

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2015

Present: Mayor Sinnott, Mas Sala, Michael Adamus, Kim Brown, Passle Helminski, Heidi Meyer, Vance Duncan, Michael Fiorelli, Jessica Molczan, Dawn Sokol, Chris Cowan, Chuck Turner, Tracy Mihalak, Matt Griffith, Matthew Good

1). **Welcome**

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance. The sign-in sheet was circulated for signature by those present.

2). **Veteran's Miracle Center - Erie (VMCE)**

(Tracy Mihalak and Chuck Turner)

Tracy Mihalak (Board Member for VMCE) and Chuck Turner (Volunteer for VMCE) provided an overview of a new Veteran's resource in the Erie area - the Veteran's Miracle Center - Erie (VMCE).

The new non-profit is located at 1573 West 39th Street, here in Erie, and offers various new household merchandise and clothing donated by major corporations primarily outside of the Erie region to qualified veterans. The center is available by appointment only to veterans who qualify through an agency approved by VMC-Erie to ensure that all proceeds benefit veterans in need.

For further information on the VMC-Erie, you may contact them at: (814) 796-4200, or email them at: www.vmcerie.org.

3). **Sub-Committee Reports**

Education/Diversity Training/Employment

(Chairperson needed!)

The Education/Employment sub-committee remains temporarily suspended at this time and in search of a new Chairperson. If you have interest in leading this particular sub-committee, please let me know (Mas Sala at msala@erie.pa.us).

Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation

(Chairperson: **Passle Helminski**)

Passle Helminski and her subcommittee offered no new comments and/or concerns, at this time.

Emergency Services

(Chairman: **Michael Adamus**)

Michael Adamus reports that although this Sub-committee is currently suspended, the Sub-committee established at the County level remains active.

Housing/Homelessness

(Chairman: **Mas Sala**)

Mas Sala (Chairman) reported that some of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated for Fair Housing activities were distributed to the Erie County Human Relations Commission to fund one of the speakers at their annual Fair Housing Event held at the Blasco library April 28, 2015.

It was also reported that Jamie Milligan, Program Manager from West Penn Rural Fair Housing Southwestern PA Legal Service, Inc. encourages individuals with criminal backgrounds to participate in an online survey in the interest of assessing the existence of any fair housing discrimination to individuals with criminal backgrounds. The following link will direct you to the survey:
www.westpennfairhousing.org.

4). **Meeting Schedule for 2015**

2). August 20, 2015

3). November 12, 2015

All meetings begin at 2:00 pm and are held in the Conference Room (2nd Floor) at the Intermodal.

5). **Mayor's Remarks**

Mayor Sinnott is appreciative of the Roundtable Member's commitment and time that they invest in their mission of inclusion for all members of the Erie community.