

## Disability Advisory Board Meeting

January 9, 2017

The meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board began at 2:06 pm on January 9, 2017, at the 2010 E. Michigan St., Facilities Training Center Meeting Room, Orlando, FL 32806. Chairperson Brian Michaels opened an informal meeting since a quorum was not present. Board members present were: Chairperson Brian Michaels and Elizabeth McCarthy.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Michaels welcomed board members and asked other attendees to introduce themselves with name and organization. Others present were Citizen Resource and Outreach Division Manager and Interim ADA Advisor, Dianne Arnold, Family Services Project Coordinator, Judi Kerr; Community Advisors – Tim Mayes and Benjamin Gonzalez, LYNX; Reed Stephan, Agency for Persons with Disabilities; Melinda Sowers, Canine Companions; Regina Shedrick, Career Source; Elizabeth Howe, Center for Independent Living; Johny Pierre, Catholic Charities, and Sue Koziol, Quest Inc.; and presenters Rogue Gallart, Central Florida Disability Chamber and Jackie Booth and Joe Ran, Disability Advisor.

### Presentations – Part One

Chairperson Michaels introduced Rogue Gallart with the Central Florida Disability Chamber (CFDC). Gallart presented on two of the chamber's programs for disabled persons. One is the Youth Entrepreneur Education Program in partnership with Orange County Public Schools, which he stated is a transitional program for youth interested in entrepreneurial opportunities. Now it its 7<sup>th</sup> year and based in Fashion Square Mall at 3201 E. Colonial Drive, Suite A-120, he stated they are currently working with students from Timbercreek, Dr. Phillips and Boone high schools.

The second program Gallart introduced was the Veterans Business Initiative Program which offers education, employment and entrepreneurial training to Veterans. He said it is an eight to ten week program, offered twice a year and free to Veterans. Gallart explained how they offer job placement opportunities that “assist from a

business standpoint,” which includes bringing in companies to interview participants for jobs. He stated they have 286 veterans in the program with a 43 percent success rate of getting them to employment or school. Gallart concluded by saying they are taking applicants for their next session which kicks off on March 1, 2017. He told the group to reference the CFDC’s website for more information at [www.cfdisabilitychamber.org](http://www.cfdisabilitychamber.org). The presentation concluded with a Q&A session by board members and attendees.

### Formal Meeting Opened

At 2:32 pm, Chairperson Michaels called the meeting to order since quorum was established with late arriving board members. Michaels conducted roll call. Board members present were: Chairperson Brian Michaels, Jose Fernandez, Elizabeth McCarthy, Vice-Chair Kirk Root and Joe Waczewski. A quorum was established. Not present was Tiffany Namey.

### Meeting Minutes Approval

Board members were issued copies of the draft minutes from December 12, 2016 meeting. Waczewski made a motion to approve the December 12, 2016 minutes and the motion was seconded by Root. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Presentations – Part Two

Chairperson Michaels introduced the second presenter, Jackie Booth with Disability Advisor — a website that provides information on a variety of topics related to disability benefits. Booth stated she is one of several subject experts providing resources, articles and information to the website [www.DisabilityAdvisor.com](http://www.DisabilityAdvisor.com), which has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. She talked about the site’s free service, “Ask the Disability Advisor,” where subject experts answer benefits questions. Booth also said they recently added a money management section which can be helpful to those looking into setting up an ABLE trust fund. She further added they have a cache of experts to answer questions on topics ranging from finance, education legal, etc.

Board member Fernandez inquired with Booth about attending the DAB meetings as a Community Advisor and she stated, “Yes, she would be interested.” Chair Michaels

ask Advisor Arnold to add Booth as an advisor and include on the meeting invites. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session by board members and attendees.

### Board Member Reports

Joe Waczewski reported on the Veteran's Ad-hoc Subcommittee meeting, which takes place this date after the full DAB meeting, 4-5 pm. He stated it is open to the public and attendees are welcome to join the meeting. Root reported that Orange County's Legislative Delegation meeting will be taking place on January 17, 2017 at the Orange County Board of County Commission Chambers, 201 S. Rosalind. Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. He stated he will be attending and encouraged others to do so as well. No other board members had anything to report.

### Community Advisors

- Reed Stephan with Agency for Persons with Disabilities reported they are focusing more lately on working with students of transition age to employment and are working very closely with the agency, Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Regina Shedrick with Career Source stated that their agency is going through some restructuring with the Take It to Work Program. She said that instead of having just one coordinator, they will be housing a coordinator in all office locations.
- Tim Mays with LYNX reported their paratransit evaluation committee met on January 4, 2017 to review company proposals and selected two finalists to be interviewed at their public meeting scheduled for January 18, 2017. He stated the companies to be interviewed are Ride Right and MV Transportation, then the committee will make its final recommendation to the board for consideration on January 26, 2017.
- Melinda Sowers with Canine Companions reported the agency is now providing hearing dogs in Orlando, whereas in the past they had to come from the national agency. She further said the Orlando office will be

starting four classes this year for individuals residing in the eight states they serve. Sowers explained they are mainly for people with mobility impairments. She also stated that the board and other attendees are welcome to take a tour of their new training facility and the agency is always looking for volunteers.

- Elizabeth Howe with Center for Independent Living they are gearing up for their next group of students ready to transition to the workforce, helping to provide assistive phones to those who need them and Rampage – their home modification volunteer program for building ramps. She asked anyone interested in volunteering can call Randy Huttamil at 407-623-1070.
- Johny Pierre with Vocational Rehabilitation stated that their agency is focusing on new legislation for those needing vocational rehab.
- Sue Koziol with Quest Inc. reported that Quest Village, a 48 unit apartment complex for disabled persons will be breaking ground on February 8, 2017 and she will send an invite to anyone interested in attending. She further stated they are working with Career Source for their youth transition fairs, with Osceola's fair on February 23, 2017, 5-7 pm, at Osceola High School and Orange County's fair on March 4, 2017, 8 am-5 pm, at Lake Nona High School.

### Old Business

ADA Advisor, Dianne Arnold, asked the board to consider holding their 2017 annual training on March 13, 2017, which is a regular board meeting day. She stated that holding the training on a separate date from the regular DAB meeting day might be challenge for some board members to attend both. A discussion ensued on options and it was agreed that the time should be from 1-5 pm. Chairperson Michaels asked the board to vote on Arnold's suggestion. Four members approved the March 13, 2017 date with one nay. McCarthy moved to approve the date and time with a second by Waczewski. Michaels declared the board's final decision by majority.

### New business/Discussion Items

No new business at this time

ADA Advisor Report

Interim Advisor Arnold reports she received the applications packet from human resources and will be setting up interviews for the ADA Advisor position. She also stated that former ADA Advisor Samme Ripley will most likely be returning in a 6-month casual part-time position to help train the person who is hired for the position. Arnold also reported that MMRB is finalizing the addition of a new board member, Eric Shelter with Quest, Inc.

Public Comments

No public comments requests at this meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2016, at 2010 E. Michigan St., Facilities Training Center, Orlando, FL, 32806. Any changes will be noted in the posted meeting agenda per Orange County regulations regarding meeting notifications.