



LLOYD WINNECKE
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY SERVICES
MARCH 5, 2021
CIVIC CENTER ROOM 301

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Mark Weatherwax
Ramona Harvey – via remote
Megan Utley, via Phone
Brian Kellems – via remote
Carolyn Gallagher – via remote

STAFF

Diane Clements-Boyd, Executive Director

The monthly meeting of The Advisory Board on Disability Services was called to order on the above date by Chairman Mark Weatherwax.

Roll was called with the above-named board members and staff in attendance.

Board members Utley and Kellems voted and seconded respectively to approve the minutes of the February meeting as presented and board members voted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Charo Boyd, Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist, and Cindy Bandista, Area Work Incentive Coordinator of the Indianapolis Social Security Office joined the meeting via remote to speak to the board on Social Security Disability benefits. They explained to board members about SSI, SSDI and benefits for widows and widowers. They informed board members to be aware of social security scams. They reported that social security representatives will never call and request your social security number, ask for money or personal information and if a call of this nature is received hang up because it is a scam. Board members were also told to beware if they receive a call saying that benefits have been suspended.

Board members were encouraged to create a social security account by going to ssa.gov secure my social security account. You can get your social security statements and check the status of your Social Security.

It was explained that there are four (4) Social Security programs and three (3) programs are under the Social Security umbrella. They are as follows.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), in which a person would have limited resources and income and not have worked, is blind, disabled or age 65 years of age and older and one does not have to work to pay into the program. Benefits begin one month after application is received. Case is reviewed periodically. If income is denied applicant can appeal the decision within 60 days of denial notice. If appeal is filed the case will be reviewed by a different person. If it is denied again it will go before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and then a hearing before the Appeals Council and to file in Federal Court.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), one has to earn \$1,470 per year and have worked five of the last ten years. Credits are given for the years worked. If the worker has paid in children can be eligible under the parent if they have been disabled since childhood. The surviving spouse can also collect if they are disabled.

Disabled widows, widowers and children under age 22 are eligible to draw from this if the spouse has worked and put into the account.

The Compassionate Allowance (CAL) –

This allows for quick and expedited claims usually which applies to the Wounded Warrior program.

The application process was explained and board members were encouraged to get their disability report, have the necessary information available and the medical release forms. When all information has been gathered forward to Disability Determination Services (DDS) and they will compile a medical folder and make the decision for the individual to be seen by a physician. Claims could be denied if a person fails to attend consultation appointment.

Board members were informed that SSI benefits can begin one month after filing and cases are reviewed periodically.

If denial notice is sent people are always encouraged to appeal.

Cindy explained that to apply for benefits individuals can call the 800-772-1213 number or apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

The floor was opened up for questions of which there many and the social security answered questions from the board.

The representatives told the board that the attorney's fee is usually 25% of the backpay up to the max of \$6,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disability Awareness Month banner was being put up as board member were entering the building. Thank you was extended to Diane Clements-Boyd for making the arrangements.

OLD BUSINESS:

FINDER -

Chairman Weatherwax announced that they are currently working on the story to be sent to the newspaper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Weatherwax announced that the date listed for the Virtual Special Education Resource Fair is listed as Friday, March 16th but that date is a Tuesday. The director will consult her resources for the correct date and day.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was properly moved and seconded to adjourn this March meeting.