# MSCOD ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

MSCOD OFFICE

121 E. 7th Place, Suite 107, St. Paul, MN 55101

9.30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday October 7, 2015

## Call to Order

Bob Johnson, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

## Welcome & Introductions

Bob welcomed the members and each had an opportunity to introduce themselves and their purpose for serving on the Council. Those present included:

* Andrea Bejarano-Robinson
* Bob Johnson, committee vice chair
* Aaron Kallunki
* Linda Lingen
* Kim Tyler
* Shannon Hartwig, staff
* Margot Imdieke Cross, staff

## Approval of Agenda

Discussion ensued regarding the need for quorums, and that according to our bylaws ex-officio members can vote on committee business. The Agenda was approved by consensus.

## Committee Model Discussion

The committee discussed how members could work with their local communities to address disability issues. **ACTION ITEM**: It was suggested that Access Committee members contact their local newspapers to encourage coverage of the ADA lawsuits and the requirement for readily achievable barrier removal. Newspaper staff could also contact MSCOD staff for additional information or go to the MSCOD website at [www.disability.state.mn.us](http://www.disability.state.mn.us/) click on accessibility, click on protect your business.

## ADA Title III Lawsuits

Margot updated committee members on the recent activities regarding the ADA lawsuits over Title III barrier removal. The number of lawsuits filed in state and federal court is increasing. The number of small businesses that have closed or are threatening to close because of the lawsuits is also increasing. MSCOD staff continues to work with reporters to secure coverage of the problem.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.