

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON MENTAL RETARDATION

c/o Sidney Blanchard
Community Access Unlimited, Inc.
80 west Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Phone: (908) 354-3040
Fax: (908) 354-3186

MINUTES March 23, 2006

Attendance: Cynthia Heller, Sheila McDowell, Karolina Scutari, Sidney Blanchard, Samuel Jenkins, Sidney Katz

1. Review Minutes from last meeting. **Motion:** Karolina Scutari, to accept. Second, Sheila McDowell. Passed.
2. AAMR National Meeting: May 2 – 5, 2006
3. AAMR Name Change: Ballot coming out in next two months. Two questions will appear on ballot,
 - a. AAMR Should it be changed? ____Yes ____No
 - b. Rank the following:
1 = first choice, 2 = second choice, 3 = third choice
 - i. AAID
 - ii. AADD
 - iii. AAIDD

One person said of the 3 choices, none were good.

4. Declaration On Health For Persons With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities.
Group received and provided feedback as listed below
 - a. Need to educate existing medical professionals on DDD needs. Doctors are not available for providers. Staff have a hard time locating a physician who is knowledgeable of the field. Doctors are cautious to fill out DD forms
 - b. New insurance plans do not cover licensing mandated annual services
Motion: Endorse draft as developed so far. Passed.
5. NJ Alliance status. April 25, 2006 meeting cancelled. Meeting to discuss actions taken as per Summit meeting. May 2, scheduled to meet at Boggs Center in the afternoon.

6. NJAAMR Fact Sheet:

- 8 – 9 states do not have institutions
- 15 over the next 5 years will not have institutions
- NJ, in the early 1990s was working toward closing institutions. A plan was put together. The legislature received it but never adopted it.
- 1,500 people were identified to be moved out of institutions. 3 institutions were to be closed. By 2008, the institutionalized was to be cut in ½
- The waiting list by 2008 was to be cut in half
- We are now up to 7,500 people on the waiting list
- Evaluation of New Lisbon was conducted, services were found to be inhumane
- DDD was marked to open up 50 group homes, but never received funding
- Evaluation of Woodbridge revealed the same poor condition recently
- NJP&A are filing suit for failing to integrate people into the community and keeping them incarcerated; for failing to follow budget allocation
- Families, NJ Advocacy Group are not protesting to what's going on
- PA – lawsuit filed against developmental center. AAMR PA Chapter has signed their name to the lawsuit
- AAMR NJ to organize a summit of leaders in the field to discuss state of affairs in the field
- Advocates should get advocacy leaders together to discuss issues and put together a fact sheet.

Motion: Adopt Fact Sheet, as corrected, and disseminate. MSP

7. NJAAMR action plans/positions:

- a. NJ DDD suit
- b. NJ plan to address the waiting list
- c. NJ plan for least restrictive supports
- d. NJ workshops
 - i. Positive Behavior Supports
 - ii. Supports Intensity Scale
 - iii. End of Life Workshop

- iv. Being A Professional In Changing System
 - e. The budget
8. New Business

Alvin Cox Region IX Update

Met with PA Chapter to discuss doing a conference in the PA area. May 12, 2006 date set to explore conference possibility. Fall 2006/Spring 2007 targeted in the Lancaster area. They would like to partner with the Region to put it together.

Alvin connected with Delaware representative to revitalize Chapter. Paul and Alvin to meet with Hugh from Delaware in the near future.