



MEETING NOTES
Policy Workgroup Call
May 21, 2014

Speakers:

EW- Eli Wolff, IFC Policy Workgroup Chair

JR- Jim Rimmer, IFC Coalition Co-chair

JR- Need to contextualize what equal access means in the NEED of the Workgroup ASK. Equal access is great, but there are different levels of access. Separate is access, but separate is not equal in terms of inclusion.

EW- Access is different from universal design so we might need to look at using a different word in this statement.

JR- Providing background of the I Can Do It, You Can Do It program. It was established back in 2000 during the Bush administration. He hired a new director of disability Peg Ginini and Michael Marge who had a special interest in physical activity for children with disabilities. They wanted to develop a program that was equivalent to Special Olympics but for people with physical disabilities. Program started small in 2000 as a community based program with a peer mentoring model. There has been one publication on the effectiveness of the program for reducing body mass index in people with disabilities. Want to look at making it a national model program for the future similar to Special Olympics. There are currently no resources available to do this program at a local level. An upcoming White House conference on disability and physical activity is to take place in October, 2014. Day 1 will be focused on the I Can Do It, You Can Do It Program and day 2 will be research focused on physical activity and disability.

EW- Updating on current initiatives following OCR Dear Colleague Letter. At the high school level, Disabled Sports USA has formed a group called Athletics for All. If anyone is interested in getting connected with that group let Eli know. At the collegiate level, the NCAA is grouping students with disabilities into their diversity/inclusion areas. As a follow up to the Dear Colleague Letter, the current focus is on education and awareness initiatives at this time. There is a momentum and interest in the inclusion of student athletes with disabilities and the opportunity for this momentum to be similar to what was seen for female athletes following Title IX.

JR- Would like to see this workgroup come up with a policy statement coming out of IFC for mass dissemination. There needs to be more attention to people with disabilities in this county and major issue with levels of access. Another area of need is policy for including people with disabilities in data collection. Lastly, would like to see the workgroup focus on a mechanism for INCLUSION into sport and recreation programs. Not separate, but equal programs such as special recreation. There needs to be a federal law requiring all programs to have some level of inclusion. Make it known that programs must be inclusive not just an adapted program and that there are adaptations available to do this.

JR- Someone from this group should look into writing a small grant for compensation of participation in the workgroup. Could write an application about the political dynamics of this country and continue momentum of the White House Disability Conference. Grant application could include a white paper or policy statement at the end to be published in a journal. Need funding for professionals to be a part of this group and work on this. Another area of funding that would be beneficial to the group is to look into funding for a policy summit on physical activity for people with disabilities. This summit could be held at Lakeshore Foundation and continue momentum and interest of NIH post White House Conference. Jim Rimmer is available to provide a letter of support.

Takeaways:

- Revisit word usage of “equal access” in the Ask and Need statements
- Have representation at the White House conference on disability and physical activity
- Look into small grant funding for the workgroup
- Write a grant application about the political dynamics of the country surrounding the spectrum of physical activity and sport for people with disabilities. Items to generate from grant would be a white paper or policy statement to be published in a journal.
- Build upon momentum post White House conference on disability and physical activity
- Look into funding for a policy summit on physical activity for people with disabilities