

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION

c/o Sidney Blanchard
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Meeting Minutes January 20, 2006

Attendance: Cheryl Hardy, Sheila McDowell, Karolina Scutari, Jagruti Patel, Adelaide Daskam, Sid Katz, Cynthia Heller, Samuel Jenkins, Takeena Thomas, Wendy Nehring, Roy Leitstein, Alvin Cox, Sid Blanchard

- Sid Blanchard passed out last AAMR newsletter
- Alvin Cox – New Region IX Chair
- Opening for Treasurer – Floor opened for nomination. Sid Katz nominated Sheila McDowell. Adelaide Daskam, Second. Sheila Appointed as new Treasurer
- Introductions by group
- Announcement by Sid Blanchard:
 - Fiscal: \$12,000 in the bank
 - Rebates have been reinstated by national AAMR. When their budget is in good shape, some money may come to our Region. Some of the money may go to special interests.
 - We need to come up with fundraising ideas and activities for Region IX.
- National AAMR
 - National conference coming up in Montreal, Canada
 - International focus on Social Inclusion. 22-23 different countries have submitted abstracts.
 - Name change and other issues stemming from September conference will be discussed.
 - AAMR is working toward states or regions to volunteer to sponsor conferences.
 - Conference calls are available for anyone who wishes to call in about name change (1-866-902-2211)
 - 1/20 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 - 1/27 1:00 PM – 2:00 PMIntellectual Disabilities – ID or combination of the two
Development Disabilities– DD
Proposed name changes:
AAID
AADD
AAID & DD
 - A ballot will be processed in the near future for all to vote

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- National level is mixed on name. Small minority says to keep name as is. Not included in the ballot.
 - Conference - 5/1/06 Reception
AAMRQL.org – specifics for event.
 - Need jointly: International Summit on Social Inclusion with _____
 - AAMR has gotten away from holding decisions, instead now has professional interest areas.
 - Possible now for a group, locally or nationally, to form own professional interest group. Interest must be submitted to National for approval.
 - This change took place because AAMR wanted people to produce Action Plan. As long as group is active, AAMR will support the group.
 - Many special interest groups have formed as a result of this new approach.
 - Advocates now have the opportunity to start their own special interest groups and network with other special interest groups.
 - Sid Blanchard and Sid Katz started and funded, at the national level, a special interest group for members. \$5,000 budget allocated to this group.
 - Sid Blanchard passed around a list of special interest groups.
 - Forms for “Action Plans” can be accessed on-line through AAMR website.
 - Sid Katz talked about bringing in college students to the advocacy movement.
 - Alvin talked about the need for action plans as proof of productivity of the special interest groups.
 - Regional Update – Alvin Cox – 2005 Synopsis
 - Alvin nominated as chair of Region IX
 - June meeting with state president of Pennsylvania – Paul Spangler. Pennsylvania has a very active chapter.
 - February state meeting with Pennsylvania – Alvin to attend.
 - Alvin happy with representation at national conference
 - Alvin Hoping for more activity for the region. Meeting with Pennsylvania to put some activities together.
 - Sid Blanchard may be taking on role of State Treasurer. Newsletter and call for nominations to go out by June.
 - Alvin would like to pull someone in from Virginia to be back on the Board.
 - Delaware has no representation at this time.
 - West Virginia has no activity at this time.
 - Alvin will follow up with name of advocacy groups and leaders in advocacy for Sid Katz to follow up
 - NJ Alliance started off with coalition through Boggs Center. Many groups were represented: ABCD, NJACP, Self Advocacy Project, ARC, NJP&A
 - Meeting held after September Alliance. Part of the group wanted to continue alliance, but it was ended.
 - Commissioner Davy called for s meeting to discuss issues in disability community, facilitated by NY facilitators, very few advocates showed up. Many professionals showed

up and representation from institutions.

Focus groups included conversation on keeping the Institutions open. No follow-up received after this meeting.

- Budget Issues:
 - 5-6 billion dollars deficit will hurt direct services.
 - State is in budget crisis
 - Healthcare, salaries, overtime issues, utilities have impacted many providers statewide.
 - A future meeting needs to be set to talk about action plans.
 - Advocates and families need to become involved with budget issues.

- Lawsuit
 - State has been sued by NPP&A
 - 3,200 in institutions. Out of this number about 1,500 have been targeted in 1998 as to belonging in the community. The state has not moved on this. State developed a 10 year plan in 1998 to close institutions, take the money and put into the community.
 - Plan targeted that by 2008 there would be 7,500 people on the waiting list, however we are there already.
 - AAMR is now faced with deciding how they want to get involved, i.e. taking a position statement.
 - 42 states have increased state money to support people with disabilities. NJ has decreased the amount. NJ has the largest number of people in institutions and group homes.
 - Other states have lobbied State Senator Kean, Jr. He has put a bill together to call for another study.
 - National ARC, ABCD, Sid as AAMR, named in the suit, for comment in support of the suit.
 - NJ can reach out to legal process and advocacy. Special interest group to determine action.
 - Organizations that are funded by the state face budget cuts by suing the state.
 - We need to develop a separate mechanism for people to join to support the law suit.
 - Only 20% or so of the 1,500 people still in institutions have families. Many others do not have anybody representing them. Some people have families advocating to keep institutions open.
 - AAMR needs to get a coalition going; get position statements and press releases out.
 - Sid Blanchard wants to identify workshops to bring in AAMR professionals to build interest and awareness.

Next meeting February 17, 2006 at 3:00 PM