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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Real Choice Systems Task Force Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2004

Present: Sandy Roberts, Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Maureen Novak, Toni Page, Judy Puglisi, Heiwa Salovitz, Iris Thompson,
Absent: Ronald Manning, Pierrette Comulada Silverman, Reed Smith, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Robin Wadsworth
Staff: Michelle Duprey, Kristin Barber
A.J. Pappanikou Center Staff: Stanley Kosloski

Michelle Duprey opened the meeting and introductions were made. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and did not need any corrections.

Stanley Kosloski was introduced to the Task Force. He is the new Community Facilitator who replaces Ms. Zimmerman. Mr. Kosloski said he will be serving as a resource to the Task Force and will be providing help for project as well as technical assistance. He announced that on May 25 there will be a meeting of all three model communities with a guest speaker from New Hampshire. The meeting will be held in Farmington between 10-2pm.

There was discussion regarding the Youth Leadership Forum. There will be three youths with disabilities attending from New Haven this year. Judy Puglisi and Stanley Kosloski were instrumental in the application process.

Guest Speaker

Paul Ford from the Nursing Home Transition Grant program was introduced. He came to present information regarding the grant, sponsored by the Robert Wood Foundation. Information he shared with the Task Force is contained within the attached document, entitled "Presentation to: Model Cities Task Force".

There were several questions from the Task Force including whether the grant covers employment supports once in the community. Unfortunately the grant does not cover that piece of community inclusion, however there are three other grants that support this transition effort. Connect to Work is one of the three. Maureen Novak asked about case management, which was responded to by Sandy from CDR. Sandy said that most of the individual transitional efforts are

self directed, however CDR will assist someone in finding a case manger if needed.

Access Monitoring

There were four cultural facilities in New Haven that have been evaluated for accessibility. These are The Children's Museum, The Shubert Theater, The Peabody Museum, and the Neighborhood Music School. The written evaluations will be forthcoming. Stan Kosloski commented that it would be great if persons with disabilities were trained to do the evaluations. However, there is a substantial amount of expertise that is required to complete and evaluation. Michelle said that the remaining evaluations will be of New Haven restaurants.

Newsletter

The quarterly distribution of newsletters will be one in May, then July, and September. In September an insert will be added so that those wishing to continue the subscription will need to sign up. It was suggested that we may want to do an article on the Youth Leadership Forum written by those youth that will be attending, in order to generate interest for next year.

Judy Puglisi said there are parents who are interested in summer camp for their children. Iris Thompson said that she had a guide to accessible camps.

It was suggested that we consider an article on the public library and its access features.

Eileen shared that she also serves on the Bridgeport Real Choices Task Force and talked about a project they were working on there.

Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day will be October 20, 2004, this year. Disability Mentoring Day matches students to employers, allowing the students to spend the day with a mentor in order to explore a vocation of their interest.

Applications will be going out next week for persons ages 16-24 years old, who wish to participate. Michelle Duprey suggested a different format this year, where the mentee will meet their mentor the evening before in order to be able to better get to know their mentee.

Status of Non Profit Application

Michelle has not completed the application and is planning to hire an intern to complete the application process. The purpose of establishing a non-profit is so that grant monies can be sought in order to continue inclusion efforts. The

organization will have it's own board and would continue with the goals of this grant.

Announcements

Stan Kosloski shared booklets with the group entitled "Report of Discussions Held at Interroburst 2003, Exploring the Unknown with Enthusiasms". Although the Task Force members had already received a copy of this booklet, there was some further explanation of that day's events. As well, Mr. Kosloski left a video tape with Michelle Duprey, so that it could be viewed. Heiwa Salovitz, a Task Force member attended Intrerroburst 2003 and was on the videotape several times. Mr. Kosloski also shared information regarding a workshop being held on May 25th at UCEDD. All three model communities will be in attendance as well as a guest speaker from Littleton, New Hampshire.

June 10th, 2004, from 10 am to 12 pm there will be a follow up meeting to the members of the Task Force who attended the first session sponsored by UCEDD.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on August 10th, at 9:30 am at 200 Orange Street, Ground floor, in New Haven.