

<b>MINUTES</b>	Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.	
<b>Disability Awareness and Accessibility Review Board Meeting</b>	City Center Room 110 231 North Dakota Avenue Sioux Falls, South Dakota or by teleconference at 1-408-418-9388, Access Code 187 118 6391##	

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tana Zwart, Nicholas Kummer, Kellie Schelhaas. Kati Seymour, Sarah Jorgensen, Lacy Hutchens present virtually.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sharla Svennes and Lyndsey Meier

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**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Guest Speaker: Delores Lipp, Disability Rights South Dakota.** Formerly known as South Dakota Advocacy Services, Disability Rights South Dakota (DRSD) is a non-profit legal services agency dedicated to protecting and advocating for the rights and inclusion of South Dakotans with disabilities. DRSD was established in 1977 as the federally mandated Protection & Advocacy (P&A) system for South Dakota. They provide legal advocacy, protection, and public awareness. Lipp provided some history into the P&A system; in 1972, Geraldo Rivera broadcasted an investigative report of the Willowbrook state institution in Staten Island, New York. Rivera’s reporting exposed abuse, neglect, and a lack of services and supports for those at the institution. The broadcast shed light on some horrifying conditions and triggered the implementation of P&A programming. DRSD offers numerous programs and services for a variety of disabilities. To be eligible for services, an individual has to have a disability and a disability-rights issue, such as abuse, neglect, or rights violations. For most programs, this means the issue/problem must arise from the individuals’ disability. Lipp shared DRSD 2021 goals which include abuse and neglect monitoring and investigations, community access, education, removing employment barriers, alternatives to guardianships, voting accessibility, and outreach. DRSD also handles mental health cases and goes to HSC on a weekly basis. They monitor facilities and have the authority to access every part of the facility a client/patient utilizes. This includes investigating allegations of abuse and neglect. Covid-19 has brought an influx of new cases, especially those with specific concerns of isolation and family not seeing family members due to pandemic restrictions. DRSD is an incredibly valuable

resource in our community and if anyone has questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to their intake staff.

- B. **Transition Plan.** Svennes shared the ADA Transition Plan which was previously presented to City Council. Discussed reviewing plan and providing input regarding areas in need of improvement. Zwart asked about ride share and lack of accessibility through that service. Ride sharing doesn't have time restrictions whereas paratransit services have limitations. Hutchens echoed concern with paratransit services not offering rides past 7pm which limits functions and availability.
- C. **Review and Adoption of New Logo.** Presented options for new board logo and received feedback from board members. Zwart suggested avoiding yellow as it is difficult to read for visually impaired. Discussed modifications and using more vibrant colors. Zwart suggested changing direction and lining up vertically to designate board acronym. Will go back to the drawing board and present updated options next month.
- D. **Designation of Committees.** By-laws require two standing committees: Marketing, Education, and Public Needs and Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation. Zwart, Jorgensen, and Hutchens volunteered for the Marketing, Education, and Public Needs Committee and Seymour, Kummer, and Hutchens volunteered for the Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation Committee. Seymour motioned to designate standing committees and Zwart seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0.
- E. **Discussion Regarding Unfinished Initiatives of Disability Awareness Commission and ADA Accessibility Review Board.** Discussed three past initiatives: parking outreach, marketing, and Artibility. Discussed proposal to continue parking outreach and get signs made. Jorgensen inquired about allotted budget for Artibility. Discussions on these initiatives will continue.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Seymour and seconded by Kummer to approve the minutes from March 2021 meeting. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

### **READING OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Seymour shared the Arc of Dreams will be lit on 7/16/21 in honor of the first ADA. Zwart shared the ADA Celebration Committee is in the process of creating an event page on Facebook.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

June 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Lyndsey Meier  
Human Relations Specialist