

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH/ALLEGHENY COUNTY
TASK FORCE ON DISABILITIES**

May 19, 2003

MINUTES

- Location:** City Council Conference Room
City/County Building, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA
- Members Present:** John Tague, Chairperson, Paul O’Hanlon, Co-chair, Ruth Walter Brenyo, Executive Member At-Large, Aurelia Carter, Liz Healey, Penny Perlman, Kate Seelman
- Members Absent:** Jeff Parker, Milton Henderson, Al Condeluci, Bill Chrisner, Linda Dickerson, Rich McGann
- Others Present:** Lisa Moses, Jeannine Brinkley by phone, Will Thompkins, Adi Flesher

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tague at 1:10 PM.

Introductions:

All members introduced themselves.

Approval of the Minutes from April 21, 2003:

The motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2003 was made by O’Hanlon and seconded by Brenyo and unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

Jeff Parker submitted a financial report for review but he was not present to discuss the report. Will Thompkins reported that he is working to identify other sources of funding for the CCTF if the HFDS funds are not restored in the state budget. Budgeting other funds would require County Council approval. Disability Agenda has \$9,116.39 in funds for this fiscal year, and Jeff Parker has not received any invoices against those funds yet, but we assumed that there will be expenses associated with the Arts Festival. The CCTF has \$1,175.28 available for projects for the balance of this year. We will need to encumber additional funds for the strategic planning process since the process has been expanded and will require additional time from the facilitator. **Jeannine Brinkley was asked to submit a revised estimate of her fee based on the revised strategic planning process.** Aurelia Carter stated that Will Thompkins needed to have information about the CCTF to state a strong case for funding the CCTF next year. Will reported that Chuck Keenan had provided him with information.

This raised consideration of what the CCTF can do to raise the visibility of the CCTF to the public. Mark Murphy had advised the CCTF By-Laws Committee that the CCTF is covered by the Sunshine Laws. It was recognized that the CCTF needs to publicize its meetings. Strategies

to increase public awareness of the CCTF will be considered as a part of the strategic planning process.

Chuck Keenan will be asked to post a notice of the meeting in the elevators of the City County Building the day of our next meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee

Jeannine Brinkley joined the meeting by speaker phone. She submitted an updated plan and noted that includes the following: internal growth, public input, and invited input from the Chairs of the Disability Agenda 2000 committees. Jeannine asked the group to determine the sequencing of these elements and timing. Aurelia wanted to make sure that the invited meeting includes people with disabilities from the Disability Agenda committees so that we hear the voices of people with disabilities in the focus group discussion. Kate Seelman recommended that we hold the focus where it will be most convenient for the participants and volunteered that holding it at Pitt would make it more likely that Mark Nordenberg would participate. John Tague suggested that the CCTF will need to schedule time for the internal growth and development.

Liz Healey wanted to make sure that we enhance the visitability mailing list to make sure that the invitation to the public hearing is as broad as possible and that we do not omit any sectors of the disability community. Penny Perlman wanted to make sure that people have opportunities to speak for themselves, and thought that areas of common concern would emerge like the needs of people being discharged from state hospitals and other institutions. John Tague felt that the Consumer Healthcare Coalition work on Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities program has connected with many people with mental illness.

Kate Seelman asked us to focus on how the CCTF does its work, and what is our power both directly and indirectly, and to think about what makes the CCTF unique. She also recommended that we use the website as a way to publicize our meetings. She noted that the website had not been updated since November 2002. Paul O'Hanlon said that the plan presented gets us as far as getting input from a variety of perspectives, but then we need to do the hard work of choosing priorities and what to do about those issues. Aurelia felt that we should do the internal development work first. **Jeannine will give the sub-committee members available dates** and it was decided that we will devote 3 hours to this session and try to do this before the end of June. CCTF members will be notified as soon as possible. It is important that every CCTF member participates in this session.

Design Sub-Committee

Ruth Brenyo will provide to Chuck Keenan the names of the individuals invited to join, and those asked to continue their service on the Design Committee. She requests that each member receive a letter on CCTF stationary inviting him or her to serve and stating the purpose of the committee. Several members have reported that they need this for their employers.

Executive Committee

No report.

Disability Agenda Report:

No report.

Visitability Update

Paul O'Hanlon introduced Adi Flesher, the Campaign organizer, and reported that the City Council Commission has met only once. Meetings are being held individual with each City Council member to discuss the draft ordinance. Work is being done to write a final draft ordinance based on input for various organizations and from City Council members. A White Paper has been developed and a public sign-on campaign is underway to get organizations to sign-on to demonstrate their support for the ordinance. A public event is in the early stages of being planned to draw public attention to the ordinance shortly before it will come up for a vote. Media coverage of these activities is being worked on. The mayor has said that until the budget is approved he needs to be in Harrisburg 3-4 days a week so he will be unable to meet with us until after the budget is passed.

Coalition to Establish the Governor's Office of Disability:

Senator Rhoades introduced SB 24 that calls for an office of disability in the Department of Public Welfare. The Coalition is asking Senator Rhoades to rewrite his bill to instead create an Office on Disability in the Governor's Office. John Tague asked the CCTF to authorize funds to support his travel to Harrisburg to lobby for this proposal. **Kate Seelman made a motion tabling John's request and referring it to the Executive Committee to determine if there will be unspent funds from the Disability Agenda work that could be used for travel expenses for John's travel for this Coalition work.** The trip is planned for mid-June so there is time to determine what funds might be available. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Schedule:

Kate Seelman made a motion that the CCTF continue to have monthly meetings for the next fiscal year, and to have Chuck Keenan, the ADA Coordinator, set the dates. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Paul O'Hanlon and Kate Seelman met with Linda Dickerson to ask her advice about how to work with County government on the CCTF budget needs for the next fiscal year. Linda Dickerson pointed that it is not just the CCTF that is having financial problems, but that this year everybody is having financial problems. She recommended using strategies that would demonstrate the commitment of organizations and individuals to the CCTF. She suggested asking people to make donations to support the CCTF, and generating letters from key organizations in support of the CCTF.

Penny Perlman and John Tague agreed to draft a sample letter that could be used to solicit letters of support for other organizations. We committed to getting 10 letters for other organizations and that we could begin with the organizations that CCTF members are affiliated with: UCP, TRCIL, MHA, etc. **We are to request that the organizations send the letters** to County Executive Jim Roddey and send a copy to the CCTF.

We also proposed **asking Jeff Parker if he could submit a proposal to the DDC for the Collective Advocacy Grant RFP** using the HSDF application as the basis of the submission to DDC.

Announcements:

Liz Healey announced that the Pittsburgh Public Schools will be having their annual Summer Institute on Inclusive Education on June 23-26 at Duquesne University. You can register by going to the school district website: pghboe.net.

Penny Perlman announced an upcoming event sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Allegheny County on October 16, 2003. She will have more details on the content of the event at a later meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:

DATE: June 16, 2003
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: City Council Conference Room
City County Building, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

June 16, 2003