

**Metro Area Mayors' Committee
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo
February 14, 2008**

Present: Terry Romine, Tom Thompson, Ron Sandness, Tammy Stuart, Amanda Noce, MaryBeth Collier, Mark Mehlhoff, Genn Bervig, Mary C. Tintes, Paulette Ness, Kati Langlie, Lori Johnson, Laura Eberhardt, Jeannie Krull, Judy Seigle, Vicky Bogart, Dan Mahli, Keith Bjornson, Maria Vazquez, Jen Erickson.

Co-Chairs presiding: Dan Mahli & Tammy Stuart

The minutes from January's monthly meeting were approved by consensus.

Dialogue about the prospect of MAMC hosting a booth at the AT Expo was added to the February meeting agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Paulette Ness

Checking: \$3,644.57
GT grant: \$4,257.61
Savings: \$1,216.86
Total: \$9,119.04
Deposits: \$1,393.76

Speaker – Veterans Administration, Lori Johnson-Chambers

Lori indicated she works with the new supported employment program at the Veterans Administration (VA), stating this programming was approved by Congress in 2005. Lori was hired to facilitate the program in 2007 for area veterans. She indicated the primary goal is to assist veterans with severe mental illness in locating employment. She stated that 75% of the veterans served in this program must meet the criteria of having a severe mental illness and 25% of the veterans in the program can be diagnosed with other types of disabilities. Working in the supported employment program will not affect the veterans' pension and participants are not required to be compliant with medication regimens or to have 6 months sobriety to be involved in the program. Lori indicated that the most she can have on her case load at any one time is 26 veterans.

Speaker – Clay County Social Services, Phyllis Reller

Phyllis provided information about the upcoming Adult Prom event aimed at raising funds to support youth transition programming in the community/area. Some of the highlights include a dinner, dance, and silent auction. Phyllis noted the first recipient of the Enderle-Severson award will be Kevin Anderson and he will be honored at this event. She described the event as semi-formal to formal and "Thunder Ridge" is the band that will play from 9 pm to midnight. Phyllis talked about the aging workforce and the tremendous value of employing persons with disabilities as this workforce shift occurs. There was dialogue about theme baskets that will be available as silent auction items and Tom T. made a motion to donate a theme basket for \$100.00 to the auction. Keith B. provided the second. Motion passed.

Awards Banquet – Tom Thompson

Tom indicated the NDSU Spectrum newspaper agreed to run an article about the 50th Anniversary of the MAMC, and he's been in contact with a MAMC supporter who had meeting minutes from December 1958 of the F-M Association of the Handicapped (currently MAMC). It was referred to as the "Hire the Handicapped" Meeting, and the focus was on physically handicapped individuals.

Tom noted there will be a 12-foot banner at the banquet and listed some current sponsors as follows:

- VTC
- Access
- CLS
- United Patriotic Bodies (F/M area)

Tom distributed copies of the banquet registration form and encouraged members to continue submitting nominations for awards. Nominations are due no later than March 4th and all but two categories have at least one individual or organization nominated. The two categories that have no current nominations include: Entrepreneur and Healthcare Professional. Tom reminded the group that the Outstanding Citizen and Entrepreneur recipients receive a \$100.00 award as part of their recognition.

There was dialogue about topics that could be covered in The Forum insert prior to the banquet, including a history of the Grace Tveiten grant program and MAMC programming in general, interviews with one or more mayors, and profiles of persons with disabilities successfully employed.

AT Expo

Tammy S. initiated dialogue about reserving a table/booth at the Expo for the MAMC for \$75.00. Tom S. made a motion for the committee to do so. Jeff A. provided the 2nd. Motion passed.

It was noted that this the 5th annual AT Expo and scholarships for morning sessions are available to waive the \$20.00 attendance fee for those who qualify.

C.O.P.P. – Tom Thompson

Tom indicated that Erik Johnson is the new City Attorney (Fargo). Plans are underway for this office to review the current proposed letter to businesses that are not in compliance with accessible parking legislation, making revisions as warranted.

Announcements

- Judy S. stated there's a rally for school-age kids (Unique in Christ) on May 2nd at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.
- Laura E. is selling coupons to shop at Herberger's on March 1st with proceeds going to support clients in attending events they might not otherwise be able to afford.
- Jen E. announced that an upcoming regional meeting will be held at the Plains Art Museum on February 20th to discuss barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from pursuing careers in the Arts and distributed flyers provided by Sherry Shadley.
- Jeff A. proposed that a subset of the Mayors' committee be formed, which would be comprised of Placement Specialists to meet and share job leads. It was agreed that this topic would be added to next month's agenda.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON SANDNESS who retires from Vocational Rehabilitation in February. The MAMC agreed that Ron's lunch would be covered to celebrate this momentous event!

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Erickson