



Office on the Disabled  
City of Saint Louis  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Room 305, City Hall  
February 4, 2013



## Minutes

Gina Hilberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members present included Kerri Morgan, Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Jane Thomas, and Bill Sheldon. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner were also present. Absent were Wendy Sullivan, Linda Baker, and Willie Kimbrough, Jr.

Minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

### Emergency Preparedness Spokespeople:

KMOX announced who the five best resources in the community are for emergency preparedness and the All Ready Campaign was listed as one of the five.

There will be an emergency preparedness month as we get into spring and people are preparing for tornado season. The All Ready campaign would like to have people of a variety of disabilities be spokespeople. The spokesmen would have to have their emergency preparedness kits in place and an emergency plan prepared. There are things that we have to do and plan on that are endemic to each of our disabilities and that gives an angle to it that makes it more interesting for the press. If anyone is interested in volunteering please let us know. Ms. Thomas is interested and is going to get clearance from state office. Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Keller will also volunteer.

Mr. Newburger explained that reporters or Fleishman Hillard will contact you about a request for interview. It will likely be a short interview on how as a person with a disability you are uniquely prepared in event of an emergency. They may also ask to see what your emergency kit contains and ask specifics about your plan. You'll mention the All Ready Campaign and give valuable information to the community.

## Transition Planning Continued:

Information from Chicago was sent to us on how their police and first responders work with people who are disabled. We are now close to being able to approach the powers that be in the Mayors Office and let them know that we're ready to address the questions of a transition plan for the police and other public safety personnel. Ms. Hilberry agrees that we are ready and feels it's important to find out what the first responders feel about transition plans without first imposing our will onto them.

The Office on the Disabled has been doing research since the police department mentioned being an accredited agency. We asked the accrediting agency (CALEA) for their criteria for accessibility that might address the interest of people with disabilities and they sent in their electronic version which contains thousands of pages. Ms. Kreitner has searched their data base for keywords pertaining to disability and has extracted information from their policies that will serve as a guide. This helps because now we know the topics the police will have talked about because they got accredited.

This is an accrediting agency from outside that comes in and the criterion has to be responded to and then it's audited.

Ms. Hilberry brought up the subject of public comment regarding the future transition plan for the city. The advisory council's role, to a certain extent, is assisting with prioritizing. That is more appropriate for us than any single role. We as citizens also need to think about the public feedback and how that mechanism can work. Do police and fire have a mechanism that we can just copy for citizen feedback? Some different approaches for public feedback include:

- The town hall approach of the Access Board. They take it out, make a presentation, get some publicity and then listen to and write down any comments.
- Metro takes the approach of posting lots of boards and letting people wander and drop comments into a box.
- People can also go out to groups with a presentation in a more proactive way to solicit comments.

We first focused on structures and had the opportunity to get some maps to show us where all the city buildings are and we could go look at the city buildings and that's what the Justice Department expects us to do. This process led us to look at public safety and also our own Department of Human Services. When we started thinking about DHS it becomes a reality that the bulk of what they do is as a contracting agency that flows money to private not for profits who provide

services to citizens. We then decided that looking through the city is a subsidiary type of thing. It wouldn't be one of the primary things we do as compared to parks, police and fire. But this is open for discussion.

Ms. Hilberry mentions that in Charlotte the first tier of buildings was limited to buildings that were owned by the city and the second tier was buildings that were leased for city activities by the city and paid for by the city. They did go to the Justice Department and got the reading that further down the tier they must not lose sight of services provided by contractors. It can't completely fall off the list. The hard part is that they're all important and we have to talk about how we're going to prioritize. The council agrees that first responders should stay at the top of the list.

Mr. Newburger agrees that we should concentrate our efforts on first responders, although we could also get our maps of public buildings. The planning office has offered to let us do overlays and give us a map since they already have the data.

Ms. Morgan—can we partner with people to assess the buildings? Paraquad has the new Accessible St. Louis Initiative program and they're trying to pick and choose what parts of St. Louis they're going to be assessing. The new executive director is Amy Wehmeier. There's also a new public policy person by the name of Sarah Durban. Willie Kimbrough is very involved with the Accessible St. Louis Initiative. This falls under the Development Director, Pamela Perlmutter. She has Cathy Caps working on this and it's somewhere in there we should start.

Jessica Dashner from Washington University O.T. program should be contacting the office soon because they're starting new O.T. projects and will most likely want to involve the Office on the Disabled. Possibly we could take a segment of these buildings and make that part of their student project.

Ms. Hilberry—how will we make sure all these evaluations are done to a similar level, methodology, and competence? While this could be a great learning experience for the students we need to end up with something that is truly usable. Since we're talking about existing buildings there is the New England ADA Existing Building Checklist that could be used for evaluation purposes. There is a short form and a long form. The short form could possibly suffice for us. I'm open to suggestions though. The O.T. students should have this as a tool regardless. This should give us sufficient data to know if there's an accessible bathroom, if people can get in and out, some basic information about the building and how it's to be used. This is based on the older version, The ADA Barriers Removal Checklist. It's since been completely redone and updated.

Ms. Hilberry has an update of PROWAG (Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines). The latest is that they're going to republish it as an NPRM (notice of proposed rule making) combined with shared trails or paths. They'll get the

comments back from that and submit to OMB (Office of Management and Budget) by May and hope to announce something at the ADA anniversary (July) but more likely in October. They're thinking they'll actually get the regulation done by October. But combining it with shared bike paths may be problematic. In the meantime, PROWAG does require that if there's parking on a block that's metered or demarcated there's a table saying that if there's 1-25 spots that one will be accessible and so on with the table. This is literally done by the city block and its perimeter.

Mr. Newburger asks, if you're on a block that would have four accessible spots can you put them all together across from a building such as the Department of Human Services where there's large numbers of people who are disabled or do you have to disperse them?

Ms. Hilberry has been told that there's no dispersion requirement. They can be all together. However, if you put them all in a line you have to start thinking about access to a curb ramp. The dispersion aspect comes into play if the sidewalk is less than 14 feet wide then providing the access aisle is not required but you're supposed to put it at the end by the curb ramp. If you have a five foot sidewalk, an access aisle is going to be a problem. Then you put it at the end so you couldn't just line up four cars under those circumstances and satisfy part two of the requirement. You would have to put in one space and then another around the corner.

Ms. Morgan will begin a conversation with the Accessible St. Louis Initiative with Amy and then go from there. She will also speak to Jessica Dasher about her O.T. students switching their focus from playgrounds to government buildings.

Ms. Hilberry would like to know what real estate the city owns first and then what is leased. And further into the future, where services are contracted.

Does this involve property under the scope of the Mayor? It would include the Treasurer but the Board of Elections would probably have to be separate. It would also include the Comptroller and Collector. LRA would be included but on a separate map.

Mr. Newburger feels that it's important to focus on working property map-wise.

*(General Agreement from the advisory council members)*

Mr. Newburger informs everyone that we sent out all the assessments of the emergency operation plans to find out if the agency thought they had everything right and their deadline to respond has passed. A few have sent responses but not many. We're going through the assessment of what they sent us and it looks like in late April we will be publishing the inadequacy of what the Regional Emergency Management agencies have done in respect to people with

disabilities. We also have come across a case that's a year old in Los Angeles; they have been subjected to an injunction by a federal court to make their emergency plan suitably respond to the needs of people with disabilities and a similar case is being brought against New York City. Mr. Newburger will be sharing this information with our Public Safety department.

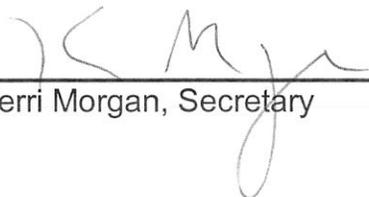
Ms. Hilberry will look into the possibility of the Kresge Foundation funding the development of a pilot project. An educational program that could be staffed by O.T. students and make use of college students doing health services.

In the development of a project like this there would have to be people doing training that first time for money and then the Accessible St. Louis people at Paraquod could also benefit from this as well.

The group will do research on this project.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kerri Morgan, Secretary