

COLUMBUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Minutes of the Meeting: July 24, 2014

Members present: Kathy Blair, David Cameron—acting secretary, Ann Christopher, Mary Hiland—chair, Karen Kostelac, Tricia Kovacs, Scott Lissner, Tiffany McClain, Marlene Stewart,

Members absent, excused: Wayne Cocchi, Kay Grier, Cynthia Macintosh, Elizabeth Sammons

Members absent: Jennifer Flynn, Enjie Hall, Rajai Saleh, Sue Willis

Provisional members present: Katie Frederick, Ann Gazelle, Paul Walker

Staff: Rick Isbell

Ex officio: Carrie Fortman (City); Bill Stepp (COTA)

Guests: Tonya Fulwider, (Mental Health America of Franklin County); Steve Hoyt (Pilot Dogs); Don Carlock (w/Kathy)

CALL TO ORDER. Chair Mary Hiland called the meeting to order at 1:00 sharp.

MINUTES. Mary asked for additions or corrections to the June minutes. Karen Kostelac moved to accept the minutes as written (second Ann Christopher).

APPROVED

GUEST PRESENTER. Tricia Kovacs introduced Tonya Fulwider, Program Director of Mental Health America of Franklin County, who spoke with us about her agency's services.

Broadly speaking, MHAFC works to promote mental health and improve the lives of those affected by mental health issues through advocacy, education, and support services. In practical terms, this means assisting people with mental illness, whether chronic or short-term and regardless of severity, and their families and loved ones to navigate the myriad services available in our community and to help make sure their needs are addressed appropriately. These include pro bono counseling for a wide variety of circumstances, ombudsman services to help clients “get through the system,” maternal mental health assistance for new mothers, and numerous support groups. An example of a specific service was the provision of CIT, Crisis Intervention Training, for Columbus police on how to deal with a citizen who is experiencing a mental health crisis.

MHAFC is part of a national organization with many local affiliates, each of which is an independent non-profit. It is funded by Ohio's ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health) Board, United Way, in-house fund raising, grants, partnerships with other agencies.

NEW BUSINESS. Rick Isbell reported on the ADA Symposium that he attended in Denver last month. He attended a wide range of sessions variously addressing the "new" 2010 accessibility standards, the ADA coordinator's role, government entities' self-evaluation and transition plan, the "newer" ADAAG (ADA Accessibility Guidelines) that reportedly are coming soon, and emergency preparedness.

Rick is quite interested in the ADA coordinator certification program and we strongly encouraged him to pursue this. CACDI will send a letter to the mayor and City Council to support him in his efforts toward certification. He also noted that he will lead the city's re-evaluation of its transition plan.

Scott Lissner added a cautionary note that the newer ADAAG that supposedly is coming soon may yet be two more years in the future.

The discussion that ensued about Rick's moving toward ADA coordinator certification eventually led him to suggest that he'll ask the mayor for us to participate in "Morning with the Mayor." These are periodic opportunities for individuals and groups to speak directly with the mayor. We soundly endorsed that idea.

OLD BUSINESS. Ann Gazelle spoke about obtaining her new guide dog and that she had asked for a lot of home training with the new dog. Before today's meeting, she received some of the training with Steve Hoyt of Pilot Dogs, who attended with her. She found some of her neighborhood routes to be nearly impassable for many different reasons—e.g., unclear detectable warnings, overhanging branches, crumbling pavements. Carrie Fortman took copious notes and, to no one's surprise, invoked the dreaded 3-1-1.

Trish recently attended a DOT/MORPC committee meeting on transportation in Central Ohio. This was a preliminary discussion on all-inclusive transportation rights-of-way for pedestrians, vehicles, and bicycles. She will follow up.

David Cameron reported that he and Easton Town Center still have not connected, despite an in-person visit to the business office and an exchange of emails and

telephone calls. He will continue to pursue. Polaris has never acknowledged his email to Customer Service and he has not made a personal visit because Polaris is such a pain to get to and away from. This will happen, however. Also, Elizabeth Sammons has so thoroughly and repeatedly met with no success in contacting Port Columbus, she freely offered to hand over the task for someone else to try. Paul Walker volunteered to make the attempt.

The suggestion was offered to get a followup from Yellow Cab. Mary will speak with Jeff Kates.

ADJOURNMENT. Karen moved to adjourn (second David). *APPROVED*