

GWArc, Inc.
Summary of Accessibility Plan for FY 13

Introduction: The ADA Accessibility Plan FY13 was written by a committee comprised of the CEO, CFO, Directors of EPT program, Support Services Manager and four consumers. This is the fifth year with addition of consumers to the committee and adds perspective of the persons served. GWArc continues to strive for accessible space, modifications, materials and programming for its consumers 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 consumer 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 consumers in both locations

Attitudinal Changes –

- Ongoing education of stakeholders in People First language; additional opportunities for consumer input into programming choices; consumer and staff training in cultural competency

Communication –

- Continued annual information sharing sessions to consumers on Operational Plan, Performance Analysis, Accessibility Plan, Certification reports, Board of Directors Three Year Strategic Plan and annual budget; Sign language classes for staff and consumers

Finances –

- Seek additional funds for capital improvements, program modifications and workforce development

Employment –

- Increase marketing of GWArc consumers as employees and BIS Mail Services to community; increase EPT consumer and Transitions students' access to Job Developer/Coach for work preference input; market EPT saleable product

Transportation –

- Use of GWArc accessible van and accessible vendor transportation options for recreation programming; grant writing for additional funds for trips; redesign of city block grant for additional transportation monies.

Conclusion: GWArc considers the Accessibility Plan to be of utmost importance and we work to overcome barriers to consumers, 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.