

Disabilities Network of Eastern CT
19 Ohio Ave.
Norwich, CT 06360

April 16, 2024
5:30 PM - 7:00PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

On screen:

K. Pellerin, President
E. Petrik, Vice President
S. Baecker, Secretary
S. Heddle, Exec Director
S. Barrett, Prospective Board member

Absent: E. McBride

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by K. Pellerin.

II. Public Comment:

None

III. Approval of minutes:

Delayed until E Petrik could join meeting.

IV. Executive Director Report: Highlights

- A. Experienced some relatively mild staff “turmoil” but issues resolved by relocating one staff member to another office.
- B. Gabby (staff) will be on maternity leave mid June to mid August. She’ll return as our “data coordinator”, working with other centers to coordinate reporting information. She’ll be working 15 to 20 hrs/wk.
- C. E. Petrik’s Financial Literacy Presentation was rescheduled due to DNEC attendance at Disability Rights and Justice rally at state capitol. Emily’s presentation date TBD.
- D. Staff members met with Park Congregational Church staff as a follow up to DNEC’s donation of a hearing aid loop.
- E. Community ASL class started this past Monday with 3 participants. There is also a weekly ASL class for staff.
- F. About 200 people stopped by our presentation table at the Learned Disability Summit at Mohegan Sun.
Sharon’s report was included with material sent in prep for the meeting.

V. Approval of minutes:

On a motion by E. Petrik seconded by K. Pellerin, the March 12th minutes were approved with a correction to amend First Congregational Church to Park Congregational Church .

VI. President's Report:

- A. Renee Toper has resigned from the Board for personal reasons.
- B. Reviewed the relationship between the State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living.
- C. Continued discussion regarding potential fund raisers. A Trivia Night event in March/April 2025 will be pursued to determine costs/prizes/venue etc
- D. Sharon has sent an email to Dept of Aging & Disability Services Commissioner Amy Porter to attend (via Zoom) our June Annual Meeting.
- E. Continued discussion on best approaches to recruit new Board members. The revised notice seeking prospective new members was approved and will be posted on LinkedIn as well as other potential social media sites and other physical locations.

VII: New Business:

- A. Our accountant Greg DeFrank will attend our June meeting to provide a financial update.

VIII: Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM. Next Meeting is May 14, 2024.

S. Baecker - Secretary

Scott Baecker

Date

8/8/24

Executive Director Report – Sharon J. Heddle

4/16/2024

Staffing good

Plans for Gabby's Maternity Leave in place – mid June through mid August – 6 weeks is the plan

Plans for her return in place – 15-20 hours per week

Rally on Thursday this week - DISABILITY RIGHTS 7 JUSTICE RALLY

- Mental Health Peer-Run Respite

- Husky C without forced poverty

- Timely wheelchair repairs at home

- Accessible medical exam equipment

Park Church – outreach

Staff ASL class

Community ASL class – 3 people \$200