

Atlantic County
Disability Advisory Board
Minutes: Sept. 8, 2020
Via Webex video conferencing

Attendance: Mark Petrella, Joanne Gahr, CheeKa Wu, Doortje Schipper, Linda Klersey, Carol Ditmire, Ryan Penn, Bob Ross, Trinna Rodgers

Excused: Joe Brown, Linda Klersey

Absent: -

Ex-Officio: Cristine Chickadel

Freeholder: Maureen Kern

I. Call to Order: at 12:37 by Cristine Chickadel

II. Approval of Minutes: The June minutes were revised and approved.

III.

Committee Reports:

A. *Legislation:* Trinna Rodgers Reported:

1. <https://www.rivkinradler.com/publications/ocr-pushes-back-against-discriminatory-state-triaging-guidelines/>

2. A bill was introduced in 116th Congress 2D Session, Preventing states from using or distributing resources during the COVID-19 national emergency in accordance with a State policy that discriminates on the bases of disability, and for other purposes.

3. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/04/state-distributes-triage-guidelines-to-allocate-medical-resources-if-no-other-options-exist/>

4. <https://www.housingwire.com/articles/bank-of-america-settles-alleged-disability-discrimination-violations/>

5. Cristine Chickadel reported:

On 7/31/2020: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-settles-private-school-ensure-compliance-ada>

6. on 8/7/2020: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/massachusetts-general-hospital-enters-agreement-us-attorney-s-office-better-ensure-equal>

B. *Access:*

1. Ryan Penn reported ADA work being done in Egg Harbor Twp.:

Mott Watkins Associates LLC of EHT currently erecting Concrete ADA sidewalk ramps at Dogwood Ave from English Creek Ave to Winnipeg Ave, EHT

2. Bob discussed service vs. emotional support animals within Stockton's residential halls and how they evaluate and determine each request on a case by case basis. Animals do not need 'papers'. Service animals are protected under the ADA when they are for a disability and perform a trained task for their handler.

IV. Old Business:

1. Ryan suggested Horizon for guest speaker at upcoming meeting. He will follow up with representative availability.
2. No additional pictures submitted for beach brochure.

V. New Business:

1. Carol requested more information on accessibility at doctor's offices. Cristine will email details for this advocacy work.
3. Future meetings via WebEx to be meeting platform for the foreseeable future, while the nation's pandemic uncertainties continue.
4. Cristine requested 2-3 board members to join the ADA Consultant Selection Committee who will be performing an accessibility audit to our county operations.
5. Chairman Brown suggested a 2021 initiative on accessible parking spaces. Board members requested take images of both compliance and violators in this realm. Email to Cristine or Joe ongoing. Compilation of images and findings to be potentially submitted on the board's behalf to state legislature and police chiefs.

VI. Good and Welfare:

- Annual Holiday luncheon cancelled this year.

VII. Public Comment: none

VII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm

Next meeting date November 10th via Web Ex with information forthcoming, to be distributed to board members. For more information or to join: Contact Cristine Chickadel at chickadel_cristine@aclink.org