



# COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2015

October, 2015

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Honorable George Leventhal, 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 for your review. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of the over 80,000 people with disabilities who live in the County, as estimated by the US Census Bureau. The Commission continues to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities who work, visit or live here.

The Commission marked this 25th anniversary year of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), landmark civil rights legislation, also advising the County on benefits to the County of partnership in advocating on behalf of the County's interests at the State and Federal levels. 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 is involved in making recommendations to the County in regards to the Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement. Keeping with the spirit of disability laws, we are proud of our work with the Department of Transportation and the Council to improve taxi service, efforts of the Office of Human Resources in partnership with the Commission and the Commission on Veterans Affairs to increase the employment of people with disabilities including disabled veterans, and our partnership with the Department of Permitting Services for the Design for Life Tax Incentive Program with the goal of promoting more accessible homes for residents of all ages and stages of their life. The County is a leader in the nation on these key issues that promote a more inclusive community.

For the upcoming year, we recommend that the County increase health prevention strategies of secondary illness for people with disabilities. People with disabilities may be the largest underserved population that demonstrates evidence of health disparities. We are collaborating with the Commission on Health and the Recreation Department in advising on greater access to programs and services that promote health/wellness for people with disabilities.

We also ask that you work with us to develop strategies to eliminate the State Developmental Disabilities Waiting List. As of January 20, 2015, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration reported that there are 8,169 on the State waiting list for DD Services statewide. In Montgomery County there are 1,076 on the waiting list who currently receive no services. Of these 830 are DD Eligible, 26 are in crisis resolution (need services within 3 months), 97 are in crisis prevention (need services within a year) and 707 have current need (need services within 3 years).

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, Community Outreach 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.



Seth Morgan  
Chair

Marcie Povitsky  
Vice Chair



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# COUNTY EXECUTIVE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Montgomery County Press Release 7/23/15



*Pictured left to right: David Sharp, Chair, Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council, County Executive Isiah Leggett, Councilmember Roger Berliner, Seth Morgan, Chair, Commission on People with Disabilities, and Therese McMillan, Acting Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration*

On the eve of the 25th Anniversary of the ADA, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett announced that the County's nine-year Bus Stop Improvement Program has enhanced accessibility and pedestrian safety at 3,025 bus stops.

In 2006, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) assessed the County's 5,340 bus stops for location, pedestrian accessibility and connection, signage information, safety/security and amenities and identified 3,400 as needing improvement. Today, the Bus Stop Improvement Program has completed work on 89 percent of those stops; work continues on the remaining 275 bus stops.

Upgrades were made first to stops with the highest ridership and those deemed in most urgent need of improvement, such as stops that were not located at intersections or located alongside multi-lane roads with fast-moving traffic. Many bus stops were moved to safer locations. Once in a specific area, enhancements also were made to surrounding stops to improve construction cost efficiency.

"We are pleased to be here today celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by combining two of Montgomery County's highest priorities, promoting mass transit and maintaining an inclusive community," said Leggett. "It is essential that we find a way for our residents to move around the County without a car. At the same time, we must make sure that mass transit is available to everyone, which is why we have made such strides in converting our bus stops so that they can be used by those with disabilities as well as those without."

Montgomery County is a national leader in this arena. In trainings of other jurisdictions, U.S. Access Board staff references Montgomery County's Bus Stop Improvement Program as a model.

Improvements to the bus stops and travel pathways have included construction of:

- 1,255 ramps at 826 intersections
- 85,618 square feet of sidewalk leading to bus stops
- 166,777 square feet of five-by-eight foot concrete pads at 2,474 bus stops
- 422 "knee walls" that prevent wheelchairs from rolling onto dangerous terrain, provide seating for waiting passengers and help keep bus stops clear of debris

"We congratulate Montgomery County for improving its bus system, which provides a lifeline to people who don't drive and is emblematic of the ADA's intent to open the doors of public transportation to everyone," said Therese McMillan, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator. "We know that many people with disabilities travel by bus, and we want to be sure that they can travel anywhere public transportation is offered across the country."

# COUNTY EXECUTIVE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) CONTINUED

“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,” said Seth Morgan, M.D., Chair, Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities. “Now, this bus stop symbolizes the ongoing advances in inclusiveness that are a reality in our County and across this nation.”

A total of 16,125 people in wheelchairs boarded Ride On buses in FY15. In addition to ensuring ADA compliance, bus stop upgrades 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, MCDOT is improving about 600 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) stops and 900 stops shared between WMATA and Ride On located in Montgomery County. The average cost to improve each bus stop is less than \$3,000.

Upgrading the remaining 275 bus stops is more complex because many are located on roads not originally built to accommodate pedestrians. Enhancing these bus stops requires purchasing right-of-way from private property owners or trying to work around obstructions, such as walls and fences, which prevent installing ADA-compliant facilities. Information about Ride On routes and schedules is available [online](#).

**The Bus Stop is Inaccessible to a Person in a Wheelchair**



**Side Walk/Curb Cut Provide Wheelchair Access**



**Before**



**After**

## LEGGETT AND PUBLIC SAFETY CHIEFS OFFER CRITICAL HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS; REMINDS DRIVERS TO RESPECT DESIGNATED DISABILITY PARKING SPACES

Montgomery County News Release - 12/8/14

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett today joined Police Chief Tom Manger and Fire Chief Steve Lohr at the Congressional Plaza shopping center in Rockville, to encourage community members to make safety a priority this holiday season.

“We are here in a busy shopping center to emphasize awareness of seasonal and parking lot/pedestrian safety,” said Leggett. “Drivers are all about trying to find an open parking space in crowded lots. Shoppers are loaded down with packages and trying to remember where they parked. Our slogan, ‘Heads Up in Parking Lots,’ encourages both pedestrians and drivers to be on the lookout for one another.”

They were joined in that effort by County Council Public Safety committee members Tom Hucker and Sidney Katz; and by Trish Gallalee, the Chairperson of the County’s Commission on People with Disabilities.

Last year, the County began an educational awareness campaign about parking lot/pedestrian safety after research showed that the number of pedestrian collisions in parking lots had increased each year between 2010 and 2012. In 2012, 30 percent of pedestrian collisions in the County occurred in parking lots. At the end of 2013, analysis showed that percentage had dropped to under 25 percent.

“During the excitement of the holiday season, we should all increase our awareness of pedestrians who are out and about,” said Public Safety Committee Council member Sidney Katz. “We should be sure that when we are pedestrians, we are acutely aware of our surroundings.”

Police Chief Tom Manger not only supported parking lot/pedestrian safety, but also provided important holiday crime prevention tips and designated disability parking enforcement information. “Each holiday season we deploy special units and conduct enforcement to help increase everyone’s safety,” said Chief Manger. “Please do your part. Take the time to become aware of important safe driving, pedestrian and holiday practices; and make sure that safety is a top holiday priority.”

During the holidays, the police department deploys an Alcohol Holiday Task Force to reduce the incidents of drunk and drugged driving. The District Community Action Teams (DCATs) strengthen their focus on preventing street robberies and residential burglaries. Officers are encouraged to be on the lookout for the illegal use of designated disability parking spaces.

Senior citizens and their family and friends are asked to be especially aware that criminals frequently target seniors who are typically very willing to provide help. Seniors should be encouraged not to engage in discussion or contact with strangers asking their advice, offering to make a repair or requesting money for any reason. Call 9-1-1 if the contact is in progress or call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000, after the fact.



Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett delivers remarks at a press conference to encourage community members to make safety a priority this holiday season. Pictured to the right of Leggett is former Commission Chair Trish Gallalee.

## LEGGETT AND PUBLIC SAFETY CHIEFS OFFER CRITICAL HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS; REMINDS DRIVERS TO RESPECT DESIGNATED DISABILITY PARKING SPACES CONTINUED

Fire Chief Steve Lohr urged citizens to look for and eliminate potential dangers that could lead to fires and injuries. "When you're making your list and checking it twice, smoke alarms are possibly one of the best gifts you can give this holiday season," said Chief Lohr. "It's a fact. Working smoke alarms save lives and I am personally asking each and every resident to check their smoke alarms and make sure they are working this holiday season."

Both police and fire rescue personnel work together on the "Shop with a Cop or Firefighter" campaign. Officers and firefighters go to busy shopping center parking lots across the County to provide extra security and safety awareness. They'll be handing out reusable shopping bags with information about parking lot safety and respecting the designated disability parking spaces.

"I helped launch the County's Respect the Space campaign in 2011," said Chairperson of the County's Commission on People with Disabilities Trish Gallalee. "On behalf of all of us who need these spaces, I am imploring drivers without disability tags or license plates not to use these spaces, even for a few minutes. Remember, those spaces also include the striped area/access aisle that allows a wheelchair lift to load and unload passengers."

## Respect the Space/Disability Parking



### Please Remember...

- It is illegal to park a vehicle in a designated disability parking space unless the vehicle has valid and properly displayed Disability Tags or Placards issued by a state Department of Motor Vehicles (such as the MVA).
- The fine for illegally parking in a designated disability space in Montgomery County is \$250.00.
- The individual who was issued a placard or plate must be transported in the vehicle for the vehicle to legally park in a designated disability parking space.
- Parking in a striped area/access aisle adjacent to and between disability spaces is also against the law. Those striped areas allow room for wheelchair lifts to load and unload passengers.
- Disability parking spaces are located in all parking lots and garages within parking districts for the exclusive use of those with Disability Tags or Placards. Even when vacant, they are never, even for a matter of minutes, for use by anyone else.
- If you see a vehicle without a disability tag or license plate parked in a designated disability parking space, call the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000.

Learn more at: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/disabilities>  
Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities

# DESIGN FOR LIFE TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Design for Life, managed by the Department of Permitting Services, provides partial tax credits to property owners or home builders who install measures that improve accessibility, visit-ability and/or live-ability of residential homes. This legislation was promoted through efforts of the Commission for People with Disabilities and embraced by the County Council and the County Executive.

Credits are available for accessibility features added to single family homes and condominiums. Tax credits for improvements that make a home qualify as a visitable or livable home are available for single family homes and townhouses.

For retrofits to existing single family homes, such accessibility measures can include things like installing entry doors wide enough for wheelchairs, providing a no-step entry into the home, improving bathroom access with grab bars or roll-in showers, wider doorways, etc. This model program was initiated in Montgomery County to improve the ability of all residents to manage more successfully in homes, to improve people's ability to age in place and to make homes more accessible to visitors of all ages. More information is available at <http://permittingervices.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/designforlife/DesignForLife.aspx>.

**Please review the following documents for a complete understanding of the Design For Life Tax Incentive Program.**

- [Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit](#) – Accessibility Features – legislation approved by the Montgomery County Council effective July 1, 2014.
- [Executive Regulation 3-14 Design For Life Tax Incentives \(Council Resolution 17-1267\)](#) – explains how Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features will be implemented. Included in this Executive Regulation are definitions, application and processing procedures for requesting property tax credits and Development Impact Tax for School Improvement credits and certification procedures for the same. This executive regulation also describes the purpose and procedures for the Design for life Builder/Homeowner and Project Certification Program.
- [Disclosure of Availability of Property Tax Credits for Accessibility Improvements](#) – template for seller and buyer of new single family residential real property in Montgomery County.
- [Impact Tax Credit Certification Agreement](#) – template tax credit agreement for builders constructing multiple single family dwellings meeting Level I Accessibility Standards.
- [Application for Residential Building Permit](#) – for Single Family Dwellings, Townhouses, Duplexes
- [Application for Commercial Building Permit](#) – for Multifamily Dwellings
- [Building Permit – Supplemental Design For Life Application](#) – submitted with application for Building Permit detailing proposed Design for Life Accessibility Features and/or Level I or II Accessibility Standards.
- [Design for Life Technical Guidelines](#) - manual that provides technical guidance on the design and inspection requirements for implementation of Bill 5-13 Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features.
- [Application for Design for Life Tax Credits](#) – submitted to DPS after work has been inspected and the final inspection approved.

For more information, please contact Simin Rasolee, Permitting Services Manager, at 240-777-6283 (V).

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES TWO BILLS TO IMPROVE TAXI SERVICE

*Montgomery County Council Press Release - 7/21/15*

The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved Bills 33-15 and 53-14 that will improve taxi service in the County by helping the existing taxi structure better compete with new types of services. The bills will provide opportunities to have more taxicabs available to respond to calls and address working conditions in some situations for drivers.

The lead sponsor of Bill 33-15 was Councilmember Roger Berliner, who chairs the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. The bill was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, Sidney Katz, Tom Hucker, Craig Rice and Hans Riemer. The bill will create a Transportation Services Improvement Fund, impose a per-trip surcharge on certain transportation network services to finance the fund and provide for disbursements from the fund to be used to improve the delivery of accessible taxicab services and transportation services to eligible senior citizens and people of limited income.

Expedited Bill 53-14 was sponsored by Councilmembers Berliner, Floreen, Rice and Riemer. The bill was combination of three original bills directed at improving taxi service.

Key provisions of the bill address taxicab regulations for company owners and drivers, including rules for Passenger Vehicle Licenses (PVLs). The bill authorizes the issuance of 50 accessible vehicle licenses to a driver-owned cooperative to help individual drivers and spur innovation in the expansion of accessible transportation. It also creates a centralized dispatch system for all County cabs—an idea strongly promoted by Councilmember Rieme.

The bill provides for more taxicabs to be available for calls and requires the County's Department of Transportation to develop a plan to increase the numbers of wheelchair-accessible cabs (vans) that have lifts or ramps, with a goal of having 100 percent accessible taxicabs in the County by 2025.

In its 2015 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed a law regulating "transportation network companies" (TNCs), otherwise known as ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft. The law, which became effective on July 1, created a new regulatory framework within which TNCs in the State will operate. The law also authorized a county or municipality that licensed or regulated taxicab services on or before Jan. 1, 2015, including Montgomery County, to impose a charge of up to 25 cents on every TNC trip that originates within the county or municipality. The revenue generated from the assessments must be used for "transportation purposes."

This opened the way for Montgomery Bill 33-15 that will create a Transportation Services Improvement Fund, impose a per-trip surcharge on certain transportation network services to finance the fund and provide for disbursements from the fund to be used to improve the delivery of accessible taxicab services.

"The measures our council passed today will fundamentally reform our County's regulation of the taxi industry, and these reforms will accrue to the benefit of all – the industry, drivers, consumers, the disabled community, seniors and low-income residents," said Councilmember Berliner. "These bills address the legitimate issues of our drivers' working conditions for the first time in our County's long history of taxi regulation, and support the creation of a new, competitive, low-cost driver cooperative. Our drivers have been exploited have been exploited for too long. It needs to stop. And with this bill, it will stop. The bills also provide new funds and 66 new licenses to support service directly to our disabled residents, who have been poorly served by our existing fleets and remain unserved by the TNCs. And we also have made reforms that help our existing taxicab companies, reducing their costs, eliminating outdated regulations and providing new licenses to our smaller, newer fleets. These bills were truly a win for all stakeholders and our entire riding public."

Most County taxicab companies lease their vehicles to drivers by the day or the week, and it is up to the driver to meet their expenses and make a living. Taxicab leases are often upward of \$100 per day, and the driver keeps their vehicle full time. Under this model, the company has little direct interest in how much business the driver turns over, but if it has many drivers bringing in substantial income, demand to lease its vehicles will increase, and it may collect more money in lease fees. Under a lease system, the driver typically pays for the gas, while

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES TWO BILLS TO IMPROVE TAXI SERVICE CONTINUED

the company pays for any repairs. Taxicab companies that run on a lease arrangement make their money on how many vehicles are being used—in effect turning them into car rental companies that provide dispatch, marketing, insurance and credit card payment processing services.

At present there are five fleets operating in the County holding a total of 549 PVLs. In addition to the fleets that hold the majority of PVLs and engage the services of lessee drivers, there are 221 PVLs held by individuals. Individual PVL holders own their vehicles, but must affiliate with a fleet or association. Affiliation rates are substantially lower than lease rates, as they essentially represent the cost to a driver of using a fleet's dispatch and marketing.

Among the provisions of amended Expedited Bill 53-14 are a requirement of one-year maximum terms on agreements between licensees and affiliates or drivers and a prohibition on automatic renewal of agreements between licensees and affiliates or drivers. The bill will also require the County Executive to establish standardized lease/affiliation agreements, maximum lease and affiliation rates and permissible ancillary fees that may be charged to drivers.

“While the transportation industry has evolved dramatically over the years, particularly with the introduction of TNCs like Uber and Lyft, our fundamental commitment to ensuring quality service for our residents with disabilities has not wavered,” said Councilmember Floreen, who chairs the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee. “Now, TNCs will be required contribute to improved accessible services through a surcharge they will pay into the Transportation Services Improvement Fund. This is good news for our residents who have mobility challenges and rely on taxi service for their routine transportation needs.”

Councilmember Hans Riemer said: “We are dealing with an industry in crisis. Our challenge was to find a way, in the face of the State's decision to allow Uber to operate, to ensure the taxi industry remains profitable for drivers and attractive for passengers so that disadvantaged populations can continue to get the service only taxis provide. I am hopeful that we have risen to meet this challenge. I put forward provisions in this bill that will greatly improve service for consumers by applying Uber-like features to the taxi industry through universal digital dispatch apps, drastically improve working conditions for all drivers and provide a framework for a new, driver-owned cooperative to emerge, dedicated to providing service that is universally accessible to all residents of our County. I was glad to support other provisions that reduce outdated regulatory burdens for the industry as a whole. My congratulations to Committee Chair Roger Berliner, who put his heart into this bill, and everyone involved. It is a new day for taxis in Montgomery County.”

Councilmember Marc Elrich said: “This bill implements some important, long-overdue improvements to taxi regulations, but even more importantly, it allows the possibility of a worker-owned taxi co-op. Last year, when I met with some of the drivers and representative for the AFL-CIO, I urged them to explore the possibility of their own company rather than relying solely on our limited ability to legislate protection for them, so I'm excited both that the drivers have formed a taxi cooperative and that a good part of this legislation supports their action. For too long, the drivers have been taken advantage of by the taxi company owners, who have imposed exorbitantly high daily charges on drivers who had no ability to negotiate with taxi companies on a level playing field. A co-op will be good for drivers and for customers, especially the disabled. I appreciate my colleagues' hard work on this bill, and I congratulate the taxi drivers and the AFL-CIO, which has been tireless in bringing attention to these problems and seeking just solutions.”

Bill 53-14 will require the issuance of 100 new licenses by Jan. 1, 2016. Of these, 25 will be to individuals who do not currently hold a license and 25 will go to small fleets operating in the County. Each of these allocations of 25 new licenses will include eight licenses for accessible taxicabs. The remaining 50 licenses will be for accessible vehicles, and will be issued to a driver-owned cooperative fleet, if the cooperative meets the fleet requirements of the law. If the 50 accessible licenses are not issued to the cooperative by June 1, 2016, either because it does not meet the fleet requirements of the law, or because it otherwise declines to apply for them, the licenses must also be issued to individuals who do not currently hold licenses. Under the bill, all licenses issued on or after Jan. 1, 2016 will be non-transferrable.

**Please note:** The Department of Transportation has notified all taxi companies that they can no longer require 24-hour advance reservations for trips necessitating an accessible vehicle.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD EMPLOYMENT DATA ON HIRING OF VETERANS, DISABLED VETERANS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Commission on People with Disabilities was instrumental in the implementation of employment initiatives through input, testimony and outreach. These include several internship programs for persons with disabilities: Customized Employment Public Intern Project, Quest, and Project SEARCH Montgomery.

The Commission on People with Disabilities and Commission on Veterans Affairs worked with the County's Office of Human Resources to establish employment initiatives which include hiring preferences for veteran, veteran with a disability, and person with a disability and a non-competitive hiring process for persons with disabilities, which was passed into law by Montgomery County voters in 2012.

Angela Washington, EEO Officer, has reported that since the hiring preferences and non-competitive hiring process were implemented approximately (August 30, 2015):

211 new employees have been hired:

16 non-competitive hires,

21 people with disabilities

8 veterans with disabilities

159 veterans, and

7 not identified

**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](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)

## PROJECT SEARCH MONTGOMERY GRADUATES THIRD CLASS OF INTERNS



### Project SEARCH Graduates with County Executive Isiah Leggett:

**Front row:** Steven Seo, Langston Caldwell, Matt Digilio, Leggett, Justin Hunsinger, Spencer Jacobs, Brandon Vreeland. **Back row:** Brett Albaugh, Stefan Hall, Christian Erickson, Steven Eure

Project SEARCH Montgomery interns participated in a graduation ceremony on June 19 at the Music Center at Strathmore after completing a 10-month education and training program. The program is designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are either in their last year of high school or are recent graduates.

The interns participated in three, 10-week site rotations to learn work skills and develop workplace behaviors that will help lead to paid employment. Supported by an onsite team of job coaches and a classroom instructor, interns worked in various County departments and agencies, as well as with the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville, Montgomery College and Montgomery Parks.

County Executive Isiah Leggett and Councilmember Sidney Katz gave remarks at the graduation ceremony and, along with Councilmember Craig Rice and former Councilmember Phil Andrews, presented the interns with certificates. Other speakers included Office of Human Resources Director Shawn Stokes and Office of Management and Budget Director Jennifer Hughes.

The graduation event provided an opportunity to publicly recognize the interns' accomplishments and provide an opportunity for family and friends to recognize the achievements that these graduates have attained.

Project Search Montgomery is a key component of Leggett's commitment to increasing opportunities for persons with significant disabilities to work in Montgomery County government. The County collaborated with the Rockville-based Ivymount School and SEEC, an adult rehabilitation provider.

The cornerstone of the Project Search model, which was founded in 1996 and operates at more than 150 sites nationally, is total immersion in a business setting. Participants were onsite at Montgomery County departments for a minimum of six hours a day for the past 10 months and, during that time, rotated through three different work experiences to build their skills in various job settings.

Individuals participating in the program received State funding for their job coaches and other supports. The County provided a grant for start-up costs associated with the program and provided classroom space for the interns in Rockville.

The 2015 Project SEARCH Montgomery class is the third class of graduates sponsored by Montgomery County. Fifteen interns have been hired by Montgomery County since the first class in 2013.

For more information, call Karen Hochberg at 240-777-5091.

# MARYLAND'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES

## *Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition Report - February 2015*

### **Issue:**

Over 8,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families are on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Community Services Waiting List for family support, employment programs, and community day and residential supports.

The Governor's Proposed FY 2016 DDA Budget does not include funds for people on the Waiting List and is reduced from the FY 2015 budget level to zero out any funds for those in the Crisis Resolution Category of need. Crisis resolution is defined as 'Homeless, or at risk of losing their home; at risk of harming themselves or others; Have caregiver(s) who are elderly or cannot care for them because of illness.'

In addition, there are unexpected crisis/emergencies that occur throughout the year. These are people who are not on the Waiting List as when a 90 year-old parent dies, leaving their 50 year-old son alone; or a person on the Waiting List becomes an emergency due to the death or life-threatening illness of their family caregiver. The FY 16 budget provides for approximately 60 emergencies. There are over 8,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities on the DDA Waiting List; 25 of the most elderly caregivers will receive supports from the Waiting List Equity Fund.

### **Recommendations:**

- Provide funding in FY 2016 budget for 125 individuals in the Crisis Resolution Category - \$3 Million General Funds
- A multi-year Developmental Disabilities Waiting List Initiative is needed.

### **Analysis**

Maryland is the wealthiest state in the nation, yet it ranks 41st in fiscal effort for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (total spending) in the nation. (\* State of the States in Developmental Disabilities, Braddock et al, 2012 data)

People from every county are on the waiting list

**125 children and adults and their families 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

**1,305 people are in the Crisis Prevention Category:**

- 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

**6,924 people are in the Current Request Category** which means they are currently in need of services such as daily living supports, housing, and/or employment.

In addition to the Waiting List, 2,814 people are on the Future Needs Registry and will need services in three or more years. (Waiting List Data Source: State Stat, May 2014)

### **Age Ranges**

The ages of people waiting are even more astonishing:

Crisis Prevention: 3 to 85 years old

Current request 1 to 87 years old

Future Need: 0 to 86 years old

### **Known Primary Caregiver Age Ranges**

Crisis Resolution: 19 to 88 years old

Crisis Prevention: up to 100 years old

Current Request: up to 103 years old

(Data Source: Developmental Disabilities Administration, October 2014)

# MARYLAND'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES CONTINUED

## DDA 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 Glendenning 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.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES: HOW MARYLAND RATES

Maryland ranks **2nd** in terms of outcomes 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 2015"](#)



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES

Data from Janice Stallworth, Regional Director, DDA  
As of January 20, 2015 – fluctuates day by day  
State of Maryland: 8,169 on the waiting list for DD Services

### Montgomery County:

- 1,076 on waiting list – these persons currently receive no services
- 830 DD Eligible
- 26 in crisis resolution (need services within 3 months)
- 97 in crisis prevention (need services within a year)
- 707 current need (need services within 3 years)

Services can be denied due to not being Medicaid eligible. This includes reasons such as to citizenship issues. Person receiving services must have green card and residency for 5 years, income and assets. Immigrants who do not have - or whose parents have not had - a green card for less than five years - are not eligible for SSI, and they may not be eligible for adult Medicaid. If they are not eligible for Medicaid, they can't get on the Medicaid waiver, and DDA won't provide services anymore if someone new is not on the waiver. Right now, some receive state only funded services as they don't qualify for Medicaid. If a person does not qualify for Medicaid waiver, then no Transitioning Youth Services. If you cannot get into waiver, you cannot get DDA waiver services.

## AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY AND CURRENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

September, 2015 - Per David Cross, Coordinator, The Medicaid Home & Community-Based Autism Waiver Program, Montgomery County Public Schools

### Autism Waiver Registry

Statewide number of students on the Registry: About 4,000

Registry for Montgomery County as of 10/6/15: 910 (700 are estimated to be eligible)

Note: Not all students on the Registry will qualify for the Autism Waiver Program and not all students on the Registry are enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). As a sample, out of the next 100 students 39 students were either no longer enrolled in MCPS or did not have an IEP (Individualized Education Program).

The students that came into the program this summer registered during the summer of 2008 so there was a 7 year wait.

The Montgomery County Autism Waiver Program currently has 254 participants and statewide there are 1,000 students in the program.

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

## 2014 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County, Maryland

Total Population With A Disability	80,427
Subject	Total
<b>Population under 5 years</b>	<b>67,122</b>
With a disability	407
With a hearing difficulty	221
With a vision difficulty	303
<b>Population 5 to 17 years</b>	<b>175,099</b>
With a disability	6,991
With a hearing difficulty	708
With a vision difficulty	749
With a cognitive difficulty	5,845
With an ambulatory difficulty	717
With a self-care difficulty	1,519
<b>Population 18 to 64 years</b>	<b>642,233</b>
With a disability	34,607
With a hearing difficulty	7,654
With a vision difficulty	6,655
With a cognitive difficulty	13,676
With an ambulatory difficulty	13,308
With a self-care difficulty	4,705
With an independent living difficulty	10,427
<b>Population 65 years and over</b>	<b>137,688</b>
With a disability	38,422
With a hearing difficulty	14,247
With a vision difficulty	6,474
With a cognitive difficulty	11,169
With an ambulatory difficulty	23,697
With a self-care difficulty	8,812
With an independent living difficulty	18,802

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

## Persons With A Disability: Labor Force Characteristics - 2014

In 2014, 17.1 percent of persons with a disability were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In contrast, the employment-population ratio for those without a disability was 64.6 percent. The ratio for persons with a disability declined by 0.5 percentage point from 2013 to 2014, while the ratio for those with no disability increased by 0.6 percentage point. The unemployment rate of persons with a disability edged down to 12.5 percent from 2013 to 2014, while the rate for those without a disability declined to 5.9 percent.

### Highlights from the 2014 data:

- Persons with a disability were about three times as likely as those with no disability to be age 65 and over.
- For all age groups, the employment-population ratio was much lower for persons with a disability than for those with no disability.
- Unemployment rates were higher for persons with a disability than for those with no disability among all educational attainment groups.
- In 2014, 33 percent of workers with a disability were employed part time, compared with 18 percent for those with no disability.
- Employed persons with a disability were more likely to be self-employed than those with no disability.

### Employment

Workers with a disability were more likely to be employed part time than those with no disability. Among those with a disability, 33 percent usually worked part time in 2014, compared with 18 percent of workers without a disability. A slightly larger proportion of workers with a disability worked part time for economic reasons than those with no disability (7 percent compared with 5 percent). These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job.

Workers with a disability were more likely than those with no disability to work in production, transportation, and material moving occupations (15 percent compared with 12 percent). Workers with a disability were less likely to work in management, professional, and related occupations than those without a disability (31 percent compared with 39 percent).

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate for persons with a disability was 12.5 percent in 2014, about twice the figure of 5.9 percent for those with no disability. (Unemployed persons are those who did not have a job, were available for work, and were actively looking for a job in the 4 weeks preceding the survey.) The unemployment rate for persons with a disability edged down by 0.7 percentage point in 2014, while the rate for persons with no disability declined by 1.1 percentage points.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics Summary - Released June 16, 2015

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

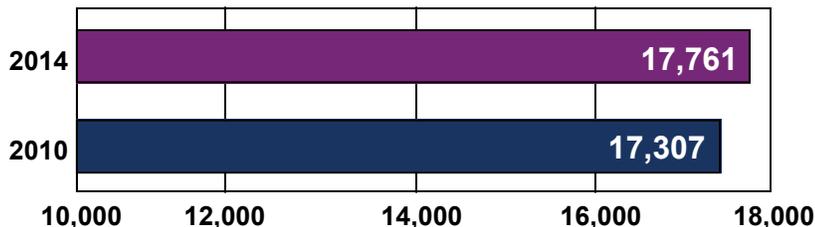
As of October, 2014, there were **17,761** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **11.5%** of the County's total school enrollment of 154,434 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2014	# of Students 2013	% Between 2013 and 2014
Autism	2,114	2,023	+ 4.3%
Deaf	74	78	- 5.1%
Deaf-Blind	3	3	0%
Developmental Delay (Ages 3 - 9)	2,851	2,619	+ 8.8%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	131	154	- 14.9%
Emotional Disability	677	657	+ 3%
Hearing Impairment	154	157	- 1.9%
Intellectual Disability	625	620	+ 0.8%
Multiple Disabilities	307	301	+ 1.9%
Orthopedic Impairment	35	48	- 27%
Other Health Impairment	2,966	2,965	0%
Specific Learning Disability	5,314	5,369	- 1.0%
Speech and Language Impairment	2,436	2,577	- 5.4%
Traumatic Brain Injury	21	24	- 12.5%
Visual Impairment	53	62	- 14.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,761</b>	<b>17,657</b>	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 3/2015

## Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has **increased by 454 students** over the last five years.



# of students ages 3 - 21 enrolled in Special Education in Montgomery County Public Schools

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 3/2015

## Students with Disabilities By Race Compared with General Education Students By Race - Ages 3 to 21

<sup>1</sup> SWD = Students with Disabilities / GE = General Education <sup>1</sup>

	Grand Total	American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Asian		African American		White		Hispanic	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
<b>SWD</b>	17,630	38	0.2%	1,277	7.2%	4,583	26.0%	5,349	30.3%	5,681	32.2%
<b>GE</b>	154,434	283	0.2%	21,902	14.2%	33,139	21.5%	47,976	31.1%	43,844	28.4%

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Date 3/2015

# COMMISSION'S ANNUAL MEETING WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Seth Morgan, M.D., Chair • Marcie Povitsky, Vice-Chair

February 3, 2015

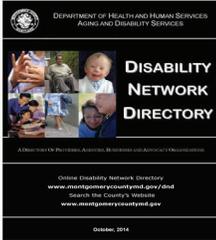
The Commission on People with Disabilities recommends that:

1. The County take all necessary steps to ensure the provision of quality resource coordination for people with developmental disabilities. We request that you include in the FY16 Budget continued funding for Resource Coordination for people with developmental disabilities for 1,100 clients.
2. The County 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), the caretaker to have died, or some other serious crisis situation.
3. 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 did attend the Commission on Health meetings and is working to see that all County health clinics are accessible and make necessary reasonable accommodations.
4. 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 and Commission on Aging.

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

# PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

## Publications Provided by the Commission on People with Disabilities

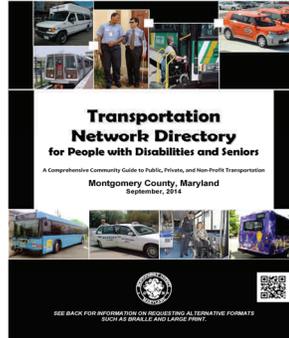


### DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY:

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.*

## COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2014 - 2015

**Oct, 2014:** **Montgomery County's Employment Initiatives for People with Disabilities and Veterans**  
*- Joe Adler, Director, Office of Human Resources, Montgomery County Government*

**Facility Design for Caroline Freeland Park, Bethesda - Seeking Input and Advice from Commission** - *Lucas Bonney, Project Manager, and Bob Green, ADA Compliance Manager, Montgomery County Parks*

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**Nov, 2014:** **The Purple Line and Accessibility Features** - *Joy Hamilton, Leslie Salgado and Fred Hiser, Purple Line Management Team, Maryland Transit Partners of the Maryland Transit Administration*

**Montgomery County Sidewalk Snow Removal Legislation Bill 21-14** - *The Honorable Hans Riemer, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council*

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**Dec, 2014:** **Annual Planning Meeting**

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**Jan, 2015:** **Montgomery County's Taxi Cab Regulations** - *The Honorable Roger Berliner, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council*

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**Feb, 2015:** **Department Representatives Briefing on their Role and What Advice is Sought from Commission** - *Charlie Butler, Recreation; Simone Geness, Montgomery County Public Schools; Francie Gilman, Libraries; Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance, Angela Washington, Office of Human Resources; Faisal Khan, Transportation; Jay Kenney, Health and Human Services; Christopher Moy, Montgomery College; Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission*

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**March, 2015:** **Follow-Up on Department Representatives Briefing on their Role and What Advice is Sought from Commission - Brainstorm the Priorities of Ex-Officio Members and Organize Workgroup or Work of Commission for Upcoming Year** - *Charlie Butler, Recreation; Simone Geness, Montgomery County Public Schools; Francie Gilman, Libraries; Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance, Angela Washington, Office of Human Resources; Faisal Khan, Transportation; Jay Kenney, Health and Human Services; Christopher Moy, Montgomery College; Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission*

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**April, 2015:** **Montgomery County Parks ADA Update** - *Bob Green, ADA Compliance Project Manager, and Wen Huang, Project Manager, Park Development Division, Montgomery County Department of Parks*

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**May, 2015:** **Housing Update** - *Stacy Spann, Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Commission*

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**June, 2014:** **Community Conversation on Health and Well Being** - *Healthy Montgomery*

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**Sept, 2015:** **Effective Advocacy Strategies at the State Level** - *Melanie Wenger, Director, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations*

# 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](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd)

### MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015 - 2016

#### **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 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. Go to the Office of Governmental Relations website for information on how to contact your elected officials:*

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR/>



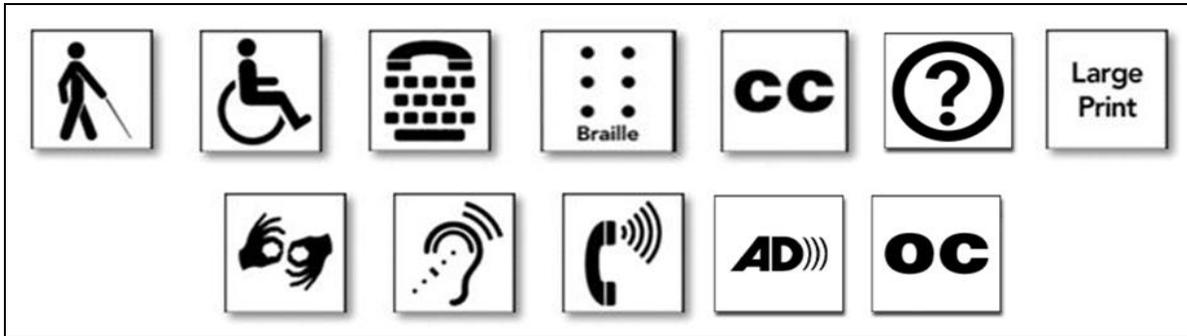
Like us on Facebook! [Facebook.com/MCCPWD](https://www.facebook.com/MCCPWD)



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

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery)

## 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. Access to Health Care and Health Disparities
3. Developing Strategies to Eliminate the State Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiting List
4. Parks and Recreation
5. Libraries
6. Housing
7. Employment
8. Transportation
9. 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](mailto:ada.compliance@montgomerycountymd.gov) or 240-777-6197 (Voice) or 240-777-6196 (TTY).

Web Accessibility: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/accessibility.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/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](http://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.

# COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST

2014 - 2015

## VOTING MEMBERS

### PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Cindy Buddington	Tim Markwood
Paul Eisenhour	Seth Morgan
Alex Getachew	Jonathan Pfeffer
Hilary Kaplan	Marcie Povitsky
Arthur Livingston	Carl Prather
Kathy Mann Koepke	Katherine Radzikowski

### PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Hartung  
Nelson Migdal  
Francesca Pellegrino

### PRIVATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Larry Bram, *Easter Seals*  
Tony Cancelosi, *Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind*  
Richard Kienzle, *College Living Experience*  
Mark Maxin, *Special Olympics*  
Marie (Lu) Merrick, *Post High School at Ivymount School*  
Karen Morgret, *Treatment and Learning Centers*  
Anne Peyer, *Cornerstone Montgomery*  
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*  
Simone Geness, *Montgomery County Public Schools*  
Francie Gilman, *Disability Resource Center, Department of Public Libraries*  
Nancy Greene, *ADA Compliance Officer, Department of General Services*  
Faisal Khan, *Department of Transportation*  
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*  
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*  
Angela J. Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

## STAFF

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*  
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](mailto:ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov)



**Montgomery County Council**

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

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

*Seated, left to right: Hans Riemer, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal and Tom Hucker. Standing: Roger Berliner, Sidney Katz, Nancy Navarro, Craig Rice 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.*

2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*