

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Disabilities Action Team (DAT)
September 15, 2015 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on September 15, 2015
at 5:45pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair
LuAnn Schmidt, Vice-
Chair
Cheryl Anderson
Colleen Byron
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

- Appoint position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ms. Heap appointed herself as Chair and Ms. Schmidt as Vice-Chair of the subcommittee. Ms. Heap requested that Ms. Anderson resume as Chair for the meeting in her stead as she is not feeling well enough to continue.

2. Items from citizens present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 16th, 2014 DAT meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the June 16th, 2015 DAT meeting minutes, Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear update, discuss, and take action on ways to create options for the best methods and topics to educate the business community on mental health and substance abuse issues for the second town hall meeting.

Mr. Tompert reiterated that this current agenda item exists with the purpose of education and not necessarily to get individuals hired. He thinks that if the Board sticks to the idea of education then moving forward on this item will be easier. A motion was made by Mr. Tompert to move forward with contacting Sally Harrison with the Chamber of Commerce to inquire about a presentation from the DAT being added as an agenda item to their Board sometime after the first of the year. Also, for Ms. Anderson to work with Bill McCallister of the MARC Center to put together the presentation information. Dr. Byron seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Hear update, discuss, and take action on ways to raise community awareness about issues impacting people with disabilities, and evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of the ADA.

Ms. Heap would like to see this agenda item split into multiple sections because it seems like too much to handle in one. Ms. Heap motioned to split this agenda item into two separate items. The new items would be: 1) hear update, discuss, and take action on ways to raise community awareness about issues impacting people with disabilities. 2) Collect information and recommend ways to support the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of the ADA. Mr. Tompert seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Heap asked that it is clear that this agenda item needs to be split into two

items and that both items need to appear on the agenda at the next meeting. Ms. Anderson also questioned what gives the subcommittee any power to evaluate the services of the federal law. Dr. Byron pointed out that the subcommittee is wanting to evaluate the implementation of the federal laws and not necessarily the laws themselves. Ms. Schmidt said it is really about canvassing the community and seeing what its input is regarding the services that are available and what would be wanted in addition to those. She stated that she wanted to remain a catalyst for action and not strictly collecting information. Ms. Giese suggested that a lot of the committee's current agenda items are things that already fall under this category. Dr. Byron agreed and suggested that those items should be used as examples so that the committee understands the kinds of things that they need to focus on moving forward.

6. Hear update, discuss, and take action on monitoring of the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, or are homeless.

The Board requested that Paul Thomas and Anne Gervase of the Mesa City Court come and give an update regarding this agenda item. Ms. Freeland is working on getting them schedule for quarterly updates.

7. Hear update, discuss, and take action on input about design standards for adapting housing for people with disabilities.

Ms. Heap stated that she has done research and understands that Fair Housing rules apply to apartment rentals and call upon the Landlord to make modifications that are reasonable for those that may have specific needs. Ms. Heap also thought that it would be a good idea to invite someone from the Housing department to explain what those modifications might be, as well as someone from Planning to discuss how protocols are adopted for ADA modifications. Mr. Tompert questioned whether or not this would be something that should be addressed by the Housing and Community Development Board as opposed to the DAT. Dr. Byron suggested taking this item before the regular Board to see what their suggestions might be regarding protocol for this, but Ms. Heap urged that knowing what is already currently established is an important step. Ms. Anderson reiterated the fact that this is strictly a moment to gather education and not necessarily to take action. The agreement that was settled upon was that someone from the Housing Department should come speak to the subcommittee and educate them on the laws that are already in place protecting those with ADA needs in regards to Housing issues. Ms. Giese stated that she would follow up with the Housing Department to find out who would be best suited to come and speak.

8. Hear update, discuss, and take action on raising awareness and educating the public about Dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Ms. Heap recommended doing a general education about Alzheimer's and Dementia to the public, as well as informing them of programs that are available to assist with these illnesses. Ms. Heap would like to ask Karen S. to come and present to the Board on the subjects. Ms. Anderson also suggested that Karen may be able to offer up suggestions on who else may be able to proffer information on Alzheimer's and Dementia.

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

Ms. Schmidt announced that she will be attending the Celebrate Mesa event on 10/17/15 and will be Brailleing for children. She requested a small table that she can have to do that.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at 5:45pm.
- Future Agenda Items:

- Monitor transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride.

Mr. Tompert suggested waiting to have Jodi Sorrell come and report to the committee until February 2016, stating that having a half years' worth of data would be beneficial to hear about. Ms. Schmidt disagreed stating that she would like to stay informed of any issues that may arise with the Dial-A-Ride program and not just budget issues. She stated that the committee needs to hear about issues facing driver training and various other things.

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator