



COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2014



October, 2014

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
 Honorable Craig Rice, 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.

First and foremost for the upcoming year, we recommend that the County take all necessary steps to ensure the provision of quality resource coordination for people with developmental disabilities. Given the 582 person County waiting list for services, we also ask that the County also take all necessary steps to end the waiting list for residential and other services funded through the State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

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 as amended in 2010. The Commission has been involved in making recommendations to the County in regards to the Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement. We look forward to continuing to be an important partner and resource for this important work. We continue to proud of the work done by the Office of Human Resources in partnership with us and the Commission on Veterans Affairs to increase the employment of people with disabilities including disabled veterans. We are pleased to see implemented the non-competitive hiring of qualified persons with severe disabilities, modeled after Schedule A of the federal government.

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, Manager, and Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist, 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



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 2014 - 2015

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.



Like us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/MCCPWD](https://www.facebook.com/MCCPWD)



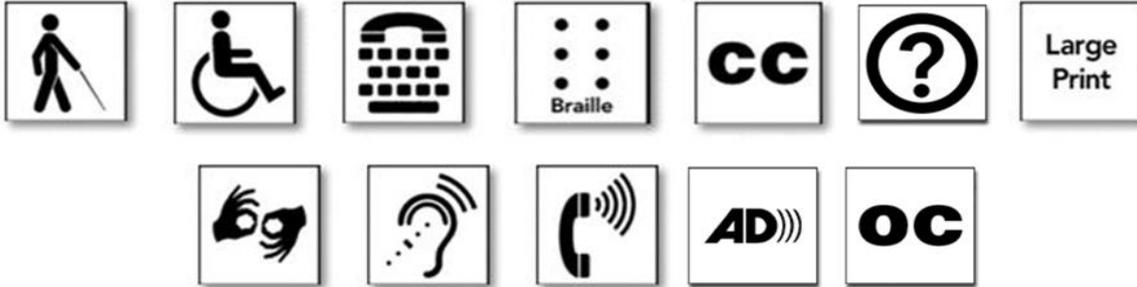
Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about disability information and resources:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery

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PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION



- Advise the County on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Act of 1988 and associated laws and regulations.
- Advise on the accessibility of County services, facilities, programs, employment opportunities and communications.
- Assist County government, businesses and non-profit organizations with educational information about reasonable accommodation and universal design.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance
2. Parks and Recreation
3. Libraries
4. Access to Health Care and Health Disparities
5. Housing
6. Employment
7. Transportation
8. Legislation

Nancy Greene is the ADA Compliance Manager for Montgomery County Government programs and services. She can take complaints and issues for programs and services operated by the County at ada.compliance@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-6197 (Voice) or 240-777-6196 (TTY).

Web Accessibility: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcq/accessibility.html

The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights takes complaints and has enforcement authority in the private sector such as lack of access in housing, movie theatres, doctor's offices, hospitals, etc. They can also take complaints regarding public sector programs and services at 240-777-8450 (Voice) and 240-777-8480 (TTY). Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights

The Commission has no authority over the private sector. It can only advise the County Executive and County Council to take action. The contents are highlights of the key activities that have been worked on by the Commission in partnership with other departments, organizations and elected officials.

FY16 TOP TWO POLICY PRIORITIES - COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING WITH THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Patricia Gallalee, Chair - Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair
October 16, 2014

The Commission on People with Disabilities recommends that:

- 1) The County Council take all necessary steps to ensure the provision of quality resource coordination for people with developmental disabilities.
- 2) The County Council to take all necessary steps to end the waiting list for residential and other services through the State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). This may mean working with intergovernmental affairs to have State legislation introduced to end the DDA waiting lists. As DDA determines service eligibility, they are the limiting service in resource coordination and delivery. Most serious, residential services for persons with developmental disabilities require the parents be quite elderly (i.e., 75 years or older) near 80, the caretaker to have died, or some other serious crisis situation.

The Commission requests the County amend the current Commission's enabling legislation to give authority to advocate/lobby directly with the State/Federal Government, with approval of the Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations. This would place the Commission on People with Disabilities on par with Commission on Veteran Affairs.

In addition, the Commission recommends that the County recognize people with disabilities (i.e., people with physical, developmental, cognitive, psychiatric and sensory disabilities) as a targeted group for Health Disparities Outreach. A member of the Commission attends the Commission on Health meetings and is working to see that all County health clinics are accessible and make necessary reasonable accommodations.

Thank you for your continued support of people with disabilities and for your leadership on these important issues.

TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT OR RESOURCE COORDINATION BACKGROUND

By Susan Hartung, Commissioner

For over 20 years Montgomery County Maryland, Health and Human Services, provided Resource Coordination Services to individuals with developmental disabilities residing in the county, through a grant from the state of Maryland. Approximately 18 months ago the state changed the funding for this service to a "fee for service" plan. At that time the County felt it could not continue the service under the new fee structure and plans were initiated to transfer this responsibility to private providers.

At that time the Commission on People with Disabilities expressed their strong concern over this proposal. As the time for transfer arrived, the private vendors that had been identified announced they felt they could not provide this service given the complexity of the County. By that time the County had disassembled the unit that provided this service and tried to find ways to continue to serve this very vulnerable population. The results have not been good and it is now considered a crisis situation by all parties involved. Despite that, once again the County has begun to transfer cases to new private providers and the initial results have not been encouraging. People with developmental disabilities require intensive supports to remain healthy and safe. A trained, qualified Resource Coordinator links these individuals with agencies that can provide the services they need. This is not occurring and people are finding themselves, or family members, in desperate situations. There has been strong public concern regarding the situation and for this reason a Developmental Disability Transition Advisory Workgroup was established. This workgroup consisted of three members of the Commission on People with Disabilities, and they issued the following report in August of this year.

Members: Susan Hartung, Commissioner; Lu Merrick, Commissioner; Dana Cohen, Commissioner; Claire Funkhouser, Past Chair Commission on People with Disabilities; Susan Ingram, Service Provider, CSS; Karen Lee, Service Provider, SEEC; Whitney Ellenby, Parent

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TRANSITION ADVISORY WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Developmental Disability Transition Advisory Workgroup present the following recommendations which reflect a collaborative effort to resolve the crisis in Resource Coordination ("RC") in Montgomery County for the past two years. We are prepared to support these recommendations at all levels within the state. We thank the staff of Montgomery County Government and Public Schools who spent considerable time working with the group to arrive at these unanimous recommendations.

Recommendation 1 (Unanimous): **Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) should remain one of the choices of providers of RC with a cap on capacity of 1,100 individuals and the right to decline some referrals.** Allowing HHS to differentiate between and decline referrals allows them to serve priority groups including: (1) County residents on the wait list of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA); (2) Transitioning Youth; (3) homeless residents or those in crisis on the DDA waitlist, or residents that require coordination with other County services. The County should immediately hire and train merit employees to provide this specialized service, and be listed as an additional provider on choice letters being sent out by DDA. HHS will accept or decline referrals based on needs of the individual and current capacity. The current transfer process of individuals to existing private resource coordination providers should be changed with Montgomery County being listed as a choice.

DD TRANSITION ADVISORY WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Rationale: The events of the last two years have created an unstable and dangerous situation for Montgomery County's most vulnerable population. For over twenty years, the County has provided quality services and it is recommended that Montgomery County continue as a Resource Coordination service provider specializing in services for high risk populations. The two private providers currently available as choices for county residents do not have sufficient capacity, expertise, or familiarity with county resources to advocate for individuals in these high risk categories. The capping of 1,100 individuals is consistent with the County's January 2013 application to DDA to remain a provider, and has already been approved by DDA.

There is precedent for declining referrals in the state. In Prince Georges County, Resource Connections, Inc. has been permitted to reject referrals based on demographics. Just as residents can choose among the service providers, each service provider can decline to serve a specific person. Service providers regularly accept referrals based on their own expertise, ability to provide the service(s) requested, and capacity. The process for selecting a resource coordination provider should mirror the selection of a service provider; individuals may choose HHS or other private providers, and HHS will accept, or decline, referrals.

In the event that the state does not allow Montgomery County to decline referrals, the *majority* of the work group recommends that Montgomery County remain a resource coordination service provider for 1,100 clients regardless of the population served.

Recommendation 2 (Unanimous): **Montgomery County should request that DDA offer residents a minimum, three (3) Resource Coordination providers as choices.**

Rationale: Every other county in the state has a minimum of three choices. As a matter of parity, and to ensure that our citizens have the same breadth of choices as other Maryland citizens, at least one other private resource coordination provider should be approved by DDA to service Montgomery County.

Recommendation 3 (Unanimous): **Montgomery County will draft state legislation to create an independent Montgomery County Developmental Disability Advisory Council, stipulating that the Director of DDA or his/her representative meet with the Council on a regular basis.**

Rationale: There is precedent for this Council in Prince George's County. The many changes within DDA, and corresponding RC crisis within our County, demonstrates the need for an independent group of stakeholders in the developmental disability community work collaboratively and directly with the state DDA and other state and local agencies. This would ensure that our County have a "place at the table" regarding advocacy on behalf of our residents with developmental and intellectual disabilities and allow us to engage in regular dialogue with DDA and others to keep them informed about the status of services. It would work to alleviate the misunderstandings that have marked past communications between County officials and DDA, and would hold DDA accountable for any changes in regulations or failure to respond to needs of our residents. It would also allow the input of persons with disabilities and their family members, educators, community providers and transition specialists in the County who are impacted by DDA policies and procedure.

Recommendation 4 (Unanimous): **The County Charter should be amended to allow the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities to advocate within the county, and at the state and federal level.**

Rationale: Issues that the Commission is charged with addressing (*i.e.*, housing, transportation, RC for the developmental disability community) are directly impacted by state and federal regulations and policies. The work of the Commission cannot be effectively conducted if it is not permitted to make recommendations to organizations that guide policy regarding these issues.

DD TRANSITION ADVISORY WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

Recommendation 5 (*Unanimous*): **The County should immediately establish (FY2015) a professional unit of county merit staff working within HHS who would be responsible for responding to the specialized needs of the developmental disability community including, but not limited to, the following groups: Transitioning Youth; individuals with a dual diagnosis; homeless persons with developmental disabilities; people with autism; and people in crisis due to chronic or acute health issues. This group must be able to maintain access to the state DDA database.**

Rationale: As this segment of the disability community continues to grow at an accelerated rate, it is essential that professionals with expertise in developmental disabilities provide consultation, resource development, coordination between services, and oversight to individuals and their families, as well as other professionals working in the County. This cadre of professionals within DHHS should exist regardless of any outcome related to the provision of resource coordination services.

Recommendation 6 (*Unanimous*): **All merit and contract staff employed by HHS should receive adequate training, which at a minimum would be the required training cited in Medicaid regulations, in providing RC services.**

Rationale: Adequate training is essential to ensure that all providers possess the requisite skill and expertise to provide quality RC. Currently HHS contractors performing RC are receiving only minimal training.

Recommendation 7 (*Unanimous*): **In order to effectively coordinate services for those they support, Montgomery County Government should request all public and private agencies providing RC to establish: 1) in-person (not only virtual) relationships with the individuals, and their families, that they serve 2) professional relationships with local community providers of services in Montgomery County 3) familiarity, and knowledge of, the generic resources accessed and available to people with disabilities and their families.**

Rationale: One part of the current RC crisis has resulted from the fact that the private providers do not have a history of providing services in Montgomery County, and do not have specific knowledge about the resources, both generic and disability specific, available to refer the people they support to. Facilitating resource providers to develop professional relationships with community DDA providers and other generic service providers will assist providers to remain apprised of opportunities for the people they support.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The November meeting of the Commission on People with Disabilities, a presentation by Jim Schmutz, President and CEO, Special Olympics of Maryland, educated the members on the history, the current opportunities and the operating issues of the non-profit. Corey Migdal, Special Olympics athlete, shared his positive experiences with the program and noted that he has made many friends through the organization. Pamela Yerg, Area Director, Special Olympics of Montgomery, noted that there is a high concentration of Special Olympics athlete participation in Rockville, Gaithersburg and the Bethesda area. Please contact Ms. Yerg if you are interested in having her speak to one of your groups or organizations: director@somdmontgomery.org.

The March meeting of the Commission on People with Disabilities, Charlie Butler, Therapeutic Recreation (TR), Ex-Officio Member, reported that TR convened an informal meeting with various agencies in the County that provide therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities to discuss programs offered and identified gaps. It was noted that there has been a significant increase of individuals with autism spectrum. There is also a need for therapeutic recreation activities specifically for individuals with mental health. The group will meet approximately two to three times a year.

On February 20th, 2014 the Department of Recreation celebrated National Therapeutic Recreation Month. The celebration included in-house disability awareness activities.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES TO INCREASE HIRING

The Commission on People with Disabilities began advocating for a non-competitive hiring process for people with disabilities, similar to the Federal Government, in the early 90's and in the past eight years formed a strong collaboration for this effort from the Office of Human Resources (OHR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Commission on Veterans Affairs, County Executive Ike Leggett and the entire County Council. OHR and HHS has worked with Montgomery Works, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), SEEC (Seeking Equality, Empowerment and Community), Ivymount School and other agencies to implement programs and hiring initiatives that will increase the hiring of these under-employed populations. To promote a more inclusive workforce the County has also implemented Quest, Project Search, Customized Employment Program and legislation in 2009 for a competitive hiring preference for veterans and people with disabilities. The County Executive and County Council enacted Executive Regulation 1-13 which made effective a non-competitive hiring authority for people with severe disabilities in the County government in 2013. This is a non-competitive appointment of qualified persons with disabilities. As a result of these initiatives, since 2012, the County has hired the following into positions as of August 14, 2014:

- Total Hires: 119
- Non Competitive Hires of People with Severe Disabilities: 11
- People with Disabilities: 10
- Vet: 94
- Veterans with Disabilities: 4

A Better Bottom Line - Montgomery County Government video regarding the employment of people with disabilities and veterans. (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-2A_PbxrqA (6 minutes 27 second version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWOYNkEWE5s> (11 minute 42 second version)

NEARLY 1 IN 5 PEOPLE HAVE A DISABILITY IN THE U.S.

RELEASED: WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

About 56.7 million people — 19 percent of the population — had a disability in 2010, according to a broad definition of disability, with more than half of them reporting the disability was severe, according to a comprehensive report on this population released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The report, [Americans with Disabilities: 2010](#), presents estimates of disability status and type and is the first such report with analysis since the Census Bureau published statistics in a similar report about the 2005 population of people with disabilities. According to the report, the total number of people with a disability increased by 2.2 million over the period, but the percentage remained statistically unchanged. Both the number and percentage with a severe disability rose, however. Likewise, the number and percentage needing assistance also both increased.

“This week, we observe the 22nd anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, a milestone law that guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities,” said Census Bureau demographer Matthew Brault. “On this important anniversary, this report presents a barometer of the well-being of this population in areas such as employment, income and poverty status.”

The statistics come from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, which contains supplemental questions on whether respondents had difficulty performing a specific set of functional and participatory activities. For many activities, if a respondent reported difficulty, a follow-up question was asked to determine the severity of the limitation, hence, the distinction between a “severe” and “nonsevere” disability. The data were collected from May through August 2010. Disability statistics from this survey are used by agencies — such as the Social Security Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Administration on Aging — to assist with program planning and management.

The report shows that 41 percent of those age 21 to 64 with any disability were employed, compared with 79 percent of those with no disability. Along with the lower likelihood of having a job came the higher likelihood of experiencing persistent poverty; that is, continuous poverty over a 24-month period. Among people age 15 to 64 with severe disabilities, 10.8 percent experienced persistent poverty; the same was true for 4.9 percent of those with a nonsevere disability and 3.8 percent of those with no disability.

Other highlights:

- People in the oldest age group — 80 and older — were about eight times more likely to have a disability as those in the youngest group — younger than 15 (71 percent compared with 8 percent). The probability of having a severe disability is only one in 20 for those 15 to 24 while it is one in four for those 65 to 69.
- About 8.1 million people had difficulty seeing, including 2.0 million who were blind or unable to see.
- About 7.6 million people experienced difficulty hearing, including 1.1 million whose difficulty was severe. About 5.6 million used a hearing aid.
- Roughly 30.6 million had difficulty walking or climbing stairs, or used a wheelchair, cane, crutches or walker.
- About 19.9 million people had difficulty lifting and grasping. This includes, for instance, trouble lifting an object like a bag of groceries, or grasping a glass or a pencil.
- Difficulty with at least one activity of daily living was cited by 9.4 million noninstitutionalized adults. These activities included getting around inside the home, bathing, dressing and eating. Of these people, 5 million needed the assistance of others to perform such an activity.
- About 15.5 million adults had difficulties with one or more instrumental activities of daily living. These activities included doing housework, using the phone and preparing meals. Of these, nearly 12 million required assistance.
- Approximately 2.4 million had Alzheimer’s disease, senility or dementia.
- Being frequently depressed or anxious such that it interfered with ordinary activities was reported by 7.0 million adults.
- Adults age 21 to 64 with disabilities had median monthly earnings of \$1,961 compared with \$2,724 for those with no disability.
- Overall, the uninsured rates for adults 15 to 64 were not statistically different by disability status: 21.0 percent for people with severe disabilities, 21.3 percent for those with nonsevere disabilities and 21.9 percent for those with no disability.

In addition to the statistics from this report, the Census Bureau also produces annual disability estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS). While the ACS uses a different definition of disability than in this report, it is capable of producing estimates of the population with disabilities at subnational geographies like states, counties, places and metropolitan areas. The Census Bureau has been collecting data about certain disabilities since 1830, when Congress added questions to the census on difficulty hearing, seeing and speaking.

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

Social Security Recipients (SSI)

As of December, 2013, there are **13,802** people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Montgomery County. Of those individuals, **8,067** or **58.4%** have a disability. That is an increase of **93** recipients with a disability from 2012.

People under 18	1,368
People 18 - 64	5,376
People 65 or older	7,058
Total	13,802
Social Security Insurance recipients also receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	3,631
Total Amount of Payments	\$7,327,000

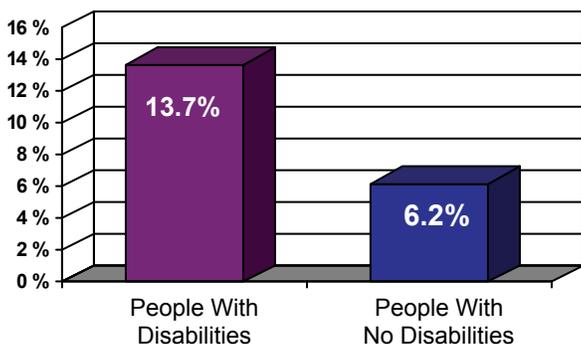
Source: Social Security Administration, December, 2013

2013 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County

Total Population With A Disability	81,104
Subject	Total
Population under 5 years	66,010
With a disability	160
With a hearing difficulty	160
With a vision difficulty	154
Population 5 to 17 years	173,508
With a disability	6,610
With a hearing difficulty	673
With a vision difficulty	1,094
With a cognitive difficulty	5,279
With an ambulatory difficulty	644
With a self-care difficulty	1,602
Population 18 to 64 years	637,077
With a disability	36,739
With a hearing difficulty	9,431
With a vision difficulty	7,116
With a cognitive difficulty	13,498
With an ambulatory difficulty	14,501
With a self-care difficulty	6,517
With an independent living difficulty	11,808
Population 65 years and over	131,651
With a disability	37,595
With a hearing difficulty	14,720
With a vision difficulty	6,389
With a cognitive difficulty	8,837
With an ambulatory difficulty	22,482
With a self-care difficulty	8,182
With an independent living difficulty	16,398

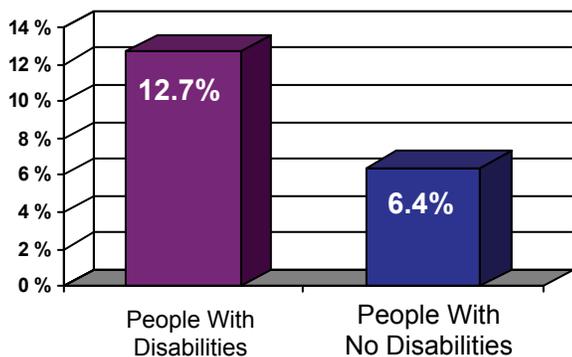
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013

Unemployment Status - Montgomery County, MD Population 16 Years and Older In The Labor Force



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013

Poverty Status - Montgomery County, MD Population 18 to 64 Years



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013

MARYLAND'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES

7,690 Individuals Are Waiting As Of August 26, 2013

100 people are in the Crisis Resolution Category, meaning they are:

- Homeless, or at risk of losing their home;
- At risk of harming themselves or others;
- Have caregivers who are elderly or cannot care for them because of illness.

1,274 people are in the Crisis Prevention Category, meaning they are:

- In urgent need for services, as determined by DDA;
- Will be at substantial risk for meeting one or more of the criteria for Crisis Resolution within 1 year;
- Have a caregiver who is 65 years old or more.

6,316 people are in the Current Request Category, meaning they are:

- Currently in need of services, such as employment, housing, and/or daily living supports.

Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, August 26, 2013

WAITING LIST HISTORY

What laws have affected the waiting list?

- HB1083, introduced in 1993, requires DDA to make available services in the community rather than solely in institutions; make community choice available to individuals living in institutions; to use the savings achieved through community based services and increased federal matching funds to **strengthen community service capacity, serve transitioning youth, and fund people on the waiting list.** DDA served nearly 13,000 individuals during 1992.
- HB1060, introduced in 1994, created the Waiting List Equity Fund. The Fund consists of savings from transferring from institutional care to community based care for each individual who leaves a residential institution, and interest earned on the Fund. Proceeds from the sale of Great Oaks Residential Center were placed in the Waiting List Equity Fund.
- In 1998, Governor Parris Glendening announced his Waiting List Initiative, which included nearly \$14.5 million. The five year plan would place almost 6,000 children and adults into a variety of services.
- January 2008, Governor O'Malley signed an executive order requiring the community placement or appropriate setting for all residents of Rosewood Institution. Rosewood was permanently closed in July 2009.
- In 2010, The Income Tax Check-off for the Waiting List Equity Fund passed, allowing Marylanders to donate to the WLEF through a check-off on their state income tax returns.
- In 2011, the Alcohol Sales Tax Increase went into effect, making \$12 million available to DDA to serve individuals on the waiting list.

MARYLAND'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES CONTINUED

TOP TEN HIGHEST WAITING LISTS - BY COUNTY

COUNTY	CRISIS RESOLUTION	CRISIS PREVENTION	CURRENT REQUEST	GRAND TOTAL
Baltimore	12	174	993	1,179
Prince George's	10	133	958	1,101
Montgomery	31	144	749	924
Baltimore City	12	99	652	763
Frederick	3	96	414	513
Anne Arundel	5	54	421	480
Howard	4	39	297	340
Carroll	3	78	223	304
Harford	5	36	225	296
Washington	0	44	219	263

Data Source: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, August 26, 2013

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES: HOW MARYLAND RATES

Maryland ranks **27th** in terms of outcome for people with Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability. Nationally, waiting lists for residential and community services are high and show the unmet need. Almost 317,000 people nationally are on a waiting list for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). This requires a daunting 46 percent increase in state's HCBS programs. However, 22 states report not waiting list or a small waiting list (requiring less than 10 percent program growth.)

Source: [United Cerebral Palsy \(UCP\) Report "The Case for Inclusion 2014"](#)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

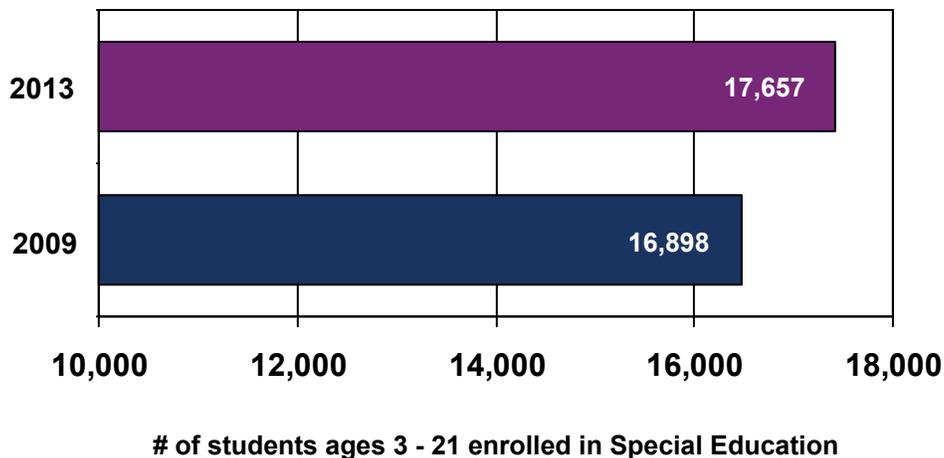
As of October, 2013, there were **17,657** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **11.7%** of the County's total school enrollment of 151,295 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2013	# of Students 2012	% Between 2012 and 2013
Autism	2,023	1,889	+ 7.1%
Deaf	78	85	- 8.2%
Deaf-Blind	3	2	+ 50.0%
Developmental Delay (Ages 3 - 9)	2,619	2,379	+ 10.0%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	154	168	- 8.3%
Emotional Disability	657	627	+ 4.8%
Hearing Impairment	157	158	- 0.6%
Intellectual Disability	620	652	- 4.9%
Multiple Disabilities	301	297	+ 1.3%
Orthopedic Impairment	48	51	- 5.8%
Other Health Impairment	2,965	2,844	+ 4.2%
Specific Learning Disability	5,369	5,383	- 0.3%
Speech and Language Impairment	2,577	2,801	- 7.9%
Traumatic Brain Injury	24	22	+ 9.0%
Visual Impairment	62	60	+ 3.3%
Total	17,657	17,418	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2013

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has **increased by 759 students** over the last five years.



Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2013

BACKGROUND ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

by Dr. Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner

“If a health outcome is seen in a greater or lesser extent between populations, there is disparity. ... Health differences]...based on racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; **mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability**; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics ... all contribute to an individual’s ability to achieve good health. It is important to recognize the impact that social determinants have on health outcomes of specific populations.” *Healthy People 2020*

The Montgomery County Commission for People with Disabilities encourages the County to target in 2015 and beyond the reduction and/or elimination of health disparities in persons with disabilities by increasing ready access to medical services and preventive screenings, encouraging greater social engagement, and facilitating health promoting behaviors in persons with disabilities.

In the United States and around the globe, persons with disabilities have the highest rate of adverse health disparities of any population group. The sources of these disparities are many, some are likely the result of poorer access to education and health care, less utilization of health screenings, and less access to employment and economic opportunities. Social isolation also profoundly adversely impacts persons with disabilities. In addition, many persons with disabilities are not encouraged to actively engage in health promoting behaviors such as avoiding or reducing tobacco and excess alcohol consumption, and increasing physical activity within their abilities.



BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM HAS IMPROVED SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY AT NEARLY 3,000 BUS STOPS

Montgomery County News Release - June 2, 2014



Commissioner Seth Morgan delivers comments at the press conference.

Pictured behind him are County Executive Isiah Leggett and Carolyn Biggins, Chief, Department of Transportation.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett today announced that an eight-year bus stop improvement program has enhanced Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and pedestrian safety at 2,879 bus stops. A survey of the County's 5,400 stops completed in 2006 identified 3,400 in need of some type of improvement. Work continues to upgrade the remaining bus stops.

“Every bus passenger deserves a safe and accessible way to get to and from a bus stop and a safe and accessible place to wait for the bus,” said Leggett. “I’m proud of the progress we have made in improving nearly 3,000 bus stops for our transit riders, especially those who are disabled. We are using a holistic approach that looks at the bus stops, not in isolation, but as a key component in creating a safe travel pathway. Improving pedestrian safety has been a priority of my administration; transit passengers are pedestrians at each end of their trip. Where needed, we have also added sidewalks, safer pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures, more lighting and road improvements to achieve our goal of creating a safer and more walkable community.”

Improvements to the bus stops have included construction of:

- 1,246 ramps at 813 intersections;
- 79,240 square feet of sidewalk leading to bus stops;
- 161,647 square feet of five-by-eight-foot concrete pads at 2,400 bus stops; and
- 408 “knee walls” at sloped sites to prevent wheelchairs from rolling onto dangerous terrain and provide seating for waiting passengers.

The bus stop survey inventoried each of the County's 5,400 bus stops for 115 factors in five categories: precise location, accessibility, level of safety, information/signage and amenities. Upgrades were first made to stops with the highest ridership and those deemed of most urgent need of improvement, such as stops that were not located at intersections and required pedestrians to cross mid-block or were located alongside multi-lane roads with fast-moving traffic. Many bus stops were moved to safer locations. Once in a specific area, enhancements were also made to surrounding stops to improve construction cost efficiency.



BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - CONTINUED

In addition to ensuring ADA compliance, bus stop upgrades also reduce the distance to crosswalks, provide pedestrian refuge islands, establish connections to existing sidewalks, address slope issues and improve drainage.

The \$11 million Bus Stop Improvement Project was approved in the 2006-2011 six-year Capital Improvements Program budget. As well as enhancing Ride On bus stops, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is also improving about 600 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) stops and 900 stops shared between Metro and Ride On located in Montgomery County. The average cost to improve each bus stop is \$3,000.

MCDOT continues efforts to improve the remaining 500 bus stops. Upgrading these stops is more complex because many of the stops are located on roads not originally built to accommodate pedestrians. Enhancing these bus stops require purchasing right-of-way from private property owners or trying to work around obstructions, such as walls and fences, that prevent installing ADA compliant facilities.

Information about Ride On routes and schedules is available [online](#).

Commissioner Seth Morgan's remarks: Since the passage of the American with Disabilities Act in 1990, the County has been diligently working with the Commission on People with Disabilities to obtain advice on compliance and usability of programs and services. The Commission over the years has made ongoing recommendations to Montgomery County's Bus Stop Improvement Program regarding the needs assessment and ADA accessibility of the 5,500 Ride On bus stops. The Commission has also advised on Ride on Accessibility. Per the ADA, effective September 2004, 100% of the County's Ride On Buses became accessible. People with disabilities were finally able to get on the bus.

There were many inaccessible bus stops around the County that included a bus stop with no where to stand except on the side of the road, a bus stop in the middle of a six lane road, and a bus stop where riders have to cross six lanes of traffic with no crosswalk to get to across street.

David Sharp who was appointed to the Commission in 2002 worked very closely in evaluating bus stops, sidewalks and curb cuts. The Commission was also very involved in the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals. It was not until 2005 that all street renovations would now include such signals. The County surveyed bus stops based on five types of information: location/description, pedestrian access/connection, signage information, safety/security and amenities. The County also prioritizes bus stop improvements based on four factors:

- Can passengers wait at the stop without being in danger?
- Are stops reasonably close to a safe street crossing location?
- Can/Should the street crossing location be improved?
- Can passengers get to the stop along a reasonably safe path?

Changes included sidewalk connections, reverse bulb-outs, intersection improvements, ADA access, pad and knee walls, relocation of sidewalks and pedestrian refuge islands.

We have seen remarkable change in accessible transportation since ADA's remarkable civil rights legislation for people with disabilities and encourage County residents to use fixed route whenever they can. The Commission is proud of the work that has been done to improve bus stops and looks forward to working with the County for greater access for all for transportation options in our community.

TESTIMONY - BILL 33-13: STREETS AND ROADS - URBAN STANDARDS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMNT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL

BILL 33-13 STREETS AND ROADS – URBAN STANDARDS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

Patricia Gallalee, Chair - Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair

January 23, 2014

Good Evening. My name is Patricia Gallalee and I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities. We are pleased to see that this bill includes language that the design and type of streets and roads are consistent with the proposed accessibility guidelines developed by the U.S. Access Board. Once these guidelines are finalized and adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become legally enforceable requirements. The Federal Highway Administration, the agency tasked with enforcing accessibility in the public right of way, already requires jurisdictions to use these guidelines in federally funded projects and uses them as a best practice when completing accessibility investigations.

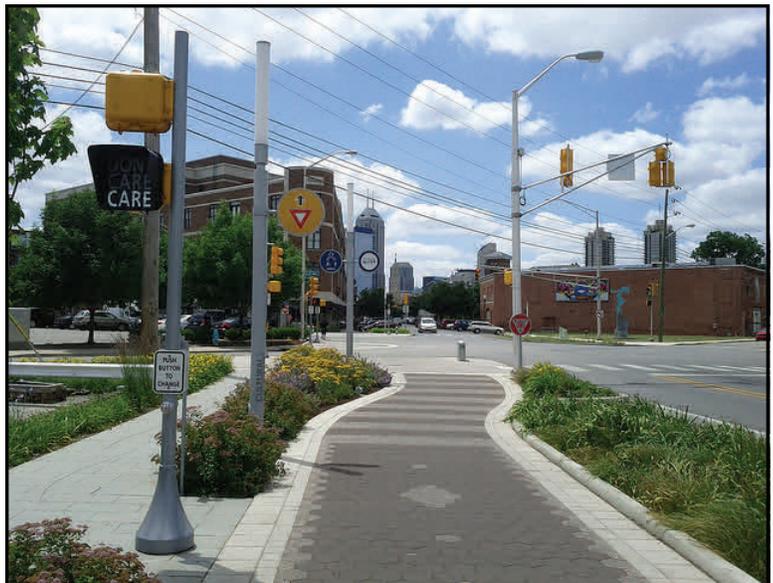
The concern I have is that when we plan these pedestrian spaces that we keep in mind that use by a greater number of pedestrians means that we must build and maintain the sidewalks to be clear and unencumbered for proper movement and mobility. Large planters, trees surrounded by cobblestones, and sprawling outdoor restaurant seating can make it virtually impossible for the pedestrian to enjoy a pleasant walk. Now consider what this might be like if you are blind or using a wheelchair. At the Washingtonian Center I have had to disrupt someone's meal so that I could get by. I can't tell you how many times people have to scatter and jump out of the way of that cute train. I have experienced massive traffic jams during events in the town square here in Rockville due to the amount of clutter on the sidewalks. Right now the ice rink was installed and activated without moving any outdoor seating making it a challenge to navigate for both people with and without disabilities.

The proposed accessibility guidelines require that a pedestrian access route, continuous and unobstructed path of travel, be provided for pedestrians with disabilities within the sidewalk or path. There is a minimum required width of 4 feet with 5 foot wide passing areas every 200 feet. Alternate pedestrian access routes are required when the sidewalk is closed temporarily due to construction, maintenance, alterations and must be accessible. We ask you to support a 5 foot pedestrian access route and that it be enforced so that furniture, vending machines, utilities, construction equipment and other clutter do not obstruct access for people with disabilities

We ask you to consider including and increasing the number of shared use paths in master planning throughout the County. These are paths that provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, runners, skaters and others, including people with disabilities. Shared use paths unlike most sidewalks are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well. They are used extensively in many jurisdictions.

The issue of making the roadways safe for all pedestrians, while important for all, is critical for people with disabilities. As a group, pedestrians with disabilities are less able to adjust to fast traffic and short cycling cross walk lights and run a higher risk of injury in these settings. Further, community streets should be safe for all pedestrians and should not be used as fast speed throughways as a convenience for commuters. Making local streets and roads faster increases risk to all pedestrians (and disproportionately so for people with disabilities), reduces foot traffic and, hence, potential customers for local merchants and squelches the local economy.

For these reasons the Commission is in support of the amendments and request that you include language on shared paths as well as provide community education to the public as to who to call to enforce the standards. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight on this important issue.



Example of shared use path. Separate foot (on the left) and bike (on the right) paths on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Photo by Eric Fischer on Flickr.

LEGGETT SIGNS “DESIGN FOR LIFE MONTGOMERY” LEGISLATION INTO LAW

Montgomery County, Maryland News Release: 12/16/2013

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett recently signed into law “Design for Life Montgomery” legislation that will provide tax credits to builders and homeowners for including features in new and existing residential housing to improve accessibility for persons of all ages, including seniors and those with disabilities. The ultimate outcome would be to make more accessible the entire stock of single-family homes, apartments and condominiums in the County more accessible, creating a more inclusive community. [Bill 5-13 – Property Tax Credits – Accessibility Features](#) – was introduced in February, 2013 by County Council Member George Leventhal and will go into effect July 1, 2014.

“Housing with ‘Design for Life’ features is critically important for many of our residents, including those living with mobility impairments and our seniors,” said Leggett. “Councilmember Leventhal’s groundbreaking legislation will increase the supply of housing that includes features that improve a home’s visit-ability and live-ability. My subsequent amendments to the original bill took this legislation a step further, allowing tax credits for both new construction and renovations. It is my hope that this program will be a national model in which we can all take great pride.”

The new law will provide:

- a property tax credit for an accessibility feature installed on an existing residence;
- a property tax credit for meeting a Level I or Level II accessibility standard on a new single-family residence;
- an impact tax credit against the Development Impact Tax for Public School Improvements for meeting a Level I accessibility standard in single-family attached and detached homes; and
- tax credits to builders and homeowners for including Level I visit-ability (up to \$3,600) and Level II live-ability (up to \$10,000) accessibility features in new and existing residential housing.

The law also requires that developers and realtors disclose the availability of property tax credits for accessibility before the buyer signs a contract to purchase a new single-family residential property in the County.

“This legislation raises awareness that our population is growing older, and with that may come decreased mobility and access to common areas of the home,” said County Councilmember George Leventhal, who chairs the Council’s Health and Human Services Committee. “By helping to defray the costs of adding these features, it is my hope that individuals may more gracefully and confidently age in place. Individuals who are physically disabled will also benefit from the tax credit. Incentivizing property owners to make their properties more accessible is a win-win situation.”

The financial incentives provided by the new law enhance the County’s voluntary Design for Life Montgomery (DFLM) program that has been in existence for the last six years. The DFLM guidelines for visit-ability and live-ability incorporate design features such as a no step entrance (located at the front, back and side doors, deck or through the garage). The goal of the program is to encourage more accessible housing stock or housing with universal design features.

The County’s Commission on People with Disabilities was instrumental in working with the County Executive and Councilmember Leventhal to develop the legislation. The commission has been involved for the past 10 years with the Design for Life Montgomery workgroup which developed a voluntary program that is administered by the County’s Department of Permitting Services. The voluntary program was supported by the Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association, Commission on Aging and the Greater Capital Association of Realtors.

For more information about the Design for Life Montgomery program, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/designforlifemontgomery, or call Betsy Luecking in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Disability Services, at 240-777-1256 (V), or Reggie Jetter in the Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6275 (V).

PROCESS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION

Excerpt from Commission on People with Disabilities Meeting Summary Minutes - April 9, 2014

Process for Park Development and Renovation – Bob Green, ADA Compliance Project Manager, Judie Lai, Architecture and Special Projects Section Leader, and Patricia McManus, Design Section Supervisor Park Development Division, Montgomery Parks

In June 2013, the Commission, the Montgomery Parks (MP) and the Department of Recreation held a joint public meeting on accessibility at recreation and parks facilities. The meeting was held in response to the Project Civic Access Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement that was signed off on in 2011 by Montgomery County and M-NCPPC (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission). At the joint public meeting Bob discussed the County's plan to audit sites and facilities. These audits will help MP develop transition plans for the parks and satisfy the settlement agreement with DOJ. Bob is here today to provide an update on the County's accessibility improvements.

MP has been conducting self evaluations of all 420 of their parks with the goal of completing 20% of their parks per year. They are ahead of schedule and all self evaluations should be completed by 2016. MP has been incorporating accessible features into many of their retrofits, from replacing door knobs to park refinishes. They have incorporated 2010 ADA standards into all new and ongoing projects and park renovations.

MP has developed a number of design manuals and standards that are currently being used by their designers and MP is currently developing a manual to be used by their trade groups, including electricians and plumbers. These manuals are giving MP a renewed focus on what they need to be doing for their design and construction process and how they manage the parks.

Patricia McManus stated that there are many opportunities for public involvement. Park master plans are generally conceptual plans that are very broad guidance for development. Master plans are developed typically for regional, recreational or special status parks. Park development includes analyzing the site and environmental conditions, identifying preliminary program of requirements, and developing preliminary concept plans. Multiple public meetings are held during this stage. The plans are also reviewed by the Montgomery County Planning Board at a public meeting.

Larger projects, such as new parks and renovated parks, have a two-step process. First is preliminary design through facility planning, and second is final design, which is preparation of construction documents and construction. Smaller projects that go from design to construction are completed at a faster rate.

Facility planning is the stage where MP seeks community participation. A minimum of two public meetings are held to get input on community preferences and needs. During this stage a final program of requirements is established and design plans are developed with materials selected. Preliminary permits are also obtained. The key to this stage is an accurate cost estimate for design and construction. This is how MP sets their budget for making a request to the County Council for final funding for the project. These projects also go to the planning board for another public meeting for approval. If the project is approved, it moves to the next stage of development in the capital program. Projects from start to finish can take as long as five to ten years to be completed based on the various funding cycles and approval of projects. During final design and construction phases, community feedback is limited to minor changes that will not affect the cost of development as at this point funding has already been approved and allocated.

Bob noted that a few of MP's main goals is improved program access for everyone and more inclusive policies with ADA fully integrated from the planning stage through operations and training. MP is updating their website to include lists of all the accessible playgrounds and trails that are available. It is important for MP to receive feedback and input on design plans and renovations.

PROCESS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION - CONTINUED

The floor was opened to questions. Seth Morgan, Commissioner, asked how the Commission can help provide input to MP on its design plans, renovations and projects. Judie offered to send the Commission periodic updates on projects and notices of public meetings. Bob offered to meet Commissioners at park projects if they are interested in site visits. Judie is very interested in receiving feedback regarding historic sites as they require a balance between protecting historic resources and providing accessibility.

Cindy Buddington, Commissioner, noted that in the 1980's and 1990's MP had an accessibility advisory group that would review design plans and assist with site visits. She suggested that MP start a new advisory group to provide the same input. Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that the Commission is considered the *disability advisory group* to the Maryland Accessibility Code waiver requests that the County receives from the Maryland Codes Administration. Betsy and several Commissioners do site visits to facilities that have requested the waiver and provides feedback as to whether or not the waiver should be granted. Betsy also noted that the Commission met with the architects that designed the Strathmore and provided input on making the facility accessible.

Seth Morgan, Commissioner, commented on one of the PowerPoint slides showing an accessible parking lot that did not have proper signage posted. He indicated that the County follows the ADA as well as the Maryland Accessibility Code in regards to parking lots and spaces. Bob Green noted that MP audits are completed with checklists that include Maryland Accessibility Code. Bob also noted that the signage shown in the slide will be fixed.

Hilary Kaplan, Commissioner, commented on distances between parking and accessing facilities. She suggested that several routes be available for persons to access, for example perhaps a long trail as well as a shorter one. Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, added that distance can be an issue for many individuals. She suggested that signs or trail markers be placed noting distances for how far the trail is as well as place periodic stopping points along those trails. Bob noted that MP is working on signage including signs indicating steep slopes or accessible routes.

Judie noted that MP is currently developing a design manual, which will be given to the trade and maintenance crews for use and implementation in the field. Judie would like for a few Commissioners to review the design manual prior to its finalization.

Tony Cancelosi, Commissioner, and President of Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB), commented that CLB recently worked with the National Cherry Blossom Festival to develop step-by-step walking routes from the Smithsonian Station Metro stop as well as several bus stops to the Cherry Blossom Festival Meeting Point. Walking directions were generated for auditory and Braille screen readers. He suggested that MP use this type of technology to develop instructions on navigating parks and facilities providing accessibility to blind, visually impaired, and Deaf-Blind. Bob said he has been in contact with Brandon Cox, Senior Director of Rehab and Education Services, CLB, regarding this technology and will seek further discussions with him on how the County can develop something similar.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, commented that she appreciates the use of covered picnic shelters in parks, which provide much needed shade on hot days and a place to rest.

Marcia Rohrer, Commissioner, suggested that wheelchairs be made available to individuals to borrow at parks.

PowerPoint:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/MPPRESENTATION2014.pdf



Recently completed Randolph Hills shelter and playground.

FY15 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Commission on People with Disabilities
Patricia Gallalee, Chair
Charlie Crawford, Vice-Chair
April 8, 2014

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

Our FY15 budget priorities are as follows:

We would like to thank you for supporting the staffing at Gaithersburg and Olney libraries, which have allowed those branches to reopen. **We would further appreciate your support for additional funding to go toward the new Silver Spring Library's Disability Resource Center.** These funds would go toward acquiring accessible e-readers to enable volunteers to teach patrons with disabilities how to download books from the library's website.

We ask that you support the County Executives recommended \$105,000 increase to the Adult Foster Care Reimbursement Rate. We recommend that 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 \$1,650 per month. This would give Adult Foster Care providers closer 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 ask that the Council to support INTERACC/DD's request for \$950,000 additional dollars for FY15 for agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities. The County Executive has recommended \$500,000 and this would mean the Council add an additional \$450,000. The number of individuals entering the system continues to explode, and the supply does not meet the demand. This supports INTERACC/DD's request for additional funding for FY 15 for expansion, new people entering the system, and for a rate adjustment to make up for reductions during the recession. INTERACC/DD has presented a four year plan to return to prerecession levels of funding for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In addition to budget priorities, we are asking for the County to have a strong role in the monitoring of Targeted Case Management for individuals with Developmental Disabilities receiving DDA services. With the CDC's announcement of autism now being diagnosed at 1:69 births it is more important than ever for us to have strong, viable supports in place so that adults with developmental disabilities, including autism, are able to transition to adult services and have not only fulfilling lives, but also be able to be contributing members of our community. During the last year case management services have been erratic, and training of new case managers has been minimal. Our understanding is that Aging and Disability Services is confering with the state to see how that support can continue to be provided to transitioning youth. Developmentally disabled youth transitioning from public school this year still do not know their placements that are effective July 1, and we can only imagine the stress this situation is causing these families.

For all of these reasons we continue to be concerned about the transition of Resource Coordination now called Targeted Case Management (TCM) funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration from the County's Community Support Network administered in Aging and Disability Services to non-profits. The Commission is now in the process of organizing a formalized group to continue to monitor/address the issue of Targeted Case Management for individuals with developmental disabilities receiving DDA services.

The community of people with developmental disabilities has benefited for many years from the County's case management services. Until last year, this service was funded through a grant from the state, and the County provided services to all 3,300 individuals eligible for this service.

FY15 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY - CONTINUED

In July, 2013, the state changed the funding mechanism so that this service was reimbursed per hour of service. Private vendors were recruited by the state to provide the service, and the county felt they needed to opt out of this new system and proceeded to dismantle the program. For many reasons the private vendors were unable to provide the service in Montgomery County, and HHS hired contractors to temporarily continue the service until private vendors could be identified. Again, new vendors have been recruited, and our understanding is that HHS plans to transfer all individuals to the new vendors.

We fully understand that most of this was out of the control of the County, but we think that it is imperative that these individuals, some of our most vulnerable residents and their families, be assured that they receive the support they require. Based on last year's attempt, and failure, to transfer case management services, we are recommending that the county proceed cautiously to transfer those existing case management individuals to the new vendors. A slow, careful transfer provides the best chance of success.

Additionally, we are concerned about the level of expertise and high turnover of persons hired to work with this population. The resource coordinator's job is to make the individual, and/or their families, are aware of all the services they are entitled to, and help them access them. The most critical time for an individual to receive these services is as they transition from the public school domain (age 21) to adult services. Parents tell us that this is an extremely difficult time. Families must go out and find three different agencies to tour and interview to see if they can provide their child with appropriate adult services. A well trained resource coordinator guides these families through this process and the complicated process of securing a smooth transition into the adult agency. From that point on the case manager meets annually with the individual and their family to monitor services and develop a plan for the future.

It should, we would think, be obvious why these case managers must be knowledgeable about resources available in the County. If things don't go well the results can be disastrous. Individuals can end up homeless, without necessary medical equipment, and parents can lose jobs because come July 1, they have no one to look after their dependent child. We can't overstate how difficult and stressful this time period can be. This is why we ask that the County keep case management services for individuals for transitioning youth, and transfer existing cases to the new companies that are approved to provide TCM in the County by DDA. Those families that are established in adult services do not need the level of support that new families do. It is very important to have them serviced by people who know the county, and the agencies that serve county residents.

We are further recommending that those individuals on the waiting list, about 900 people, be maintained by the county for resource coordination. By remaining a provider of this service, the county will be able to better monitor the performance of the private vendors, assist those without service providers, and navigate the system into adult services with each person. Once a person is placed with an adult service provider, a safety net established, the person would have the opportunity to choose among any private vendors providing this service. We believe that a coordinated system like this in Montgomery County is the best outcome for our citizens.

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

PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

Publications Provided by the Commission on People with Disabilities

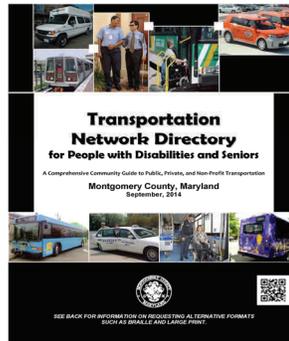


DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY:

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 NETWORK DIRECTORY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIORS:

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. To download a copy of the guide visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd.



To request alternative formats of these publications, please call 240-777-1246 (V), MD Relay 711, or e-mail DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov.

STAY ALERT!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from **Alert Montgomery**. Montgomery County officials can use this alerting system to contact you before or during a major crisis, emergency, or severe weather alert. Alerts MAY be broadcast via the following delivery methods:

- E-mail account (work, home, other)
- Cell phone (SMS Text)
- Everbridge Mobile Member App
- Home phone (Voice)
- Cell phone (Voice)
- TTY device
- Twitter: Following “@ReadyMontgomery”
- Facebook: Add “Montgomery County MD Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security” in friends

While signing up for Alert Montgomery is free of charge, your wireless carrier may charge you a fee to receive text messages.

<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 www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS.



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.*



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES 24TH ANNIVERSARY AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT CELEBRATION



Trish Gallalee, Chair, Commission on People with Disabilities, attends the 24th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act

On July 26, 2014, Marylanders from across the state came together at the Cultural Arts Center (CAC) at Montgomery College Takoma Park / Silver Spring to celebrate the 24th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The 2014 celebration recognized how far society has come in promoting the rights and community inclusion of people with disabilities in their efforts to lead productive, meaningful and independent lives. The 24th Anniversary program featured keynote remarks by disabilities advocate Ricardo Thornton and music by The Dennis Fisher Band.

Ricardo Thornton is a leader of the District of Columbia's self-advocacy coalition, Project ACTION! and Co-Chair of the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council. Ricardo spent many years as a child and young adult at

Forest Haven, an institution for people with developmental disabilities located in Laurel, Maryland (Forest Haven closed in 1991). In 1980, he left Forest Haven to begin a new life in a group home with a job at the Martin Luther King Library, which he has held for more than 35 years. Over the years Ricardo, his wife Donna, another former Forest Haven resident, and son Ricky have appeared in multiple interviews with Mike Wallace of CBS "60 Minutes." Their story was also portrayed in a made-for-television movie titled "Profoundly Normal." Today, Ricardo and Donna serve on a number of Boards and committees where they are working to make things better for people with disabilities.

The program concluded with music from The Dennis Fisher Band. Dennis Fisher, a jazz, R&B, classical, contemporary, and swing organist, who happens to be blind, has been making beautiful music for decades. Born on April 16, 1941 to a determined and dedicated mother, Sara, who vowed that Dennis would become educated, socially competent, and achieve the highest degree of independence and self reliance possible. Dennis didn't have time to entertain the notion of failure. Dennis formed his first band very early in his career and hasn't looked back. He realized early, that he could inspire audiences to pat their feet, snap their fingers, bop their heads, and dance to his music. His current band, The Dennis Fisher Band, being one of the very few remaining Hammond Organ bands in the country, continues to delight and entertain audiences throughout the Baltimore/Washington area, in addition to other areas of the United States. Dennis has played with and learned from many legendary musicians, including, but not limited to - the late Dexter Gordon, Sir Walter Jackson, Charles Earland, Richard "Groove" Holmes, Don Patterson, Mickey Fields, Jimmy McGriff, and a host of other talented musicians.

Joining the Maryland Department of Disabilities as sponsors of the 2014 celebration are Montgomery College at Takoma Park / Silver Spring; Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services; TransCen Mid-Atlantic ADA Center; Maryland State Department of Education - Division of Rehabilitation Services; Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Developmental Disabilities Administration; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Human Resources; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland Department of Aging; Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Maryland Department of Information Technology; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council; Maryland Department of General Services; Maryland Military Department; Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland State Police.

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2013 - 2014

- Oct, 2013:** **Montgomery County's Employment Initiatives for People with Disabilities and Veterans** - *Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, Montgomery County Government*
- Transportation and People with Disabilities** - *Jeremy Buzzell, Commissioner*
-
- Nov, 2013:** **The Commission's Role in Advising the County Council on Key Issues Impacting People with Disabilities** - *The Honorable George Leventhal, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council*
- Update on Resource Coordination and Aging and Disability Services** - *Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services*
-
- Dec, 2013:** **Special Olympics of Maryland: History and Mission, Programs, Impact, Vision for Montgomery County** - *Jim Schmutz, President and CEO, Special Olympics of Maryland*
-
- Jan, 2014:** **The County Council and Key Issues Impacting People with Disabilities** - *The Honorable Craig Rice, President, Montgomery County Council*
- Homelessness** - *Kim Ball, Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services, Special Needs Housing*
-
- March, 2014:** **Sidewalk Snow Removal Plan** - *Hans Riemer, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council*
- Introduction of Jerzy Hubert, Newly Hired ADA Capital Project Manager** - *Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services*
-
- April, 2014:** **Update on Targeted Case Management** - *Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, and Lauren Newman, Administrator, Community Support Network*
- Process for Park Development and Renovation** - *Bob Green, ADA Compliance Project Manager, with Judie Lai and Patricia McManus, Park Development Division, Montgomery County Department of Parks*
-
- May, 2014:** **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Update** - *What You Need To Know About Fixed Route and MetroAccess* - *Christian Blake, Director, Office of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy and Planning, WMATA*
- Update on Targeted Case Management** - *Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, and Lauren Newman, Administrator, Community Support Network*
-
- June, 2014:** **Update on ADA Issues** - *Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services, Montgomery County Government*
- Update on Targeted Case Management** - *Sue Hartung, Commissioner*
-
- Sept, 2014:** **Update on Targeted Case Management** - *Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging & Disability Services; and Sue Hartung, Commissioner*

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST

2013 - 2014

VOTING MEMBERS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Charles Crawford	Seth Morgan
Paul Eisenhour	Michael Pearlman
Patricia Gallalee	Jonathan Pfeffer
Hilary Kaplan	Marcie Povitsky
Arthur Livingston	Diane Stahl
Kathy Mann Koepke	

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Hartung
Nelson Migdal
Francesca Pellegrino

PRIVATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Tony Cancelosi, *Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind*
Dana Cohen, *National Children's Center*
Richard Kienzle, *College Living Experience*
Mark Maxin, *Special Olympics*
Marie (Lu) Merrick, *Post High School at Ivymount School*
Stephen Riley, *Potomac Community Resources*
Marcia Rohrer, *Maryland State Dept. of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Charlie Butler, *Department of Recreation*
Francie Gilman, *Disability Resource Center, Department of Public Libraries*
Nancy Greene, *ADA Compliance Officer, Department of General Services*
Stacy Jackson, *Call 'N' Ride Program, Department of Transportation*
Kathy Kolan, *Transition Services, Montgomery County Public Schools*
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*
Angela J. Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

STAFF

Betsy Luecking, *Program Manager II*
Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*
John (Jay) Kenney, Ph.D., *Chief, Aging and Disability Services*

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:

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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: Cherri Branson, Council President Craig Rice, Council Vice President George Leventhal and Nancy Navarro. Standing: Hans Riemer, Phil Andrews, Nancy Floreen, Roger Berliner and Marc Elrich.

**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.*

2013 - 2014 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

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