

MINUTES

Advocacy & Abilities Committee Meeting

September 12, 2017

Attendees: Beth Marmolejos Chair, Cynthia Miller, Ruth Patterson, Dr. Lorenzo Puertas, Lori Margolin, Priscilla Wade, Patricia Robertson

Welcome and Introductions

Beth Marmolejos, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Dare to Dream Conference May 22, 2017 Recap & Advocacy & Abilities Award

Beth noted the Dare to Dream Conference and the Advocacy & Abilities Award were both successful and was very happy with the outcome. Beth extended a thank you to the committee for the dedication and hard work and look forward to the initiatives for next year.

Beth apprised the committee the Special Parent Association in Wayne use to have a sensitivity training for drivers & aides and one of the things that we could do is connect with the Wayne transportation department and host a breakfast on one of the professional development days host a training on how to deal with special education children and roll it out to other counties if the committee think it is a good investment.

Secondly, Beth stated she wanted to talk to Ruth about employment activities which is lacking and talk about what employment activities can we as a team contribute for example: Today Beth stated she was able to inform the full WDB Board that her son was allowed to enter into a wonderful summer program. But now he does not have the ability after high school part time where he may continue to apply the skills so what can we do to make a change. Beth mention Lourdes from North Jersey Federal Credit Union states the bank would work with students and have jobs for the youth. Beth asked Ruth in what way could the BRC contribute. Ruth noted DVRS has hired an outreach person.

Dr. Puertas noted that in one of the previous meetings Ginny Chiller was talking about this issue and out of the conversation the idea was we need a job developer to

help find a job to fit them. Lori noted Goodwill have jobs for the youth because Goodwill is a vendor for DVRS so what they do is help find work for individuals with disabilities and work with them one-on-one to prepare them for a job. There has been a few youth services that they have been rolling out over several years which is an internship service, pre-employment transition services PRESETS for young adults 16-24 for work readiness all paid for through DVRS.

Beth asked Lori for the next meeting to provide an overview? Lori noted Rosemary from DVR would be the person to give an overview but she can report on what services that are available.

Q&A

How soon or what age can the youth access the internship program? Lori noted the youth may access the program through High School so there must be some participation of the school. The services are year round where we would go out to the schools and have a presentation and DVRS will give out the vouchers.

Beth noted the next steps is to find out about the pre-employment services moving forward and how to roll it out is our main goal. Beth also noted there will be an email drafted in reference to the Parent Association and transportation because the committee will have to come and take part in the presentation as a team.

Lori noted the focus of the Advocacy & Abilities Committee should be on clients with disabilities and work as a priority.

Beth noted the Advocacy & Abilities Committee seems to have a disconnect with DVRS and she will have a meeting with Dr. Chris Irving to possibly intervene or become an advocate for the committee because Beth noted that we understand Rosemary has a lot on her plate and maybe she could designate someone to attend on her behalf. Cynthia noted Rosemary usually sends Mario Fontana or Kathleen Mauer but if the meetings are scheduled on second Tuesday of each month Rosemary and her staff will not be able to attend

Ruth noted the transportation initiative is a good idea and maybe the committee could partner with the Auto Club.

Wrap-Up

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

The Schedule for the next meeting: Tuesday, November
21, 2017 at 9:30
