

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Chair

Bet MacArthur
Secretary

Miriam Cooper
Sandy Durmaskin
Kara Falise
Avner Fink
JoAnn Haas
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Naomi Pinson

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Disability Project Coordinator

Katie Ashwill
Pro Bono Associate

The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

NOTE: CCPD meetings may be audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

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| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of January 8 Minutes | 5 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 10 min. | Elizabeth Dean-Clower |
| 5. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 6. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 7. Project Coordinator's Report
<i>Riverfest (Saturday, June 6)</i> | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 8. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 9. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 10. New Business | 2 min. | |

This is a scent-free meeting. In consideration of individuals with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from wearing perfume, after-shave or any other scented products to our meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cambridge, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.



Approved May 14, 2015

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Thursday, March 19, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:44pm

Present:

Members: Debbie Cheng, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Naomi Pinson.

Staff: Kate Thurman

Absent: Miriam Cooper, Avner Fink, JoAnn Haas, Bet MacArthur, and Michael Muehe.

Guests: Evelyn Kaufman, Cambridge resident; Joe Carson, Quincy Recovery Learning Community.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for March 19 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from January 8, 2015 Meeting

Minutes:

A motion to amend the minutes from January 8, 2015 to delete a duplicate paragraph was seconded and passed. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was seconded and passed. There are several highly qualified applicants and it will likely be difficult to narrow it down to three.

It was suggested that a list of projects be shared with applicants. Generate a list of times when we could use volunteers – film series, employment event, River Fest, etc.

Would like to have guest speakers again.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth Dean-Clower reported that interviews for CCPD board vacancies had to be postponed due to the harsh winter weather. As of May, there will be three vacancies that need to be filled.

Sandy Durmaskin suggested that we find ways to engage applicants that are not selected to the Board at this time, as participants/volunteers in some way, so we do not lose their potential and develop future Board members. Naomi Pinson suggested compiling a list of activities CCPD activities that might apply. Nicole Horton-Stimpson mentioned "be a volunteer friend of CCPD."

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng reported that January 28 was the first storm of the winter with over 20 inches of snow. There were four major storms. 22 Storms total this year in which salters and/or plows were sent out. There were 16 days of snow hauling, day and night. There was a lot of assistance from the federal government.

TPT and DPW inspected every street after every storm to ensure that emergency vehicles could get down them. 2700 sidewalk complaints. They are down to 6 open, issued over 920 snow tickets. Really appreciate everybody's patience and help with the sidewalks and corners. At this point, DPW is focused on potholes. Thawing during the day and freezing at night tends to cause a lot of potholes. She encouraged people to report potholes to DPW.

On March 16, DPW had their kickoff construction list. They are lifting construction moratoriums on a case by case basis.

Kathy Watkins will present the five year plan

Cambridge had five snow farms.

Several people leave their cars on the street during the winter and never shovel them out. DPW's priority is to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and keeping sidewalks clear. Debbie – can ask TPT about that.

Part of their inspections are to check for disability parking spots to be sure they have been plowed. If there are specific spaces that remain full of snow, report to DPW.

The difficulty of this winter was that there was no break between storms, so DPW was unable to complete their snow operations before another storm hit.

Film Series Update: Kate Thurman reported on Bet MacArthur's behalf that the February 24 Disability Reframed/ReelAbilities screening of *Stand Clear of the Closing Doors* at the Cambridge Main Library was very successful. Boston will be hosting the next screening and is working on confirming a date with Boston University, where they hold their screenings.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported that CCPD has the option to share a table at RiverFest with another City commission. She will speak with the Human Rights Commission about this.

Mental Health Legislative Updates: Naomi Pinson reported that the Recovery Learning Communities, which are run by peers. Historically speaking, mental health has been at the bottom of the hierarchy. The RLCs came out of this experience of being at the bottom. They also employ people with mental illness, who are the least employed of all people with disabilities. There is a surge from DMH about recovery and peer support. The RLCs have been life saving for many people. The governor has proposed a 50% budget cut for RLCs.

Evelyn: it's very destructive because so many services are funded by the RLCs. The funding for the Ruby Rogers Center comes from the RLC. If these cuts go into effect, this agency might have to shut its door. This is so destructive for the psych survivor community. They provide a place for individuals to drop in. these are life threatening cuts. Ask them to restore the full \$3.5 million to the RLC budget.

Naomi – Umass Medical did a study on the number of people who went back to the hospital after connecting with an RLC and 83% do not return to the hospital. There is an RLC run out of Vinfen. RLCs are a lifeline for people with mental illness.

Joe – the MPower Transformation Center has detailed statistics of the incredible recovery rate of people who utilize the RLCs. It also saves the state a lot of money by keeping people out of the hospital. Recidivism. The RLCs have a lot of programs from arts, informal group support meetings, various activities. They can use the phones, people come and go whenever they want. Historically, mental health treatment has often been forced upon people. RLCs have given autonomy back.

On Wednesday, April 1, there will be a rally to save the Recovery Learning Community at 11am at the state house. These programs give people a sense of belonging they never had before.

Murphy Bill

Federal initiative by Tim Murphy, republican of Pennsylvania. Helping families in crisis; the Murphy Bill would defund the P&As. People with mental illness are far more likely to be victims than perpetrators. It removes due process. It would remove HIPAA protection. Mental illness is closely related to childhood trauma; this bill would

take away the right of people receiving services in the public mental health system to confidentiality, so parents could get records of their adult children, etc.

Mr. Murphy is funded by big pharma. It would largely defund PAIMI.

On May 16, demonstration outside McLean Hospital on the use of ECT. The Transformation Center will talk at McLean. National NAMI Walk, then go to McLean to demonstrate over ECT.

MA Association of RNs – people who are seriously mentally ill and assault a staff member get a felony on their record for the rest of their lives. Will remove exclusion based on mental illness. These assaults are often accidents and not intended. There is a history of staff provoking patients. Restraint could trigger a trauma survivor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator