

Commission on Disability Issues, City of Hartford

Regular Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations of City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

In attendance: Kathy Pacelle, Linda Schnitzer (via telephone), Debra St. Germain, Vice Chair, Janet Wallans, Chair, and Cheryl Zeiner.

Excused: Chris Kelly, Candace Low, and Kathy Marseglia.

Guest: Lillian Ruiz, Director, Office of Human Relations

The concern regarding the sign language interpreter, Kathleen Strauss was discussed. Linda made a motion that the Office of Human Relations send her the payment for her services at the last meeting along with an apology and that she reconsider interpreting for Candace at Commission meetings. The motion was seconded by Kathy P. The motion was approved.

Lillian Ruiz joined the meeting to help clarify the Office's position. Before funds were to be distributed for a service that was not performed, the Office needed to make sure this was proper. It was suggested that a policy be implemented regarding cancellation of the interpreter service. Linda made a motion that the person requesting an interpreter notify the chair of the Commission 24 hours in advance in writing if the interpreter's service will not be required. Cheryl seconded the motion. There was discussion on this motion and it was not approved. There was further discussion regarding a letter to be sent to Kathleen Strauss. Kathy P. suggested that the letter of apology include information on how she can apply to interpret for the Commission, when that information becomes available. Lillian is going to look into whether or not there was a contract with Kathleen.

Cheryl brought to the Commission's attention the report on mental health services for teens, which was a result of the Open Forums. Some of the recommendations of the report included improved housing, training, balance between client independence and program structure, communication with families, etc.

The minutes of the meeting for December 3, 2008 were reviewed. Cheryl moved and Debra seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

Due to the amount of time discussing the sign language interpreter, all other agenda items were tabled

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Janet Wallans