



Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
Annual Planning Meeting Summary Minutes
February 11th, 2015

Welcome and Approval of January, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the January, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the January, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Ex-Officio Department Representatives Briefing on their Role and Working With The Commission

➤ **Nancy Green, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs-ada/home.html

The Department's ADA Compliance Team provides training and technical assistance to County departments, ensures that buildings and facilities are built and maintained in accordance with the ADA, provides information and assistance to the public on the accessibility of County programs and services and administers the County's Title II grievance procedure. The Office of Human Resources has responsibility for ensuring that the County's employment policies, procedures and practices are implemented in compliance with the ADA. The Commission has provided valuable feedback to the County regarding accessibility of County facilities and programs. The Commission has also assisted during accessibility trainings to County employees. Commissioners with concerns about a County facility or program can contact Nancy. The Commission is advisory to the County on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal laws impacting people with disabilities.

➤ **Francie Gilman, Librarian / Disability Resource Center, Montgomery County Public Libraries**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/

See Attachment A. The Commission advised the library system on ways to make library services more accessible to people with disabilities.

➤ **Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

HHS is the largest department in County government with 1,600 employees and they are responsible for public health and human services that help address the needs of our community's most vulnerable children, adults and seniors. They have more than 120 programs and deliver services at more than 20 locations in Montgomery County. Core services protect the community's health, protect the health and safety of at-risk children and vulnerable adults and address basic human needs including food, shelter and clothing. The department provides services through several service areas: Aging and Disability Services; Behavioral Health and Crisis Services; Children, Youth and Family Services; Public Health Services and Special Needs Housing. Our Office of Community Affairs provides direct services through several programs. In addition, the administrative functions include budget administration, fiscal administration, contract management, facilities, grant acquisition, human resources, information systems and performance management. The Commission is instrumental in advising and advocating for HHS programs and services during annual operating budget testimony given before the County Executive and County Council.

➤ **Angela Washington, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Office of Human Resources (OHR)**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr/eeo/eeo.html

The EEO Unit is responsible for investigating complaints of harassment and discrimination from employees and job applicants. Trainings provided by EEO include sexual and other harassment awareness. The Diversity Management Team implements a variety of educational and outreach initiatives to increase awareness and support diversity and equity in the workplace including ADA compliance and partnering with other agencies and departments.

➤ The Commission 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](#). County employment initiatives 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 reported that since the hiring preferences and non-competitive hiring process were implemented approximately 162 new employees have been hired: 12 non-competitive hires, 18 people with disabilities, 6 veterans with disabilities, and 126 veterans.

➤ **Faisal Khan, Medicaid and Senior Transportation, Department of Transportation**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/seniors.html

The Medicaid and Senior Transportation Unit is responsible for the following programs: Call 'N' Ride Program, which provides subsidized taxi trips for low-income persons with disabilities and seniors; and Medicaid transportation, which provides non-emergency medical transportation to Medicaid clients under special circumstances who have no other means of transportation. Call 'N' Ride provides approximately 10,000 trips per month. Medicaid transportation provides approximately 4,500 trips per month. Any issues pertaining to County provided transportation or taxi services, which are regulated by the County, can contact Faisal. The Commission has advised this unit on the applications forms used and transportation for Medicaid services when person is also eligible for Metro Access, though not enrolled.

➤ **Christopher Moy, Director of ADA Compliance, Montgomery College**

Website: www.montgomerycollege.edu

Montgomery College has three campuses in Montgomery County: Rockville, Germantown, and Takoma Park / Silver Spring. Montgomery College ADA Compliance division investigates complaints of discrimination, provides training on accommodations, and ensures the college, including facilities and technology, is compliant with the ADA and Section 504.

Montgomery College's [Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#) counselors assist students on each campus to determine appropriate accommodations and arrange support services.

Montgomery College works closely with Montgomery County Public Schools and transitioning youth. The [Workforce Development & Continuing Education](#) program provides a wide range of noncredit and credit educational offerings and services with special programs available for persons with developmental disabilities. The [Graduate Transition Program](#) offers students with developmental disabilities a post-secondary opportunity to further their formal education. It is a two-year, tuition-based, credit-free certificate program that focuses on basic academic skills and enhances the students potential success as productive citizens in the community. Montgomery College also offers [drivers education special needs classes](#).

The Combat2College provides academic and social opportunities, as well as support to active duty/reserve service members and veterans, including veterans with disabilities.

Christopher noted that he is interested in commissioners working with him on transitioning youth and how the community is accessing Montgomery College.

➤ **Susan Smith, Program Coordinator Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)**

Website: www.hocmc.org

HOC administers a variety of housing programs in its quest to provide subsidized housing to low and moderate income individuals and families. The two largest are Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher program (previously known as “Section 8”).

The Public Housing program is a federal program that provides decent and safe rental housing assistance for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Public housing units are owned and managed by HOC. The units may be grouped in a single community (such as multi-family developments and high-rise towers) or distributed throughout the county in "scattered sites".

HOC is taking part in a new program for residents currently living in multifamily Public Housing. They are participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program in order to access private funding for the purpose of rehabilitating the units. To date, nine HOC properties have been approved by HUD for the RAD program.

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program provides assistance for very low-income households (single or family), the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The waiting list for HCV will open again in 2015. Susan reported that in January approximately 300 individuals were removed from the waiting list and given vouchers.

➤ **Charlie Butler, Recreation Specialist, Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Services, Department of Recreation**

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/thingstodo/therapeutic/index.html

See Attachment B.

Chair and Vice-Chair Report:

Seth Morgan, Chair, attended the annual Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC) meeting with County Executive Isiah Leggett on February 3rd. Seth presented the Commission’s key issues for the upcoming FY16 budget. Mr. Leggett noted that within the next two years taxes will be going up due to County budget shortfall. One item to note is the Supreme Court case Maryland v. Wynne which could potentially cost the County \$150,000,000 in settlement costs.

The County Council has rescheduled their work session to discuss BCCs and their ability to lobby at the State level until June. This Commission currently can only advise the County Executive and the County Council.

On Monday, February 9th Seth Morgan, Chair, attended a meeting of Maryland Alliance of Disability Commissions. George Failla, Acting Director, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), and Virginia Knowlton, Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) discussed various bills that are currently in the Maryland General Assembly. Three bills presented by Ms. Knowlton are of particular interest:

- [House Bill 100 – Developmental Disabilities Administration \(DDA\) – Medicaid Fair Hearings](#). If a request for ongoing services is denied by DDA, services should be continued by DDA during the appeals process. However, DDA now grants services more and more frequently for a discrete period of time, for example six months, and uses that discrete time designation as a reason for not continuing services during the appeal process. This bill could correct a loop hole in DDA regulations. MDLC is in favor of this bill.
- [House Bill 233 – Education – Due Process Hearings for Children with Disabilities – Burden of Proof](#). Currently, when a Special Education request is denied by the school system the burden of proof of need flips from the school to the family. Hence, the initial denial means that the family must hire experts and consultants to prove need in order to appeal. This bill would shift the burden back to the school system to prove that the denial was justified. MDLC is in favor of this bill.

- [House Bill 201 / Senate Bill 124 – Vehicle Laws – Special Registration Plates and Parking Placards for Individuals with Disabilities – Licensed Physical Therapists](#). This bill would authorize a licensed physical therapist to certify certain medical conditions of an applicant for a special disability registration number and special disability registration plates for a certain vehicle. MDLC is not in favor of this bill.

Seth reminded Commissioners that they may not lobby in Annapolis or contact state legislators as a member of the Commission, but they can do so as an individual citizen.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, will be the new liaison to the Commission on Health. Commissioners are encouraged to attend other Boards, Committees, and Commissions meetings. If you are interested in becoming a liaison, please notify Betsy Luecking.

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Members:

Certificates of appreciation from County Executive Isiah Leggett were awarded to the following Commissioners – Dana Cohen, Diane Stahl, Trish Gallalee, and Charlie Crawford.

Workgroup Updates:

Susan Hartung, Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee, reported that there are 26 individuals on the waiting list for crisis resolution (in need of services within 3 months) and 97 individuals on the waiting list for crisis prevention (in need of services within a year) in Montgomery County. There is no state funding allocated for the next year to serve these individuals. New changes to the system include denial of services if the individual is not Medicaid eligible. The DDA will no longer provide services to new individuals that are not currently on the waiver. Betsy suggested outreaching to the community to inform them of these new changes and to encourage individuals to apply for SSI as soon as they are age eligible.

Roundtable:

Mark Maxin, Commissioner, attended a White House Summit on Disability and Employment on February 3rd. The Summit provided businesses, non-profits, and disability advocates with information about new and existing Federal resources designed to help employers hire more individuals with disabilities, including the new [Resource Guide for Employers](#). The Summit also offered opportunities for attendees to share their experiences in diversifying their workforce through effective strategies to successfully recruit, hire, promote, and retain employees with disabilities. Mark would like to explore the possibility of Montgomery County Government developing a similar resource guide for local businesses and the disabled community as well as Montgomery County holding a disability and employment summit.

Steve Riley, Commissioner, reported that Thursday, February 19th is Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis. Those who attend will be able to meet with their elected officials and their staff to discuss critical disability issues and to share their real life experiences. More information can be found at www.thearcmd.org/ddday.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: ****Please note change in conference room location**** Wednesday, March 18th, 2015 - 401 Hungerford Drive, **6th Floor Conference Room**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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