

Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI)  
August 10, 2016  
Small Assembly Room

Chair M. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Austin, Booher, Brookshire, Davidson, Dockery, Houston, M. Johnson, Jones, Lemak, Loebner, Secrest, Shipley and VanDyke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allan, Hector, R. Johnson, Moore, Neely, Newman, Sawhney, and Shilling

CITY STAFF: Stephanie Cook

GUESTS: Joseph Winberry (CAC Office on Aging)

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

June Minutes: A motion to approve the June minutes (with correction of next meeting date stating August 10, rather than October 12,) was made by Houston and seconded by Lemak– motion carried.

Elder Abuse Initiative: Joseph Winberry shared information about the Elder Abuse Initiative – a three-year grant to provide training for 877 law enforcement officers in Knoxville and Knox County, as well as judges and prosecutors; others to be trained are social workers and court and community advocates for the elderly. The Family Justice Center's Coordinated Community Response (CCR) will bring together a diverse group of professionals to meet monthly and address the unique needs of this population. A kick-off event will be held on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. There was great CODI interest in this project and numerous questions from the council, which Joseph addressed. Joseph can be contacted at 865-524-2786 or via email at [joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org](mailto:joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org)

Employment Committee: M. Johnson reported a lot of recent activity of this committee; the “disability-friendly employer” sticker design competition received over fifty design options. The CODI/KAEC subcommittee will meet soon to select the top three winners. Four tapings and one video were created to date. However, twelve more tapings are planned from August to October. We are in search of an employer/employee team to be in a taping and are still creating the two-sided flyer to discuss ADA and employment issues

The CODI/KAEC subcommittee will be hosting a job fair at Goodwill Industries on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12 p.m., with a “lunch and learn” for employers at noon. The City is sponsoring the employer lunch.

KAEC (Knoxville Area Employment Consortium) is working on finalizing the details for the national Disability Employment Awareness month breakfast which will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton downtown at 7:30 a.m. Comedian Josh Blue is slated to be the keynote speaker.

Transportation Committee: no report at this time, but Secrest shared some general transportation and “incidence of disability and seniors” information with the new CODI members to give them an idea of the local options and resources, plus national trends.

Awareness/PR Committee: the next meeting is set for 9/7/16 at 3:00 p.m. at the DRC. The goal is to finalize the logo. When the logo is finished, it will be the final detail on the Deaf/Hard of Hearing communication card and will also be added to the CODI ‘rack card’. The next step will be to update the CODI website info.

Most Disability Friendly City: Survey is now complete. Next step will be determining how and when to disperse the survey and what to do with results. Committee will need to have a meeting to determine next steps.

### New Business

Sandy has a new service dog, Sherlock, who is beautiful!

The CODI information on the City’s website has been updated. While the page looks great, it is woefully lacking in resource information. The part time position in the Disability Services Office has been approved. The City is in the process of updating its ADA notice and grievance procedure. Cook will bring those to the council when it is more complete.

September 16<sup>th</sup> retreat: M. Johnson and Cook are working on the agenda. If anyone has a suggestion, please share it.

Secrest suggested that Mayor Rogero be invited to attend.

Dockery suggested that a topic of discussion be the ridiculous cost of medications, and how CODI might create a “Health” subcommittee to influence this fact. While all agreed this is a huge problem for many people, it is not really a topic that CODI can address, as it is an advisory council to the City of Knoxville specifically, which does not govern healthcare or its costs.

Public Forum: None

With no further business, Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Next meeting: the Annual Planning Retreat will be Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at KCD (Knoxville Center of the Deaf,) located at 3731 Martin Mill Pike, 37920.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Brookshire, Secretary and Stephanie Cook, City Liaison