

GWArc, Inc.
Summary of Accessibility Plan for FY 11

Introduction: The ADA Accessibility Plan FY10 was written by a committee comprised of the CEO, CFO, Director of Day Education, Support Services Manager, an EPT Case Manager, and four consumers. This is the third year with addition of consumers to the committee and adds perspective of the persons served to this task. 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 materials storage for greater accessibility by consumers in both locations; additional signage for bathrooms

Attitudinal Changes –

Education of stakeholders in People First language; additional consumer training in assertiveness and self advocacy; additional staff training in diversity.

Communication-

Continued annual information sharing sessions to consumers on Strategic Plan, Performance Analysis, Accessibility Plan and annual budget; additional sign language classes for staff and consumers; use of GWArc web site for consumers in both locations

Finances-

Increase consumer opportunity to attend GWArc community events (Harvest B, Annual Meeting, Consumer Holiday Party, Legislative Event) , through additional donated tickets and paid staff support at events; 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, businesses, civic groups, etc.; EPT saleable product publicized and available at GWArc events, increase GWArc employee salary/benefits package

Transportation –

Use of GWArc accessible van and accessible vendor transportation options for consumers' community trips; 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 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.