

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
Friday, September 16, 2011  
Sheffield Town Hall Downstairs  
3:30 PM**

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

Visitors: CHP Presenter, Bryan Ayars, CEO of CHP  
VIM Presenter, Dr. Jeff Blake, Co-Medical Director  
Mary Martin, Nancy Perry, Gail Mullen, Dorothy Weaver

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, "Low Cost Health Care Options in South County":** Bryan Ayars, CEO of the Community Health Program, representing CHP, opened this month's Speaker Series followed by Dr. Jeff Blake, Co-Medical Director of Volunteers in Medicine representing VIM. Each explained many medical options for those in South County. Both Ayars and Blake shared much information regarding both of their programs and much was learned from both presenters.

Light refreshments were served.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the Commission on Disabilities for August 19, 2011 were moved to be approved by Martin, seconded by Perry, and unanimously approved as written.

**DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF THE C.O.D. SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUED:** Martin reminded the C.O.D. that the C.O.D. Speaker topics picked for the Senior Center audience would need to be pertinent to seniors. Much discussion followed and culminated with a motion made by Perry that Dawn Matthews of United Cerebral Palsy would be a perfect choice for the 1<sup>st</sup> C.O.D. Speaker at the Senior Center's 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday of the month luncheon in January 2012. Martin seconded the motion and it was unanimously so approved.

**C.O.D. WILL CONTINUE TO MEET ON THE 3RD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH:**

Grunfeld moved that the primary C.O.D. meeting location would be the Bushnell-Sage Library and as an alternative second choice would be the Sheffield Town Hall. Perry seconded the motion, and it was unanimously so approved.

**GAIL MULLENS WAS INTRODUCED AS A POTENTIAL NEW C.O.D. MEMBER:**

Mullens was welcomed and encouraged to join the Commission. She shared a bit of her background and why she was interested in becoming a member. The Commission, in return, did the same.

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONS PLAN ACCESSIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FOR TOWN PARK:** Discussion followed regarding accessibility issues at the Town Fair/Town Park which included parking issues, pavilion accessibility, restrooms, and playground. Grunfeld asked the Commission if the Commission would endorse her letter to the Town Administrator and the Sheffield Selectmen regarding her recommendations to be included in the "Open Space and Recreation Plan." It was moved by Perry that the Commission endorse Grunfeld's letter, seconded by Wells and unanimously so approved.

**PUBLIC MEETING ACCOMODATIONS:** Grunfeld shared with the Commission that she had discussed with Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard how the residents of Sheffield could be made aware that assistive technology could be borrowed for Town events given a prior two week window. The outcome of her discussion with LaBombard was the Commission could design a flyer for posting. Perry moved that the Commission design and post informational flyers, seconded by Martin and unanimously approved Wells volunteered to design the informational FLYER that would be posted at all Town events and other Town locations.

**OCTOBER SPEAKER SERIES:** Much discussion was entertained as to theme, direction, and organizations that would be asked to be presenters at the October 21, 2011 C.O.D. Meeting Speaker Series. It was moved by Perry and seconded by Wells that Grunfeld, Wells, and Martin would continue to set up the October program.

**NEXT SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTERS FOR OCTOBER WILL BE FORTHCOMING:**

**A REMINDER TO ALL THAT THE C.O.D. MEETING FOR OCTOBER WOULD BE HELD IN THE SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM:**

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE:** October 21, 2011 at 3:30 PM at the Sheffield Town Hall, downstairs meeting room.

**AGENDA:**

1. Speaker Program ... **"A Sampling of Therapeutic Residential Special Education Programs in South County"**

Presenters will be Kathy Green, Director of Day Services from Berkshire Meadows, Tim Gallagher from Hillcrest Education Centers, and Jonathan Hirsch, Co-Clinical Director from Kolburne Therapeutic Communities.

2. Reports

3. Speaker Series continuing evaluation:

- a.) our next topic and suggestions for speakers for April 2012 Speaker Series
- b.) audience/location for the presentation
- c.) discussion and follow up vote regarding whether to disengage the Speaker Series as the opener to our C.O.D. meetings

4. Other business as necessary.

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

Grunfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Wells [assisted by Nan Wells] Clerk