

Wethersfield Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes of 5/19/10

Introductions: Chris Taylor, Natalie Morrison, Barbara Blewjeski, Terry Hulbert, Tina Carciello, Frank Meunier, Jr., Kathleen Sullivan, Jim Grise, Joan Haines, Carol Keenan, Jets Club members, Marty Grant – Jets mentor

Terry Hulbert asked if we had a quorum of members present. Carol Keenan stated we did.

Public Comment

Jets Club – There was a national competition. The contest consisted of developing a mechanism for mobility. The club came to the advisory committee for recommendations. They went through an education and learning process about persons with disabilities. There were three rounds to the competition. Education/learning was first and included an internet scavenger hunt about disabilities. The proposal was second and was done in a “talk show format”. The third stage of the competition included the development of the mechanism. It is named the WALKEN. It is a walker that navigates stairs. The competition is a collaboration between Ability One and Jets. The panel of judges includes engineers, advocates and persons with disabilities. The website for viewing the competition piece is www.jets.org/nedc. UCONN law school is meeting with the Jets Club members about patents and future status of their project.

Minutes of March 24, 2010

Kathleen Sullivan read aloud. T. Hulbert moved that they be accepted. Frank Meunier, Jr. 2nd the motion.

Kathy Bagley attended the meeting to discuss the financial status of the committee. She gave a history of accounts and a combination of accounts. She gave an explanation of the calendar year vs. fiscal year as well a report on the following fiscal years: 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10. The current balance as of April 2010 is \$14,926.91. (This is with the allocation for the past 3 special events of 2009-10). There was discussion of the recreation budget and process as well as the support of the town in regards to the Therapeutic Recreation programs. Adult transportation budget was reduced a bit. Kathleen Sullivan stated we should utilize funds to help the most individuals. The WACPD committee will be allocating funds for the past three special events.

Group Homes

5 group homes participated in the Special Olympics Regional Games on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at Hartford Public High School. Two group homes, consisting of 6 individuals, will continue to the state competition held at Southern CT State University on June 12th and 13th. Each individual will compete in several events.

Frank Meunier, Jr. reported that First Church will have a new office and service manager. May 26th, 10 am – 12 pm – a small gathering will take place for residents to meet the new managers. The social club is gaining membership again as well.

Seniors

May 11 – Staying Home Safely and Securely education program was held. There was a speaker and many vendors.

Renters Rebate Program (thru Sept. 15) – below 65 and a disability or 65 and over can apply for the program.

Community Choices Ages and Disabilities Resources Center – involves care management, health insurance options, employment options, advocacy, counseling and resources.

Respite Coordinator Program – for those with Parkinson, dementia or Alzheimer. Money is available for those with an income of less than \$41,000 and assets less than \$109,000.

North Star – Department of Development Services will be holding a program to find out more about their agency and resources available for those that qualify.

Parks and Recreation

Youth and Adult programs are ongoing. Summer camp registration is now going on as well. The Adult Social Club held a planning meeting; a new schedule for the summer was just completed. Special Olympics Track and Field, Adult Track and Field and Soccer Skills programs will culminate in June with State Tournaments held at Southern CT State University and Hamden Hall. Athletes, partners (teammates without disabilities) and chaperones will spend 3 days of competition together. They will also have the opportunity to enjoy meals, a dance, movie, recreational games and much more! Currently, another motorcycle fundraiser is in the works. The event will be held on Sunday, July 25th. It will start at Gengras Harley Davidson in East Hartford and end at Catchers Sports Bar. \$10 for those that would like to meet riders and support the cause; it includes a picnic lunch and entertainment.

Transportation

Barbara Blewjeski – volunteer coordinator for ITN. Additional volunteer drivers are being sought. ITN is a great addition to the transportation options since you can make multiple stops in one day trip. There will be a fundraiser on Saturday, September 18th – “Walk for Rides” from 10 am – 2 pm starting at 381 Main Street, Middletown. They are looking to recruit walkers or those to assist visually impaired walkers. ITN covers liability for all drivers.

New Business

Jim Grise attended a mental health presentation sponsored by North Central Regional Mental Health Board Inc. There are 5 individuals that speak from experience and living with mental illness on a daily basis.

There was discussion about a Braille reader at the Wethersfield library. Recommendations for purchases were given to the library personnel. Terry Hulbert agreed to research other towns and their accessible equipment. Regionalization of library resources was brought up as well.

Discussion of reinstating February and April meetings was brought up. Frank Meunier, Jr. moved to restore the April meeting. Kathleen Sullivan 2nd the motion. February meetings are being considered.

Terry Hulbert brought up safety concern of the crosswalk on Town Line Road located near Mountain Laurel Dr. Natalie Morrison stated that the Wethersfield and Rocky Hill Engineering Departments were contacted. Rocky Hill personnel stated that previous studies had been done and did not meet the State Law requirements. A letter was written to the Rocky Hill Town Manager to bring this matter to her attention and request another study take place. Terry may look into this matter further.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

Terry Hulbert moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kathleen Sullivan 2nd the motion.