

Vision on the Road, Again

Vision for EQuality never rests for a day. Their “Vision” of a better world for people with disabilities and their families motivates everyone who works there to take their message to others in an effort to see that tomorrow will bring a society that embraces and supports the rights and value of all people with disabilities. This leads them on many missions in their efforts as a “small group of people to change the world”. The roads are many and often bumpy but those at Vision for EQuality are all voyagers on a journey to make tomorrow a better place where everyone belongs and is fully accepted.

The road to City offices and many meetings at the County level fill the days of many of our staff. Whether it is regarding Supports Coordination services, issues regarding people who are dually diagnosed, communication, or quality management, Vision is always at the table. They bring the voices and the input of the families and people with disabilities to Dr. Evans, Kathy Sykes and others at MRS sharing concerns and offering ideas to enhance services and supports. Harrisburg is also an often traveled one for many of the Vision for EQuality staff as they engage in dialogue with policy makers and legislators alike to bring them up to date on the needs of people with disabilities. Serving on committees, addressing legislators in hearings, helping to orchestrate rallies and setting up meetings for families to meet with policy makers is just a small amount of work they do each day in trying to change the world for people with disabilities and their families.

They continue to be on the road very often, bringing the message of people with disabilities and families to the powers that be. They let no dust gather under their feet. Last year Vision’s message and support reached far across the sea to the shores of Costa Rica to help a Costa Rican special education teachers come here and learn more about services in America. Books and supplies were sent there to children with special needs and their teachers.

This year Vision continued to move along spending three days in Washington at a Policy Forum and going to the Hill to meet with legislators to educate them about the critical issues that effect people with disabilities. Senators and Congressmen alike were on Vision’s radar screen and were brought up to date on the critical issues of the waiting list, crimes against people with disabilities and the need for Long Term Care. They discussed with them pending legislation such as the Crime Bill, Health Care Reform and the Community Choice Act. While there they met with legislators such

as Senator Casey, Senator Specter and Representative Allison Schwartz, educating them about the needs of people with disabilities and their families.

Their days on road brought them recently to a very special day in Delaware where Maureen Devaney, Dee Coccia and Rosette Proodian had the great fortune to meet Vice President Biden and present to him first hand the concerns about the waiting list. His genuineness and interest were obvious and we feel sure he will heed our concerns. Needless to say they felt quite honored to have this opportunity and hope these trips are only the first steps in bringing our issues and message directly to the White House.

As they set out daily in their journey on the Road to Change, all of Vision's staff whether it is the person who greets you at our door, visits you in your home, offers training on issues of importance, or advocates working on behalf of self advocates and families are focused on and dedicated to speaking out and working toward a society where all people are valued and accepted as equal members of the community.

Vision for EQuality is always *on the road* to change, making a difference.