

**CITY OF PITTSBURGH/ALLEGHENY COUNTY
TASK FORCE ON DISABILITIES
July 20, 2009
MINUTES**

Location: First Floor Conference Room
Civic Building, 200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA

Members Present: Jeff Parker, Chairperson, Janet Evans, and John Tague, Sarah Goldstein, Milton Henderson

Members Absent: Linda Dickerson, Milton Henderson, and Paul O’Hanlon, Katherine D. Seelman, Aurelia Carter, Janet Evans, Liz Healey, Rich McGann, James C. Noschese

Others Present: Jamila Dees, Brian Church, Cassidy Drilling, Holly Dick, Dianne Gallagher, Richard Meritzer, Teresa Nellans, Bill Newland, , Tamara Siegert, Chuck Keenen, Asia Pruden, Shari Mamas, Matt Paclosky, Jonathan Robinson, Gerhardi Egfi, Roy Banner, ED Buran

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Parker at 1:04 PM.

Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves. Mr. Parker read the agenda.

Financial Report:

At the meeting the projected end of the year balance is \$1100. They do not think they have enough money to hold the meeting next month. Also, they are not sure but they think that their funding will be cut. In order to save money they might cancel next months meeting or may be see if the interpreting agencies will work with them and they just pay them in September. With the remainder of the money from this year they want to give TRCIL \$100, to help sponsor their annual ADA Celebration. They also want to see if UCP could help them with funding, if their budget gets cut. They are also considering giving money toward the Accessibility Today show for captioning. It just depends on how much it cost. The reminder of the money will go to small differences.

Staff Report:

Jamila(intern) gave a up date on a project that she had been working on that was assigned by Lucy Spruill. The project was called the one step project. This project was put together to help small business become more accessible by helping them get funding and tax credits for actually make the changes. After she talked about the one step project, she handed out the agenda for the meeting that was being held on Saturday at the Center for hearing and Deaf services. This meeting is being held to talk about communication issues at the Airport and the Convention Center.

Cassidy (intern) also talked about a current project that she was doing. The name of the project was Disability Today. This project was put together to make people in Pittsburgh more aware about what the City of Pittsburgh and other organizations in Pittsburgh are doing to help the disabled consumers. The way this works is that we will have a 5minute spot on the Pittsburgh channel to talk about current thing that are going on the disability community. As of right now the only problem with doing the show is that Cassidy needs money to provide captioning for the show. The task force is willing to provide the money for the captioning as long it does not go over their budget. Also, many people did not like the name of the show, so the name of the show is now Ability Pittsburgh.

Brian (intern), talked about the visibility project that he has been working on. He talked about how he is waiting for someone to get back to him about the auditable traffic signals that are in the city that we do not know about, and also how he is working on a project that help provide tax credits for disabled people.

Presentation from Allegheny County Transit Council:

A man named Jonathan Robinson from the Allegheny county Transit Council came to speak about issues with Port Authority. He talked about how they are trying to eliminate a lot of different bus stops and routes around the city, and how when a bus is not functioning properly it is real inconvenience for him because he is in a wheel chair. He wanted to try to encourage people to join ACTC, because they need new and active members to help them make Port Authority more accessible and to stop them from eliminating stops that people need. Also, for people who wanted to join the ACTC, he had applications on hand and also, if anyone wanted to go a meeting, the next meeting is on Wednesday August 19th at 6pm at UCP.

DISCUSSION

During the discussion the topic of accessibility at the G-20 summit was brought up. It was said that during the G-20 summit, there will be two people who will have cell phones administered to them, to help disabled consumers. Also, another issue came up about communication. Some one asked, when Port Authority changes its routes how would these changes be notified to whole the disability community. The truth is that port authority was not sure how to reach all of the disability community. But they said they would notify different originations that work with the disability community and hope that everyone is notified. There was a lady was there, that worked with people who are cognitively disabled, and she some solutions on how to notify the cognitively disabled community and their families.

VOX POP**Adjourn**

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING:

DATE: August 17, 2009
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Large Conference Room
200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219