

DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

DSAC Members Present: Mike Volpe, Chair; Terry Brown, Rusty Burton, Lee Lazaro and Jann Glenn.

Guests Catherine Skiens, Mitzi Naucler, Jan Molnar-Fitzgerald, Teri Jefferson, Cathy Savage.

Members Absent: Suzanne Brean, Vice Chair; Edythe James, Sherry Rocha, Pete Rickey and Mark Frederic.

Staff: Lisa Bennett, Mary Kay Fitzmorris, Ann Johnson, Sarah Ballini-Ross and Terri Sharpe.

- 1) Mike Volpe called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Introductions were made including guests.
- 2) Chairs Report (Mike Volpe):
 - Mike gave an overview of the Homecare Commission and how it has changed over the years. One of the big changes was the unionization of homecare workers. With the unionization wages and benefits gradually increased with wages going from \$8.00 per hour to \$13.75 per hour today. Homecare workers started receiving health and dental insurance, workers comp and vacation pay. With these changes there is greater retention in homecare workers with greater skills. As a consumer, Mike has experienced the benefit of the unionization personally. His homecare worker, Cathy Savage, has been with him for six years now; no one has ever stayed with him that long.
- 3) Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America Update (Terry Brown):
 - Terry Brown gave an update and overview of the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA). The National Organization started after World War II in 1947 with the main office in Washington D.C. with over 19,000 disabled Veterans. The Oregon Chapter started in 1972 in Portland and then moved their office to Salem in 1996.
 - To qualify as an Oregon Paralyzed Veteran of America one must either have suffered a spinal cord injury or contracted a disease to the spine such as multiple sclerosis. They are looking into TBI (traumatic brain injury). Members are provided National Service Officers to prepare and prosecute claims for benefits. The OPVA are the watchdogs for the Veteran Hospitals, making sure the rules are being followed and the Veterans are getting the care they need. There are 24 different spinal cord injury

wards in the hospitals due to the different needs involved. The OPVA also works with getting members out and about and staying as active as they can through sports and recreation. They are also involved in legislation and advocacy.

- The OPVA is funded through grants through the National Organization, through a contract with Bell Marketing, plus they do regular fund raising.
- Terry has just finished up his role as President.
- There are 380 members in the Oregon Chapter but there are at least another 1,200 paralyzed Veterans throughout the state that they cannot reach out to due to HIPPA laws.

4) Information Sharing (All):

- Terry read his resignation letter to the Council. He is stepping down after 15 years of service as a DSAC member to relocate to Nebraska.
- Rusty expressed his appreciation of Terry's service and how much he would miss him.
- Mary Kay also thanked Terry for his service and expressed how much he would be missed.
- Lee L. thanked Terry for his service as both a DSAC member and as a Veteran.
- Lisa shared an article that was in Albany's Democrat Herald on the Fred Meyer's parking lot project to improve disabled access. Jeffery Evans was the advocate that persuaded Fred Meyers to take on the project. Lisa emphasized how this was a good example of what advocates can do.

5) Adjournment:

- The DSAC Meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.
- The Meeting minutes were recorded by Terri Sharpe.
- The next meeting will be on November 3, 2015.