

**Metro Area Mayors Committee
For People with Disabilities (MAMC)
Location: Fryn' Pan, Main Avenue, Fargo
October 11, 2007**

Present: Terry Romine, Paulette Ness, Brenda Majerus, Ellen Dunn, Tom Thompson, Jeff Anderson, Lisa Schornock, Keith Bjornson, Dan Mahli, Ramon Rezal, Mark Breitbach, Steve Pederson, Lillian Mulder, Tammy Stuart, Lori Johnson, Vicky Bogart, Terry Atherton, Mary C. Tintes, Kathy Circle, Andrea Lyons, Jen Erickson

Co-chairs presiding: Dan Mahli & Tammy Stuart

Tom T. made a motion to approve the minutes from September's meeting and Brenda M. provided the second. Motion passed.

Today's agenda was approved and a decision was made to table the dialogue about subcommittees until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Paulette Ness

Checking: \$3,731.53

GT grant: \$3,604.35

Savings: \$1,215.33

Total: \$8,551.21

Deposits: 0

There are no Grace Tveiten grant applications pending.

Speaker – Tammy Stuart (Job Service North Dakota)

Tammy shared information about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for job seekers with identifiable barriers to employment and distributed brochures for attending members. Tammy indicated that Job Service can partner with Vocational Rehabilitation to inform potential employers of the WOTC and its benefits. It was noted that the WOTC paperwork is only one page in length and very user-friendly to complete.

Tammy noted that Job Service provides skills training and on-the-job training for job seekers. They have CHOICES software (also known as BRIDGES), which contains various career modules. They offer short-term training for job seekers to develop skills in areas such as welding and nursing assistant work (CAN – Certified Nursing Assistant).

Job Service has a variety of assistive technology available for job seekers with disabilities. Some examples identified today include: Zoomtext (2 computers in

the resources area), Big Track Mouse, an Ubi Duo to communicate with individuals who are deaf, and ergonomic keyboards.

Program/Miscellaneous reports

MAMC will set up a booth at Business After Hours in honor of Disability Awareness Month. Tammy S. encouraged those who are working at the booth to meet briefly after the meeting today to determine a schedule.

Dan M. recommended that a couple of members from the MAMC get together, perhaps beginning in August of each year, to assist with planning disability awareness month events.

Awards Banquet

Tom T. passed around menus from the Ramada Plaza Suites for members to review and make suggestions for banquet entrées. Members provided input and it was agreed that Tom would work with this committee to finalize decisions related to the menu.

Tom provided an update pertaining to a recent meeting with a Forum representative(s), stating plans to have an insert in the Forum a week before the banquet to provide exposure related to disability awareness issues. 50+ organizations can advertise to support this effort and it is distributed to approximately 50,000 readers. The cost outside of advertising would be approximately \$2,000 and there may be an opportunity to share this cost with DBTAC. The Forum would conduct the research and write the articles for this insert.

There was also a review of awards that are recognized at the banquet and **Tom invited members to submit additional nominations**. Five nominations have been submitted, thus far.

Additional Items

- Tammy S. indicated that the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition is hosting their conference on October 19th and 20th.
- Brenda M. reported that the ARC annual meeting and awards banquet is on October 16th from 6-9 pm at the Ramada Plaza Suites.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Erickson

