

**Summary of Stakeholder Input  
Business Advisory Council  
Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut  
2017**

**Process and Findings**

Stakeholder input surveys were emailed to members of the Business Advisory Council meeting. The purpose of the survey was to help determine the current effectiveness of the meetings. Responses are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1  
Summary of Written Comments**

**1. What is your overall evaluation of the effectiveness, and the potential effectiveness of the BAC?**

- The BAC is highly effective.
- The forum allows for a combination of informational and practice interviewing that appears to provide successful career and job search insights to the participants.
- The BAC has provided private industry input and valuable social service insight to Easterseals and its members.
- Out of all the social service agencies I belong to, this is the most organized and productive committee I belong to!
- The members of the committee have been thoughtfully chosen.
- The committee is a diverse group including small business owners to large corporations.
- The committee has members who are experts in the disability field and serving veterans. These members include the Department of Labor, Workforce Development Board, Department of Rehabilitation Services and Legal Aid.
- Our team consists of long-standing membership and dedication to Easterseals mission.
- The networking has been extremely helpful on the systems level, job placement for Easterseals participants and professional development through information sharing.
- I believe that our BAC has some impressive members
- The knowledge of the BAC is very helpful to our participants.
- I think it is very effective.
- Great work has been done in the past to assist seniors and others to obtain, or return to work.
- Very positive. The committee plays an important role in helping people gain employment.
- We are able to provide resources to a wide range of people in the community; from persons with disabilities to veterans in need of assistance.
- We do a good job at keeping people “In the know”, as to the many different programs and events going on across the **state**.

## **2. Your assessment of the appropriateness of the topics covered?**

- The agenda is always appropriate. Typically, we learn about the program activities, the participants, or other news, and conduct interviews.
- The agenda is valid and reflects the mission of the committee.
- The agenda is fine. No additional comments.
- Well managed and executed in a professional manner.
- I believe the agenda has been appropriate for each meeting. It seems to be well thought out and presented.
- We are all kept on track and the meeting is kept moving to cover everything in the allotted time period.
- Most topics covered were well suited to the knowledge base of the BAC members.
- Topics covered are applicable to the needs and desires of the agency.
- Topics appear appropriate.
- Since being in the field of “disability” and helping others, all topics seem appropriate to me. To others who do not have a background in voc rehab, it may be confusing at times.
- All topics are relevant to our mission.
- The agenda is professional and well balanced Roz does a great job keeping the group to the established timeframe.
- The quarterly meeting schedule seems to be working well for everyone, given the heavy workload we all face each day.
- I feel that we use our time effectively and efficiently, and stay focused on the topics and issues at hand.

## **3. Has your participation in the BAC proved helpful to you in respect to your personal and professional life?**

- Yes, I enjoy attending the meetings; learn community news, and networking. I added my participation to my work “bio”.
- Sure. It is nice to meet others and open some networking doors. Some ideas are helpful to continue to think about, i.e. consumerism/individuals with disabilities returning to work.
- Yes, as mentioned above, the information sharing has increased my knowledge of various resources and services in the community. Additionally, some of the employers have placed consumers with disabilities that I serve.
- Absolutely. We are on this council to share knowledge and our expertise to job seekers. It is natural to want to help others and again I’d like to hear the success stories as to how our input assisted in their job search.
- I enjoy meeting other business partners in the community that I may not have a chance to meet in my daily work. I have found that I do interface occasionally with some of the BAC members to assist my clients or theirs. I believe that my participation in the BAC helps to showcase some of the VA services locally in a positive light to counter the negative portrayal nationally in the media.
- Being a member has been helpful as far as making new contacts in the business world, as well as recognizing needs of businesses.
- Professionally, I have benefitted from networking with members of the Committee and look forward to keeping these networks while moving forward in my professional career.
- Very much so.
- It makes me want to help out more!

- I have had the opportunity of meeting business professionals from the private sector.
- On a personal level, I have met extraordinary individuals who genuinely want to help the people in Connecticut
- I always come out of each meeting having learned something new and useful.
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**4. Other Comments:**

- Roz does a fantastic job organizing, engaging, and communicating with a wide variety of employer representatives from private and public sectors.
- Keep up the great work Easterseals!
- It is a privilege to be part of the BAC and I look forward to being a member for many years to come.
- Thanks to Easterseals for hosting these meetings and bringing community partners together.
- I feel Easter Seals is doing a wonderful job serving the Greater Hartford area.
- I look forward to my continued participation.
- I am very grateful to have the opportunity to participate in the BAC where everyone in the room shares the same goal...to help the people in our state who need it the most.

**Action Plan**

The responses and suggested strategies will be presented to the Business Advisory Council at its September 8, 2017 meeting. That plan is summarized in Table 2.

<b>Table 2 Summary and Action Plan</b>		
<b>Finding</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. The need for more private industry employers at the table.	With certainty, all BAC members would agree to this need.	BAC members will be empowered with BAC brochures to share and entice new memberships.
2. A representative from DMHAS and DSS would be beneficial.	Representatives from DMHAS and DSS would be excellent additions to our council.	Roz will speak with Linda Guillorn, Employment Program Manager for DMHAS regarding the benefits of belonging to the BAC. At the 9/8/17 BAC meeting, BAC membership will be asked for names of individuals who would represent DSS.
3. Bring back the participants to see if our support proved helpful and hear their success stories.	Success stories are what keep us going!	Participants will be asked to join us to relay their successes. If this is not possible, their telephonic updates will be shared with the membership.