

Athlete Recruitment and Empowerment Committee

October 22, 2015

Attending: Mike Lightbody, Rhonda Schwartzkopf, Bruce Wilson, John Arnold, Elaine Hieber and Jill Vanderpool.

The committee discussed the need for a powerpoint to use in presenting the role SOIA could play in partnering with elementary and secondary schools in achieving compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Jill participated in our meeting on behalf of the Development/Communication/Public Relations committee. She was extremely helpful in discussing the information/content her committee would need to develop a powerpoint/talking points. This is an action item where we must identify the critical points of clarification of the law as well as what actions SOIA can provide in partnering with a school district. **HIGH PRIORITY FOR ACTION**

Discussion started on how to access information on schools current compliance status with the federal law. Rhonda stated she frequently asked this question and the common response is that anyone can try out for an interscholastic team. They may be selected for the team, but will have limited experience as best. Section 504 clearly addresses this approach as not satisfying the rule or spirit of the law.

Clearly this is an educational issue that we can pursue.

Rhonda also raised the concern of who will coach these unified or separate teams should we succeed in collaborating with a school district. We can brainstorm on this but one method would be to pursue working with colleges to provide volunteer, trained coaches. **This is another point of emphasis we need to develop.**

We identified the need to know actual numbers of the Iowa population who have an intellectual disability and a breakdown by gender, age, and ethnicity. **Mike Lightbody** is obtaining this information.

Other data that will be useful to the committee are the numbers of participants in each delegation, age, gender. This information can be obtained through the GMS program.

Another topic of discussion was the need to identify three school districts where we could demonstrate success. Rhonda identified Souix City Middle School as a great example. **Action item: identify at least two other sites, preferably in other geographical locations.**

It is agreed that SOIA needs to present to a number of state associations, school districts and parks and recreation boards the opportunity available to collaborate with SOIA in achieving compliance (of the rule and spirit) of section 504 of the disability act.

Action items:

Identify the critical sections of 504 and unified sport opportunities for the Development/marketing/communication/public relations committee. Jill and Chick will work with their committee to develop a power point and talking points.

A message for Global Messengers also needs to be developed.

Mike Lightbody: Data on total number of population with a intellectual disability

John Arnold: Data from GMS on number of participants, age and gender.

Identify three school districts to target as our model programs.

Create a position paper on how SOIA can assist with expenses and the training of coaches.