

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Patricia Gallalee, Chair  
Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair  
April 11, 2013

Good Evening. My name is Patricia Gallalee and I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

We are concerned about the proposed transition of Resource Coordination funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration from the County's Community Support Network administered in Aging and Disability Services to non-profits. We were very pleased to recently hear that the Community Support Network is going to be able to continue to provide Resource Coordination to some of the persons served. It makes the most sense to use County Resource Coordinators who are not only familiar with the process, but the resources within the county, to assist transitioning youth going through this most difficult transition. We recommend that the new non-profit resource coordinators take over coordination of services for existing clients, whom basically require maintenance and supervision of existing supports. We support Inter ACC/DD's requesting for an increase of \$665,000 in the Supplement in FY14 to support the non-profits.

We are asking the Council to increase Adult Foster Care rates that include 24 hour care and supervision but have remained the same for 20 years from \$1,175 double room/\$1,375 single room to \$1650 per month. This would give Adult Foster Care providers parity with what Senior Assisted Living providers receive from the group home subsidy program. Adult Foster Care serves 60% seniors and 40% younger adults with disabilities.

We would appreciate your support of the staffing complements necessary to re-open the Gaithersburg and Olney libraries, as well as hours added to Poolesville and Long Branch libraries. Also, the increased funding for e-books will benefit readers whose disabilities make it difficult for them to get to their local branch. Libraries and librarians are unique and essential resources for people with disabilities.

We were pleased to see that you put \$60,000 in the budget under Senior Community Services for a Mobility Management Administrator. We request that this position also include transportation coordination for people with disabilities

Last year the Commission recommended to the County Executive, County Council and its Housing Policy Committee to develop ways to produce a substantial number of homes with basic accessibility. We want to thank Council Member George Leventhal for his introduction of Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features which will increase the supply of accessible homes by provide financial incentives to homeowners and builders who build or renovate homes to the Design for Life Montgomery Program. We also will work to support and provide advice on Bill 5-13 for the passage of financial incentives for homeowners and builders who build to meet the standards of the Design for Life Montgomery Programs.

We also want to thank Phil Andrews and all the Council members for placing a Charter Amendment on the November, 2012 ballot to establish a special hiring authority within the County merit system to recruit, select and hire persons with significant disabilities that substantially limit one or more major life activities. We were pleased that 80% of the voters supported this charter amendment in the November 2012 elections and that the County has taken a leading role amongst local jurisdictions in the hiring of people with disabilities. We also commend Joe Adler and Uma Ahluwalia and their respective staff members for their leadership in this effort. We also want to continue to be directly involved with all employment policies and procedures the impact people with disabilities.

Please let us know if you have any questions. And thank you for your work and leadership on behalf of people with disabilities.