



City of Arts & Innovation

Commission on Disabilities

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: MAY 7, 2018**

FROM: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION FROM A CLINICAL MANAGER AND LEAD PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF A CHANGE IN TRAJECTORY

ISSUE:

Receive and provide input on a presentation from a Clinical Manager and Lead Program Coordinator of A Change in Trajectory.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission on Disabilities receive and provide input on a presentation from a Clinical Manager and Lead Program Coordinator of A Change in Trajectory.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission on Disabilities' (COD) mission is to identify the needs of persons with disabilities and create a public awareness of these needs in the areas of employment, housing, transportation, media, physical, and communication accessibility. The mission also includes programs and activities that promote greater independence.

A Change in Trajectory (ACT) is a family oriented center for autism assessment and behavior health treatment that is committed to narrowing the gap between the developmental path of individuals with special needs and individuals with typical development. ACT provides services for infants, children, adolescents, and adults with autism and other related special needs. Their Mission Statement is: *"We believe that equipping individuals who have special needs with skills necessary for independent functioning can foster personal development and facilitate living a full and dignified life."* ACT is committed to this mission.

ACT provides services to families of children with special needs from birth to adulthood and offers behavioral programs designed to reduce and eliminate challenging behaviors and replace them with appropriate ones. Parent consultation, adaptive skill services, and social skills groups are offered.

DISCUSSION

April 2018 is Autism Awareness Month. The COD plans to create a public awareness of this topic with this presentation and discussion from ACT. Currently, there is a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with autism is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year the national goal is to move beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation. Movement toward acceptance and appreciation can be achieved by ensuring acceptance and inclusion in schools and communities that results in true appreciation of the unique aspects of all people.

National Autism Awareness Month represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Submitted by: Monique Gordon, ADA Coordinator
Approved by: Carl Carey, General Services Director
Approved by: Marianna Marysheva, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Brochure: A Change In Trajectory – Narrowing the Developmental Gap