

BRIDGEPORT
REAL CHOICE COMMUNITY INCLUSION TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2004

- Place:** City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler Room A & B, Bridgeport, CT
- Present:** Jimmy Smith, Jill Bruno, Mary Bruce, Tony LaCava, Valerie Sorrentino, Judy Marella, Richard Hudson, Karen Roseman, April Griffin,
- Guests:** Christine Gaynor and Anita Falco
- Absent:** Gloria Davis, Marie Bennett, Iris Molina, Pat Balazsi, Bert Carter, Roberta Yegidis, Adeline DeMarrais, Laura Micklus, Ethel Miller-Reith, Jeri Boyd, Loretta Williams, Donna Franchini-Sparago, Dorothy Grant, Kathleen Hunter, Jowanne Jackson, Tammy Papa, Marta Bisciglia, Brenda Dye, Rev. David Miller, Rev. Harry Carrillo, Emma Schulman, Michael Boyer, Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Fred Frank, Lynn Egan

Karen Roseman called the Real Choice Community Inclusion Task Force Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. She gave remarks of welcome to Anita Falco from Bridgeport Housing Authority.

The March 12, 2004 meeting minutes were not approved since a quorum was not present. Those minutes, along with the May 14, 2004 meeting minutes will be reviewed on July 16, 2004. Please remember to bring both sets of minutes.

UCONN-Report- Chris Gaynor reported that for the last month, she had been working on Home Workforce Development and the recruitment of Personal Care Assistants. She stated that there is a severe shortage of PCA's. The main focus now is to organize a website similar to Rewardingwork.org. This website works like Monster.com. They are regionalizing this program. It may be customized to Connecticut. The program would be designed on to train PCA's and their employers. Ms. Gaynor stated that they are working on training modules and the training teams are to do one-on-one training. Ms. Gaynor added that she is pleased at the work the team is doing.

Other Model Communities

New Haven- has published its second quarterly newsletter. They are currently working on assessments of public buildings, including restaurants. The main focus is on physical access and employee attitude. Local museums and theatres are also being considered for access review.

Groton- Groton is in the process of developing a resource guide. The Groton area is much smaller than Bridgeport. They are still in the process of revising a resource book. Plans for the summer include, *The Kids on the Block* (puppet show) and *Second Step Players* who focus on psychiatric disabilities and substance abuse issues and recovery. The primary focus is sensitivity and awareness.

New Haven and Groton are gearing up for Disability Awareness Day held in October. Scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2004 is a Community Inclusion Forum to be held at UCONN. It is an opportunity for communities to share community inclusion activities. UCONN's website is constantly updated. Individuals without e-mail access can contact Chris Gaynor and request that a package is mailed.

Team Reports

Public Attitude Team –Karen Roseman reported that the results for the March 31, 2004, Board Training Meeting are as follows:

Out of 39 Participants at the Real Choice Task Force Board Meeting there were 16 individuals who signed up for Board Training and of the 16 individuals 4 were interested in being Trainers and 12 were interested in being Trainees. Joyce Hamilton, Director of Democracy Works was the guest speaker at the meeting. Caryn Kaufman from Bridgeport's Mayor's office will be working with us. The suggested number of volunteers are to be increased to approximately 6 to 10 individuals with development teams of 2 for about 5 to 7 people, with this in mind there would be 5 two hour sessions with a total of 10 hours. Cost estimate is \$700.00. Written material will be provided. Caryn Kaufman has taken on the responsibility for recruiting potential trainers to include The Bridgeport Business Council, the League of Women Voters, Chamber of Commerce, and Career Resources, Inc.

Housing Team – **NONE REPORTED.**

Resource and Information Gap Team – Karen Roseman and Judy Marella reporting that the team is planning to do the magnets for adults and seniors. It will cost approximately \$4200.00 due to freight fees. Magnets are heavy in quantity. An estimate of 10,000 magnets will be distributed. These magnets can be posted on refrigerators or any metal object. A suggestion was made to offer refreshments for about an hour during distribution of the magnets at the housing complexes. Other distribution locations include BRS, Veterans Affairs, and Department of Aging.

Youth Project- The student(s) will be working on the telephone book, which would include pertinent information from the youth directory, as well as transportation information, information on accessibility,

wheelchair and other equipment repair, emergency contact information and an area for the students to use for personal information . There will be a student contest to design the cover of the book. Volunteers and staff are needed over the summer to work on the telephone book.

Advocacy Infrastructure- NONE REPORTED.

Meeting adjourned by Karen Roseman at 12:10 pm.

The next Meeting of Bridgeport Real Choice Task Force will be on July 16, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Wheeler Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

April S. Griffin