

## **Disability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

The Webex virtual meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board (DAB) was called to order at 2:40 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2020. Chairperson Sandra Algarin opened the meeting and conducted roll call and the pledge of allegiance. Board members present were Chairperson Sandra Algarin, Vice Chairperson Supervisor Daisy Morales, Karolyn Campbell, Jen Vargas, Tricia Dennis and Joe Waczewski. Orange County Citizen Resource and Outreach Division staff present were Dianne Arnold, Manager; Nicola Norton, ADA Program Manager, Tommie Maldonado, Veteran Services Manager and Judi Kerr, Project Coordinator. Community partners present were Jermesa Lee with Division of Blind Services and Sonia Bermudez with Lighthouse of Central Florida. A quorum was established.

### **General Public Comments**

Beatriz Lopez Marchard spoke about bringing awareness and educating the community on the process of guardianship for children with disabilities.

### **Introductions of Attendees and Community Partners Reports**

Community partner Sonia Bermudez of Lighthouse of Central Florida was present at this meeting. Her organization serves the visually impaired.

### **Action Items to Vote on or Discuss**

Minutes from the Disability Advisory Board meetings were distributed to the board to review. Algarin asked if there was a motion to approve the March 9, 2020 and August 10, 2020 minutes, Daisy Morales made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Waczewski. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2020 and August 10, 2020 meeting.

### **Board Member Reports**

Campbell shared that she has been working with the National Federation of the Blind on autonomous vehicle technology to benefit not only the visually impaired but all persons with disabilities.

Morales inquired if anyone on call knew about other options for assistance for internet. She shared that some school aged individuals do not have and/or cannot afford internet service and are having to go to the library to utilize the computers there. Arnold suggested that she can check the OCPS website as there were internet providers listed and some advertising promotions.

Waczewski shared that the VA is offering a VA home loan payment extension program as part of the CARES Act to help its homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure.

He also shared that he feels the technology portion of the ADA Act needs to be updated for People with Disabilities.

Vargas shared she has been working as a U.S. Census worker since April and is volunteering as a Poll worker with “Early Voting.” Vargas encouraged anyone that can volunteer as a Poll worker to do so.

Algarin voiced some concerns about the 18-24 year old population with autism that finish high school and seem to “age-out” of resources or don’t have any other alternatives for more learning. She would like more information to see if there are additional programs out there for this population. Waczewski offered to look into this for the board.

### **Old Business**

- A. Review of presentations for remainder of 2020-** A discussion ensued of possible presentations for the remainder of 2020 and a couple for the beginning of 2021 to include: Mental Health and Homelessness, latest on Mental Health programs for Vets, IEP, Process for Guardianship and Programs and Resources for individuals 18-24 years old with Autism. Arnold stated that Donna Wyche has agreed to present on Mental Health and Homelessness at the November meeting. Waczewski stated he can present on “Programs and Resources” for individuals with Autism 18-24 years of age at the October meeting. Algarin made a motion, Waczewski seconded the motion and all members approved. Norton stated she will work on scheduling the remainder of presentations and advised the board that the dates will depend on the availability of the presenters.
- B. Brainstorm Event for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-** Algarin stated that this is a milestone year for our population as it is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA and asked the group for any ideas on what we can do to acknowledge it in lieu of the planned 2020 Disability Expo that had to be cancelled due to coronavirus. Algarin suggested having virtual segments/sessions of presenters on the topic of their expertise and the attendees could view/ attend the segments/sessions that interest them. Arnold stated that it would have scheduled in 2021 and this would take some time and would involve assistance from other County staff including Orange County’s IT staff and as well as others.

### **New Business**

- A. Meetings for the Remainder of 2020 –** Algarin motioned to cancel the scheduled meeting in December; Dennis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Algarin motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second by Morales. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m. The next virtual Disability Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Board members will receive an invitation to the virtual meeting by email prior to that date. Members of the public can request an invitation to the meeting by emailing [Nicola.Norton@ocfl.net](mailto:Nicola.Norton@ocfl.net).