

MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

MINUTES
DECEMBER 03, 2007

Sandra Booher, Chairperson
Bea Lyons, Vice Chair
Katie Jones, Secretary
Jill Hindman, Parliamentarian

Council Members:

Sandra Booher
Bea Lyons
Katie Jones
Jill Hindman
Mary Ann Schenk
Dr. Rick Rader
Karl Epperson
Carol Martin
Tommy Gates
Carolyn Boyd
Gina Turley
Jim Queen

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandra Booher. Those in attendance were Mary Ann Schenk, Carol Martin, Bea Lyons, Sandra Booher, Katie Jones, Karl Epperson, Jill Hindman, Tommy Gates, Rick Rader and Phillip Stevens. Jim Queen and Carolyn Boyd had excused absences.

Mr. Joseph Kotsis from the Internal Revenue Service made a presentation on the VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). This service offers free tax services to persons with individual household incomes of under \$40,000. VITA is sponsored by the city of Chattanooga and is operated by the Urban League. The program also provides computer software and technical assistance at various sites throughout the city.

John Hays with the United Way reported on a mentoring program for veterans that will kick off on January 31, 2008. He indicated that the United Way is also working with IRS to provide information to the community. Anyone interested in the VITA sites (Northgate, Eastgate, Brainerd, and the AIM Center) can call 211 or the United Way office. Volunteers are encouraged to call and offer their support.

Mary Ann Schenk reported that she will be serving on the advisory center at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center will provide training for attorneys. They will also provide a study finder. This program will allow an individual with a disability to find information about studies being conducted on a particular disability.

Jill Hindman reported that on November 09, 2007 Town Hall Meeting at UTC with Representative JoAnne Favors and other elected officials was most informative. Dr. Rader's presentation on healthcare disparities was of special interest to the group. Senator Bo Watson was observed taking lots of notes. Representative Favors suggested that the group conduct another round of meetings in the late spring or early summer.

Jill also mentioned that we should be lobbying the state legislators for deletion of the 90 day waiver for Medicare for persons with disabilities.

Individuals from the audience were recognized and thanked for taking time to attend the meeting.

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the restraint or seclusion of individuals with disabilities in schools and other public institutions. Mary Ann Schenk encouraged those with issues to contact Holly Reese at the ARC of Tennessee. There are no laws currently in effect that would prevent an individual from receiving chemicals, pain stimuli, restraints and other horrible means for compliance.

Following a few announcements and notice of the next meeting to be held on January 07, 2008, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Katye Jones, Secretary