

Mayor's Council on Disability
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2010

Chairperson, John Jackson, Creative Initiative
Vice Chair, Bryon Kluesner, UTC OSD Office
Secretary, Carol Martin, UTK Center on Disability & Employment
Parliamentarian, Jill Hindman, Dev Disability Council, Region 3

Council Members

Sandra Booher, Moccasin Bend Hospital
Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van
Tommy Gates, Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation
Carolyn Boyd, Signal Centers
Phillip Stevens, City of Chattanooga
Karl Epperson
Nichol Myers, AIM Center
Robert White, Epilepsy Foundation
Katie Jones, Merrill Lynch (Special Needs)

Mayor's Office Participants

Matt Lea, Assistant to Mayor
Jay Piercy, OMA City Compliance Officer
Kathie Fulgham, Mayor's Office

Absent members:

Carolyn Boyd
Nichol Myers
Karl Epperson
Katie Jones
Tommy Gates
Robert White

Visitors:

Chris Jackson, TN DIDS
Dennis Dodson, Mental Health Advocate
Elaine Adams, City Therapeutic Recreation
Rick Rader, M.D., Orange Grove Center
Christin Compton, D.D.S., Orange Grove
John Stuermer, Director of 911

John welcomed the group and asked the Council members to introduce themselves. He then asked Carol to request any changes to the minutes. There was only one. Karl Epperson's name was listed twice under absent from the previous meeting. With no other changes, the Council approved the minutes as corrected. John thanked everyone for participating and said that the next meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 3:00 p.m. at the DRC.

Matt Lea introduced John Stuermer, Director of 911. The 911 District is managing all call taking and dispatching throughout Hamilton County except for Lookout Mountain and Soddy Daisy. This unification has been in place one year. Tours of the facility are available upon request. Regarding the handling of calls from people with disabilities, John said that they now have video conferencing third party relay service. John said that the technology is moving towards the Internet Protocol System (IPS) that will be statewide in about two years. This IPS will open up the ability to interact using different methods, such as texting. This IPS will allow receipt of digital information that will improve the ability to possibly create a database of people with special needs. He said they now have the capability of putting information into the system at an individual's request that would note the individual's disability or special needs. There was discussion about how the community could be made aware of this – through provider agencies, handouts at the malls, etc. It was also suggested that an internet sign up be provided. John said that is something they could work toward. But, John cautioned that the information must be kept current or unnecessary resources could be sent when the person was no longer at that address. John was asked about calls from cell phones. He said that land lines are preferable for tracking, that cell phones can only be tracked to a 150-300 foot radius. Dr. Rader advised that taking information about an adult from a third person would be a problem from a liability standpoint unless the third person was adjudicated and competent. John said they are already following up and validating the information they currently have in the database and will continue to do so. He said 99% of the information they currently have has come from first responders who encounter these issues. Throughout the discussion John stated that normal HIPAA rules do not apply to those

who call 911 and request services. In summary, Matt Lea suggested that John consider this registration of people with disabilities as a project to discuss with his staff and come up with a plan.

Christin Compton, DDS, introduced herself as the new Director of Dental Services at Orange Grove and only one of five dentists in the country whose fellowship trained her to work with adult patients with special needs. She said that dental care is the number one most unmet healthcare need in those with intellectual disabilities and the correlation between dental health and systemic health is huge. She said that Orange Grove received a grant from the TN Developmental Disability Council to promote and expand services including dental services and teaching caregivers and staff about the proper oral care for the patient. Orange Grove is now a designated clinical teaching site for Chattanooga State Dental Hygiene. Students will do hands on training working with our patients. The clinic is fully handicap accessible with wheelchair lifts. All types of dental services will be provided. They will be using new techniques such as aroma therapy, relaxation techniques, music therapy to make the clinic a comfortable place for patients. They have installed televisions above the dental chairs along with DVD players; patients pick out their own DVD. This clinic will be available to people in the community with developmental disabilities. They have a fee schedule that they are presenting to insurance companies so they can be listed as a provider. They are currently working with TennCare to be considered a provider. TennCare has said they have enough dental providers, but of the 22 listed, there are actually only 11 due to multiple listings, and of those 11, none said they would accept a patient with a developmental disability with behavioral challenges and non-ambulatory without sedation. Jill and Dr. Rader both said that Orange Grove is very fortunate to have this grant since they were competing against dental schools. Jim Queen said he was happy to see this service in Chattanooga and hoped that it didn't go the way of the Ronald McDonald Caremobile, which offered dental services in the Hamilton County Schools based upon need, but was stopped following complaints of unfair competition from area dentists.

Bryon Kluesner, UTC OSD, discussed the trip to Scotland, Ireland and England. Thirty-five have signed up for this trip. Fund raising continues in March with a yard sale. Previous events have included a silent basket sale in October, Chik-Fil-A sales in December and they are currently selling Yankee Candles. The Office also received \$4,000 in funding from the University that will go toward four \$1,000 scholarships.

Jill Hindman announced the Legislative Disability Day on the Hill for East Tennessee is March 10th. She encouraged participation, talking to the chairs of the subcommittees, particularly finance. She said family support is on the chopping block and its looking pretty bleak but there is a possibility of saving it. Matt said if any one needs any help, let him know.

Jim Queen, CARTA Care-A-Van, said CARTA is doing pretty well considering the budget. He said they are still working on the parking lot using stimulus money, but they still have no news about purchasing vehicles. Six months report reflects ridership increased by 1,149 riders, mileage increased by 9,017 miles. The actual cost of a single trip is \$24.21 but riders pay only \$2.50 representing quite a loss. Friday's snowstorm made that day quite challenging. One van was stuck on Big Ridge overnight after delivering the passenger. Others were still delivering passengers at 7:00 p.m. Jim said the drivers did a great job during this storm.

Phillip reported there was no correspondence this month and the website is up-to-date.

Elaine Adams, Therapeutic Recreation, mentioned that children between eight and twelve will be eligible for an inclusive after school program at the Creative Discovery Museum called Club Discovery. This is a six week program. Elaine mentioned the Friday night Valentine Party and the Bowling Program that starts this week. The power wheelchair soccer tournament will be February 27th and there should be 10 to 12 teams. It will be held at Baylor School. Let Elaine know if you have any questions about any of these activities. Elaine also asked if anyone had gone to www.meetup.com and

searched for activities. After going to the website, type in Chattanooga and disabilities to find the Sky Merger Group. She said she started this to find ways for people to meet without going through her so they can be more independent.

Matt mentioned that the Therapeutic Recreation Office is as busy as it has ever been and he complimented Elaine on all of her hard work. Matt also complimented Jim Queen at Carta Care-A-Van on his ability to always help out when situations arise where constituents may need a ride. Elaine said Jim always comes through for her clients also. Matt then thanked the Council for hosting John Steurmer from 911; he said that technology is changing so quickly and merging 12 different systems is a lot of work. They definitely do want to have citizens submit information about their special needs on a website. He also said that every year the city receives funding from federal agencies and creates a list of priorities and the Crisis Intervention Team is in the top 8 or 9 projects. The school originally graduated 12 officers from the City and six from the County on September 25th. There have been at least 100 successful de-escalations where jail was avoided since that time. There will be another school March 1 through March 5. Officers are coming in from as far away as Jackson, TN. The word is spreading. It was mentioned that hospital security could really benefit from this training to defuse emergency room incidents.

Terri Rice mentioned the support group for people with blindness. It is an informal group that meets the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the UTC OSD Office.

The visitors introduced themselves - Dennis Dodson, Depression Bipolar Alliance Southeastern Chapter; Elaine Adams, Therapeutic Recreation; Lana Newton, Coordinator for Deaf-Blind Services State of TN; Christen Compton, Dentist Orange Grove, Rick Rader, Orange Grove, Chris Jackson, TN DIDS.

There was a brief discussion about using FACEBOOK as a vehicle for people with disabilities to communicate. Elaine said she was not comfortable with encouraging her clients to do that because she

could not monitor it. Rick Rader said that unless the client can put this information on himself, it is a violation of HIPAA to disclose anything about the client's disability. Dr. Rader said that when you are protecting your most fragile and at risk population, you have to include safety as the first resort.

It was asked that information about the Orange Grove dental clinic be put on the MCD webpage.

Jim asked Matt if the high speed rail grants included Mag-Lev since Chattanooga-Atlanta project did not receive the grant.

John announced that the next meeting will be March 1, 2010 at 3:00 at the DRC.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Carol Martin, Secretary
Mayor's Council on Disability