

City of Pittsburgh / Allegheny County

Task Force on Disabilities

October 16, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members in Attendance

Paul O'Hanlon, James C. Noschese, Steve Fowler, Karen Warman, Janet Evans, Sarah Goldstein, John Tague, Joe Wasserman

Task Force Members Absent

Richard McGann, Cori Frazier, Milton Henderson

Also In Attendance

Richard Meritzer, Joy Dore, Dawn Smidga, , Mary Esther Van Shura, Maria Driediger, Ali Abdullah, April Delacur, Nakita LaPrade, Sean Shaughnessy-Boles

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting started at 1:00 pm and began with the introduction of the Task Force members and individuals in the audience.

Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report

\$ 700 spent on ADA rally /March.

October \$450 project charge to support interpreters for the CLASS Community Heroes Dinner

A little over \$2000 balance projected

Annual meeting should happen in July

July, August and September interpreters still to be taken from the budget

Not a ton of money left for future projects (around \$600)

\$1100 set aside for annual meeting

Accepted.

Disability Options Network – Center for Independent Living

Elisabeth Libby Powers, Independent Living coordinator for Allegheny, Armstrong and Westmoreland Counties, spoke. Interim Director currently based out of the New Castle Office. He will be coming to Penn Hills Office. Staff of 12-14 ideally.

Ms., Goldstein: Asked about the age range. MS Powers responded we do not ask for documentation. We will help anyone in need of services. Currently no serving senior services.

Cori Frazier: Asked about the accessibility of the location. MS Powers responded is 1 hr. 40 min commute from Downtown on the 77 Oakmont flyer. They are working on moving the office to an unoccupied elementary school in Verona.

Mr. Tagus: DON Got to find a more accessible option. What does the City County Task Force do to make that happen? Should we take this to Chris Lloyd, CEO of DON?

Mr. O'Hanlon: I second that location is important. They serve people in wheelchairs. This connotation on cross-focus on disabilities? Vision, IDD, deaf etc. Center has to be proactive in reaching out to those groups.

Ms. Dore: Asked about the grant? MS Powers responded we are see grantee. I am still learning as well.

Someone asked about the ages served. Ms. Powers responded with IDEA the goal is to serve the entire lifespan. We are still developing the program.

MS. Goldstein: Do you go to homes or the come to center? Ms. Powers responded both

Someone asked about help with other housing resources? Information? MS Powers responded call the office cannot give referrals, only resources.

Ms. Goldstein: Are there age ranges? MS Powers responded do not ask for documentation. We will help anyone in need of services. Currently negotiating senior services.

Cori Frazier: 3 Rivers Center for independent Living closed. Are those clients going to you? MS Powers responded yes. Getting organized. More equipment for day services and hard of hearing to come.

Someone ask about hiring new signers? Sign fluency is important. MS Powers responded not sure. Will find out.

Ms. Warman: What kind of support offered? Peer supper, advocacy, Patient administration services. Lots of Organizations under DON umbrella. They want to grow the network.

Mr. Wasserman: How many counties? MS Powers responded Allegheny. Westmoreland. And Armstrong.

Someone asked if the program was federally funded. MS Powers responded yes. The DON grant was accepted. Be patient. We will be updating everyone with answers.

Ms. Meritzer: How do you see the Task Force relating to your work? MS Powers responded partnering of shared resources. New solutions, new partners. The Task Force is a source of information and sharing information. Push to inform the community.

To Ms. Dore's question about communication. MS Powers responded they have TTY.

Mr. Noschese: TTY is fading old technology. Please focus on video phones now. Asked about the SSP program for deaf / blind? It is in trouble and needs financial support. MS Powers responded not sure, can find out. Mr. Noschese asked them to help.

Mr. O'Hanlon: Welcome to Pittsburgh. Come to meetings whenever! We're forming commixes to work on issues. Stay in touch.

MS Powers offered her contact information. Email epowire@disasiugoptiamnetwork.org
Phone number (724-856-4211 extension 401)

Tires Report – Ms. Dore

Upcoming event downtown

Railvolution: Railvolution. Org - transportation in Pittsburgh! Looking at new Technology
October 21-24 | Pittsburgh, PA
Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

Community Transportation: CTAA's Community Transportation EXPO Returns to Pittsburgh in 2018
June 10-14, David L. Lawrence Convention Center - Open to the public

Go to Tires on Facebook for information

One Step Program – Mr. Shaughnessy-Boles

Program created to simplify process. They send the packet to the ADA and we take care of the steps. Currently 4 ramps in the process of being accepted through legislation

- 5120 Penn Avenue

- 5600 Harrison Street

- 420 Boulevard of the Allies

- can't remember the last one.

Mr. Tague: Asked for clarification. Are these real ramps with handrails? Mr. Shaughnessy-Boles responded yes.

MS Dore: Are you focusing on specific areas? Mr. Shaughnessy-Boles responded most locations are downtown. But they can be from anywhere. Variety of businesses. MS Dore suggested Dynamics AX app

Mr. O'Hanlon: Are you informing businesses of the Law? Mr. Meritzer responded we inform them of their legal requirements, but this program encourages, it does not require. To require it would need further legislation or court decisions. This is beyond the scope of City responsibility. Mr. O'Hanlon disagreed.

Mr. Noschese: Can we include accessibility information in mailings? The One Step program?
Mr. Meritzer responded this is a City Program. The County has no say in occupancy or land usage.

Mr. Wasserman: Can we use the Better Business Bureau. Mr. Meritzer responded we could approach them.

Follow-up on Annual Planning Meeting

Mr. O'Hanlon: looked at annual meeting minute, projects and new projects. This would require 87 people total! This goes over different committees, current projects and the number of people needed for each. Upcoming and Future projects and the number of people needed for each. Public awareness and exposure tied to other projects. Standalone projects or not? Education initiatives will involve many. How do we keep all of these balls moving? We start the process of recommending people for these committees. Get the word out to public.

Mr. Tague: Build relationships with group we are already working with on the issues. The Task Force has limited resources.

Mr. O'Hanlon: Identify deaf organizations to partner up with.

Mr. Noschese: regarding education, working through the councilmembers meeting with the School board.

Cori Frazier: Voting and hospital compliance

Someone from the audience Stated McDonalds working on jobs and employment initiatives.

Mr. O'Hanlon. Start identifying captains for these projects.

Mr. Noschese: There is always a way to approach though other means. Paul said we could contract out the existing projects, but to who. City? County? Other? A new assignment for existing staff?

Mr. Meritzer: Under the ADA we cannot ask someone about their disability. We don't know how many are hired. We don't want to cross that line.

Ms. Goldstein: address what number of questions brought up with jobs / employment. Where are the gaps?

Mr. O'Hanlon: These are good things to start thinking about.

Vox Pop

Mr. Dore – 10/31 last day for absentee ballots

– There is a Pennsylvania Council of the Blind Conference 10/26 – 10/29 downtown! It's at the Weston Downtown, a great location. Thursday through Sunday. Could use volunteers.

Someone from the audience brought up housing issues. Paul responded we don't do much with housing, we are not equipped to deal with those issues. That is an area of the Department of Human Services of the County. Fair Housing won't accept sex offenders.

Cory Frazier: Please don't use language that marginalizes people, words such as crazy or stupid.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled next month on Monday, November 20 at 1:00 pm in the first floor Conference Room of 200 Ross Street.