State of California

Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

California Vendors Policy Committee (CVPC)

Training Subcommittee Meeting
February 24, 2022

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
DOR Central Office, Sacramento, CA

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members**

Sandy Balani, Chair﻿

Naresh Balani

Jerry Gann

Michael Hatch

**DOR Staff**

Carlene Guzman

Emma Godinez

Kathleen Munyer

Kelly Snow

Michael Thomas

**Members of the Public**

Max Duarte

Julie Wakamoto

Andy Ngo

Mike Colbrunn, Minnesota

MEETING SUMMARY

**Welcome and Roll Call**

* Sandy Balani welcomed the attendees and a roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

**Status of Hiring a Training Officer and starting a BEP Training Class**

Sandy Balani, Chair

* Kelly Snow reported that DOR has not yet hired a new Training Officer.
* DOR would like to hold BEP Training this year and anticipates that it will.
* The BEP Training Course is three months in length.
* He reported that BEP vendors need to be available to provide Occupational Skills Training (OST) to students.
* There are approximately ten individuals who have expressed an interest in applying to the Training Class.
* DOR’s priority is to hire a New Location Officer and then a BEP Training Officer.
* A discussion took place regarding alternate methods of providing training, such as distance learning from Hadley School for the Blind.
* Max Duarte reported that he took the class and it was horrible.
* He added that the course has since been revised and should be revisited.
* Max will contact Terry Smith who helped to rewrite the curriculum to determine if it is suitable for California BEP students.
* A discussion took place regarding the challenges of employing a BEP Trainer in the East Bay where the Orientation Center for the Blind (OCB) is located because the cost of living is extremely high.
* Perhaps the job could be reclassified.
* Check with DOR to determine the classification used for teachers at the OCB, and, if it better suits the cost of living in the Bay Area, approach DOR to change the job classification for the Training Officer.

**Yearly BEP Vendor Training**

Sandy Balani, Chair

* Sandy reported that the committee would like to hold an “in person” training this year and asked Max Duarte to provide information about a possible Blindness Learning and Skills Training (BLAST).
* Max Duarte reported that BLAST may be in California this year.
* If BLAST is held in California, some vendors have expressed an interest in California Vendors attending that trainingrather than one planned by the DOR.
* About 300 BEP Vendors from across the nation attend the BLAST Training.
* California vendors would have the benefit of collaborating with vendors from across the nation.
* This year’s BLAST Training is scheduled for the beginning of November.
* The training usually lasts for three days.
* Some states pay for all vendors to attend BLAST**.**
* Kelly Snow reported that DOR may know the amount of funds available to spend on the yearly training by the end of March 2022.
* Online training for staff provided by Mississippi State University was strongly endorsed by BEP vendors and DOR staff; all who are involved with BEP should take the classes.

**Open Forum**

* Include on the next agenda:
* Discussion of the BLAST Training of 2022 and the possibility of BEP Vendors attending it as the BEP yearly vending training conference.
* What account pays for educational training for BEP vendors?

Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

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