**Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)**

**Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)**

**Statewide Committee of Blind Vendors**

**Minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members:**

**Keith Haley, Brandy Altergott, Rich Braccia, Frank Roberts, Chad Farr, Angel Torres**

**Alternate Committee Members: Amos Fatorma, Jazmarie DeJesus**

**Facility Managers: Anthony Ford**

**Bureau:**

**Brian Sigman, Ed Owens, Tyrell Sampson, David Walshe**

**The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.**

**The minutes from the December 4, 2018 and January 15, 2019 meetings were brought up for action.**

**A motion was made by Brandy Altergott to accept the minutes, as presented.**

**Seconded by Frank Roberts**

**Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**A review of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) budget was given by Ed Owens. For the current federal fiscal year, spending is outpacing program income at a rate of $6,800 per month for the first 5 months. There are projected savings in payroll of $41,000 for FFY 19 in comparison to FFY18 expenditures in this category.**

**The workgroup that was tasked with reviewing the existing regulations for the program has completed their review. The Committee was advised that there was a bill introduced in the Legislature which would change the name of DORS. It was suggested that the proposed updates to the regulations be finalized after the name of the agency has been finalized.**

**The program has been advised that the Connecticut Department of Public Health has delayed the implementation of the FDA Food Code. The current Connecticut food code will remain in effect until further notice.**

**Under New Business, the Committee took up the following locations: Torrington’s Fuessenich Park, Stamford’s Cummings Park Beach, Cove Island Park Beach, West Beaches, the Terry Conners Ice Rink, and New Milford Conn’s Pond, Lynn Deming and Young’s Field Parks.**

**The details of these locations were reviewed.**

**A motion was made by Brandy Altergott to waive Torrington’s Fuessenich Park, Stamford’s Cummings Park Beach, Cove Island Park Beach, West Beaches, the Terry Conners Ice Rink, and New Milford Conn’s Pond, Lynn Deming and Young’s Field Parks concession operations but to retain our rights to the vending machines.**

**Seconded by Frank Roberts**

**Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**The food service operation at Manchester Community College was discussed. The facility appears to be a turnkey operation with the exception of having to provide initial inventory and smallwares. In consideration of our commitment to open 165 Capitol Avenue at the same time that Manchester would need to become operational, and in further consideration of the program’s current budget status, the following motion was made:**

**A motion was made by Brandy Altergott to grant a waiver for the operation of the food service at Manchester Community College provided that Manchester Community College enters into a Memorandum of Agreement with DORS that holds DORS harmless for the loss of vending commissions that would not be realized if a waiver were to be issued.**

**Seconded by Frank Roberts**

**Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**Under Transfers & Trainings it was noted that a new client referral will be starting an evaluation in Middletown next week.**

**Renovations are on schedule. The DOT Gift Shop will be relocated in two weeks. The 165 Capitol Avenue cafeteria will be turned over to DORS in mid-December. The 55 Elm Street location will be vacated after the new Capitol Avenue building becomes operational.**

**The date of the next scheduled committee meeting is June 4, 2019.**

**Under Open Forum, Ed Owens thanked those who participated with input into the informational flyer created for the program.**

**A motion was made by Brandy Altergott to adjourn.**

**Seconded by Frank Roberts**

**Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstained – 0**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.**