



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Meeting Summary Minutes
September 10th, 2014**

Welcome and Approval of June, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Acting Chair, convened the meeting. Seth explained that Trish Gallalee, Chair and Charlie Crawford, Vice- Chair were unavailable to attend the meeting tonight. Nelson Migdal, Commissioner, made a motion to approve the June, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes. Jonathan Pfeffer, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the June, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Update On Targeted Resource Coordination – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging & Disability Services, and Sue Hartung, Commissioner

Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, reported that a select group of advocates were invited to form a Developmental Disability Transition Advisory Workgroup to discuss the current state of Resource Coordination. Representing the Commission on this group are Susan Hartung, Lu Merrick and Dana Cohen. This workgroup has been meeting with Chuck Short, Special Assistant to County Executive Leggett, and Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Health and Human Services (HHS). Mr. Short asked that out of this workgroup a small subcommittee be formed to draft recommendations regarding resource coordination. These recommendations are to be presented to Mr. Short on September 16th. A meeting with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is currently being scheduled. The DDA will also have input on the recommendations made by the subcommittee. On October 2nd, the Workgroup will go before the County Council HHS Committee to give an update on Resource Coordination and present the recommendations made by the subcommittee. Jay will give another update at the October Commission meeting.

Susan Hartung, Commissioner, gave a brief overview of the recommendations that the subcommittee developed. The subcommittee includes representatives from parents, Resource Coordination staff, providers, County Council staff, and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). To view the recommendations, please see Attachment A: Developmental Disability Transition Advisory Work Group: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%20D%20Docs/CPWD/TAWDDRReport.pdf.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that the Resource Coordination Forum and Open House held on August 26th was well attended with an estimated 300 people in attendance. Susan reported that individuals who attended were still unsure which provider they should choose.

Hilary Kaplan, Commissioner, asked if there were any changes in the numbers regarding those who have placements with a resource coordinator and those who have yet to be placed. Susan reported that while Kim Mayo, Community Support Network, sends her weekly memos with the current numbers Susan does not think these are a good indication of those being served as many individuals are not receiving a letter.

It was asked if other counties in Maryland are experiencing the same issues as Montgomery County. Other counties do not have the same number of individuals to serve or the expenses that Montgomery County does. There are a few counties that are making money off of the new fee-for-service structure. Montgomery County is the largest County that was providing Resource Coordination services. Most counties are using outside providers. Only a few of the smaller counties are providing resource coordination.

Establishment of Developmental Disabilities Transition Advisory Subgroup of Commission:

A discussion was held regarding the amendment of Commission legislation to enable the Commission to advocate at the State level and lobby directly with State/Federal officials and legislators. Susan made a **Motion: The Commission requests to the County to amend the current Commission's enabling legislation to give authority to advocate/lobby directly with the State/Federal Government.** This would be similar to the Commission on Aging and the Commission on Veterans Affairs. Lu Merrick, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

Establish Top Two Policy Priorities for FY15 for County Council due October 7th:

A discussion was held regarding which top two policy issues the Commission should present to the County Council. Betsy asked for input from Ex-Officio members.

Angela Washington, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity Manager, Office of Human Resources (OHR), Ex-Officio Member, reported that the latest group of Project Search interns started this week. The majority of interns are individuals with intellectual disabilities functioning at various levels. Karen Hochberg, Targeted Recruitment Job Specialist, OHR, has been recently designated to oversee the hiring of persons with disabilities. Karen has been forming relationships with other jurisdictions to place Montgomery County interns outside of County government. One of the interns has been placed with the Rockville City Police Department and another intern has been placed at the City of Rockville Police Chief's office. The County is currently working on implementing a new tracking system that will allow the County to track applicants. This will help the County to see where people with disabilities are falling out of the hiring process. It will take approximately 12 to 18 months for the tracking system to be fully implemented.

Hilary recommended that the Commission use the Commission's guide *Transportation Network Directory* as a catalyst to train various populations and introduce them to this resource. She further suggested that the County track if there is an increase of resources used based on these trainings. Karen Leggett, Public, and representative of the Transition Work Group, suggested that the Commission be a resource provider at the Transitioning Youth Fair scheduled for October 18th. The Commission could hand out these transportation guides as a resource.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, suggested the Commission discuss the issue of obesity and health disparities for individuals with disabilities. There is a close correlation between obesity and health disparities, and people with disabilities have the highest rate of obesity out of any population. Kathy suggested that the County focus some of its resources on reducing obesity of persons with disabilities and encouraging physical activity.

Susan suggested that the top two policy issues be Resource Coordination and to end the DDA waiting list. Susan stated that these are two distinct issues that should be addressed separate from each other. The waiting list is for people who have a current need for funded services including those in crisis situation.

Steve Riley, Commissioner, made a motion for the top two policy issues to be: 1)The Council take all necessary steps to provide quality resource coordination and 2) The County Council to take all necessary steps to end the State DDA waiting list for residential and other services. Susan seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion was passed with 10 votes for and six votes against. The Commissioners who voted against the motion were: Marcie Povitsky, Kathy Mann Koepke, Hilary Kaplan, Seth Morgan, Tony Cancelosi, and Jonathan Pfeffer.

New Business:

Seth reported that the Commission on People with Disabilities has co-drafted a letter with the Commission on Health asking for input from Montgomery County Clinics on how they provide services to persons with disabilities and how they address access issues. The letter was sent to Commissioners prior to the meeting for review.

Motion: "The Commission on People with Disabilities in partnership with the Commission on Health will send letter to County to evaluate accessibility at its medical clinics." Steve made a motion to approve the letter. Kathy seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair and Vice Chair Report: Betsy advised Commissioners that their terms do not expire until they are replaced. She asked that those whose terms are ending next month to stay on with the Commission until their replacements have been appointed.

Workgroup Updates: None.

Roundtable:

Susan Hartung announced that she is no longer able to attend the Recreation Advisory Board meetings that are held the first Monday of every month. Any Commissioner interested in attending as a liaison should contact Betsy.

Marcie Povitsky, Commissioner, announced that a coalition of dystonia patient organizations is spearheading a petition drive to make September Dystonia Awareness Month. The petition must receive 100,000 signatures by October 1st. Sign the petition at: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/promote-dystonia-awareness-recognizing-dystonia-awareness-month-september/2S9jBCVz>.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), Ex-Officio Member, reported that HOC has secured 150 housing choice vouchers to be given to younger people with disabilities. Susan is working to contact these individuals. The HOC waiting list is scheduled to be open in the spring. HOC is also hosting a health fair on Saturday, September 20th from 12pm to 3pm at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. Services and information available include free health screenings with licensed doctors, blood pressure, vision, diabetes, BMI, dental pediatric assessment, teen health, osteoporosis, and nutrition.

Tony reported that on October 15th Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) will be announcing a partnership with WMATA for a Click 'N' Go virtual mobile app for vision impaired and deaf/blind that will provide accessible narrative mapping directions for 11 Metro stops in the Washington, DC area.

Diane Stahl, Commissioner, announced that this Saturday, September 20th is an [Out of the Darkness Suicide Walk](#) to be held in Washington, DC.

Francie Gilman, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), Ex-Officio Member thanked the Commission for its support of its programs over the years. She announced that September is National Service Dog Month. The Rockville Memorial Library is featuring a display and offering materials on service animals. Francie also announced that beginning Sunday, October 5th sixteen library branches will have expanded hours. In addition, four more branches will be open on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In support of the expanded hours, a substantial increase in staff has been added -- 39 merit positions plus additional substitute staff -- bringing current staffing to its highest level since FY10. View the County's press release: http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=14027.

Community Speaks: None.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 8th, 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, October 15th, 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