

Knoxville Mayor's Council on Disability Issues

October 13, 2021 - 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

II. Roll call:

Present: Barber, Briggs, Byrne, Carroll, Colebrooke, Cook, Houston, Huang, Landfather, Lowe, Moore, Mull, NeSmith, Orr, Simmons, Spangler, VanDyke, and Welch.

Absent: Alexander, Childress, Cook, Foutch, Loebner, Rodgers, Villanueva,

Guests: Megan Hart, Marian Wildgruber, Carly Pearson, Delaney Carey, Emma Kate Carrol

Interpreters: Deby Torbett, Haile Stewart

III. Approval of September Minutes: Moore first, Landfather second – all were in favor, motion carried.

IV. TN Disability Pathfinder – Megan Hart, PhD

Megan Hart announced that Tennessee Disability Pathfinders received an overhaul to make it easier for people with disabilities to find needed services. The statewide portal can now be found at [TNPathfinder.org](https://tnpathfinder.org). Updated interactive features match users anywhere in Tennessee with disability resources, service providers, and community events. Pathfinder helps people with disabilities, family members, caregivers, educators, and other professionals find and access community resources, support, and services to meet their needs.

Users can get help through a toll-free helpline, online directory, and regularly scheduled community workshops across Tennessee. Pathfinder's diverse staff can help people of all ages and types of disabilities, and is available in eight different languages users may select.

The new features of the Pathfinder website include more than 3,500 disability resources across Tennessee. Searching for information is now more customizable. Users can search based on:

- **Stage of Life:** Chose from Prenatal/infancy, Early Childhood, School Age, Transition/Young Adult, Adulthood, or Aging.
- **Topic of Interest:** There are twenty service categories to select, with a text box to enter keywords.
- **Diagnosis:** Choose from different types of disabilities or health conditions.
- **Benefit/Payment Options:** Includes options to search based on forms of payment accepted by the agency provider, such as health insurance, government program, private pay, or no cost services.
- **Service Area:** Select counties where services are provided.

Pathfinder's website will remain open for anyone to use without creating an account, but there will be new features for users who choose to create a profile such as:

- The ability to bookmark resources
- Save past searches
- Submit new agency resources and website links to be added to the site
- Posting events on the Pathfinder Events Calendar

Tennessee Pathfinder also provides innovative trainings and presentations to inform people about Pathfinder, disability etiquette, "People First" language, working with multicultural populations, and community resources.

v. National Dwarfism Awareness Month – Karen Lowe

Karen Lowe shared information about National Dwarfism Awareness Month. People with Dwarfism are no different than any other person. Dwarfs are children, college students, business professionals, doctors, engineers, mechanics, artists, and teachers, and can do anything an average-height person can. While most people with Dwarfism are no taller than 4' 10" when they reach adulthood, they typically range in height from 2' 8" to 4' 5". Approximately 80 percent of people with Dwarfism have average-height parents and siblings.

Little People of America started in 1957 in Reno Nevada and now there are thirteen districts across the United States. Each year they meet in Reno for our annual Dwarfism Convention.

Most with Dwarfism do not have many health issues but when they do, it tends to be more orthopedic. Technically, most Dwarfism is described as having Skeletal Dysplasia, and Dwarfism is considered a disability under the ADA. Not every dwarf considers themselves disabled, because everyone has different abilities. The most common health problems are issues with the spine, with hydrocephalus or fluid on the brain, as well as sleep apnea, and scoliosis, which also affects the spine. Many dwarfs have issues with their feet. Anesthesia is a problematic issue because you must go by the individual's weight not their age or height.

Most dwarfs have an average life span. Of course, with anything it depends on how active and healthy they are. We have dwarfs who have competed in the Olympics and Paralympics. We have a Dwarf Athletic Association of America, which is held around the same time of the Little People of America Conference, and athletes come from all around the world to compete.

Anyone could have a child with dwarfism, as 80% of people with dwarfism are the only person in their family to have this.

vi. Member Advocacy and Information (5 minutes)

Carly Pearson introduced herself as Knox County's new ADA Coordinator. Carly replaced Cindy Pionke when she retired.

VII. Committee Reports

Bylaws

- Did not meet

Membership

- Did not meet

Transportation

- Welch reported that the committee will be gathering information on all the work that is being done with KAT, feedback, and accessibility.
- The committee also discussed Joel's experience riding with KAT.
- Transportation will be creating an article for use in newsletters, a flyer, and social media posts to share.

Community Engagement

- Previous Chair of Community Engagement stepped down. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee, please reach out to Misha Byrne.
- All CODI Meetings are listed on Disability Pathfinder, with the exception of 2022 onward for Livability and those dates should be viewable on the site by next week.
- VanDyke will be following up on researching how Crip the Vote could help mitigate any impacts on the disability community in Knoxville considering recent voting rights law in Texas.
- Discussed how increased community engagement begins with increased CODI engagement.
- Discussed creating an online board that everyone can access to find calendars and task lists for each strategic plan and committees.

VIII. Strategic Plan Group Reports

Livability

- There were three attendees during the last Livability meeting (one member, Misha Byrne, and chair Melissa VanDyke). During the brief meeting, VanDyke was updated on the previous September meeting.
- Misha Byrne gave an update on the CODI Window Cling, which is currently in progress with City of Knoxville's graphic design office.
- Karen Lowe completed her research on National Awareness Months and created a calendar, and Mull should have a list of businesses to share with the Livability Committee next month.

- Lowe researched and created a list of restaurant businesses in the downtown area that may be a good place to start with the accessibility checklist.

Universal Design

- VanDyke reported zero accessibility features for Parade of Homes she had visited. This weekend is the last weekend for the event and VanDyke encouraged CODI to visit Parade of Homes to see if we can find any contractors who have thought about accessibility. Landfather mentioned he was able to view them online at KnoxvilleParadeOfHomes.com and did not notice any of them being accessible but mentioned that plans can be adapted to be accessible.
- Mull and Byrne will look for home accessibility measurements / specs and will send out to CODI Committee. See Specs Below:
https://equalrightscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/fha_checklist_single_page.pdf
- Jim Tente attended the meeting and reported he would be updating the one-pager explaining the differences in accessible dwelling units and would get that to CODI within the month.
- Also discussed Universal Design attending City held trainings on building accessibility.
- Tente and City of Knoxville inspectors have been invited to come to CODI in the future to ask questions of us on why accessibility matters in terms of specific questions they may have.
- Aimee, from Design Innovation Architects, Inc. will be speaking to Universal Design in November.
- Misha Byrne and Joel Simmons are working on finding free accessible blueprints that could possibly be shared with builders.
- Landfather reported that the Disability Community represents 1.2 billion in buying power.

IX. New Business

- Dennis Landfather has agreed to chair Community Engagement committee.
- We need officers/secretaries on quite a few of our committees. If you are willing to act as one of these, please send Misha Byrne an email letting her know. Current open positions include: Membership Chair and Secretary, Universal Design Secretary, and Livability Secretary.
- Byrne reminded everyone if they do not remember which committees or strategic plans you're currently on to please let her know, and if unable to attend a meeting that you are acting chair or secretary on, please don't

forget to let Misha know you will be absent so she can prepare to stand in your place for the meeting.

- Modify Your House with our Home Accessibility Checklist / UDS Foundation <https://udservices.org/blog/home-accessibility-checklist/>
- Fair Housing Act Checklist https://equalrightscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/fha_checklist_single_page.pdf

X. Announcements and Public Forum

- **None**

XI. Adjourn 5:40 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders:

November 10, 2021	December 8, 2021	January 12, 2022
February 9, 2022	March 9, 2022	April 13, 2022
May 11, 2022	June 8, 2022	July 13, 2022
August 10, 2022	September 14, 2022	October 12, 2022
November 9, 2022	December 14, 2022	