



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

**Commission of Persons with Disabilities Meeting
Lucas State Office Building, Room 319
321 E 12th Street Des Moines, IA
Friday, May 1, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Gary Schriver, Gene VanGrevenhof, David Bert and Michelle Ray-Michalec

Members Absent: Jean Herrity, Mary Chavez

Staff Attending: Jill Fulitano Avery

Staff Absent: San Wong- Director (Ex-Officio)

Others Present: Page Eastin, Colette Kotz, Robin DeCook

Ray-Michalec called meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and quorum was established.

Ray-Michalec asked for introductions around the table.

VanGrevenhof moved to approve the minutes. Bert seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

Schriver moved to approve agenda. VanGrevenhof seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

Community Advocacy Services Update (CAS)

(Fulitano Avery)

- Jill Fulitano Avery introduced Colette Kotz, an intern with the Client Assistance Program and Colette provided a brief description on herself.
- There is a tour bus going around the U.S. providing information on the ADA and Civil Rights history. An email with more information was sent out.
- The CAS Administrator position (Heidi's position) is posted and Fulitano Avery has been asked to serve on the interview team. Monica Stone is serving in that capacity in the interim.
- The website is expected to launch any time and was completed ahead of schedule. Commissioners can send a bio to Fulitano Avery that will be posted on

the website. Upon the request of David Bert, Fulitano Avery will send a sample bio to the commissioners.

- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is July 12th-17th at Iowa State University. If interested in serving as a mentor, contact Fulitano Avery. An overview of YLF and discussion ensued.
- Fulitano Avery is serving on the Employer's Disability Resource Network (EDRN) committee and gave a description of that work including a potential conference/forum that may take place this fall.

Outreach to Persons with Disabilities Within Your Community (Ray-Michalec)
Schriver shared that a sports complex designed and accessible for persons with disabilities is being constructed in Mason City. Schriver was asked to serve on the board of directors.

VanGrevenhof shared that he has been keeping in contact with the Mayor of Fort Dodge as the city undergoes extensive construction. All of the updates are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Schriver asked commissioners their thoughts on Managed Care and stated that he has some concerns about service provision. Ray-Michalec stated that she has some concerns regarding the number of cuts that are coming and shared a personal story about a friend who had a positive experience accessing healthcare after the Affordable Care Act. Discussion ensued.

Bert stated that he has helped consolidate the boards of realtors around the state from 48 to 17 which has resulted in much more effective communication. Cedar Rapids is now working on an accessible playground and there will likely be others around the state as well. Bert also announced that he is retiring from his current employment position at the end of this year but will remain involved as a contractor.

Ray-Michalec shared that she has been working with a young man who is working with veterans and accessibility issues in her area.

Task Forces (Ray-Michalec)

Legislative

Ray-Michalec suggested that the commission dissolve the taskforces and take on issues they identify as a commission. Discussion ensued about what issues will be addressed and suggestions were made to increase contacts with legislators throughout the year rather than limiting contact to one legislative reception during session. It was decided that the Office of Persons with Disabilities staff identify common needs/issues of the clients currently being served and will report back at the next commission meeting.

Access/Reduction of Barriers

Fulitano Avery reported that we are still waiting on the budget but it does not appear that there will be any positions added. Eastin shared that 22 of the 39 Iowa Vocational

Rehabilitation Services field offices have been surveyed for accessibility. The commissioners expressed gratitude for that.

Marketing

Bert asked for an update on the possibility of using Facebook and social media. Fulitano Avery responded that there has not been a formal policy set by the department yet. Ray-Michalec stated that she would follow up on the issue at the Department of Human Rights (DHR) board meeting today.

Next Meeting Determined

Next Persons with Disabilities Commission Meeting is Thursday, August 13th, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Ray-Michalec adjourned meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Eastin Recording