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Mayor

**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Michelle M. Duprey Esq.
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Real Choice Systems Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2003

Present: Maureen Novak, Judy Puglisi, Reed Smith, Ronald Manning
Absent: Marla Hinz, Toni Page, Pierrette Comulada Silverman,
Marc Gallucci, , Christine Reardon, Heiwa Salovitz,
Iris Thompson, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Robin Wadsworth
Staff: Michelle Duprey, Kristin Barber
A.J. Pappanikou Center Staff: Christine Gaynor, Susan Zimmerman
Guest: Joyce Armstrong

Michelle Duprey opened the meeting and the members then introduced themselves to our guest, Joyce Armstrong.

Presentation

Joyce Armstrong from the State Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services presented *Connect to Work* which is a resource center for benefits information at the individual, programmatic and systems levels. She said they are interested in developing professional networks, initially working in the same areas chosen as model communities through the Real Choices Grant. The *Community Bridging* pilot aims to provide the supports and coordination necessary to help young people with disabilities achieve greater community integration, long term financial independence, and a higher life satisfaction. The Connect to Work Center will be hiring Resource Coordinators to implement the Community Bridging Pilot for Youth. The grant is for one year.

After the presentation, there was discussion and several members of the task force suggested follow up with them as part of community collaboration.

Review of August Minutes

The minutes from the November 2003 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Access Monitoring in New Haven

Six restaurants in New Haven agreed to have accessibility evaluations. It was determined that we choose restaurants, as the price for completing evaluations for other types of public buildings, such as museums had not been quoted. The six restaurants will get a copy of the evaluations and some evaluations will be printed in upcoming *Real Choices* publications.

It was also discussed whether it might be appropriate to evaluate churches, even though they are not subject to ADA requirements. Michelle thought it may not be feasible under separation of church and state, however, she will check on it and get back to the task force at our next meeting.

Disability Mentoring Day

A brief explanation of the day's events was shared with the Task Force. A summary evaluation was shared with the group as well as a web article published by iCan.

Newsletter

Circulation of the September newsletter was discussed. There were some problems getting the newsletter out through the Board of Education, which were discussed and hopefully will be remedied before the next publication. Our office had received some favorable phone calls from the public regarding the newsletter. Topics for the next newsletter were discussed. Reed Smith said he would forward a circulation list of members from the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries.

Other Business

Michelle brought up the Youth Leadership Forum. She gave a brief explanation of the initiative. Judy Puglisi said she would be interested in assisting with getting information to students with disabilities.

The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for February 3, 2004.