

**Westport Commission on People with Disabilities  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday April 20, 2023- 9:00am  
IN PERSON - MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Sharuna Mahesh, Diane Johnson, Stacie Curran - Phone: Jim Ross, Doug Rivkin (with Sal Liccione, RTM) - Excused: Joe Anastasi (Tom Holleman - moved/Stepped Down)  
Audience: RTM-Harris Falk, - Human Services: Elaine Daignault. Senior Services -Wendy Petty

9:04am - Diane Johnson to Chair - Called to order.

Motion to approve Minutes of March 23rd, 2023: Sharuna 1st, Jim R., 2nd - All in favor.

**Guest Speaker:** Amiee Turner - **Team Woofgangs**

They are 501(c)(3) - Making/Baking & Selling Dog Treats

Their Mission -similarities to CPD Mission - Their goal: Individualized Life-Long Learning

Non-Diagnosis specific

Measure of Success = Expanded Independence

Woofgangs - 2 sides - Production Site/Black Rock (Pull Out) & Retail - Post Rd. Fairfield (Push In)

Approx. 60 Individuals - range of abilities, team members from throughout Fairfield County.

Newly added - working with Westport Transition Program students.

**VIDEO** Presentation

Q: Sustainable?

A: No - they rely on Donations, Fundraising, Grants (Town of Fairfield- Federal Grant Program- CBDG) - as do many 501(c)(3) in this area of Job opportunities for adults with disabilities.

(Discussion)

They mostly work 2.5 hour shifts.

(Discussion)

If we would like a tour of Production site - Amiee will give us a tour - reach out.

**Human Services Update** - Elaine D.

Budget - HS asked for 4.1% Increase (\$61,000 increase)

\$1,562,986 HS Budget - going smoothly.

Transportation: On Chopping Block - Peter Gold - would welcome our support.

Wheels 2 You – Peter G. - asking for letter from CPD.

Added Item: We need to call a Special Meeting - by 2/3 vote today - to schedule a meeting to discuss Transportation letter/position - vote - YES (unanimous)

All seasonal programs in full swing: wrapping up busiest season ever with utility assistance, then Campership, high school graduation programs, and prom, etc.,

CLUB203: - Sharuna Mahesh - Tonight - we have "Spring into Fitness" - with TAP Strength, eight stations - like Field Day, expecting over 100 – participants, parents & guardians stay.

E4E: Elaine D. - receives one to two calls a week for assistance - the Library has a new Career Coach, Ms. Tarin Evans - most helpful- previously worked at DDS.

Stacie - (working with Joe A.) David from Fleet Feet - posted 2 new positions (added to list on Website - Nomade, MOCA, LuLu, and Senior Center, etc.)

Five to six individuals have been employed so far.

Library Event- Monday Night 4/24 - Navigating Special Education - (Speaker - Peggy Bud)  
Let's get some CPD members to man table - Elaine will send Doodle for sign-ups.

Meeting Adjourned: Sharuna 1st, Doug 2nd - all in favor - 10:12am