



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

## **Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities**

**Friday, December 17, 2021 · 10:00am – 12:00pm**

### **Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Michelle Ray-Michalec called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

### **Commissioners present:**

Victoria Carlson

Timothy Dowie,

Teresa “Teri” Jorgensen,

Clint Sargent,

Beth Wilde

Staff present: Lisa Schneider, CAP coordinator.

Beth motioned to approve the minutes. Clint seconded the motion. Minutes were approved from the November 18, 2021 meeting. The majority of the commissioners reported they had not seen the minutes from the meeting in June. So those minutes were tabled to next meeting.

### **Update on the Client Assistance Program – Lisa Schneider**

Lisa spoke about the Client Assistance Program. This program is funded through the rehabilitation services administration. Each state, territory and district of Columbia has a CAP program. This program was created to ensure clients receiving services from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation and the Iowa Department of the Blind are following federal regulations, client’s rights are protected, their policies align with protecting clients. If a client feels that they have not received adequate services according to laws, they can ask for a consultation. Lisa and her part time staff member first start at the lowest level of due process and work their way up. She is glad to report it very rarely goes up to Director. Lisa works in collaboration with outside agencies to create programs for persons with disabilities. There is also a hotline to provide

resource information and contact information, if someone faces discrimination under the ADA. They can also help explain or clarify things for employers. Governor Branstad in 1994 placed the program in the Department of Human Rights.

Lisa provided her contact information to the rest of commissioners and shared more information listed under the Office of Persons with Disabilities under CAP page on the DHR website.

### **Commissioner reports**

Clint Sargent reports western Iowa still has some COVID struggles. Communities are struggling with getting vaccination information public. He reports there have been some circumstances when a client was interested in vaccination but the guardian was not. Getting good information out to public is important. Public Health is still active in the area for booster clinics. One occurred last week in Harrison county. He reports employers are struggling, especially those who need providers working with persons with disabilities.

Teri Jorgensen lives in the Cedar Valley area, she reports her area struggles with affordable housing for those who are mobility challenged. There is also a need for different interpreters. Between the Water- Cedar falls area, 14 are languages spoken. She asked if someone know, of any interpreters.

Michelle shared her employer uses volte phones. There is a translation program installed. You are connected with a translator for help. Michelle is not aware if the program is specific to the phone or not. Michelle also offered she is fluent in German so she can help.

Michelle Ray-Michalec is working with people to make sure their FMLA and ADA accommodations are updated for the upcoming year. Accommodations are from January to December. She also consults about reasonable requests. She has helped people look into Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS). She also provides education about handicap spaces and the placement of those spaces are not close to entrances. She reports in ADA law there is a code for how many handicap parking spaces are needed per size of parking lot.

Teri explained if curb cuts are not clean for those who are mobility challenged then city may charge the company. She also suggested people can contact their mayor and city council to express they are unable to use a wheelchair to access local business.

Tim introduced themselves he explained he is from Des Moines. He works at Fareway. Been in grocery business for 35 years. He worked with in the past for Dahls. He is visually impaired and he has a learning disability. He has 6 siblings.

Beth is talking with parents who have children in workforce, she is reaching out with the AEA. Gathering information about the transition from high school to adulthood. She is working with different local schools to get information and hopes to branch out to other counties.

Victoria suggested doing a job fair with employers who are welcoming to persons with disabilities. Beth agreed that this is a good suggestion.

### **Future Goals/Activities**

A suggestion to the resource page on the commission page about ADA awareness and barriers to employment for those who have needs.

A suggestion of template resume for those who need help. Commissioners agreed this is something that should be looked into.

The previous officer to the Commission has had health issues but hopes to return very soon.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Teri motion next for the meeting to be held on Friday April 8th 2022 at 10 am. It was seconded by Victoria.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Was made by Beth and seconded by Teri. Meeting adjourned at 10:54am

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Maria Guevara from a recording of meeting.*