



City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities
155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2014 - 6:30pm

in attendance: John Gentile (Chairman), Rose Marie Bouclier, Annie Dance, Joanne LaPorta, Frank Reed, Frances Ryan, Chad Sinanian

absent: Paul Kachevsky, William Lewis, John Neumuller, Bobby Perez

guests: John Michael Gentile, Frank Flannery and Bob Evans - Buddy Ball Program

meeting called to order at 6:30pm

- Welcome & Introduction: John Gentile
- Review & Accept Minutes: January 14, 2014 accepted
- Phone Log: John Gentile
 - cleaning phone calls
- E-newsletter: Annie Dance
 - reimbursement request submitted for January 2014
 - February e-newsletter date and topic - [People First \(CDC\)](#) and [February Health Awareness events](#)
 - include announcement about People First of CT - Danbury Chapter needing an advisor
 - who should they contact if interested?
 - Chad will have Mr. Fanning at Ability Beyond Disability (if he's the correct person to contact and approve his info. to be listed in our e-newsletter)
 - next meeting statewide - February 27 - meeting at Arc
 - advisor duties - plan meetings, plan activities - third Wed. or Thurs. of month or have monthly dinner
- Social media report as of 2/10/14
 - Facebook: currently 20 likes (same as last month)
 - Twitter: currently 131 followers (up from 110 last month)
- 2013 -2014 Recognition Award update
 - Housatonic Area Rapid Transportation (HART) Reached out to HART
 - John Gentile has spoken with Rick, will contact Eric (CEO) at HART regarding next steps
- On Demand Transportation: (kept as an open item)
 - Frank Reed to follow up with CT Council on Developmental Disabilities from council meeting on 1/14/14 to see if they have the support for a study and transportation issues for population that was not addressed in recent study (see appendix from last meeting)
 - we have a need for expanded taxi service availability and affordability
 - public transportation is totally inadequate for persons with disabilities

- Danbury Buddy Ball Program (training program for children): Update - Frank Reed
 - guests Rick Flannery and Bob Evans discussed the Buddy Ball Program history
 - began in 2010 - spring and fall - get together 6 times/season
 - Buddy is older ball player, kids learn how to compete
 - 4 kids to 22 kids - generally 5 to 18 years old, absolutely free
 - in 2014 season - Newtown to join, greater Danbury area is served
 - annual event at Hyde Park to be planned - Commission to write e-newsletter/press release closer to event
- March of Dimes walk on May 4 - Frank Reed will be the Ambassador for the event
 - Frank to send Annie details - we will send a press advisory a week before the event
 - will keep as open item on the agenda and promote the event closer to the date
- Request from Jonathan Slifka – Governor’s Liaison to the disAbility community – to attend our next meeting on March 11, 2014 to listen and observe
 - discuss transportation issues
 - Freedom Grant - DOT (Federal)
- Open Discussion
 - Snow/ice issues
 - at Walgreens
 - Fran Ryan called 311 to report it
 - at City Hall
 - John Gentile to send out a reminder tomorrow in preparation for Thursday's storm
- Next Meeting: March 11, 2014

meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted by Annie Dance, Secretary

Attest, John Gentile, Chairman

Communicating With and About People with Disabilities



About 50 million Americans report having a disability. Most Americans will experience a disability some time during the course of their lives. Disabilities can affect people in different ways, even when one person has the same type of disability as another person. Some disabilities may be hidden or not easy to see.

People First Language

People first language is used to speak appropriately and respectfully about an individual with a disability. People first language emphasizes the person first not the disability. For example, when referring to a person with a disability, refer to the person first by using phrases such as: “a person who ...”, “a person with ...” or, “person who has...”

Here are suggestions on how to communicate with and about people with disabilities.



For more information about disability and health, visit www.cdc.gov/disabilities

People First Language	Language to Avoid
Person with a disability	The disabled, handicapped
Person without a disability	Normal person, healthy person
Person with an intellectual, cognitive, developmental disability	Retarded, slow, simple, moronic, defective or retarded, afflicted, special person
Person with an emotional or behavioral disability, person with a mental health or a psychiatric disability	Insane, crazy, psycho, maniac, nuts
Person who is hard of hearing	Hearing impaired, suffers a hearing loss
Person who is deaf	Deaf and dumb, mute
Person who is blind/visually impaired	The blind
Person who has a communication disorder, is unable to speak, or uses a device to speak	Mute, dumb
Person who uses a wheelchair	Confined or restricted to a wheelchair, wheelchair bound
Person with a physical disability, physically disabled	Crippled, lame, deformed, invalid, spastic
Person with autism	Autistic
Person with epilepsy or seizure disorder	Epileptic
Person with multiple sclerosis	Afflicted by MS
Person with cerebral palsy	CP victim
Accessible parking or bathrooms	Handicapped parking or bathroom
Person of short stature	Midget
Person with a congenital disability	Birth defect
Person with Down syndrome	Mongoloid
Person who is successful, productive	Has overcome his/her disability, is courageous