

MINUTES OF THE EDI BOARD MEETING
1/24/08 (January)

Board Attendees: Aydan, Charles, Mark, Leslie, Winston, Don, Blane, Peter, John (6:50), Jonah (8:45)

Other Attendees: Gina and Leslie (EDI Co-Executive Directors), Angelique (COB EDI Contract Manager), Paul (COB), Karen (Cal Fellow), Nick (Dare to Dream owner, plus attendant), Alajandra

The meeting came to order at 6:35 P.M.

Public Comment

Nick said that he was glad EDI was still here.

Blane said that budget cuts might create more calls for EDI.

Approval of Minutes for December 13, 2007

Don said that he apparently had lost the notes for the minutes for December.

Approval of Agenda

Winston moved, Don seconded, and the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Gina agreed to purchase a conference phone for EDI in the next month.

President's Report

EDI is dealing with personnel issues on the executive and staff level. With the aid of the EDs and the Board EDI will come out of the transition well. Aydan proposed a general strategy meeting facilitated by Sabrina Klein in February, if it can be coordinated. Gina said that she could rent the hall at the North Berkeley Senior Center for the meeting and to let her know.

Aydan said that the Board needed to start searching for a new Executive Director.

Executive Directors' Report

In December, there were 473 attendant calls, 116 transportation calls, 53 demand-response transportation calls, and 5 repair calls.

Three attendants were hired and the EDs are looking for still more attendants, particularly females.

Gina is doing most of the attendant schedules and hiring procedures. Gina has been the on call off-hours supervisor since November, and Leslie will take over the duty in February.

Ayanna, the Services Coordinator, returned to her position on January 22nd.

The EDs are continuing to work with the dispatchers on improving their skills and accuracy of their paperwork. A dispatcher who was suspended was reinstated. Another dispatcher was suspended for one week and had just returned.

The van and lift were serviced.

EDI's former webmaster is no longer with EDI. A new webmaster has been hired. The website has been changed to www.easydoesitservices.org and there will be a link to it on the old site. The hosting service has also been changed, at a significant savings to EDI.

The insurance contact information has been changed to show the names of the new Co-EDs.

EDI has a new IT person that is less expensive than their previous IT person.

The EDs resubmitted a request for \$27,000 from the reserve to the City of Berkeley.

The EDs asked the City of Berkeley whether EDI could take wheelchairs to Grandmar now that Grandmar has moved to San Leandro, and had just received a reply that EDI could not go there per the one mile outside of Berkeley limitation of the EDI contract.

There were a few complaints which could be reviewed in Executive Session.

The COBRA process was completed for two former employees.

The EDs were to meet with the Marin Services people in the next week.

There had been \$860 donations in the last 1½ months, primarily thanks to Leslie and Jonah.

An OSHA complaint had been received and a letter informing the staff had been prepared.

Collaboration with Dare to Dream

Nick Feldman, the owner of Dare to Dream Attendant Services, talked about his services and proposed that EDI use his services for \$18 per hour, if appropriate. Peter moved, Don seconded, and it passed unanimously for Nick and staff to come back to the EDI Board with a written proposal.

Fundraising

The Committee met, but not much was accomplished. Aydan has a copy of “53 Ways for Board Members to raise \$1000”, and offered to share it with anyone who was interested. Aydan commended Leslie and Jonah for arranging donations. She said that she would like to organize a fundraiser twice a year. She said that Whole Foods and See’s Candy offer fundraising packages, and described them. Gina said that she had an idea to have a benefit concert at Ashkenaz at the end of May, and wanted approval from the Board to go ahead. Don moved, Peter seconded, and a motion to approve Gina to go ahead with the planning for the Ashkenaz benefit was approved unanimously.

Disabled Lawyer Search

Aydan moved, Winston seconded, and a Search Committee that would include looking at Peter’s candidate was unanimously approved. It was determined that the committee would consist of Don, Peter, and Aydan.

It was requested that “Repairs” be added to the next month’s agenda.

Cell Phone Bills and Public Authority Recruitment were postponed.

Update on Minority Outreach Plan

Karen’s original plan to do outreach to the Chinese community had been modified to do general outreach, due to the potential communication difficulties if clients from the Chinese community were successfully solicited. She had a lead to contact an adult day-care center, and was additionally given leads by the Board regarding Cal-Star and the Switzer fellowship.

Status of Website

There should be more pictures of what we do. Leslie said the website should be accessible and it was suggested that EDI get the website "Bobby" approved. A suggestion was made that Pay Pal be added to accept donations, and it was noted that the old site also had Pay Pal. It was also noted that the old site would die when the hosting payments were stopped.

Company e-mail

The EDs had talked to Chris, the new webmaster, about this, and were told that it was not a problem. They committed to follow up.

Transportation of Wheelchairs for Repair

As noted earlier, the City of Berkeley will not allow EDI to take wheelchairs to Grandmar's new San Leandro location. There had been no client complaints yet regarding this.

Secretaries' Report

Don reiterated that he had apparently lost the notes for the December minutes and apologized to the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Mark noted that the insurance was already over budget for half the year, and said that the problem would only continue.

Board Recruitment Committee Report

Aydan said that she would be working on a Board manual and confidentiality agreement.

At 8:30 P.M., Peter moved, Blane seconded, and it passed unanimously to go into Executive Session, inviting all still present at the meeting.

At 9:15 P.M., Blane moved, Mark seconded and it passed unanimously to adjourn.