

***DAGWould?***  
***Board Meeting Minutes***

August 15, 2019

The fourth DAGWould? meeting was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at the disABILITY Resource Center on Cross Park Drive, Building E, Suite 135, in Knoxville, TN.

1. Call to Order  
Cindy Pionke, called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m. She recognized and thanked DAGWould? members who were present for the meeting: Tim Adams, Anna Bass, Sandra Booher, Mark Brogan, Nancy Brown, April Tomlin, and Shazi Ahmad.
2. Approval of Minutes from June and July Meetings  
Minutes from the June and July meetings were approved.
3. Discussion of the County Commission Workshop
  - a. DAGWould? Chair, Anna Bass, opened the discussion with procedural information on how the County Commission meetings worked and asked members of DAGWould? to plan on attending in order to represent Knox County residents who are impacted by the transition plan, as well as to give input and/or answer any questions members of the Commission have.
  - b. Discussion of who should speak at the workshop and what points DAGWould? wants to get across to the Commission
    - i. Consultant will present their report via power point (condensed version to fit allotted time of 7-10 minutes during County Commission meeting)
    - ii. If called upon, emphasize the need for adopting the Transition Plan and for moving forward with implementing it, rather than put it off for a later date (as has been the case in the past).
    - iii. Baby boomer population is a large portion of the population and is now aging, indicating a further need for progress to be made in the near future.
    - iv. The disability population number is skewed b/c we are only aware of those who self-disclose their disabilities. A lot of individuals do not disclose their disabilities, so the number of those who would benefit from implementing the Transition Plan is higher than initially projected.
    - v. Everyone will be disabled at some point in their lives and modifications are very rarely beneficial to one person.
    - vi. The County must adopt some form of the Transition Plan otherwise, they will lose Federal dollars.

- vii. Tourism as a driving force-the city of Knoxville is trying to be an “AARP city,” as should the County.
- viii. Stress the importance of not only implementing the Transition Plan, but to get it right. For instance, use the example of the relatively new Karns Senior Center and how there are 19 items that need to be fixed/adjusted, despite the fact that it is only 4 years old.

#### 4. Ice Breaker

Given time to think after the discussion at the prior meeting has anything, in particular, struck anyone about what DAGW would? should be looking at?

- a. An effective way of getting more support from the Commission may be to possibly find one or two champion members on the County Commission. Do any them, their families, and/or close friends have any disabilities?
- b. Need more people than just the Commission to buy into the idea of adoption the Transition Plan. Are there any businesses out there willing to provide services to fix some of the existing problems at a discounted price (ie. plumbers, contactors, etc.)?
- c. What are some of the serious safety issues that may arise if particular issues are not addressed/corrected.
- d. Who is responsible for making decisions and how do we improve the decision-making going forward? The example of inadequacies at newly constructed senior center are just one example of how Knox County is not necessarily evolving, despite attempts at improvement.
  - i. The newly constructed Chesapeake’s and lack of accessibility.
  - ii. Young-William Animal Center

#### 5. Discussion of the Transition Plan

- a. There is no right way to triage the items in the plan. It’s a matter of choosing some improvements and moving forward.
- b. What does the community want to prioritize?
- c. Emphasis on field visits and walk throughs of older and newer facilities before signing off on a new plan of action for improvements.
- d. The County is in the process of trying to find an engineering firm familiar with the ADA and hoping to have someone hired by October.
- e. The County Engineering department may be able to fix some of the smaller issues that need to be addressed (as should the Director of Special Operations in schools).

#### 6. Set Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at the Karns Senior Center on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 3pm.

Cindy Pionke, Strategic Facilities Engineer/ADA 504 Coordinator for Knox County adjourned the meeting at 4:31pm.