

Autism Council

June 2, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Veitch; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Patricia Paduano, Saratoga Bridges; Virginia White, Town of Stillwater; Angela McDonald; Press.

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Daly said on March 24th there was a presentation for parents, caregivers and interested people. The presenter did a wonderful job, and gave everyone an opportunity to hear and see things that they were not familiar with in the past, as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

A list of responses from the conference was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Ms. Daly said overall people found the program to be beneficial and would recommend it again. A suggestion was made that perhaps it should take place on a weekend the next time, as many EMT's are volunteers that have other jobs.

All topics that were covered were covered well and anyone who had a certain question was given an opportunity to ask.

Mr. Carr said the list of comments that were received were all positive, which was a testament to the quality of the program.

Ms. Daly said she would be requesting that a budget line item for the Autism Council be included in the 2010 county budget.

Mr. Carr said the Autism conference costs totaled \$11,200, of which \$10,000 was received through a State grant, leaving the County responsible for \$1,200.

Ms. Daly presented the following initiatives that she would like to see take place in 2009.

1. A brochure that would contain vital information on the person with Autism, that could be kept in the glove compartment of a car or taken when traveling.
2. An ID card that would help a person with Autism in a situation with emergency personnel such as an EMT or Police Officer. The card would explain how to communicate effectively with a person with Autism.

Mr. Carr said he would have his office design and print the ID cards and information brochure. After they are approved and printed, they will be distributed to the towns and Supervisors, as well as on the county website.

Ms. Daly said Mr. Carr has designed a business card with the county logo on it that could be used for information, and distributed to committee members.

Ms. Daly suggested including the county website address on the business cards as well.

Ms. Daly asked Mrs. McDonald to provide a list of website links that would be useful to have connected to the county website.

Ms. Daly said she would like to see a data base created with residences in Saratoga County that have a person with special needs residing in their home. If a 911 call is made going out or a reverse 911 call is made there would be an alert on the system that there is a person with a disability in the home.

Mr. Veitch said he would speak to Mr. Lent with regard to the database and 911 system.

Ms. Daly said she would like to involve Executive Chef, Jay Maxwell in a project at the Saratoga County Fair that would involve persons with Autism. Mr. Maxwell is very dedicated to working with people with Autism. He would like to involve people in cooking, and at the same time teach them about nutrition and eating the proper foods while having fun.

Ms. Daly suggested having Mr. Maxwell attend the next Board of Supervisors meeting to give a small demonstration.

Ms. Paduano said Saratoga Bridges would be offering free training to personnel in recreational day camps, and summer camps in towns throughout the county.

Ms. Daly said she would announce the free training to all supervisors at the June Board meeting.

Mr. Veitch said he attended a press conference at the State Legislative Office Building outlining a bill that would require insurance companies to pay for specialty medical services for people with Autism for up to \$36,000/yr.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Carr the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom