



**Commission on People with Disabilities**  
January 11th, 2017

**Welcome and Approval of December 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes:**

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the December, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the December, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd).

**Healthy Montgomery Update on the Community Health Needs Assessment – Karen Thompkins, MPH, Senior Planning Specialist, Healthy Montgomery, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services:**

**Community Health Needs Assessment Report:** [www.healthymontgomery.org/content/sites/montgomery/2016chna.pdf](http://www.healthymontgomery.org/content/sites/montgomery/2016chna.pdf)

**Website:** [www.healthymontgomery.org](http://www.healthymontgomery.org)

Healthy Montgomery is Montgomery County's community health improvement process. It is an ongoing effort that brings together County government agencies, County hospital systems, minority health programs/initiatives, advocacy groups, academic institutions, community-based service providers and other stakeholders to achieve optimal health and well-being for all County residents. Healthy Montgomery's goals are: improve access to health and social services; achieve health equity for all residents; and enhance the physical and social environment to support optimal health and well being. The Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee (HMSC) is a 25-member committee that informs, advises, and ensures implementation of the community health improvement process for Montgomery County.

Karen noted they are looking for a Commission representative to attend the HMSC meetings. They meet six times a year. The next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> at Kaplan University Learning Center, 1390 Piccard Drive, Rockville from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The floor was opened to questions.

Seth asked about healthier snack options in schools. Karen will report back to the Commission on this topic. Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, noted that the Commission on Health has discussed this topic and there is an issue of providing fresh fruit and food being wasted if not purchased. Susan Hartung, Commissioner, added that many high schools have an open campus and students can eat off site.

Susan Hartung, Commissioner, asked for more information regarding the priority "integrating behavioral health programs in primary care settings". Karen explained that the priority came out of the Behavioral Health Taskforce, which is looking at how an individual can receive treatment for mental health services while already receiving primary care services. Karen explained that the Taskforce is also looking to establish a process and assign a high priority to the identification of specific measures that will alleviate the problem of insufficient and inadequate housing for persons with behavioral health problems. The Taskforce is also looking to identify and implement specific measures that will reduce the barrier that transportation presents in access to care, housing, and supportive services for persons with behavioral health problems.

**Chair and Vice Chair Report:**

Seth reported that he, and Commissioners Trish Gallalee and Avner Shapiro met Council President Roger Berliner, his legislative aide, and Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, to discuss Council President Berliner's proposal of separating Aging and Disability Services (ADS) into two different service areas. Trish shared with Council President Berliner a FEMA report developed by Marcie Roth that addressed the need for taking a more universal approach to identifying the issues and needs of persons with disabilities. The group discussed pros and cons and ultimately the Commission disagreed with the proposal. Seth would like to send a follow-up letter to Council President Berliner that

addresses the idea of rebranding ADS by using more inclusive language such as “home and community based services or “lifespan”. Seth asked for Commissioners to send language to Betsy for the letter and Marcie will compile. Kathy added that by having a joined department it allows for a single point of entry, which is beneficial to everyone. The State requires an Aging and Disability Resource Center main access point which is referred to as Maryland Access Point.

Karen Maricheau, Liaison to the Commission on Aging, noted that COA is also addressing the issue of inclusiveness and are suggesting the terms “Livable, Integrated and Lifelong”. She also noted that the County has hired Marcia Pruzan as a part-time Senior Fellow for the Montgomery County Age Friendly Initiative and suggested the Commission reach out to her.

Bob Green, Project Manager Montgomery Parks/Park Development, reported that Montgomery Parks is currently planning on inclusiveness at their parks and facilities. The Department of Recreation is also looking to rebrand their programs.

Seth and Avner Shapiro, Commissioner, will be conducting interviews later this month for open vacancies with the Commission.

Seth encouraged Commissioners to attend the Steering Committee meetings, which typically occur the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. strategic planning occurs at these meetings.

Marcie Povitsky, Vice Chair, reported that she is working with Betsy to finalize a digital version of the Respect the Space survey.

#### **Ex-Officio and Member Updates:**

Dennis Pillsbury, ADA Title II Compliance, Department of General Services (DGS), reported that the County Council Office Building is undergoing renovations and some of the restrooms will be made accessible. In two years, County services/agencies located at 255 Rockville Pike will be moving to either Wheaton or the gray court house.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), is working with HOC’s IT department to develop a breakdown of individuals on the waiting list to determine how many have disabilities. With the accessibility renovations and tracking of accessible units, the list will help match those individuals who need them. The Mental Health Advisory Committee had representation from the Mental Health Association of Maryland who reported that Maryland is 65% over the national average of people hospitalized psychiatrically when it comes to using community-based services and 84% less than the national average for people who participate in community-based mental health services. This can be attributed to low funding for the last 10 years for community-based programs, which is being looked at by the general assembly for the upcoming year.

Rita Gale, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), introduced Elizabeth Lang who is the point person for MCPL ADA and will be working with Rita and the Library Accessibility Committee. Elizabeth is currently working on getting ADA workstations outfitted with CCTV’s installed at each library. A press release will be sent out once they are available. MCPL is looking to sell headphones at their facilities for library patrons who need them. The CCTV has a read aloud option that will require use of headphones and Elizabeth has put in a recommendation for accessible headphones that can be requested from library staff for use with the machine. The Little Falls refresh project has been delayed due to water damage. Davis Library is expected to open in the Spring and Aspen Hill will open in late Spring. MCPL is making their final decisions on FY17 refresh projects which includes Bethesda, Quinch Orchard, and White Oak with construction expected to begin in the next few months. In July, MCPL will begin designing FY18 refresh projects which includes Long Branch, Poolesville, and Marilyn Praisner.

Chris Moy, Montgomery College, has continued to work with the Dean on providing ESOL classes for foreign born residents who are Deaf. It has been a challenge to identify funding to create a separate program. Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that there is a State office that provides funding for literacy programs and the College should reach out to them.

<https://www.dllr.state.md.us/gedmd/>

Marcia Rohrer, Ex-Officio Member, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), added that Gallaudet offers an English Language Institute program that provide an intensive English as a Second Language program for American and international deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Karen Maricheau, Liaison from Commission on Aging, reported that County Executive Isiah Leggett is holding several budget forums throughout the County in January. COA will be attending several of these events to testify. COA will also be going to Annapolis on January 25<sup>th</sup> to advocate for rights of older residents as well as for resources and priorities at the State level. Commissioners are invited to attend. Councilmember Floreen is sponsoring Zoning Text Amendment 16-15, Facility for Senior and Disabled – Standards, which would separate the standards for senior and disabled independent living facilities; revise the standards for senior and disabled independent living facilities; and generally amend the provisions for senior and disabled independent living facilities. A public hearing for the amendment is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the packet for the PHED committee on January 30, 2017.

[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=5227&meta\\_id=130602](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/Viewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5227&meta_id=130602)

Sue Hartung, Co-Chair, Developmental Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC), reported that Jennifer Mizrahi, President, RespectAbility, gave a presentation to the Commission about best practices for employment of persons with disabilities. Larry Bram, Co-Chair, reported that Montgomery County has the highest employment rate of persons with disabilities in the country at 54%. This data includes part-time employment and those in sheltered workshops. Susan added that Adventist Healthcare will be closing two of its residential treatment centers.

**Announcements:**

Trish reported that the Federal Government recently passed regulations that in FY18 all Federal agencies will be required to have 12% of it's workforce be persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, a Federal hiring freeze is expected with the new administration taking office mid-January. It will be important to look to local government and predominately the private sector for hiring.

**Next Full Commission Meeting:** Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – **\*\*PLEASE NOTE ROOM LOCATION\*\***  
Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Rockville, MD 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Steering Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – **\*\*PLEASE NOTE LOCATION\*\*** Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room, Rockville, MD 20850 — 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I  
Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

