



Commission on People with Disabilities

October 10th, 2018

Welcome and Approval of June and September 2018 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the June 2018 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and the June 2018 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. A motion was made to approve the September 2018 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken, and the September 2018 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Introduction of Emily Lucio, ADA, Title II Compliance Manager, Montgomery County Government – Angela Dizelos, Chief, Division of Central Services, Department of General Services

Emily Lucio is the new ADA Title II Compliance Manager for Montgomery County Government. She has over 25 years experience working in ADA Compliance and disability services. She previously worked for Johns Hopkins University.

Proclamation – National Disability Awareness Month – Mike Subin, Special Assistant to County Executive Isiah Leggett:

Mike Subin, Special Assistant, presented to the Commission a proclamation from County Executive Isiah Leggett declaring October 2018 as National Disability Awareness Month. View the full text of the proclamation in Attachment A.

Chair and Vice-Chair Report:

Seth attended a County Council meeting that discussed changes in wording for the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF). It is still being drafted to ensure the fund is being used for its intended purpose and cannot be diverted into other programs.

The County Council will be presenting a proclamation to the Commission on November 13th to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Commission on People with Disabilities and honor the work that this Commission has done to advance the rights and interests of people with disabilities and their work advising the County. All Commissioners are invited and encouraged to attend the presentation and have their picture taken. The presentation is first on the agenda at 9:30am and will be held at the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Rockville. Betsy Luecking, Staff, will be inviting former Commissioners to attend as well.

The Steering Committee meeting scheduled for October 17th is canceled this month as Seth and Trish will be attending a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) meeting at the County Council that evening. The Council is seeking input from this Commission as to the unmet needs of persons with disabilities and what types of programs that should be funded through CDBG.

Seth will be attending a breakfast meeting with Councilmember George Leventhal, Chair, County Council Health and Human Services Committee on October 22nd.

Trish Gallalee, Vice-Chair, reported she along with Seth, Betsy, and former Commission Charlie Crawford met with the Al Roshdieh, Department of Transportation (DOT), and his staff to discuss concerns regarding the installation of bike lanes as well as raise awareness of pedestrian safety issues for persons with disabilities, especially for those who are blind or deaf. One concern is having sidewalks that are not sufficiently marked to indicate the presence of a bike lane. Another concern is having the bike lane in between the sidewalk and street parking, making it difficult for drivers on the road to see if there are bikers in the bike lane. Al and his staff were very receptive and open to the discussion and want the Commission to play a role in planning. These discussions will continue. The Commission's intent is not to stop the addition of bike lanes, but to make the design safe for everyone. After the meeting, the Commission sent a letter to the County Council. Seth noted that there is a strong bicycle lobby in the county and bicyclists account for approximately 2% of the population. It was suggested that the Commission present at a Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) address pedestrian safety issues for persons with disabilities.

Betsy added that bicycle and pedestrian traffic safety laws do not seem to be known by the public or there may be different interpretations of the law. There needs to be education about the laws for bicyclists as well as for pedestrians. Mike suggested inviting Captain Tom Didone, Montgomery County Police, to discuss pedestrian safety issues and laws prior to meeting with the PBTSAC. Signage for bicycle laws such as stopping for red lights currently are not posted, but DOT is researching what is available and where to post them. The first step is to create awareness, then post signs and then enforcement.

Strategic Planning for the Upcoming Year and Identification of Policies of Concern for FY19:

- Continue to address pedestrian and bicycle safety as noted above.
- Employment – With current proposed changes to Medicaid Waivers and Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) funding, there is a need to increase funding for employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the County and the private sector. There is a need to supplement funding for training and supports for those who are not a priority or will not qualify. Both the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and DORS make transitioning youth (TY) a priority for funding and there is a need for funding for those who have an adult onset disability. DORS sets 50% of their funding for TY services.
- Access to Cultural Resources – Recommend the County approve grants that increase the availability of visual arts programs for persons with disabilities, especially for those who are blind. Examples include offering audio description at dance programs.
- Support early intervention programs for infants and toddlers that identify all types of disabilities.
- Support programs that provide equipment or therapy that assists persons with disabilities in maintaining their independence and in becoming integrated into the community.
- Increase accessible design at County playgrounds and ensure accessibility for both children and parents.
- Increase the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles for Montgomery County Recreation. There is currently only one wheelchair accessible bus available.
- Increase the number of recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities, including accessible gyms that use a flashing light during classes to indicate a change in routine for individuals who are hearing impaired and offering free entrance for companions. Kryss noted that County recreation centers and pools allow companions to accompany a person with a disability for free, but it has been hard to train staff due to turnover. She suggested calling the center or pool ahead of time so they are aware.
- Ask the Council to require that any Department proposing a new project or development must notify the Commission to determine if a briefing is required before further action on the project is taken. In particular, the Commission should ask for DOT to notify the Commission of projects.
- Primary and secondary schools are not promoting assistive technology for students with disabilities to help them become more independent learners when they move on to post-secondary education. The

Commission does not advise Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), only Montgomery County Government. MCPS does have a Special Education Advisory Board that is headed by Philip Lynch. It was suggested the Commission ask to present to the Board to addresses these concerns. The County Council does provide some funding for MCPS and the Commission could address this issue with the Transportation and Education Committee.

Ex-Officio and Member Updates:

Asha Clark, Commissioner, reported the Arc Montgomery County still has funds available for transition planning for youth ages 14 to 26 with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Funds may be used for goods and services that are directly linked to transition planning and implementation, such as youth development services, tools for transition, and support services including career-related courses, therapeutic equipment, college tuition, business attire, and computer and equipment. Funds must be used by December 31st. For more information, please contact Carolina Harp at 301-984-5777 x 1262 (V).

Announcements:

Betsy noted that County Executive Leggett will not be appointing any new members to any board, committee or commission and advertising for open positions will not begin until the new County Executive is in office. Even though some Commissioners terms have technically ended as of last month, they are asked to continue to serve until replaced so that our meetings have a quorum. Commissioners can view their term limits in the membership list as well as the attendance reports that are sent out monthly.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, November 14th, 2018 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockille, MD 20850

Steering Committee Meeting: CANCELLED - Wednesday, November 21st, 2018 from 5:30pm to 7pm at Health & Human Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Rooms 1A/1B, Rockville, MD 20850

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