

## Barre 2/17/22 Meeting Notes

### HireAbility update

- We've rebranded! HireAbility is our new front-facing name, while legally we still are the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Our website is live today and you will start seeing local TV and radio ads describing our services. Our process for connecting to us and services will stay the same, while our focus now includes long-term career advancement through education/training, and higher wages. Please start using the name HireAbility to refer to us and feel free to direct potential participants/their families to our website as a way to introduce our services.
- [Home - HireAbility \(hireabilityvt.com\)](https://www.hireabilityvt.com)

### Team member spotlight: Kelly Manning, Transition Specialist at Spaulding High School

- Biggest challenge related to transition planning: Kelly is from New Hampshire and noted that the biggest challenge has been getting up to speed with the Vermont opportunities and resources. Covid policies have also been a challenge to implement action steps with transition services.
- What is your 'go-to' transition resource? [Virtual Job Shadow!](#) Kelly uses it almost every day with Spaulding students from short video clips on careers to the social skills videos to assign specific lessons to students.
- Kelly has been working with Scott from the Vermont Granite Museum for an archiving internship that increase student's skills with technology. Kelly has also been enjoying the connection with ReSource, which allows students to gain skills on organizing items and build professional networking.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps- Aimee Shafner, Recruitment and Alumni Manager,  
[aimee.shafner@vycc.org](mailto:aimee.shafner@vycc.org)

\*See PowerPoint for more information

- [YVCC](#) is hiring about 200 youth and adults for the spring and fall season.
- Two main programs:
  - o Food and Farm Program (Richmond)
  - o Conservation Program (Richmond and Woodstock)
- Questions:
  - o Does VYCC have carpool/ride share?
    - Not currently but hoping to partner with agencies, such as HireAbility, to identify a transportation solution.
  - o Will we likely see the return of locally-oriented community crews?
    - It's difficult to say but more likely than not conservation crews will be based in Richmond and Woodstock for the next few years.

- Do you work with all types of students (i.e. students who have had behavior issues and need more guidance)? Would VYCC be open to having a BI supporting the student?
  - VYCC is open to talking with students about their needs to learn if that is an environment that VYCC can support with the make up of the programs.
  - Aimee will connect with colleagues about the BI support to report back.
  - Please reach out to VYCC to discuss if a potential applicant's support needs are right fit for the program.

Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired- Heather Allen, Rehab Counselor II.

\*See PowerPoint for more information

- Questions:
  - What is the geographic area do you serve?
    - Heather serves Central Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom.
  - Can participants access both [DBVI](#) and HireAbility services?
    - Yes! Don't hesitate to connect with HireAbility or DBVI to ask questions and make referrals.
  - What youth specific programs exist through DBVI?
    - [LEAP](#) is a program for transition-aged youth who are connected to DBVI. The program includes peer connection, building confidence, and specific employment skills (resume, mock interviews, work experiences, etc.). The program is offering year-round virtual supports in addition to the in-person activities in the youth's community.

Success and Support

- Hannaford's in South Barre has been a great partner; they have offered multiple work experiences and job shadows for interested students.

Announcements:

May 23 - August 12 there will be a UVM Global Disabilities 3 credit course taught by Dr. Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie. Financial aid is available based on income, see flyer for details.

- [Main promo video](#)
- [Financial support video](#)