

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
MINUTES
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
June 27, 2022
7:00PM Elmwood Community Center Auditorium

- Call meeting to order
 - Meeting was called to order at 7:01PM
 - Members present: Joe Kolczynski, Mary Silverberg, Ann Mione, Kimberly Jacobsen, Kim Grehn, Christy Miller, Tara McNeil, Jason Mirsky, Amy Messinger
 - Members absent: Erin Conneely, Stevie Ann Lis, Suzanne Oslander – (Town ADA Coordinator, Department of Social Services)
- Minutes from May 9, 2022 meeting were approved with the following additions;
Staff Report (Suzanne Oslander – (Town ADA Coordinator, Department of Social Services)
 1. Eisenhower Pool and Pool House ADA compliant Upgrade.
 - Construct new pool with two (2) ADA entrances
 - Renovate pool house to include four(4) ADA-compliant restrooms with showers
 - Currently in design
 - Construction to start in late summer of 2022. Estimated completion June 2023.
 2. Kennedy Park Pool House ADA compliant Upgrades.
 - Two (2) exterior restrooms renovated to meet current ADA standards
 - Introduce ADA – compliant family changing rooms
 - Currently in design.
 - Construction to start in late summer of 2022. Estimated completion June 2023.
 3. Wolcott Park Restroom ADA compliant Upgrades.
 - Plan to demolish existing restroom building
 - Replace with four (4) single use ADA – compliant restrooms
 - Design contract to be awarded shortly.
 - Construction to begin 2023, followed by parking lot renovation
 - Parking lot renovation to include new ADA – compliant parking spaces (2024)
 4. Additional upcoming projects include the following;
 - ADA bridge and dock at Spicebush Swamp

- ADA bridge to connect Miracle League parking lot and fields

There is a grant opportunity from the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities assistance to local and state organizations/entities with funding to overcome barriers that impede the full access to appropriate services, supports, and other assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from racial ethnic minority backgrounds.

For further information, please contact
Walter Glomb, Director
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Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 418 - 6157

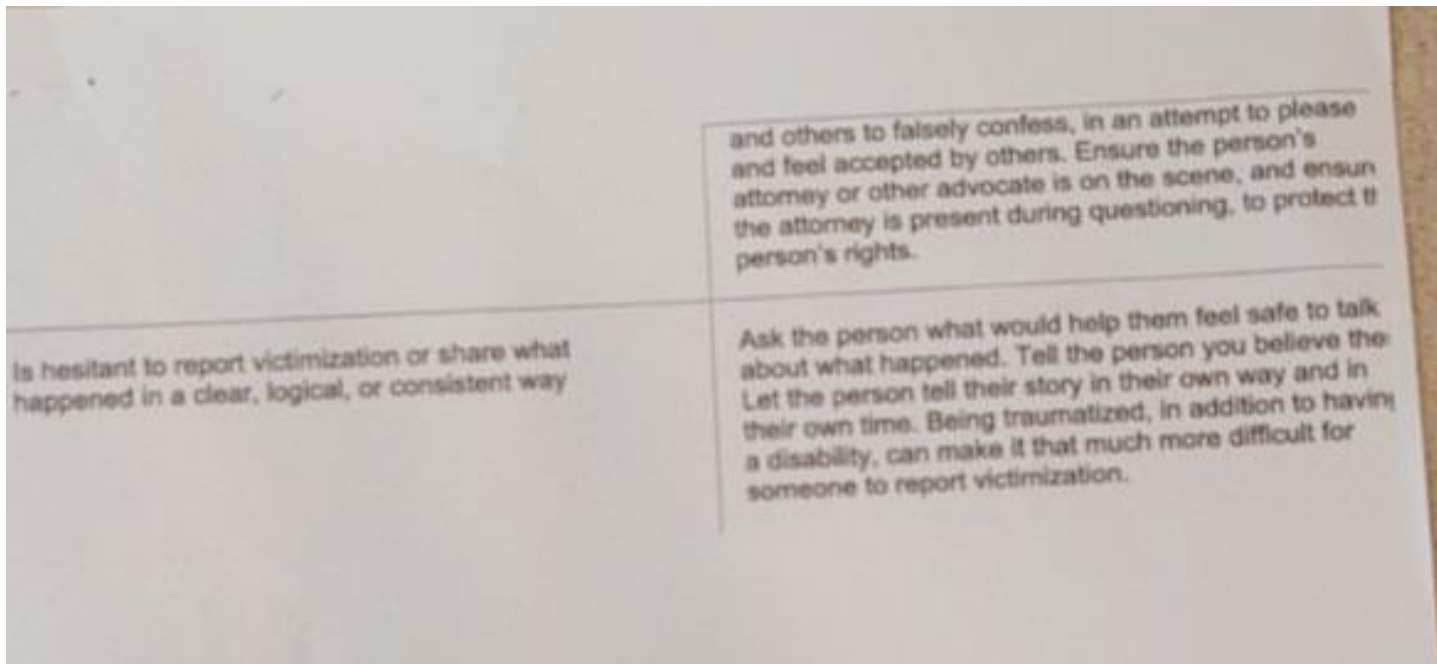
- Old Business
Mary and Joe reported on the status of the ECC Advisory Commission.
The first meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2022.

Ann Mione reported CERT is working on communication to address languages and levels of communication including ASL. Bob McCue has indicated a further need for increased awareness and sensitivity for persons with disabilities and increased training.

Christy Miller of our commission has joined the CERT team and has begun training.

Kim Grehn offered a list of possible behaviors of persons with intellectual disabilities with corresponding sample responses to improve communication.

Possible Behavior of Person with I/DD	Sample Response
Runs away from officer	Consider why the person is running and if fear may be the cause. Decrease fear by making a personal connection with the individual as soon as possible and ask what they need to feel safe. Listen to any support people or family members nearby who are familiar with the person. They may be able to provide tips on how to calm the person down and establish good rapport.
Stimming (self-stimulating behaviors, such as hand-flapping, rocking, spinning, or repetition of words and phrases)	Allow the person to stim as needed—stimming often helps people process anxiety. Ask what the person needs to help with effective communication. If they can communicate with you, first, try giving the person some space, then try again. Some people with I/DD will communicate in ways officers may not expect (for example, through communication cards or apps, gestures, typing, or verbal phrases that may not be recognizable to an officer).
Does not immediately follow commands	Give the person time to fully take in information and make sure the direction or command is understood (in general, wait at least 7 seconds for the information to be processed). Ask the person to repeat the direction or command in their own words. Officers can also physically demonstrate what they would like the individual to do.
Will not look officer in the face or make eye contact	Don't assume that lack of eye contact is a lack of respect or that the person is hiding something; instead consider if this it may be a typical response by the person. For some people with I/DD, eye contact can be very intimidating and uncomfortable.
Does not seem to understand what is being said (for example, <i>Miranda</i> rights), or seems to be pretending to understand	Ask the person to repeat back what was just said using their own words. Do this check for understanding after each sentence. Ask the person what is needed to help communication. Ensure the person has an attorney, or other support person who can advocate for the person present to help protect the individual's rights.
Quickly and easily admits to committing a crime	Move forward cautiously, as people with intellectual disability may be easily pressured by so-called friends



- Guest Speakers

Lt. Aaron Vafiades, Community Relations Division, Emergency Services Unit has transferred to the Professional Standards Division. Lt. Thomas Lazure has transferred from the Training Division to Community Relations but neither officer was in attendance.

Samantha Innis, LMSW gave a comprehensive presentation about her role in working with WHPD. The Police Accountability Act (HB – 6004) requires the hiring of a social worker to assist on police calls. She has a radio and her own call sign. Police dispatch notifies her if needed on police calls as well as mobile crisis 211 calls.

She gathers information through a Social Work Assessment and collaborates with PD to develop a service plan. In this phase of her responsibilities, she must navigate the complexities of providing effective information to PD while protecting the clients confidential information required by HIPPA.

Her time is shared. three days per week with WHPD and two days per week with The Town's Social Services Department.

As safety is paramount the scene is secured prior to her involvement.

Many issues require her assistance including.

- Substance abuse
- Landlord/tenant issues
- Evictions and Assistance with relocation, storage and recovery of personal items.
- Support and Services for Homelessness, encampments, and panhandlers
- Domestic disturbances and Home Condition assessments and possible DCF referrals often with intervention prior to criminal proceedings.