



Committee for Persons with Disabilities  
Serving as  
Prince William County  
Disability Services Board

MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 1, 2009

Location: Development Services Building, Room 107A/B

Recorder: Linda Moore

**Board Members Attending:** -

Karen Smith, Dumfries, Chairperson

Paul Weisenberger, Jr., Coles, Vice Chairperson

Barbara Diehl, At-Large

Phyllis Aggrey, HRC

Betty J. Varner, Neabsco District

Nona Bond, Business Community Rep

Janice Bouie, Woodbridge District

Steve McMillen, DRS

Roberta McEachen, Alternate Dumfries

Cathleen McNeal, Alternate Coles District

Linda Moore, Support Staff

**Board Members Not In Attendance:**

Mel Padgett, Alternate Gainesville

Patricia Wink, Occoquan

Ashley Cavossa, Gainesville District

**Others In Attendance:**

Susan Moriarty

- I. Call to Order 7:00PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Introduction
- IV. Citizens Time
- V. Review Minutes of October 6, 2009 meeting. Motion P.  
Weisenberger, Jr/Seconded B. Varner
- VI. Presentations: N/A

## VII. Old Business

- A. Impediments to Access the Ferlazzo Building – Although the Ferlazzo Building meets current ADA guidelines, the Human Rights Commission has addressed the complaints made by the DSB and the following adjustments have been made.
1. Signage is in the front area of the parking lot indicating that Handicapped parking is available.
  2. Signage place at the right side of the entrance indicating additional handicapped parking is available at the far north side of the building
  3. Automatic door open nearest to the handicapped spaces on the far north side will be activated for both entry and leaving the building.
  4. A sign will be placed at the door indicating the hours the door will be accessible.
  5. An Auditorium directional sign will be placed inside the building near the ramp beside the Social Services Department to aid in guiding people to the auditorium.

McCoart Building – Also address were concerns about access of the bathrooms through the double set of doors in the front area of the McCoart building for persons who use walkers and canes. The DSB has been notified that there are new bathrooms in the rear of the McCoart building that can be used by those with a disability. These bathrooms are in close proximity to the new conference rooms. The DSB will be notified when this area becomes available. There will be signage in the Atrium that will aid in directing staff and citizens to this area of the building.

- B. Update DRS Employment Awareness Grant
1. The DSB will have to submit a “Staff Report to the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) before funds can be accepted from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) for the Employment Grant. The “Staff Report” will be put on the DSS meeting agenda for December 15, 2009.

2. The DSB has been notified that there are additional funds available from DRS for the Employment Grant. The DSB has applied for an additional \$4,000 to expand their current projects. These funds will be used to add additional information to the “Train the Trainer” manual and to develop a Job Seekers manual that will be used by DRS caseworkers and their clients. The additional funds will also be used to host a “Disability Awareness Day Event”. The DSB will target local government department heads to volunteer for this event. This event is aimed to heighten awareness and to focus on the challenges that people with disabilities face when trying to obtain employment.
  3. The DSB will contact Eastlake Derry & Associates, to confirm a date for the countywide ADA workshop. This workshop will be open to local government, non-profits, restaurant owners and businesses within Prince William County. Eastlake Derry is a consulting firm that interpret the ADA (and it’s implementing regulations) on behalf of the federal government, and is a nationally-known presenter on accessibility.
  4. The DSB will give a brief presentation to the PWC Management Staff to inform them about the purpose of the “Employment Grant”, how they can assist and what the DSB wants to accomplish.
- C. Virginia Association of Disability Services Board (VADSB) Steering Committee Statewide Symposium – The VADSB is a committee comprised of statewide DSBs that have come together to support and promote statewide collaboration among DSBs for the development of effective and sustainable funding strategies, to provide mutual assistance, to exchange ideas and to otherwise promote awareness of the DSBs. The VADSB Statewide Symposium was held on December 1, 2009 in Richmond, Virginia. The guest speakers for the symposium were Commissioner James Rothrock, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative (DRS) and Joan Manley, Ms Wheelchair Virginia. There were representatives from each DSB and the topics discussed were funding, mission of the DSB’s,

suspension of state mandate, housing and transportation and the Employment and Local Government Awareness Grant.

- D. The DSB has established the following Goals for FY 2010
- 1) Launch employment campaign with local government for people with disabilities
  - 2) Develop and make available for public comment a tri-annual needs assessment survey of local needs and priorities.
  - 3) Utilize media coverage to promote public awareness of disability issues to community and local government
  - 4) Serve as Advisory Group to BOCS
  - 5) Develop a sub-committee to support the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee. This sub-committee will conduct outreach and education to the disabled community and provide information on tools available to promote a complete count in this population.

#### VIII. New Business

- A. Disability Awareness Event – The DSB and the Human Rights Commission will host a Disability Awareness Day. The DSB will solicit volunteers for this event - preferably department heads. These volunteers will be prepped with a disability that will give them a physical limitation. Information gained from this event will ultimately play a role to help person with disabilities overcome existing barriers and to address challenges they face when trying to obtain employment within local government. The tentative date for this event is scheduled for either April or May 2010.
- B. DSB Budget – The DSB voted to replenish their marketing products. These products are used to promote awareness of the DSB and will be used at various events throughout the county.
- C. PWC Complete County Committee - The DSB has agreed to establish a sub-committee to assist with the Census report. Phyllis Aggrey will notify the DSB when the committee has been established.

#### IX. Administrative Update

- A. DSB website is being update to include member profiles, resource guide, frequently requested links, etc.
- B. Linda Moore Administrative Coordinator for the DSB attended a Disability Advocates meeting held at the Sudley

North Government Center. The attendee's of this event were from the Social Security Administration (SSA), Service Source, the VA Access, and the Business Leadership Network. This meeting was held to bring about communication among disability advocates in Northern Virginia.

- C. The Northern Virginia Eye Surgery Center at 2710 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia offers free cataract surgery to those in the community who may need financial assistance and are not already covered by insurance. They would like for the DSB to help them locate those in need. Their telephone number is 703 289-1290.
  - D. A complaint was forwarded to the DSB by Supervisor John Jenkins about a constituent and PRTC. The letter of concern has been forwarded to the Human Rights Commission for followup.
  - E. Housing Assistance funds are available through Acts, Serve, B.A.R.N and Catholic Charities.
- X. Members Time.
- A. Barbara Diehl – Reported that LensCrafters has a Gifted Sight Program. It is a family of charitable programs dedicated to improving vision for those in need through outreach, research and education. Through OneSight, their employees (along with doctors of optometry) hand-deliver eye care and eye wear worldwide through Global Eye Care Clinics and here at home, through Regional Eye Care, Vision Van Clinics and through in-store programs. LensCrafters is located at both Potomac Mills and the Manassas Mall. If you are income eligible [www.LensCrafters.com](http://www.LensCrafters.com) they will provide an eye examination and glasses.
  - B. Paul Weisenberger will attend a Social Security Insurance (SSI) workshop given by Virginia Access. This is a free class for anyone who is interested in SSI. He is taking this class so that he can help educate others about SSI and their benefits. He recommends this workshop for seniors, groups like the Arc, and parents. The workshop is scheduled for February. For more information visit their website at [www.vaaccess.org](http://www.vaaccess.org)
  - C. Janice Bouie - She is excited about the new agenda for 2010.
  - D. Phyllis Aggrey – The Human Rights Commission is now a

certified fair housing Continuing Education Agency. They will be sending out information to inform local real-estate agencies and others that continuing education class can be done through her agency - HRC.

- E. Cathy McNeal – The Health Department on Prince William Parkway in Woodbridge is not wheelchair accessible. The HRC will follow to make sure they are within ADA compliance. Also, the I-Hop on Hoadly Road has two sets of double doors which makes it extremely difficult to enter into their establishment.
- F. Betty Varner – She has been given an overview of the new ADA law through her place of employment.
- G. Steve McMillen – There will be a Grand Opening of the new Workforce Center (One Stop) on Monday December 14, 2009. It is located on Minnieville Road in Woodbridge at the Virginia Employment Commission building. The One Stop concept is to ensure that customers receive efficient and effective service. The center will serve both businesses and jobseekers. There will be several partners located at the center - DRS, Northern Virginia Community College, Adult Education, DSS, PWCS, and Job Corp.
- H. Nona Bond – Alerted the board that the ladies restroom at Panera Breads on Prince William Parkway are not accessible.
- I. Barbara Diehl – There have been several complaints about the elevators in the Development Services Building. Roberta McEachern the alternate for the Dumfries District has been invited to join the Adult Supported Services Group. Roberta specializes in Medicaid Wavers. This group is facilitated by Barbara Diehl. This group also plan to equip Potomac Hospital and Prince William Hospital with discharge planners.
- J. Roberta McEachern – She will be traveling back and forth to Richmond, Virginia once a month to monitor any Medicaid changes.
- K. Karen Smith – She would like to thank everyone who helped out at the Circle of Support Conference in November. The conference was a success and there were over 800 people in attendance. The Health Department was very helpful in

helping the Arc sit up its H1N1Center and she advises everyone to get the shot.

Karen also attended the Arc's National Convention held in Pittsburg, PA. One of the guest speakers at the convention was the Director of the SSA. He told the conference attendees that the SSA executed a mass hiring of eligibility workers across the nation. Because of this mass hiring, the appeals process is only 2-3 months. This is a huge accomplishment for SSA.

XI. Adjournment: 9:00pm