

A-Team Meeting  
May 28, 2013 1:00-3:00 pm  
Northwoods Inc.

Present: Karen Kutaj, Rob Crothers, Andy Ellis, Nancy Davis, Sara Brockley, Jolene Wheeler, Deana Stankey, Kit Eilertson, Irene Banajas, Cynthia Stoelk Harty, Jody O'Shaughnessy, Amy Martin, Carol Aerts, Thomas Cook

Two representatives from the Portage Social Security office, Irene Barajas and Cynthia Stoelk Harty, presented information about many of the programs that are offered through their office. They also provided a collection of booklets that address the topics in even more detail.

Carol provided copies of the agenda for the upcoming Disability Rights Madison Listening Session scheduled for June 14, Wisconsin Assisted Living News as well as the new A-Team brochure for the South Central Wisconsin chapter.

### **Funding Updates**

Carol and Rob indicated that the continued cuts for services, particularly for those who need the most care, have continued. It is very discouraging for administrators, staff, clients, and their families.

### **Legislative Update**

Thomas reported that there is great concern over a court case that is currently taking place in New York. The plaintiffs are arguing that programs offering prevocational services should be paying minimum wage. The intent is to remove those services, expecting that the employment of all disabled people will be handled in the community. Large nonprofits such as Good Will as well as smaller training programs will be affected.

### **General Discussion**

Concerns were shared about the situation in New York and current budget cuts for programs for the disabled.

One of those present shared problems she is having finding a provider that will meet her daughter's needs. Another shared that she is struggling to get her provider to continue to provide a mentor now that he is an adult. Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm

The next meeting will be June 25 at 3:30. IRIS speaker, Brenda Bauer