



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
(09, August, 2010)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 09, August, 2010 at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Norman Kieke called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Norman Kieke, Chip Howe, Kathy Kasprisin, Jesus Lardizabal, George Luc, Ron Lucey, Tanya Winters

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Tanya Winters to approve the July 12, 2010 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner George Luc. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. **OLD BUSINESS-** There was no old business to discuss at the August 09, 2010 Meeting of the AMCPD.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Presentation:** Dr TJ Miller Emergency Medicine Physician and Director of Clinical Research and Dr Alex Valdacka Chief of Neurotrauma at Seton Brain and Spinal Institute, Protect III and Erythropoietin (EPO) Research and Experimental Clinical Treatment at University Medical Center Brackenridge.
 - Background
 - Normally to be included in a study, a person must give consent to researchers. However, victims of traumatic brain injury (TBI) need assistance right away and may not be able to give consent right away.
 - In those cases an Exemption From Informed Consent (EFIC) can be issued to allow a person to participate in a research study without giving their formal consent.
 - There are several drugs available through clinical study that can help victims of brain injury, but in order to be effective they must be administered within 4 hours of the time when the injury occurred. Two kinds of drugs under clinical trial include Protect III and EPO.
 - **Research**
 - The research studies attempts to gauge the effectiveness of EPO and Protect III in reducing the amount of damage caused to a victim's brain as a result of a TBI.
 - Trauma patients are chosen at random to participate in the EPO or Protect III study. Participants will then receive one of the two drugs being tested via a medical drip IV within one hour of hospital admission. Once a legal authorized representative (LAR) is located than he or she will be asked to give consent for the patient to continue the study. If the LAR refuses consent than the administering of EPO or Protect III will be stopped.

- EPO-Hematopoietic growth factor produced in the kidneys stimulates production for red blood cells (RBC). One of the factors of anemia in trauma patients that causes brain damage is the blunted EPO response to low Hemoglobin concentrations caused by a TBI, resulting in the need for a blood transfusion due to RBC loss.
- Lab research has shown that EPO can reduce brain contusion, reduce neuronal loss in the Hippocampus, and improved the neurological outcome and mortality in cases where the patient has suffered a TBI.
- Progesterone (Protect III) has been shown to be safe in small studies and shown to possibly decrease the effects of a TBI.
- Risks – There are risks to both options to include risks from administering EPO include Hypertension, and Thrombotic Events (TE blood clotting in various forms) in rare cases the most serious TE, a pulmonary embolism, leading to a serious medical emergency or even death. Possible risks from Protect III may be an increase in the risks for blood clots, the increase in the production of liver enzymes, and the risk of infection increasing.
- Other side effects may be present that are unknown to this research study.
- Participants in either studies will be TBI patients age 18 and over that can start either medicine within 4 hours of the TBI.
- Participants progress will be measured for up to 6 months, the actual research will be scheduled to be completed in five years. There is controlled oversight and safety monitoring for all participants in the studies.
- **Funding and Feedback**
 - Funding for the Protect III and EPO research is being provided by the National Institute of Health and Department of Defense.
 - Neither of these studies have been started in the community, as feedback from this public forum, as well as others, are needed in order for organizers to decide whether or not these studies will take place.
 - Public feedback will be considered by the researchers and study team when deciding whether or not this study will be conducted locally.
 - For information regarding the EPO study visit <http://www.bcm.edu/neurosurgery/?pmid=5809> or call voice 512-610-0370
 - For information regarding the Protect III study contact Ben King Research Coordinator at voice 512-610-0370, email ProTECT@researchHPCR.com or visit protectiii.com
- b. **Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to approve the changes made to the AMCPD Bylaws, bringing them into compliance with new Boards and Commission rules, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin and approved unanimously by all.
- c. **Motion:** A motion to elect the new AMCPD officers for the 2010-2011 term by acclamation was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey and approved unanimously by all.
- d. **Subcommittee Reports:**
 - Access/Youth Subcommittee – Subcommittee Chair Tanya Winters
 - The Austin Access Awards were held on July 29, Commissioner Tanya Winters received follow up calls from non-winners following up on their letters identifying deficiencies; it would be a good idea to send those that responded nomination forms for 2011 Access Awards and encourage self nominations. Tanya reminds everyone that the nomination form is up year-round.

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- Commissioner Ron Lucey discussed the upcoming public meetings that Capital Metro will be holding to discuss the changes to Metro Access. Commissioner Lucey encouraged the public to voice their concerns and to have Capital Metro explore service reductions to other areas rather than Metro Access services.
 - Commissioner Tanya Winters will attend the August 23 Public Meeting - Changes to Metro Access
 - Commissioner Chip Howe reported that changes to Metro Access will significantly affect the public and urged consumers to voice their concerns by going online to submit feedback to Cap Metro.
 - The subcommittee will get a report from Boone Blocker at the September meeting regarding the approved bond package, which is up for a Council vote in November.
 - Commissioner Tanya Winters will be attending The Youth Leadership Forum at St Eds Campus.
 - Commissioner George Luc will be making contact to increase scholarship applications.
- Awards/Employment Subcommittee –Subcommittee Chair Ron Lucey
- Subcommittee Chair Ron Lucey would like to thank all subcommittee members for their participation in the Awards/Employment Subcommittee planning meeting.
 - Chair, Norman Kieke congratulated Commissioner Ron Lucey for spearheading a successful 20th Anniversary ADA Conference event hosted by The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
 - The nomination forms for the AMCPD Employment Awards is now available to the public online. www.ci.austin.tx.us/ada/amcpd
 - The bid for the location for this year's ceremony has been submitted.
 - The AMCPD will be taking award nominations until the deadline October 1, 2010.
 - Other awards to consider for nominations are: The Distinguished Service Award, Media Award and the Martha Arbuckel Meritorious Award.
 - Self Nominations are encouraged.
 - Nominations can be taken over the phone at 974-3256 or 377-0577.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:** motions for the August 9, 2010 AMCPD Meeting included:
- a. Motion to approve changes to AMCPD Bylaws made by Commissioner Ron Lucey and seconded by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin
 - b. Motion to elect AMCPD officers by acclamation for the 2010-2012 term was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin and seconded by Commissioner Ron Lucey.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no citizen hearings were held during the August 09, 2010 AMCPD Meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** August 09, 2010 AMCPD Meeting includes:
- a. Jacqueline De Los Santos provides transportation for people with disabilities through La Fleur Transportation
 - Currently she works with Amerigroup, The Cancer Institute, DARS, and DADS -The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.
 - Ms. De Los Santos works with both people with ambulatory difficulties and also with persons in wheelchairs, in non-medical emergency transportation.
 - She has some small “green buses,” works in the rural area and has 20 years of experience in transporting people with disabilities.
 - Her company is for profit and uses “JARC” funding, private pay, and providers

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- Transportation rates are based on the customer location and destination, and rates can inclusive for a group. www.lefleur.net
 - Commissioner Tanya Winters recommended that Ms. De Santos contact Goodwill, Easter Seals, Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) for transportation contracts.
- b. John Meinkowsky, Policy Analyst, ARCIL
- Capital Metro Board Meeting @ 2910 East 5th Street, John encourages a lot of bodies to show up even if they are not speaking on item #5.
 - The Capital Metro public meetings have not explained or clarified the proposed changes being made to Metro Access. The Cap Metro policy book has no explanation.
 - ARCIL recommends delaying implementation of the proposed changes and policies until Capital Metro has a new CEO, who will be able to publicly meet face to face with Metro Access Users. ARCIL further recommends that Capital Metro cease recently implemented policy procedure for recertification and eligibility determinations.
 - Managing conditional eligibility is very difficult if Metro Access Users are unable to get Capital Metro staff on the phone or to get return phone calls.
 - Mr. Meinkowsky suggests that the public trust in Capital Metro has been severely eroded.
 - ARCIL would like to applaud both The Austin Chronicle and News 8 Austin for providing good coverage on the changes being implemented by Capital Metro.
- c. Michael E Zitz
- Michael is glad to hear about the TBI treatment speaker.
 - Michael went to the Capital Metro public meetings, and would like to reinforce that Metro Access users should attend the August 23rd Cap Metro Board Meeting
 - He further alleges that Capital Metro is reducing rides under it's curb to door service and in other areas.
 - Michael has signed up to speak at the August 23rd meeting.
 - Michael suggests that it is difficult to make comments at these public meetings as there is no agenda!
7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
- a. Budget: There was no expense for the month of July 2010 leaving the balance unchanged at \$5,549.00
 - b. There are still 20th Anniversary bumper stickers and buttons for anyone interested in having one.
 - c. August 31 there will be an ADA Roundtable, Rose Minette will be presenting on Innovative Assistive Technology Solutions for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The meeting will take place at the Winters complex at 51st and Lamar in the Public Boardroom. The meeting will start at 2:00pm.
 - d. Calendar
 - 08/09/10 Mary Lee Hosting Arcil at 1339 Lamar Sq Dr.
 - 09/01/10 Advocates meeting at the North Capitol Rally against Budget cuts impacting people with disabilities
 - 09/01/10 Social Security Incentives Workshop 6505 Airport Work Source
 - 09/24-25/10 VSA Real to Reel Film Festival
 - 10/13/10 White Cane Day - City Hall and Republic Square Park 10:15am-3:30pm
 - 10/14/10-10/16/10 CTD Film Festival Goodwill Industries Community Center and Alamo Drafthouse
 - 10/20/10 Disability Mentoring Day various worksites and Goodwill Community Center
 - 10/20-22/10- CTD Conference in El Paso, TX

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8. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Austin Travis County Workbase Summer Youth Learning Program and Goodwill Youth Services
 - b. University of Texas Behavior Study Presentation
9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the August 09, 2010 meeting of AMCPD by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Chip Howe. The motion was approved unanimously by all.