

Accepted July 12, 2012

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, June 14, 2012

51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm

Present:

Members: Elizabeth Dean-Clover, Sandy Durmaskin, JoAnn Haas, Eileen Keegan Bongiorno, Alissa Land, Naomi Pinson, and Rachel Tanenhaus.

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Miriam Cooper, Bet MacArthur, Kathy Watkins, and Dave Wood.

Guests: Joanna Berton Martinez, pro bono Associate; and Erin Gullage, Cambridge Resident.

Documents Used:

- Minutes from May 17, 2012 CCPD Meeting
- 2012 Employment Event Sub-Committee Meeting Notes from June 11, 2012
- CCPD October Employment Events Through the Years
- *Lives Worth Living* flyer
- List of Mini-Grants Awarded from NOD Award Money

Minutes: Members noted the following typos in the May 17, 2012 minutes:

- Minutes state that JoAnn Haas was elected as Chair, when she was actually elected as Secretary.
- Alice Wolf's name was typed incorrectly as "Alice Walker"

A motion to amend the May 17, 2012 minutes to correct these typos was seconded and passed.

Update on CCPD PSA: Members watched the recently created CCPD PSA on hiring persons with disabilities, starring former CCPD member Erin Gullage. Joanna Berton Martinez said that she has been attending orientation and training at CCTV in order to learn how to use the video equipment, edit videos, etc. This will allow her to shoot and edit more PSAs for CCPD. She asked members for feedback and said that volunteers will be needed to brainstorm topics, write scripts and to offer support both in front of and behind the camera. Kate Thurman will send a list of possible topics in an email to members and will invite members to sign up to work on PSAs. It was decided to remove the bicycle parking campaign from the list of possible PSA topics.

Eileen Keegan Bongiorno noted that some of the youth in Youth Center programs have gone through the CCTV training and have video making skills. She recommended speaking with Michelle Farnum of DHSP if interested in working with them.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth Dean-Clover reported that she and JoAnn Haas wrote a letter to the State Ethics Commission inquiring about whether or not CCPD is permitted to take a position on ballot questions. Ms. Dean-Clover said that the State Ethics Commission referred them to Nancy Glowa, City

Solicitor for Cambridge, to find out whether or not CCPD members are considered to be appointed policy makers.

October Employment Event Planning:

Ms. Dean-Clover passed out a list of prior CCPD October Disability Employment Awareness Month event topics, as well as notes compiled by Alissa Land at the sub-committee meeting.

Rachel Tanenhaus reported hearing an amazing presentation by a wounded veteran who has PTSD and a brain injury. She said that he spoke with DPH about traits that are useful to soldiers at war, but not useful when they return home. She also said that there are a number of agencies working hard to find employment opportunities for older adults and that we may be able to get a speaker on this issue from the MA Council on Aging.

Various formats and ideas for the event were discussed, including the following:

- A panel presentation
- Including a mock interview
- Having a balance of employer and employee perspective
- Including an employer who has actually applied the principles
- Recognizing employers in Cambridge or Massachusetts who have successfully provided reasonable accommodations
- Having both an employer and employee speak
- Including a presentation on the supported employment model, in which evidence-based practices are included in the service packet that individuals with psychiatric disabilities get from certain agencies
- A discussion of the peer-support movement and certification process for peer specialists
- Keeping the focus of the event solution-oriented rather than only highlighting problems
- Providing handouts with case examples or including a slideshow for guests to view prior to the start of the event.
- Providing information on what kinds of accommodations people with psychiatric disabilities may ask for and situations in which employers have to be flexible.
- Emphasizing that people with disabilities are already working for employers, who may be unaware of it; highlighting that this is something that applies to all employers

Kate Thurman stated that she has started a list of possible handouts and resources and requested that people pass along any recommendations. She also asked members to email her [kthurman@cambridgema.gov] with any recommendations they may have for books on disability employment issues. She will then speak with the Cambridge Library about ordering them.

Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues:

JoAnn Haas stated that she has not yet sent out an email to the neighborhood associations regarding the new bicycle parking regulations because the updated regulations have not been posted on the Traffic, Parking & Transportation's website yet, but stated that TPT will be posting a press release about it. She also stated that the new signage prohibiting the parking of bicycles to street poles designating disability parking are in.

Sandy Durmaskin reported being contacted by the Green Streets Initiative about holding an informational table at the Citywide Dance Party on Friday, June 29. They will be holding a light breakfast with the Mayor in the morning from 7:30 to 9:00, and will also have informational tables during the dance party from 4:30-6pm that evening. It was decided that CCPD will have a table at the morning event, for which Elizabeth Dean-Clower and Ms. Durmaskin volunteered.

Disability Reframed: In Bet MacArthur's absence, Michael Muehe reported that he has confirmed a screening of *Lives Worth Living* with the film's director, Eric Neudel. The event will be held on Saturday, June 30 from 2pm-5pm at the Citywide Senior Center and both Mr. Neudel and his Co-producer, Allison Gilkey will be present to facilitate the discussion following the film. Mr. Muehe reported that the Cambridge Human Rights Commission is co-sponsoring this event. He asked those in attendance to spread the word and invite their family and friends.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported receiving a call from the MA Office on Disability (MOD) asking if CCPD would be interested in hosting a Community Access Monitor training, which teaches participants about access laws. MOD would like to hold the two-day training in September. It was noted that September 17, 18, 25, and 26 are Jewish holidays, so the training cannot be held on those dates.

Mr. Muehe said that there will be two hearings held at the MA Architectural Access Board on Monday, June 25. The Sinclair, 52 Church Street is scheduled for a 1pm hearing and Lesley University Founder's Building has a 2pm hearing.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman handed out a list of mini-grants awarded by CCPD from the 2006 National Organization on Disability "Accessible America" award money. The \$25,000 in grant funds have now all been awarded.

Public Input: There was no public input.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator