

SOCIAL JUSTICE AN TRANSFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY REPORT/MINUTES

Date: 10 June

Venue: Sharpeville Disability Form Center

Present

Social Transformation and Community Engagement

1. Synopsis of the background to the meeting.

The Social Transformation and Justice information has identified a disability center located at Sharpeville within the ambit of the Vaal area. Activities to be embarked upon were discussed in the meeting. The chairperson for the Disability also raised concerns which will be touched in the minutes. The Forum has been in existence for 18-19 years.

2. Purpose of the meeting

- A discussion on what is to be done on Mandela Day.
- What activities can be considered for the day, such as painting of some parts of the building.

3. Issues emanating from the discussions

- The organization indicated that they do not often get visitors externally.
- The center is not adequately supported.
- A letter was written and addressed to Corporative affairs to introduce the idea of a collaboration between VUT and the Disability Center.
- With an emphasis on continuity, it was pointed out that there is a need to ensure that the collaboration yields a meaningful impact.
- The point of departure in the collaborative initiate will be to conduct a needs analysis.
- Issues around the development of the website and putting together a funding proposal will be looked at.

4. Concerns

- It was purported that the majority of visitors make promises, take picture and never seen again.
- It was indicated that the organization has been involved in discussions around supporting the Disability organization, but there were tangible outcomes achieved. This tendency has been occurring in seven years.
- The chairperson indicated that he had to stop this tendency.
- The Social Transformation and Social Justice assisted in the development of a team

- At this point, the chairperson of the Vaal University Forum has solid relations with DPSA. He is a committee member through relations elections held last year.
- The forum raised a concern that they could be marginalized by virtue of their disabilities.
- The municipality promised them an induction programme, but it never kicked off the ground.

5. Challenges

- Recently, the disability forum was assisted by through leadership training, but this manifested into nothing.
- It was noted that due to budgetary constraints, there is no office for the Vaal Disability Forum. They are using t
- At the core of their interests, the Sharpeville multidisability center to run activities of the forum.
- The Vaal Disability Forum falls under the umbrella of the Vaal Metro Disability Forum.
- Operationally, the lack of resources was raised as a challenge
- The forum drafted a list of activities last year, but funding served as a barrier to operationalize the activities planned.
- At the heart of the organization is spots for the disabled, but funding continues to be a limitation.
- It was pointed out that there is a prevalent stigma that the disabled cannot express their talent. Negating such prevalent views, the Vaal Disability held exhibitions on visual arts and other performances.
- A career expo was also held to showcase careers the disabled can venture into.
- The need to forge relations with special schools was raised with the view of promoting access to higher education was tabled. It was pointed out that such an initiative requires doubled efforts.
- It was pointed out that here is a synergy in place to foster the proposed partnership. In line with this, it was asserted such an initiative should be extended to other schools.
- (Clarity???) It was pointed out that funding had to be returned to funders due to lack of awareness on mainstreaming disability within the university.
- Emphasis was on training on various aspects that could help various aspects of disability programmes.
- These included the development of a business plan for the organization as well as capacity building.
- Transportation is seen as a barrier.
- Phones and office equipment are foreseen to be in place by December 2016

6. Progress issues

- The forum is registered as an NPO.
- The Forum has a constitution.

7. Issues requiring urgent attention

- A context specific capacity building programme.
- As business Plan.
- Marketing of the Forum especially on their arts and culture products.
- Training on leadership and governance.

- Terms of reference.
- An action Plan has to be consolidated.
- Flyers need to be developed.
- Chairs

8. How the Form operates

- The forum has 30 students attending daily from Monday to Friday.
- 18 have been incorporated into the Social Development protective workshop. This is being subsidized by the Department of Social Development. The Form receives R2 700 for 30 students and that is as inadequate.
- They have to pay for 2 care workers and a cook. Sourcing stipends for them was raised as a challenge.
- The Forum categorizes their learners into two categories and they rely on volunteers to facilitate skills development.
- Level 1 are those that can only write their names, addresses.
- Level 2 are those that prefer working with their hands. This is normally in food gardens and sports.

9. Anticipated future collaborations

- To contact and work closely with Bodutu Art Gallery.
- Students are expected to participate in the programme and assist the forum Craters for the disabled in Cape Town for exhibition in August. Disabled students are to participate.
- This is seen as a space where students will learn the diversity of arts and culture beyond just participating.

10. Way forward

- The center should be seen as an entrepreneurial center with a strong component of Sustainable livelihood.
- There is a need to look at logistics available for the disabled.
- There should be a certificate ceremony where families will be invited as a motivational strategy showcasing what their children have doing.
- Painting of the office block.
- Sports for the disabled must be supported and encouraged.

11. Reliable resources currently in place.

- There is a time table in sports
- There are wheel chairs used annually for the soccer tournament.

12. Spin-offs thus far

- A league/tournament has taken place
- Through the coaching clinic, the basket wheel chair tournament was held.