

MINUTES OF THE EDI BOARD MEETING
3/27/08 (March)

Board Attendees: Aydan, Charles, Mark, Winston, Don, Blane, John, Jonah, Peter

Other Attendees: Gina and Leslie (EDI Co-Executive Directors), Paul Church, Nick Feldman, Bill Hedlund (EDI employee), Chendra (voicer and attendant to Leslie)

The meeting came to order at 6:40 P.M.

Public Comment

Bill Hedlund told the Board that he wanted to appeal a two-day suspension that he felt was an OSHA violation. The Board noted that the proper process for filing an appeal is in the Employee Handbook and advised Bill to send Aydan his appeal, and he agreed to do that.

Nick Feldman began by saying that he was a concerned individual. He said that the community has told EDI that something is radically wrong and that he has a lot of questions. The Board noted that EDI had successfully completed 650 attendant calls the previous month.

Nick asked why there have been no community forums. The Board noted that there had been a forum fairly recently and also that the Board meeting was open to public comment and publicly noticed. Also, the Board noted that they have been communicating on the Berkeley-disabled list serve.

Nick asked why EDI had not done a survey of its clients. The Board responded that the City of Berkeley does an annual survey of EDI's clients, the last one being just a few months ago. Nick said he thought EDI should conduct an independent survey.

Nick said that when he speaks to EDI attendants they are upset with low pay and morale, and have an antagonistic attitude toward the administration.

The Board said that they would keep Nick apprised of what they were doing in regards to public relations.

Approval of Minutes from 12/13/07 and 2/28/08

Jonah moved, Blane seconded, and the minutes for 12/13/08 were unanimously approved with one abstention.

Jonah moved, Blane seconded, and the minutes for 2/28/08 were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda

A report on how the bookkeeper is doing was requested.

A desire was expressed to give Karen, the EDI Cal Fellow who has been working on outreach for EDI, a gift when she leaves in April. Charles moved, Don seconded and it was unanimously approved to give Karen an appreciation letter and a box of candy.

Jonah moved, Peter seconded, and the Agenda was approved as amended.

President's Report

The Co-EDs and the Board worked to gain the community's trust. Aydan, Mark and the EDs met with the insurance broker and received assurance that EDI is covered. The website was worked on. A letter was written to the City of Berkeley and the Commission on Disability responding to comments that had been made on the Berkeley-disabled list-serve. Aydan said that she had made a commitment to do a monthly report and post it on the list-serve.

Executive Directors' Report

In February, there were 375 attendant calls, 86 transportation calls, 22 demand-response transportation calls, and four repairs.

Leslie thanked Mark for donating new securements for EDI's van.

One male and four female attendants were hired.

The staff meeting in April will have a training on speech disability and Cerebral Palsy.

The website is looking good and changes will continue. The website is at www.easydoesitservices.org. EDI has established company e-mail accounts that can be deleted by the webmaster if the employees leave.

The EDs negotiated a month-to-month contract with Marin through June 30, 2008 for about \$5200 per month. Peter said that he would like to make sure that the Berkeley community is informed about this. The EDs want to know whether the Board supports trying to negotiate a contract for the next year or in assisting Marin to set up their own program.

An informational meeting has been set up with the San Mateo Regional Center, who is interested in a program like Marin's.

Vicki Reegan did not complete her proposal to EDI, so with the Board's consent collaboration was not pursued.

The performers Gina was hoping would perform in May for an EDI benefit were not available then, so Gina is looking to have the benefit in the fall. Gina is looking for other performers, as well.

Gina is enrolling in small business and writing classes at the College of Alameda to improve her performance.

The EDs made a presentation to the Commission on Disability about Disaster Preparedness and they requested that EDI submit a plan and other documents, which was done. The EDs will work on improving the Disaster Preparedness plan, and there will be a staff training on this issue in May.

The EDs responded to a request from the City of Berkeley to answer the allegations made on the Berkeley-disabled list-serve, with the assistance of Aydan and Blane.

The EDs would like to talk to the Board about strengthening and improving the image of EDI. This will be added to next month's Board agenda.

Disabled Lawyer Search

Moved to Executive Session

Update on Outreach Plan

Although Karen was not in attendance, it was noted that she had won the Schweitzer award.

Repairs

Repairs have gone up drastically since Grandmar moved. John said that EDI needs to make a plan to put together a parts package for EDI. Wheelchairs of Berkeley is backed up. John said that he is getting calls for repairs on his personal phone, and that he would like an assigned budget from EDI, as he had at one time. Bill said that he has done repairs. Don raised the question of liability and workers' compensation, and cautioned John about doing repairs without calling them in to EDI. Peter said that repair calls should always go through EDI dispatch.

Raising the In-Service Rate

Gina said that for attendants that go on a lot of calls, a .50 per hour raise in the in-service rate might be good. She will bring a proposal to the next Board meeting. Gina would like a broad revision of the pay structure.

Treasurer's Report

EDI's insurance broker, Jeff Stephens, is pretty confident he can bring EDI's charges for insurance down to \$20,000 in the next year.

Wilhelmina ran the numbers, and it looks like EDI might squeak by without receiving the full \$27,000 in reserves anticipated from the City of Berkeley. Don noted that end-of-year employee bonuses and a potential repair budget were still outstanding claims on EDI funds.

Regarding the \$27,000, there was still no word, but Angelique thought it would happen in April. It was noted that the insurance increase ate up the \$10,000 requested to do an EDI audit.

Fundraising

See's Candy wanted money up front, so that idea was dropped. Whole Foods rejected EDI from their program. Aydan is still determined to find an alternative. She attended a fundraising workshop and noted that fundraising needs to occur at all levels of an organization. Aydan provided handouts from the workshop to the Board. Aydan said that she would like a bake sale and has lined up friends and family to assist. She also might like to set up an EDI dinner.

Board Recruitment Committee Report

Aydan said that she is working on Board membership and that the Board needed new blood and ideas. She asked that if anyone saw someone that would be good for the Board to let them know about EDI. Charles was against adding new Board members at this time.

At 8:50 P.M., Jonah moved, Blane seconded, and it was unanimously approved to go into Executive Session with the EDs and support personnel invited, the EDs only for the first part of Executive Session.

At 9:30 P.M., the meeting was adjourned.