

**Metro Area Mayors Committee
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo
September 13, 2007**

Present: Maria Vazquez, Caryn Spreeman, MaryBeth Collier, Ron Sandness, Tammy Stuart, Kati Langlie, Jill Deitz, Joey Morken, Paulette Ness, Brenda Majerus, Terry Romine, Julie Brunette, Lori Johnson, Ellen Dunn, Jeannie Krull, Tom Thompson, Kathy Circle, Mary Tintes, Dan Mahli, Jen Erickson.

Co-chairs presiding: Tammy Stuart & Dan Mahli

Speaker:

Jill Deitz presented information about Americorps, and refers to this program as the domestic version of the Peace Corps. She indicated there continues to be a few Americorps positions available out of 36 total that have been funded for this year. She provided a list of typical positions (or general areas of focus) available through Americorps to include the following:

- Early childhood programming
- Kindergarten preparation
- Homework clubs (1st through 5th graders)
- One-to-one mentoring (children identified as having specific needs – going through a divorce, one or more parents serving in Iraq, behavioral management issues etc.)
- Managing bullying behavior
- Silver Sneakers – active older adults planning/social planning

Jill indicated that a new program is on the horizon called Xerzone, which is an interactive program that encourages activity for weight management to reduce obesity in youth by incorporating aspects of video games where different choices require movement and physical activity by players/participants.

The Americorps positions require a 10 month commitment and individuals often work between 20-25 hours per week. They are expected to work 900 hours within a 10-month time period and are provided a monthly stipend of \$630.00 per month. An education monetary award is also available for students to apply toward education-related costs in addition to the monthly stipend.

Jill provided MAMC members with Americorps informational packets today.

Transition to other Agenda items:

Robert A. made a motion to approve August meeting minutes. Brenda M. provided the second. Motion passed.

The Awards Banquet was added to today's agenda and the MAMC subcommittees dialogue will be moved to the October meeting.

Jen E. made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Maria V. provided the second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Paulette Ness

Checking: \$3,739.22

GT grant: \$3,603.61

Savings: \$1,213.80

Total: \$8,556.63

Deposits: 0

There are no Grace Tveiten grant applications pending. A vacuum cleaner was purchased for an employee with a disability in response to the most recent application request to assist him in retaining employment at an area restaurant.

Dan M. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ron S. provided the second. Motion passed.

Disability Awareness Month

It was agreed that MAMC would participate in Business After Hours for Disability Awareness month in October by hosting an informational booth, which has been done in past years. Tom T. brought a vertical display board to be used to display informational items and it was agreed that the Public Relations committee would work with graphic/sign specialists to print promotional items for the display. Brenda M. plans to locate photographs from the most recent Awards Banquet and will seek written permission from those photographed to use images for promotional materials. Business After Hours runs from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on October 25th. Booth set up is between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. Those who expressed an interest in working at the booth are listed as follows:

- Tammy Stuart
- Paulette Ness
- Jeannie Krull
- Jen Erickson

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To those listed (and others interested in attending), please notify Tammy ASAP to confirm - tstuart@nd.gov

A motion was made by Dan M. for the public relations committee to spend up to \$500.00 on the creation of promotional materials for the display booth. Tom T. provided the second. Motion passed.

Tammy S. invited members to go to www.dol.gov/odep to request free posters for Disability Awareness month to promote access/generate interest.

Members were reminded that those who attend the MAMC meeting next month are provided with a free lunch to celebrate Disability Awareness.

Tom T. indicated that the Chamber of Commerce newsletter will be profiling employees with disabilities in an upcoming article for the October issue.

Intent was expressed to contact one or more Mayors to read the Proclamation for the Americans with Disabilities Act in a Press Conference in October.

Awards Banquet update – scheduled for April 10, 2008

Tom T. indicated that efforts will be made by the awards committee to identify/contact past presidents of the MAMC, and previous award recipients and banquet sponsors to acknowledge contributions over the years.

It was noted that the format will change from a buffet-style dinner to a sit-down dinner for the next banquet and there has been dialogue about creating a PowerPoint to share pertinent information about the MAMC at the event.

Members are asked to identify nominees for the various awards and are encouraged to look at the different awards criteria on the MAMC website when making nominations www.fmareamayorscommittee.org.

C.O.P.P. update

Tom T. indicated the letter which notifies business owners of accessible parking noncompliance has not yet been approved by the City Attorney; therefore, letters have not yet been sent.

Other items:

- Tammy S. provided information/flyers about the Inclusion Ministry Network, which highlights an upcoming event for mothers of children with special needs on Saturday, October 6th. Contact Terry Lee at 701 636-5822 or at Terry.Lee@RRV.net for more information.
- Jeff A. encouraged the MAMC to consider printing posters from the Department of Labor website (referenced under Disability Awareness month in today's meeting minutes) to distribute to 100 area businesses. There was dialogue about the possibility of accessing *Posters by George* to distribute posters for \$100.00.
- Maria V. indicated that she's a member of the National Federation for the Blind and highlighted upcoming activities:
 - Awareness booth at NDSU (October 10th – tentative date)
 - Fundraiser – Spaghetti Feed (Date/time/place to be determined).
 - Awareness booth at West Acres on Halloween

Free lunch drawing – Jeannie Krull

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Erickson