

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Present: Mayor Joseph Sinnott, Mas Sala, Passle Helminski, Tracy Cummins, Tracy Witherspoon, Jessica Molczan, Chris Cowan, Kim Brown, Ben Moonan, Vance Duncan, Abby Skinner, Debra Smith,

1). Welcome

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

2). Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Services Subcommittee
(Tracy Witherspoon)

Tracy Witherspoon reports that the first meeting for the Emergency Services subcommittee will be held March 8, 2017 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Voices for independence. For additional information – please contact Tracy Witherspoon at twitherspoon@vfcil.org or (814) 874-0064.

Education/Diversity Training/Employment
(Diana Ames/Jessica Molczan)

Jessica Molczan provided a status of the Education subcommittee relative to it's development of a Mission statement as well as the proposal of a recent project. Jessica also asserts that the subcommittee plans on developing a Public Service announcement entitled, "Tell the Story." This particular initiative will feature consumers who have experienced challenges and obstacles relative to securing fair housing. Finally, Jessica also states that the subcommittee is developing a Needs Assessment Survey relating to housing needs within the Erie community.

Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation
(Passle Helminski)

Passle Helminski/Kim Brown (The 'e') discussed the new mandated software exclusively for the LIFT program and service.

Passle also commented on CareerLink - primarily that the office remains inaccessible and out of ADA compliance. However - Passle also affirms that the issue is being addressed by a number of representatives from various agencies and is hopeful that any issues will be resolved in the very near future.

Housing/Homelessness
(Mas Sala)

Mas Sala provided information relative to the Public Hearing on March 7, 2017 @ 10:00 am and 6 pm in City Council Chambers, which is an opportunity for the public to offer input regarding the 2017 CDBG, HOME and ESG Annual Plan.

Also discussed the Single Point in Time (SPIT) count of the homeless population in the City of Erie which was held January 27, 2017.

Lastly, the annual Fair Housing Seminar sponsored by the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC) will be held April 25, 2017 from 9-4. For additional information, you may contact Charlotte Scalise at the HRC at cscalise@eriecountypa.gov.

3). **Open Comments**

- Passle discussed the subject of Service Dogs and the requirements relating to certification of same.

4). **Mayor's Remarks**

Mayor Sinnott expressed gratitude to the existing members for their consistent dedication and commitment to the Mayor's Roundtable and the topics/issues/concerns discussed. The Mayor also welcomed and thanked new members for joining.

5). **Meeting Schedule for 2017**

- May 18, 2017
- August 24, 2017
- November 16, 2017

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