

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

ATTENDEES: John Gentile, Janet Ross, Chad Sinanian, Robie Barile, Kris Ginty, Doris Pietras, Roberto Perez, Carlene Barker, and Kenny Lee

ABSENTEES: Tony Vitti

Meeting Commenced 6:30PM

- John distributed the NEW AGENDA for this meeting.
- June meeting minutes reviewed and accepted.
- We now have LETTERHEAD for Commission correspondence.
- John handed out information about NATIONAL DISABILITY MENTORING DAY. It's too late to be involved in this year's project but maybe next year the Commission can participate. Robie will research further. Janet explained to the members what the mentoring process entails and what it may require on the Commission's part, the Community's part and the Business Sector's part. John stated that we would also need to get those individuals who were involved with the recent GRANT process involved with this in order to be successful. Those interested are welcome to attend October 15. (see attached)
- John passed out a survey request announcement from the A. J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research and Service. (see attached)
- November 21-22 there will be a Conference held at the Farmington Marriott Hotel. \$35.00 for both days. (see attached)

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- John informed the Commission that the REAL Choice System Change Grant was awarded to Bridgeport, Groton and he was unsure of the third community. Mike McLaughlin received copies of the Grant requests for future reference and said that the winning communities had "amplified grant requests" but we all had the "same substance."
- The Commission is still short 1 Alternate.
- Janet received just one phone call over the summer and that was from someone

who wanted to know if the Commission gave financial assistance for rent and security. She returned the call and directed them to the State and City Welfare Agencies.

- John got a call from the Mayor's office recently asking him his opinion on how the City should go about putting together a voluntary group who would help with an Evacuation Plan for the City, specifically the Disability for People to Self Identify. John said he expressed his opinion on how the City should tactfully go about doing this. The key word is "voluntary."

- Rich Schreiner @ HART informed John that he has a "weight problem " issue in Danbury. It seems that a 400lb+ individual who uses a 200lb+ power wheelchair is over the weight limit of 600lbs that HART can accommodate and Rich says that "HART is willing to accommodate." He told John that he will be sending a letter to this individual letting him/her know how to get around the weight limit so he/she can ride HART. A push wheel chair is much lighter than a power wheelchair and can be made available for this individual to use when riding the bus. Rich will send John a copy of this letter.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm