

California Department of Developmental Services
Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

Teleconference Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
1:30p.m.

Members Attended:

Tami Wasson (FDC), Chair
K.C. Adalco (LDC), Vice Chair
LaDonna J. Brown (HQ)
Kerri Gavin (SDC)
Ingrid Schonert (HQ)
Katharine Severson (HQ)
Jason Scott (HQ)

Guest:

Alice Lee (OHRAS-Support)
Kathleen Ozeroff (HQ)

Absent:

Nancy Britton (FDC) (*Excused absence*)
Nicole Patterson, OHRAS Liaison (HQ - Support)

Tami Wasson called the meeting to order at 1:34p.m.

Tami welcomed members to the meeting and asked that new appointed members introduce themselves. They were:

- Ingrid Schonert
- Jason Scott
- Katherine Severson

I. Approval of September 10, 2014, October 8, 2014 and December 10, 2014 Minutes

Motion was made by Alice Lee and seconded by Katharine Severson to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting with corrections. **Motion carried.**

Motion was made by LaDonna Ross and seconded by K.C. Adalco to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried**

October 8, 2014 Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

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II. Sub-Committee Reports

The Fragrances and Chemical Sensitivities article was posted on the DDS OASIS website several months ago. This topic is a large issue with employees. There is a global lack of conscientiousness that affects work productivity. A workgroup committee on this issue has come up, according to Kathleen with good ideas, of which some have been implemented.

Kathleen asked the members if DAC would like to form a Fragrances and Chemical Sensitivities sub-group. Most developmental center members said had not heard anything on this, but Kerri offered to check with her center's Health & Safety Office to see if there have been any reports. It was decided that this would be included as a new goal. It was discussed that perhaps some employees may not know who to report fragrance issues to, and that Health & Safety may not be the only source available. It was also noted that the fragrance intolerance problem is an enforcement issue, however those with disabilities are protected with a reasonable accommodation. The department can't have a policy, but DAC would have the challenge to research it (e.g. have notices in reserved conference rooms, **"Remember, this is a fragrance-free environment"**; have air purifiers in work cubicles and signage outside of cubicle areas).

ACTION: Kathleen suggested that DAC begin plans for Fragrances and Chemical Sensitivities sub-group begin in March. Bylaws Article IX-Subcommittee, page 9, Sections I & II. Kathleen is being a part of the sub-group and appointed K.C. as coordinator.

ACTION: Kerri will send a note to Sonoma DC's ED regarding the fragrance issue with the inquiries of WHERE are fragrance sensitivity violations reported to and WHO are they handled by? When she receives a response, she will notify DAC.

Fragrance & Chemical Sensitivities Sub-Committee members established are:
K.C. Adalco, Coordinator
Katharine Severson
Tami Wasson
Kathleen Ozeroff

III. Old Business

Changes to the bylaws are to be submitted to Nicole. Kathleen directed members to the most recent changes to bylaws. **ACTION:** Tami will give time for more review and submission.

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IV. New Business

State Disability Advisory Council (SDAC) (Alice Lee) :There was nothing to report about (SDAC), according to Alice Lee. The members were reminded that Alice is not eligible to be the official SDAC Representative. Alice explained what SDAC is and how often they meet. Tami asked that HQ accompany Alice to the next meeting. **ACTION:** Alice will send out an email invitation to HQ to attend the SDAC meeting.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITING (Kathleen Ozeroff): New member representation is needed for Porterville DC and Canyon Springs Community Center. The bylaws are now revised so that each DC's reasonable accommodation coordinator is an official member of DAC.

GOALS FOR 2015: Tami asked that the list of goals with the notations of which goals were met be sent to each member. **ACTION:** LaDonna assigned this task.

National Disability Employee Awareness Month (NDEAM) was discussed so that members can start thinking about larger activity plans for October 2015 with sister departments. Our DDS system is big on this according to Kathleen. Vendor choices are good. It was noted that DDS Director, Santi Rogers is big on this and would like it. Kerri asked if this event would be funded or volunteer only? Kathleen suggested that there should be partnership with other agencies. Kerri said she will bring this top up to Sonoma DC's Health and Wellness contact. Alice offered to contact DSS and DSH regarding NDEAM.

Kathleen reminded members that March is National Disability Awareness Month. Tami said she would like to work on an article or blurb on this.

ACTION: Kathleen said she will put out the Disability Survey this month.

K.C. asked if there were any plans to recognize the 25th Anniversary of ADA (July 26, 2015). He was reminded that DDS has plans for their annual ADA celebration in July.

ACTION: LaDonna will discuss with DAC Chair regarding meeting this year with DDS Social Planning Committee for ADA Celebration DAC game/activity planning.

Open Agenda

According to Kathleen, the Department of Rehabilitation has a coalition to have a big event (NDEAM). She will keep DAC members informed. There are trainings and a

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variety of other things that are coming up for ADA this year. Oakland, California (Alameda County) has a large conference in October, but not sure if DAC can attend. Discussions will be held at a later date.

Tami noted that the DAC website needs updating.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31p.m.

Next Meeting March 11, 2015

Respectfully Submitted:

LaDonna J. Ross
Secretary