



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Summary Minutes
June 11th, 2014**

Welcome and Approval of May, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Trish Gallalee, Chair, convened the meeting. Susan Hartung, Commissioner, made an edit to the May, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes to reflect that transitioning youth serves approximately 115 individuals per year, not 250 individuals as stated. Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, made a motion to approve the May, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes as amended. Susan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the May, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as amended. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Update On Targeted Case Management – Sue Hartung, Commissioner

Sue Hartung reported that Chuck Short, Special Assistant to County Executive Isiah Leggett, called a meeting to discuss the ongoing issues with Resource Coordination. In attendance were Uma Ahluwalia, Director of Health and Human Services, Jay Kenney, Chief of Aging and Disability Services, Trish Gallalee, Commissioners Sue Hartung and Lu Merrick, and several parents.

Sue reported on the outcome of the meeting. The long-term options that were presented include:

- Develop Consulting Support Services to provide consultant and support in a robust manner for extreme situations and families most in need.
- Develop a consumer council of Developmental Disabilities Administration services to advise on these types of issues.
- Develop a volunteer ombudsman program similar to the long term care ombudsman program, which consists of trained volunteers that monitor conditions and care, and provide a voice for those unable to speak for themselves.
- Mr. Short indicated that the County would hire as many individuals as needed to start the support services and ombudsman programs.

It was also noted that a summer study will be formed to work on these issues. The summer study workgroup will include several Commissioners, concerned parents and providers. The summer study will look into the possibility of the County partnering with a 501c3 in order to continuing to provide Resource Coordination. A report from the workgroup is due to the County Executive on September 1st. Director Ahluwalia must also provide an update report to the County Executive by June 30th.

The current contractors do not receive enough training to provide quality service to families. Contractors receive a total of four days of training before they receive their cases. It was mentioned that the current Resource Coordination unit is having problems with retaining contractors. Ten Resource Coordinators have quit in the past few weeks. There has been a discussion about offering retention bonuses to encourage contractors to stay with the County.

The advocates at the meeting asked that the County continue to provide Resource Coordination to 1,100 individuals. It was also suggested that merit staff be hired to manage these cases. Mr. Short stated that hiring merit staff would be too costly and the hiring process is at least four months long.

Currently, there are 126 transitioning youth within Montgomery County. 56 of those individuals have service placements while 75 individuals have not been placed and will be without services effective July 1st.

The County has also been transitioning 275 cases for the past three months to the State of Maryland, which have sent letters to those families telling them they need to choose one of the two providers by July 1st. Of those 825 cases, only 105 have selected a provider causing an even larger backlog. It was suggested at the meeting that the County provide additional information to these families to assist them in making a choice. Mr. Short asked Lauren Newman, Administrator, Community Support Network, to compose a bi-weekly newsletter to be sent to these families and provide updates on the current situation. Nelson Migdal, Commissioner, noted that every family situation is different and has its own unique needs, which is why having a knowledgeable Resource Coordinator was so important.

Trish suggested that the Commission develop a fact sheet of information that we currently know about these issues.

Sue made a motion to write a thank you letter to Mr. Short for organizing the meeting and to reaffirm that the Commission will participate in the summer study workgroup, that we support the County's commitment to continue to provide Resource Coordination until the current situation is stable, that the Commission will continue to provide guidance and assist on these issues, and that we suggest the County provide additional information and materials to those families. Mark Maxin, Commissioner, suggested that the letter reflect what the County has already promised. Lu Merrick, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

Update on ADA Issues – Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services, Montgomery County Government

Nancy reported that the County is continuing its progress on Project Civic Access.

In May, the County began installation pool lifts at all outdoor swimming pools. Three pool lifts are located at Bethesda Outdoor Pool, three at Long Branch Outdoor Pool, two at Wheaton/Glenmont Outdoor Pool, two at Germantown Outdoor Pool, two at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Pool, and one each at Western County Outdoor Pool and Upper County Outdoor Pool. Western and Upper County Outdoor Pools will eventually have two pool lifts at each location, but there were structural issues that need to be address before the second lifts are installed. Staff at these pools are being trained this week on how to use the equipment. The lifts are powered by remote control and a policy will need to be drafted and implemented to prevent mishandling of the equipment. The policy will be posted on the web and at the pool sites. Individuals can request assistance at the front desk, which will alert the lifeguard to make sure the pool lift is ready and functional.

The Bethesda Outdoor Pool also recently underwent renovations and the restrooms, showers and path of travel have all been made accessible.

The Rockville Memorial Library back entrance, which has been inaccessible, will soon undergo construction to make it accessible.

Nancy will be convening a meeting next week with a consultant from ClickAndGo, an accessible narrative mapping service that provides walking directions for outdoor landmark-to-landmark route travel. These directions can be downloaded from the web, or can be obtained using voice activated technology with a standard phone. These maps are free to blind and deaf-blind users. Nancy noted that the new Silver Spring Library may especially benefit from this type of mapping service as it will be located on several floors in a multi-use building.

The County will also be starting construction on a new accessible homeless shelter for single adult men and women that will be located in an industrial park on Marinelli Road in Bethesda. It was noted that the area has had an increase in traffic due to several new office buildings and it was suggested that a stop sign be placed to slow down traffic. Nancy said she will contact Department of Transportation about this issue.

Anil Saini, Program Manager, ADA Title II Compliance Office, reported that the County is currently installing a new assistive listening device in the Executive Office Building, 9th Floor Conference Room that features a beamforming microphone with an audio loop. The microphone is wired within the device is able to pick up sound without the use of a handheld microphone. There is also a PA system in the conference room as well as dual media projectors and portable FM assisted listening devices.

Chair and Vice Chair Report:

Trish Gallalee, Chair, reported that she provided a quote for the County's [press release](#) on the enactment of the Design for Life legislation that goes into effect July 1st. The new law provides tax credits to builders and homeowners for including features in new and existing residential housing that improve accessibility for persons of all ages, including seniors and those with disabilities.

Trish encouraged Commissioners to attend the Steering Committee meetings over the summer. The Commission will be discussing Resource Coordination as well as any other issues that Commissioners would like to discuss.

Trish reported that Betsy Luecking, Staff Liaison, and Carly Clem, Staff Support, have updated the guide [Transportation Options for People with Disabilities and Seniors](#).

Trish reported that the Commission will need to appoint a nominating committee in September to nominate a new Chair and Vice Chair as her and Charlie's terms expire in October. **Please note that elections will take place in the month that new appointments are made. Until new appointment are made, current commissioners will continue to be active commissioners**

Workgroup Updates: Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair, reported that the Transportation Workgroup will be meeting over the summer, and that a new Transportation Workgroup Chair will need to be appointed as his term expires in October.

Roundtable:

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, asked how Commissioners join workgroups. It was discussed having an annual retreat once new Commissioners are appointed.

Kathy Kolan, Ex-Officio Member, will be retiring on June 30th.

Francie Gilman, Ex-Officio Member, Public Libraries, reported that Rockville Memorial Library will be hosting a question and answer session on wheelchairs on Saturday, June 28th. Experts from The Wheelchair Society and Independence Now will provide information and answer questions that can help you to effectively plan for, obtain, and live with a wheelchair. Held at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Sponsored by the Disability Resource Center Library Advisory Committee.

Community Speaks: None.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, September 10th, 2014 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Please try to arrive by 5:15 pm to reconvene workgroups.**

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 17th, 2014 - 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I
Betsy Luecking, Program Manager II