



**Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness
Committee for Citizens with Disabilities**

Monday, December 12, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Donna Andrus, Randy Broussard, Lynette Fontenot, Zelig Guidry,
Mark Guillory, Rose Shuff, Donielle Watkins
Guests in Attendance: Diane Dodt-Gauthier, Debbie Aymond
LCG Staff Present: Lou Anna Angelle

1. Randy Broussard called the meeting to order.
2. Randy Broussard introduced the guest speaker, Michelle Marks, Families Helping Families – Parent to Parent Program Coordinator. Ms. Marks provided the committee with a brief summary about the programs Families Helping Families has to offer. As the Parent to Parent Coordinator she asked the committee to support the mission of Families Helping Families of Acadiana and their Parent to Parent USA Program.

Ms. Marks provided the following information regarding the Parent to Parent USA Program:

- Provides direct support to parents and families of children with developmental and mental disabilities.
- Open to all parents, guardian and caregivers of children with disabilities from birth to age 22.
- Provides emotional and practical support, linking parents in need of support with a trained volunteer support parent.
- Support parents are trained to provide advice, support, and encouragement regarding a child's diagnosis and or disability.
- Families Helping Families of Acadiana is actively recruiting volunteer support parents

In closing, Ms. Marks asked the committee for their assistance in recruiting volunteer support parents to assist with the program.

3. There was an error in the November minutes, and the committee approved the November minutes with the correction. (Mark Guillory made the motion, Guidry seconded, all in favor).

4. Correspondence

None to report

5. Transportation Survey

Debbie Aymond provided the committee with the results of the State survey and Zelig Guidry provided the committee with the results of the Lafayette's survey.

The committee discussed:

- Possible reasons for the lack of participation by the attendees
- Ways to successfully have the survey forms filled out by the citizens in need of the service.
- Possibly looking at a different venue
- Sending survey forms to providers

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee

The committee elected Donielle Watkins as Chair and Zelig Guidry as Vice-Chair.

7. The committee discussed the 2011 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards that will be held on December 13th at 10:00 a.m. Tammy Richard, won the gold award for Educator of the Year for the state and will be recognized at the awards program. The committee requested that Carlee handle the PSA recognizing Ms. Richard.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p. m. Donna Andrus made the motion, Mark Guillory seconded.
9. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for **Monday, January 9, 2012, 11:30-12:30** in the **Council Briefing Room** on the first floor of Lafayette City Hall.