

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on May 16, 2022. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson
Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson
Lynne Catarro, Secretary
Al Catarro, Member
Cynthia Lang, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 MINUTES

Ms. Lynne Catarro moved, Dr. Al Catarro seconded, and the March 7, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

BROCHURE

Ms. Catarro updated new members. Will correct Ms. Williams name spelling. Ms. Huchler will print out updated brochures to have available at future community events this summer.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT REQUEST

Bucks County Intermediate Unit, Manager Laura McCoy LMcCrory@Bucksiu.org reached out to let us know Bucks IU has been very active developing programs for both 18–21-year-olds as well as our programs for adults over the age of 21. A program called Project Search is an international program that we have replicated at County of Bucks Administration Bldg. This is a job training program which students participate in three internships in County departments throughout the school year. At this point in the program, they are beginning to develop permanent jobs for these interns in their local communities.

A student who lives in Lower Bucks County (Langhorne) is looking for an office clerical position. He thrives in an environment that require lots of repetition, routine and attention to detail. Laura is reaching out in hopes that through our committee, members may have contacts in an office environment that would be seeking an employee with this skill set.

If anyone knows of hiring opportunities, please share this information.

VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Ms. Williams provided information regarding voting and disability issues.

Several articles were forwarded to the Board.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2022/04/12/voters-with-disabilities-face-new-ballot-restrictions-ahead-of-midterms>

Ms. Williams shared information she received from the League of Women Voters

<https://disabilities.temple.edu/resources/pennsylvania-voter-resources>

PARKS AND RECREATION INFO

If any resident has a suggestion for an activity or program, please reach out to them to discuss. They are eager for new ideas and are willing to hear whatever suggestions residents have.

Will be evaluating the ADA transition plan and looking at an evaluation of how we can incorporate programming part of an update.

Parks and Recreation will partner with Pennsbury School District to program for Students with Disabilities.

Ms. Huchler sent information to Parks and Rec to incorporate questions on membership forms about accommodations needed for the pool and other programs. They will not be able to launch a full program this year but we will use it when services are requested for now. Ms. Huchler forwarded information from other communities that have a position named Inclusion Officer. Any time a membership form had a request for special accommodations this officer would contact them to discuss. Updating forms and potential to address special accommodations will be looked into for 2023. Ms. Lang questioned how they would make sure the authenticity of accommodations needed. Will have to have a process in place.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

All community events can be found under LMT Parks and Recreation webpage and Facebook page.

A few reminders mentioned by Ms. Huchler were:

5 K Anyway run/walk will occur in August 6, 2022. A portion of the funds raised will be allocated to the ADA Transition Plan. Ms. Huchler is seeking those who are available to volunteer.

Community Day August 27, 2022- Great opportunity for DAB to have a table set up with brochures and resources for community members. We have had a table for the last few years. Ms. Huchler is seeking those who are available to volunteer

SENSORY KITS

Ms. Huchler discussed reading that the Hatboro-Horsham Fire department have been putting together Sensory Kits to be used when first responders encounter a child with special needs. Ms. Huchler has reached out to the Hatboro Horsham Fire Department to gather more information on Sensory Kits. Hatboro Horsham Fire Department partners with others in the community such as the Masonic Lodge. They also provide training for Community Service Members. Ms. Huchler asked if another organization in the LMT would want to participate in the training and building the sensory kit. Ms. Williams mentioned asking banks, Rotary, Elks, Junior League, etc.

WEBPAGE

Ms. Catarro will organize the website information and changes by activity on a word document, send to Ms. Huchler for review and then Katie for website development. Ms. Catarro will add brief descriptions and divide up into categories, ie: Employment, ADA for businesses, Voting, Employers for ADA building codes, etc. and add other info on Medicare, Medicaid, elected state officials, etc.

Add to Website

<https://www.bucksiu.org/child-student-services/adult-programs-and-services>

Ms. Huchler spoke of PA Autism Waiver: support for adults over 21.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/DisabilitiesAging/Pages/Adult%20Autism%20Waiver.aspx>

Ms. Catarro will add to the webpage Voting in PA for people with disabilities

<https://www.vote.pa.gov/readytovote/Pages/Bucks-County-Voting-System.aspx#>

Email inquiry received from a Medicare advocate. Will add info to the website regarding these types of programs. Our email is DAB@lmt.org

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

No updates for Prickett Reserve at this time.

Charles Boehme Middle school project is being discussed at the next BOS meeting.

Giant Shopping center restriping

Ms. Huchler stated EV charging stations added. She reached out to Giant Corporation in regard to changes and handicapped parking. Ms. Huchler sent the corporation updated information for handicapped parking codes specifically for the size of Van accessible parking spaces. Ms. Huchler included Jim Majewski, Township Zoning Director for his input into the process.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Catarro mentioned Career Ready Bucks. He will research the program and its benefits for LMT residents

Ms. Williams asked if the library has in person programs. Ms. Huchler mentioned that the library had programs for children with disabilities before Covid. Not sure anything has resumed but will check into this.

Ms. Lange mentioned the curb side service at the library is wonderful. Hoping they continue this service.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Cancel the June 20, 2022 scheduled.

Future meeting days in July and August will be determined once the schedule is provided by township admin.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Catarro and seconded by Ms. Williams, approved unanimously by all board members.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Catarro

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board