

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)**  
**June 16, 2015 Minutes Draft**

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on June 16, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza,  
20 E. Main St. Ste. 170

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Anderson, Chair  
Denise Heap  
Lu Ann Schmidt  
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:55pm.

2. Items from Citizens Present.\*

There were no citizen's present to speak to the Disabilities Action Team (DAT).

3. Approval of minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 DAT meeting.

Mr. Tompert motioned to approve the minutes from the previous DAT committee. Ms. Heap seconded. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear, discuss and take action on second town hall meeting to educate the business community on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Heap addressed the board and articulated that they should maintain specificity in regards to the event that they want to hold. She felt that the focus of the Town Hall Meeting had changed to educating and hiring and she did not think that both activities together will be successful. Ms. Anderson clarified that the original purpose was to educate potential employers about the benefits to hiring those with mental disabilities. Ms. Heap suggested that the education at the Town Hall Meeting be a separate event to the hiring portion that the board has been considering. Ms. Schmidt agreed with this and suggested that it is better to hold the job fair after the education portion in order to give the businesses attending a better understanding of what to look for.

Ms. Schmidt questioned whether or not the job fair and education should be strictly regarding mental illness and disabilities or disabilities in general. She explained to the board that often time's people, especially employers, are more closed off to the idea of an employee with a disability that is visual as opposed to one that can't be seen. Ms. Anderson reminded the board that the original proposal was to educate the business community on mental health issues and substance abuse issues. Ms. Heap stated that she understands where Ms. Schmidt is coming from in wanting to address observable disabilities as well, but that the original plan was tie the Town Hall Meetings into the need for the East Valley Mental Health Facility. She also stated that both could eventually be addressed but that it should not be at the same event. Ms. Anderson inquired as to what the next step for the board should be and Ms. Heap commented that the concern with the education with disabilities in general should be a topic that is brought to the strategic retreat in August. Ms. Anderson then suggested that they open the meeting up to all groups for attendance, but limited the education portion to mental illness and substance abuse. Mr. Tompert also added that with this idea the board does not lose sight of their ultimate goal which is the East Valley Mental Health Care Facility, but that all of these

components may take longer than the September deadline to accomplish. Ms. Giese also recommended inviting A Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) to be involved in the job fair portion since they have done things like this in the past and have good contacts.

Ms. Giese also stressed that the DAT may have all the resource and presentations needed to take a report to council and discuss the next step for the East Valley Mental Health Facility plan. Mr. Tompert is in agreement with Ms. Giese on that matter and added that any issue with the proposal won't come with the issue of need but rather with the issue of location of the facility. Ms. Anderson inquired if there were a student intern who might be able to help the board compile all of the information they've received over the past year into one cumulative document.

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

The board is in agreement that this agenda item needs to be further broken down into specific goals and that those can be further defined in the strategic planning meeting. The board discussed bringing back discussions on having a separate ADA Coordinator appointed to the Diversity Office who would work for Ms. Giese. Ms. Giese informed the board that the questions that are going to be asked in regards to that are going to be: "Is the Diversity office currently handling more ADA calls than it can handle" and "Does the community feel that they need a different platform than is currently outlined for them to discuss their ADA issues?" Ms. Schmidt relayed that she is skeptical whether or not the community is aware of the Human Relations Advisory Board to begin with. Ms. Giese explained to the board that is important, as board members, to inform the public on the purpose of the board and to offer it as an avenue to bring their issues to the city. Mr. Tompert suggests that during the strategic planning session that the board members identify the parts of this agenda item that they want to work more on and included them as specific activities on the agenda.

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

- Discuss meeting times for July and August.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to postpone any DAT meetings until after the Strategic Planning meeting in August 2015. Ms. Anderson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

**\*Members of the audience may address the Board on any item.  
State Statute prohibits the Human Relations Advisory Board from discussing an item  
that is not on the agenda.**

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