

HHS COMMITTEE #2
April 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2012

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **FY13 Operating Budget: Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services**

Those expected for this worksession:

Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
John Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
Brian Wilbon, DHHS Chief Operating Officer
Patricia Stromberg, DHHS Management and Budget
Beryl Feinberg, Office of Management and Budget
Bryan Hunt, Office of Management and Budget

Aging and Disability Services

Excerpts from the County Executive's Recommended Budget for Aging and Disability are attached at © 1-4.

Background Information – Commissions on Aging and People with Disabilities

Attached at © 5-6 is the budget testimony from the Commission on Aging. The Commission on Aging's FY11 Annual Report is attached at © 7- 24. Included in the report is the Commission's Senior Agenda (© 16-17), "A Community for a Lifetime: A Proposal for a Senior Agenda." **The theme for the agenda is, "Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime – a place for older adults to live safe, healthy, and vital lives."** The agenda speaks to the following topics: (1)

Commitment to Older Adults, (2) Transportation, (3) Housing, (4) Socialization and Leisure, (5) Health and Wellness, (6) Communications, (7) Employment, and (8) Safety and Security.

Attached at © 25-26 is the budget testimony from the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission on People with Disabilities' FY11 Annual Report is attached at © 27-43. The report highlights the Commission's work on visit-ability and live-ability design for single family homes (© 29), effort to explore possible initiatives to enforce laws pertaining to parking for people with disabilities (© 30-32), increasing County Government's employment of people with disabilities (© 33-34), transportation and (© 35). The report also includes 2010 demographic information (© 39). The information notes that there are 729 people from Montgomery County waiting for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Of those, 20 are in the Crisis Resolution category, 152 are in the Crisis Prevention Category, and 557 are in the Current Request Category.

Also attached (©44-45) is a March Press release describing the "Mapping Montgomery" project which will allow people with disabilities and their families to identify and rate the accessibility of local businesses to create a resource that will allow people to locate accessible businesses and help inform the public about the importance of accessibility.

Overview

For FY13, Aging and Disabilities Services is organized into 11 program areas. The following tables show the budget changes since FY10.

Aging and Disability Services Expenditures in \$000's	FY10 Budget	FY11 Budget	FY12 Budget	FY13 Budget	Change FY12-13
Community Support Network for People with Disabilities	16,453	15,799	15,061	15,120	0.4%
Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services	6,157	6,136	6,000	6,573	9.6%
Assisted Living Services	1,973	2,008	1,978	1,934	-2.2%
Home and Community Based Waiver Services	-	1,353	1,400	1,094	-21.9%
In-Home Aide Services/Home Care Services	4,615	4,467	4,789	4,391	-8.3%
Aging and Disability Resource Unit	994	1,003	809	834	3.1%
Ombudsman Services	664	637	644	655	1.7%
Respite Care	1,036	904	914	914	0.0%
Senior Community Services	3,936	2,316	2,225	2,257	1.4%
Senior Nutrition Program	2,291	2,283	2,344	2,448	4.4%
Service Area Administration	487	458	444	405	-8.8%
TOTAL	38,606	37,364	36,608	36,625	0.0%

For FY13, there is basically no change to the overall dollars budgeted for this program area. There are three new items that are a part of the Executive's Senior Initiative, the addition of \$50,000 for Chore Services, the addition of \$20,000 for Heavy Chore Services, and the addition of \$55,000 to pilot an escorted transportation service. The Executive's narrative on the Senior Initiative also

describes several on-going efforts including the Older Adults Waiver Program, assistance to accessing resources, protecting and advocating for people in assisted living facilities and nursing homes, access to meals and nutrition education through group meal programs and home delivered meal programs, providing senior protective services, and short-term respite care. These efforts are provided by Aging and Disability Services.

A. Community Support Network for People with Disabilities

Total FY13 recommended funding for this program is \$15,120,472 and 45FTEs. This program coordinates a wide range of services for people (adults and children) with disabilities including employment, services for the visually impaired, autism waiver services, and funding for community based and residential services.

For FY13, the Executive is recommending only miscellaneous adjustments for this program area.

Miscellaneous Adjustments ***\$59,332 and +0.8FTEs***

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

Other Issue:

County DD Supplement

The Executive's recommended budget includes \$7,718,124 for the County's supplement to eligible organizations that provide direct services to the developmentally disabled. These funds are allocated to all DD providers in the same proportion as State funding, as State funding takes into account the number of clients, severity of disability, and services required. While Montgomery County has chosen to provide a county supplement in recognition of the higher cost of providing services in Montgomery County, the State payment is a full payment to the client. The County DD Supplement is not a direct supplement to a specific employee's pay but rather a payment to assist the entire organization in meeting its costs.

The Council received testimony from Montgomery County InterACC/DD (© 46-47), Community Support Services (© 48), and the Commission on People with Disabilities (© 25-26) requesting that the Council add \$339,597 to the DD Supplement in recognition of service expansion during FY12.

InterACC notes that there are 88 new individuals being served by Maryland Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) funded programs for transitioning youth. In addition, there are an

estimated 43 new individuals receiving services through DDA residential and day services. The testimony shows that there is a projected 4.4% increase in funding from Maryland DDA from FY12 to projected FY13 (from \$95.6 million to \$99.8 million.) A 4.4% increase in the County DD Supplement would be the requested \$339,597. The testimony further shows that in FY04, the DD Supplement was equal to about 10% of the State DDA funding. Without additional funding in FY13, the DD Supplement would be equal to 7.7% of State funding.

The County DD Supplemental is county tax-supported which is why it was reduced in FY11 and FY12 when it was necessary to reduce county tax-funded expenditures across all departments. **If the Committee wants to provide an increase to the DD Supplement, Council staff provides the following 3 options:**

- Increase the DD Supplement by 2%** **\$154,360**
(this option would be consistent with the request from other non-profits to increase certain non-profit contracts by 2%)
- Increase the FY13 amount so that it is 8% of State funding** **\$267,050**
(this option would look at funding the DD Supplement as a percent of projected State funding)
- Increase DD Supplement by 4.4% per InterACC/DD** **\$339,587**

While it is true that at one time, funds were adjusted annually for program expansion, **Council staff recommends that for FY13, the Committee add \$154,360 to the reconciliation list for a 2% increase as the Committee expressed an interest at the April 17th session in adding 2% to certain non-profit contracts. The Committee could place a second increment of \$185,230 on the reconciliation list which would bring the total amount to the 4.4% requested.**

B. Assessment and Continuing Case Management

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$6,572,943 and 55.5FTEs for this program which provides multi-disciplinary assessments, care planning, and case management to frail seniors and adults with disabilities. This program area includes Adult Protective Services, Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), and the public guardianship program.

Increase to the Senior Care/Gateway Grant \$359,754 and +2FTEs

The budget includes an expected \$359,754 increase in this grant. Total funding for FY13 will be \$980,374. The Department will be able to add 2 Social Workers to this program to provide case management. The Department has provided the following description of the services:

The Senior Care System provides case management and funds (i.e., "gapfilling") for services for low-income seniors 65 years or older who may be at risk of nursing home placement. Services may include

personal care, chore service, medications, medical supplies, adult day care, respite care, home delivered meals, transportation, and emergency response systems.

How many clients are expected to be served in FY12 and in FY13 (with the additional funding)?

In FY13 (with additional funding) we anticipate being able to serve approximately 280-290 individuals per month, with about 350-370 unduplicated served during the course of the year as a result of client turnover. In FY12, during which we have ramped up services, it is likely that we will serve approximately 300-340 individuals.

Will these additional funds help to reduce the wait lists for Senior Care or Social Services to Adults?

Yes, the increase in Senior Care funds will positively impact the Senior Care and SSTA wait lists. As a result of the ramping up process the Senior Care Wait List has dropped from a high of 39 in December 2011, to 30 in April 2012. Likewise, the SSTA wait list has dropped from 158 in October 2011 (when the ramp up began) to its current level of 101 in April 2012.

Council staff recommends approval.

Miscellaneous Adjustments
\$212,719 and +1.35FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

C. Assisted Living Services

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$1,934,004 and 7.07FTEs for this program that provides subsidies and case management to low-income seniors who live in group homes or in adult foster care homes.

For FY13, the County Executive is recommending only miscellaneous adjustments for this program.

Miscellaneous Adjustments
-\$43,526 and +0.27FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

D. Home Care Services

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$4,390,860 and 15.5FTEs for this program which provides in home assistance to senior and adults with disabilities that need help with daily tasks in order to remain independent and live in the community.

Chore Services (Senior Initiative) *\$50,000*

The Executive is recommending the re-establishment of the Chore Services program as a part of his Senior Initiative. The program ended in FY09 as a part of the FY09 savings plan. Chore services is targeted to low-income, frail elderly and people with disabilities who need help with light housekeeping, vacuuming, laundry, and meal preparation in order to remain in their own homes. It is expected that about 21 people will be served. Clients are able to provide their own personal care. Clients will receive about 2 hours of assistance per week.

Council staff understands the value of Chore Services and Heavy Chore Services (next item) but also recalls that it was a difficult choice to eliminate chores services when county funding was not available. **Council staff recommends approval but sees re-establishment of this program as a lower priority than some other items, particularly if impacts from the actions of the General Assembly require reductions in DHHS.** Council staff also notes that there is a waiting list of 45-50 people who need personal care services (in-home aide).

Heavy Chore Services (Senior Initiative) *\$20,000*

The Executive is recommending re-establishment of a program to assist with Heavy Chore Services. These services are generally used in situations where there are hoarding behaviors that may impact the ability of someone to maintain their housing. As with Chore Services, **Council staff recommends approval** but notes that restoring this program may not be as high a priority as continued or enhanced funding for existing programs.

Miscellaneous Adjustments *-\$468,100 and -1.3FTEs*

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

E. Home and Community Based Waiver Services

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$1,094,226 and 10.5FTEs for this program which coordinates Medicaid long-term care waivers. Waivers allow the funding of services in the community (“Money Follows the Person”) in order to avoid the need for placement in a nursing home or other institutional setting. Money Follows the Person participants can access funds for community-based services through five waiver programs: (1) the Living at Home waiver, (2) the Older Adults Waiver, (3) the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver, (4) the Community Pathways waiver, and (5) the New Directions waiver. The Recommended Budget says that the program continues to expand, with 405 clients active at the end of FY11 in comparison to 372 active at the end of FY10, a growth of 9%. Statewide the number of Medicaid recipients transitioning to community based services is increasing while the use of institutional services has declined (Hilltop Institute.)

Older Adult Waiver Program

The March 15 Recommended Budget proposed that DHHS could reduce General Fund costs by \$429,935 and 4.5 FTEs through a change in how case management is provided for participants in the Older Adult Waiver Program. Since the budget was released, DHHS has had further discussions with the State about the parameters for case management and Council staff understands that this recommendation will be revised. DHHS will provide the Committee with information at the HHS Committee session.

Miscellaneous Adjustments \$124,331 and +1.8FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

F. Aging and Disability Resource Unit

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$834,359 and 9.0FTEs this program that assists seniors, people with disabilities, and their families in defining needs, locating services, and facilitating any the application process.

For FY13, the Executive is recommending only miscellaneous adjustments.

Miscellaneous Adjustments
\$25,289 and +0.3FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

G. Ombudsman Services

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$655,149 and 5.5FTEs for this program that investigates and resolves complaints in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

For FY13, the Executive is recommending only miscellaneous adjustments.

Miscellaneous Adjustments
\$11,559 and +0.2FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

H. Respite Care

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$914,084 and 0.0FTEs for this program that provides temporary, occasional care of frail seniors, adults and children with disabilities, and children with severe behaviors and/or medical conditions in order to give relief to family members and primary care givers. Over the last year, the number of clients served in Respite Care has ranged from 86 to 257 (during the month of June). In any month, the number of respite requests that could not be filled ranged from 19 to 154.

For FY13, the Executive is recommending only miscellaneous adjustments.

Miscellaneous Adjustments
\$4 and +0.0FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that

would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

I. Senior Community Services

Total FY13 recommended funding for this program is \$2,256,597 and 5.7FTEs for this program that provides a variety of services that help senior remain independent and active in the community such as legal services, senior transportation to recreations centers and to grocery shopping, and health insurance counseling.

Escorted Transportation Pilot Project Contract \$55,000

This funding will be provided to the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington to provide a “Smooth Ride” escorted transportation pilot program. The Senior Initiative section notes that this will be a six month, phased-in project and will coordinate new and existing escorted transportation services. The effort will provide 550 one-way escorted trips. Escorted trip provide the person with assistance in and out of the car and into the appointment. Often this kind of transportation is used to help seniors to medical appointments. This is different from the Connect-a-Ride program that is funded in the Department of Transportation (\$157,000 for FY13).

Council staff also understands that DHHS will work with the JCA to request a mobility management grant under the New Freedom program from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration.

The Committee should discuss with the Department what the expectation is for funding after this six month pilot and what would be funded if a New Freedom grant is received. Will those served during the pilot period understand that it is a pilot program and may not continue after funding is exhausted? Will people be asked to pay a portion of the cost based on their income?

Miscellaneous Adjustments -\$23,823 and 0.23FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

J. Senior Nutrition Program

Total FY13 recommended funding for this program is \$2,434,890 and 3.0FTEs for this program that provides lunches to seniors at sites around the county, as well as providing home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and physical fitness activities.

Home Delivered Meals \$35,000 and 0.0FTEs

The Executive is recommending an additional \$35,000 for home delivered meals. The total amount of funding included in the DHHS budget for this purpose is \$680,150. The sources for the funding are:

- Older Americans Act grant: \$385,224
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP): \$58,697
- Program Income: \$33,704
- State Nutrition grant: \$30,989
- General Funds: \$171,536

The Senior Initiative section notes that the additional \$35,000 in funding will provide delivered meals to 16 chronically ill clients aged 60 and above who are home-bound due to their illness or a disability. Services are targeted to those with greatest need and special consideration is given to those with low-incomes, minority individuals, residents in rural communities, people with limited English proficiency, and those at risk for institutional care. **Council staff recommends approval.**

Reduce General Funds for Senior Nutrition Program (offset by grant increase) -\$28,075 and 0.0FTEs

This item shows in the budget book because there was a reduction to General Funds in this program; however, **there is not a decrease to the overall program in FY13. The program expects to serve an increased number of meals in FY13.**

The total amount in FY13 that is included in the budget for senior congregate meals is \$ 1,726,739. The sources for the funding are:

- Older Americans Act grant: \$841,962
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP): \$176,090
- Program Income: \$101,112
- State Nutrition grant: \$92,965
- General Funds: \$514,610

How many meals were served in FY11? 183,024.

How many are projected for FY12 and FY13? FY12: 213,176 FY13: 227,050

The following changes have occurred or will occur regarding congregate meal sites:

- Lunch programs opened in February 2012 at the new Mid-County Community Center and Holly Hall (an HOC building).
- A program at the new White Oak Community Center is scheduled to open in FY13 (fall 2012).

Council staff recommends approval.

Miscellaneous Adjustments

\$97,588 and 0.0FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

K. Service Area Administration

Total FY13 recommended funding is \$405,337 and 3FTEs for this program that provides service wide administration.

Miscellaneous Adjustments

-\$38,873 and 0.2FTEs

Miscellaneous adjustment account for compensation changes, annualizations and other items impacting more than one program. For FY13, the County has moved from calculating Workyears (that would include lapse and overtime effort) to FTEs that sum full-time and part-time positions. In DHHS, this generally requires a technical adjustment to increase FTEs as lapse is no longer included (and there is relatively little overtime.) **Council staff recommends approval.**

Aging and Disability Services

FUNCTION

The staff of Aging and Disability Services shares the Montgomery County vision, where seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families are fully participating members of our Community. The mission of this service area is to affirm the dignity and value of seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families by offering a wide range of information, home and community-based support services, protections, and opportunities, which promote choice, independence, and inclusion.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Jay Kenney of the HHS - Aging and Disability Services at 240.777.4565 or Bryan Hunt of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2770 for more information regarding this service area's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Community Support Network for People with Disabilities

This program area provides supported employment for adults with developmental disabilities; service coordination; services for people with visual and hearing impairments and physical disabilities; summer camp for children with multiple disabilities; crisis management and intervention; school-to-work transition assistance, and the Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Autism Waiver). This program area also provides financial assistance to State-funded providers who serve adults with developmental disabilities.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Percentage of adults with developmental disabilities provided community living services who remain at the same level of independence after receiving supportive services	94	97	95	95	95

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	15,061,140	44.20
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	59,332	0.80
FY13 CE Recommended	15,120,472	45.00

Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services

This program area provides multi-disciplinary assessments, care planning, and case management services to frail seniors and adults with disabilities to remedy and prevent abuse, neglect, self-neglect, exploitation, or inappropriate institutionalization. Services include Adult Protective Services, Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), Statewide Evaluation and Planning Services, Social Services to Adults, and the Public Guardianship Program.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Number on Social Services to Adults (SSTA) waiting list	238	179	150	150	150

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	6,000,470	52.20
Enhance: Increase to the Senior Care/ Gateway Grant	359,754	2.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	212,719	1.35
FY13 CE Recommended	6,572,943	55.55

Assisted Living Services

This program area provides subsidies and case management for low-income seniors who live in group homes for the frail elderly and adult foster care homes for frail seniors and adults with disabilities.

1

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Percentage of clients remaining in community placement (i.e., not entering institutional setting)	95	94	95	95	95
FY13 Recommended Changes					
				Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved				1,977,530	6.80
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.				-43,526	0.27
FY13 CE Recommended				1,934,004	7.07

Home Care Services

This program area provides personal care assistance to seniors and eligible adults with disabilities who are unable to manage independently due to physical and/or mental impairments. In-home aide services prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, and enhance overall quality of life by providing personal care, chore assistance, therapeutic support, self-care education, and escorted transportation.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Number of clients served annually	407	407	380	426	426
Percentage of clients with no unmet personal care needs	95	93	95	95	95
FY13 Recommended Changes					
				Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved				4,788,960	16.80
Add: Chore Services				50,000	0.00
Add: Heavy Chore Services				20,000	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.				-468,100	-1.30
FY13 CE Recommended				4,390,860	15.50

Home and Community Based Waiver Services for Older Adults

This program area administers and operates the Home and Community Based Waiver for Older Adults (Medicaid Long-Term Care Waiver) that provides a continuum of services designed to allow frail seniors to live in the community, rather than in nursing homes.

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	1,399,830	13.20
Reduce: Older Adults Waiver Program staff for increased case management with partial year funding	-117,582	-1.50
Decrease Cost: Older Adults Waiver and Money Follows the Person Program	-312,353	-3.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	124,331	1.80
FY13 CE Recommended	1,094,226	10.50

Aging and Disability Resource Unit

This program area assists seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families, in defining service needs, locating required services, and facilitating the application process to access services.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Percentage of callers that received referrals/information they need	89	87	90	90	90
FY13 Recommended Changes					
				Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved				809,070	8.70
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.				25,289	0.30
FY13 CE Recommended				834,359	9.00

Ombudsman Services

This program area investigates and resolves complaints in nursing homes and assisted living facilities for seniors and people with disabilities made by residents, staff, and family members.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Percentage of complaints resolved	89	85	85	85	85

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	643,590	5.30
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	11,559	0.20
FY13 CE Recommended	655,149	5.50

Respite Care

This program area provides temporary, occasional care of frail seniors, adults and children with disabilities, and children with severe behaviors and/or medical issues to give relief to families and other primary caregivers.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Number of unmet requests for service in Respite Care	1,246	1,174	1,174	1,174	1,174
Percentage of customers with disabilities that remain in the community ¹	92	NA	90	90	90

¹ FY11 data not available because survey was not conducted.

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	914,080	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	4	0.00
FY13 CE Recommended	914,084	0.00

Senior Community Services

This program area provides funds for services that help seniors to remain independent in the Community including: legal services; representative payee services; health insurance counseling; "visitor" services; grocery shopping; transportation to senior centers; subsidized employment, and socialization for seniors with visual impairments.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Percentage of clients receiving Representative Payee program whose bills are all paid on time	100	100	100	100	100

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	2,225,420	5.70
Add: Escorted Transportation Pilot Project contract	55,000	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	-23,823	0.23
FY13 CE Recommended	2,256,597	5.93

Senior Nutrition Program

This program area provides lunches to seniors at sites around the County and provides home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and physical fitness activities. It is administered in cooperation with a variety of public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY10	Actual FY11	Estimated FY12	Target FY13	Target FY14
Number of duplicated customers served in the Senior Nutrition Program ¹	8,606	5,634	5,600	5,615	5,615

¹ Large increase in FY10 was due to one time infusion of ARRA funds. Future years are projected to show reduction in number of individuals and/or meals served as ARRA funds disappear and unit cost of meals increases.

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	2,343,890	3.00
Enhance: Home Delivered Meals	35,000	0.00
Decrease Cost: Reduce Senior Nutrition Congregate Meal Program, offset by grant increases	-28,075	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	97,588	0.00
FY13 CE Recommended	2,448,403	3.00

Service Area Administration

This program area provides leadership and direction for the administration of Aging and Disability Services.

FY13 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY12 Approved	444,210	2.80
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs. Other large variances are related to the transition from the previous mainframe budgeting system to Hyperion.	-38,873	0.20
FY13 CE Recommended	405,337	3.00

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name	FY12 Approved		FY13 Recommended	
	Expenditures	FTEs	Expenditures	FTEs
Community Support Network for People with Disabilities	15,061,140	44.20	15,120,472	45.00
Assessment and Continuing Case Management Services	6,000,470	52.20	6,572,943	55.55
Assisted Living Services	1,977,530	6.80	1,934,004	7.07
Home Care Services	4,788,960	16.80	4,390,860	15.50
Home and Community Based Waiver Services for Older Adults	1,399,830	13.20	1,094,226	10.50
Aging and Disability Resource Unit	809,070	8.70	834,359	9.00
Ombudsman Services	643,590	5.30	655,149	5.50
Respite Care	914,080	0.00	914,084	0.00
Senior Community Services	2,225,420	5.70	2,256,597	5.93
Senior Nutrition Program	2,343,890	3.00	2,448,403	3.00
Service Area Administration	444,210	2.80	405,337	3.00
Total	36,608,190	158.70	36,626,434	160.05



LM
VY 2

COMMISSION ON AGING

Testimony by Judith Welles, Chair
Montgomery County Commission on Aging
before the
County Council on the County Executive's FY 13 Budget
April 11, 2012

I would like to thank the County Council and President Berliner for the opportunity to testify on the FY13 County budget and for your commitment to the needs of Montgomery County seniors.

I am testifying today on behalf of the County Commission on Aging. I am also testifying on behalf of a 93 year old woman, who raised her granddaughter, and lives in the home she bought more than 60 years ago that is too far for her to walk to any bus transportation. I am testifying on behalf of a couple, both in their 70s, who want to find one-floor affordable housing in Silver Spring to live in the same community where they have lived their entire lives.

There are many others, who live alone, who are isolated, and in need of the kinds of programs and activities in the FY 13 budget that can assure them dignity and vitality in their later years. The budget increases in the FY 13 budget will make a real difference in people's lives.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging is working toward making our County a place where all residents can live their entire lives. We have proposed a senior agenda, with a vision that Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime - a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives.

By the year 2020, the senior population of Montgomery County will increase by 74%, with approximately one-in-four residents over the age 60, compared to approximately 15 percent today. This tremendous demographic shift requires a new priority for senior issues.

The Commission on Aging commends the County Council for its leadership on many issues of concern to older residents and, also, for bringing experts in the field of aging together in its recent forum on senior issues.

We also recognize and appreciate the efforts of the County Executive in recent years, and in the proposed FY 13 budget, to respond to the needs of both the vulnerable, low income and the more healthy, vital older adults.

The County Executive's proposed FY 13 budget puts in place a secure foundation toward meeting the changing needs of a diverse aging population.

After several years of cutbacks to services to seniors, this budget includes increases to services for seniors across several departments. These enhancements will make an immediate impact on the quality of life for Montgomery County's seniors and deserve strong support.

While this proposed budget makes some key program improvements, the Commission on Aging is very concerned that pending changes at the state and federal level could adversely impact services for seniors.

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

The County needs to be prepared to continue to support and stand for services needed by the growing population of seniors.

The proposed FY13 budget adds almost \$2 million to senior initiatives across different county agencies. These funds are targeted to the most vulnerable seniors and to key areas that support the needs of our County's older adults who want to age in place, including transportation, nutrition and home care chore services, affordable housing, mental health, senior programming at recreation centers, and helping to prevent financial abuse. The Commission on Aging fully supports all of the County Executive's FY 13 budget enhancements for senior programs and services.

This budget is a building block toward a larger vision that will indeed make Montgomery County a Community for a Lifetime.

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Montgomery County, Maryland

Commission on Aging

Annual Report
2011

Remember—Seniors Count!



March 2012

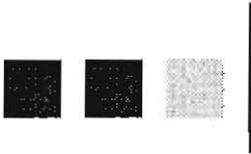


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Photographs have been provided courtesy of Bruce Adams, Director of Montgomery County's Office of Community Partnerships, Commission on Aging members Judy Welles and Marcia Pruzan

Letter from the Chair of the Commission on Aging



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 22, 2012

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
The Honorable Roger Berliner



The Montgomery County Commission on Aging is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2011. The Report describes the activities of the Commission as an influential voice advising County government on issues affecting older adults, as well as advocating at the local, state, and federal levels for policies and programs that contribute to successful aging in place in our community.

The Commission takes seriously its obligation to be a responsible voice for older adults in the community. Therefore, the Commission continues its commitment to publicly speak out in support of programs considered essential to the lives of an aging population. Therefore, we wish to submit in this Annual Report the Commission's proposal for a comprehensive vision and agenda. Entitled "*A Community for a Lifetime: Proposal for a Senior Agenda*," the Commission's document contains the following vision: *Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime - a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives.*

In keeping with the Commission's commitment to address the needs of older adults, the document identifies seven areas that are of critical importance to an over-65 population that is currently more than 119,500 and projected to grow to nearly 190,000 in 2030. The areas include: transportation; housing; socialization and leisure; health and wellness; employment; and security and safety. It is the Commission's hope that the Senior Agenda will be adopted by the County Executive and endorsed by the County Council as the Policy that will provide a blueprint for action.

The Commission thanks both the County Executive, Mr. Leggett, who has demonstrated his strong commitment to the concerns of our aging population, and the County Council for its willingness to support and maintain programs that serve older adults in the County.

Finally, the Commission once again wants to express its deepest appreciation to two individuals who represent the many outstanding social service professionals working for the County: Dr. John (Jay) Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, and Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging and Executive Secretary of the Commission, both of the Department of Health and Human Services. Each provides the Commission with exceptional support, guidance, and wise counsel. Their contributions are invaluable to both the Commission and to older adults in the County.

Sincerely,

Elaine Kotell Binder

Elaine Kotell Binder, Chair

Department of Health and Human Services

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor • Rockville, Maryland, 20850 • 240-777-1120, FAX 240-777-1436
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs



Montgomery County Commission on Aging

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Chair: Elaine Kotell Binder
First Vice Chair: Grace Whipple
Second Vice Chair: Beth Shapiro
Secretary: Marcia Pruzan
Treasurer: Vivien Hsueh

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Aging in Place and Community: Beth Shapiro, Grace Whipple
Communications and Community Outreach: Spencer Schron, Judy Welles
Health and Wellness : Tammy Duell, Judith Levy
Public Policy: Jack Sprague, Robert Tiller
Aging in Place and Community: Beth Shapiro, Grace Whipple

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STAFF

Odile Brunetto, Aging and Disability Services
Shawn Brennan, Aging and Disability Services

LIAISONS

Department of Public Libraries: Christopher Borawski, Mildred Nance
Department of Recreation: Jeff Bourne, Phil Smakula
Department of Transportation: Joy Barrow
Office of Community Partnerships: Austin Heyman
Office of Fire and Rescue: Matthew Kelleher
Commission on Health: Sam Korper
Housing Opportunities Commission: Pazit Aviv, Gail Gunod
Commission on People with Disabilities: John Miers, Seth Morgan
Montgomery County Arts Council: Les Trachtman
Vital Living Committee: Patricia Lesnick
City of Rockville Commission on Aging: Ciriaco Gonzales

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Alicia Bazan Jimenez	Kenneth Montgomery
Elaine Kotell Binder	Barbara Mulitz
Myrna Cooperstein	Nhora Murphy
Morton A. Davis	Mona Negm
Tammy Duell	Joseph Petrizzo
Elizabeth Brooks-Evans	Marcia Pruzan
Paul Del Ponte	Rudolph (Rudy) Oswald
John Honig	Spencer Schron
Vivien Hsueh	Beth Shapiro
Charles Kauffman	John (Jack) Sprague
Miriam Kelty	Robert Tiller
John J. Kenney, Executive Liaison	Judith Welles
Judith Levy	Grace Whipple
Leslie Y. Marks	



Enabling Legislation

The Commission on Aging, established in 1974, operated under the auspices of the County Council until August 1987, when its operation was transferred to the Executive Branch. Chapter 27, Article III of the Montgomery County Code created the Commission on Aging under the declared public policy of the County to:

- Improve conditions of the aging or elderly in the county;
- Work toward the elimination of restrictions that impede older citizens from full participation in the mainstream of community life; and
- Assist and stimulate all levels of government and the community to be more responsive to the needs of the county's older residents.

In addition, the Commission on Aging serves as the Advisory Council to the Area Agency on Aging as described in the federal Older Americans Act.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the County Executive subject to confirmation by the County Council. Under a section specifying powers and duties of the Commission, there are several provisions outlining a broad spectrum of powers. The following two subsections provide a good example of the breadth of the Commission's power:

The Commission shall have the power...

- (a) To research, assemble, analyze and disseminate pertinent data and educational materials relating to activities and programs which will assist in meeting the needs and solving the problems of the aging; to cooperate with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals in identifying and solving the problems of the aging; and to develop and conduct, as appropriate, in cooperation with county government and other services and programs dealing with the problems and needs of the aging.
- (g) To advise and counsel the residents of the county, the County Council, the County Executive and the various departments of county, state and federal governments on matters involving the needs of the aging, and to recommend such procedures, programs or legislation as it may deem necessary and proper to promote and ensure equal rights and opportunities for all persons, regardless of their age. ■

Commission Membership

The Commission on Aging consists of no fewer than 18 members appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by the County Council. Members must be county residents of whom a majority shall be age 60 and older. Members include: those who participate in or who are eligible to participate in programs under the Older Americans Act; local elected officials or their designees, individuals who are or who have been active in government, business, industry, labor, community service, religious, social services, education, the professions; and representatives of major organizations or agencies concerned with aging. ■

Sign in for Senior news at Montgomery County's
electronic newsletter subscription system at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eSubscription



Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA), headed by Dr. Odile Brunetto, is responsible for the provision of a continuum of home and community-based services and provides staff support to the Commission on Aging. In conjunction with community partners, the AAA is actively involved in administering County and state grant awards to contractors for public education/outreach, networking, and referrals.

AAAs were established under the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans ages 60 and older in every local community. The AAA strives to develop a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home and community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best. The AAA is part of a national network of over 670 AAAs established under the OAA to improve the quality of life for older persons by creating a network that maintains a holistic view of aging. The AAA are mandated to "foster the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated systems to serve older individuals..."

Highlights of AAA Activities in Fiscal Year 2011:

- Staff from the Aging and Disability Services Line, a Maryland Access Point, answered nearly 21,000 calls to assist seniors, persons with disabilities and their families, providing access to information and needed short- and long-term care services offered both by the County and our non-profit partners.
- The AAA's Long-Term Care Ombudsman program managed 365 complaints with a resolution rate of 96.8%. A cadre of 55 trained volunteers team up with our five staff members in 34 nursing homes and 183 assisted living facilities.
- The Public Guardianship program served 88 persons in need of protective services as determined by the courts.
- The Nurses Team conducted 1,666 Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS) evaluations,

which are mandated to enable eligible persons to receive community-based, Medicaid-funded services.



DHHS Director Uma S. Ahluwalia with COA members Elizabeth Brooks-Evans and Mona Ngem

- The Health Wellness program successfully recruited additional volunteers to lead Bone Builders Exercise classes on bone health and falls prevention, increasing the number of free classes offered in the County with a cadre of 33 trained volunteers, and engaging 195 seniors weekly.
- This program also conducted several seminars for more than 30 people on the topics of End of Life Care and Advance Directives in anticipation of implementation of the Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) legislation,
- A successful Falls Prevention Campaign was conducted in September 2011, engaging numerous partners in our County.
- The Senior Nutrition program served 5,629 clients and provided more than 380,000 meals, both in congregate sites and through home-delivered meals.
- The Older Adult Waiver Program served 482 Medicaid-eligible seniors. More than 1,700 eligible Montgomery County residents in need of this program are on the State registry.
- In partnership with the Beacon newspaper, several outreach efforts were undertaken to inform seniors and their families about helpful services in the County.
- The AAA also participated in the activities of the County Senior Subcabinet and the work of the established workgroups supporting the Subcabinet's work.
- Seniors Today, a monthly cable show, co-produced with the COA, celebrated its 100th show. ■



Commission Activities and Priorities

Members of the Commission on Aging (COA) have brought their expertise and dedication to COA activities through their commitment to advancing an agenda for the County's older adults and through participation in Commission meetings, committee work, and outreach to the community.

One key Commission accomplishment of this past year was its approval of a document entitled "A Community for a Lifetime: A Proposal for a Senior Agenda." This Agenda lays out the following vision: **Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime—a place for older adults to live safe, healthy, and vital lives.**

The document proposes a County policy that demonstrates a commitment to older adults. It will be submitted to the County Executive, who is a firm supporter of seniors and the Commission.

Mr. Leggett responded positively to the *Call for Action* that the Commission issued in August 2010. The *Call for Action* asked for the development of a comprehensive Senior Agenda, the creation of a transportation plan for seniors, and the appointment of a Commission representative to the Senior Subcabinet.

At a meeting with Commission leaders, the County Executive agreed that the COA would sit as an ex-officio member on the Senior Subcabinet. In addition, he asked the COA to take the lead in facilitating the development of a County-sponsored, community-wide senior transportation plan to be developed in partnership with the Department of Transportation. Although limited progress has been made on the latter to date, the Commission intends to make this a priority for the coming year.

Educational Activities

A number of local and national leaders have made presentations at Commission meetings, providing Commission members with important knowledge about issues of concern. At its Annual Meeting, the Commission heard from a futurist, David Pearce Snyder, who spoke about the knowable future—demographic, econometric, and technological forecasts that can be made based on available facts. He predicted a "rendezvous with austerity" that will affect senior living and the need to adapt to the changes that will occur. County Executive, Isiah Leggett; and HHS Department Director, Uma S. Ahluwalia, also spoke at this meeting, providing Commissioners with insights from their perspectives.

Other County leaders who spoke at Commission meetings were Gabriel Albornoz, Director of the Recreation Department, Richard Nelson, Director of the Housing and Community Development Department, Rollin Stanley, Executive Director of the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, and Bruce Adams, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships. Mr. Albornoz updated Commission members on Recreation Department efforts to re-institute programming for seniors that had been reduced in prior years. Both Mr. Nelson and Mr. Stanley talked to the Commission about housing and zoning policies that are in the process of being updated. Mr. Adams, along with members of his staff and staff from DHHS, described County efforts to reach out to our diverse communities.

Finally, the Commission was privileged to have as a guest speaker Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the UCLA School of Public Affairs. Dr. Torres-Gil is a nationally known expert in the fields of health and long-term care, the politics of aging, social policy, ethnicity and disability. His presentation was a direct result of the work of the Communications and Community Outreach Committee around the need for outreach to older adults in the many diverse communities that exist in the County.

As a result of these presentations and the excellent work of Commission committees (whose activities are described elsewhere in this Report), the Commission has increased its knowledge base about issues of concern and has expanded its efforts to influence County policy in a variety of areas.



County Executive Isiah Leggett, Dr. Fernando Torres-Gill, and COA Chair Elaine Binder



COA member Vivien Hsueh, with Aging and Disability Services Director John (Jay) Kenney



Odile Brunetto with outgoing COA Chair Elaine Binder and incoming COA Chair Judy Welles



Delegate Kathleen Dumais, and Senator Nancy King

External Relations

The Commission held a Stakeholders Meeting during the year in order to promote its *Call to Action* and to encourage collaboration with organizations and businesses that provide services to older adults. In addition, the Commission continues to have liaison relationships with departments that provide services to older adults, as well as other County committees and commissions sharing an interest in the needs of seniors. Of importance during this past year has been a collaborative effort between the Commission on Aging and the Commission on People with Disabilities on the issue of parking. The Commission sent a letter to the County Executive supporting enforcement of disabled parking restrictions, and COA representatives attended the County's launch event for its new program, "Respect the Space." The Commission also has worked closely with the Commission on Health and the Recreation Advisory Committee during this past year.

Commission members are involved in the Grass Roots Organization for the Welfare of Seniors (GROWS) the, Transportation Providers Network, The End-of-Life Coalition, and the Vital Living Network. The Commission also participates on the County Executive's Senior Sub-cabinet and several workgroups that emerged from the Senior Summit. The Commission continued its advocacy efforts with United Seniors of Maryland and participated on its legislative committee. The Commission considers all of these efforts as an extension of its goal of ensuring that County Government, State Legislators, and the Community "*Remember: Seniors Count.*"

Summer Study Sessions

Each year during the summer the Commission sets aside its normal activities and conducts research on topics that are of concern to older adults. The in-depth study of these topics provides Commission members with information that assists them in defining priorities, taking action, and making appropriate recommendations to the County and State. Housing and Mental Health were the two issues identified for the 2011 Summer Study session. Commission members selected these topics at the Annual Meeting as a result of information gathered from presentations at Commission meetings and through COA members' one-on-one meetings with Council members and staff.

However, it is important to note several areas of importance. The Commission makes a concerted effort to broaden participation in Summer Study by reaching out to experts in the community. The

Health and Wellness Committee has already begun implementing the recommendations from the Mental Health Summer Study, including participation in coalitions concerned with senior mental health issues. Following the Housing Summer Study, a Task Force was appointed by the Chair to provide input to the upcoming rewrite of the County's Housing Policy and to the extent appropriate, issues related to upcoming changes in the zoning laws. As a result, the Commission was able to submit comments on proposed changes to the Housing Policy of the County. The reports from both Summer Study sessions, as well as that of the Housing Task Force are provided elsewhere in this report.



Budget Priorities

The Commission testified at hearings held by the County Executive, the County Council, the Director of DHHS, and the Community Development Advisory Committee on issues related to the 2012 budget. In all cases, we reiterated our concerns for 119,500 County residents ages 65 and older and noted that by 2030, that number is expected to increase by nearly 40 percent to 189,489.

The Commission framed its testimonies around two populations—those seniors who are vulnerable and at-risk and those low- and middle-income seniors whose continued independence also depends on certain services. We continued to stress, as we have in the past, how imperative it is to consider the overall needs of older adults and the cumulative effect of program reductions, rather than focusing on individual programs. We also emphasized the importance of preventive services as significant cost-saving measure for the future.

The Commission identified as its priorities: preserving safety net services; and maintaining the core services that are essential for frail, vulnerable seniors. In particular, the COA expressed grave concerns about the proposed reduction in providing Home Care Services. While senior center programs and Ride-on fares were not facing reductions, the Commission felt it was imperative to comment on their importance to older adults, particularly from a preventive perspective. In short, we urged County leadership to “Do No Harm!” The Commission was gratified when the County Council restored \$100,000 for Home Care Services. In their individual meetings with members of the County Council, Commission members stressed the importance of this program, and they believe that their advocacy on this issue, in conjunction with that of collaborating organizations, were responsible for this restoration.

Legislative Priorities

The Commission was particularly successful in its advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults at the State level. Led by its Public Policy Committee, Commission members testified in Annapolis and actively worked with legislators for the passage of three bills that were Commission priorities: Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST); Communities for a Lifetime; and a bill protecting the privacy of attendees at senior centers.

The Commission held a successful Legislative Breakfast in November 2011 in preparation for its advocacy efforts in the 2012 State Assembly. A key concern for the Commission in the year ahead is passage of legislation preventing financial abuse of seniors. In addition, Commission members discussed with legislators the importance of State funding for Medicaid, transportation, and housing programs for older adults in the County.

Conclusion

Commission members are committed to ensuring that older adults can live safely in the County. This past year, as part of the County’s promotion of volunteerism, Commission members tracked their hours for one month. In that month alone they spent 500 hours on Commission-related activities. This is in addition to the many hours most Commissioners spend volunteering for other organizations. Montgomery County is fortunate to have such a dedicated corps of volunteers to assist County leaders in creating a **Community for a Lifetime.** ■

Legislative Breakfast Participants



Commission Member Jack Sprague



Senator James Gilchrist



Delegate Benjamin Kramer



SENIOR AGENDA

**A Community for a Lifetime : A Proposal for a Senior Agenda
Submitted by the Montgomery County Commission on Aging**

In August 2010, the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (COA) issued a **Call to Action** in which the COA asked that the County adopt a **Senior Agenda** to plan over the next five years for the significant increase in County residents over age 65. The following **Senior Agenda** represents the Commission’s perspective on how the County can become a place for older adults to live safe, health and vital lives.

**Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime—
a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives.**

**Commitment to
Older Adults**

- The County will have a policy against ageism, including age stereotyping.
- Older adults are a valuable economic, cultural, and social resource and will be included in all County planning activities at the Executive and Council levels.
- Planning related to older adults will include consideration of diversity, inclusiveness, and intergenerational elements.
- Demographic data about older adults will be maintained, analyzed, and incorporated into planning.
- Resource information relevant to older adults will be distributed and accessible.
- The County will have a plan to address options for aging in place and alternatives.
- The County will promote public-private partnerships that contribute to implementation of this Agenda.

Transportation

Vision: *Montgomery County will have public and private transportation and mobility systems that enable older adults to go where they want to go, when they want to go and how they want to get there.*

- Affordable senior transportation will be a priority.
- Planning will include in-neighborhood options to make transportation accessible and to make affordable escorted transportation available.
- Planning will encompass the needs and safety of both pedestrians and those who do not drive.
- Transportation planning will include a focus on the needs of older adults as they become less able to drive.

Housing

Vision: *Montgomery County will promote choices of dwelling types so that as the needs and preferences of older adults change, they can age in place, downsize, choose rental or ownership, or find housing with the appropriate level of supportive services without having to leave the community.*

- Affordable senior housing will be promoted and made available.
- Housing options and alternatives will be part of County planning efforts.
- Visitable and livable options will be included in County planning.
- New and existing construction and redevelopment will consider the needs of both current and prospective older residents.
- The County will assist and encourage efforts to create supportive communities such as villages, co-housing and other options.
- Redevelopment planning will encourage walkable communities.
- Planning efforts will include public-private partnerships as an option to providing housing suitable for older adults.



Socialization and Leisure

Vision: *Montgomery County will encourage and support vital living of older adults by providing opportunities for physical, mental and social interaction.*

- Recreation programs will facilitate socialization and other activities that integrate health and wellness.
- Recreation programs will be available and easily accessible to older adults throughout the County, particularly in areas where there are no senior centers.
- Lifelong learning opportunities will be available.
- Libraries will be a location of activities and resources for older adults.
- Active efforts will be made to engage older adults as volunteers.

Health and Wellness

Vision: *Montgomery County will expand public health and prevention programs that promote physical, mental, social and environmental health for older adults.*

- Medical care for older adults will be available, accessible, and affordable.
- Healthcare providers will be encouraged to accept private and public health insurance including Medicare and Medicaid.
- Direct services and educational programs to plan for serious illness and to manage chronic diseases including promotion of self-management programs will be a priority.
- Access to hearing and dental care will be available.
- Nutrition support including education and meals will be provided.
- Specialized mental health care will be available as an integral part of the health services delivery system.
- Caregiver support will be a priority.
- Services to address cognitive impairment will be available, accessible and affordable for affected older adults and their families and caregivers.

Communications

Vision: *Montgomery County will distribute and publicize recognizable, understandable, timely, and accessible information on County and public resources and services for older adults.*

- Information will be understandable and accessible by older adults and their caregivers in diverse ethnic population groups
- Information will clearly state who is eligible for services at no cost and who is eligible at specified costs.
- Information for older adults will be branded uniformly for consistency and recognizable identification
- The County will use and publicize multiple media to disseminate information relevant to older adults, including social media, its regularly updated website and a 24/7 information resource line.

Employment

Vision: *Montgomery County will recognize the extent and value of the contribution of older adults to the economy.*

- The County will encourage County agencies and private companies to offer employment opportunities as older adults transition to retirement.
- The County will encourage job fairs, partnerships, and forums to help older adults prepare themselves to continue in or reenter the workforce and find jobs.
- The County will provide information that promotes the value of older workers.

Security and Safety

Vision: *Montgomery County will provide physical, financial, and technological protection and safety for older adults.*

- The County will expand its police and fire safety programs targeted toward older adults.
- The County will educate both older adults and their caregivers about the potential for financial crimes, including telephone and computer scams.
- The County's Ombudsman Program will increase its monitoring of the safety of group homes and assisted living facilities.
- The County will work to assure legal protection from financial exploitation of older adults. ■

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FY11 Committee Activities

AGING IN PLACE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Aging in Place and Community Committee (AIPC) is charged with examining issues involving aging and the choice to remain in one's home, regardless of safety concerns and ability to maintain the home due to aging. This past year the Committee collected background information about transportation and mobility issues and what might be done to improve availability and accessibility of transportation for the County's seniors.

The Committee learned that the decision to "give up the keys" can be one of the most traumatic events in an individual's life; it can contribute to depression, loss of socialization, fewer trips to the doctor and religious functions, and half as many trips for shopping and eating out. This lack of social contact has been found to be highly detrimental to physical and mental well-being.

Although there are about 150 transportation providers in Montgomery County, transportation is a significant challenge for many older adults. In addition to a lack of knowledge about available services, the Committee learned of many other barriers affecting the ability of older residents to stay in their homes. These include transportation costs, the need to schedule rides weeks in advance, fear of getting lost, concerns over safety, struggles with carrying packages, and the inability to get to and from public transportation. Nonprofit providers are challenged to provide an ever-growing demand for transportation services due to lack of adequate staff, funding, and persistent difficulty recruiting drivers and volunteers.

The Committee met with several business and nonprofit transportation providers to discuss their services and examine different models, driver training programs, and other best practices. In addition, the Committee examined transportation plans of nearby Fairfax and Howard Counties as possible templates for Montgomery County. Transportation will remain a main focus in the upcoming year, with the goal of proposing a County-wide plan and advocating for short-term solutions, including ways to retrofit the suburbs to make mobility easier for older adults.



Commissioners Myrna Cooperstein and Grace Whipple

Toward the end of the year, the AIPC also began to explore the issue of "purpose-built senior housing" with discussion and speakers. The Committee plans to further examine the topic of affordable housing in the coming year.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The year 2011 was active for the Committee on Communication and Community Outreach as members reviewed County publications for seniors for graphic and content consistency, expanded outreach to stakeholders, began a focus on communication to seniors in diverse communities, and extended the reach of the COA's cable television show, "Seniors Today."

Following a County press conference with Health and Human Services Director Uma Ahluwalia and Commission Chair Elaine Binder on the "Graying of Montgomery County," the Commission cited data about the growing senior population in testimony, meetings, and other communications.

The Committee sought to improve County publications for seniors with graphic standardization reflecting the County's diversity and greater consistency in substance. The concern was that information for seniors developed by the County should have a consistent appearance and feel so that older residents could readily recognize and use County publications to find resources they need. Efforts also were made to obtain private funding to expand printing of County publications for seniors.

During the year, the Commission placed a priority on the needs of older adults in Montgomery County's diverse communities because of the large share of the State's diverse population residing in the County. For example, 58 percent of the State's Asian seniors (age 65+) and almost 57 percent of the State's Hispanic seniors reside in Montgomery County.

All committees of the Commission were tasked with including as one aspect of their work the needs of seniors in the increasingly diverse County. Committee explored current County diversity outreach activities and development of a statistical profile of Montgomery County diversity to better clarify the needs of old adults in specific diverse groups.



Another primary concern of the Committee is the COA's relationships with Stakeholder organizations. The Commission held a meeting with Stakeholders in February 2011; the Committee recommended also inviting Stakeholders to attend Summer Study sessions and committee meetings and to stay informed by the Commission's Web site: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/coa. Stakeholders did join the Commission in refining recommendations made by Summer Study groups on issues in Housing and Mental Health.

In the latter part of 2011, the Committee started to plan for its 2012 Stakeholder meeting, and focused on the needs of seniors in diverse communities. The Committee also worked to broaden the County list of Stakeholders to include the business community and organizations representing and serving seniors in diverse communities. At the Committee's recommendation, the Commission initiated action to have individual Commissioners reach out as speakers and participants in groups that relate to seniors. One member of the Committee, Morton Davis, received an award from a Muslim Community Center for the information he provided about both the Commission and safety for seniors.

The COA produces a monthly cable television program, *Seniors Today*. This year, substantial progress was made in increasing the visibility and exposure of *Seniors Today*. A special Task Force was appointed to focus on programming for this series. Programs covered issues important to the seniors of Montgomery County such as financial fraud, hearing loss, how to use social networking (Facebook, Twitter), hoarding, low-cost healthy meals, the County's Agricultural Fair, and employment, among others.

The Commission recommended that the County seek to broaden the exposure of the program by providing DVDs to senior centers, retirement communities, and other congregate settings, and by linking the program to the County website for seniors (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior) and to YouTube. As a result, the County's Office of Public Information has undertaken a series of activities that make the programs more visible and accessible for seniors: linking *Seniors Today* to YouTube, distributing *Seniors Today* DVDs to selected retirement communities; and issuing media releases announcing the programs. *Seniors Today* airs on Montgomery County Cable TV (Sundays at 2:00 pm, Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, and Fridays at 8:00 pm) and on the County Government Senior website

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

The Health and Wellness Committee started the year with the addition of two new members. Considering the breadth and complexity of the issues that the Committee continues to focus, they were welcome additions.

In 2011, the Committee continued to focus on the development of the Healthy Montgomery website formerly known as CHIP, End of Life Care, Medicare changes, the impact of the Affordable Care Act of 2009 on seniors and discharge planning. In addition, due to concerns raised in the past year, the Committee decided to focus more closely on mental health services for seniors. Another area of concern requiring new focus was falls prevention. A Falls Prevention Workgroup was established and included members of the Committee, HHS staff, and the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County.

Significantly, this year the Committee was able to participate in several End-of Life events and activities as a result of the recommendations made during an earlier COA Summer Study. On behalf of the COA, Tammy Duell, Co-Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, testified at State Senate hearings in support of Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST). The bill eventually passed both legislative branches, with implementation still pending. As a result of the Committee's efforts, the County Council and County Executive created a proclamation in April in recognition of National Healthcare Decisions Day. Committee members also supported the screening of the film "Consider the Conversation" in Silver Spring. The COA was a cosponsor of this highly successful event.

Due to the complexity of the issues surrounding Mental Health Services, the Committee submitted a Summer Study proposal that was approved by the COA. Details about this Summer Study appear elsewhere in this Report. In 2011 the Committee will continue to focus on these issues as well as other concerns related to the health and wellness Montgomery County's seniors.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Public Policy Committee leads the Commission's efforts in public policy advocacy at all levels of government: County, State and federal.

State. During the 2011 State legislative session, the Public Policy Committee and other members of the

(Continued on page 12)

Montgomery County Commission on Aging



Senator Nancy King

Commission were active in Annapolis in support of three bills that passed and became law:

- Communities for a Lifetime, which calls for a comprehensive, strategic State plan to address aging-in-place preferences of seniors

and also provides resources to communities that facilitate the independence of seniors;

- Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, which enables the conversion of individual patient goals and preferences regarding end-of-life care into medical orders that are transferable between settings and institutions; and
- A bill to exempt publicly funded senior centers from providing personal information about participants in response to requests under freedom-of-information laws.

The Commission is proud that it either initiated or gave major shape to all three bills. The Commission appreciates the work of the delegates and senators who pushed these bills through the General Assembly.

The Commission supported two bills that did not pass, but we expect that they will be introduced again—one on seizure and forfeiture of property obtained by financial exploitation, and one on creation of a permanent absentee ballot list.

The Public Policy Committee organized the Commission's legislative breakfast for State senators and delegates from Montgomery County. Thirteen of our legislators attended. The breakfast meeting was a valuable opportunity for the Commission and the elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives relating to seniors.

County. Members of the Commission met with each member of the County Council, orienting them to the needs of the County's seniors and urging adequate funding for essential safety-net services for seniors. As a result of these visits, the Council not only maintained the safety-net but restored a proposed \$100,000 cut in Home Care Services.

The Public Policy Committee arranged a meeting of several key Commission members with Rollin Stanley, Director of the Montgomery County Planning

Department, to explore how zoning and planning impacts seniors, especially in the areas of housing and transportation.

Federal. Led by the Public Policy Committee, the Commission sent several letters to Montgomery County's U.S. representatives and senators about federal issues, notably budget priorities.

Other. The Public Policy Committee has held a series of meetings with local financial institutions to explore steps that might reduce financial exploitation of seniors. ■



Delegates Ariana Kelly and Bonnie Cullison



Paul Del Ponte, Morton Davis,
and Spencer Schron



Stakeholders Meeting

The Commission on Aging (COA) reaches out to groups and organizations that provide services to or advocate for seniors in Montgomery County. The Commission refers to these groups and organizations as Stakeholders. The partnership between the COA and Stakeholders results in a more unified voice to influence County decisions concerning seniors. The Commission meets with Stakeholders at least annually and Stakeholders attend Commission, Committee, and Summer Study Group meetings.

The Commission on Aging hosted a Stakeholders meeting in February 2011 to build on the foundation developed at the 2010 meeting. Fifty-four organizations attended. COA Chair, Elaine Binder, discussed the Commission's "Call for Action," which first emerged at the previous year's Stakeholders meeting. It was subsequently sent to all candidates for County office asking for a commitment to build a comprehensive vision and agenda for seniors—one that considers the County's geographic, economic, and cultural diversity. Also noted was the importance of a combined commitment to older adults to strengthen the County's ability to become a Community for a Lifetime.

Participants discussed how to become a unified voice; responses included:

- Expand our message statewide;
- Continue advocacy on a statewide basis for senior issues;
- Emphasize the economic contributions of seniors;
- Incorporate the slogan: "Remember: Seniors Count."
- Focus efforts on the County Council, particularly in the area of planning;
- Resend the COA's "Call to Action" to members of County Council'
- Develop and achieve goals with measurable outcomes;
- Encourage seniors and nonprofit senior service organizations to speak individually at County Council sessions and write letters; and
- Emphasize the importance of not cutting funding for senior services.

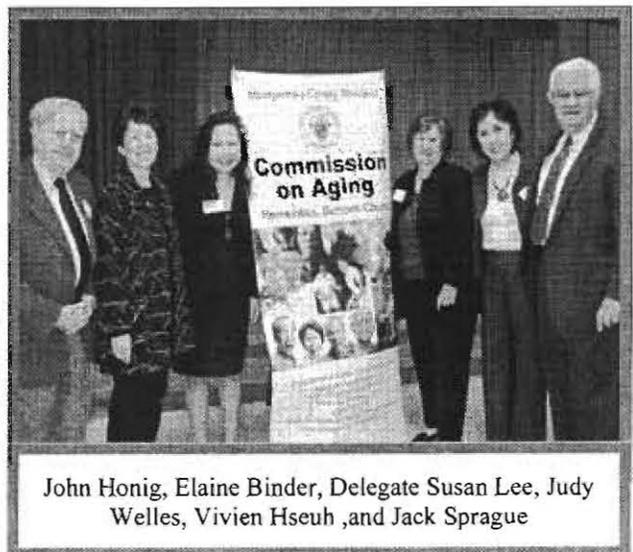
It is hoped that these efforts will result in a united voice and consistent message representing all of our interests and a coordinated plan that supports seniors. This consistent message can be presented at appropriate County Council hearings and functions, State functions, and other public venues where senior interests must be heard and leveraged. The goal is that seniors must be

recognized as a coordinated, viable, public interest group with policy interests and influence, and that it will use its power to improve and protect the interests and programs for seniors. The slogan "Remember: Seniors Count" must be emphasized.

Discussions with Stakeholders led the Commission to draft the proposed "Growing Older in Montgomery County: an Agenda," referred to as "A Community for a Lifetime: A Proposal for a Senior Agenda." This document encompasses concerns for seniors in the areas of transportation, housing, socialization and leisure, health and wellness, communications, employment, and security and safety. It is the Commission's hope that the "Senior Agenda" will be adopted by the County Executive, and endorsed by the County Council, and that County Departments will develop plans to implement it.

Stakeholders were encouraged to participate in Summer Study Groups and Commission Committee meetings. Their participation in Commission Summer Study Groups has been substantial, and their attendance at Committee meetings has been growing. This expertise and experience enhanced the scope and value of the recommendations generated by the Summer Study Groups.

The Commission is optimistic that through past, present, and future coordinated activities with Stakeholders, older adults in Montgomery County will benefit from highlighted interest in issues affecting them. ■



John Honig, Elaine Binder, Delegate Susan Lee, Judy Welles, Vivien Hseuh, and Jack Sprague



FY11 Summer Studies Work Groups

At the COA's Annual Meeting in May, Commissioners decided to undertake a study of housing policy in the County as it affects our seniors. The goals of this Summer Study were to:

- Study the Special Exception Zoning process for approval of Accessory apartments for determining the validity of an expedited approval process for this housing option; and
- Study the voluntary Montgomery County Visit-Able and Live-Able program to determine whether or not the programs should be strengthened or become mandatory.



COA at work: Joseph Petrizzo, Barbara Mulitz, Mona Ngem and Shawn Brennan

Commission for People with Disabilities and the Maryland National Capital Home Builders Association presented their organizations' viewpoints on these topics. During the last Housing Summer Study session, participants reviewed information gathered in the two previous sessions and developed a set of recommendations for

Commission consideration. The following Housing Summer Study recommendations were approved unanimously by the full Commission at its September meeting:

Commission member Leslie Marks chaired this study. Thirteen Commission members participated, along with representatives from the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNPPC), the Commission on People with Disabilities, the Maryland National Capital Builders Industry Association, Easter Seals, and representatives from the offices of Montgomery Council members Nancy Floreen and Marc Erlich.

- Approve housing issues for seniors in Montgomery County as a priority for the coming year;
- Support an expedited process to make approval of accessory apartments less costly and less time consuming; and
- Continue to support the voluntary Design for Life program for Visit-Able and Live-Able apartments. Encourage broad-based education and public relations initiatives to enhance a more robust program.

During three summer meetings, participants learned definitions for the terms *Design for Life*, *Visit-Able*, and *Live-Able* as they relate to housing and became educated about the zoning process and procedures. At the first meeting, Jennifer Wise from the Montgomery County Planning Board educated participants about the zoning rewrite process and explained the benefits and drawbacks of allowing development of accessory apartments without going through the Special Exception process, which can be complex, lengthy, and expensive. A representative from the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs also offered expertise about the approval process at that meeting.

Housing Task Force. Following the Housing Summer Study and Commission approval of its recommendations, COA Chair Elaine Binder appointed a small COA Task Force to:

- Provide COA input to the upcoming rewrite of the County's Housing Policy being written by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs at the request of the County Executive and for approval by the County Council.
- Support Commission participation, to the extent appropriate, on issues relating to the upcoming changes in the zoning laws being recommended by the MNCPPC; and
- Make recommendations about the appropriate role of the COA in housing policy and program changes under consideration.

During the second meeting, participants studied the Design for Life program, the voluntary Visit-Able and Live-Able housing program to make housing accessible to all. Representatives from the



During the fall, this Task Force met with appropriate representatives from MNCPPC and the County's Department of Housing to review proposed revisions to both housing and zoning policy to provide them with information from the COA's Senior Agenda and the COA's position on issues related to housing for older adults. The Task Force also met with the President of Victory Housing, a nonprofit developer of affordable senior housing, to learn the organization's view of the development process for affordable senior housing. The Task Force developed COA testimony for a public hearing on revisions to the Montgomery County Housing Policy. It concluded with a report and a series of recommendations for further Commission consideration that promote the COA's continuing interest, involvement, and advocacy for housing programs for seniors in our County.

Mental Health Summer Study

The Commission on Aging (COA) met over the summer to study mental and behavioral health services for older adults who reside in Montgomery County. Joining the COA were representatives from the Commission on Health, The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, The Montgomery County Mental Health Association and Montgomery County government and non-government groups

In addition to learning about some of the existing programs and resources for seniors, workgroup members reviewed barriers and challenges to providing mental health care for older adults, discussed practices and strategies to improve care, and developed recommendations.

The purpose of this study was to learn more about Montgomery County's specialized mental health services for older adults. Two distinct areas of concern emerged:

- 1) people with *acute* psychiatric mental illness; and
- 2) people with *situational* mental health issues.

At the conclusion of the study, group members made recommendations focusing on education, funding, and legal considerations. Specific recommendations to the full Commission included the following:

- Endorse mental health as a priority and approve continuation of this important work in the Health and Wellness Committee;
- Advocate for development of programs for older

adults that promote wellness and prevention including nutrition, exercise, and feelings of "usefulness."

- Advocate for funding for senior mental health and support programs and services that promote social connectedness, leisure time activities, volunteerism, and intergenerational activities;
- Approve collaboration with State licensing bodies to provide information (via mail or email) to County providers related to mental health and older adults; and
- Approve collaboration with the Public Policy Committee to address the legal recommendations of the workgroup.

At the full September COA meeting, a motion was made and unanimously accepted to make Mental Health a COA priority for the coming year. The Health and Wellness Committee will add mental health to its agenda and follow up on the recommendations from Summer Study. ■

Senior Nutrition Hotline
240-777-1100

Speak directly to a registered dietitian for reliable nutrition and diet information
Wednesday morning 9-11 am

Serving Montgomery County, Maryland

Visit the Senior Services Site at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior

			Montgomery Senior Site Caregivers Consumer Issues Employment Health Recreation & Libraries Safety Senior Housing Taxes & Finance Transportation



LOOKING FOR SERVICES FOR SENIORS?

Visit Montgomery Senior Site for information on



- Caregiving
- Consumer Issues
- Employment
- Health
- Recreation and Libraries
- Safety
- Senior Housing
- Taxes and Finance
- Transportation

Montgomery Senior Site is designed to provide information on county services in one easy-to-find place.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/seniors

Please call 240-777-3000 or dial 311



Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director

Dr. John J. Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services

Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Health and Human Services

Aging and Disability Services

Commission on Aging

401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor

Rockville, Maryland 20850

240-777-1120 (Voice) 240-777-1236 (TTY) 240-777-1436 (FAX)

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/coa

March 2012

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**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities FY 13 Budget Priorities
Before the Montgomery County Council
April 12, 2012**

Patricia Gallalee, Chair | Charles Crawford, Vice-Chair

My name is Patricia Gallalee, and I am Chairperson of the Commission on People with Disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to share our priorities with you. The Commission's primary work has been in the areas of accessible housing, increasing employment opportunities and a safe, reliable transportation system. We request that the Council provide policy direction or funding for the following:

Accessible Housing: The Commission recommends to you and the County Council and its Housing Policy Committee to develop ways to produce a substantial number of homes with basic accessibility. The County needs homes that are both affordable and accessible.

We see that the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is investing \$1.5 M from the Housing Initiative Fund in addition to previously appropriated funds for affordable housing to develop a senior independent living facility adjoining the new Silver Spring Library. Using public money and including requirements for modifying homes to make them accessible also needs to be addressed. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) administers the Single Family Home Improvement Loan Program, but available funds or grants are limited to people with very low incomes.

The Housing Initiative Fund (HIF), also administered by DHCA, promotes a broad range of housing opportunities in the County to alleviate difficulties experienced by many low and moderate income households in obtaining and maintaining housing at affordable costs. HIF funding can, and has been used to: fund new construction; preserve existing homes; support new rental construction; finance the substantial rehabilitation of rental housing; support the preservation or development of senior, family, or special needs housing by nonprofit or for profit sponsors; and support the preservation or development of single-family, town house and apartment buildings.

We would ask you to consider requiring that any new housing using HIF funds meet the basic accessibility features of the County's Design for Life Montgomery program. This would mean a no-step entry; 32" interior doors; 36" exterior entries; and hallways and a useable powder room. We recommend that the County adopt basic accessibility design standards in any home it builds, renovates or regulates such as Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU's) and Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) housing. We also recommend that HOC do an inventory of accessible housing and develop a tool to match available accessible units with people who need them.

The Design for Life Montgomery Workgroup has been meeting with builders from the Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association and discussing the option of an incentive program for builders who construct accessible homes or developments. Incentives could include reduced permitting fees and/or tax credits. The State of Virginia now offers a \$5,000 tax credit to entice builders to outfit homes with features that make housing more accessible. It was suggested that tax credits be offered to the buyer as well.

Employment: There is a high unemployment rate of people with disabilities. We request support for a County Special Hiring authority to establish a program to aid in hiring qualified disabled veterans and people with disabilities and thus, make an exception to the merit system. The Commission made a presentation to the Charter Commission on January 11, 2012 and they are currently considering this issue to be placed on the November ballot. We also recommend that the County reinstitute AP1-10 supported employment contracts that go to non-profits that employ people with disabilities to do work for the county. We thank you for the hiring preference for veterans and persons with disabilities that was passed by the Council and became effective in May, 2010. Since then, 10 veterans, 5 people with disabilities and one veteran with a disability have been hired. We are pleased to learn that 2 of the persons were interns in the Customized Employment program.

Transportation: While we applaud the reduction of fees for the second Call n Ride coupon book, it is essential that MetroAccess be fully maintained and improved. The State has the contract for Metro Access but we believe the County must take some responsibility to ensure that safe and satisfactory service be provided to those residents of Montgomery County who are so dependent on this service. Personally, I am very concerned
(over)

Commission on People with Disabilities
April 12, 2012

about the safety of persons using Metro Access given some of the incidents with the drivers. There is a strong connection between the availability of a reliable transportation system to the ability of persons with disabilities being able to get to and from work so their dependency on other financial assistance is diminished. We are pleased that this budget makes needed strategic investments by increasing resources for Police by providing additional patrol officers and investigative positions to target crime "hot spots" in each district. We are hopeful that these additional patrol officers will be of help in combating the illegal use of disability parking placards and strengthen the County Executive's "Respect the Space" Disability Parking Campaign.

In addition, we recommend the following:

- Given that the County will be given additional funding through the Developmental Disabilities Administration, we support InterACC- DD's request for additional supplemental funding for expansion. However, we know that the needs of the community continue to grow and that this money will only go so far.
- We are pleased to see the restoration of the Home Care Chore Services Program targeted to low income frail elderly and people with disabilities who need help with light cleaning, vacuuming, laundry, and/or meal preparation in order to remain in their own homes and in the community. This funding will purchase service for approximately 21 clients with two hours of Chore Services per week for a year. (\$50,000).
- We are pleased that this budget also restores operating hours for libraries and increases the budget for reading materials – both print and electronic. Libraries are a vital resource to residents who have disabilities, particularly in terms of employment readiness and employment opportunities. Libraries not only provide job skills and literacy training, but also offer employment and volunteer opportunities (work experience) for people with disabilities.

We again thank you for this opportunity to partner with you as you consider your budgetary planning for the coming fiscal year.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2011
"Promoting Choice and Independence"



Letter of Transmittal to: October, 2011

Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
 Honorable Valerie Ervin, President, Montgomery County Council
 Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of the estimated over 180,000 people with disabilities who live in the County. The Commission continues to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities who work, visit or live here. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to ensure that the County government complies with all Federal, State and local laws that guarantee the rights of people with disabilities, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead Decision which upheld the "integration mandate" of the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

This year the Commission was proud of the work done to promote the well being of people with disabilities. We value the relationship we have with the Office of Human Resources and will continue to meet with them on increasing employment of people with disabilities in its diversity outreach efforts. From efforts to comply with the Olmstead Decision, design of the new Silver Spring Library, housing accessibility, Ride On Bus, MetroAccess to accessibility on the fixed route transportation system, we have taken positions and given advice on how best to ensure greatest access.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication in promoting the civil rights and independence of people with disabilities. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia for continuing to meet with the Boards, Commissions, and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues; Jay Kenney, Ph.D., Chief, Aging & Disability Services, Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist, and Carly Clem, OSC, for their outstanding support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Gallalee

Patricia Gallalee
 Chair

Charlie Crawford

Charlie Crawford
 Vice Chair



MEMBERSHIP LIST

2010 - 2011

VOTING MEMBERS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Cindy Buddington	Paul Meyer
Charles Crawford	John Miers
Harry Eisenberg	Seth Morgan
Patricia Gallalee	Marcie Povitsky
Megan Larson	A. Isabel Torres-Davis, Esq.
Tim Markwood	Jennifer Wolfsheimer

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Hartung
Irving Shapiro
Jackie Simon

PRIVATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kimberley Alfonso, *Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind*
Edmund Kenny, *Handicap International*
Sheila Langston, *U.S. Coast Guard Exceptional Family Mbr. Program*
Mark Maxin, *Special Olympics*
Catherine Mello, *The Rock Creek Foundation*
Marie (Lu) Merrick, *Post High School at Ivymount School*
Cindy Ostrowski, *St. Luke's House, Inc.*
Daphne Pallozzi, *Ardmore Enterprises*
Stephen Riley, *Potomac Community Resources*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Joy Barrow, *Division of Transit Services, Department of Transportation*
Francie Gilman, *Disability Resource Center, Department of Public Libraries*
Nancy Greene, *ADA Compliance Officer, Department of Health and Human Services*
Richard Jackson, *Division of Facilities Management, Department of General Services*
Betsy Jett, *Human Relations Commission, Office of Human Rights*
Kathy Kolan, *Transition Services, Montgomery County Public Schools*
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*
Darlene Taper, *School Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services*
Angela Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

STAFF

Betsy Luecking, *Disability Policy Specialist*
Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*
John (Jay) Kenney, Ph.D., *Chief, Aging and Disability Services*

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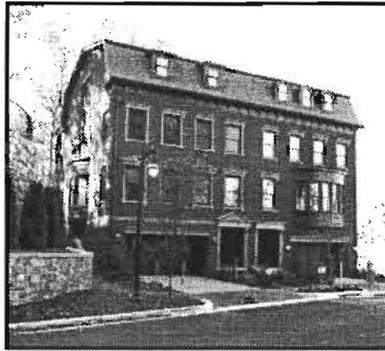
COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2010 - 2011

- October, 2010: "Think Beyond the Label" - Hiring People With Disabilities Employment Campaign – *Cathy Raggio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities*
-
- November, 2010: **Montgomery County: Budget Process & Fiscal Outlook Highlights of the Office of Management and Budget** – *Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services*
-
- February, 2011: **Update on Programs Offered by Independence Now** – *Sarah Basehart Sorenson, Executive Director, Independence Now*
-
- April, 2011: **March Is Brain Injury Awareness Month Proclamation** – *Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services; Ray Salzberg, President, Rock Creek Foundation*
FY12 Operating Budget Highlights and Forecast – *Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services*
-
- May, 2011: **Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP): What People With Disabilities Need To Know Regarding Timeliness and Income Support Programs** – *Leta Blank, Program Director, University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County, MD*
-
- June, 2011: **Transit Updates and Accessibility** – *Carolyn Biggins, Chief, and Steve Wells, Operations Chief, Division of Transit Services, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
-
- September, 2011 **Design Feedback from the Commission on the Proposed Disability Resource Center at the New Silver Spring Public Library** – *Rita Gale and Susanne Churchill, Montgomery County Public Libraries*
Equal Rights Center: Overview of Services – *Kat Taylor, Disability Rights Program Manager, Ian Watlington, Disability Rights Coordinator, and Hilary Tone, Communications Associate, Equal Rights Center*
-
- October, 2011 **Project Civic Access and Montgomery County Government** – *Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services, Montgomery County Government*

BUILD OR RENOVATE YOUR HOME FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES OF LIFE DESIGN FOR LIFE MONTGOMERY



Universal and Green Model Home
In Clarksburg, MD
Photo Courtesy of Winchester



The Brownstones at Park Potomac
Garage with Lift to Elevator
to All Floors
Photo Courtesy of EYA



Renovation - Single Family Home
in Takoma Park
Photo Courtesy of Ken Wyner
(photographer) and Universal Design

Design for Life Montgomery (DFLM) is the first voluntary certification program in Maryland for Visit-Ability and Live-Ability in single family attached and detached homes. The DFLM workgroup continues to meet with the Maryland- National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) to promote and market the program. This program was implemented in 2003 by the Executive Branch with the County Office of Permitting Services being designated to certify homes. This program is a collaboration between the Commission on People with Disabilities and the M-NCBIA. Whether you are a first time homebuyer, young family, career professional, active adult or person living with a temporary or permanent disability, your home will be enhanced by these additional design features which will meet your needs throughout your life.

The guidelines for this voluntary program apply to new construction and renovation of existing homes:

I. Level I Visit-Able

- No step entry into the first floor of house
- 32 inch wide doorways
- Access to bathrooms on first floor

II. Level II Live-Able

- Access to master bedroom
- Access to full bath
- Access to kitchen

What is going on elsewhere in the country in the area of Visit-table/Livable Housing?

1. Many communities have required that all publicly funded housing be built to specifications of Visitable/Liveable (reported by AARP).
2. DC has introduced a bill that would require Visitable and Liveable features in all publicly funded housing.
3. Maryland has passed legislation that requires builders of 11 units or more to offer Visitable/Liveable features as options.
4. Virginia has proposed an incentive to builders and homeowners that include or add Visitable or Livable features to their homes.
5. Some communities require all new housing be Visitable and Livable, example Pima Arizona.
6. Baltimore City requires Visitable/Liveable features in all housing that is publicly funded.
7. HUD provides developer points for projects that include Visitable and Liveable features.

For more information go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/designforlifemontgomery.

DISABILITY PARKING WORKGROUP ESTABLISHED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Commission wrote a letter to the County Executive asking him to explore possible initiatives with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) for the enforcement of laws pertaining to the accessibility of parking for people with disabilities. He concurred that the abuse of disabled parking is a serious problem which needs to be addressed.

As a result of the Commission's communications, he convened a task force to explore potential measures to address the issue. That group consists of: Capt. Tom Didone, Director of the MCPD Traffic Division; Rick Siebert, Chief of the Management Services Section in the Division of Parking Management for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT); Betsy Luecking, Staff Director for the Commission on People with Disabilities and the Commission on Veterans Affairs; and Michael Subin, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission and Special Projects Officer. The group has also been joined by Dr. Seth Morgan, M.D., a commissioner on the Commission on People with Disabilities. They met over the summer and are putting together a proposed initiative for a public education campaign and greater enforcement of the laws.

The task force identified two areas of primary concern: illegal parking spaces reserved for the disabled and the misuse of placards provided to those with disabilities for their use in multiple vehicles. While the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issues the placards, Montgomery County is responsible for the enforcement of the laws and statutes regarding handicapped parking. MCPD, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) and MCDOT's Parking Enforcement personnel have jurisdiction to conduct enforcement of the Handicapped Parking spaces. Capt. Didone provided the group with a review of the 2010 data. What the data revealed was that there had been 618 parking violations in 2010. Of those, MCPD issues 315 citations, MCDOT issued 221 citations and DFRS, along with municipal law enforcement officers, issued 82 citations. Additionally, 583 calls were received regarding parking violations. Only 451 of those calls were verified. As a result, 89 citations were issued and 134 calls were found to be unwarranted or not verified. A majority of those calls were dispatched to police officers in the field who were either dispatched to other calls prior to arriving on the scene or where, for several reasons, a citation was not issued.

Traditionally, MCPD enforces County and State parking regulations on private property available for public parking, which includes malls and shopping centers where violations appear to be quite common. DOT parking enforcement officers and County police officers have concurrent jurisdiction over public parking facilities in the County's Parking Lot Districts (PLD), and have worked will to enforce laws and regulations related to disability parking.

The County will be establishing a campaign called "Respect the Space" to include, but not limited to, the following measures: a public awareness campaign regarding the critical need to obey disabled parking laws; education merchants as to the seriousness of the problem and the need to clearly mark disability spaces as well as enforce their proper use; the need to continue the close coordination and cross-support between MCPD and MCDOT parking enforcement officers; and to meet with the Chief Administrative Judge of the District Court regarding enforcement issues.

3D

ACCESSIBLE PARKING



Did You Know...?

- ✓ Disability Tags or Placards are required to be displayed properly. Placards must be hung on the inside rearview mirror. If the vehicle does not have an inside mirror, or the inside mirror is not visible from the rear, you may display the placard on top of the dashboard on the driver's side. Please make sure the placard side displayed shows the expiration date of the disability placard. You must remove hanging placards from rearview mirror while your vehicle is in motion.
- ✓ Only the individual whose name is on the registration may park in the accessible space.
- ✓ You must always have your copy of the white MVA Disability Parking Certification card in your possession whenever you use the placard or plates. This certification must be presented to law enforcement upon request.
- ✓ The fine for illegally parking in an accessible space is up to \$250.00.
- ✓ The striped area adjacent to and between accessible spaces is there so that wheelchair lifts may load or unload passengers. When you park in a striped area "just for a minute" a lift cannot be used.

Please respect accessible parking laws and regulations.

INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

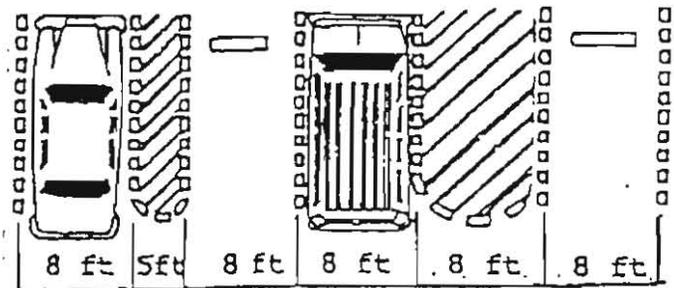
Both the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Maryland Accessibility Code cover:

Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces			
COMAR 05.02.02			
Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided (per lot)	Total Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces (60" & 96" aisles)	Van Accessible Parking spaces with min. 96" wide access aisle	Accessible Parking Spaces with min. 60" wide access aisle
	Column A		
1 to 25	1	1	0
26 to 50	2	1	1
51 to 75	3	1	2
76 to 100	4	1	3
101 to 150	5	2	3
151 to 200	6	2	4
201 to 300	7	2	5
301 to 400	8	2	6
401 to 500	9	3	6
501 to 1,000	2% of total parking provided in each lot	1/4 of Column A*	3/4 of Column A**
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each over 1,000	1/4 of Column A*	3/4 of Column A**

*one out of every 4 accessible space **3 out of every 4 accessible parking spaces

Access Aisles

- Access Aisles adjacent to accessible parking spaces must be 60 inches wide – 96 inches wide for van space Maryland Code requires "No parking in Access Aisle".
- Accessible spaces must be located on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance.



- Maryland law requires signs mounted on a pole (7 ft) or building wall (6-10ft.)
- Accessible signage **MUST NOT** be covered up by vehicles or snow. Don't paint the symbol on the ground.

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Human Resources has been working closely with the Commission on People with Disabilities with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The County Government is an equal opportunity employer, committed to workforce diversity.

1. Accordingly, as it relates to employment opportunities, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities, in accordance with the law. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office of Human Resources and request a Human Resources Specialist at 240-777-0311 Voice or 240-777-5126 TTY for assistance and guidance. You may also request a reasonable accommodation for the selection process via email to Special.Accommodations@montgomerycountymd.gov. Individual determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. Montgomery County Government provides priority consideration for initial appointment to a County Merit System position for veterans with a disability, veterans without a disability and for persons with a disability. For more information and to claim a hiring preference, please refer to the Careers webpage on [Hiring Preference](#).
3. The Customized Employment Public Intern Project was created based on the County's knowledge that people with significant disabilities often have difficulty accessing County government positions. As an employer, Montgomery County recognizes that there are many job candidates with significant disabilities who have much to offer but have difficulty competing for traditional jobs within the government. To go above and beyond what other County and State agencies have done, Montgomery County has established an initiative to create flexible work opportunities for individuals to fulfill the work requirements of County departments. All County departments will have the opportunity to work with a customized employment career specialist to identify and create part-time position descriptions based on the department's need. Individuals with significant disabilities will be matched to work tasks based on their interests, skills and competencies. The hope is that the public interns will gain job experience and training to be able to compete for merit positions within the County, as well as at other places of employment. For more information, please contact Marie Parker at mparker@montgomeryworks.com or 240-283-1574.
4. The Montgomery County QUEST Intern Partnership was launched in October 2009 with the Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The Quest Intern partnership is designed to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteer interns in County Departments and help them obtain job skills by working on a special project(s). The goal for this initiative was to achieve a minimum of ten (10) QUEST Internship placements to be enrolled at any given time. Participating departments identify internship projects suitable for QUEST Intern placements and submit the project(s) for consideration by the DORS QUEST Intern Coordinator. DORS representatives work with county department staff to recruit, identify, and recommend qualified individuals for the approved department projects. The DORS Coordinator recommends qualified intern candidates for consideration and selection by department staff. Department staff interview internship candidates and select individuals to work in the department for a three month or six-month period. The QUEST internship placements do not impact departmental fiscal requirements, since DORS handles all the pre-intern placement arrangements and provides the intern stipends. DORS provides QUEST Interns with a stipend for the duration of their service plus help interns gain job experience needed to help them achieve their goal of obtaining gainful employment after completing the intern placement with Montgomery County.

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT INTERNS TO APPLY FOR "EMPLOYEES ONLY" VACANCIES

Office of Human Resources

MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2011

TO: Executive Branch Department and Agency Directors

FROM: Joseph Adler, Director
Office of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Montgomery County Personnel Regulations

[Excerpt]

Executive Regulation 2-11, MCPR Amendment to Allow Customized Employment Public Interns to Apply for "Employees Only" Vacancies

This regulation amends Section 6-2 of the Personnel Regulations to allow active and in certain circumstances former customized employment public interns to apply for vacancy announcements that are limited to County employees only. Customized employment public interns are individuals with significant disabilities hired non-competitively on a short-term temporary basis to perform tasks for departments throughout the County that match the individual's interest, skills, and competencies with the department's needs.

Where To Find Vacancies / How To Apply:

- All jobs are posted on the County website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/careers.
- Public Interns do not have Single Sign-On access, so enter as an "External Applicant" by clicking iRecruitment Visitor Homepage.
- Click "Register Today" (if you have not already registered) and fill out the registration information.
- Once in the system, click the "Search Jobs" tab.
- In the "Job Category" section, click "Montgomery County Government Employees Only" to narrow your search to employee only announcements.
- Click "GO".

When applying for Employee Only jobs, there will be an assessment attached (supplemental questions in the system) for the applicant to answer. The applicant must answer YES to the question regarding Customized Employment Public Intern Participation. This will give the application credit for participation. In addition, the applicant should note on their resume that he/she was a participation of the public intern project.

TRANSPORTATION AND RIDE ON

The Access for All (AFA) Advisory Commission of the Council of Governments advises the Transportation Planning Board on transportation issues, program, policies and services that are important to low-income communities, minority communities and people with disabilities. Commissioners Paul Meyer and Charlie Crawford have taken an active role in attending the Council of Government's Access for All meetings. Of concern is that MetroAccess WMATA has stopped allowing MetroAccess applicants to mail the applications in which starts the 21 daytime for a decision on eligibility. Instead people must call in and schedule an appointment with a waiting time of up to two months to get an appointment to bring in the application. There is serious concern coming from Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital that persons newly injured or disabled now have this long wait time thus negatively impacting their discharge and return to community living. The Commission will be asking the County to intervene on behalf of those who need this service to request that it be speeded up. This past year the Commission also worked with the County's transit division on making the fixed route more accessible.

Passenger Bill of Rights and Responsibilities — Montgomery County Transit

We, in Montgomery County Transit, are dedicated to excellence in mobility options. As our riders, you have the right to:

- A safe and reliable bus ride.
- Professional and courteous service.
- A clean and comfortable bus.
- Know the rules of riding the bus and have the rules posted in the vehicle.
- Report disputes over fares and transfers.
- Know the bus number to report incidents or resolve problems.
- Rider-to-rider courtesy as encouraged by the bus operator.
- Access to and receive a timely response from all levels of the organization.
- Tell us about the quality of our service and how we can make your transit system better.
- Accurate information on routes, schedules, fares, and other mobility options. This includes onboard announcements of stops.

For your comfort and safety:

- Have your fare ready when boarding the bus and understand how to insert the fare correctly.
- Move to the rear of the bus so others may board quickly.
- Allow seniors and disabled persons to occupy priority seating.
- Please do not occupy more than one seat when others need seating.
- Close your strollers and have children seated for their own safety.
- Refrain from smoking, eating, drinking or spitting.
- Use headphones when playing audio devices at low volume.
- Stay behind the safety line on the bus when you are standing.
- Allow the operator to drive the bus safely by not speaking with the operator while the bus is moving.
- As a courtesy, exit from the rear and hold the rear door open for the person behind you when exiting.

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2011 - 2012 WORKPLAN

Over-arching goal: Note that any goal that involves legislation will require a motion and vote by entire Commission. Any budget or support services will be included under every goal.

To address the needs of County residents with disabilities by partnering with the disability community and County agencies responsible for designated programs to identify and prioritize needs, develop effective budget advocacy, formulate strategic means of addressing those needs, monitor the progress of those prioritized strategies, in areas such as, but not limited to; 1) ADA Compliance, 2) Housing, 3) Employment, and 4) Transportation.

- 1. ADA Compliance Workgroup** - Work with the ADA Compliance Manager to develop strategies to meet the County's requirements in the terms and conditions for the Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of DOJ's Project Civic Access review. Under the terms of the new DOJ agreement, the County has agreed to the following:
 - Providing additional training to all staff on the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
 - Assessing over 240 additional County facilities for ADA compliance (in addition to the 100 already assessed by DOJ) and developing a transition plan to ensure that any ADA improvements are made;
 - Improving the accessibility of our web site through a redesign of the site, the use of a compliance tool, and additional staff training;
 - Assessing all County policies, programs and services to ensure accessibility; and
 - Working collaboratively with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Montgomery County Public Schools to ensure the accessibility of facilities used by the public through the Community Use of Public Facilities.

- 2. Housing** - Promote policies and programs that provide access to housing for people with disabilities. Develop, support and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities as they seek access to all housing opportunities in Montgomery County. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Ensure that housing organizations provide community education and referral for people with disabilities who are in danger of foreclosure or other crisis situations.
 - Advocate for incentives to builders and homeowners to increase the stock of homes that meet the criteria of Design for Life (DFL) Montgomery.
 - Advocate for housing renovation and rehabilitation funds.
 - Partner with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission and Inter-Agency Fair Housing workgroup to research all issues related to fair housing and homelessness for people with disabilities.

- 3. Employment** - Increase employment of people with disabilities by promoting opportunities for the employment, training, placement, retention and advancement of individuals with a broad range of disabilities within the County Government and its contractors. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Partner with the Office of Human Resources to implement the legislation to increase the representation of people with disabilities at all levels of government through the hiring preference and other programs.
 - Monitor and be an advocate for customized internship employment opportunities and Quest Internship program.
 - Provide funding support for workforce development training programs/initiatives focused on people with disabilities.
 - Partner with employers, community organizations, etc to communicate, advocate, (maybe even provide workshops focused on dispelling myths, etc.) and support the state on "Think Beyond the Label", etc. We need to develop a strong voice and platform to support this initiative.
 - Better understand the statistics on the numbers of people in Montgomery with Disabilities and hiring rates.

- 4. Transportation** - Promote all publicly funded transportation to be safe, accessible, affordable and reliable for persons with disabilities. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Work with all relevant parties to insure that MetroAccess Paratransit service is available, reliable, on-time, affordable, and transparent in its policies and communications to users, and
 - Encourage the development of a comprehensive and uniform standard of affording disability parking and insuring that those who take advantage of such affordance are in fact qualified to do so,
 - Partner with the County transportation officials and disabled users of public transportation to insure compliance with all applicable standards of operations and performance under the Americans with disabilities Act,
 - Advocate for a pedestrian infrastructure that is accessible, safe, and maintained.

FY12 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
FY12 Operating Budget Forum – Before the Montgomery County Council
November 1, 2010
Patricia Gallalee, Chair | Charlie Crawford, Vice- Chair**

Good Evening, my name is Patricia Gallalee and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities. We recognize the County's fiscal crisis and know that tough decisions are going to be made. At minimum, we hope that you will be able to sustain programs so that people do not lose needed services. This may be the right time to rethink how long term care services are provided, and to who. We recommend an intake questionnaire that asks the right questions so that if people are eligible for federal or state funding they are referred to those programs, and County dollars only used until they obtain those benefits.

Medicaid Waivers are a main source of funding for people with significant disabilities. The problem is that those who do not qualify for Medicaid but who are the working poor are mostly left out of needed services. Prevention and case management for those not in crisis or needed protective services has been vanishing forcing people to go into crisis to receive services. We ask that the department develop a plan to address the needs of those who may just need some assistance before they are forced into a crisis.

We recommend the following:

- Stop the cuts to the DD Supplement/Match and restore what was lost
- Continue funding the Group Home Rehab program in DHCA
- Restore respite care hours to 164
- Develop classification for interns currently in the Customized Employment Program so that they can apply for merit positions like aides for the library
- Increase AP1-10 supported employment contracts that go to non-profits who employ people with disabilities to do work for the county
- Restoration of \$100,000 in the In-Home Aide Care program
- Continue Call 'N Ride program at the current funding level

While we applaud the enhanced funding for Ride On, it is essential that Metro Access be fully maintained and improved. The State has the contract for Metro Access but we believe the County must take some responsibility to ensure that safe and satisfactory service be provided to those residents of Montgomery County who are so dependent on this service. We have supported the increased cost of Metro Access, but we must have improved service in return. There is a strong connection between the availability of a reliable transportation system to the ability of persons with disabilities being able to get to and from work so their dependency on other financial assistance is diminished.

As noted above, the full provision of adequate services for persons with disabilities must be a priority of Montgomery County in FY 2012. While funds may be short, the demand is growing, and will continue to grow. Montgomery County must do better for its citizens with disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

"A Community's Budgetary Choices and Policies Reflect its Values"

TOP TWO POLICY PRIORITIES FOR FY12

Montgomery County Commission On People with Disabilities
Meeting with County Executive Isiah Leggett
February 10, 2011
Patricia A. Gallalee, Chair
Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair

1. Issue of Concern: Budget Cuts to Programs Serving People with Disabilities and the negative impact on our community.

Proposed solutions:

- We recommend that providers of services for people with developmental disabilities be fully funded; however, if cuts are imminent, limit cuts not to exceed 5% of current funding. In contrast to the County match to State funds being 10.16% in 2004, with increasing State dollars and an only 7.93% County match in FY11 the providers are receiving 20% or \$2M less than they would have at the 2004 County match level. The match helps to boost staff salaries TO \$8.97 an hour. It is a hard job, and it is difficult to attract and retain employees. Since you are looking for successful programs to continue, 93 percent of people receiving services are satisfied with their services and 95 percent were able to remain at the same level or higher of independence. Also, private providers in the County are bringing in \$97.8 Million in Revenue and serve 2,539 clients.
- Wherever possible, when County dollars are used, do not base eligibility on age or disability but instead base it on income and have it means tested, perhaps by something such as a Medicaid card. Age or disability does not necessarily mean low income.
- Strictly enforce existing County residency requirements for all programs that use county dollars such as the HHS security deposits for housing rental. County funded security deposits were intended to be used for those people with housing vouchers moving within the County. But, people are taking their vouchers and moving here from other states/counties and receiving county security deposits averaging \$1,800; others requesting much more than this average.
- We recommend there be no cuts to early intervention programs that support infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Eliminate duplication of state and county licensing such as the duplication in group home licensing.
- Maintain funding for public libraries. Libraries are a vital resource to people with disabilities, particularly in terms of employment readiness and employment opportunities.

2. Issue of Concern: People with disabilities living in shelters.

Proposed solutions:

- We ask the County to reexamine its housing policies in regards to program eligibility, criteria and placement priorities.
- There is not enough funding for those in crisis needing housing. There needs to be a collaborative effort between the emergency housing and Developmental Disabilities Administration. Also the County needs to identify staff that will work with people on the Waiting List/registry when they go into crisis

WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

The U.S. Census Bureau Census, 2010, estimates that there are approximately 69,016 persons living in Montgomery County with a disability. According to a 2010 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 12% of Americans self-reported as having a disability. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions. The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

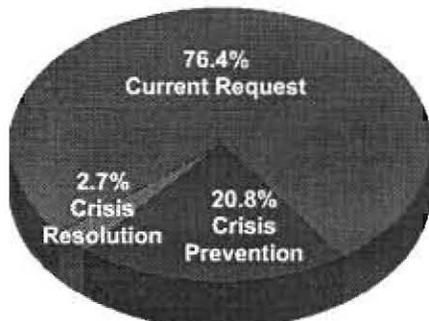
Social Security Recipients (SSI)	
As of December, 2010, there are 12,831 people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Montgomery County. Of those individuals, 7,281 have a disability.	
People under 18	1,167
People 18 - 64	4,927
People 65 or older	6,737
Total	12,831
Social Security Insurance recipients also receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	3,243
Total Amount of Payments	\$6,514,000

Source: Social Security Administration, 2010

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Waiting List

Thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism are waiting for community services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). As of July, 2011, there are **6,538** individuals in Maryland waiting for one of three basic services (residential, day and support services). Of those individuals, **729 (or 13.5%) live in Montgomery County**. The DDA funds services for people based on their priority category which should reflect the person's current needs.

- First served are people in the Crisis Resolution category. **(20 in Montgomery County)**
- Second are people in the Crisis Prevention category. **(152 in Montgomery County)**
- Third are people in the Current Request category. **(557 in Montgomery County)**



Development Disabilities Administration Data as of January, 2011

2010 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County	
Total Population With A Disability	69,016
Subject	Total
Population under 5 years	63,918
With a disability	283
With a hearing difficulty	133
With a vision difficulty	203
Population 5 to 17 years	169,757
With a disability	5,671
With a hearing difficulty	874
With a vision difficulty	539
With a cognitive difficulty	3,806
With an ambulatory difficulty	491
With a self-care difficulty	1,414
Population 18 to 64 years	617,069
With a disability	28,810
With a hearing difficulty	5,966
With a vision difficulty	3,637
With a cognitive difficulty	11,347
With an ambulatory difficulty	11,263
With a self-care difficulty	3,999
With an independent living difficulty	9,566
Population 65 years and over	117,560
With a disability	34,252
With a hearing difficulty	12,752
With a vision difficulty	6,592
With a cognitive difficulty	8,153
With an ambulatory difficulty	21,914
With a self-care difficulty	8,672
With an independent living difficulty	16,841

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of Montgomery County Public School Students with Disabilities Ages 3 - 21 Receiving Special Education Services

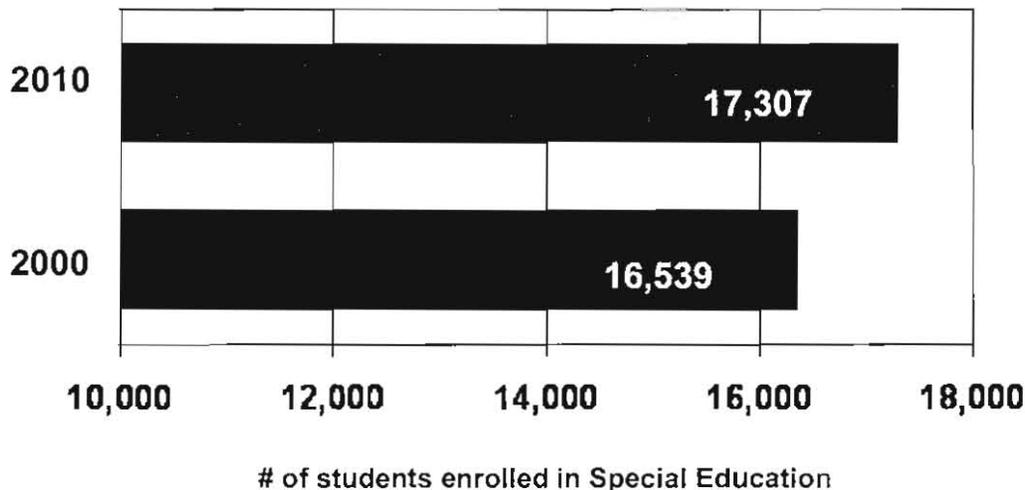
As of September 30th, 2010, there were **17,307** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **12.0%** of the County's total school enrollment of 144,023 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2009	# of Students 2010
Autism	1,501	1,642
Deaf	101	103
Deaf-Blind	1	2
Developmental Delay (Ages 3 - 9)	1,415	1,726
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	N/A	143
Emotional Disability	684	663
Hearing Impairment	163	150
Intellectual Disability	652	655
Multiple Disabilities	256	257
Orthopedic Impairment	59	57
Other Health Impairment	2,755	2,831
Specific Learning Disability	5,608	5,649
Speech and Language Impairment	3,613	3,345
Traumatic Brain Injury	27	26
Visual Impairment	63	58
Total	16,485	17,307

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2010

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has increased by **948** students over the last ten years.



Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2010

PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

Publications Provided by the Commission on People with Disabilities



DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY:
A directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. The Disability Network Directory is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. This guide was compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. Download a copy of the guide on our Disability Services website.



For more resources, visit the Disability Services Website:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability

DON'T GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC, IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT!!!!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from **Alert Montgomery**. Let Montgomery County contact you using the Roam Secure Alert Network during a major crisis or emergency. Alert Montgomery can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all of your devices at once:

- e-mail account (work, home, other)
- cell phone
- text page
- Blackberry
- wireless PDA

<https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>



Montgomery County encourages all residents to put together a plan for emergencies. The County has emergency response plans in place for dealing with emergencies from snow storms to terrorist attacks.

However, each person is strongly encouraged to develop their own personal plan. Montgomery County has developed the Plan 9 Guide for residents. It is a simple guide to nine essential items to help residents shelter in-place during emergencies.

We also encourage people to request a File of Life that allows you to fill out your medical history and rescue personnel are trained to look for this File on your refrigerator. To request a File of Life, call the Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Resource Unit: 240-777-3000 (V), 240-777-2545 (TTY), or visit the websites:

www.makeaplan.org

www.montgomerycountymd.gov

Plan 9

Collect these **nine essential items** to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency.



1. Water: *One gallon per person per day for three days. Replace the water every 6 months.*



2. Food: *Non-perishables such as canned or packaged food. Enough to last 3 to 5 days per person.*



3. Clothes: *One change of clothes and footwear per person. Consider packing blankets, rain-gear, and outerwear in case of severe weather.*



4. Medications: *Three days worth of prescription medications. Be sure to mark the expiration dates and change as needed.*



5. Flashlight: *A bright flashlight and extra batteries. Do not use candles as they are fire hazards.*



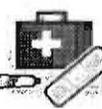
6. Can Opener: *Manual can opener in case there's no electric power. Buying foods with pull-open cans is also helpful.*



7. Radio: *Battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Crank operated or solar powered radios are also helpful.*



8. Hygiene Items: *Basics like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush. Moist toiles are useful.*



9. First Aid: *Basics like antiseptic, gloves, bandages, and non-prescription medicines. Many stores have pre-made kits.*

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation in 1978 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities.

MISSION

The Commission provides advice, counsel, and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, the County Executive, and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws, and any other issues affecting the lives, rights, and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities; and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 25 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 13 people with disabilities,
- ▶ 3 parents of people with disabilities, and
- ▶ 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

The Commission also includes ex-officio members that are appointed to represent the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, Office of Human Resources, and the Human Rights Commission. There are also members who represent Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Housing Opportunities Commission.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011 - 2012

Full Commission Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month,
except for July and August
101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium
Rockville, MD 20850
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
1st Floor Tan Conference Room
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Workgroups

Meet, as needed, at differing locations.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission operates through a structure that is re-evaluated annually to respond to changing needs. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the committees.

The work of the Commission is done by Commission members and interested persons from the community. In addition, coordinators are assigned to take lead responsibility for public relations and legislation. The Nominating and Selection Committees, required for administration purposes, were also established.

Be an advocate!!! The Commission encourages that all residents with disabilities and their families communicate with their elected officials about their needs for programs and services. The following pages include contact information for you to use in contacting your elected officials.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Isiah Leggett**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)
ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Seated, left to right: Vice-President Roger Berliner, President Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen and George Leventhal. *Standing:* Hans Riemer, Craig Rice, Marc Elrich, Nancy Navarro and Phil Andrews.

**Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director
John J. Kenney, Ph.D., Chief**

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services, Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1246 (V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711**

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the
address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.**

*Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in
employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.*

2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

Betsy Luecking, *Disability Policy Specialist*
betsy.luecking@montgomerycountymd.gov

Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*
carly.clem@montgomerycountymd.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Andrea Harrison
410-767-3654
aharrison@mdod.state.md.us
TTY: 410-767-6330

MAPPING MONTGOMERY ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROJECT IDENTIFIES AND RATES BUSINESSES

BALTIMORE, MD (March 23, 2012) – Montgomery County government, Independence Now and the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) have joined together for “Mapping Montgomery,” a pilot project that will allow people with disabilities and their families to identify and rate the accessibility of local businesses.

“People with disabilities have long endured unpredictable results in accessing restaurants, retail establishments and other public accommodations,” Catherine A. Raggio, MDOD Secretary. “If they haven’t visited the business before, they need to call to find out whether there are barriers such as stairs or other impediments to accessibility. It can be a time-consuming process.”

The Mapping Montgomery project is the result of conversations Delegate Bonnie Cullison had with Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Raggio on the difficulties people with disabilities face when choosing a restaurant, bank or other business. Rather than taking a legislative approach, they identified a more consumer-focused approach to the problem – Mapping Montgomery, an online rating system.

Mapping Montgomery is part of a global accessibility map, an easy-to-use consumer review tool that uses a five star rating system similar in concept to consumer reviews found on many travel websites, but with a focus on accessibility features. As part of the Mapping Montgomery project, people with disabilities and their immediate family members will use their computer, iPhone, iPad, Blackberry Torch or Smartphone with Android 2.2 to rate the accessibility of places of public accommodations in Montgomery County. Mapping Montgomery volunteers will send information on various accessibility features to the Global Accessibility Map online ratings tool designed by the Rick Hansen Foundation.

“In collaborating with Delegate Cullison and Secretary Raggio, we all concluded that Montgomery County would be an ideal jurisdiction to pilot this application. Our residents are extremely savvy when it comes to using information technology,” said Ms. Ahluwalia. “We are confident that we will have many residents eager to try this leading-edge technology to help people with disabilities be better informed about accessible public places and to educate businesses regarding the accessibility needs of individuals with a range of disabilities.”

“Nationally, people with disabilities, their friends, families and associates control approximately \$220 billion in discretionary income each year, a major segment of the marketplace” said Trish Gallalee, Chair, Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities. “We believe this pilot project will allow us to not only rate the accessibility of Montgomery County restaurants, stores and other places of public accommodations, it will also help County businesses increase their accessibility and capitalize on new market opportunities.”

As part of the Mapping Montgomery project, the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, one of ten regional ADA Centers that comprises the ADA National Network, will serve as a resource for Montgomery County businesses looking for information and assistance on ways to make their locations and services more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Studies have found that businesses that understand and support accessibility have a tremendous advantage over other businesses. Providing access to people with disabilities also increases foot traffic by attracting other portions of the population such as senior citizens, parents with small children in strollers and people with temporary injuries. By attracting a larger customer base, businesses are increasing their market share and profitability.

Individuals with disabilities and immediate family members interested in volunteering to be a part of the Mapping Montgomery pilot project should contact Anne Blackfield, Director, Maryland Technology Assistance Program, at the Maryland Department of Disabilities. She can be reached by calling 1-800-832-4827 / 1-866-881-4788(TTY) or by sending an email to ablackfield@mdtap.org. The project is open to persons with mobility, auditory or visual disabilities and or their immediate family members; willing to visit and review at least five establishments in Montgomery County; and have access to a computer with an internet connection or an iPhone, iPad, Blackberry Torch or Smartphone with Android 2.2 or higher on the Opera Mobile browser.

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Montgomery County InterACC/DD

(Jubilee Assn) 10408 Montgomery Ave. Kensington, Md. 20895

Voice 301-949-8628, Fax 301-949-4628

Co-Chairs; Tim Wiens (twiens@Jubileemd.org) & Karen Lee (klee@seeconline.org)

Testimony before the Montgomery County Council In Consideration of the FY13 Operating Budget

- Inter ACC/DD appreciates that the County Executive made no cuts to the DD Supplement/Match and requests that you, the County Council, make no cuts to this fund.
- We request that an additional \$339,597 be added to the DD Supplement/Match in the FY13 budget to cover the cost of expansion that occurred in FY12.
 - There was money for transitioning youth in the State Budget in FY12
 - An estimated 88 new individuals are being served with DDA funded services in FY12 at an annualized cost of about \$2,019,202
 - There was funding for new residential & day service in the FY12 State Budget
 - An estimated 43 new individuals were funded at a cost of \$2,186,134
 - The Budget chart for FY's 04 -13, which I have included as part of my testimony, shows a continued shrinkage of our supplement percentage because of the lack of money to cover the expansion of our services. We have gone from over 10% to under 8% match of State funds in this 10 year period. This is a decrease of over 20%.
 - Services grew at a rate of 4.4% from FY11 to FY 12. A 4.4% growth in the DD Supplement to match the growth in services would be \$339,597.
- The DD Supplement/Match which is designed to pay a living wage for our direct service employees. All DDA funded agencies are paid for services based on a rate system, so that we all get the same revenue per client, regardless of agency size.
- We have no ability to reduce our services. We can not increase class size and we can not decrease the number of people we serve. We have regulatory requirements to provide day, employment or residential services.
 - The values that our services are built on, values of honoring choice and control over services is threatened, because agencies have to make financial decisions that sometime undermine those values.

Tim Wiens, Executive Director
Jubilee Association of Maryland and
Co-Chair Inter ACC/DD

Abilities Network/EFMR, The Arc of Montgomery County, CALMRA, CHI Centers, Community Support Services, Inc., Compass Inc., Full Citizenship, CSAAC, Head Injury Rehab and Referral, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes, J.P. Kennedy Institute, Jubilee Assn., MedSource, R.O.I, SEEC, TransCen, The Rock Creek Foundation, Treatment and Learning Centers and other providers and government agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

Montgomery County Match for Developmental Disabilities Administration Revenue

For over twenty years, Montgomery County has provided a match to state funds received by individuals with developmental disabilities supported by local provider agencies. The match from the county has enabled local providers to supplement funds from the Developmental Disabilities Administration for adult residential, employment, day and community support services. The county funds provide the means for agencies to boost staff salaries above the \$9.13 included in the state funding and enhance service quality. More than two thousand individuals with developmental disabilities receive support and over 100 new individuals enter the system each year. The state has approved over four million dollars in expansion funds for new individuals this year bringing the total of expected revenue into Montgomery County to \$99.8million, an increase of 4.4%. Each individual's supplement is calculated based on his/her percent of the total revenue from DDA in the previous year. The DD supplement proposed in the FY 13 HHS budget does not include additional funds for new individuals. Without expansion funding, the county match will decrease to 7.7 % of the state funds awarded to each person, a 24% decrease over the past ten years.

FY	STATE FUNDS	COUNTY FUNDS	%
FY04	61,554,897	6,254,916	10.16
FY05	70,256,546	6,346,380	9.03
FY06	75,001,297	6,416,203	8.55
FY07	81,516,688	6,702,340	8.22
FY08	86,925,729	7,377,369	8.48
FY09	92,352,052	8,046,067	8.71
FY10	96,373,417	8,349,361	8.66
FY11	94,951,386	7,765,130	8.17
FY12	95,609,397	7,718,124	8.07
ESTIMATED FY13	99,814,733	7,718,124	7.7

Satisfaction by consumers with services, as measured by the Ask Me Project, is higher in Montgomery County, than the average for the whole state. The county match has enabled providers to expand, develop innovative and quality services and to meet a wide range of individual needs. This state/county/private partnership, which has been essential to the development of a strong service delivery system in Montgomery County, positively impacts the lives of thousands of Montgomery County's most vulnerable citizens.

Testimony on the FY 13 HHS Budget April 11, 2012

Susan Ingram, Executive Director of Community Support Services

Charlie Majane, father of Sam

Montgomery County provides a match to the state funds for each individual with developmental disabilities funded to receive services through the DDA. The FY 13 HHS budget does not include expansion funds for new individuals entering services. The match from the county is critical as it is an integral part of each individual's budget, and enables providers to increase staff wages above the 9.13 allocated in the state rate and to enhance the quality of services. To illustrate how important the DD supplement is to Montgomery County families, Mr. Majane will share what services have meant for his son this year. We are asking that a 4.4% increase, \$340,000, be added to the FY 13 budget so that new individuals like Sam receive these matching funds.

My name is Charlie Majane. My 15 year old son Sam has autism. He is unable to attend a regular MCPS school and has been excluded from many recreational and social activities that typical children of his age participate in. Recently, support services have changed Sam's life and that of our whole family.

Last fall, we found ourselves in a serious crisis. Sam was unable to ride the bus to school due to aggression, so my wife or I drove him each day and worried about being attacked in the car. I had to come home early from work every day to help keep Sam safe. He had no activities with peers outside of school except when I took him myself and stayed continuously with him. He was unhappy, very aggressive towards family members and even injured his mother. We did not know what to do. Several friends mentioned CSS, so we contacted them for help. When I called CSS, I received guidance on many issues, including how to apply for services through DDA. CSS provided a Winter Break camp even before Sam was approved for state funding. Just a couple of months ago, Sam was placed on the crisis resolution list by DDA due to his extremely dangerous behavior and lack of independence.

After only a few months of support, Sam has begun riding the school bus, he is attending an after school program several days a week with peers at CSS, and a Saturday program. On Sundays he goes into the community with CSS staff. He attended Spring Break camp this past week and went bowling, to gymnastics, to local parks and swimming with peers. He has a life again. He is making progress in becoming an independent young man, and our family can function again.

Sam and others like him need these services, and the Montgomery County match to the state funds enable agencies like CSS to hire and properly train quality staff. Sam is a new individual for the FY 13 year, and needs the expansion dollars to supplement his DDA budget. Without expansion dollars, new people like Sam are not receiving this vital match to state funds.

Please fully fund the DD supplement by adding expansion funds for new people entering the system this year.