

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

May 17, 2004

MINUTES

- Location:** First Floor Conference Room
Civic Building, 200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA
- Members Present:** John Tague, Chairperson, Paul O'Hanlon, Co-chair, Aurelia Carter, Liz Healey, Milton Henderson, Rich McGann, Jeff Parker, Katherine D. Seelman
- Members Absent:** Ruth Walter Brenyo, Bill Chrisner, Al Condeluci, Linda Dickerson, Penny Perlman
- Others Present:** Judy Barricella, Tina Calabro, Brenda Dare, Jana Finder, Jerry Laychak, Richard Meritzer, Lisa Moses

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tague at 1:13 PM.

Approval of April 2004 Minutes:

It was decided that from now on minutes will be sent out two weeks in advance of the meeting. Mr. O'Hanlon moved to APPROVE THE MARCH 2004 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. All members voted in favor of the motion. The April 2004 Minutes were distributed. Mr. Parker moved to TABLE THE APRIL 2004 MINUTES. The members agree to the motion.

Financial Report

Mr. Parker presented the Annual Fiscal Report. There are two columns for each project, estimated expenditures and the amount bill. The work sheet tracks the expenses month by month. Travel could include the interpreters' travel.

Mr. Tague said that there was organization sponsorship of the NAMI Southwestern Conference. Mr. Parker said that Mr. O'Hanlon's presentation was on the house. The charge was for registration.

The bottom left corner of the report is the money the task force needs to track. Any remaining balance at the end of the year will go toward production of the video. Ms. Healey stated that on June 30th we can see how much we have remaining from the budget. Mr. Parker said that next year the Task Force will receive \$15,000 for operation and \$10,000 for the Disabilities Connection.

Ms. Healey asked if the funds for the Community Leaders meeting could be encumbered this year if the meeting was occurring after June. Mr. Parker said as long as he receives invoices before June 30th the money can be encumbered.

Introductions:

All members and guests introduced themselves.

Public Hearing and Strategic Plan:

Ms. Healey circulated two reports from Jennine. The first is the list of who attended the May 3rd Public Forum. The second was Issues / Areas of Concern. It was pointed out that the names of Holly Dick, Karen Blumen and James Nochese were misspelled and Judy Barricella and John Ware were left off the attendance list. Mr. Laychat's email address is jeri@libcom.com. The committee set a goal of having 30 people attend and testify. 33 people attended.

Dr. Seelman pointed out that Robert Kennedy's testimony was not reflected in the draft. He spoke on assisted listening devices. Ms. Healey asked that members read the draft and attendance list over carefully and get back to her. Ms. Carter expressed her concern that this effort will be lost in other work.

Ms. Healey stated that along with the feedback from the Community Leaders meeting, this information will be the basis to develop a strategic plan. There was not a lot of discussion about issues effecting children at the Public Forum. Mr. O'Hanlon suggested that we forward the draft to blind organizations. Ms. Dare asked that the OVR counselors distribute the draft. Dr. Seelman reminded the meeting that input from people with low vision is important. Mr. Parker stated that a representative attended from SEIU and spoke on attendant care. Ms. Carter pointed out that there was a lack of attendance from the African American Community. Ms. Healey asked if everyone can help generate names to be added to the mailing list. Dr. Seelman suggested that everyone give their additions and corrections to Ms. Healey of both the draft and the mailing list. Ms. Healey asked if these changes should be sent in or brought to the next meeting. Mr. O'Hanlon said people could do either. They should let Mr. Tague know a week ahead of time.

There was then discussion of additional hearings. Ms. Healey suggested that there be a maximum speaking time of 5 minutes. This should be done at sites both in the City and outside the City in the County. We could not do that this year because these meetings are very time intensive. Dr. Seelman suggested we could pay someone to hold these meeting out in the County. Mr. Tague said the Committee will meet and make a recommendation. Ms. Healey asked that everyone review the documents and send her comments in a week. Ms. Calebro suggested we could interview people from underrepresented constituencies over the phone.

Ms. Healey then went into a discussion of the Community Leaders meeting. Tina Calabro is the consultant working on this meeting. A report was written in 2001 listing recommendations as to how to make the area more inclusive. The meeting will look at these recommendations and the state of inclusion today. The number of recommendations is over whelming. When the process is finished there will be a list of recommendations for the Task Force to pursue. Ms. Calabro said the biggest obstacle to this meeting is setting the date. We have not sent out any invitations yet. Linda Dickerson will facilitate the discussion and Ian Rawson will moderate the event. The Power Point presentation will also be available in written form. The result of this meeting will be an update of the previous recommendations and an outline of the next steps to be taken.

Ms. Healey said that each of the former chairs will have a piece of the presentation but Ms. Calabro will coalesce them. Dr. Seelman suggested that there be one page on goals and the role of the Task Force. She feels there needs to be a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee. What does the Task Force want the outcomes to be? Mr. Henderson asked if we could abstract goals from the public meeting prior to the leaders meeting. Dr. Seelman asked if we should incorporate information from Doctor Bank's study. Mr. Parker feels that we should pick their mind on what is and isn't going on. This could be combined with the previous recommendations. Ms. Barricella said that this should be a call to action for those leaders. They have not been recently involved.

Dr. Seelman said if the strategic planning process is dynamic, we should do this every couple of years. Mr. O'Hanlon stated if we can get the community leaders together we should use the opportunity. If consensus emerges we should move that to an action program. Dr. Seelman asked if we could find the staff that could be assigned to follow up on these recommendations. Ms. Barricella suggested that we invite the staff of these leaders as well. Ms. Healey said Jean was not able to be here today but she did put the information together. Dr. Seelman suggested that Ms. Barricella should have input to the information so it can be used for her work plan.

Discussion of Nominations:

Dr. Seelman asked Mr. O'Hanlon if the Task Forces needed to go into Executive Session. Mr. Tague said it did not. Ms. Healey pointed out that we did not have the bylaws. She requested this item be moved to the end of the agenda so we could go into executive session.

Annual Meeting:

Mr. Tague said the intent is to make the annual meeting more exciting. The meeting will be at the Heinz Conference Center of the Blue Cross Building. We are bringing in Gil Selders from the Mayor's Office in Chicago. He was formerly Executive Director of Pennsylvania's OVR. We would like Mayor Murphy and Chief Executive Dan Onarato to attend. The response from the City was the Mr. Meritzer would represent the Mayor. Mr. Tague had problems with that.

Dr. Seelman asked if the Mayor and the Chief Executive have been told what their role will be at this meeting. Ms. Healey said originally we asked that the Mayor and Chief Executive respond to the speaker. Dr. Seelman suggested that Mr. Selders should explain what his office is doing in various areas. It is unusual to have a person who is not the head of a Department or agency share the panel with the Mayor or Chief Executive. Ms. Healey said his office has done impressive work. Can we clarify the Mayor's role and get conformation of his attendance for publicity? Ms. Moses said she was not informed that the request was passed on. She will check to see what happened. Ms. Healey suggested that the Mayor could speak to how we can help with the financial situation as well as respond to Mr. Selders presentation. We should get a copy of the mailing list from Working Order. Mr. Meritzer should have a copy of the list and work with Working Order to keep it current. He will send out press releases for this meeting and get a notice on Cable T.V.

Old Business:

Mr. Parker said he had left messages about the video, but has not yet spoken to Tony.

Ms. Healey told the Task Force that there was more work to do on the visitability ordinance and policy. She suggested that the Task Force should check to see the level of support for the current proposal in the community and see if they can do better than the proposed URA policy. Mr. O'Hanlon explained the difference between a restrictive ordinance and an incentive ordinance. He said there was no direct evidence that the URA is doing anything. He will try to get a meeting with Tom Cummings of the URA. Something should be done in the next few months. Council member Udin is very supportive and would introduce the legislation. Mr. O'Hanlon said he would welcome any help from other Task Force members. He said he would set up a meeting. Dr. Seelman said that they should have a strategy before meeting with Mr. Cummings. She suggested this should be part of the long range plan.

New Business:

Mr. Parker brought up the issue regarding calls made to 911 through TTY. There is a wait for about 10 minutes. This is a safety issue. Mr. McGann stated that Lucy Sproul had said that City 911 has 12 TTYs but the County had none. And now that the City and County 911 systems have been combined there may be some problems with the TTY. Dr. Seelman suggested we check with the deaf community to come and have a discussion on this issue. Mr. Teague said he and Mr. Parker would do that. Mr. McGann pointed out that if there is an emergency, the police will come without an interpreter even if one is requested.

Ms. Barricella announced that the Department of Human Services will be holding hearings. She said she would get us information.

Ms. Carter brought up an issue related to the relocation of seniors from the Garfield High-rise. Family members who are not seniors, other than spouses are not allowed to live with the seniors as care givers. Mr. Meritzer explained that is was an agreement reached with the residents of the Stanton Heights Community. Mr. O'Hanlon stated that they can not limit who can be a caregiver under ADA regulations. Aides can be paid or unpaid; they can be professional or voluntary. He said he would advise the tenants of their rights. Ms. Healey suggested that someone might speak to this issue at the next tenants meeting. Ms. Carter said she would check.

Announcements:

Ms. Healey informed the Task Force that she had been to a bed and breakfast with a very inventive solution for accessibility. They had turned a closet into a bathroom and shower combination. It was very creative and beautiful.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:

DATE: June 28, 2004
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Heinz Conference Center
United Way Building
One Smithfield Street