



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – April 11th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267

Meeting Will Be Via Zoom and on Revere TV

Please click the link below to join the webinar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/879 9134 6824](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87991346824)

Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 879 9134 6824

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members: Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Mario Grimanis, Asmaa AI Fouda, Jason Barrone, Robert Brown, Ellie Vargas Absent: Sofia Marmouda (Student Liaison)

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2023 - Motion Made by Pauline Perno & Second by Asmaa AI Fouda

“April is Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month”

Item #2: Guest Speaker- Revere Police Chief David Callahan will join us to speak about CIT training that is done in the department.

Chief Callahan spoke on CIT (Crisis Intervention Training); focus on de-escalation tactics. This is utilized in many surrounding communities and was started in Somerville about 15 years ago. RPD has about 85% of officers trained (Which entailed a 5 day/ 40-hour course) If anyone is interested in learning about the program the website is :

<https://www.metrobostoncit.org/new-page-5> . They learned what not to do or say which is helpful with persons with Mental Health Issues/ASD or Disabled. CIT uses a group approach, having law enforcement /MH workers and addiction specialists working together, This will move mentally ill people away for police/courts and bring them to health care facilities and practitioners. CTI is useful in deescalating situations and bring down injuries both for the police officers and the persons. Training focuses on how not to trigger along with teaching officers on how to stay calm. The goal is to train the entire department. Chief Callahan wrapped up with saying 1 emotional support dog and are looking for funding for a second. There are Officers in Revere who speak different languages, which is a benefit in our community. They also utilize Google translate if there is not an officer on site until one can get there.

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from March 14th Meeting

- Any Updates from Pauline regarding Calendar for future monthly guest speakers- Awaiting confirmation from Charlie Giuffrida Office of Travel & Tourism for May Meeting. Also, Michael Hinojosa from Parks and Recreation will be at June Meeting.**
- Any Follow up/ Update information regarding Therapy Dog agencies from Pauline or Robert. – They will try to reach out to Dr. Gallucci regarding the new therapy dog that the school department has for more information.**
- Draft letter regarding ordinance change for increasing HP Violation Fines- Tabled**

Item #4: SEPAC April/May Events

Information was not available at time of posting from Robert Brown so he will update us during the meeting. Robert updated us at the meeting that there is no Autism walk scheduled and the next SEPAC meeting will be on 5/18/23 in which the elections will take place.

Item #5: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom meeting April 5, 2023

There were a few discussions:

- 1. One of the Cities Commission members brought up COD Chairs Duties, roles and responsibilities in her town.**
- 2. I had asked to start a conversation regarding to see if anyone had knowledge programs regarding de-escalation in emergency calls. The City of Boston mentioned they have a program called the BEST team and it is part of their safety response team. They also mentioned they work with Boston Medical center as part of this program.**
- 3. The Disability Commission member from Newburyport discussed a local business owner who is planning to rehab a building to open a new restaurant but wants to have a second floor and not put in an elevator. This would need a variance from the AAB and the Commission is highly against it.**
- 4. The City of Boston mentioned that they will be having a Disability Forum both in person and online May 11th from 2 Pm – 3:30 Pm. For more information you can visit www.boston.gov/disability-forum**

Item #6: Commission Members Late Items

- Asmaa presented Ramadan celebration update Began March 30th. Focus is on self-discipline(fasting) and bringing oneself closer to God. She also mentioned April 14th is the Iftar Dinner (Sold Out)**
- No Disability meeting in July**

Item #7: Residents' concerns/issues - None

Item #8: Next Steps:

- Pauline Perno to continue Working on Monthly Calendar for guest speakers**
- Therapy Dog information at School Department**
- Revisit HP Violation fees in order to increase.**

Item #9: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities number is 781-286-8267. Residents can speak to staff from our 311 Constituent Service Center that will answer the phone Monday through Friday when you call our office number. They will be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like a call back from our department, please ask to be transferred to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

As always please let us know if you would like something discussed or brought up and added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can let us know if you would like to speak on any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Jason Barrone & Second by Pauline Perno

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM