



**Minutes**  
**Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns**  
**April 8, 2019**

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS meeting held on Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m., at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd., Board Room, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

**MEMBERS Present:**

Chair Wendy Dietrich  
Vice-Chair Katherine Schmidt  
Rene Williams  
Jeff Oats  
Paul Kent (Joined at 6:35)  
Maranda M. Childress

**MEMBERS Absent:**

Vacant Position  
Ben Campbell  
Bethany Lien

**Guests:**

Irene Mochel, Former Commissioner  
John Federico, Tempe Transportation Commission, VMAAG  
Colleen Tighe, Tempe ARC

**Office of Strategic Management and Diversity Staff Present:**

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

**Vice Chair Katherine Schmidt** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Item 1. Call to the Public.**

No comments

**Item 2. Review and Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2019 Minutes**

**Motion:** Request approval of the March 4, 2019 CDC Minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Rene Williams

**Second:** Commissioner Jeffrey C. Oats

**Motion carried unanimously, 6 approved, 2 absent, 1 vacancy**

**Votes**

\_Y\_ Wendy Dietrich  
\_Y\_ Katherine Schmidt Ph.D.  
\_Y\_ Rene Williams  
\_Y\_ Paul Kent  
\_Y\_ Maranda Childress  
\_A\_ Ben Campbell  
\_A\_ Bethany Lien  
\_Y\_ Jeffrey C. Oats  
\_\_\_ Vacancy

### **3. Presentation: The ARC of Tempe**

CEO Colleen Tighe of the Tempe ARC presented information to inform the Commissioners on services provided and answer questions. ARC specializes in serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who are highly capable. They provide social services, recreation, Toastmasters and other programs.

#### **A. What services can Tempe help you provide?**

Tempe can help by providing more services to help the transitioning IDD population which is from 18 to 21. After 21 all assistance stops.

#### **B. How can Tempe better help you?**

Help reach the transitioning population and provide advocacy, recreation, socialization activities, and educate parents on services available to help with transition, i.e. promote availability of transition coaches,

Help build connections between people with IDD and the general population.

Help with disability resources, funding for IDD inclusion activities.

Provide a marketing program to train Tempe staff and the public about Disability Etiquette. When families with members who have IDD are in the public, the public doesn't always respond appropriately.

Provide an Autism 101 training on transitioning adults with a social work component to help families.

Promote the ARC Event Calendar

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Provide events that are inclusive to help families with children and adults with IDD be seen in the public more. Advertise that the event is IDD / Disability inclusive.

### **C. What areas are you seeing in Tempe that need attention?**

There is a tremendous problem with isolation and the suicide rate for this population is 15 percent more than for the general population and not much is shared about this. There are resources that can help.

There are foster homes with transitioning adults with IDD that are isolated. Promoting activities that bring together transition coaches and IDD populations in City opportunities can help.

### **4. Debrief: 2019 Disability Awards**

- **Nomination application:** shorten the form, if possible.
- **Marketing:** get out early enough to put on event calendars
- **Guest Keynote presenter:** Dr. Max Ryser was excellent
- **Boutonnieres:** are a great touch; lets continue with that.
- **Volunteers:** don't need to be there at 1:00, 2:00 should be sufficient.
- **Employment First Tempe Proclamation:** A copy is in the folder
- **Sponsors** provided \$2,100. This does not include \$2,700 for scholarships from Tempe Diablos: Students, Youth and Educator awards. Sponsors were:
  - Stephanie Miller – Nancy Calfee
  - Cole
  - A Caring Heart of Arizona, LLC
  - Believe I Can Academy
  - Irene, Amy and Lynn Mochel
  - Schmidt Family
- **Expenses:** Invoices are still arriving, will have budget info when complete
- **Pictures** and PowerPoint are available: [www.tempe.gov/disabilityawards](http://www.tempe.gov/disabilityawards)
- **Trophies** were provided via a new vendor, good, do same next year- in color

- **Suggestions** for next year:
  - Keep registration to one sheet, don't need four or put it on a tablet
  - Start award nomination process sooner so there is more time.
  - Keep same process to eliminate categories if no nominations
  - Reach more schools, most nominations were from two teachers
  - Keep same food vendor if possible, good food, at less cost
  
- a. **Sponsorships:** The sponsors were recognized and appreciated.  
Sponsors include:
  - Tempe Diablos Charities
  - Stephanie Miller – Nancy Calfee
  - Cole
  - A Caring Heart of Arizona, LLC
  - Believe I Can Academy
  - Irene, Amy and Lynn Mochel
  - Schmidt Family

The Sponsorship total was \$2100, not counting the Tempe Diablos who contributed up to \$2,700 for High School Graduate, youth and educator awards. Total with student awards: \$4,800.
  
- b. **Theme:** “It only takes one, be the first one.”
  
- c. **Awards:** Winners were selected for the various awards.  
No awards were given for Business or Employer of the Year.
  
- d. **Program:** No discussion.
  
- e. **Assignments:** were given.

## 5. **Review / Approval: October Disability Summit**

This request was presented by Chair Wendy Dietrich to support a Disability Summit or Inclusion Fair and Summit in October. CDC Chair has been working with Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage to identify opportunities to train staff on disability issues to support changing Tempe culture regarding disability inclusion. There is more than enough evidence that inclusion / isolation is a tremendous issue affecting people with developmental, psychological and sensory disabilities.

### **The Disability Summit could include the following topics:**

- Showcase abilities of people with disabilities
- Disability Etiquette
- Disability Resources
- Disability Customer Service
- Disability Culture in Tempe
- Employment Inclusion
- Inclusion recreation programs

### **Format could include a half-day event from 10a.m – 2 p.m.**

- Workshops
- Conversations
- Activities
- Resource tables in the lobby

**Purpose:** This would support the Tempe's BEST Program's requirement to facilitate cultural change in the City of Tempe. October is Disability Awareness / Disability Employment month and so it has been traditional that an event is held. It used to be the White Cane Day event, then for the past four years it was a job fair for people who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing/ Disabled that was supported by Arizona@Work. All of which were directed to the public. This event would be directed to city employees as well as others.

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**Motion: Approve an October disability event: Disability Summit**  
**Motion carried unanimously, 6 approved, 2 absent, 1 vacancy**

**Votes**

\_Y\_ Wendy Dietrich  
\_Y\_ Katherine Schmidt Ph.D.  
\_Y\_ Rene Williams  
\_Y\_ Paul Kent  
\_Y\_ Maranda Childress  
\_A\_ Ben Campbell  
\_A\_ Bethany Lien  
\_Y\_ Jeffrey C. Oats  
\_\_\_ Vacancy

Staff will identify dates the library lower level may be available in October 2019 and explore potential resources for this event.

**6. Inclusive Recreation Progress – Update**

Chair Wendy Dietrich reported that a supplemental funding request was submitted to City Council and it was well received. The funding is to provide additional staff to facilitate the proper staffing ratios required by law in serving children with disabilities in recreation settings.

An inclusion request form has been approved so the process and information required to provide accommodations is formalized.

**7. Discussion: Commission and Staff Announcements.**

- **Connector Award.** Chair Wendy Dietrich said that there is an exciting opportunity or funding coming out to address isolation called the Connector Award being offered by the Tempe Community Council. The purpose is to explore ways to eliminate isolation and provide incubation support to develop the idea. The award would be for up to \$50,000 and requires that there be at least two collaborators. Multiple awards are possible.

- **May Meeting.** Chair Wendy Dietrich said she will not be available for the May meeting and Vice Chair Katherine Schmidt will be serving as chair.
- **Chair Resigning in July.** Chair Wendy Dietrich also announced that she will be moving out of state soon and will be resigning effective July 2019. The June 3 meeting will be her last meeting. Vice Chair will serve until end of year.
- **Presenter for next month.** Commissioners requested a presenter regarding counseling for people with disabilities on how to consider employment when they are receiving federal disability benefits such as Social Security. Staff will reach out to Ability 360 which has a staff person who provides this counseling.
- **No July Meeting.** There will be no meeting in July for summer break.
- **Ability360 Health and Wellness Fair flyer** is in the folder.
- **Next CDC meeting is May 8.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Reviewed by:

    **Ginny Belousek**      
**Ginny Belousek, Diversity Manager**