

SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

May 11, 2016

2:30 P.M.

TST BOCES Board Room

Present: J. Matteson, D. Barr, M. Gold, Challenge Workforce Solutions; C. Crisell, OCM BOCES

Excused: Khaki Wunderlich, TC3; T. Fiacco, ACCES-Vocational Rehabilitation; B. Allen, Local 267 Plumbers & Steamfitters;

Staff: J. Mattick, J. Luu

Guests: Alton Ainsley, Ann Appleton, D. Hesler, TST BOCES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matteson at 2:37 p.m. and introductions followed.

ALTON AINSLEY – APPLETON ACRES PROPOSAL

Mr. Ainsley and Ms. Appleton stated that when special needs individuals graduate from high school there are often no supports or opportunities for them. Individuals often lack independent living skills and more advanced life skills. They provided an overview of Appleton Acres, their vision for building a community with dignity for adults with special needs. The concept consists of individual occupancy houses/cottages for people with disabilities. The units would be single story, energy efficient utilizing solar and wind energy, and be ADA compliant. The community would initially be built with 12 units with the potential for growth. A minimum of 40 acres would be sought. The community would utilize common services such as a dining hall with institutionalized kitchen facilities, common meeting space, classrooms, laundry facility, recreation areas, etc. It would also provide job opportunities for residents such as a working farm/greenhouse, Christmas tree farm, and bakery. The community would also have a bed and breakfast on site for families to visit and income would be generated from those stays to help sustain the village as well as provide employment opportunities for residents of the village. They noted that their ideas are just in the beginning stages and they are working to create partnerships within the community to see if their concept has potential for implementation.

The group discussed the various options and possible obstacles to creating a village such as described. One particular impediment is the desire of the OPWDD to have special needs individuals integrated within the community in small groups or independently. The suggestion was made to have a meeting with OPWDD to see what financial resources are available. Building the onsite bed and breakfast first could provide income to help with the build out as well as sustaining operations. There was also a suggestion that if one or both of the local universities were partners it could be possible to get staffing from them that is linked to coursework that would continue from year to year.

Staff Updates

Diane Bradac, Career Center Manager, has met with Debbie Demers and Michelle Pronti in Workbased Learning at BOCES as well as met with CSE Chairs, TACA, and the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee of the Mental Health Services Board. She also distributed information at the World of Skills Job Fair.

Mr. Barr and Ms. Gold have also met with the CSE chairs as well to discuss what needs to happen and when. They met with the Workbased Learning Coordinator and discussed doing a disability mentoring day that will bring kids on campus and have the Tompkins Workforce New York Career Center here. This is going to occur in October.

Ms. Crisell will connect with BOCES assistive technology folks to learn what technology is available, how to get it and how it is used.

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Other Business

Ms. Gold reported she met with staff from Cornell Employment and Disability Institute and it was brought to her attention that there is ACCESS-VR funding that will be made available to fund some projects with a focus on career paths. She is waiting for the RFP to be issued.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the administration building at TST BOCES.