

GMSA Board Meeting 2/29/2016



Officers (4): Danielle Viau, Lori Jones, Randy Lizotte, Levi Gardner



Board Members (9): Thomas Caswell, Tesha Thibedau, Linda Monette, Heather Raymond, Christy Golec, Connor Cleveland, Erik Johnson, Kaiya Andrews, Mike Tarr (Alt.),

Self-Advocates (23): Jennifer McMahon, Antoine Polgar, Kris Medina, Cy Trombley, Dory Mason, Debbie Demars, Hillary Christain, Josh Dumais, Robert Martin II, Mark Preman, Antoine Polgar, , Lorna Merrill, Daisey Emerson, Lisa Smedy, Adam Motziertz, Margarie Burns, Jess Sanborn, Chantelle Fracey, Craig Davis, Kyle Roipel, Michelle Haberern, Jenny Rainville.

Allies (15): Emily Anderson, Edward Thorndike, Tammy Maberry, Paul Tidyman, Karen Noone, Jayne Weber, Amy Anderson, Colin Provencher, Paula Collins, Danielle Cote, Erin Bristol, Pat Warner, Kim Earle, Lisa Spates, Mary Ruffing.

GMSA Staff (4): Max Barrows (Outreach Director), Karen Topper (Administrative Director), Nicole LeBlanc (Advocacy Director), Skye Peebles (Program & Developmental Director).



Local Group Updates



Advocates for Action: Valentine dance raised \$230. They voted for officers and are planning on having a spaghetti bingo dinner.



Next Step:

- New board member is shadowing because the current board member has gotten a job and won't be able to attend anymore.
- They did a look through their eyes training and it went very well. They have a couple of new members.



Speak Up, Addison County: No Update

RAPS: No Update

COPS: Working on their prom which is in April. They have gotten a place at a good deal. They are also discussing having an alternate board member.



Friends helping Friends: Currently having officer elections.



Communication Alliance: They are going to peoples academy to do a presentation on our lives with disabilities.



GATSA: They sold lollipops and pizzas. They are going to be selling seeds for another fundraiser shortly. They are also working on coming up with a community service projects.



CAT: They are starting their training in April on how to get your voice and use and then move on to the next trainings they have shown interest in. They are still working on choosing a community service project and currently working on figuring out their fundraiser. They also had a Valentine's Day party.



Vermont Choices (St. Johnsbury): They are doing fundraising selling t-shirts and gift items. They had a Valentine's Day dance. They also did a peanut butter and jelly drive, collecting these items to donate to a local shelter.

Bridging advocates together: Their entire group consists of high school students. They are the youngest advocacy group. They have some goals, To make t-shirts, The importance of self defense, Go to Essex speedway and try the basketball on the trampolines. They are also trying to make dinner for the Essex fire dept.



Our Drop In Center (Newport): They selected Mike as their alternate board member. They are trying to save their drop in by finding a new place to hold it. They are also doing a fundraiser by selling flowers.



Champlain Voices: Doing a voter registration event.



Windsor self advocates: Hosting a dance 3/16. It's going to be a St. Patrick's Day dance.

Wild Hopes Advocacy Group: They had their first election and elected officers.

Statewide Election Results

President: Randy Lizotte

Vice President: Danielle Viau

Secretary: Lori Jones

Treasurer: Raymond Gordon



Voices and Choices



We have brought all the forms to this meeting. Last month we decided to do employment idol instead of the keynote. People can apply if they think they have a unique job or the position was made for them or if they own their own business. There is a form to fill out if you want to apply. (You can also get the forms off of the GMSA website) The deadline for employment idol is 3/30. There will be 3 or 4 employment idols chosen from the applications.

There is still a need for workshops. 3/30 is the deadline for applying to do a workshop. (These forms are also on the GMSA website). Scholarship forms are due on 3/9.

Small Group Activity

Broke into small groups for 2 minutes, and talk about what it means to be a non-profit.

-Group that has money but they put the money back into the services or programs.

-They have to raise their own money

-Rely on Volunteers

-Building peoples knowledge

-Tax Exempt

-Do services for free

-Organizations that help build your community and make it better

-You have to fill out a certain form

-You don't collect money from different organizations.

-Collect money from charitable contributions.

-Providing a charitable service.

-Can't tell people how to vote

-Have to have a board of directors



GMSA Budget Report



How do we take a large monthly report that we get from ARIS and break it down for everyone to be able to understand. We will go over the money we spent, the money that came in, how much money is in the bank and how much money is owed to us.

The DD Council owes GMSA \$81,000.

We spent money on:

- Rent-\$1,150

- Salaries- \$11,766
- Fringe Benefits-\$1,048
- Legal & Accounting-\$1,000
- Contracting Services-\$885
- Meeting/Training-\$582
- Office Supplies-\$112
- Miscellaneous expenses -\$276
- Transportation-\$408



Money coming in:

Foundation grants-\$1,667

Balance Sheet:

\$21,630 (cash operating)

Back to Small Groups



Discuss if there is any questions about the budget report that was shown and if they agree that this was a good way to present this information to the board.

There was a comment that visual aids would be helpful. Such as a pie chart or graph. There was some agreement around having a visual aid. There was also a suggestion to have both text and pictures.

Why can we not sue the state for the money? It is not to the point where we need to seek Legal action against them. Topper is going to meet with the director of the DD council and express urgency that they need to pay us soon.

What is keeping the DD Council from paying this money? We are in an unusual place in our budget since we have just submitted these bills 2 months ago. The state is behind because a lot of our grants end at the same time.

Why can't we make a deadline for them to pay? There was a motion made to have a due date for the state. It was seconded and brought to a vote. The vote passed.

There was a motion to accept the budget. It was seconded.

A vote was taken and the I's had it.

Legislative Report



There is no COLA for direct support staff. The agencies held a press conference talking about a 3% increase for a COLA. It is important to talk to your legislators about this and tell them that your support staff needs a livable wage.

This year the governors budget has over 8 million dollars for new people coming in to services.

This year there is no cut in services. People who have services now your budget should stay the same.

There has only been 1 time in the last 8 years that the state has given the agencies a COLA.

GMSA can send talking points to people to give them some ideas of what to say to your legislator.

Disability awareness day is a mad house and is very crowded. There are different workshops people can go to. Usually a couple hundred people there. VCDR sets up pizza in a room. This day is better to bring a busload of people.

On 4/1 GMSA has the card room and will have a display set up. There won't be hundreds of people there. We are hoping for a few small groups of people from local groups. If you come on 4/1 we will buy you lunch and Karen, Max, Nicole and Skye will be there to help you out. You do not need to register for 4/1 but you should reach out to GMSA and let them know who you are bringing. If you are only bringing a car load of people 4/1 would be the better day.