



Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
March 11th, 2015

Welcome and Approval of February, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes:

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

Follow-Up with Department Representatives and Organizing Workgroup Goals for Upcoming Year:

Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Health and Human Services (HHS), reported that Bernie Simons, new Director of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), met with HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia, various HHS staff, and Medicaid consultants to discuss Resource Coordination (also known as Targeted Case Management) in Montgomery County. The County was informed that effective immediately it is no longer allowed to be a provider of RC and no new providers will be made available at this time. The County has transferred all of their clients to the existing agencies now providing services in the County – MMARS and Total Care.

Director Ahluwalia discussed with Mr. Simons the possibility of a federal matching grant for the developmental disability supplement that the County gives to providers. The County historically provides a DD supplement to providers. The County has not had a matching grant since 1999. Mr. Simons was very open to this idea.

Mr. Simons has hired consultants that are currently conducting a review of TCM in order to improve upon the way services provided. The consultants will be particularly looking at quality, training, case worker ratios, and reimbursement rates. The report should be available next week. (See Attachment A)

Susan Hartung, Commissioner, asked why the County will not have three providers to choose from as most other counties in the State of Maryland do. Mr. Simons does not interpret the regulations to state that each County must have three providers, rather that they have a choice to choose providers. Susan asked Jay to provide minutes from the meeting.

The County Council had previously recommended that the County include funding in the next fiscal year for RC. The County Executive has been informed of this new development and will be altering his operating budget to remove these designated funds. The operating budget will be released on Monday, March 16th. The Community Support Network will continue to manage the [My Turn](#) program, the [Individual and Family Support](#) program, the [Customized Public Employment Internship](#) program, monitoring of group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the [Autism Waiver](#), which provides resource coordination up to age 21 and is funded by the Maryland Department of Education.

It was suggested that Mr. Simons be invited to a Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) meeting and that he develop a written plan for his recommended improvements for DDA.

The DDAC will need to discuss future goals and outcomes. Betsy Luecking, Staff, suggested moving the focus to residential funding for individuals with developmental disabilities and working on ending the waiting list for services.

Chair and Vice-Chair Report:

Seth Morgan, Chair, reported that he attended an [Interagency Commission on Homelessness](#) meeting on February 25th. The newly formed Commission approved a continuum of care governance charter and will be working with various agencies and boards, committees and commissions as they work on their goal of ending homelessness.

The County Council's T&E Committee held a worksession to continue discussion of the taxicab companies in Montgomery County and the addition of transportation services Uber and Lyft. Seth gave comments regarding the current taxi system and its inadequacy in serving people with disabilities, and more specifically the issue of accessible vehicles on the road as the majority of taxicab companies leave the vehicles parked. Seth commented that taxi cab drivers have noted that it is not financially beneficial for them to lease an accessible vehicle. He also noted that taxi cab companies require at least 24 hours advance notice when requesting an accessible vehicle. It was proposed that taxi cab companies be required to have accessible vehicles on the road as well as a 30 minute time frame for requesting an accessible vehicle. When Uber and Lyft were asked about providing accessible vehicles Uber said they would research the option of providing a supplemental fund to help cover the costs of providing an accessible vehicle while Lyft said they would not change their current system. (Note: Up until 2002 the County Taxicab Regulations required 20% - or 67 of its fleets to be accessible and now the requirement is 8% or 48. The County also used to provide a \$5 subsidy for accessible rides to the drivers.)

Roundtable:

Steve Riley, Commissioner, shared information regarding Potomac Community Resource's website and their online [Community Links](#) directory of resources for teens and adults with developmental disabilities, and their families in the Montgomery County, Maryland and surrounding areas. Steve also announced the Sixth Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities: "Gathering Together, Creating Strong Families & Strong Communities" will be held on Saturday, March 14th. This conference brings together the faith community and those working in nonprofit organizations to collaborate and explore ways we can ensure all people, regardless of disability, are included as essential members of our communities. Please visit www.adw.org/strongcommunities for more information.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, is the liaison to the Commission on Health. She attended her first COH meeting which had a presentation on oral health in the community. Kathy reported that Medicaid dental health coverage is only for children under the age of 21 and pregnant mothers. Montgomery County used to be last in the state in dental health and now the County is first in the state. The County is moving to electronic records, which could become useful in terms of data analysis, although there are privacy issues concerning the sharing of data.

Alex Getachew, Commissioner, discussed his concerns regarding students with learning disabilities entering secondary education. He stated that many students ignore their learning disabilities after leaving the public school system. He commended Montgomery College for offering a course on learning style, but suggested that it be made mandatory or for awareness of learning disabilities to be included during orientation. It was noted that educational psychological testing is provided in public school and paid for by the Department of Education. Colleges and universities do not accept testing results that are over three years old and do not provide funding for testing. Many students do not have testing completed as it can be a financial burden at approximately \$4,000. It was suggested he discuss his concerns with the Montgomery College representative on the Commission.

Angela Washington, Equal Employment Officer, Office of Human Resources (OHR), Ex-Officio Member, announced that the County has appointed a new Director for OHR. Shawn Stokes was previously the OHR Director for the Government of the District of Columbia. Angela will be having a meeting with Ms. Stokes on Friday and will discuss with her the current hiring preference programs and selection process. Ms. Stokes wants to shorten the hiring period, which is currently 90 days. Angela will send Betsy the latest statistics on the hiring preference programs prior to every Commission meeting.

Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation, Ex-Officio Member, discussed the issue of lack of public transportation to recreation and community facilities in the more rural parts of the County. Kathy noted that

there are a large number of individuals with disabilities who live in Clarksburg that do not have access to public transportation. Faisal reported that communities can make a special request for transportation to a County facility. Requests are fulfilled depending on feasibility and time frame.

Larry Bram, Commissioner, reported that the Prince George's Adults with Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee will be featuring a presentation on Medicaid eligibility at their next meeting in April.

Kryss Lacovaro, Therapeutic Recreation, announced that the [Miracle League](#) will be hosting a free baseball clinic in April. The Department of Recreation [2015 Spring Guide](#) is also now available.

Workgroup Updates: The Commission separated into two workgroups (Developmental Disabilities and ADA Access) to discuss goals for the upcoming year.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. ****Member Orientation will be held prior to the meeting from 5:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.****

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 - 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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