

WEST HOLLYWOOD COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

MEETING SUMMARY

JULY 8, 1993

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michealjohn Horne
Louise Mebane
Jane LaRue
Z Zimmermann

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Carmen Apelgren
Renaee Dean
Deirdre Hays
Bill Stirrup

STAFF:

Perri Sloane
Gregg Bruschaber
Vivian Sauer

VISITORS: Public Comment

Marianna Slaten

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm in the Community Conference Room located in City Hall, 8615 Santa Monica Boulevard.

II. PRIOR MEETING SUMMARY:

The meeting summary of June 10, 1993, was reviewed.

III. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Gregg Bruschaber announced to the committee that Will Scoles has resigned as an agency representative on the committee. Mr. Scoles stated in his letter to the committee that due to employment responsibilities he is unable to give sufficient time to the committee. Carmen Apelgren, Bill Stirrup and Renaee Dean are not able to attend this meeting.

IV. ADA -CITY UPDATE:

During the June public comments focus, the issue of providing community information to persons with visual impairments or other impairments which do not allow the person to benefit from written information was discussed. The proposed solution for this barrier, was to provide an "InfoLine" via the telephone. The InfoLine concept has been discussed with the City staff in the Communications Department, and plans are being made to implement this service.

V. COMMITTEE OUTREACH:

Michaeljohn Horne, Jane LaRue, Z Zimmermann and Bill Stirrup have met informally to discuss outreach plans for the committee. Previous discussion of producing a cable program to highlight awareness of barriers to access in West Hollywood, was continued. One recommendation discussed, centered on involving the City Council Members in an experiential situation of assuming a disability. Ms. LaRue has also scheduled time with Channel 36 on August 29, 1993. This time can be used for a "Talk Show" discussion format and include audience participation. Perri Sloane stated that she would discuss the issue with Helen Goss, Public Information Office, to obtain City support of the venture. Public Service Announcements (PSA's) were also discussed as an option. A small series could be produced and broadcast at various times.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

Z Zimmermann brought to the attention of the committee that the West Hollywood CityLine is very difficult to board by persons with disabilities not using the wheelchair lift. Other people present shared Z's observation.

VI. BREAK:**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The public comment session focused on mental health services and persons with psychiatric impairments. Marianna Slaten owner/operator of the Martel Board and Care, was present for the discussion.

- Martel Board and Care is located in the City of West Hollywood and has been providing board and care services in the same location for more than 20 years. The client population served has remained constant. The Martel Board and Care provides full residential services to 24 persons. Funding for services is provided through fees/rent and Los Angeles County Mental Health. Currently, the residents range in age from late 20's to 70's.

- Ms. Slaten identified that approximately 30% of the residents have a goal of moving on to independent living situations. Problems that face residents when considering moving to an independent setting are: fear of loneliness, not taking medications, not maintaining an appropriate diet, and money management.
- Ms. Slaten responded to the question of "Are there any barriers the residents face in the community?" The response detailed that the biggest barrier is the public's misunderstanding of mental illness. The residents have a history of abuse/harrassment by the police/sheriff. When the person is not able to readily respond to questions, that person is often removed to a jail/holding facility. Routinely, the residents are placed in disadvantaged positions "by the homeless people [sic] on the streets, they steal money, cigarettes, and sometimes physically hurt my [sic] residents."
- A very significant problem identified in this discussion is the lack of day programing in vocational rehabilitation services. Until recently, a sheltered workshop had been available, but is now closed. Barriers in employment is the greatest challenge to the residents at present, as reported by Ms. Slaten.
- Ms. Slaten reported another difficulty she faces in working with the City. The board and care was operational before the City was incorporated, and satisfying all requirements of the Department of Public Social Service, Community Care Licensing Division as well as the City and County of Los Angeles. Ms. Slaten stated that she has received no cooperation and frequent barriers to continue operating in the City. Ms. Slaten went on to relay examples of the obstacles she has faced with Community Development, the Planning Commission, and the Council.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until August 12, 1993, at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by: G. Brushaber

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

July 8, 1993

COMMITTEE:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Rena Dean _____

Deirdre Hays _____

Jane LaRue _____

Bill Stirrup _____

Z Zimmerman _____

Cane LaRue

Z. Zimmerman

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Carmen Appelgren _____

Louise Mebane _____

Louise Mebane

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE:

CHAIRPERSONS:

Michaeljohn Horne _____

Michaeljohn Horne

SUPPORT STAFF:

Jodi Curlee _____

Perri Sloane _____

Gregg Brushaber _____

Vivian Sauer _____

Perri Sloane

Gregg Brushaber

Vivian Sauer

OTHER PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE:

Marianna Staten
