



**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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**John DeStefano, Jr.**  
*Mayor*

**Michelle M. Duprey Esq.**  
*Director*

**Real Choice Systems Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
August 18, 2003

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

Michelle Duprey opened the meeting and the members then introduced themselves. The minutes from the July 2003 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

*Olmstead Coalition presentations*

A discussion regarding the Olmstead Coalition presentations took place. Some members of the Task Force had attended the presentation given by John McNight, a well-known figure on the topic of community inclusion for persons with developmental disabilities. Information regarding the next presentation was distributed (attached).

*New Haven Register Ad*

A copy of the ad that the Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities placed in the New Haven Register was shared with the group. An insert will be prepared in October to be placed in the New Haven Advocate. Content will revolve around employment issues for persons with disabilities. Michelle said that she is working on including an article on tax credits for employers for the insert.

*Access monitoring*

A list of places of public accommodation was distributed to the group. The list was taken from local publications and establishments that assert they are accessible. There was a discussion about which places were important to evaluate. Each member of the Task Force indicated on the list which establishments they would like to see evaluated for the first round of access monitor evaluations.

*Disability Mentoring Day*

Each of the members received information regarding Disability Mentoring Day, which included a fact sheet, a letter, and applications. Applications should

be submitted by September 19<sup>th</sup> and it is anticipated that we will begin our first Mentoring Day with a total of ten mentees. Michelle explained the plans for that day's proceedings, which will be a breakfast and introductions at the Greek Olive on Sergeant Drive followed by transportation to work sites and a reception at the end of the day again at the Greek Olive.

A selection committee will review the applications and select mentees. Judy Puglisi, Toni Page, Iris Thompson, Robin Tousey-Ayers, and Maureen Novak volunteered to be on a selection committee.

#### *Newsletter*

Discussion took place regarding the proposed articles that are being considered for the first edition of the newsletter, which to be distributed in September.

Articles included topics such as licensed childcare centers, Enhanced 911 Services through SBC/SNET, and the One-Stop Employment Center.

Articles for future consideration included one submitted by Iris Thompson on the Yale Center for Children with Special Health Needs, one about the NEAT store, and one on Medicaid co-pay cards.

Toni Page brought up additional issues that the Task Force may want to address. These were women's health issues and abusive relationships between women with disabilities and their significant others, the latter of whom may also serve as personal assistants.

The group also discussed a name for the newsletter.

#### *Other Business*

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2003 and may take place at 200 Orange Street.