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**WALLA WALLA
ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACAC)**

Meet and Greet

Wed., Apr. 10, 2019

7-8 pm

SonBridge Community Services Center

Walla Walla, WA 99362

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Connie Taylor-Randall welcomed the local Walla Walla newly appointment ACAC members and the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment Accessible Community Advisory sub-committee members (Marilyn Crandall, Sub-Committee GCDE ACAC Chair, Warren Weissman, GCDE ACAC Sub-Committee Member, Patricia Bauccio, GCDE Vice Chair and GCDE ACAC Sub-Committee Member), and GCDE Program Coordinator Elaine Stefanowicz, Each person present introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of why they elected to apply to be on the Walla Walla ACAC.

ATTENDEES

Araceli Castro, Emma Krubrock, Amelia Odeen, Trina Parrish, Connie Taylor-Randall, Jessica Tourtellotte, Kati Tureman, Amy White, Dwayne Williams and Marta Reyes (Spanish Language Interpreter)

PRESENTATION OF LETTER AND AWARD CERTIFICATE

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Marilyn Crandall, GCDE ACAC Chair, presented the official letter and award certificate to Connie Taylor-Randall, Walla Walla ACAC Chair, to certify that Walla Walla had been approved to form a local ACAC. Connie expressed thanks to Cindy Wolski, Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator for Walla Walla County/Columbia County Department of Community Health, Meghan DeBolt, Director of Community Health, and Jim Johnson, County Commissioner, for all their efforts in pulling this together to ensure that Walla Walla county continues to promote better disability awareness and access for persons who have disabilities. The purpose of the committee is to be actively involved in the following activities: advising on addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans; advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs, services, and activities, new construction, or renovation projects, sidewalks, other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement; and developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, and involvement, and access for persons with disabilities within the community. (WAC 192-50-010)

INTRODUCTION OF STATE ACAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Connie Taylor-Randall introduced the State ACAC Subcommittee members and staff to the committee. Each subcommittee member and the program committee gave a brief overview of their assignments and duties.

BACKGROUND ACAC STATE GCDE

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Marilyn Crandall provided a power point on the ACAC explaining the purpose of the Accessible Communities Act (Chapter 215, Laws of 2010). She indicated that the Washington State Legislature found that when people who have disabilities are welcomed and included as members of our communities and provided equal access to the opportunities available to others, their participation enriches those communities. More than nine hundred thousand (900,000) Washington state residents with disabilities continue to face barriers...barriers that could be eliminated easily. The current website for assessible communities is accessiblecommunities.wa.gov. She reviewed RCW 36.01.310.

Pat Bauccio gave an overview of all the subcommittees (Youth Leadership Forum, ACAC, Community Outreach, Awards) and the mission and vision of the GCDE at the state level.

GRANTS

Warren Weissman spoke about grant money available for local ACACs to fund projects. He indicated that this money is available from fines received from those who park illegally in handicapped accessible parking spots. Examples were given of various projects that have been funded by application to the GCDE ACAC. There is an application for projects to access these funds but communities can only receive grants if they have a local ACAC like the one recently formed in Walla Walla. It was recommended that a checklist and form be available to provide to those in the community who might be interested in applying for grants.

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Marilyn Crandall also provided information on phone apps that help report people who park illegally in parking spaces.

Cindy Wolski discussed the current sticker project that is being used with businesses who employ those with disabilities or who have accessible businesses.

PACKETS/REIMBURSEMENTS

Elaine Stefanowicz reviewed the information in the packets provided by the state GCDE office. The packet included the welcome letter, letter of assurance, acceptance letter, committee membership list, town hall flyer, GCDE statewide ACAC map, personalized name tag, GCDE ACAC brochure, and reimbursement information. She explained the reimbursement process and what needed to be completed in order for members to have necessary accommodations.

TOWN HALL MEETING AND LEADERSHIP FORUM

Patricia Bauccio explained that Walla Walla had been selected by the state GCDE Community Outreach subcommittee for an April Community Outreach. She briefly reviewed the components of Town Hall Meeting and Leadership Forum. She reviewed the mission as being to advocate for and with the disability community by conducting outreach events and how the subcommittee helps committee helps facilitate policies and recommendations promoting equal access to services in a local community. She indicated that the new ACAC members are encouraged to attend both events. The Town Hall meeting will be held on Thurs., Apr. 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

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at SonBridge Community Center and the Leadership Forum is set for Fri., Apr. 12 from 8 to 10 am at Sea-Tech. Snacks will be available at the Town Hall Meeting and breakfast will be served at the leadership forum. From the information gleaned from the town hall meeting and leadership forum, this will help guide the direction of the local ACAC committee as to issues that may surface as needs for the Walla Walla Valley.

SETTING MEETING DATES – QUARTERLY

It was suggested that the committee meet quarterly. Due to time constraints, the committee decided to determine the next meeting date as Wed., May 29, from 7 to 8:30 pm in the SonBridge Community Center. It will be the responsibility of members who need accommodates to work with Elaine Stefanowicz to obtain what is needed for their particular needs. She can be reached at estefanowicz@esd.wa.gov. Her phone number is 360.902.9362. Future meeting dates will be set at the next meeting.

TERM OF OFFICE

The need for varied terms of office was discussed so that there is consistency on the committee. It was decided to table this until the next meeting.

BY-LAWS

The need for by-laws was discussed, but due to time constraints this issue was tabled until the next meeting. It was suggested that a by-law committee be formed to work on the Walla Walla ACAC by-laws and that prototypes of other

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ACACs be gathered to use as a template. Cindy Wolski offered to get a copy of Spokane's by-laws for the next meeting.

POSSIBLE TOPICS TO PURSUE

The committee members suggested the following topics that the committee might want to pursue. These included: Walla Walla Access, stoplight timing/crosswalks, roundabouts, prison access, accessible playground, and voting accessibility. It was also suggested that the committee consider a monthly newsletter and a possible mentor contact program.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was scheduled for Wed., May 29, 2019, from 7 to 8:30 pm at SonBridge.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Taylor-Randall