

Bridgeport
REAL CHOICE COMMUNITY INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2004

Place: City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler Room A & B, Bridgeport, CT

Present: Jimmy Smith, Valerie Sorrentino, Judy Marella, April Griffin, Fred Frank, Jeri Boyd, Loretta Williams, Mary Ellen Tatten, Ethel Miller-Reith, Mary Bruce, Marta Bisciglia, Richard Hudson, Tony LaCava, Stan Kosloski, Jill Bruno, Marie Jones, Tammy Papa, Rev. Harry Carrillo.

Guests: Christine Gaynor, Carrie Kramer, and Gabriela Freyre-Calish

Valerie Sorrentino called the Real Choice Community Inclusion Task Force Meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. She gave remarks of welcome to Mary Ellen Tatten, Dept. Mental Health and Retardation and Gabriela Freyre-Calish, UCONN.

OPD Updates: - Valerie Sorrentino reported that the Office for Persons with Disabilities is moving to the Eisenhower Center. She stated that some extensive renovations are being done to the bathrooms to make them accessible. A ramp is being repaired and additional curb cuts are to be done at City Hall.

UCONN-Report- Stan Kosloski stated that there are eleven months left to the Real Choice grant. He wanted to make sure the team is on track with meeting goals and objectives that we initially set out to do. Stan reported that the Regional meeting was responsive at Ridgefield, Connecticut. There were representatives from about 6 different communities in the south- western part of Connecticut. The next Regional meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2005. One of the agenda items is to discuss the issues that would be helpful to persons with disabilities.

Gabriela shared that the Family Support 360 grant would be contracted for one year and funding would be used to create a One-Stop in Bridgeport. This would involve a series of planning meetings and one would involve the implementation process. Anyone interested such contact Gabriela.

Team Reports

Public Attitude Team- Tony LaCava, Chairperson was out sick and Co-chairperson, Rev. Harry Carrillo was on his Honeymoon. Ms. Sorrentino stated that according to last month's Public Attitude meeting, they were still working on the board training.

Housing Team- None given. (Please see handout)

Resource and Information Gap Team – Judy Marella reported that the months July through September were extremely busy for the team. There were 15 housing sites visited by the team. The tenants were excited about the magnets and appreciated being able to talk in person with the team representatives. It is estimated that 8,000 magnets were distributed. The next team meeting is scheduled for 11/9/04 at 3pm in the Disability Resource Center.

Advocacy Infrastructure- Jeri Boyd reported that the last team meeting was on October 26, 2004 and that the Co-chairperson, Jowanne Jackson has resigned from the team due to a promotion with added job duties. Ms. Boyd expressed some concern about continuing participation with someone from Mental Health. She let the team know she had asked Ms. Jackson to appoint someone to the team. Ms. Boyd will assume the responsibility of Co-chair along with Roberta Yegidis. Tom Coble, Richard Hudson, and Pat Delcegno are continuing with the updating of the website.

Team goal:

1. To plan a Legislative breakfast for early next year, budgeted at \$1,000.

Meeting adjourned by Valerie Sorrentino at 11:00 am.

The next Meeting of Bridgeport Real Choice Task Force will be on January 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in Wheeler Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

April S. Griffin
Community Inclusion Specialist