

Town of Greenwich

First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2018

9:15 a.m.

Department of Human Services Conference Room

The meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m.

In attendance: Alan Gunzburg, Co-Chair, Paul Morell, Co-Chair, Michael Beloff, James Heavey, Joe Roberto, Alan Barry, Lise Jameson, Pete Kurpeawski, Jodi Couture, Joe Dowling, Brita Daraney von Regensburg, Joe Siciliano

Guest speaker: Linda Autore, Laurel House

Approval of Minutes:

Two changes were submitted: Joe Siciliano and Al Monelli were in attendance at the September 10 meeting.

Motion was made to accept minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting, passed unanimously.

Laurel House

Linda Autore described Laurel House programs as non-discriminatory treatment of people with a mental health disability. The emphasis of the organization is on mental health and recognizing serious mental health illness and connecting clients to supportive services. Laurel House encompasses rehabilitation services (which includes workshops, therapeutic sessions, self-advocacy) together with supported education, supported employment and supportive housing. Population served is 16 years of age and older. Clients may have both a mental illness and substance use disorder syndrome. Funding is 50 % public (Dept. of Mental Health, HUD etc.) and 50 % privately funded.

ADA Compliance Updates

Dangerous vegetation blocking walkways have largely been remediated by town services who have been responsive to the identified needs. Individual driveways remain dangerous but are out of the town's jurisdiction. CAPP officers are very helpful (Community and Police Partnerships)

Joe Dowling reported:

- The sidewalks building and repair in Old Greenwich are nearly complete
- The opening of Bush Holley House, despite the major renovation, continues to have access issues with doors not automated and too heavy to be easily opened. Although the upper parking lot was built for zero entry, the handicap parking designation were blocked on a particular day and designed narrowly which may hinder those individuals in a van using a ramp system. Conversations continue.

Brita Darany von Regensburg described a new gardening project located at Fairgate Farm in Stamford and supported by a grant from Greenwich Academy. The purpose is to introduce gardening to intellectually disabled people who would benefit from the community aspect of growing a garden and

from hands on learning. This project is at the beginning stages and they look to hire a manager for the project.

Abilis Project Search

Abilis is recruiting 12 people with developmental disabilities to partner with Greenwich Hospital to teach work skills. These individuals do not necessarily have to be affiliated with DDS.

New Business:

No new business.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place Monday, January 14, 2019 at 9:15am.

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