

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday October 25, 2011

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

- I. Recording Attendance: Chair F. Goetz called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.
Present: K. Grunwald (staff), J. Blanshard, C. Colon-Semenza, F. Goetz (Chair), J. Sidney, J. Tanner, K.A. Easley (staff)
Regrets: W. Gibbs, G. Bent,
- II. Approval of Minutes: the Minutes for May 24, 2011 were approved unanimously as written.
- III. New Business (other added by majority vote)
 - a. New meeting time: results of member poll: Agreed that the Committee will continue to meet at this time.
 - b. Goals and Accomplishments: Discussion re: new goals. J. Blanshard would like to see the Committee advocate for improved accessibility to the Post Office. C. Colon-

Semenza questioned whether or not there are grant funds available to do this. It was agreed that the Committee will add this as a goal. J. Blanshard also suggested improving public transportation; explore coordinating with UConn transportation services. K. Grunwald suggested sponsoring a forum on public transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. C. Colon-Semenza suggested having more centralized resources for parents of children with disabilities; meet with the regional PTA for these parents (contact Melissa Shippee). Create a resource guide or find a centralized location to provide information. K. Grunwald will contact Melissa Shippee and Rachel Leclerc about this project.

Plans for 2010-2011

- Continue to provide advocacy and oversight regarding the needs of residents with disabilities, focusing on access to buildings and services, transportation and overall quality of life.
- Advocate for the development of the Storrs Downtown area as a fully accessible area.
- Develop and distribute a brochure for the Committee to increase community awareness regarding role and accomplishments.

- c. “Other”: K.A. Easley brought up a situation about a parent with an 18 y.o. son with a disability (Angelman’s Syndrome) who requested having signs put up in the cross-walk across 195 from E.O. Smith. Parent states that the school is unwilling to allow him to do this, even though he is with a paraprofessional. The signs would need to be put up by the State DOT. Kathy Ann asked her to document her concerns, including concerns about use of the pool at the Community Center.

IV. Old Business

- a. Selection of Vice-Chair: J. Tanner agreed to serve and was approved unanimously.
- b. Review of ADA grievance: K. Grunwald reminded members that we were going to meet with the complainant. K. Grunwald will do a “doodle poll” for a Mon., Wed., or Fri. meeting.
- c. Accessibility issues previously identified:
 - Reviewed copy of the letter that as sent to Mansfield Supply. K. Grunwald will follow-up with the store.
 - J. Sidney reported that the handicapped sign in the upper parking lot at the Community Center still does not have the “\$150 fine “sign.

V. Adjournment: Future Agenda Items: new members, appointments for renewals, resources for parents of children with disabilities. Next meeting November 22, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Grunwald