

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Disabilities Action Team (DAT)
November 12, 2013 Minutes

The Disabilities Task Force of the City of Mesa met on November 12th, 2013,
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mark Tompert, Chair
Denise Heap
Lu Ann Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT
Andrea Arenas
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Tompert called the meeting to order at 5:53pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Hear update, discuss and take action on an educational event related to service animals.

Ms. Schmidt informed the members that she spoke with several of her contacts regarding their available resources. Ms. Schmidt stated that there are many types of service animals, and the task force would have to determine what type of event is being held in order to secure partners.

Mr. Tompert commented that he would like to inform businesses on what service animals are allowed to do and inform those who utilize service animals the place to report discriminatory complaints. As the ADA advisor for the city, Ms. Giese advised that the complaints should be made with the AZ State Attorney General's Office. Every complaint is review and followed up with. Ms. Heap suggested they first compile a list of all the types of service animals, and then contact the Attorney General's Office regarding reported statistics. Ms. Heap recommended they draft an informative letter to business owners outlying their findings in order to educate them on service animals, even before considering an event. Ms. Giese added that they could also put an information link on the Diversity Office webpage in order to promote an 'awareness campaign'. DAT members agreed on this course of action. Ms. Heap will draft the list of the various types of service animals, common information such as registration and vaccine requirements, and contact the Attorney General's Office.

4. Discuss, consider and take action on ways to educate the community on mental health issues.

Mr. Tompert stated that it would be beneficial for the board to hear a presentation regarding mental health issues at a future meeting in order to provide further community education. Mr. Tompert would also like to identify how the Mesa Police Department (MPD) handles people with mental illness on the streets seeing as though they have first contact. DAT agreed that further education is important given the growing population of people with mental health issues, including veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Ms. Heap commented that MPD will crosscheck all the people booked through the Magellan Health Services to see if they are currently receiving services, but this will not apply to those that require treatment and are not signed up under their program.

5. Discuss, consider and take action on plans for contacting the organizations identified as partners to Disabilities Action Team.

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Diversity & Neighborhood Outreach Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85201 (480) 644-5034*

Mr. Tompert recognized the organizations that were identified through their previous discussions. DAT will continue identifying organizations that need to be contacted for further information and research.

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

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014 at 6pm.

The Disabilities Action Team will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm instead of the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm. There will be no meeting in December. Therefore the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2014 at 5:30pm.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator