

**Metro Area Mayor's Committee
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo
October 12, 2006**

Present: Paula Aalgaard, Vicky Bogart, Amanda McCarty, Tammy Stuart, Jeannie Krull, Magda Fitterer, Lillian Mulder, Kelly Duchscherer, Laura Eberhardt, Sean Clemens, MaryBeth Collier, Brenda Koppy, Kristin Lampe, Jo Nygard, Marisa Bengtson, Judy Siegle, Brenda Majerus, Mark Breitbach, Dan Mahli, Jen Erickson.

Co-chairs presiding: Tammy Stuart and Dan Mahli

September meeting minutes were approved by consensus and the agenda was modified to include a discussion about a new display for outreach/educational purposes.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Breitbach

Checking: \$6,015.45
GT grant: \$3,660.45
Savings: \$1,209.28
Total: \$10,885.18

No Deposits: 3rd quarter deposit from City of Fargo parking fines should be arriving shortly.

One application has been submitted for consideration for Grace Tveiten grant funding.

Speaker: Amanda McCarty

Amanda spoke on the topic of Shaken Baby Syndrome and shared her daughter's story of survival after being shaken in a daycare environment. She also shared information from a recent conference she attended and distributed handouts to the group. Amanda is an employee of Easter Seals. Amanda welcomed questions from attendees.

- Amanda noted that she was paired with a victim's advocate early after her daughter's injuries, and received more ongoing assistance from online support group(s). She indicated that physicians, initially, did not diagnose her daughter with Shaken Baby Syndrome, noting that persistence was required for further testing to be performed.
- She indicated that some states have passed legislation, including statewide mandates that high school students are educated about this issue.
- Amanda reported that she's in the process of becoming a 501C nonprofit organization and remains active in educating various groups in the state about Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- Amanda's daughter, Macie, has been selected as one of three children to be a poster child for various educational publications to increase awareness.
- The Shaken Baby Prevention Act was introduced in September – this mandate is intended to mandate education surrounding this issue in all schools/hospitals.

Amanda's contact information:

1431 Oak Manor Avenue #304
Fargo, ND 58103
701 212-0477

amccarty@cableone.net

Program Reports/Topics for discussion:

Jen E. distributed the proposed criteria for an award in education for consideration by the committee to recognize exemplary work in supporting students with disabilities while they work to attain educational goals. It was recommended that text be added to reflect various educational environments from which candidates could be selected to include PK-12, postsecondary, adult and community education. Dan M. moved that this award be instituted with recommended changes and Vicki provided the second. Motion passed.

Meeting minutes/website:

There was dialogue about the prospect of adding the MAMC monthly meeting minutes to the MAMC website to broaden accessibility to the public and/or to provide access to members who don't utilize an email account to receive minutes. This dialogue evolved into proposing that participating metro cities add a link to their city website that connects end users to the MAMC website. There was discussion about locating someone with web expertise to work with the committee to coordinate web links and possibly upload monthly meeting minutes to the site. Jo Nygard offered to explore this matter further and plans to connect with Dan M. to look at possible options. Jen E. will initiate contact with Heather Mitzel who works in public affairs with the City of Fargo to gather information related to uploading minutes to the site and to explore possible considerations.

C.O.P.P.S Program/Chamber of Commerce FM leadership proposal:

Tammy S. indicated that MAMC will likely be notified toward the end of November about whether or not the recent proposal has been accepted. If accepted, a team of business leaders would work on community education packets to distribute to business owners to inform them of parking regulations to increase compliance for accessible parking. There was dialogue about whether or not this education should reach city or state officials who might distribute literature to new business owners. It was noted that parking regulations are to be included in the ND Human Rights Act as another level of enforcement. It was also noted that personal stories or pictures may be effective in advancing awareness and encouraging positive change.

MAMC Display:

Tammy S. introduced the prospect of purchasing a new display to be used for education and outreach activities to build awareness about the efforts of the committee. Having a more portable display was also identified as being worthwhile to replace the existing unit. Tammy S. and Vicki B. plan to gather information about options to bring back to the committee.

Other announcements/items:

- MAMC sponsored a booth at the Diversity Expo. on October 3, 2006
- MSUM Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America had a notification in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, inviting readers to consider their group for service projects.
- An Inclusion Ministry Network is being formed, which is a collaborative faith effort to expand inclusiveness and address needs of persons with disabilities. Judy S. indicated that an informational meeting is being held at the Lost and Found Ministry at Noon on October 25th for those interested in attending.
- The ARC annual report has been published – call the ARC for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Erickson