



John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
165 CHURCH STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510
(203) 946-7833 – VOICE
(203) 946-8582 – TTY
(203) 946-8587 – FAX

kbarber@newhavenct.net



Michelle M. Duprey Esq.
Director

Real Choice Systems Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2004

Present: Heiwa Salovitz, Reed Smith, Toni Page, Judy Puglisi,
Ronald Manning, Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Stan Kosloski, Vi
Guglielmi (for Pierrette Silverman)
Absent: Maureen Novak, Marc Gallucci, Christine Reardon,
Iris Thompson
Staff: Michelle Duprey, Kristin Barber, Susan Lockery (intern)

Michelle Duprey opened the meeting and the members then introduced themselves. The minutes for the May meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Access Monitoring in New Haven

There have been several area restaurants and cultural facilities, that have been evaluated for accessibility. The places that are accessible and welcoming are then highlighted in the *Real Choices in New Haven* newsletter. Recently the evaluations that have been completed are the Connecticut Childrens' Museum, The Schubert Theatre, the Peabody Museum, and the Neighborhood Music School. Restaurants that have recently agreed to be evaluated are Zinc, Bentara Malaysian Restaurant, India Palace, Modern Pizza, and Mediterranea.

Reed Smith asked how did the evaluations turn out. Michelle Duprey responded that there were some problems with some of them, but the Childrens' Museum was excellent. There was further discussion on this topic about potential restaurants in Wooster Square and in Westville.

Real Choices in New Haven newsletter

A summer edition of the newsletter has been sent out. The next edition will be in September. Discussion of ideas for upcoming newsletter ensued. Eileen Lopez said that she would be interested in writing an article on 211 Infoline. An article by a participant of the Youth Leadership Forum will be pursued, interviewing Hannah Christon, as well as perhaps Karen Halliday from the State Department of Education. Stan said they may have photos for the newsletter from YLF.

Kristin Barber made comment regarding reaction to the newsletter. Recently our office was contacted by Lisa Winters from CMHC who wanted to

sign up for the newsletter and said she thought it was excellent. Michelle Duprey stated that after this grant year, we will be asking persons to sign up to continue to receive the newsletter. Toni Page suggested an article on voting and how to register to vote. Judy Puglisi said that the articles on person first terminology regarding persons with disabilities and other articles are now being used in the school as part of a discussion group. There was more discussion regarding ideas for future articles with an open invitation to the Task Force members.

Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day is October 20th this year. Because of comments received from Mentors last year, we will be hosting a reception the evening before and then mentees will spend the next whole day at the work site with their respective Mentors. The reception will be designed to promote introductory time with the Mentee. This year it was also decided to send out letters of inquiry to potential Mentees, as it was difficult to organize the event the previous year so close to students returning to school, which is a hectic time.

Task Force Members will be invited to attend the reception on October 19th at the Greek Olive.

Status of establishing a non-profit organization

Susan Lockery was reintroduced to the group. She is a student intern who is a law student at Quinnipiac University. She has been working on filing the necessary paperwork to establish the non-profit. She has been working with an attorney from Corporation Counsel on this project for the Department. A name for the organization was discussed and it was decided that it would be called "Disability Alliance of New Haven". The purpose of the organization would be to promote community integration for person with disabilities. As a 501 (C) it would be able to apply for many grant dollars in order to continue the efforts of the Real Choice Grant. There was a question as to how long it would take to incorporate which was explained by Michelle Duprey that first the organization must be incorporated in the State of Connecticut, then IRS approval would be sought. She thought the IRS process may be expedited as the Corporation Counsel attorney would be attaching cases to the request which were very similar to the function of this non profit.

Ronald Manning asked about the structure of the Board of Directors. Michelle responded that she will serve as the Incorporate, someone from the Commission on Disabilities and someone else from the community. She invited Task Force members who were interested on serving on the board to let her know.

New Business

Stan Kosloski asked the group to think about ideas for continuing with grant efforts after the grant period ends. He said that he is interested in organizing regional effort and get towns involved that are not currently working on inclusion issues. His idea includes perhaps a quarterly meeting with a speaker for the fifteen neighboring towns. New Haven agreed to serve as the local host. Perhaps it might initially involve the ADA Coordinators from these towns.

Reed Smith asked about Infoline, the towns that they serve and if they might be interested in providing a room. It was suggested that perhaps a survey could be developed and sent to potential participants in these towns. The goal of this effort would be to achieve more inclusion and to get people thinking.

Some other ideas that were brought up were to have Anthony White, along with Hannah complete a power point presentation on the Youth Leadership Forum in order to get more kids excited about and participated next year.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be October 26th at 9:30am.

The meeting was adjourned.