

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)**  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015,  
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT  
Cheryl Anderson, Chair  
Denise Heap  
Mark Tompert  
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT  
Brent Burgett  
Bethany Freeland  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 DAT meeting.

Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 DAT meeting minutes, Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Hear, discuss and take action on presentation Mesa Fire and Medical Department on emergency care for citizens with mental health needs and recent awarded grant.

Brent Burgett, Mesa Fire Department (MFD), spoke to DAT regarding solutions for mental health needs in Mesa. Mesa's Fire Chief is very committed to getting the fire units properly trained to adequately respond to mental health crisis calls. Mesa has a robust mental health unit. MFD developed a relationship with Crisis Preparation and Recovery to help take mental health assessments in the hospitals where patients would not normally receive them. This relationship also allows the city to make assessments in real time and provide stabilization to patients who require in-patient psychiatric facilities as opposed to emergency room treatment.

As it stands now, many times officers are not equipped with the knowledge and experience to deal with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Many calls can end in the victim being hurt because they seem dangerous to themselves or others, but officers aren't aware of the options for these citizens. One of the solutions for this is the Automatic Aid System. This allows the closest fire truck to respond to the call no matter what city they are in or the city that the call originated from

Mesa is recognized as having a premier tracking system for these types of calls. It was hailed as one of the best in the nation. The four types of tracked calls are: alcohol intoxication, anxiety, psychiatric, and behavioral. The peak hours were captured with the tracking and a unit was put in place to deal with the influx of calls during these hours, mainly from noon to midnight.

Suicide calls were tracked and these are calls that the Mesa Police Department (MPD) as well as MFD respond to together. If the subject is voluntary and there is a behavioral health unit at the scene, they can be taken to a hospital if there is a bed available. If they are not voluntary, they are transferred to UPC regardless of distance. This can be a huge factor in units available to help on other calls.

The current process involves pushing the patient through multiple privately owned and operated companies including emergency vehicles, drug screenings, and psychiatric assessments. This comes at an extremely high cost to the patient, as well as being a lengthy process. The new processes put the patient through the trouble call and to the appropriate place in a fraction of the time.

DAT stated they would like to invite Sgt. Amanda Stamps with MPD who in charge of CTI training at a future meeting to also give a presentation on similar information.

5. Hear, discuss and take action on follow up for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 town hall meeting to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse issues and begin planning for second town hall.

It was discussed to continue with part two of the Town Hall meetings to be held in the fall. A greater push needs to be made to get more people involved in order to draw more attendees, especially in the business sector. DAT would like to invite Bill McCallister to help them achieve that.

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

Based on information given in discussion on agenda item four, the need is clear. Cost information will come with planning and meeting with Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care. The board's concern lies within the potential location of the facility. Getting the neighborhood of the location on board with the project is detrimental to the success of the facility. A motion was presented by Mr. Tompert to invite Mr. Burgett back to do his presentation for the full Human Relations Advisory Board. Ms. Heap seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

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

A Braille Embosser for the Mesa Public Library has been approved by the Council and bids are being accepted for that. Ms. Schmidt explained to the board the process and the technology behind how the Braille Embosser works. Once the Diversity Office has the information on the available machines, information will be sent to Ms. Schmidt for recommendations. The time range for receiving the Embosser is directly related to the price and availability. Ms. Schmidt recommends the Juliette Pro with an enclosure.

Ms. Giese also suggested to DAT that they get more specific in their goals related to ADA improvement within the city.

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

The retreat is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 from 8am to Noon.

The meeting for Fair Housing will be scheduled for late September 2015. One of the breakout sessions for this meeting will be regarding accommodations that landlords will need to be aware of in regards to ADA. Another breakout session will deal with service animals.

Ms. Heap announced that she will be resigning her position as Chair for the remainder of her term.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00pm.
- Future Agenda Items:

- Receive periodic update from transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride. (May)
- Hear update, discuss and take action on periodic update from the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator