

GWArc, Inc.

Summary of Accessibility Plan for FY 17

Introduction: The ADA Accessibility Plan FY17 was written by a committee comprised of the CEO, CPO, Program Directors and GWArc participants. This is the ninth year with addition of GWArc individuals to the committee and adds perspective of the persons served. GWArc continues to strive for accessible space, modifications, materials and programming for its participants and their families/guardians. While all programs meet ADA specifications, the Committee will seek additional changes to improve GWArc.

Some initiatives are ongoing, as they cannot be completely achieved in one year. New initiatives strive to increase and strengthen participant voice and choice at GWArc.

Goals for the coming year:

Architectural –

- Seek larger programming space (ongoing)

Environment –

- Assessment/modification of room usage and furniture, materials storage for greater accessibility by participants in both locations (ongoing)
- Assessment of exercise area at CBDS Program (Woodland Rd.) and use of community recreation venues

Attitudinal Changes –

- Education of stakeholders in People First language; additional opportunities for stakeholder input into programming choices; participant and staff training in cultural competency
- Continued use of People First Language materials to educate all stakeholders (ongoing)
- Continued diversity training and activities for GWArc participants and staff (ongoing)

Communication –

- Use of speech consultant and technology consultant to upgrade and improve use of 21 GWArc iPads; continued annual information sharing sessions to GWArc participants on Operational Plan, Performance Analysis, Accessibility Plan, Certification reports, and annual budget; functional sign language classes for staff

Finances –

- Seek additional funds for capital improvements, program modifications and workforce development (ongoing)
- Explore fundraising event for Recreation Program revenues

Employment –

- Increase marketing of GWArc participants as employees in independent and group supported employment in the community through cable tv spots, newsletter and other media

Transportation –

- Use of GWArc's two vans and accessible vendor transportation options for recreation programming; communicate to families/guardians/residential supports to support their efforts to continue attendance at GWArc recreational events; grant writing for additional funds for trips, continued applications for The Ride eligibility

Technology –

- Explore and implement further technology for electronic communication to stakeholders

Community Integration – *GWArc only schedules community trips for Day Program participants and for Recreation Department activities to venues that are accessible.*

- Increase number of activities to accessible venues for Day Programs and Recreational Department activities

Conclusion: GWArc considers the Accessibility Plan to be of utmost importance and we work to overcome barriers to persons served, family/guardians and our employees. We will strive to meet and overcome these barriers in a challenged economy and with level funding from our funding sources.