



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
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ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY SERVICES
MAY 7, 2021
CIVIC CENTER ROOM 301

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Mark Weatherwax
Ramona Harvey – via remote
Megan Utley, via Phone
Robert Guzzo – via remote
Carolyn Gallagher

STAFF

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Board on Disability Services was called to order on the above date by Chairman Mark Weatherwax.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll was called with the above-named board members and staff in attendance.

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as presented and members voted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Work to Include Initiative – Ben Trockman and Susan Rinne
Ben Trockman introduced Susan Rinne who presented a slide presentation on the Work to Include Initiative. She reported that Ben Trockman and Josh Miller of Center Point Energy are Evansville's representatives involved with the Initiative. The Initiative started in 2019 and there has been great input from the Evansville area. It was reported that the disabled are unemployed at an extremely high rate and a pipeline was needed. The initiative is funded by the Governor's Council and the goal is to find a way of promoting

employment and engaging people locally to make differences in the communities. There have been Town Hall meetings across the state for people with disabilities and their family members to find answers as to what can be done to make a difference. She reported six (6) recommendations:

1. Funding and state policy for support, income is limited.
2. Medicaid is needed to purchase items that employers do not supply. Benefits are a major issue because so many depend on Medicaid for insurance and an individual is only allowed to make a certain amount.
3. Transportation is not available everywhere to the disability community, and sometimes not dependable.
4. High school job experience increases possibilities of employment.
5. SSI and SSD work incentives are available but people don't know how to ask about them.
6. Employers don't know the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and need to coordinate and communicate.

The recommendations are included in the Indiana Employment First Plan required by law and passed in 2017.

They developed the employers toolkit designed by people with disabilities and it contains several fact sheets and information to support people with disabilities and provide accommodations.

The first Indiana Disability Awareness Campaign was held in six (6) communities and the communities gave an additional \$12,000.

Resolution for a summer study committee was recently presented to the Indiana General Assembly to establish a summer study committee on employment first and to look at resources needed to implement employment first agenda. The second summer summit will be held later in the month.

Ben Trockman asked board members to consider all things discussed and possibly participate in the summer summit. Information on the summit will be sent and anyone who is interested can apply. Information will be sent to Chairman Weatherwax and hopefully someone from the board can attend.

The board was thanked for allowing them to participate in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Evansville Water & Sewer Utility – Reasonable Accommodation Policy

The director spoke with the EWSU and they are revising their policy to not have a discriminatory impact on people with disabilities.

OLD BUSINESS:

FINDER -

It was reported that the article will be in the newspaper on the upcoming Sunday.

Board member Guzzo reported to members to order posters and flyers as needed since things are opening up.

Accessibility Decal Program –

Due to the pandemic movement on the project has been difficult.

Board member Harvey will attend the ADA Coordinator Conference virtually in August and will not attend the August meeting but she will try to get information to navigate the DeCal program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Weatherwax reported to the board that CAJE identified the problem of autistic children with a dual diagnosis not getting access to services. He hopes to have them speak at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was properly moved and seconded to adjourn this April meeting.