PATH at next meeting. This will assist with focusing the group before we keep asking more people to attend our meetings. It was unanimously approved to have an open discussion at the June meeting.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **June 13th**, hosted by **Brevard Workforce** in Rockledge and will also be available remotely. Meeting site is 295 Barnes Blvd, Rockledge.