

Commission for People with Disabilities
October 21, 2008
Rm 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Julie Randall
Cindy Phillips
Christi Bishop
Susan Erichsen
Margaret Stewart
Sherri St. Clair
Pam Main
Cathy Zumbrun
Paula Andreas
Bill Nicholas

Excused:

Rocco Aiello
Jolanda Campbell
Dennis Phillips

Visitors:

Sam Brown
Vicki Brown
Bennett Connelly
Jamie Jones

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by J. Randall. The meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by attendees. J. Randall requested a careful examination of the minutes due to recording difficulties. Clarification of who made the elections motions was made. A motion was made by S St. Clair to approve the September minutes, seconded by C. Zumbrun, minutes approved with an amendment to correct a spelling error and correct the next meeting date.

J. Randall informed the group that today's meeting would consist of a presentation from Bennett Connelly the Director of the new Human Services Department. J. Randall introduced Bennett Connelly, Director and Jamie Jones, Human Services Coordinator from the Human Services Department. J. Randall gave a brief overview of the Commissions primary goals including a needs assessment. She reminded the group of the hold the Commission put on this goal due to the COPD participation in the working group to devise the new Human Services Department. J. Randall informed the group that one of the first tasks of the new Department is that of a needs assessment regarding people with disabilities.

J. Randall welcomed the visitors and turned over the meeting to B. Connelly. B. Connelly congratulated the group on the awards program that was presented in front of the Commissioners today. B. Connelly introduced Jamie Jones and her background of children, youth and families. He gave a brief overview of the new Department and reviewed with the Commission a brochure and handout about the Department and its goals. B. Connelly discussed the structure and purpose of the Human Services Council and its role in guiding the new Department in accomplishing these goals and priorities. J. Randall expressed her excitement about the new Department and the possibilities it brings for individuals with disabilities.

J. Jones then introduced the scope of services for the disabilities needs assessment, the timelines, goals and concerns surrounding the assessment. S. Erichsen and P. Andreas discussed the past attempts at a single point of entry into agencies and services. J. Randall stated that the plan is that this will eventually be a point of services for citizens. B. Connelly stated that the Department would be in a “broker” role verses direct services.

B. Connelly discussed the data collection procedures. S. Erichsen brought up the issue of making sure the data is not about what services we have that are accessible but rather what services are available that are useable. J. Randall discussed this assessment will NOT be limited to the four keys issues the Council was concentrating on.

B. Connelly questioned the Commission about creating a planning team from the Commission members to help direct and guide this assessment process. J. Randall felt all members would be useful on this team if they had the time to help. S. Erichsen suggested a cyber or email meeting to get everyone’s input. M. Robinson brought up the issue of making sure returning veterans are addressed and C. Zumbrun suggested contacting all the agency providers in the county. Discussion was held about previous assessments done and what other resources that were known of in the County.

B. Connelly stated that the consultant would be providing drafts for review throughout the process and that the goal is to be completed by February or March of this year. J. Randall offered the Commissions support for this project and would spend a good amount of time of our monthly meetings on this priority. The group thanks B. Connelly and J. Jones for their time.

The Commission discussed the awards program presented to the Commissioners this morning. J. Randall thanked the Awards Sub Committee for their hard work on the program.

Next meeting date – November 18, 2008 at 4:30 pm.

Adjourn – S. Erichsen made motion to adjourn, C. Zumbrun seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.