



CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES

GOVERNMENT CENTER

77 PARK STREET ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Angela Ferreira, Stephanie Forte (ex officio), Mary-Jane Jenson, Treasurer Susan Jenson, Vice Chairperson Kevin Lacoste, Chris Laureano, Trini Luckey (guest), Secretary Cynthia Van Voris

Absent: Michael Andrade (ex officio), Jennifer Davies, William McDonough (ex officio)

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Ms. Ferreira.

--Minutes of February 2019 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Mr. Laureano requested the following correction regarding the EMPN Trauma Training: CEUs for social workers and LMHCs have been applied for (minutes stated they would be available). Ms. Mary-Jane Jenson moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, and Ms. Luckey seconded the motion; all members present voted in favor.

--Update: at City Council meeting of 3/5/19 the Council voted unanimously that the Council on Disabilities will become the Commission on Disabilities, effective July 1, 2019. City Treasurer Laura Gignac will set up a 22G account prior to that date; a request must be sent to the Mayor for this account, and the City Council must approve.

--Guest Speaker Sarah Alden of Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC): MRC grew out of a federal program started in 1918 after WWI to assist veterans with employment. It is a primarily federally funded state agency (75-80% federal funds). MRC provides vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities to attain employment (also community living division, assistive technology division, and DDS eligibility services). Goal is to enter competitive employment, not supported employment. Services available to students who are in transitional phase as well as adults; counseling, guidance and job placement services are provided. Information seminar is held each Tuesday at 10 am at the Taunton office. Applicant fills out paperwork and is assigned to a counselor, who does an intake to determine eligibility. Assistance is provided to help individuals get relevant medical records. The type of disability and how it affects the individual's life guides the plan. Determination of eligibility takes place within 60 days. Within the next 90 days, individual must meet with the counselor to develop the plan: job goal, steps needed, what services are required. Individuals are connected with resources in the



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community (medical, mental health, medications, hearing aids, etc.). Financial means test used if the person needs paid services (not as restrictive as Dept. of Transitional Assistance). Training and all services are individualized. If a placement doesn't work out, MRC wants the person to stay in touch. Can re-apply if case is closed. Current focus on transition services working with high school students to get pre-employment skills/ internships. 14--16 year olds in high school (not middle school) are "potentially eligible." Services to 22 year olds are referred to a vendor. Cannot be pre-employment and vocational rehab services at the same time. Attleboro Enterprises provides online safety class for transition age individuals. Community Living Division: supports more independent living, not vocational services. Pre-ETS includes people with mental health and other diagnoses as well as IEPs/ 504 plans. MRC coordinates state head injury program and will be coordinating with Mass. Commission for the Blind. Contact information for MRC distributed.

--Open Forum: Mr. Frank Balut's comments: stated the Vice President of the City Council is looking into the issue of water coming down from roofs near Sun Chronicle. Good job cleaning snow out of parking lot by senior center. Still have sharp stones around trees. Information re marijuana discussed--referred to Substance Abuse Council.

--EMPN Trauma Training 3/11/19 at Attleboro Public Library, 9 am to 5 pm. Updates: Council on Disability is co-sponsor. Press release to Sun Chronicle was to be in paper twice, but has not yet been seen. Not in APL newsletter for March. Recovery communities and NAMI have promoted the event. Four people registered as of 3/5/19. EMPN and COD brochures will be distributed. EMPN sponsors a conference call twice monthly. Ms. Susan Jenson plans to attend--no charge for COD members. CEUs for LMHC approved, still waiting to hear about social work.

--Future guests: on 4/3/19 both City Councilor Ty Waterman and Human Rights Council member Stanley Estine will attend. Police will be invited to attend May meeting to discuss handicapped parking fines.

--Meeting adjourned 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Van Voris, COD Secretary