

Commission on Disabilities - Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

May 8, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Present: Tricia Palluzzi, Annie Harper, Sally Esposito, Carmen Correa-Rios, Grisel Aguilar, Sandra Roberts, Billy Huang, Ben Bond

Absent: Linda McDonough

Staff: Gretchen Knauff

Guests: Jen Harding (www.walkwithderek.com), Lena Esposito (CTFSN)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Huang at 6:11 PM.

II. Approval of April minutes.

The Commission Members approved the minutes from April's meeting. The January Minutes were tabled.

III. Old Business

A. Updates/Discussion

1. Jaigantic - G. Knauff – no contact at all from Jaigantic.

2. Elevator ordinance - No significant updates.

3. Notification for Individuals with Autism (Walk with Derek) - T. Palluzzi introduced Jennifer. Harding, who is working to get autism database into Emergency Response systems across the state - 36 towns so far. She spoke about her experiences with her 12-year-old son who is non-verbal and "a runner". She had introduced him to the local police. She created a form to enter child's name/address with photo into the system – gets flagged if there is a call involving the child/family. They started the system in Naugatuck, now wants to get to all 157 towns in CT. They are working on setting it up in New Haven, they are talking with police department, and will organize a training. G. Knauff made a connection with a New Haven Police Officer who was assigned to help with getting the project implemented. Need to integrate it into PSAP and introduce to the officers at Roll Call. J. Harding – they can video her presentation and show repeatedly. They should do a press release when it's all set up. They originally tried to make it happen via the Mayor and Police Chief but got nowhere, and now are hoping that it will move ahead with the help of the Disability Commission. G. Aguilar – form must be available in Spanish. J. Hardman will send to her for translation. A. Harper – COMPASS should know about it, can support it if it needs pushing. G. Aguilar – will help spread the word through the school system. T. Palluzzi – can share through

special education programs. J. Harding - see more at www.WalkwithDerek.com or the Facebook page.

B. Effective Communication Update

A. Harper – will follow up with the group to see if they want to meet before having a meeting with the Mayor. Virtual will be easier.

B. Commissioner Highlight – Annie Harper

Annie talked about her work. She is a cultural anthropologist who works in the field of mental health research. She reported that learning from people lived experience is most important. A major project in her work is looking at poverty and finances with a focus on the banking system. People who have mental illness are more likely to experience poverty and find it harder to recover from poverty. They also experience more debt and the domino effect of the debt. Annie is looking at the outcome data of her research to find solutions to address these systems. One such solutions involves banks that are willing to waive overdraft fees.

There was a short discussion about Able Accounts.

Lena spent a few minutes talking about her work.

D. Upcoming events

G. Knauff –

- Big Read events
- Supported Decision Making webinar with Jonathan Martinis on June 8th.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.