

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES July 11, 2011



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

(11, July, 2011)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 11, *July, 2011* 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, Ron Lucey, Tanya Winters,
Absent: George Luc, Jesus Lardizabal -excused

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Chip Howe to approve the June 13, 2011 minutes the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
2. OLD BUSINESS no old business conducted at this meeting.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation: Martin Kareithi- Accessibility Specialist and John Michael Cortez, Manager of Community Involvement, Sarah Sandford Eligibility Services, Capital Metro - Inform and Educate the community on Metro Access Eligibility Process.

➤ **Adopted Changes**

- Eligibility for Metro Access will be based on disability in combination with functional ability.
- Qualified individuals would be unable to access main line bus service due to a qualifying disability.
- The extent of a disability will be viewed accordingly:
 - Temporary, a condition lasting for a fixed amount of time.
 - Conditional, a condition that does not occur all the time.
 - Unconditional, a disability to this extent would qualify 100% for Metro Access.
- The current eligibility system does not answer these questions. By using the guidelines from Easter Seals, Capital metro would be able to use the new criteria to enhance and improve service to current users.
- Process (The eligibility process would take one day for an individual to complete.)
- Step 1 Customer will complete application with professional verification and call and schedule an appointment to be held at 323 Congress Ave. Transportation is available upon request. MetroAccess eligibility staff member will review the application with the customer.
- Step 2 Staff will have consultation to review information in application and general transit orientation.

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- Step 3 A functional assessment will be conducted by a 3rd party to determine eligibility. Functional assessments will be as needed.
- Step 4 Capital Metro will address other transportation needs with the individual including training from travel trainer.

- An appeals process will be available to individuals that disagree with the Metro Access eligibility decision.
- Recertification will change from every 2 years to every 4 years for qualified users.
- The process set forth by Capital Metro is not meant to scare individuals or be difficult for individuals to meet eligibility requirements.

➤ Discussion

- Bryson Smith noted that current Metro Access users would still need to re-qualify within two years, before the change to four years.
- Commissioner Ron Lucey questioned what the new evaluations in terms of facility, staff, and functional assessment would cost to implement. He also mentioned that the policy manual for Metro Access had not been updated since 2002.
- Capital Metro responded that they were in the process of getting answers to the changes out to people as there is no written document available to users.
- Commissioner Ron Lucey responded saying it is imperative to give a date for when the new policy manual would be updated, as not all users would be able to attend the public meetings being held to address changes to Metro Access. Commissioner Winters also requested for examples of how conditional and unconditional criteria is determined, since disability is individual.
- Commissioner Chip Howe commented that he had been picking up concerns from individuals in the disability community. Many of the concerns come from individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Persons with TBI would have trouble with the assessments.
- Commissioner Chip Howe mentioned that he attended many of the Capital Metro public community meetings, but no individual with TBI made it to the meetings. He also noted that the new policy changes were quite different due to public comment.
- Commissioner Ron Lucey reminded Capital Metro to just be honest with customers and approach the changes not as improvements but as ways to deal with current economic problems.
- Commissioner Chip Howe then remarked that everyone wanted Metro Access to succeed but that Capital Metro should also be mindful that disability is very individual.
- Capital Metro again stressed that it would use the best practices from the Easter Seals Project Action.
- Curt Voelkel commented that he would like to attend assessments with customers.
- Norman Kieke asked Mr. Kareithi to provide a date by which policies would be updated on the Capital Metro web page.
- Martin Kareithi from Capital Metro ended by leaving his contact phone number 389-7583 and the Capital Metro website www.capmetro.org for people to contact him with other questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access/Youth Committee –Chair Tanya Winters

- Chair Tanya Winters announced that the Austin Access Awards would be held July 28 at 5:30pm inside Council Chambers.
- The second accessible parking PSA will be shot on July 12, 13
- Chairman Norman Kieke noted that Texas Department of Transportation had come out with an accessibility video on sidewalks and streets, Tanya, Boone and Nancy will follow up.

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- Chair Tanya Winters announced that Barton Springs Pool was to be assessed for accessibility.
- There will be a DMD meeting on July 14 at Room 500 at OTC starting at 1:00pm.

Awards/Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey

- Chair Ron Lucey thanked Commissioner Chip Howe for sending in the nominations for the AMCPD award winners for the Texas Governor's Committee Employment Awards.
- Lex Frieden has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Awards program October 25.
- The request for nominations for the AMCPD employments awards has gone out.
- Chair Ron Lucey commended Work Source for their support of the Community Career Expo and Business of Work Job Readiness.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** No action items recorded for the July 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting:
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** no citizen hearings were held during the July 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** Citizen communications were recorded during the July 11, 2011 AMCPD Meeting
 - Jennifer McPhail ADAPT of Texas, The AmeriCorps Project Disability Rights will have a Housing rights training on July 19 from 2:00pm-4:00pm; For more information contact Jennifer at 442-0242
 - Candice Wade PIO office of The City of Austin Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management: - seeks to enhance its Universal Access and Accessibility planning and outreach efforts to better meet the needs of individuals who have disabilities.
 - The focus of those outreach efforts include Sheltering, Planning, Outreach, and Warning.
 - Starting fall 2011, Austin HSEM is initiating a comprehensive campaign targeting the greater Austin area's traditionally underserved population.
 - The campaign will include identification of functional needs populations, public education and outreach efforts, and the establishment of tools and plans that better serve the whole community.
 - The Department is seeking support and requesting feedback as it continues to develop and market this campaign.
 - Additionally, thanks to the assistance of Dolores Gonzalez, the dept is seeking to develop a task force that will work closely with department staff and guide them throughout this initiative.
 - The objective of this campaign is to integrate access and enhance all aspects of Austin HSEMs current emergency management capabilities to ensure that Austin's whole community is better prepared for emergencies.
7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez
 - **Budget:** There were no expenses for the month of June 2011, \$100.00 for renewing the leaving the balance unchanged at \$6,005.00
 - The ADA Office conducted training for the Dougherty Arts Center staff on June 8
 - ADA onsite visits continue for the month of June including Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD), Austin Water Utility, Austin Police Department, and the Austin Public Library.
 - Community Meet and Greet- This community event will be from 10am-2pm on July 16 at the George Washington Carver Museum and Culture Center, 1165 Angelina St in East Austin. The goal of this community outreach effort is to highlight and share information on the Equal Employment Fair Housing Office, the City of Austin Veterans program, and the

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American with Disabilities Act Office. Other partners joining the Human Resources Department are VSA Texas, Austin Free Net, and NHCD. Refreshment includes hotdogs, chips and drinks.

CALENDAR

- Jul 12 Mary Lee 7:00pm-8:30pm 1327 Lamar Sq Accessing Communication Sign Language Jill Lin.
- July 13 7:00m-10:00pm Easter Seals Monopoly Event fundraiser for wheelchair accessible swing \$10 per person
- Aug 13 Arc of Texas & Autism Society Autism, Autism now conference @ doubletree hotel contact Veronica de la Rora for more information 454-6694
- Aug 26-28 Texas Advocates Conference in San Antonio
- Sept 8-9 Film Festival with VSA Arts
- Oct 19, 2011 Disability Mentoring Day (DMD)
- Oct 20, 2011 White Cane Day
- Oct 22-23 CTD Film Festival
- Oct 25, 2011 Texas Governors Committee and Mayor's Committee Employment Awards at the Doubletree Austin Hotel

8. Future Agenda Items:

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the July 11, 2011 meeting by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.