

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
March 9, 2004

ATTENDEES: John Gentile, Kris Ginty, Chad Sinanian, Kenny Lee

ABSENTEES: Janet Ross, Roberto Perez, Doris Pietras, Tony Vitti,  
Robie Barile, Carlene Barker

Meeting Commenced 6:30 PM

- John distributed the NEW AGENDA for this meeting
- February meeting minutes reviewed and accepted
- Web page updates has to be authorized by John before any changes can be made to our web site per Mike McLachlan.
- Review of Commission membership-Again, Janet Ross has resigned. Kenny Lee and Carlene Barker can now move up from their alternate position, but this now leaves the Commission short three (3) alternates. Anyone know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Commission?
- Tony Vitti has been in Florida and will return to our meetings next month. Roberto Perez has been going to school Tuesday evenings and will attend our meetings again once classes are done. Doris we have not heard from. John will try to contact her during the month.
- John did assure the members that Mike McLachlan will be following up renewing the Commission members' terms. More to follow.
- John did get in touch with Todd Higgins at Protection and Advocacy regarding the "voting booth issue". Polling places are handicapped accessible but the actual voting machines themselves are not. John passed out information "Your Rights as a Voter with a Disability" which is a self help booklet jointly produced by the State of Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and Miles S. Rapoport, Secretary of the State of CT. Excellent resource! John is now going to visit the Danbury Registrars Office to find out what can be done here in Danbury to make the voting machines more accessible to persons with disabilities. More to follow.
- Kenny has been in charge of the Commission's Phone Log. There were 4 phone calls to our number during the month of February.
- The first call was from a blind woman who has a nine year old daughter and presently lives with her folks in Danbury. The family has recently been having a hard time making ends meet. Family members are now moving to Florida so this woman is looking for help with living arrangements. She asked questions regarding Title VIII which supplies vouchers for living expenses and support. This woman needs to go to The Housing Authority but John is going to call her back and help answer some of her questions.
- Kenny was unable to understand the next caller.
- The next caller was also looking for information on housing. The last call was from a woman who was looking to help people in wheelchairs. John said he would be glad to return both calls and help answer questions they may have.

· Robie was unable to attend our meeting tonight because of another commitment but she did email a flyer to Kris who brought it to the meeting. "Planning for Your Family Members with a Disability" seminar to be held on March 20, 2004 at the offices of PLAN of CT, 151 New Park Avenue Hartford, CT., phone #(860) 523-4951. Anyone interested in going would learn about Estate Planning, Trust and Trustees, Medicaid and other Entitlements, and Personal Care plans. The cost is \$25.00 to join PLAN and attend this seminar.

· Next meeting is April 13, 2004.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 PM