

Below are some brief notes from the IDAAN teleconference yesterday. As a reminder, here is our teleconference meeting schedule from January 2020 through June 2020. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month from 4-5 pm.

Thursday, January 9th, 4-5 pm

Thursday, February 13th, 4-5 pm

Thursday, March 12th, 4-5 pm

Thursday, April 9th, 4-5 pm

Thursday, May 14th, 4-5 pm

Thursday, June 11th, 4-5 pm

### **IDAAN Teleconference Notes Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**Present:** Gary McDermott (Disability Rights Advocate and Veteran from Clinton); Sarah Martinez (Iowa City CIL ED); Katie Peck (Easter Seals Iowa); Dawn Francis (SILC ED)

**1. Refueling Assistance:** Gary McDermott plans to continue to work on this issue during the upcoming Legislative session. However, he needs to find a Legislator that will help champion this issue. If anyone has ideas of an Iowa Legislator who might be interested in this issue, please contact Gary McDermott via e-mail at [gmacvet@gmail.com](mailto:gmacvet@gmail.com) or by cell phone at 563-249-4340.

In regard to Refueling Assistance, this is the need for all convenience stores and gas stations to have at least ONE accessible pump. The pump needs to have a large button that can be reached from the driver's side window and pushed with a closed fist. This will let employees know someone needs assistance with pumping gas. There must also be signage put up that lists the hours that refueling assistance is available at that location, with a number to call employees with questions.

I believe the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that there is refueling assistance at a gas station when they have at least 2 or more employees working. Previous bills on this, which Gary worked on with Legislators, including some tax credits and incentives for small mom and pop shops to get reimbursed for some of the cost of making one pump accessible and putting up signage. The cost is not very high, about \$800 to do one pump.

Also, for the last several years it appears that the Petroleum association has been working behind the scenes to oppose this legislation, but no one seems to know

why as the cost is very inexpensive. Gary McDermott worked with HyVee a number of years ago and HyVee voluntarily made at least one pump accessible at all of their locations (with the large button and signage). Gary also won a lawsuit against Kum and Go on this issue, so they are now to have at least one accessible pump at every station and signage. However, a number of us have found Kum and Go's that are still NOT in compliance with the court order of having at least one accessible pump per location.

Gary will keep us posted on his progress with this issue.

## **2. Mobile Home Park Corporate Take Over and Huge Lot Rent**

**Increase:** Sarah Martinez discussed this issue, and many of you may have seen reports on this in the news. A corporation known as Haven Park Capital has purchased five mobile home parks in Iowa, and three of those are located in Johnson County. They are raising lot rents from 25% to 69% at these mobile home parks. The vast majority of residents are low income individuals, including people with disabilities and the elderly, and they cannot afford this kind of an increase. People will be evicted for not paying the increased lot fee. Most own their own trailers, but do not have the money to be able to move them elsewhere, so they are having to leave them there and the company takes them over and rents them out to someone else, and people are at risk of becoming homeless. Residents of these mobile home parks in Johnson County have organized, and there will be a meeting with Iowa Legislators THIS SATURDAY, December 14th, from 1-4 at the State Capital. Folks will be meeting with the following Legislators at this meeting: Zach Wahls, Pam Jochum, and Lindsey James. Anyone interested in supporting this group to get legislation developed to put in place protections for residents of mobile home parks is welcome to attend. Currently there are no protections in place for residents of mobile home parks.

Sarah will keep us posted on this issue.

**3. Provider Wages and Recruitment:** Katie Peck discussed the provider wage and retention issue. This is a legislative priority for Easter Seals and the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP), as well as some other groups. They want to raise the wages for direct care workers so they can draw more folks into this field and retain them in the field. IACP has done a wage study of fast food restaurants as well as provider wages for agencies, individuals, and at the state resource centers to show the disparity in the wages. This is an issue that probably everyone can get involved in supporting, as people with disabilities need reliable

direct care workers in order to remain living independently in the community of their choice, and not be forced to live in institutions.

These were the three topics discuss at the meeting. I am sure there will be others as we move forward into the new Iowa Legislative Session.

Please plan to be on the next IDAAN teleconference on Thursday, January 9th from 4-5 pm. I will send out a reminder a week prior. The call-in number is 1-888-346-3950 and the code is 99761800#.