



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

July 17, 2013

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board's Public Hearing was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chair Peer.

Board Members introduced themselves to the attendants of the Public Hearing.

The following were speaker's comments:

Betsy Nelson, Concerned Parent and KandU Board Member, and Jimmy Nelson, Client and Consumer/Supporter of KandU:

Ms. Nelson and Mr. Nelson thanked the Board for their continued support of KandU. Ms. Nelson told the Board how important KandU is to her and her son.

Jeanne Lee-Thompson, Epilepsy Foundation:

Ms. Lee-Thompson thanked the Board for support of the Epilepsy Foundation. She expressed concern regarding cuts and the impacts in the community and the need for support of single parents of developmentally disabled children.

Teresa Mears, Epilepsy Foundation Consumer:

Thanked the Board for the Support of the Epilepsy Foundation. She explained how the Epilepsy Foundation has helped her and how important that support is.

Sue Lethlean, Rehab Resources and Terri Vincent, CESA 2 TLC Birth-to-Three Program:

Ms. Lethlean explained that Rehab Resources is the Therapeutic arm of the Birth to Three Program. She also expressed her thanks to the DD Board for funding. Ms. Lethlean asked for consideration in funding her 2014 budget request in full. Ms. Lethlean further explained that every avenue of funding is explored before resorting to County funding. Ms. Lethlean also provided the Board with statistical data outlining the increase in services over the last few years.

Ms. Vincent explained to the Board that Cesa 2 TLC has recently undergone structural changes over the past few months and that those changes have gone smoothly. She also thanked the Board as a parent of a child with developmental disabilities.

Julie Spatafore, Concerned Parent:

Ms. Spatafore requested the Board to increase funding for Day Programming to assist single parents. She explained how her child is on the waiting list for services and that he has not moved on that list in over a year. She fears what will happen when he graduates

from high school next year and how she will care for him and still be able to work and maintain insurance. She is confused as to what to do to keep herself working and keep her child maintaining his level of functioning.

Julie Carey, Concerned Parent:

Ms. Carey explained how her son went from the Family Support Program to adult services and now receives day programming and respite. She would like to see more respite funding to help cover before and after day programming care while she is at work.

The following were written comments received:

Gary Bersell, Executive Director, Kandu Industries Inc:

Thank you to the DD Board for the support over the many years. We are doing everything to become as self sufficient as we can with less reliance on government funding. Our new program has brought in new revenue streams. We will begin another new program for Kandu. The new program, Guardian Advocate Program (GAP) will serve the DD population, the frail elderly and the mentally ill. We have been approved by the state to offer 10 Guardianships for 2013 and will expand that number in 2014. Thanks to the DD Board for the special consideration for our Increase Support Program (ISP) a year ago. It continues to grow and we are at full capacity again. This program allows Kandu clients who can no longer work full time on the work floor to remain at Kandu with increased supervision. Our Day Services Program is going strong and our Supported Community Employment program is growing. We are proud to say that in the past 2 ½ years we have placed 94 clients in some sort of competitive employment in the community.

Jane DeSoto, Concerned Parent/Guardian:

My son receives many the services of the Rock county DD Board. He attends Kandu, participates in the Rock County Recreation Program events, case management services and residential services. Being a "passive" individual, he has no complaints about any of these services. I must often have to be the advocate for him. We do appreciate these services, and are thankful that he has these advantages. However, many of Beloit's citizens who also have developmental disabilities do have concerns and complaints.

The most salient concern is transportation problems. In the past, transportation for Beloit citizens was financed at higher level by the Rock County DD Board. That funding has been cut for several years. Of course, transportation difficulties and costs have increased significantly. Many persons have reported that they no longer use Kandu services because of major difficulties and costs of transportation. The transportation problems would be greatly alleviated if a Kandu facility were located in the City of Beloit.

Chair Peer thanked everyone for coming.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:10 P.M. on Motion By Lynda Olson, Seconded By Terry Fell. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tahirih Carr
DD Financial Worker