

Disability Access Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, February 11, 2022

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Via Zoom

1) Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:02pm.
- **Members Present:** Brian Warner, Jordan Nelson, Marla Loecke, Joe Weigel, Dr. Ann Cameron Williams, Joleen Jansen, and Stephanie Weidemann (secretary/recorder)
- **Members Absent:** Sarah Till

2) Introductions

- **Brian Warner:** Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services Supervisor-Mason City Area Office and Decorah Service Branch Unit, and Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Board Member
- **Jordan Nelson:** Owner and CEO of Thrive
- **Marla Loecke:** Iowa Workforce Development Operations Manager-Dubuque and Decorah offices
- **Joe Weigel:** Iowa Department For the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- **Dr. Ann Cameron Williams:** Dubuque County Mental Health and Disability Services Director
- **Joleen Jansen:** Owner of Jansen Products, Clayton County Energy District Program Manager, and Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development Board Member
- **Stephanie Weidemann:** Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services Secretary-Decorah Service Branch Unit and secretary/recorder for this committee

3) Mission and Goals of Disability Access Committee

- A listing of the Disability Access Committee's mission and goals can be found at <https://www.iowawdb.gov/about-disability-access-standing-committee>
- The Local Workforce Development Board Committee Nomination Form was reviewed. Stephanie will email this form out to those that have not filled it out yet. Please return the completed form to Stephanie Weidemann via email (stephanie.weidemann@iowa.gov)

4) Areas of Interest and Future Initiatives Discussion

- First get familiar with the missions and goals of this committee so that we can fulfill them to the best of our abilities.
- Dubuque County Board of Supervisors has created the Dubuque County Disabilities Council
 - A disability and mental needs survey for Dubuque County is getting ready to deploy
 - We would like to learn more about the Dubuque County Disabilities Council model
- Raise awareness in general public to help eliminate stigmas
 - For example, businesses may think it would be costly hiring someone with a disability. However, the average accommodation cost to a business is actually only \$12.

- Websites are hard to navigate when applying for jobs
 - What can be done to make employer websites more accessible?
 - Are our own websites and social media platforms creating barriers that we are unaware of?
- ADA accessibility study for the IowaWORKS centers last conducted approximately 4 years ago
- Every IVRS area office has an ADA Accessibility Kit; need to check if the satellite offices have them and also what others in the community have such as public libraries and schools
- An underutilized service IVRS provides is ADA assessments
 - Need to make businesses know this is something IVRS can do and is free
 - What is an ADA assessment worth if you had to put a price on it?
 - IVRS is not ADA police, IVRS assessments give businesses ideas and suggestions to make their workplace more accessible
 - More IVRS staff need trained on how to conduct an ADA assessment
 - Look into creating an event that involves all 20 counties

5) Future Meeting Schedule

- For now the group has decided to meet monthly. Fridays during the noon hour works. Will try to schedule the 2nd or 3rd Friday of the month.
- Next meeting scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022 at 12pm via Zoom. Stephanie will email the meeting invitation.

6) Adjournment

- Joleen Jansen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ann Cameron Williams seconded the motion. All members present voted in agreement to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:39pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Stephanie Weidemann (secretary/recorder)