Florida Rehabilitation Council

Legislative/Public Awareness Committee-Tammy Davis, Chair
Teams Meeting Minutes-March 7, 2023

Members on conference line: Tammy Davis, Brent McNeal, Jose Morales, Andy Houghton, Delaina Parrish, Michael Adamus, Allison Klein, Victoria Gaitanis

VR Staff: Roy Cosgrove, Derrinita Walker

Guests: Devin O’Connor

The following represents a summary of deliberations, advice, comments and motions that comprise this FRC committee meeting.

Call to order-Quorum established
The committee reviewed and approved the agenda for the call and the minutes from 1/17 and 2/7.

• Outreach to business: Tammy discussed that she met with a female executive group who said they will communicate back with any involvement they’ve had with VR; if none, Tammy will facilitate meetings with Kathy’s team.

• Stephen R. Wise award: Derrinita is working on sending out the request for nominees via Survey Monkey. The council will select the recipient at the May meeting, to be presented at the August meeting. Members will be asked to pilot the survey and provide feedback on March 21st.

• Annual report: The report has been submitted to the legislature. The transmittal letter, the Building Careers, Programs VR Support and Pre-ETS flyers were included, as well as a facts, one-pager. The goal is to educate legislators about VR. Brent gave kudos for the report and said he provided copies to the Able Trust board who had positive feedback. The digital (or hard copy) version can be provided and will be on the FRC webpage soon. A timeline is being developed for the ‘22-’23 report, which will be shared on the March 21st call.

• Outreach: Derrinita discussed the partnership with Moore Communications, who are assisting with communications to businesses in an effort to help them understand the services VR can provide. Toolkits to support outreach will also be developed. The content for phase 2 of the Constant Contact distributions has been drafted. Delaina suggested presenting the content in a more visually appealing manner, e.g., pictures of the council or customers; what, who, and how
to get involved as subheadings; FRC mission at the top; tone could be more of an invitation. Information about the Able Trust could be included in the DEAM article. Derrinita said the council would need to give feedback on what they want the written content to be, which could be presented back to the council in the Constant Contact format. When approved, the drafts would go to DOE for approval. Members can submit comments via email and the draft layouts will be presented on March 21. Derrinita is researching the possibility of distributing to customers through Constant Contact as well.

- **Member recruitment/one-pager:** The committee approved to bring the one-pager to the full council for additional feedback/approval.

- **Worksheet of employment services:** Delaina introduced Devin O’Connor, Executive Director of the Grow Group, an employment services provider who developed a worksheet of services VR offers along with a timeline. Devon requested a meeting with Delaina, Tammy and others to discuss what would be valuable information for customers and parents to know and understand. Roy suggested setting up a separate meeting to develop ideas. Brent recommended connecting with the appropriate individuals at HQs to determine needs, available resources, etc.

- **Public Comment:** No comments