

## Meeting Minutes – Approved

### Mayor's Advisory Committee For Equal Access (MACFEA)

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A-2B

4444 Rice Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Members Present: Rita Manriquez – State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB); Ellen Ching – Easter Seals Hawai'i; Roberta Eiben, Consumer; Dr. Lucy Miller – DCAB (Disability and Communication Access Board) Board Member; Kathy Sheffield – National Alliance on Mental Illness; Kathy English – Hawai'i Disability Rights Center; El Doi – Kaua'i Developmental Disability Council; Betty Bell – Kaua'i Federation for the Blind.

Members Excused: Suzie Woolway – 'Ohana Home Health Care.

Staff members also present: Linda Nuland-Ames – ADA/EEOC Coordinator; Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist; Paula Morikami – Administrator; Philip Dureza, Deputy County Attorney. We used to list the interpreter for the record – this is up to you.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberta Eiben called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. with 8 members present. (The meeting start time was delayed due to computer technical difficulties)

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Open Session Minutes of November 18, 2014

**Action:** Ms. Ching moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried 8:0.

Ms. Ching asked to change the order of the agenda.

### REPORTS

- Report on Independent Living on Kaua'i

Ms. Manriquez shared that Roxanne Bolton, a former member of Hawai'i Centers for Independent Living is now the Executive Director of a new organization called Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i, AILH. The organization has been in business for 6 years in Hawai'i, on O'ahu, Maui, and Hilo, and she is the new Independent Living Specialist for the Island of Kaua'i. The organization was started due to grants and support obtained from Title 7, part B, State of Hawai'i Independent Living Services, which allowed AILH services to people on O'ahu, Maui, and Hilo, and Title 7, part C, Federal Independent Living Services, which has allowed AILH services to expand to all neighbor islands. Friends of Hawaii, in partnership with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, have selected Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i as a recipient of their annual Christmas

in July project. The Nei Lei Aloha Foundation recently awarded ALLH a generous grant to bring Independent services to Kaua'i. Ms. Manriquez handed out her card and said she would be starting her own clientele on Kaua'i, offering assistance and direction to consumers in need of services. She also said she is available to organizations who are interested in a presentation about the program. Ms. Manriquez said that Ms. Sheffield asked her earlier if she would be working with mentally ill clients, and she told her no because the AILH staff are not medical professionals, but that she would direct people to NAMI, which is Ms. Sheffield's organization. Ms. Sheffield responded that she is very disappointed that AILH has taken the position to not service those with mental illnesses because it is probably the highest group of homeless on the island. Ms. Manriquez said she would bring this issue up when she meets with the Department of Health. Ms. Bell asked if Mahelona has outreach for the mentally ill to which Ms. Sheffield replied that they generally only hold someone for 72 hours, and then they are released back into the community. Dr. Lucy asked if there was anyone who can communicate with the deaf to which Ms. Manriquez responded that she is currently seeking information regarding this issue. Ms. Doi invited Ms. Manriquez to give her presentation at the Developmental Disabilities Committee meeting on March 3, 2015, at 12:30 p.m., at the Department of Health Conference Room, and Ms. Manriquez accepted the invitation. Ms. Ching asked for clarification on whether the AILH was funded by the State to which Ms. Manriquez said that it is a 501(c)(3) grassroots organization.

Ms. Manriquez was excused from the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

## **BUSINESS**

- MACFEA Goals for 2014/2015 (on going)
  1. Increasing Emergency Preparedness
  2. Increasing employment of Persons with Disabilities in the County

Ms. Nuland shared that she, Ms. English and Ms. Ching met before the regular MACFEA meeting today to continue discussions regarding summer internships within the county for young people with developmental disabilities. Also discussed was the Assisted Technology Resource Convention this summer that the Mayor's Office is very supportive of. She said the hope is to bring more resources to people to help them learn and become gainfully employed. Ms. Nuland added that before each MACFEA meeting they will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and invited members who were interested to attend.

## **REPORTS**

- DCAB
  - DCAB reports for December 2014 and January 2015

Ms. Ching asked if the committee could return to a previous agenda item, MACFEA Goals for 2014/2015, because she noticed that at the previous meeting there was a motion made to keep the goals the same but no second was made. She said she wanted to revisit this in order to do things properly.

**Action:** Ms. Ching moved to keep the goals the same for 2014/2015. Ms. Sheffield seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.

- Discussion on MACFEA Membership

Ms. Ching moved to amend the rules for the membership to be reduced to 9 and Ms. Doi seconded the motion. Ms. Ching explained that due to difficulty with quorum with 13 members, the idea was to lessen the membership so it would be easier to reach a quorum for meetings. Boards and Commissions Administrator Paula Morikami explained that if the committee does vote to amend the rules, the Office of Boards and Commissions will publish a public hearing notice in the newspaper for the meeting in April, regarding the amendment.

**Action:** Ms. Ching moved to amend the rules of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Equal Access, to reduce the membership from 13 to 9. Ms. Doi seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.

- ADA Coordinator's report

Ms. Nuland-Ames followed up on a previous committee discussion regarding the double captioning issue with Hoike. She said the County Council did not ask Hoike to run the tapes, Hoike asked the Council for tapes of the meetings so they could put them on their show. She explained that the tapes of the Council meetings have the open captioning embedded in them. She spoke with J Robertson of Hoike and explained that he should be able to turn off the closed captioning since the meetings are already captioned, and this would eliminate the double captioning issue. Ms. Nuland-Ames also explained to Mr. Robertson that since he is a Title 3 under the ADA, he was the one in control of the tapes and it was within his power, and not the County, to remove the closed captioning. She said this week is when Hoike is supposed to take care of the issue. Ms. Nuland-Ames shared that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA is coming up in July and she would like to celebrate with a large event for the community. She has been talking with several people about putting together an assisted technology fair with speakers, demonstrations, evaluations, increase education and employment opportunities, and work with people to help them live independently and participate more fully in island life.

- Updates / Announcements

Ms. Sheffield announced that the fourth Family to Family is beginning on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday evenings, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. It is a free, twelve week class and encouraged anyone who has a loved one or family member with a serious mental illness to contact her for more information.

Dr. Miller said that the general public gets confused about service dogs, what questions you are allowed to ask or not ask, and what to do if someone says they have a service dog and the dog is misbehaving. She has made a simplified version of the ADA act that

relates to this issue for anyone interested. Dr. Miller also said she is available to give fifteen minute presentations to any private group regarding this matter that would include demonstrating what her service dog does, how you can tell she is a service dog, and how the dog helps with her own disability. Ms. Nuland-Ames asked Dr. Miller to let her know if she encounters any problems within the County to which Dr. Miller said she personally has not had any problems however she has heard of issues with bus drivers. Ms. Sheffield added that she feels there has been a lot of confusion between service animals and comfort animals and some people are misrepresenting that they have a comfort animal when it is not. Ms. Nuland-Ames said the Federal Transportation Agency has some rules that are different from ADA that are allowable because they have to do with public health and safety on a plane or bus. For example under the transportation agency, the bus can require that a dog must be on a leash even though the rules allow for the dog to be off the leash when providing service to the owner.

Ms. Bell voiced her concerns regarding the traffic on the island, in particular on the South Shore where she resides. She feels it would be prudent for the committee to consider infrastructure with regard to people with disabilities.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 12:30 p.m., Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A/2B.

**Adjournment:** Chair Eiben announced the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Lani S. Agoot  
Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist

( ) Approved as circulated                      ( ) Approved as amended