

Disability Awareness Commission

Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room, City Hall

October 20, 2010 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Carmichael called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Commission members present: Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson, Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon and Ted Ornas

Commission members absent: Travis Arneson and Patty Brooks

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present: Melinda Mrnak, SD Achieve; Eric Rippentrop and LaVeda Kemp, SD Rehab Ctr clients.

Welcome Guests

Guests were welcomed. Eric and LaVeda had met with the Mayor last month and Melinda came to see what the DAC is all about.

Approval of Minutes

Farabee moved to approve the September 15, 2010, meeting minutes; Johnson seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Continuing Business

NDEAM Event report – Nelson reported.

The NDEAM Conference on October 7, 2010, drew sixty five attendees to Cherapa Place. The event was sponsored by SD Bd of Voc Rehab and Howalt McDowell Insurance. John Robinson was the keynote speaker. There were few employers in the crowd – the target audience, however service providers and people with disabilities attended. The food was good and the presentation was excellent.

The NDEAM committee is evaluating what could be done differently to bring the employers in to their events.

Hotel Survey Update – The Committee (Brooks, Carmichael, and Farabee) has not taken any further action yet. Plans are to do site visits to check the accuracy of the self surveys.

ArtAbility 2011– Johnson reported

The 2011 event will be in Nov/Dec at the Museum of Visual Materials (MoVM). The artist reception will be November 10, 2011. The Committee should plan to send out an email now so artists can be preparing for the exhibit.

Elementary School Awareness Training – Fiedler reported.

The video shot at the last training is now on KLRN – CH 20 and will run all school year. The committee felt the taped session wasn't the best one; the other two were more relaxed and less scripted.

The Commission discussed purchasing the video. O'Connor offered to purchase one for the DAC. Staff will check to see if CH 16 can't arrange to get one – no charge.

Due to a bad customer service experience by someone with a disability, Stewart's School may be a possible awareness training participant.

New Business

SD Coalition membership – Garry reported that staff was approached about joining the Coalition. The consensus was to go ahead with the membership as a show of support.

Brainstorming – 2011 projects

The Commission discussed what projects they wanted to work on for next year.

At the top of the list was the Hotel Guide and once all the components are in place, adapt something that would work for restaurants and get it to the CVB to distribute to their members.

ArtAbility has already been decided for next year as we have reserved the venue and are beginning planning.

The Commission would like to see at least two awareness trainings per year. Possibilities for next year are Sanford (Teresa Nold – panelist, has connections) and Stewart's School.

Resurrecting the self serve gas station project was also a top choice. We can get a list of gas stations from the fire dept. and solicit the stickers from local printers.

A fundraising/awareness event was also suggested; something that would involve athletes of all abilities in a race type event. Though a good idea, this would be more work than the DAC is able/willing to tackle.

Another suggested project was establishing a library of awareness training materials – i.e. DVD's, printed material. A spin on this idea would be to work with the Siouland Libraries to have these kinds of materials available as resources. (Mainly because the office has limited storage space -more like none.) We could research the materials and suggest the library consider them when planning future purchases. Then in October, for NDEAM, the library could showcase some of these materials.

An access award was also suggested. It would recognize/applaud a business that does accessibility right. The ADA Celebration Committee and the former BLN does/did similar recognition awards. This could be a partner project with the newly established BRN, the ADA Celebration Committee or the Diversity Council.

HRC Report

No October HRC meeting – no report.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Having no further business, Farabee moved and O'Connor seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th @ 3:00pm, HRC Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.