



Commission for People with Disabilities (CFPD)
May 17, 2011
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building

Minutes

Attendees: Susan Erichsen, Mary Ann Coontz, Kelly Reynolds, Rebecca Kessler, Christina Bishop, Sheral St. Clair, Cynthia Brown, Rocco Aiello, Janet Smith, Lois Coryell, Jennifer Maddox

Staff: Adrienne Raines

Excused: Paula Andreas, Jolanda Campbell, Sam Brown, Marie Robinson, Bill Nicholas, Annette Greene, Tomica Scriber, Carole Woodward, Pamala Emplit

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by Chairperson S. Erichsen.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved as submitted.

New Member: Jennifer Maddox has been appointed to the Commission as a representative of the Department of Social Services.

Guest Presenter: Dorothy Flynn, Marketing and Admissions Coordinator for the Medical Adult Day Services Program, also known as the Ripple Center, gave members an overview of services her organization provides and distributed materials. In July of 2011, the County ceased to provide oversight and the Ripple Center became a non-profit under LLC Health Care. A transportation program has been added, consisting of four buses and a car. Rides are provided to medical and other appointments as needed. Staff includes a registered nurse who serves as the Program Director, along with certified nursing assistants and an activities director. A variety of activities are offered, including shopping trips, therapeutic activities and special events. The Ripple Center has partnered with the Center for Life Enrichment, whose volunteers assist with programs and activities. The Center serves adults ages 17 and older, however, a majority are over the age of 60. Prior to admission, a meeting takes place with the Center's RN, the Activities Director and D. Flynn to conduct an assessment and determine the individual's needs. There are eligibility requirements; medical assistance is accepted and an OHS grant allows for fees to be collected on a sliding scale based on income. One can request an AERS (Adult Evaluation Review Services) evaluation through the local Health Department. To receive any type of state funding for medical adult day services, AERS must recommend Medical Adult day services on their evaluation. Additionally, The Friends of the Ripple Center conducts fundraisers and solicits donations.

FY11 Finance Report: A display board has been purchased; \$499 will be allotted to the ADA Anniversary Celebration and the rest will be spent on paper and other materials.

FY12 Budget Update: C. Brown advised that she will report at the next meeting, as a finalized figure is not yet available.

ADA Coordinator Report: C. Bishop attended the Maryland Accessibility Code Training; she reports all staff in zoning, planning and inspections attended, as did several building services staff. She is confident County staff is knowledgeable regarding changes to the ADA code. She attended the second NAVAIR meeting on base regarding the hiring of individuals with disabilities, where she met Joyce Bender, CEO and Founder of Bender Consulting, a company with the sole mission of employing qualified people with disabilities. There is a job fair in June (C. Bishop will email details); members are invited to attend, as it would be an opportunity to meet key players in the hiring process. C. Bishop is hopeful the executive order will mean an influx in employment opportunities for people with disabilities. She clarified that mental disabilities are not currently within the parameters of the President's executive order.

Etiquette Handbook: C. Bishop reports that she distributed books at the training and meeting she attended on base. Since the book was updated in March, 300 copies have been distributed. There are approximately 700 left; members are encouraged to distribute them every possible opportunity. Contact C. Brown or C. Bishop to obtain copies.

Awareness Display: A six panel display board was purchased with administrative funds. Members discussed enlarging pictures and mounting them on foam-core.

Caregiver Conference: R. Kessler reports that she will have a table at next year's conference; members are invited to display their materials. Hosting of the conference rotates annually amongst three counties; St. Mary's County will not be hosting the conference again until 2014.

PSAs/Commercials: Static PSAs are currently airing on channel 95 in sets of three. There is a hold on production of a commercial due to the PIO vacancy. R. Kessler advised that the PIO's Video Technician, Amy Carter, produced a PSA for her department and was very pleased with the finished product. C. Brown advised that Amy helped her produce a Christmas Caring PSA and was also pleased. S. Erichsen asked that Amy's contact information be forwarded to M. Robinson.

Wounded Warriors: No new information reported.

Lions Club Camp: B. Nicholas was not in attendance; an update will be given at the next meeting.

ADA Celebration: Greenwell State Park will host on July 20th; the Manor House will be used with a tent erected outside. Commissioner Russell confirmed that he will speak; C. Bishop asked C. Brown to prepare the blue sheet. S. St. Clair asked M. Coontz to give an overview of training opportunities available. C. Bishop will speak about the awards. S. Erichsen offered to speak about the Commission's goals and objectives. Platters will be purchased and J. Campbell's staff will set up catering. C. Bishop invited members to bring their own tables and materials to display information about their own organizations. Contact J. Campbell to make arrangements.

County Fair: A sign up sheet will be circulated in August so that members can volunteer for shifts to staff the CFPD table at the Fair. All members are expected to participate by rotating shifts, ensuring coverage for the 4-day duration. A list of names is submitted to Fair staff, so members will have to sign up in advance for their shift or possibly be charged at the gate. Last year, there was a table for displaying materials and another for activities.

Commission Brunch at Sherri's House: S. St. Clair will host brunch at her home for members and their significant others on August 7th from 11am-1pm. She asked members to bring \$5 per attendee to the June meeting to offset costs.

ADA Awards: S. Erichsen will serve as Committee Chair; the committee will meet soon to coordinate the mailing. She requested that address lists appropriate to use for the awards mailing be forwarded to her.

Community Outreach/Presentation Series: M. Coontz is the point of contact for training and presentation materials; members are asked to forward all materials to her for cataloging/tracking. Packets will be assembled for members to utilize and/or present when speaking in the community.

Building Accessibility Users Group: C. Bishop, M. Robinson and C. Brown have met; C. Bishop has obtained a list of County facilities from the Public Works Department. Building Services has confirmed their support and involvement in ensuring County buildings and facilities are ADA compliant and easy to utilize. The Group will conduct site visits; members wishing to be involved were invited to contact C. Bishop. She asked that persons with disabilities be recruited to join the User Group, as well.

Updated Membership Contact List: A. Raines distributed an updated membership contact list that included member affiliations and excerpts from the by-laws that pertain to membership structure.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 4:30pm in Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Raines.