

October 12th, 2024 MINUTES - MDC Circle of Friends

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yikesbev.com

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2024 Microboard Meeting Dates

December 7 or 14, 2024

January 25, 2025

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM: Jan, Liz, Flip and Courtney

Because there were only four of us at the meeting, some decisions could not be made.

Requesting that if you cannot attend a meeting, please RSVP in advance. It may be that a meeting may be canceled if there are too few microboard members attending.

QUALITY OF LIFE: Liz

Nataiya has been overwhelmed, so Liz has taken over bringing Matt and doing the bbq picnics at the beach, a Friday night pizza and games nights with the other JCFS guys he sees regularly, and to swimming at the private pool.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Liz would like Bradley, who lives in the JCFS nearby group home, to come and play the piano as he has done at other holiday parties. Liz was thinking about local folks to invite ...John and Jean, maybe Alyssa and maybe Colin?

FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER...Gratitude, Christmas, Happy New Year

Not enough of the microboard members were present to make a decision about what might work best and when Courtney agreed to take a FloDesk tutorial to see if this format might work for a newsletter. Liz uses FloDesk for her business emails. Courtney will report back at the next microboard meeting on December 7, 2024.

Liz agreed to collect photos and put together a rough draft for the newsletter to be shared at our next meeting on December 7, 2024.

Liz asked that all microboard members come with an idea for what kind of newsletter could be sent out and what the content would be.

Flip wondered if this newsletter should be one that asks for donations.

FYI - BELOW IS THE DISCUSSION FROM THE 2023 MINUTES

Holiday / Gratitude Newsletter Discussion with All

- Last year, the newsletter was sent around Thanksgiving instead of Christmas and donations seem to have come in from this reminder

- Barb continued our discussion with thoughts about the newsletter going out after the 1st of the year and Courtney agreed with the idea of one newsletter per year so as not to bombard anyone with communications
- Jan noted that pictures with captions are wonderful for this outreach and the video of Matt fishing was shared
- Using a new platform instead of Mailchimp was discussed and Courtney volunteered to take a tutorial
- Alyssa suggested a "greeting card" style outreach is sent this fall and then the new schedule of outreach could kickoff in January/February with a full newsletter

YIKES! UPDATE : Liz

It will be (in 2025) the 10 year anniversary of YIKES!

Jan agreed to look into some kind of press release celebrating YIKES! Could be put in Make it Better magazine, and the suburban on-line newsletter Patch.

She will report back at the December 7th, 2024 meeting.

Could Total Link also share some kind of press release? (not sure who or how this might happen).

LOGO MERCHANDISE...there was a brief discussion about whether a monogrammed YIKES! Hat might be sold as a part of this 10 year anniversary celebration. Flip said he could get the hats made. Maybe this hat could be offered at the bottom of the newsletter?

Jan suggested that this discussion about the 10 year anniversary be put on the agenda for a March/April 2025 microboard meeting.

Treasurer's Report -John

John wasn't at the meeting though he provided notes on the agenda that stated that more contributions are needed for Matt's life.

Liz will contact John so that he can add more details about the monthly contributions that are ongoing...?

Liz shared that starting in November, 2024, her sister will be continuing monthly..

Flip also shared a concern that John's finances should not be sent to everyone on the microboard mailing list, just those who regularly attend the meetings. (I would add that those who make monthly donations also might be considered for receiving John's financials also.)

Also, Liz and John moved the MDC Circle of Friends account to Wintrust Bank where Matt's YIKES! accounts are held.

APARTMENT REPAIRS - Lee

Matt's doors were supposed to be painted while he was on vacation and that didn't happen. Lee wasn't present to give an update.

Liz and a friend spent four hours recently at Matt's apartment cleaning it and getting it organized. A deep cleaning took place afterward that week.

Liz also wrote to Active Visions and cced Courtney about the apartment being so filthy.

There was a smoke alarm that wasn't working. Maybe that has been fixed?

Liz also bought avocado oil for use for cooking with Matt.

DAY SUPPORT UPDATE : Liz

Liz reminded us that Matt has been discharged from their day program.

Good news...Liz shared that a new agency, IAG (Individual Advocacy Group) who is managing several group homes on the north shore, might be interested in taking Matt on as a client. Someone from the IAG agency came and visited Matt and it went well. Liz is waiting to hear back from them..They also seemed interested in hiring James (one of Matt's day persons) and maybe Gwen. Liz feels that this program understands how to clinically support someone with autism. STAY TUNED!

STAFF APPRECIATION -Barb/Alyssa

No report since neither of them was at the meeting.

Also, Lee was to send staff appreciation gifts around Labor Day...did this happen?

NEEDS

Assistance in consistent tracking reports of Matt's vehicle...particularly for July 1, 2024

Liz asked Courtney to follow through with this since Courtney receives a daily tracking report update.

Courtney is to update Liz ASAP about the past and current tracking reports.