

Task Force Minutes  
November 16, 2009

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Financial Report

John-Human services development fund cut 14%. DHS said they would fund all client services at lowest level. Jeff called Mary Ester Van Shura for a meeting. Because the budget was not put on August meeting, city has paid for September. But John just got a bill.

Kate-How do they track non Task Force expenses?

John-UCP gets that information as Fiscal agent.

Kate- What expenses?

John- Judy has a cell phone, voices of the region has expenses.

Chris moved, Richard seconded

Consumers Accessible of Telephones and Television

A lot of changes in how telephone and television services are delivered. Regulation is very important. Caption is a telephone that carries captions. High definition Multimedia does not carry caption. People with disabilities should be able to use smart phones;web pages are often not very accessible. No support for Broadband to carry this.

Kate did a power-point presentation on new technology and how it is used. But a lot of it doesn't catering to the needs of the people with disabilities as well as the high rising costs.

Rich- Grant and important information unfortunate the companies using voice messaging do not use TTY's. Television shows should be on captions. Then we could use Braille Captions.

Chris-We have a problem with Deaf and Deaf Blind calling each other because of policies. Chris would use video phones to call.

Video ready to TTY to caption

Paul- What policies?

Chris- FCC has policies. Video relay and phone relay are funded differently.

Theresa - Don't want to fund a call twice. Two people with two different disabilities are two different funding sources. TTY was set up for hearing impaired to communicate with hearing society.

Kate- Capture the problem and send to FCC.

Rich-We need to turn in FCC that they need to respect our needs. Video phones have no Braille. 911 will not connect to video delay

Janet- Foreign calls use relay system because it's free, Net Flex are starting to download movies, and I haven't seen any captions.

Joe- HR3101 is very important everyone should call their congress members

Sarah-Making policies for Deaf and Hard of hearing to communicate with ... not other deaf or hard of hearing.

Rich- If the deaf want to call their congressmen you don't know who you are talking to.

Joe- The important thing is that the office knows we support 3101.

Chris- What about movie theaters...closed captioning through movie theaters? People with CP would not be able to access it. Open caption would be better.

Rich- For many years the deaf school would get open captioning movies. In India, they have a club where you can get the English all the time. Should be able to go to the movies and not wrestle with rear window captioning.

Kate- The reason we don't have open captioning is because hearing people complained it was a distraction.

Theresa- People in the Hearing Loss Association understood hearing and then loss hearing. Appropriate to rear window because it allows participation with family and friends, changing to digital developing classes to closed captioning.

Kate- 1. Formulate statement of problem for incompatible policies.

2. Bring Comcast and Verizon into the dialog. This is for disability

3. We need to do a lot of educating.

Chris- I am willing to help. There is a lot of can't and lots of limited access.

Rich- I'm very happy to help out we should respect people in their communication preferences.

Sarah-Could Comcast and Verizon have special needs unite?

Kate- Local problems is usually technical problem. Need to find engineer. Bring in consumer affairs.

Pricilla-Emergency information for cable?

Chris- Weather warnings People who watch HBO or Showtime don't know. Comcast should be responsible but they do nothing.

Access to work program- David Strugers

Back grunge and current status. ATWIC has been working for a decade. JARC is job access reverse commute (2 components) Job access –reverse commute-better access for environmental concerns. It provides access to streets that are too narrow. He began with discussing remarks. More freedoms are projects that exceed ADA requirements. SPC, PAAC and TRWIB all have a staff person assigned to this. Region is the 10 county regions. Committees on Pittsburgh Urbanized win. SAFTEA-LU split urbanized and non urbanized win. Penn-DOT does non urbanized area. The reviews for final proposal are in July. ACTA shuttle service is last mile service. We are trying to be comprehensive in educating students. Work links connects housing projects to transit. PRN is getting data formals on transit. It saves administration time. Traveler's ad projects are administrative and marketing. The new project is Classy Cab. Purchasing four accessible cabs looking at population shifts.

Rich- I sent an E-mail to my supervisor. His feedback on services. Many of the drivers are not patient to blind consumers. Attitudes of the drivers is important...prepare for interpreting needs.

Dave- What type of services?

Rich- All.

Dave- Organizations should provide training on sensitivity and functionality. It could be apart of a forum. Questions of training and oversights.

Paul- Shopping malls restricting public transit and busses being kept out of malls

Dave- Not sure who is addressing, this issue after the weight of the bus. Could be a forum of discussion.

Chris- Port Authority limits taking people up to 64 years of age.

Holly- After age 65 everyone qualifies. This fills gap of people under 65.

Valerie- Wheelchair Transport working with students. Braille.

Meeting was adjourned.