



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

Monday, July 9, 2012

Meeting Minutes

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**Board Members Present:** Donna Andrus, Randy Broussard, Lynette Fontenot, Zelig Guidry,  
Rose Shuff, Donielle Watkins  
**Guests in Attendance:** Deborah Aymond, Polly Bertrand  
**Staff in Attendance:** Carlee Alm-LaBar

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1. Donielle Watkins called the meeting to order.

Polly Bertrand with the Deaf Action Center (DAC) spoke about the services provided by the organization. She shared literature about the DAC as well as a notification card for the deaf to carry to notify people they need an interpreter. The DAC is on call 24 hours a day to assist when needed.

Ms. Bertrand explained that sign language does not translate to English perfectly, and therefore even written communication can be confusion to someone who is deaf.

The DAC offers sign language classes for \$75 in the spring and in the fall. Ms. Bertrand indicated that many families with autistic children are learning some sign language to assist in communications.

Ms. Bertrand was asked if we knew how many deaf and deaf/blind people there were in our region, and the DAC does not have an official number. It is thought that this region has one of the highest concentrations of Usher Syndrome in the world.

### 2. Minutes

- The June minutes were reviewed and accepted. Donna made the motion and Zelig seconded, all in favor.

### 3. Correspondence

- There was no correspondence.

### 4. Old Business

- Carlee and Donielle will discuss the next steps regarding building accessibility prior to the August meeting.
- Job Fair- The date of the Job Fair is October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 9:00 am to Noon at the Heymann Center for the Performing Arts.
  - i. The Employer Breakfast Symposium will be from 7:45 to 8:45 and we have three confirmed speakers. City-Parish President Joey Durel, Thomas Levatino with the Workforce Commission who will be discussing Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Fidelity Bonding, and the Manager of the Lafayette Holiday Inn who has hired a number of people with disabilities.

- ii. They catering will cost approximately \$1000 in part because the Heymann Center has started a 20% catering charge.
- iii. The Autism Society of Acadiana to host the Resource Fair again this year. The ad in the Quick Quarter was approved.
- iv. Goodwill will hold their Prep Rally(ies) on October 15-19. Debbie will send the flyer to the committee.
- v. Our next meeting will be July 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at LRS. All are invited.

## **5. New Business**

- Awards Ceremony- The 2012 Awards Ceremony has reserved for October 30<sup>th</sup>. At the Robicheaux Center. Debbie and Carlee presented a revised application and requested feedback by Friday, July 13. Once the feedback is incorporated, the application will be distributed to the committee and posted on the LCG website. Applications will be due September 26<sup>th</sup>. At the ceremony, it was decided that each winner would have his/her own reserved table and that would be communicated to the winners.
- Potential future guest speakers were discussed. The committee recommended John Downs from the STM Options Program, Denise Ferguson from LCG Parks and Recreation, Winford Amos who works with substance abuse and mental health issues, and someone from AOC Community Media to discuss their outreach tools. Carlee will contact Denise Ferguson to see if she would be available for the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The issue of library services for the disabled came up, and Carlee volunteered to set up a meeting with Debbie Aymond and Beth Chiasson with the Lafayette Public Library to discuss accessibility.

## **6. Comments from the Public**

- No comments from the public.

7. The next meeting of the President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for Monday August 13, 2012 at 11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall.