



**COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

October, 2019

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive  
Honorable Nancy Navarro, President, Montgomery County Council  
Raymond Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present highlights since the Commission began and 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 an estimated 90,000 people with disabilities who live in the County, according to the 2018 US Census Bureau. The Commission continues to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities who work, visit or live here. Over the past year:

- 1) The Commission continues to advise the County on the Transportation Improvement Fund (Executive Order No. 1-17) which is a County 25¢ tax on Uber and Lyft rides for the purpose of making accessible taxi cabs available 24/7 and funding for low income persons and people age 65+.
- 2) We continue to advise on the installation of bike lanes and floating bus stops as they present a serious safety concern to people who are blind, have low vision or who have a mobility disability.
- 3) We are pleased to see the outcomes of the hiring initiatives for people with disabilities and Veterans. Since 2010, the Montgomery County Government has hired 35 people with disabilities, 203 Veterans of which 12 have a disability, and 31 people with disabilities who were hired non-competitively.
- 4) The ongoing Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program administered by the Department of Permitting Services continues to provide financial incentives for property owners and builders to renovate or build accessible homes.

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 the County in its work with the Boards, Commissions, and Committees in keeping us informed of important health and human services issues; Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager, and Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist, for their outstanding support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out its 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 A Morgan*  
Seth Morgan, MD  
Chair



*Patricia A. Gallalee*  
Trish Gallalee  
Vice-Chair

# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

## HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation October 17, 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 or check meeting schedules times online at: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd).

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2019 - 2020

### 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.

*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: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR).*



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**PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE  
COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 40TH YEAR**

# Proclamation

## Montgomery County Maryland

**WHEREAS**

On October 17, 1978 the County Council established the Commission on People with Disabilities which at that time was called the Commission on Handicapped Individuals. We commemorate 40 years of the Commission advising the County government on disability issues and programs that has led to the County becoming a leader in the nation on disability issues. The Commission advises on promoting opportunity in employment, housing, state and local government services, recreation, transportation, telecommunications and in all areas of public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**

The Commission along with Montgomery County is committed to not only the letter but the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act through efforts including any needed County legislation that promotes inclusive programs, equal employment opportunity and equal access to County services for all people without barriers or limitations and services; and

**WHEREAS**

Montgomery County is committed to excellence and innovation in empowering people with disabilities and their families to live the lives of their choice in our community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**

Isiah Leggett as County Executive and Hans Riemer as County Council President in this fortieth year of the Commission, hereby proclaim this day in recognition and commemoration of the outstanding work of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission has served under all County Executive administrations.

**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the County Executive and County Council want to thank all Commissioners who have served our community so well for the past 40 years and call upon all residents, government, non-profit agencies, and businesses to redouble efforts to promote and ensure equal opportunity, full community participation and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

Signed on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2018



ISIAH LEGGETT  
County Executive



NANCY NAVARRO  
Council Present

# PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 40TH YEAR



Council President Hans Riemer presented a proclamation recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission advises the County government on the coordination and development of policies for people with disabilities. Pictured in this photo: [front row, left to right:] Tom Liniak, Director, Specialized Employment Program, JSSA; Carl Prather; Patricia Gallalee, Vice Chair, Commission on People with Disabilities; Council President Hans Riemer; Dr. Seth Morgan, Chair, Commission on People with Disabilities; [back row, left to right:] Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager; Carly Clem, Administrative Assistant; Hilary Kaplan, Karen Morgret, Steve Hage, Asha Clark. Watch Proclamation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BStoFfEa9J4>

# COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMEMORATES 41<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

The County Commission on Handicapped Individuals was established by the County Council on October 17, 1978. In October of 1977, County Executive James Gleason established a Task Force on Concerns of the Handicapped. Their Task Force report in June, 1978 later led to the County Council taking this action. This month the Commission celebrates 40 years of advising the County on disability issues and concerns. The Commission was located in the Office of Family Resources and at that time Chuck Short was the Director of that Office.

Effective November 9, 1990, the Commission was renamed in Bill 49-90 to the Commission on People with Disabilities and added four more slots for people with disabilities. Over the years, the Commission has benefitted greatly from the strong support of all County Executives and County Council Members to have this County become a leader in the nation on disability issues. We have also benefitted greatly from our many citizens/former Commissioners who have worked for the federal government on disability issues. Former Commission member Larry Roffee went on to be the first Executive Director of the US Access Board, and now David Capozzi who is also a former Commissioner is now the Executive Director there. The Commission has served under County Executives James Gleason, Charles Gilchrist, Sidney Kramer, Neal Potter, Douglas Duncan and Isiah Leggett.

## Commission's Key Advocacy/Advisory Highlights:

- [Bill 46-09 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Hiring Preference](#) (effective February 2, 2010 and applies to persons with disabilities, Veterans, and Veterans with disabilities) - **NACO 2014 Achievement Award Winner** - Mark Maxin, Assistant General Counsel for Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Commissioner was instrumental in making legal cases on both employment bills for the Commission
- [Bill 32-12 - Personnel - Regulations - Persons with Disabilities - Noncompetitive Appointment](#) (effective February 5, 2013 - 80% of voters voted to adopt) Noncompetitive hiring preference for people with severe disabilities
- [Bill 5-13 - Property Tax Credit - Accessibility Features](#) (enacted November 19, 2013 - **Design for Life Property Tax Incentive Program** that provides property tax credits up to \$10,000 for levels of accessibility installed in new construction and existing homes - **NACO 2018 Achievement Award Winner**
- HOC and Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital in the establishment of 6 accessible apartments at **Metro Pointe** for younger adults who were living in nursing homes **Montgomery's Best Honor Awards Recipient 2008**
- [Zoning Text Amendment 06-17](#) permits by right vs a zoning variance unroofed and open structure in an easement including a ramp and chairlift that allows a person with a physical disability access to a one family dwelling and is exterior to the one family dwelling
- [Resolution 16-931 - Policy Regarding the Use of Brick and Other Pavements in the Public Right-of-Way](#) for County sidewalks **particularly red brick pavers**
- County purchasing **accessible Ride On busses in 1978** before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- [Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001](#) - Snow removal legislation
- [Respect the Space](#) program to assess proper parking signage so it can be enforced by the police department
- Establishment of a Center for Independent Living or **Independence Now**
- Installation of the **elevator at the Marc Train station** in Rockville
- **Scattered site housing** for people with mental illness and other disabilities
- Department of Transportation on **access issues for people who are blind** in downtown Silver Spring
- Evaluating and working closely with the **Strathmore** on making the Music Center and Mansion accessible and user-friendly for people with disabilities
- Assessing ADA compliance in 200+ **polling places** in partnership with the Montgomery County Board of Elections
- **Assistive Listening Systems** in County buildings
- **Community Support Services** for people with developmental disabilities reinstated to provide 500 persons with Coordination of Community Services
- Montgomery County Government on **compliance with the ADA**
- **US Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement** including Montgomery Parks
- **Waivers from the Maryland Accessibility Code** per State law as recognized local disability advisory group
- Advising County on **pedestrian safety issues** and safety concerns about floating bus stops and bike lanes.

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

The Commission on People with Disabilities was instrumental in advocating for 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.

Karen Hochberg, OHR, has reported that since the hiring preferences and non-competitive hiring process were implemented approximately:

	Person with a Disability (PWD) Hiring Preference	Veteran (Vet) Hiring Preference	Veteran w/ Disability (VWD) Hiring Preference	Non-Competitive Hire	Non-Specified Hire
<b>FY2012</b>	5	18	0	0	0
<b>FY2013</b>	5	31	1	0	0
<b>FY2014</b>	6	51	3	10	0
<b>FY2015</b>	5	40	3	7	1
<b>FY2016</b>	5	17	0	2	1
<b>FY2017</b>	8	26	5	5	1
<b>FY2018</b>	2	4	0	4	0
<b>FY2019</b>	0	4	0	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>

**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)

## Montgomery County Government AP 1-10 Contracts that Provide Skills Training and Employ People with Disabilities

In FY18, there were 6 active contracts to disabled-owned businesses. There were 8 active AP 1-10 contracts. All AP1-10 contracts were with non-profits that provide skills training and employ people with disabilities. They do work for the following County departments:

- **Department of Transportation**  
CHI Centers – custodial services for Silver spring office and meter shop \$90,000  
CSAAC – timetable distribution \$415,000
- **Department of General Services**  
The Arc – \$360,000, \$55,000, \$35,000  
Sunflower Bakery – \$150,000
- **Department of Housing and Community Affairs**  
Sunflower Bakery - \$23,400

# COUNCIL WORK GROUP ON NEEDS OF RESIDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Recommendation #1**

**The Montgomery County Executive and Council must partner with the General Assembly Delegation to receive regular progress reports on the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Transformation Plan. The progress reports should focus on real impacts to individuals, families and providers. Is the Transformation Plan resulting in increases or decreases to the time individuals remain on waiting lists? Is it changing the quality of services provided?**

In 2015, DDA announced that it was beginning a "transformation." This transformation is based on the following:

**Vision:** People with developmental disabilities will have full lives in the communities of their choice where they are included, participate, and are active members.

**Call to Action:** Create a flexible, person centered, family-oriented system of supports so people can have full lives.

There is no disagreement that these are appropriate and worthy goals. However, the implementation of this transformation has been confusing to individuals, families, and providers. County providers have submitted comments and concerns as new regulations and procedures have been proposed, but they do not believe that their concerns have been listened to or addressed. Each time there is a delay it is unclear whether providers will be able to accept new clients or how they will be able to continue to serve current clients. Families are unclear about how services will be provided to their loved ones, an issue critical for creating and implementing plans for young people transitioning from school to adult services.

## **Recommendation #2**

**The County Executive and Council must carefully monitor the ongoing rate setting study and advocate strongly for rates that reflect the cost of doing business in Montgomery County. Services must be funded in a manner that allows providers to afford to continue to provide services.**

Providers can only stay in business and individuals can only be served if reimbursement rates are appropriate both in the dollar value and allowable services.

Providers have already voiced concerns about the impact on individuals if only face-to-face encounters are billable. Many individuals just need assistance by phone for things like problem solving with an employer or about transportation. If the new system only allows face-to-face services to be reimbursed these individuals may suffer negative outcomes, such as loss of a job, when a phone call could have prevented it.

Person-centered planning and the Community Settings Rule, both of which are focused on letting individuals with disabilities have choice and opportunity, will also impact the cost of business. For example, the Department of Legislative Services' report on the FY 2018 budget for DDA highlights that the Community Settings Rule will mean the average staff to client ratio will have to decrease for community-based services as clients have more autonomy to plan their own day. "For example, if a client wants to go out for the day by themselves, rather than as part of a group, the staff-to-client ratio would be 1:1. Currently, for many day service programs the staff-to-client ratio is 1:8. This increases the cost for day services." There will also be limits on the number of individuals with disabilities that may live together. Although Montgomery County has been a leader in supporting lower ratios for services and housing, it is expected that the new requirements will increase the cost of providing housing. It is unclear that there will be any additional reimbursement to the housing provider.

In 2015, DDA began a rate setting study. The rate setting study was expected to be completed but only Phase 1 has been released. It is now expected to be a three-phase process that will be completed in the start of FY2020. The most recent update from DDA says that when the contractor has completed its work, it will develop a system-wide impact, pilot new rates to ensure accuracy, and obtain additional feedback before final implementation.

The ongoing uncertainty of the rate study has been very disruptive. The County must work with the General Assembly Delegation to ensure appropriate rates are approved.

# COUNCIL WORK GROUP ON NEEDS OF RESIDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Recommendation #3**

**The focus on opportunity for employment is critical, but the County must advocate with DDA to ensure that new rules truly incentivize employment.**

Maryland is an “Employment First” state. Employment is key to self-sufficiency, self-esteem, and full participation in the community. People with Autism/IDD should have employment choice, be paid a fair wage (not sub-minimum wage) and have the same opportunities for advancement as people without a disability. DDA says it is designing services to facilitate opportunities for full community integration. The Work Group strongly endorses these goals and in the white-paper on Employment the Work Group calls for partnerships with the Chambers of Commerce, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, and WorkSource Montgomery to promote and highlight private business employment of people with disabilities.

However, the Work Group is concerned that some of the proposed specific rules about “meaningful employment” may unintentionally reduce choice, limit some opportunities for volunteer work, and reduce the capacity to place people in jobs. Providers may not be reimbursed for employment support that can be completed by phone or e-mail, a method that is currently used to problem solve. The County should create a vision for meaningful employment and advocate with DDA for implementation.

## **Recommendation #4**

**DDA should use its full budget allocation to support more people instead of ending the year with surpluses.**

For FY19, DDA has an approved budget allowance of \$1.2 billion from all funding sources. In FY18, DDA ended the year with a \$27.6 million surplus in General Funds. In FY17, DDA ended with a surplus of \$35.7 million. In FY16, there was a surplus of \$16.8 million.

Some of the reasons behind these surpluses include underestimating the amount of Federal matching funds and longer than expected time for placing individuals in services. Whatever the reason, DDA should not be returning millions in General Funds when \$1 million could provide \$25,000 per year to 40 individuals. This is the capped amount in the Community Support Waiver.

## **Recommendation #5**

**The County must continue to invest local funds to support providers, increase inclusion in County programs, and provide needed services to County residents with developmental disabilities who are either on a waitlist or not eligible for DDA services.**

State funding is not enough to pay for the programs and services that are needed for residents with developmental disabilities.

Most critically, the County’s support to DD Providers to help them meet annual operating costs, including the County’s minimum wage, must continue. For FY19, the County is providing \$17.5 million to support over 30 organizations. This funding helps providers attract and retain a quality workforce to care for vulnerable adults by recognizing that this direct work is much more than a minimum wage job and that stability is critical for the person being served. For FY19, organizations receiving this support will pay direct service workers, on average, a wage that is at least 125% of the County minimum wage.

The County’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) must continue to be a provider of Coordination of Community Services. Since the transition in 2014, some of the initial difficulties with transitioning people to private providers have stabilized but it is critical that DHHS continue to be a partner in all aspects of the system that serves persons with developmental disabilities, many of whom have or will access other DHHS services.

County funded respite is an important service to families who do not receive State-funded in-home supports. Funding should be adjusted annually to ensure that the number of hours are not reduced as wages are required to rise. Rules for use of limited respite should be reviewed to see if it can be more family focused by allowing siblings with and without disabilities to be cared for.

## COUNCIL WORK GROUP ON NEEDS OF RESIDENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFERENCES SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Recommendation #6**

**Don't forget about those who are not eligible for DDA services.**

While all children with developmental disabilities are entitled to support services while they are in school, once the individual reaches age 22 or graduates from the school system, the severity of the disability may not meet the criteria to be eligible for any services through DDA. However, while many of these individuals may be able to find employment, it will likely not pay enough to cover living expenses and the individual may need supports in scheduling, transportation, and other activities and responsibilities.

These individuals are not on any of the waiting lists but they, and their families and support systems, must not be forgotten and local supports should be available to allow them to also lead full lives.

### **Recommendation #7**

**Residents with developmental disabilities face the same issues as the general population. They are aging, they are more culturally and language diverse, and face barriers to employment if they are ex-offenders.**

The County must look at the need to increase provider capacity to serve people speaking many languages and with many cultural backgrounds. Clear and easy to understand information in different languages is critical. RespectAbility recently released a toolkit specifically for Latinx students, their parents and caregivers on the services that are available to help them succeed in school and the workplace.

While for many years there has been a concern that caregivers are getting older, the reality is that the "children" are aging too. Many more people with Autism and other developmental disabilities are reaching middle age or becoming seniors. Services must be tailored to meet the health, housing, and other needs of this aging population, just as the County is working to meet the needs of the general population.

As is the case for the general population, ex-offenders face special barriers to employment and housing. As is also the case for the general ex-offender population, many also have mental health challenges or a diagnosis of mental illness.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S WAITING LIST FOR DDA SERVICES

Data from Judith Pattik, Regional Director, DDA - As of September 26, 2019 – fluctuates day by day

### Montgomery County:

- 762 total on State DDA waiting list – these persons currently receive no services
  - ⇒ 12 in crisis resolution (need services within 3 months)
  - ⇒ 18 in crisis prevention (need services within a year)
  - ⇒ 732 current request

### Maryland:

- 4,338 on State DDA waiting list - these persons currently receive no services
  - ⇒ 70 in crisis resolution (need services within 3 months)
  - ⇒ 176 in crisis prevention (need services within a year)
  - ⇒ 4,092 current request

## AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY AND CURRENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

*Per Daniel Hammond, Coordinator, The Medicaid Home & Community-Based Autism Waiver Program, Montgomery County Public Schools*

### Autism Waiver Registry - As of September 30, 2019

Statewide number of students on the Registry: About 5,400

Registry for Montgomery County: 1,360 (This does not include enrolled students)

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 32 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 May of 2011 so there was an 8-year wait. The Montgomery County Autism Waiver Program currently has 296 participants and statewide there are 1,200 students in the program. The Registry and the Wait List are not the same. No diagnosis is made prior to being put on the waiting list.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CSN) ROLE WITH WAITING LISTS

For children on the Autism Waiver waiting list - outside of the school day - there are some after-care programs in the community. The My Turn Program is an option for most children (ages 3 to 13) that have been diagnosed with a developmental disability and who are not connected to another case management service. The My Turn Program provides information and referral on community-based services to help families seeking support. There is limited financial funding available for camp, program and supplies. Case management services are not provided under this program.

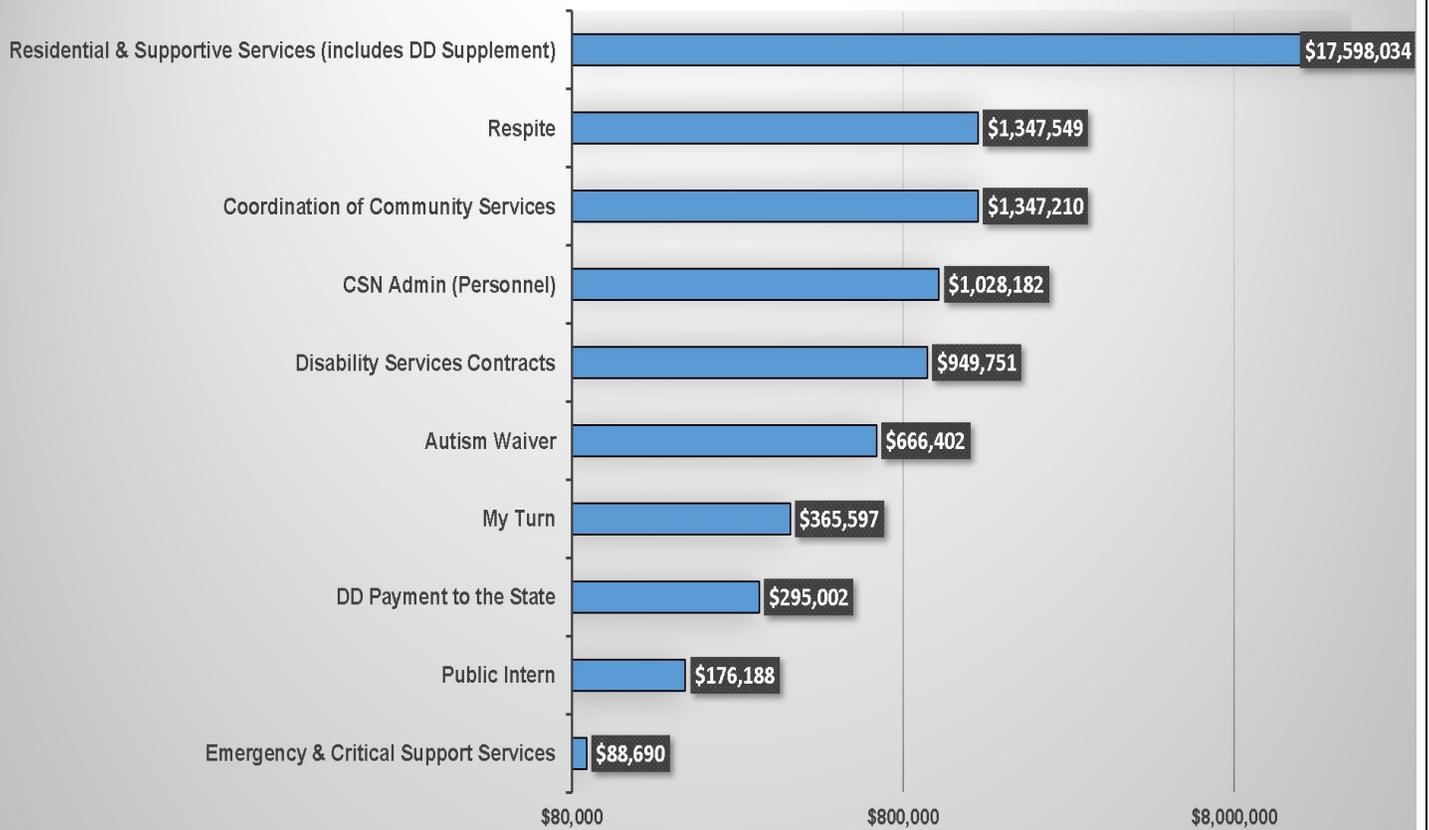
The Autism Waiver has a waiting list (currently about 7 to 8 years) called Autism Registry. The Autism Registry only requires families to put their child's name on the list however verification of eligibility is only done once the person is exiting the waiting list or their name is at the top.

One reason why the Autism Waiver Waiting list numbers are high is because there isn't an assessment done before children are placed on the list and some are ineligible or have moved out of the County. The Montgomery County Autism Waiver program currently has 287 clients and 10 pending clients.

Coordination of Community Services (CCS) provides case management to individuals on the DDA waiting list who are DD eligible. Those who have an eligibility category of Supports Only are not eligible for the waiting list.

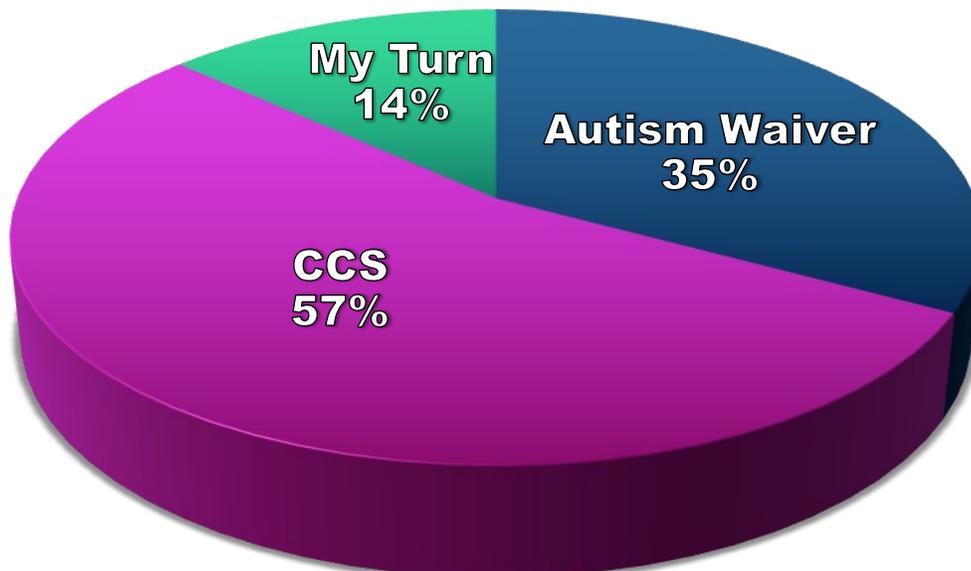
# COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CSN) FY20 BUDGET BY PROGRAM

Total CSN Budget: \$23,862,605



## CSN BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM

Total CSN Clients: 887  
 Coordination of Community Services (CCS): 478 clients  
 Autism Waiver: 292 clients  
 My Turn: 117 clients



Data as of August 2019

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES: HOW MARYLAND RATES

**Maryland ranks 11th** in terms of outcomes for people with Intellectual Disability/Developmental Disability (IDD). Nationally, waiting lists for residential and community services are high and show the unmet need. Nearly 424,000 people, up almost 75,000 people since 2016, are on a waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). This requires a daunting 55 percent increase in states' HCBS programs. Maryland has a waiting list that would require the program to **grow by 46%** on average to accommodate the need. Fourteen states, down from 18 in 2016, report no waiting list or a small waiting list (requiring less than 10 percent program growth).

Since 2007, **Maryland moved up 22 places** and dramatically increased the portion of people served in home-like settings (from 74 percent to 90 percent), closed two state institutions, started participating and reporting outcomes for the NCI, and added a Medicaid Buy-In program.

Only seven states, down from 10 in 2016, report having at least 33 percent of individuals with I/DD working in competitive employment. These states include Connecticut, **Maryland**, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Vermont, and Washington.

Maryland has three large state facilities housing 122 individuals at a cost of \$297,957 per person per year.

States that spend lower amounts on HCBS services, such as California, Oregon and South Dakota, find themselves atop the rankings alongside states that spend more, such as **Maryland**, Missouri and Vermont. This suggests that how resources are spent is as important or more important than how much is spent.

Source: [United Cerebral Palsy \(UCP\) Report "The Case for Inclusion 2019"](#)



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

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2018, estimates that there are approximately **89,372 persons living in Montgomery County, MD with a disability**. According to a 2018 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.6% of Americans self-reported as having a disability. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions.

**Please note:** Some individuals may have identified as having multiple disabilities and age population totals will not equal disability type totals.

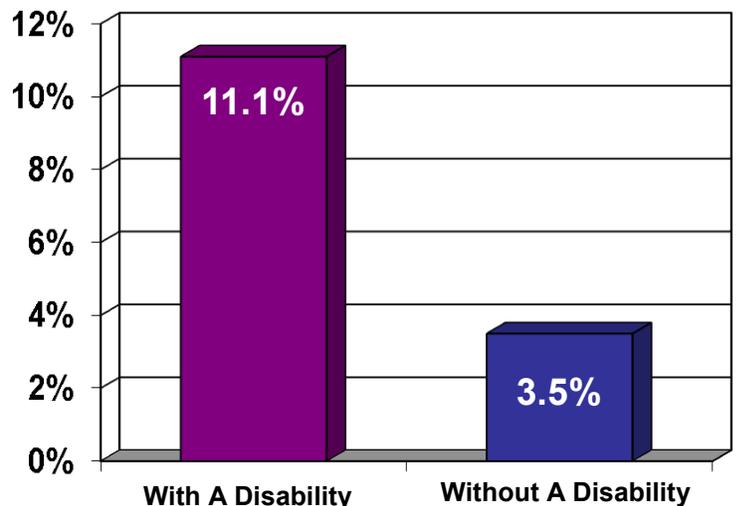
## 2018 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County, MD

Total Population With A Disability: 89,372

Subject With A Disability	Total	Subject with a Disability	Total
<b>Population under 5 years</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>Population 65 to 74 Years</b>	<b>13,123</b>
With a hearing difficulty	180	With a hearing difficulty	4,583
With a vision difficulty	0	With a vision difficulty	1,988
<b>Population 5 to 17 years</b>	<b>5,668</b>	With a cognitive difficulty	2,774
With a hearing difficulty	310	With an ambulatory difficulty	6,781
With a vision difficulty	817	With a self-care difficulty	1,446
With a cognitive difficulty	3,899	With an independent living difficulty	3,869
With an ambulatory difficulty	751	<b>Population 75 and older</b>	<b>30,330</b>
With a self-care difficulty	1,010	With a hearing difficulty	12,590
<b>Population 18 to 34 Years</b>	<b>11,688</b>	With a vision difficulty	5,311
With a hearing difficulty	1,088	With a cognitive difficulty	9,613
With a vision difficulty	2,027	With an ambulatory difficulty	18,916
With a cognitive difficulty	7,439	With a self-care difficulty	10,079
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,303	With an independent living difficulty	17,297
With a self-care difficulty	1,056		
With an independent living difficulty	4,735		
<b>Population 35 to 64 years</b>	<b>28,383</b>		
With a hearing difficulty	7,068		
With a vision difficulty	5,800		
With a cognitive difficulty	11,876		
With an ambulatory difficulty	12,512		
With a self-care difficulty	3,654		
With an independent living difficulty	8,509		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018

### Unemployment Data - Montgomery County, MD 18 Years to 64 Years - Labor Force Participation Non-Institutionalized Civilian Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018

0 - 17 year olds with a disability = 5,848  
 18 - 64 year olds with a disability = 40,071  
 65 and older with a disability = 43,453

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

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

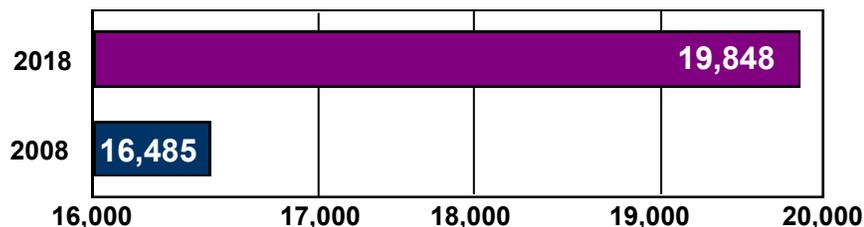
As of October, 2018, there were **19,848** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **12.2%** of the County's total school enrollment of 162,680 students.

Disability Type	# of Students 2018	# of Students 2017	% Between 2017 and 2018
Autism	2,728	2,525	+ 7.7%
Deaf	80	72	+ 10.5%
Deaf-Blind	3	3	0%
Developmental Delay	3,563	3,442	+ 3.5%
Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP)	106	133	- 22.6%
Emotional Disability	778	752	+ 3.4%
Hearing Impairment	148	164	- 10.3%
Intellectual Disability	634	643	- 1.4%
Multiple Disabilities	451	409	+ 9.8%
Orthopedic Impairment	17	21	- 21.1%
Other Health Impairment	3,247	3,202	+ 1.4%
Specific Learning Disability	6,129	5,924	+ 3.4%
Speech and Language Impairment	1,897	1,959	- 3.2%
Traumatic Brain Injury	16	19	- 17.1%
Visual Impairment	51	52	- 1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,848</b>	<b>19,320</b>	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2018

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

Special Education enrollment has **increased by 3,363 students or 20.4%** over the last ten 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 10/2018

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

SWD = Students with Disabilities / GE = General Education (includes students with disabilities)

	Grand Total	Asian		Black or African American		White		Hispanic		Two or More Races	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
<b>SWD</b>	19,742	1,533	7.8%	5,150	26.1%	5,216	26.4%	6,983	35.3%	829	4.2%
<b>GE</b>	162,680	23,325	14.3%	35,078	21.6%	45,026	27.7%	50,908	31.3%	7,931	4.9%

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2018

# FY20 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY



**Commission on People with Disabilities  
Testimony before the County Council  
FY20 Operating Budget  
April 8, 2019  
Seth Morgan, MD, Chair**

## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety as it Relates to People with Disabilities**

Common sense road improvements is not a term that applies to the County's current bicycle master plan. Many of the Commissioners have become quite concerned about the increase in bicycle lanes, floating bus stops, parking along a bike lane, two stage turn queue and bike boxes and concerned about the safety of pedestrians who have a disability. It is observed that many bicyclists do not obey traffic rules such as stopping at stop signs. People who are blind cannot see them and people who are deaf cannot hear them coming from behind.

Of particular note, Mr. Charles Crawford who is blind and past Vice Chair of our Commission, remarked even as we have made good progress in securing a safer and accessible pedestrian environment in our county, recent efforts to accommodate bicyclists in the same space as used by vehicles and pedestrians, have struck fear into the hearts of persons with disabilities. This fear results from the changes to our infrastructure as evidenced by floating bus stops, having to cross bicycle lanes to get to a bus stop, having to cope with roundabouts with little to no traffic control favoring the pedestrians, with the coming appearance of e-bikes, e-scooters, self-driving vehicles and to increasingly complex intersection crossings designed with little regard for the ability of pedestrians who have a disability to manage the crossings. It is the considered opinion of Mr. Crawford that all planning and work done to facilitate traffic, pedestrian, and other transportation modes, must be done with the information available from experts in disability mobility methodologies, so as to assure all persons that they matter and the County will not disregard their needs.

We recommend that if you are going to build bike lanes to make them separate shared use paths and not mix them with pedestrians and cars. We ask that you halt the current installation and take better consideration of the needs of people who are blind, have mobility limitation or use wheelchairs, or are deaf. We would urge a careful examination of some of the previous design failures of protected bike lanes (the City of London had a lawsuit around their floating bus lanes, and Boulder, Boise, and Memphis a few years ago all scaled back their protected bike lanes.)

With the increased housing development, our mostly older roads can barely handle the dense traffic we have now with some lanes marked giving permission to the bicyclist to take the whole lane? Plans are to paint some of the intersections green and white. Service animals cannot tell color. Does the County make a funding priority of bicycle lanes/trails when we do not have sidewalks in all of our neighborhoods where there are elementary schools and children walk in the roads amongst parked vehicles? There is also the issue of modifying the roads where few bikers use the road and the County has taken out parking spaces. One Commissioner who works at Nebel and Nicholson Lanes reports that parking spots were taken out and bike lanes were put in and narrowed the streets. She reports that she has never seen a bicyclist there She reports that in inclement weather it does not feel safe to drive on these roads One has to ask how safe is cycling or being a pedestrian in Montgomery County?

*In the book City on the Line written by Andrew Kleine, CAO he writes of a staff person not in support of a bike master plan for Baltimore. On page 135 he writes about an employee who was on a Results Team who was ever mindful of what she calls "the two Baltimores" divided between black and white, rich and poor.*

## FY20 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY CONT.

*In one instance she advocated for a Planning Department proposal to engage underserved neighborhoods that are often overlooked by urban designers. In another, she found herself outnumbered as she argued against funding for a bike master plan. Invoking “spatial injustice she raised concerns that **bike lanes would serve only an elite sliver of Baltimoreans while promoting gentrification and taking up limited roadway space making long commutes even longer for those who do not have the luxury of living and working near downtown.** “Most of my teammates had sold their cars,” she says. “They weren’t in touch with how the other half lives.”*

**Transportation Services Improvement Fund:** We request that the Council better monitor the Transportation Services Improvement Fund. Ineffective regulations for the multi-million dollar fund resulted in a tragic lost opportunity to improve significantly the availability and reliability of accessible transportation options in the County. Department of Transportation staff met with the Commission in September to discuss revised regulations, but we have not heard anything since.

**Initiative to Improve Early Screening, Diagnosis, and Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays.** The Commission supports the new push on early childhood education and we want to ensure that our youngest children with delays are fully included and funded. The Infants and Toddlers program reports that pediatricians do not always do screenings and some do not even know about the program or make poor referrals. The Commission recommends including \$159,000 in this year’s budget (and \$1.2 to \$1.5 million over 5 years) to fund an initiative developed by a coalition of area stakeholders that includes commissioners - the Montgomery County Coalition to Improve Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Disabilities - to significantly improve efforts to identify and provide appropriate evidence based interventions to children under three years of age who do become diagnosed as having a developmental disability. Because of the brain plasticity of the young child’s mind, evidence-based interventions dramatically improve outcomes for children with serious developmental disabilities when administered early in the child’s development. Nonetheless, most children with serious developmental disabilities in the County either do not receive appropriate intervention or receive it when they are too old to benefit fully from it. Funding this initiative will ensure that County children under three with developmental disabilities obtain the interventions they desperately need. The initiative’s multi-prong approach includes the promotion of an electronic screening and data management tool among area pediatricians and county clinics, expansion of efforts at the Montgomery County’s Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) to quickly diagnose infants and toddlers screened positive for developmental conditions such as autism, and the adoption of electronic tools and new strategies to expedite referrals to MCITP and to evidence based interventions after the identification of a developmental disability. We note that for a number of years, Prince George’s County has engaged in outreach with area pediatricians to promote screenings for developmental disabilities, and we believe our County should be doing the same.

### **Caregiver Support – Respite Care**

The Commission is requesting \$69,450 to increase the Level I Respite Care rate from \$20.00 to \$22.00. The County's Respite Program is administered via a contract with The Arc Montgomery County. The Level II (skilled nursing) rate increased on July 1, 2016 from \$25.00 to \$34.00 rate, and the department has approved 2 rate increases for Level I services (for agencies only) in the past two fiscal years (from \$14.50 to \$17.50 and then from \$17.50 to \$20.00) without additional ongoing funding for the four targeted populations mentioned in the contract. This includes –

- ⇒ Children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities,
  - ⇒ Children with challenging behaviors, or
  - ⇒ Children or adults with functional disabilities (Diabetes, cancer, MS, Lupus, and
  - ⇒ Adults who are 60 and older.
- Eligibility is limited to families not receiving DDA or other state funded services that provide in home supports.
  - Families can choose from many respite care venues, including the family home, community and recreational programs, camps, and approved respite facilities.

# LETTER TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH RE: BIKE LANES AND FLOATING BUS STOPS



## COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive

*Via Electronic Facsimile*

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities, I am writing to raise serious concerns regarding the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's new designs for bike lanes and floating bus stops throughout the County. The current plans pose a significant safety threat to pedestrians with disabilities generally and are of especially serious concern for pedestrians who are blind and/or those with mobility challenges. Prior to funding this project over a year ago, the Commission reached out to the County Executive and Council to express our concerns. The County Department of Transportation (DOT) did not present or invite the Commission to view the plans or comment prior to the funding being approved by the County. Despite having several meetings with DOT, presenting our concerns at a County Council meeting, and finally meeting with then County Council President Riemer to express our concern we feel that our concerns have received no concrete response or evidence that we have been heard. We cannot understand how the County who can proceed with a plan that poses such a significant safety threat for pedestrians. The following is a list of the specific concerns we have raised over the past year:

- 1) The design of the "floating bus stop" is of our greatest concern. Pedestrians are required to cross the bike lane to access these bus stops. As Charlie Crawford, former Commissioner, President of the Capital Area Guide Dog Users Inc. and a pedestrian who is blind recently commented, the risks to low vision individuals posed by these bus stops is likely to have a chilling effect on the willingness for the blind to attempt use of public transportation. Isolation of people with disabilities which has lessened since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is likely to worsen anew. DOT's suggestions to warn cyclists to slow down and yield to pedestrians requires the pedestrian to trust the cyclist to stop and is insufficient.
- 2) Cyclist riding on a side street without a traffic light will likely go through an intersection without stopping. This issue poses a risk for pedestrians who are crossing the street who may not see the cyclist because the parked cars block their view and the cyclist cannot see over the parked vehicles to see the pedestrians. Significant safety concerns exist for pedestrians who are blind or low vision crossing that street; the cyclist cannot see the pedestrian due to the cars blocking their view of the pedestrian and the pedestrian may be is unaware of the bike lane.
- 3) The plans we have seen did not show designated parking for persons with disabilities and in the test area on Nebel Street in Rockville, no parking spaces for person with disabilities exist or are planned for.
- 4) The bike lane's design significantly narrows the roadway leaving little to no space for a person to exit a vehicle without stepping into oncoming traffic. Typically, on-street parking has a little bit of extra width to allow for exiting and entering a vehicle. Persons in wheelchairs do exit the vehicle on both sides of the vehicle and those exiting on the driver's side are at significant risk while exiting into traffic compounded by additional concerns for the safety of service dogs or children who must exit from the driver's side. This is an unacceptable hazard.

# LETTER TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH RE: BIKE LANES AND FLOATING BUS STOPS CONT.

- 5) In some areas, the bike lanes share the sidewalk and pose additional concerns:
  - a. The sidewalk may now be too narrow for safe passage for person using a wheelchair or a person using an assistance dog.
  - b. The design has green lines designating the bike lane. However, if you have low vision or are blind and use a cane the lines do not provide a warning surface to those individuals who may end up in a bike lane.
  - c. A person using a guide dog, trust the dog to lead them across an intersection by following the crosswalk lines. Dogs cannot distinguish between lines that are green or white and may lead their partner into the bike lane.
- 6) Adding bike traffic to a pedestrian heavy area around the Metro stations poses additional dangers to individuals who use wheelchairs, people with limited or no vision, and people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Bike traffic is unpredictable, difficult to police, and cyclists take longer to stop making it difficult and extremely dangerous for persons who cannot move quickly, see, or hear the cyclist.
- 7) The United States Access Board has a series of videos entitled, "Accessible Sidewalks – Video Series (<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way/guidance-and-research/accessible-sidewalks-video-series>)" the video show common problems on sidewalks that affect persons with disabilities.
- 8) The plans presented by the DOT and in the Nebel Street test area have created barriers to prevent vehicles from parking against the new bike lane against the curb. This design blocks access to buildings, the Metro, and apartment buildings. Metro Access must be able to drop off passengers by placing the lift or ramp on a curb, not the street. The current bike lane design also prevents private vehicles to drop off a person with a disability to work, doctor appointment, home, etc.
- 9) Barriers to block vehicles from parking in the bike lanes could cause barriers for persons with disabilities to reach the sidewalk or not have enough space to exit their vehicle using a lift or ramp that requires 8 feet to exit.

Our research has found the Canada Federation for the Blind filed a lawsuit in Victoria, Canada and a similar opposition is taking place in London, England and support from pedestrians who are blind in the Netherlands. As well as concerns from cyclists who are facing a different set of dangers when cars are making right hand turns. Further research showed that many communities are not moving forward with bikeways until designs have been fully tested.

Although we support efforts to reduce traffic and focus on providing safe areas for people to commute, we are deeply concerned about how these designs create unsafe conditions for pedestrians with disabilities and all pedestrians. We want to work together with DOT to resolve these issues, but after almost a year of conversations we do not feel we have made any progress in working towards a solution. We have been asked to identify the issues despite putting our concerns in writing several times. We are copying DOT with this letter to serve as our documented list of concerns.

Montgomery County has been a leader in providing an inclusive community and services to support persons with disabilities. Moving forward with designs that do not account for the safety issues of people with disabilities and seniors is not consistent with past actions and our Commission would like to work with the County to develop plans that are inclusive of the entire population and not one exclusive group. According to the July 1, 2018 U.S. Census there are 4.9% residents under age 65 who have a disability or 52,575 persons, and 15.5% or 163,147 County residents over age 65.

Respectfully, the Commission on People with Disabilities request the County to develop bikeways with the assistance of the Commission and without creating barriers or significant safety concerns for a population that rely on public transportation to get to work and live their lives. The Commission would welcome further discussion with you or the County Council on this matter.

Sincerely,



Seth Morgan, Chair  
Commission on People with Disabilities



Patricia A. Gallalee, Vice Chair  
Commission on People with Disabilities

cc: Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
Nancy Navarro, President, Montgomery County Council

# POLICY PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

**Montgomery County Council HHS Breakfast Meeting  
Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities  
October 10, 2019  
Seth Morgan, Chair**

- 1. Pedestrian Safety** - The Commission has serious concerns regarding the County Department of Transportation's new designs for bike lanes and floating bus stops throughout the County. The current plans pose a significant safety threat to pedestrians with disabilities, generally and are of especially serious concern for pedestrians who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing and/or who have mobility disabilities. The design of the "floating bus stop" is of our greatest concern. Pedestrians are required to cross the bike lane to access these bus stops. As Charlie Crawford, former Commissioner, President of the Capital Area Guide Dog Users Inc. and a pedestrian who is blind recently commented, the risks to low vision individuals posed by these bus stops is likely to have a chilling effect on the willingness for the blind to attempt use of public transportation. Isolation of people with disabilities which has lessened since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is likely to worsen anew. DOT's suggestions to warn cyclists to stop and yield to pedestrians requires the pedestrian to trust the cyclist to stop. This is insufficient. We ask for a moratorium on bike lanes and floating bus stops and let them evaluate what has happened in Silver Spring prior to establishing them elsewhere. We are also seeing the dockless scooters laying all over the sidewalks. These pose a danger to people with vision, hearing and mobility disabilities. The County should ban them for safety reasons.
- 2. Accessible Ride Availability On Demand** - The County imposed a 25 cent tax on Uber and Lyft rides to be used to help fund accessible rides for those who need them. The fund brings in \$2 to \$2.5 M per year. We ask that you assist us to ensure the money is spent for accessible rides, on demand.
- 3. Developmental Disabilities Administration Transformation Plan Monitoring** - We request that this committee continue to monitor the transformation the Developmental Disabilities Administration is undertaking and the impact on the County. We also recommend that the County continue to work with the State on the Medicaid match.
- 4. Employment of People with Intellectual, Physical, Behavioral and Sensory Disabilities of All Ages** The County should do more to promote employment for people with disabilities of all ages in the private sector. This should be done in partnership with the Chambers of Commerce, the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, and WorkSource Montgomery. There are waiting lists for employment services with little or no movement. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) waiting list is 413 County residents We need to work with General Assembly to seek more funding for DORS and look as a last resort to use County dollars for those who will never get off of the DORS waiting list. We recommend that any County dollars spent on employment of people with disabilities have accountability and outcomes attached to them. We need to measure what programs are most effective and fund those effective programs.
- 5. Initiative to Improve Early Screening, Diagnosis, and Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays** - The Commission supports the new initiative on early infancy detection of developmental delays as early treatment has proven to lessen long term disabilities of such delays. We want to ensure that our youngest children with delays are identified and receive treatment as early as possible. Funding for this program is expected to mitigate the longer-term needs of children who otherwise are not diagnosed in a timely fashion. The Infants and Toddlers program reports that pediatricians do not always do early enough screenings, and some do not even know about the program or make poor referrals. The Commission recommends including \$159,000 in this year's budget (and \$1.2 to \$1.5 million over 5 years) to fund this initiative. Developed by a coalition of area stakeholders that includes commissioners—the Montgomery County Coalition to Improve Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays—to significantly improve efforts to identify and provide appropriate evidence-based interventions to children under three years of age who do become diagnosed as having a developmental delay.

# MONTGOMERY COLLEGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

240-567-5188 (V) • E-mail: [wdce@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:wdce@montgomerycollege.edu)  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education)

## **The Graduate Transition Program, (GTP)**

The [Graduate Transition Program](#) at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is a custom-tailored learning community program that offers students a unique post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. The objective of the program is to enable students, while in a supportive college environment, to transition to greater independent living through developmentally appropriate educational, vocational, and life-skill services. This two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program focuses on basic academic skills, and enhances students' potential success as productive citizens in the community.

The College schedule consists of two 14-week semesters, for two years. Students receive academic instruction 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday. Small class sizes, experienced faculty and staff, and individual classroom assistants encourage an interactive and dynamic learning environment designed specifically for students with special needs. Classes offered include Reading and Writing, Science, Health, Anatomy, World History and Current Events, Communications and Public Speaking, Art, Computers, and more. During the student's two-year period, Montgomery College works with the DDA providers to offer volunteer position, internships, and paid employment. This program is offered on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College.

## **Connecting Reading and Writing Program**

This program connects [Reading and Writing Skills](#) students need to prepare for college level course work. The program is designed to enhance reading comprehension, writing skills, and build vocabulary. Students learn and practice reading and writing skills by enrolling in both courses.

During 25 sessions, students receive instruction in reading comprehension and vocabulary building. Students learn to identify the main idea, follow a sequence of events, and recognize supporting details. Students improve their writing and speaking skills when they learn to summarize and outline reading materials, take better notes, and build your vocabulary. The program offers students the tools necessary to develop better writing skills. Reading and writing skills are combined in this class in a comprehensive, systematic process. Students learn to write descriptive and narrative paragraphs, use punctuation correctly, and compose demonstration speeches. The program helps prepare students for the college's assessment test, Accuplacer.

This program is offered on the Rockville and Takoma Park campuses of Montgomery College.

## **[Driver's Education with Additional Support](#)**

This course provides the exact same MVA curriculum as SFT-043 Driver Education, but with built-in supports. Montgomery College's Driving School and its instructors are Maryland MVA licensed and certified. Their additional support instructors are dually certified in Special Education. This course, in a small classroom environment, prepares rookie drivers to test for a Maryland driver's license. Additional Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Differentiated instruction, supplemental aides and supports including a multi-sensory approach to learning.
- Behind the wheel is one-on-one instruction with a dually certified MVA and MSDE Special Education Educator
- Smaller class size
- Quizzes and tests are read aloud
- Extra time is granted to students for quizzes and tests
- Manipulatives (by cars) are used to better explain situations
- A copy of all PowerPoints and instructor notes are provided to the student.

If you have a Disability Support Request you need to call Natalie Martinez, Disability Support Services Counselor at 240-567-4118 (V) or e-mail [Natalie.Martinez@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Natalie.Martinez@montgomerycollege.edu) at least four weeks prior to the start of the class to arrange for accommodations and/or assistive technology.

# DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Make your home accessible with a Montgomery County Tax Credit



## DESIGN FOR LIFE

Every home accessible for everyone.



[designforlifemc.org](http://designforlifemc.org)



The Design for Life (DFL) Property Tax Incentive Program provides 3 tiers of property tax incentives to make homes more universally accessible. The target audience is all homeowners and buyers, not a specific audience or segment of our community.

1. **Accessible Feature tax incentives** are for certain features that are permanently installed to improve access to or within an owner's principal residence (not limited to single-family homes).
2. **Level I (VISITable) tax incentives** are available for permanent installations to any new or existing single-family homes, townhomes and duplexes that meet Level I accessibility threshold.
3. **Level II (LIVEable) tax incentives** are available for permanent installations to any new or existing single-family homes, townhomes and duplexes that meet Level II accessibility threshold. For new home construction a school impact tax credit may be available for projects meeting Level I and Level II Accessibility standards.

Whether you are a first time homebuyer, young family, active adult, or person living with a temporary or permanent impairment, these additional design elements will enhance your home — and at the same time, meet your needs and your visitors' needs throughout your life.

The Design for Life **Accessibility Standards for Level I (VISITable) and Level II (LIVEable)** incorporate design elements such as a no-step entrance, which make it easier and safer to accommodate a person living with a temporary or permanent disabilities, accommodate friends or relatives who have mobility disabilities or even bring in a baby stroller or move in large furniture. Ultimately, homes that incorporate these features will help people live in their homes for their lifetime more comfortably, conveniently and cost effectively. In 2018 this program was awarded a National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Award.



## Who Needs An Accessible Home? You Do!

1. Live longer in the home you love.
2. Welcome all guests with diverse mobility.
3. Increase the value of your home.
4. Qualify for property tax credits.
5. Make everyone feel welcome.

# DESIGN FOR LIFE PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM - AT A GLANCE

Accessibility	Property Tax Credit—runs with property	School Impact Tax Credit	Applicability	Program annual limit	Type of residence ownership
<p><b>Feature</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no-step front door entrance or a no-step entrance to another location providing access to the main living space</li> <li>ramp creating a no-step entrance</li> <li>interior doorway w/32-inch clear opening</li> <li>exterior doorway w/32-inch clear opening + exterior lighting controlled from inside the residence or automatic or continuously on;</li> <li>walls around a toilet, tub, or shower reinforced and properly installed grab bars</li> <li>maneuverable bathroom or kitchen</li> <li>an exterior or interior elevator or lift or stair glide unit;</li> <li>accessibility-enhanced bathroom, including a walk-in or roll-in shower or tub</li> <li>alarm, appliance, and control structurally integrated to assist with a sensory disability</li> </ol>	<p>50% of eligible costs</p> <p>Up to \$2500 less other subsidy</p> <p>Amount of credit that exceeds tax imposed carries over</p>	NA	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$100,000	<p>Multi-family condo</p> <p>Attached sf</p> <p>Detached sf</p>
<p><b>Level I (Visible)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permanent addition</li> <li>single family residence</li> <li>at least one no-step entrance</li> <li>connected to an accessible route</li> <li>to a place to visit on the entry level</li> <li>a usable powder room or bathroom, and</li> <li>a 32-inch nominal clear width interior door</li> </ul>	<p>Up to \$3000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit</p> <p>Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over</p>	<p>5% of the single family houses in project- \$500/Level I house</p> <p>10% of the single family houses in project- \$1,000/Level I house</p> <p>25% of the single family houses in project- \$1,500/Level I house</p> <p>30% of the single family houses in project- \$2,000/level I house</p> <p>Applies only where there is no bonus density for DFL units</p>	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$500,000	<p>Attached or detached single family</p>
<p><b>Level II (livable)</b></p> <p>Visible criteria above</p> <p>PLUS</p> <p>Accessible circulation path that connects the accessible entrance to an accessible kitchen, a full bath, and at least one accessible bedroom</p>	<p>Up to \$10,000 less other subsidy including school impact tax credit</p> <p>Maximum credit to be applied in any tax year is \$2000 and excess credit carries over</p>	NA	<p>Expenditures in excess of \$500</p> <p>Incurred within 12 months of application</p>	\$500,000	<p>Attached or detached single family</p>

# DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY



An online directory of providers, agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations.

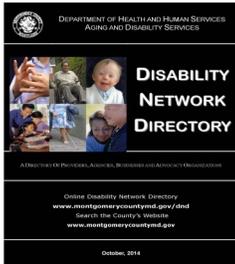
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd)

Find resources and information on the following topics:

- Access & ADA-Related Issues including Curb Cuts & Sidewalks
- Adaptive & Medical Equipment
- Adult Day Centers
- Advocacy
- AIDS/HIV Resources
- Assistive Technology
- Autism Resources
- Blind/Low Vision Resources including Macular Degeneration
- Brain Injury Resources
- Case Management
- Child Care including Arc Programs
- Children & Youth Services
- Clothing
- Commissions on People with Disabilities (Statewide & Regional)
- Computer Support/Training
- Conflict Resolution
- Consumer Protection
- Counseling
- Deaf Resources including Sign Language Interpreting Services & Cart Reporting
- Deaf-Blind Resources
- Dental Services
- Developmental Disabilities
- Disability Specific Resources
- Education Resources - Adults
- Education - Children & Youth including Assessment Services
- Emergency Resources
- Employment including Employment Funding, Business Assistance & Job Lines / Websites
- Estate Planning
- Evacuations & Disaster Resources
- Faith-Based Resources
- Family Supports
- Financial including Financial Assistance, Financial Counseling & Financial Loans / Grants for Accessibility
- Food including HELP, Food Warehouses, Pantries and Soup Kitchens, Home Delivery & Preparation
- Furniture
- Government - Local Depts of Social Services
- Hard of Hearing Resources
- Health & Wellness
- Health Insurance
- Home Care Services - Funding Resources
- Home Care and Home Health Providers
- Hospice Services
- Hospitals
- Housing including Housing Providers, Financial Assistance, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), Legal Issues, Home Modifications & Design Consultation, & Ramp, Lift, Elevator & Automated Door Providers/ Installation
- Independent Living Skills
- Learning Disabilities including Testing & Diagnostic Services
- Legal Services including Disability Law Attorneys, Estate Law Attorneys, & Free, Low Cost & Pro Bono
- Legislation
- Loan Closets
- Long Term Care
- Medicaid Waivers
- Medical Care Services
- Medication Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Parenting Supports
- Parking
- Recreation including Day & Summer Camps
- Respite Care
- Service Animals
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Substance Abuse
- Support Groups including Sibling Support
- Transitioning Youth
- Veterans
- Volunteer Services

# 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 :** A comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. Includes information for people with disabilities and adults 50+. 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 2018 - 2019

- Oct, 2018:** **Strategic Planning for the Upcoming Year and Identification of Policies of Concern for FY 19** – *Discussion led by Seth Morgan and Trish Gallalee*
- 
- Nov, 2018:** **Feedback on the Construction of the 14 Mile Bus Rapid Transit Line** – *Corey Pitts, AICP, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and Shawn Brennan, Transportation Community Outreach Manager, A&D*
- 
- Dec, 2018:** **The Work of the Alzheimer’s Association** – *Karen Fagan, MPH, Physician Outreach Specialist, Alzheimer’s Association of the National Capital Area Chapter*
- ADA and Reasonable Accommodation in Employment** – *Mark Maxin, Assistant General Counsel for Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and former Commission Chair who was instrumental in making legal cases on Hiring Preference legislation which passed in 2009*
- 
- Jan, 2019:** **Briefing and Discussion of the Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences** – *Kim Mayo, Department of Health and Human Services; Claire Funkhouser, Parent Representative; Susan Hartung, Parent Representative and Co-Chair of the DD Advisory Committee of the Commission; Susan Ingram, Community Support Services/InterACC/DD; Karen Morgret, Commissioner and Treatment and Learning Centers Outcome Services; Tim Wiens, InterACC/DD; and Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, County Council*
- 
- Feb, 2019:** **The Maryland General Assembly Overview of Bills** – *Neal Carter, Commissioner Pedestrian Safety Fund Act of 2019, Hospital – Patients Bill of Rights, Living Wage*
- 
- March, 2019:** **Team Building**
- 
- April, 2019:** **Purple Line Silver Spring Transit Center Transit Plans and Coordination** *Mike Madden, Purple Line Deputy Project Director, Maryland Transit Administration, and Carla Julian, Senior Manager Public Affairs/Community Outreach, Purple Line Construction*
- 
- May, 2019:** **Microtransit Pilot Program** – *Will Kenlaw, Program Manager: Marketing, Advertising & Customer Service, Marketing & Customer Innovation Services Section, Division of Transit Services – Ride On, Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
- 
- June, 2019:** **Panel Discussion on the Construction of Bicycle Lanes, Floating Bus Stops, Pedestrian Issues and Impact on Safety and Mobility** – *Patricia Gallalee, Vice-Chair; Day Al-Mohammed, J.D., Commissioner; and Charlie Crawford, President, Capital Area Guide Dog Users, Inc.*
- 
- Sept, 2019:** **Discussion on Montgomery County’s Pedestrian Plan** – *Eli Glazier, AICP, Transportation Planner Coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department, Functional Planning and Policy Division*

# COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST

2018 — 2019  
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## **PUBLIC VOTING MEMBERS**

Seth A. Morgan, M.D., Chairman  
Patricia Gallalee, Vice-Chair  
Deena (Day) Al-Mohamed  
Cindy Buddington  
Neal Carter  
Myra Coffield  
Benjamin DuGoff  
Susan Hartung  
Scott Hunger  
Luis Hurtado  
Hilary Kaplan  
Kathy Mann Koepke  
Jenn Lynn  
Carl Prather  
Teri Roe  
Avner Shapiro

## **ORGANIZATION / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES VOTING MEMBERS**

Larry Bram, *Easter Seals*  
Asha Clark, *The Arc of Montgomery County*  
Richard Kienzle, *College Living Experience*  
Tom Liniak, *Jewish Social Services Agency*  
Karen Morgret, *Treatment and Learning Centers*  
Anne Peyer, *Cornerstone Montgomery*  
Steve Robinson, *Madison House Autism Foundation*  
Marcia Rohrer, *Maryland State Dept. of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services*

## **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

### **PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

Charlie Butler, *Department of Recreation*  
Okianer Christian Dark, *Commission on Human Rights*  
Marybeth Dugan, *M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks*  
Simone Geness, *Montgomery County Public Schools*  
Angelisa Hawes, *Montgomery County Public Libraries*  
Denise Isreal, *Department of Transportation*  
Angela Dizelos, *Acting ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services*  
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*  
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*  
Angela J. Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - STAFF MEMBERS**

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*  
Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*

# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive  
Marc Elrich**

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)

[County.Executive1Q@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:County.Executive1Q@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)  
MD Relay 711 (TTY)  
240-777-7989 (FAX)

[county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov)

*Standing: Hans Riemer, Gabe Alborno, Craig Rice, Andrew Friedson, and Tom Hucker.  
Seated, left to right: Will Jawando, Sidney Katz, Nancy Navarro and Evan Glass.*

**Marc Elrich, County Executive  
Raymond Crowel, Director  
Odile Brunetto, Acting 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.*

2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Administrative Specialist I*