



**Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness
Committee for Citizens with Disabilities**

Monday, October 8, 2012

Meeting Minutes

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| Board Members Present: | Lynette Fontenot, Mark Guillory, Rose Shuff, Donielle Watkins, Donna Andrus |
| Guests in Attendance: | Deborah Aymond, Teresa Elberson, Michelle Dewey, Buddy Bullen, Maria Yiannopoulos (LATAN) |
| Staff in Attendance: | Carlee Alm-LaBar |

1. Donielle Watkins called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes

- The September minutes were reviewed and accepted. Rose Shuff made the motion and Lynette Fontenot seconded, all in favor.

3. Correspondence

- There was no correspondence.

4. Old Business

- Accessibility to Lafayette Consolidated Government Buildings- Carlee Alm-LaBar and Donielle Watkins are going to meet to discuss further.
- Job Fair- Debbie Aymond provided the committee with an update on the upcoming Job Fair to be held on October 25, 2012, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Heymann Performing Arts & Convention Center (HPACC). Lafayette's Job Fair will begin with a 7:45 a.m. breakfast and currently has 58 employers registered.
- The Resource Fair will be held in conjunction. The committee will staff a booth.
- Awards Ceremony- The 2012 Awards Ceremony will be held on October 30th, at the Robicheaux Center. There will be winners in six categories. Brandon Burris or someone else from the Governor's Office will attend. The date for the state awards has not been set.
- Debra Aymond mentioned that a meeting with the Library representative to address the library services for the disabled issue should take place when Carlee is available to attend. She will coordinate with Carlee.

5. Guest Speaker

- Maria Yiannopoulos with LATAN (Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network) came from Baton Rouge to talk about the services LATAN provides. She is the PIO for LATAN. She discussed the following services LATAN provides:

- i. They have a device demonstration center in Baton Rouge where individuals can try out different assistive technology (AT) devices.
 - ii. They have a device loan program.
 - iii. They can do some limited travel and training throughout the state.
 - iv. They have a loan program where they can help people get the assistive equipment they may need.
 - v. She encouraged members to visit their website www.latan.org for more information.
 - vi. They also have an assistive technology marketplace (like ebay) to buy AT devices.
- Maria also promoted the state LATAN award to be held on December 10th at 11 a.m. in Baton Rouge at the State Archives.
 - Maria said that Suzy Stewart, the Assistive Technology Specialist in Shreveport, comes “south” a couple of times per month. Her contact information is (318)841-1548.
 - Maria also said that Representative Franklin Foil is working on legislation to support hiring of the disabled.
 - Committee members were reminded of the work opportunity tax credits and the OJT (on the job training) offered by the state.

6. New Business

- Teresa Elberson from the library talked about the services available in the library system for the disabled. They have some assistive technology and are going to work on displaying on their website what tools are available at each branch.
 - i. They have some limited homebound services available including books by mail and van delivery of books.
 - ii. The state library is the repository of read machines, but they do get them on loan.
- Debbie Aymond announced that one of the award nominators died in a car crash. His nominee will win one of the awards, and Debbie will contact the family to attend the ceremony.

7. Adjournment

- Donna Andrus moved to adjourn the meeting and Mark Guillory seconded. All in favor.
- The next meeting of the President’s Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for Monday November 12, 2012, at 11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Council Briefing Room on the first floor of City Hall. However, since that date is Veterans Day, the meeting will likely be rescheduled until Monday, November 19, 2012.