



Commission on People with Disabilities

January 10th, 2018

Welcome and Approval of December 2017 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the December, 2017 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the December, 2017 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Chair Report:

Seth reported that the Maryland Alliance meeting will be held tomorrow. The meeting will focus on the legislative agenda for persons with disabilities.

The Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP) – Denise Barton Schuler, MS, APT, Assistive Technology Specialist

Website: www.mdtp.org

PowerPoint: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/MDTAPresentation2018.pdf>

Denise demonstrated several pieces of assistive technology including a handheld magnifier, a telescoping rod with adhesive and magnetic tips for picking up both non-metal and metal objects, an amplifier device that is designed to help persons with a hearing impairment by amplifying sound and reducing ambient noise, the KNFB Reader mobile application that converts printed text to speech or Braille, and the Seeing AI mobile application that narrates the visual world by describing people, objects, and text for people who are blind or who have low vision. The Seeing AI mobile application is free for iOS devices. It can describe a person and also guess the age.

Information regarding assistance technology available at the MDTAP Assistance Technology Library and accessible applications for smartphones are located at www.mdtp.org under the category Equipment Demonstrations & Loans located on the left-hand side of the page. The Library features a wide range of devices and manufacturers. Denise can set up tours of the Assistance Technology Library for individuals or groups. She can also assist individuals with referrals to vendors, comparison price shopping or funding sources, and connecting them to local representatives that can provide training. Individuals who requests phones are sent to the [Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Program](#) or [Maryland Relay](#).

Equipment Link are online assistive technology classifieds for individuals to view and post gently used Assistive Technology for sale, free or needed: <https://www.myatprogram.org/?State=24>.

Denise noted that the Eastern Shore has a TAP office with an assistive technology library. Larry Bram reported that Easter Seals is currently working with MDTAP to offer an assistive technology library at their Silver Spring location.

MDTAP cannot conduct formal assessments. If an individual wants Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance to pay for assistive technology in most cases a demonstration of medical necessity for the product or equipment and a prescription from a doctor or other professional will be required.

The floor was opened to questions.

Hilary Kaplan, Commissioner, asked if MDTAP can provide assistance to individuals who want to learn how to set up accessibility features on their smartphones. Denise said that MDTAP does not, but there are several technology user groups that meet monthly in Baltimore that may be able to assist including the [Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#). It was also suggested that Hilary visit a Verizon or Apple store for assistance or review YouTube videos. Denise will be attending an assistive technology conference in March that is typically attended by Android, Google, and Apple employees. She will ask them this question and let Betsy know of any further suggestions.

For assistance, you can call MDTAP at 1-800-832-4827 (Toll Free), 1-866-881-7488 (TTY), or e-mail mdtap@mdtap.org.

Young Stroke Group and IP Relay Service for Stroke Survivors – Susan Emery, Executive Director, Circle of Rights, Inc.

Website: <http://circleofrights.org/>

Susan leads a young stroke group in Montgomery County. Meetings are held at Johns Hopkins University. Susan would like to offer a video or teleconference option for individuals to attend from their own homes. Some participants are not able to communicate verbally and can only communicate by gesturing. It was suggested that she try Google Hangouts or Skype. It was also suggested that she contact Google directly to discuss this issue and to learn more about accessibility options. It was noted that Poolesville High School has a Magnet program that works on a yearly special project and has in the past entered the Ability One Design Challenge that tasked participants with engineering a device that improved the life of a disabled adult in the workplace.

Ex-Officio and Member Updates:

Charlie Butler, Department of Recreation (DR), reported that [County summer camp](#) registration begins next week. As of yesterday, 370 individuals and 44 dogs were signed up to participate in the County's [100 Mile Challenge](#).

Denise Isreal, Department of Transportation (DOT), reported in December DOT sent a mass mailing to hospitals, libraries, health centers, and the Recreation and Health and Human Services Departments about transportation programs for people with disabilities and seniors. In April, DOT will begin an outdoor awareness campaign on buses and bus shelters.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), reported that HOC had a call for vouchers this past Monday via e-mail. Selected individuals will receive their packets in the mail in the next few weeks. HOC will begin calling for vouchers every other month.

Kim Mayo, Community Support Network (CSN), reported that the County has sent a memo regarding to Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons at DDA about the Medicaid match for review, which will then hopefully be sent on to the State's Attorney General for review. The [DDA rate study](#) that was completed did not include a regional differential in proposed rates. The rate study consultant, JVGA, initially has said that the County having a higher minimum wage does not affect the rate study. As there were many questions regarding this issue, JVGA will be meeting with providers in Montgomery and Prince George's County this Friday to delve deeper into their general ledgers and gain more information.

Susan Hartung, Developmental Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC), reported that the DDA will be presenting updates on the Community Pathways Waiver and more next Wednesday, January 17th from 7:30pm to 9pm at The Arc Montgomery County, 11600 Nebel Street, Rockville. Registration is required. It is a joint meeting sponsored by McTransitions and Transition Times. Susan also reported that the County Council passed the resolution to create a short-term Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences.

Announcements: None

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, February 14th, 2018 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Level Auditorium, Rockville, MD 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 21st, 2018 – Health & Human Service, 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Rooms 1A/1B, Rockville, MD 20850

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