

May 14, 1999

MINUTES

- Location:** United Cerebral Palsy
4638 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA
- Members Present:** Judith Barricella, Chairperson (late), Ruth Walter Brenyo,
William Coleman, Al Condeluci
- Members Absent:** Linda Dickerson, Richard McGann, Paul O'Hanlon
- Others Present:** Marshall Gordon, Liz Healey, Theresa Lomperski, Teekie
Smith, Joyce Redmerski (fiscal report only)

The minutes of the February 17, 1999 meeting were approved.

Al Condeluci indicated that UCPs annual meeting is scheduled for June 28, 1999 from 4PM to 6PM. He has written a letter to Mayor Tom Murphy requesting that he make a 20 minute speech to the group on community/opportunities for people with disabilities, etc. He asked T. Lomperski to make a personal contact to request his involvement. T. Lomperski agreed.

T. Lomperski gave a report on City of Pittsburgh activities. She covered seven items.

- 1) Pittsburgh Public Schools—T. Lomperski sits on the Pittsburgh Public School District's (PPS) ADA Committee. This committee would like to begin collaborating on community issues and events. Community training was discussed as one possible way to collaborate. L. Healey, also a member of the PPS ADA Committee explained how the District was complying with the ADA, having completed a comprehensive self-evaluation process resulting in a document. They have also initiated facility changes through a transition plan. L. Healey made a strong recommendation that the City of Pittsburgh move in this direction.
- 2) Disability Awareness Month—The month of May, 1999 has been declared Disability Awareness Month in the City of Pittsburgh by the Mayor as well as City Council. Allegheny County has also declared it so. T. Lomperski explained that although the Task Force had not officially decided on what month of the year was best for this type of declaration, the circumstances of this year resulted in the declaration of May. Specifically, the Pittsburgh Public School District declared the month of May Diversity/Disability Awareness Month and T. Lomperski offered declarations at the City level. The PPS have a Diversity Awareness Display in the City-County Building for view until May 21, 1999. They will be celebrating Barrier Awareness Week the week of May 17-21 with TRCIL. Formal events are scheduled with these two organizations. There was a short discussion about continuing a May declaration. The TF unanimously agreed to declare May Disability Awareness Month in Pittsburgh and agreed to support the

- planning process for a large event next year. It is hoped that an event can be modeled after Chicago's yearly event.
- 3) Washington, DC Trip—T. Lomperski shared her National ADA conference experience with the group. She indicated that it was important to have the opportunity to network with peer colleagues in the country. She also indicated that she brought home a number of ideas and concepts she hopes to incorporate into her job/activities as ADA Coordinator.
 - 4) Title III Outreach—The idea of developing an outreach program for building owners and landlords was presented. T. Lomperski explained that she has been getting a number of complaints over the telephone and thought it might be a good idea to develop an outreach program sponsored by the Task Force, Mayor's Office and County Commissioner's Office to provide resources to the community. The TF agreed that this was a good idea and unanimously agreed to support this effort in any way necessary.
 - 5) 9-1-1 Meeting—T. Lomperski shared the minutes and next steps of the recent 9-1-1 meeting that included Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, Deaf and hard-of-hearing community leaders and consumers. Both T. Lomperski and T. Smith indicated that the experience was incredibly positive (to great credit from County Officials) and pointed out that this was a true breaking point in making forward progress with this group. T. Lomperski and T. Smith will keep the TF informed of activities.
 - 6) Parking Authority—T. Lomperski indicated that the Parking Authority is conducting an evaluation of parking garage and on-street parking opportunities for people with disabilities in the downtown area. They will be producing documentation to T. Lomperski in an effort to develop a plan for compliance under the ADA. T. Lomperski will keep the TF informed of their progress.
 - 7) Highland Park Pool—T. Lomperski updated the TF on the progress of the Highland Park Pool renovation project. Restroom facilities as well as pool accessibility will be provided. A. Condeluci recommended that a dedication be made to celebrate the opening of this accessible facility. The dedication would include an invitation to the media. T. Lomperski will begin investigating the possibility of having such an activity.

J. Redmerski made a financial report. She indicated that the amount of expenditures through 4/30/99 totaled \$25,000. Between the HSDF and DD Grant monies, the TF is under-spent by \$10,000. The HSDF money (\$6,000) has to be spent by June 30, 1999; The DD money (\$4,000) will extend into the next fiscal year. The county money has to be spent first. The issue of TF and Disability Agenda 2000 expenses was discussed. All TF member expenses related to TF activities are reimbursable; all expenses related to Disability Agenda 2000 activities are reimbursable. Forms to submit receipts are available from J. Redmerski; checks for estimated costs of expenses (e.g. luncheons) are also available. All receipts and information related to financial activities for this fiscal year MUST be submitted to J. Redmerski by June 30, 1999. NO EXCEPTIONS. A quarterly report to the County is due July 15th. A draft as close to June 30th is requested. T. Lomperski will work with Judy to get the report to J. Redmerski.

As part of the discussion on Disability Awareness Month, the month of October was discussed in terms of an activity to increase the awareness of people with disabilities in employment. T. Lomperski indicated that the President's Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities was going to be in Pittsburgh this October. A. Condeluci recommended that T. Lomperski contact Joyce Bender to find out more information regarding the employment of people with disabilities in Pittsburgh and to begin thinking about planning some type of event and/or proclamation for October on this issue. T. Lomperski will address the issue as indicated.

As part of the discussion on Disability Awareness Month, L. Healey indicated that Chicago's newsletter is available to whoever wants one. T. Lomperski will contact the Mayor's Office in Chicago and place the Task Force members on the mailing list.

The "Meet the Candidate" event was discussed. The TF members who were in attendance, T. Lomperski, and T. Smith agreed that the event was successful. The TF will discuss the possibilities of putting together another event before the general election. A. Condeluci will talk with CAP and the issue will be discussed at a future TF meeting. T. Smith asked whether an event should be planned for the County Council and "At Large" candidates. The TF agreed that this should be discussed as well.

M. Gordon led an update discussion of the Disability Agenda 2000 program. M. Gordon, L. Healey, and T. Lomperski, presented brief updates of their sectors. There was a short discussion on better representation from the County. T. Smith indicated that she was not aware that her contacts had not been involved, as she had given names of participants to M. Gordon and L. Healey at the outset of the program. L. Healey and T. Smith will work together to ensure that another contact is made to T. Smith's representatives and that they become involved. L. Healey thought that it might be a good idea to gather the Disability Leadership Group, as the Sector Chairs are meeting next June. M. Gordon will investigate the possibilities. M. Gordon discussed the sector chair meeting to be held June 2, 1999 at 8:00AM. He would like the TF members there, as there will be a discussion about the final document and implementation of the program objectives.

Al Condeluci distributed a flyer on a Human Services seminar to be held October 1999. The event is sponsored by The Commonwealth Institute and will be held in Sewickley, PA. A scholarship from the TF was discussed for individuals interested in attending. A. Condeluci and B. Coleman discussed the possibilities of different scholarship amounts and the number of people to send to the seminar under scholarship. T. Lomperski will work with A. Condeluci and J. Barricella on the development of this program.

R. Brenyo indicated that she saw the Mayor recently and that he expressed an interest in ensuring that the Steelers and Convention Center planners develop a program similar to the TF focus group sessions conducted with the Pirates. T. Lomperski has been and will continue to look into developing such a program with these organizations. T. Smith indicated that the Commissioners are committed to these types of events and the entire arena of economic development. She, together with her colleagues would also like to see more focus groups sessions.

T. Smith will fax information on a Tobacco issue meeting scheduled for May 24th in the AM. The information is provided as an invitation for people to attend.

T. Smith shared a recent experience she had meeting with the EEOC. She indicated that it was a very positive experience. She was happy to have had the opportunity.

THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING: DATE: July 7, 1999
TIME: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
LOCATION: United Cerebral Palsy

September 10 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM UCP
November 12 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM UCP

These minutes have been produced to the best of the author's ability. Please contact Theresa Lomperski, 255-2988 or theresa.lomperski@city.pittsburgh.pa.us as soon as possible with amendments.