

## **Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** March 4, 2014, 12:00 – 2:00pm, Community Center

**Present:** Pat Teal, Marion Huxtable

**Absent:** Julie Duke, Pat and Nancy Kelly-Patnode, Liz Heffern, Leesa Monroe, Bonnie Bolster

**Guests:** Carl and Cathy Jarvis, Sue Ammeter

### **Introductions/Presentation**

DASH Board members welcomed guests Carl and Cathy Jarvis, and Sue Ammeter. DASH invited them to provide input regarding the needs of people with visual disabilities in medical facilities. This information will be helpful as DASH prepares to assist Jefferson Healthcare with its design for its campus extension due to start this year. The following topics were mentioned as important for people with vision problems.

1. There is concern about the difficulty of navigating a sloped ramp from the bus stop to the new main entrance, especially in icy weather.
2. Pedestrian aisles are needed in the parking lot although many people with vision problems will be dropped at the entrance by their escort.
3. There should be no trip hazards such as misplaced wheel stops in the parking lot.
4. Sufficient accessible parking spaces are needed, as it is not always possible to find one at present. It is common for people to have multiple disabilities, such as vision problems plus mobility problems, so adequate parking is needed.
5. Medical equipment needs to be suitable for people with disabilities, for example adjustable tables, mammography equipment.
6. The location of buttons in the elevator should be considered. If too low, they are difficult for a blind person to locate. If heat activated a blind person might inadvertently trigger all of them in searching for the braille.
7. General signage needs to be clear, large, and consistent with attention to fonts, colors and lighting.
8. Braille signs need to be installed correctly.
9. Consistency of placement of signs is important – check regulations for correct placement.
10. Restrooms should have a standard layout in each part of the facility so that blind persons can easily locate equipment and materials such as towels.
11. Detectable warnings should be yellow for maximum visibility.
12. While accommodations have been well handled in the experience of those here today, training is needed for new staff and also for continuing staff in order to meet the needs of people with vision problems.
13. The website needs to be reviewed for accessibility.

14. It would be useful to walk Carl, Cathy and Sue through the plans and the location before construction to find potential problems before construction.

Follow-up:

Cathy will review the hospital's web site.

Marion will contact USDA about compliance issues in the loan application.

DASH will attend Commissioners Meeting to get feedback about existing compliance plans, date of last evaluation and ADA Coordinator.

Marion will check ADA Center for Western Washington to see if there is a video about medical facilities.

## **Public Access**

### **Jefferson Health Care Training**

Marion and Pat attended an ADA online training February 18, 2014. The training is a three-part series for businesses to learn to evaluate their ADA plan. DASH had sent a follow-up letter to Mike Glenn suggesting more involvement by staff. However, only one staff person attended. Hospital Commissioner, Matt Ready, attended and there was useful discussion with him following the training. Part III in the series is scheduled at the hospital for March 18 @ 11:00, Computer Room.

### **Port of Port Townsend**

The WSU and Gathering Place space rented at the Port (discussed at previous DASH meeting) remains an agenda item for DASH. We will check if WSU Extension has an ADA coordinator.

## **Other Business**

Marion reported on Age at Home, a new service offered by 2 physical therapists in Port Townsend. They evaluate and recommend improvements to private homes. All aspects of a home can be evaluated, as well as appliances. Architects and builders can be recommended. Lynn Meyer and Celia Fry could be considered as DASH Board Members.

Nancy Patmode is moving to Sequim and will not be able to attend future Board Meetings.

A Thank You card was written for Lynn's mother who made a donation.

Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm

**Next meeting** – Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at Community Center 12:00-2:00