

## WESTWOOD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

November 18, 2016 9:15am  
Municipal Offices Carby Street  
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Berry Goodfellow, MaryAnne Carty, Michelle Fiola-Reidy, Fran MacQueen, Jette Meglan, Jean Barrett, Lori Gillen and Chuck Taylor

GUESTS: Lina Arena-DeRosa, Westwood COA, and Sheryl Leary, HESSCO

### I. Attendance and approval of Minutes

### II. New Business

Caring for the Caregiver - March 30, 2017

Sheryl Leary informed us that she will ask the outgoing HESSCO Caregiver Specialist, Sarah Foss, to be the speaker at the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### III. Reports

#### 1. Transition Planning -

College accommodations: Lori Gillen is surveying college support for students with disabilities. She has researched the Disability Support Service departments at Lesley University and Emmanuel College. She plans to research 3-4 more colleges.

The general process for requesting a reasonable accommodation at college is as follows:

- The student must initiate the process by self-identifying. This is different from elementary and secondary school where a parent or teacher refers the student and the school initiates an evaluation and Team process.
- The student submits documentation (psycho-educational, neurological, and so forth) to the Disability Support Services (DSS) department school. The department conducts an intake with the student.
- Disability Support Services reviews the student's documentation and determines whether one or more reasonable accommodations are needed.
- After student is approved, he/she submits paperwork to professors and work out how to carry out the reasonable accommodation.
- Student must review the accommodation with each professor each semester.

2. Emergency Planning

Sheryl Leary shared information on risk statistics and HESSCO support.

3. SEPAC had the Basic Right's meeting on November 15, 2016. A core group of people showed interest in working to revitalize the Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC).

4. Housing – Westwood Glen has been sold, and rents are being increased. It has been reported that people using Section 8 vouchers are being charged an additional \$200 over the value of the voucher. As a result, some tenants who cannot afford the increased rent have been forced to move. Since our last meeting Highland Glen was also sold. Sarah Busch from Westwood Housing Authority came to give a little insight in the logistics, and how to advise residents to act, if being told to supplement the voucher due to a rent increase. The recommendation is that if an individual has a section 8 voucher, he or she should contact the housing authority to see if they can get an increase of the voucher to cover the new increased rent.

Housing Search Help is a broker service that can assist residents in finding other suitable apartments that accept the Section 8 vouchers.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 11:15AM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2016 @ 9:15A at 50 Carby Street Municipal building.