Florida Rehabilitation Council

Legislative/Public Awareness Committee-Tammy Davis, Chair
Teams Meeting Minutes-September 6, 2023

Members on conference line: Tammy Davis, Matti Wieczorek, Delaina Parrish, Matt Motko, Darlene Laibl-Crowe

VR Staff: Roy Cosgrove, Derrinita Walker, Kathy Davis, Kim Thomas

Guests: Rob Hemenway (CART), Jane Johnson, Heather, Trenaya Reid

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

Call to order (Quorum established later in call)
Approval of the minutes, agenda and action items were tabled until the Sept. 13th call.

Tammy welcomed Matti to the committee.

Business Outreach: Tammy reported that Bay Healthcare Systems is interested but further collaboration is needed. Kathy Davis updated that the Business Relations team has been receiving a lot of employment referrals from the (national) Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). Kathy has been promoted to Assistant Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Field Services so she will be transitioning out of her role supervising the Business Relations unit and working towards overseeing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind, Business Relations and Employment Programs units.

Constant Contact article: Derrinita reported that the DEAM article is currently being routed, which may take several weeks, but she is hoping to gain approvals in time for the October quarterly. The next article will go out in January for the February meeting. The committee voted to use the “Who We Are and What We Do” article for that mailout. The item will go before the full council for a vote on September 13th.

Braille for Annual Report: Derrinita discussed that they have a vendor who is able to convert the report upon request but the process can take a while and is a bit cumbersome. There is always a professionally tagged version for screen readers online. Darlene said if it’s accessible with a screen reader, it should be fine for folks to use with a Braille display. Delaina said a QR code could be used so folks could scan the document and go to the digital version. Darlene said alt text is to describe an image and provide a caption. Derrinita said stock photos provide alt texts; if we use our photo, we (staff) would write the description. A summary would be provided for charts and graphs. This is typically been part of the process after the report is created.
If using alt text, descriptions for charts and graphs would be in alt text so only people with the screen reader would know what the descriptions are. Captions are viewable to all. There was concern that adding captions might make the report too large and all agreed. Darlene said non-visual impaired people can see and read captioning. Alt text is what visually impaired individuals are able to hear. The committee approved continuing the use of alt text for images and that those descriptions would be available for review prior to final approval of the draft. The full council will vote on it on the Sept. 13th call.

Derrinita reported that the cover for the Annual Report was approved, #4, “Are you IN with Inclusive Employment? Innovating Florida’s Workforce with and for people with Disabilities”. She will be asking for any final contributions to the report at the September 13th meeting. Tammy expressed her appreciation for Derrinita’s contributions.

Public Comment-None

Adjourned