MINUTES
February 1, 2021

Present: Deanne Gagne, Susan Birch, Jack Ringland, Tanja Blicker-Ucran, Katie Lowe, Tina Pedersen, Kerry Clark, Keith Wilcox, Sue Babin, Claudia Lowe, Nicole F., Jillian

1. Welcome

   Jack welcomed everyone to today’s meeting.

2. Mission Statement/Minutes

   Deanne read the Mission Statement of the Coalition.

   “The Coalition is for individuals with all disabilities to connect and talk about what is important in our lives and what we can do together to improve quality for all people! It is also an opportunity to become familiar with different services available from agencies in Rhode Island and learn what these agencies can do to support and meet the needs of individuals.”

   Tanja reviewed the January 2021 Minutes and they were approved by the Coalition.
3. Presentation: Tina Pedersen Talks About Having COVID and About her R.A.M.P. Organization

Tina Pedersen has R.A.M.P., which stands for Real Access Motivates Progress and she has her own Live podcast on her Facebook which is every Wednesday night at 7pm.

Tina is on day 21 of having COVID 19. She explains that it’s not like anything she’s ever had before and doesn’t seem to go away. The symptoms of COVID can vary from person to person. Some people have no symptoms, other people have mild to severe symptoms.
Tina mentioned that she was going to interview Dr. Philip Chan from the RI Department of Health on her podcast, Wednesday, February 3, 2021. She asked if we had any questions for Dr. Chan to relay them to her and she would gladly ask Dr. Chan. Deanne Gagne had a question for Dr. Chan: Why has it taken so long for people with disabilities to get the vaccine shot? Also, why has self-directed staff been left behind in getting the vaccine shot?

Tina suffered a spinal stroke while on the surgery table and became paralyzed. She’s been paralyzed for 7 years. So instead of crying and wallowing about what she had lost, Tina figured she’d do something about it and started R.A.M.P.. Tina started advocating positively for accessibility, and inclusion for everyone. They do roll throughs for businesses that call them up for help. Basically, they take their wheelchair through the business and explain to the owner what’s not accessible and give them ideas on how to change it to make it accessible.

R.A.M.P. has a red bag initiative that carries all your medical information on you at all times. It works for people who are disabled and not disabled. Tina said FEMA liked the idea of the red bag so much that they are now using them. The red bag has a clip so you are able to clip it to your wheelchair, wallet, or purse, or whatever.

Tina’s been selected by Gov. McKee to be on his transition team, so the disability community does get left out.

Questions For Tina:

✓ Do you work with BHDDH when they give grants out for families and individuals to make their homes accessible?

We don’t as of yet. We are looking for more funding to get us up and running. But that something I want to do in the future.
✓ How do you follow your Podcasts?
   Just go to my Facebook page: RAMP – Real Access Motivates Progress and “Like” the page. Podcasts are Wednesday nights at 7pm.

If you want to join Tina Pedersen’s organization R.A.M.P, you can e-mail her at: RAMPTina@yahoo.com

See you in March!!

4. **Motion to Adjourn**
The meeting adjourned at about 2 pm.

**NEXT MEETING**
Date: **MONDAY, March 1, 2021**
Location: Via Zoom
Time: **1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

*Minutes submitted by Tanja Blicker-Ucran*