

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Friday, July 15, 2011
BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY Downstairs
3:30 PM**

Commission Members Present: Laura Grunfeld Interim Chair
Dave Wells [with the assistance of Nan Wells] (clerk)
Claudia Martin

Visitors: Peggy Harner, Adrienne Brown, Theresa, Christine Sierau, her mother, Stephen Posey, Campbell Ingersol ... and 5 others

Interim Chair Grunfeld called the C.O.D. meeting open at 3:30 PM.

THE MEETING OPENED WITH THIS MONTH'S C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES, "REACHING FOR NEW HORIZONS:" Adrienne Brown, Program Co-ordinator for Community Access to the Arts (CATA) and Theresa opened this month's speaker series with a presentation of the offerings and scope of CATA here in the Berkshires and Columbia County. The second speaker for this C.O.D. meeting was Peggy Harner, Special Olympics Volunteer for Berkshire County, who shared with us some of the many opportunities available through the Special Olympics programs for those with disabilities. The last presenter this afternoon was Christine Sierau, Head Instructor for Blue Rider Stables, Inc., who described an exciting therapeutic horseback riding program located in South Egremont, MA. Christine told us that all their animals are rescued from abusive situations. These three presenters provided the C.O.D. and visitors with an hour and a half program.

Light refreshments were served.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for June 17, 2011 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Grunfeld, and unanimously approved as written.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUED: The Commission continues to feel that sponsoring quality speakers as part of our monthly C.O.D. meetings is beneficial.

Good programs take time to build a following. Suggestions for organizations/topics we might tap in the coming months were: Special Education Options for those in South County and asking Mt. Everett S.P.E.D. [Andrew Rapport and Sandi Hubbard]; Kolburne, Brookside/Eagleton, and Hillcrest for our October meeting; End of Life Care (Pediatric Palliative) and asking Hillcrest and Hospice for November; Dr. Bronstein [chiropractor] and Option Institute for December. Wells was asked to follow up on these suggestions and put together speakers for these categories and months.

VIDEO TAPING OUR SPEAKER SERIES WAS DISCUSSED: Grunfeld was asked to proceed with finding out if we could have our Speaker Series taped for later showing.

BERKSHIRE SENIOR BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY ELDER SERVICES: Martin was asked to get our C.O.D. Speaker Series put on the Elder Services Berkshire Senior Bulletin.

RADIO INTERVIEWS WERE DISCUSSED:

CONSIDER ASKING VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE (VIM) and THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM (CHP) of BERKSHIRE COUNTY FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING: Wells was asked to proceed with asking Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) and CHP if they would send a presenter to be the Speakers for our C.O.D. September 16, 2011 meeting. The program should emphasize low cost health care for those in South County.

C.O.D. MEETINGS IN THE LIBRARY FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE: Grunfeld was asked to speak to Nancy Hahn regarding whether the C.O.D. could meet at its usual time and place in the library for our September and October meetings. If not other arrangements will have to be considered.

OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE: August 19, 2011 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Bushnell-Sage Library

AGENDA:

1. Speaker Program ... "**Assistive Technology for help with Sensory Deficits**"
Presenter will be Dawn Matthews from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
2. Reports
3. Speaker Series continuing evaluation
4. Other business

Wells moved to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Martin, and unanimously so approved.

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk

Commission on Disabilities' Minutes
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