

GWArc, Inc.
Summary of Accessibility Plan for FY 15

Introduction: The ADA Accessibility Plan FY15 was written by a committee comprised of the CEO, COO, CFO, Program Directors and GWArc participants. This is the seventh 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)
- Increase security with closed circuit cameras – Chestnut St.

Environment –

- Assessment/modification of room usage and furniture, materials storage for greater accessibility by participants in both locations (ongoing)
- Improve system for wheelchairs moving through hallways/bathrooms and wheelchair storage – Chestnut St.

Attitudinal Changes –

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

Communication-

- Increase ongoing use of 13 iPads and communication applications, continued use of speech consultant to upgrade and improve use of the devices; continued annual information sharing sessions to GWArc participants 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 participants

Finances-

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

Employment -

- Increase marketing of GWArc participants as employees in independent and group supported employment in the community ; market **BARK@GWArc** dog biscuits

Transportation –

- Purchase of new van for Community Based Day Supports program; use of GWArc accessible van 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

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.