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Mayor

**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Real Choice Systems Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2005

Present: Marc Gallucci, Ronald Manning, Maureen Novak, Toni Page,
Iris Thompson
Absent: Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Judy Puglisi, Pierrette Comulada
Silverman, Heiwa Salovitz, Christine Reardon, Reed Smith,
Robin Tousey-Ayers, Robin Wadsworth
Staff: Michelle Duprey, Kristin Barber
A.J. Papanikou Center Staff: Stan Kosloski

Michelle Duprey opened the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the October 2004 meeting were reviewed and members were asked if they had any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes and they were accepted as written.

Guest Speaker

Carmen Correa presented a brief overview of the new program she is working for which is designed to identify barriers for youth that are in transition from school to work. The name of the program is "Connect to Work". The program is federally funded through BRS and the Center for Disability Rights. Thus far, three students from Wilbur Cross High School have been identified to work with by providing information on existing resources. Iris Thompson asked if health literacy was a factor and was answered that the program was designed to collect data and then identify barriers to successful transition. Ms. Duprey inquired about the relationship between BRS and education.

The discussion then turned to how to use the Task Force as a resource. Maureen Novak informed Ms. Correa about the studio apartment list that is open and could be used as a resource for housing needs. Iris Thompson stated she is trying to put something together regarding medical literacy and could be used as a resource. There was also discussion regarding Disability Mentoring Day for young job seekers.

Marc Gallucci said that the Center for Disability Rights could be used as a resource by letting youth know who and where they are located.

Ms. Correa passed out some brochures, and gave her contact information to the group which is 49 Quinnipiac Avenue, New Haven, CT. She can be reached at 464-6535.

Mr. Gallucci encouraged the group to make referrals, although there are a limited number of openings available. Toni Page shared a resource for data with Ms. Correa.

Access Monitoring of Restaurants/Cultural Facilities

It was reported that letters were going to be sent out to restaurants and eateries at Wooster Street. There was a question as to whether it was necessary for them to be accessible in order to evaluate. Further suggestions included Central Steakhouse on State Street. There was also discussion about some possible restaurants on Whitney Avenue, such as Humphrey's.

There was discussion about the development of a directory of accessible restaurants and cultural facilities. It was decided to explore the cost of such a directory and securing funds.

Real Choices in New Haven Newsletter

Ms. Duprey stated that there would only be three newsletters published this year because the cost of producing them has risen and the grantors would not allow movement within line items.

There was discussion about articles that might be of interest. Toni Page asked if there were churches that held services in sign language for which Mr. Gallucci responded, that there were. Ms. Page was interested in the denominations. It was suggested that a call be placed to Stacy Morrison at the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and that perhaps an article could be written on this topic.

Status of the formation of a Non-Profit organization

There was nothing new to report.

Other Business

Stan Kosloski reported on the Regional event on Inclusion held in Darien. Kristin Barber presented the activities of the New Haven Real Choice Grant Initiative. Mr. Kosloski announced that there would be a statewide conference in the middle of September on community inclusion.

Michelle Duprey announced that the Department was seeking interns, and to refer anyone who might be interested.

Iris Thompson reported on the art on the green, which are banners that depict various themes.

Mr. Gallucci informed the group about the legislative agenda for the Independent Living Centers this year. He stated that public access, communication access were included on the agenda.

Information regarding transportation was presented. There is consideration of reviving the New Haven to Springfield train schedule so that persons can also get to the airport as well as additional job markets.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on April 19th at 9:30 am in the fourth floor conference room.