

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)
September 16, 2014 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on September 16th, 2014,
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Frias-Long
Denise Heap
Lu Ann Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cheryl Anderson, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Alicoate
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 5:58pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 15th, 2014 DAT meeting.

Ms. Heap made a motion to approve the April 15th, 2014 DAT meeting minutes, Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear update, discuss and take action on an educational awareness campaign related to service animals and ADA regulations for businesses.

Ms. Alicoate provided DAT members with the content for the brochure. Ms. Alicoate advised that graphics for the brochure are currently being created. The completed brochure will be provided at the next meeting for final recommendations and approval. Staff asked that DAT members review the current content in the meantime. Ms. Alicoate also suggested that since space is limited on brochures, board members can consider providing more information on a webpage in the future. Ms. Heap suggested following up with the Downtown Mesa Association and NEDCO to help disseminate to local businesses. Ms. Giese also advised that the Economic Development Department has already agreed to send out electronically through their regular newsletter when ready.

5. Hear, discuss and take action on planning for town hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Frias-Long advised that they envision three Town Hall meeting to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues, one designed towards Key Stakeholders (including Councilmembers), one to the general community and one to youth. Mr. Tompert stated that the next steps will be deciding the venue, dates, who will be speaking, designing future save the date notification, etc. Mr. Tompert stated that he would prefer to wait on speaking on the rest of the items until the next meeting when Ms. Anderson is present. The other DAT members agreed.

6. Hear and discuss ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

Mr. Tompert commented on the broad content of this agenda item. DAT members agreed that this item from their Strategic Plan needs to be refined to workable items. Ms. Schmidt expressed her concern for making assumptions or speaking for a segment of the population when they are not qualified to do so. Mr. Tompert

suggested that as part of this goal, they seek to further educate themselves and will keep this as a standing future item to continue the conversation on how to assess the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

7. Hear and discuss the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Mr. Tompert noted that the name of the facility is different from that in the Strategic Plan because he conducted research and found that Community Bridges, a local non-profit organization, does not offer the same services as a psychiatric recovery center. Mr. Tompert advised that in order to continue further they will need to become educated on what makes up a psychiatric recovery center in order to determine the need for one in the East Valley. Mr. Tompert indicated that he has forwarded educational links to staff to offer for further dissemination. DAT may also consider presentation on the subject in the future.

8. Hear and discuss ways to address the needs of the disabled community.

Ms. Heap explained that as she read through the drafted Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Inclusion & Diversity Report she observed a need to address the issues and concerns of the disabled community. Ms. Heap stated that she would like include in the full board recommendations to appoint a separate Disability Advisory Board whose purpose would be to assess the needs and make recommendations for this population. Ms. Heap noted that this would be accompanied by a request for more funding and potential staff members such as an ADA Coordinator. Ms. Heap encouraged other DAT members to think about recommendations that would benefit the disabled community before the next board meeting.

9. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 at 6:00pm.
- Future Agenda Items:
 - Monitor transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride.
 - Monitor the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless.
 - Explore and assess the issue of housing for people with disabilities.

DAT members agreed to receive periodic updates from the agencies mentioned as they are available. DAT also instructed staff to arrange a future presentation from Housing staff regarding how they address the disabled community with the programs and services they offer.

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator