



JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
CITY OF NEW HAVEN
165 CHURCH STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510
(203) 946-7833 - VOICE (203) 946-8582 - TTY/TDD
(203) 946-8587 - FAX



DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

APPROVED

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
June 8, 2009

Present: Dana Canevari, David Hicks, Chris Getlein, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli,
Linda Reeder, Heiwa Salovitz, Robin Tousey-Ayers

Absent: Stan Kontogiannis

Staff: Kristin Barber

David Hicks brought the meeting to order. The minutes for May 2009 were reviewed. Linda Reeder motioned and Elaine Quinn seconded to accept the minutes as written. Heiwa Salovitz abstained and otherwise the motion was unanimously passed.

Chairman's Report

Arts and Ideas

David Hicks reported on his progress at making arrangements with Arts and Ideas. There were two dates possible for the event and it was decided to do it on Saturday, June 20th from 12 noon to 6 pm. There were three companies that confirmed that they would participate in the Commission's event which was highlighting wheelchair accessible transportation. They were Advanced Wheels, Wheelchair Getaways, and My Ride. New England Technology Center was suggested and David Hicks was awaiting a return call from NEAT.

Legislative Update Bill 444

The Legislative session is over and the Bill regarding accessible parking hang tags did not pass due to the fiscal note.

Department Report

Michelle Duprey was not present at the meeting since she was attending a conference in Kansas on the ADA. Kristin Barber announced she has been appointed to the State Independent Living Counsel. She also described the Department's participation in two community events this past month. One was a Community Fair sponsored by Marrakech Inc, and the other was an expo sponsored by the Area Office on Aging.

Kristin Barber also stated that lately she has been getting referrals from the City-run Saga Support Services Program.

Transportation- There is no new information regarding the Accessible Taxi initiative.

Old Business

Web page-no report.

Given that the Festival of Arts and Ideas takes place in June, the Commissioners agreed that participating in the Festival precluded organizing a separate event commemorating the ADA Anniversary. However, Kristin Barber informed the Commission about a movie she recently viewed, call "Blind Sight." She described the documentary of children who are blind in Tibet learning to mountain climb and eventually climbing up to the base camp of Mt. Everest. This prompted a discussion about presenting a film series and where and how this might unfold. It was agreed that it might be best to consider having a co-sponsor and it was thought that Yale School of Medicine might be interested in co-hosting a series. The item will remain on the agenda for future discussion.

Follow-up on Housing Authority of New Haven (HANH) presentation

There was no new information on this item however a brief discussion ensued about following up on the e-mail that David Hicks sent to the Commissioners transcribing an HANH letter saying they were taking steps to assign accessible units to people who needed accessible units. Suggestions as to how to respond were made. David Hicks will respond to the e-mail from HANH.

New Business

By-Laws revision regarding process for interviewing new Commissioners.

(Background: There is no standard protocol for interviewing people interested in serving on the Commission). David Hicks brought this matter to the Commission to see how they would like to proceed with interviewing potential Commissioners. There was a review of how it had been done in the past and several suggestions were made on how best to proceed. After much discussion it was decided that David Hicks will review the current By-Laws and review this item again at the next meeting. Commission members agreed to bring ideas about how to contribute to the recruitment and selection process.

Announcements

Robin Tousey-Ayes reported that *Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic* in New Haven was closed by the National Office. They will have a Regional Coordinator.

She also attended the Discover Dance performance at the Shubert Theatre this past Saturday. She thought the Shared Ability group, which was inclusive dance, was impressive. She said the event was videotaped so that she might have a copy in the future. Robin will compose a letter on behalf of the Commission commending Noble Barker of the New Haven Ballet for the effort.

Robin Tousey –Ayers reported that at the State level there will be a massive retirement of people in State Human Services systems as well as fewer case managers within DDS.

Other Business

David Hicks brought up the issue related to the 2010 Census that Michelle Duprey had brought to the attention of the Commission. This Census does not include any disability related questions, which will then lead to lack of data in order to plan programs and seek funding. The AARP has organized a petition that the Commission could sign on to. David Hicks said can do that and also send out a letter. Matt Ranelli made a motion " to authorize David Hicks to sign a petition expressing our disagreement to leave that information out, and in addition send a letter expressing lack of data will be detrimental to community and public agency and disrupt the continuity of the data". The motion was seconded, and moved.

Heiwa Salovitz moved to adjourn, Dana Canevari seconded. The meeting adjourned.