

DISABILITY ISSUES

August 4, 2011

Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair
Cristin Farney, Devereux
Jeff Schwartz, Strategic Training Concepts
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

Hazel Lee Briggs, Ctr. For Indep. Living
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester
Theresa Rohlfling, Ctr. For Indep. Living

Members Absent

Joe Frattali, WIB Director
Dennis Cook, GCC
Joyce Feder, GC ACT
Jim Kneubuehl, Abilities Center
Susan Perron, Abilities Center
Mary Smith, DWD
John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral

Muncie Buckalew, St. John of God
Ed Green, DVRS
Ron Jones, Private
Jerry Knast, St. John of God
Ed Radolan, St. John of God
Joye Tillman, NJ Commission for Blind

Visitor

Scott Raynor, Strategic Training Concepts

Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

A motion to approve minutes from June 2, 2011 meeting was made.

Agency Updates

The Arc – Ana reported they have a staff person working with 6 individuals from GC ACT trying to find employment them. They have a small DDD funded supportive employment program and they are working with 9 individuals. They recently received a CARF (Counsel on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities) Accreditation for 3 years. This accreditation is a requirement of the Division of Developmental Disabilities for supportive employment. Ana provided a copy of their recent newsletter and announced they will hold a golf tournament fundraiser on September 28, 2011.

Devereux – Cristin reported their vocational program is growing. They have a new partnership with Johnson Matthey where a few consumers rotate in 2 hour shifts, 5 days a week. They also have recently signed on with a local pharmacy for sheltered employment opportunity. Devereux will be moving into a new vocational program building sometime in September.

Strategic Training Concepts - Jeff reported they have been successful in trying to get their programs out. One thing they found out on the for-profit side is the need for investigations and background checks for employers. They have identified some agencies are not up to par, some spend way too much money, etc. There are other ways to look at to protect an employer or client that can go a bit further and are cost effective. They have a program called Safer School Program where they visit school districts to educate parents, staff & students about intimate partner violence and bullying. They have a grant that has been renewed and they are one of two providers in the State in Emergency Preparedness Training for people with developmental disabilities who live in group homes and supervised apartments. Scott stated they have done some work dealing with the 'Unusual Incident Report' where there is a definite need. They announced the NJCDD Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day on September 3rd at Six Flags Great Adventure and also a Special Event at Sahara Sam's on Fridays – August 5, October 7, and December 2 for families with a loved one with a disability.

Center for Independent Living – Theresa reported she does PSA (promoting self advocacy) by visiting schools to individually teach kids 14-21 how to advocate for themselves. She holds a parent support group & the participation has been wonderful. She has several success stories. Dr. King asked for a report of her success stories.

Dr. King stated GCC still has concern how those with disability are being channeled in reference to access to educational opportunities and if the opportunities were being properly screened. Also the aspirations of some parents & teachers were not real for these individuals. GCC representative reported the process is in place to properly evaluate an individual with a disability to ascertain which track, however, the aspirations are still very unreal. Dr. King asked if the partners are utilizing the resource of The ACT (Adult Center for Transition). Dr. King stated a meeting should be set up with Dennis to see which school districts are not fully educated about ACT. Ana asked that she be included in the meeting. She stated there can be a difference with working with people with disabilities and people with developmental disabilities.

A motion for adjournment was made by Theresa, seconded by Ana.

The next meeting will held October 6, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff