



Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board

Disability Access Committee (DAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 17, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Cynthia Whalen, Chad Pratz, Joy Szewczyk, Erika Clark, Travis Robinson, Maria Gonzales, James Stout, and Eva Castillo

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Miranda Swafford, Executive Director, and Mandy Tripp, Compliance Officer

One-stop Operator: Nick Clayton

Equus Staff: Shannon Weaver, Operations Manager Taylor Longstreth, Operations Manager

Guest: none

CALL TO ORDER

Whalen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

QUORUM

The committee had a quorum to conduct business.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included approval of the agenda and previous meeting minutes, Stout made a motion to approve the agenda items, seconded by Clark, and the motion carried.

DISABILITY ACCESS CAMPAIGN

After much discussion, it was decided to utilize the windmills training and develop a survey to use at the QC Success Fair on August 14 to gauge what employers need in regard to assistance with disability services. Clark advised she could send through some questions by Friday, July 21 to the group. Stout, Clark, Whalen, Tripp, Pratz, and Clayton will meet next week to review questions and come up with a short survey for employers and then determine how to distribute it best at the success fair. Whalen volunteered to come assist at the success fair and a board staff will also be onsite to assist with speaking with employers. Weaver suggested a postcard with a QR code to link to an online survey option. Stout advised the best time would be from 11:30-12 p.m. to have the employer's direct attention.

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Whalen asked if anyone had any ideas on bringing awareness, she suggested success stories and employer spotlights if they are willing. Tripp advised those were very popular on social media in March with Women in the Workplace.

OCTOBER INSERVICE

Whalen advised she had sent the information to Randy Turner from Texas Disability Rights, who did a presentation at the ADA Conference on Disability Disclosure, Randy is willing to do a virtual presentation and that information was forwarded to Clayton.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/ELECTIONS

Tripp reviewed the committee membership and the time of the meetings. Clark made a motion to keep Whalen as the chairman and Pratz as the vice chair, seconded by Stout, and the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Whalen advised the Virtual Lobby training as presented on June 30, 2023. Weaver advised the virtual lobby had a lot of very interesting apps including one called “be my eyes” which allowed people to volunteer to be an assister or sign up to be a user and if they need help, they send a message through the app and someone who was an assister can take the call and help out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Castillo advised Hope Haven was awarded ARPA dollars to use towards a resource fair for assistive technology. She did not have a firm date yet but advised the money has to be spent by March 2024.

ADJOURNED

Clark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Szewczyk, the motion carried, and Whalen adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.