



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2025

Time: 5pm – 6:30pm

Location: Zoom

Guest(s): Ramona Buck (Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County), Dr. Patrice McGhee (DHHS)

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at 5:02pm

- The chair welcomed guests, commissioners and the public
- The chair welcomed three new commissioners, Miles Cox (not present), Lisa Klem, and Swapnika Madhavaram and asked them to introduce themselves.
- The chair performed the attendance roll call.
- The chair read the purpose of the Commission.
- The minutes of March 20, 2025 Commission meeting were approved with edits. Motioned by Jenn L. Seconded by Eric S. Jake D abstained.
- Reviewed and unanimously approved the meeting agenda. Commissioners approved the addition of communications-email exchange between commissioners to the agenda. Motioned by Carmen Z. Seconded by Lori M.
- Commissioners ratified the email vote for Sue Hartung's testimony on 4/7/2025 to the County Council regarding the DD Supplement. Motioned by Carmen Z. Seconded by Lori M., Jake D. abstained.

Old Business

1) Committee Updates

Community Engagement, Jake Didinsky, Chair

- Crystel provided an update on the Joan Karasik Transition Resource Fair held on April 6th at Montgomery College. There were 73 vendors at the fair and more than 300+ attendees. Crystel and Yvonne manned the IDDC table and collected responses to the IDDC survey questions. The responses are included with the meeting documents. Attendees were especially interested in employment opportunities. Additionally, other commissioners present at the fair shared that there were many parents of younger people with IDD in attendance seeking information about resources and transition services for the first time.
- Jake encouraged commissioners to attend the community engagement committee meetings.

Policies and Programs Committee, Onesta Duke

- Onesta shared that the committee is seeking approval to send a letter to the County Executive and County Council members regarding employment of people with IDD by Montgomery County.
- Commissioners voted to approve sending the letter subject to grammar and proofreading review and with Lisa and Steve's signature. Motioned by Carmen Z. Seconded by Lori M. Jake D. abstained

Special Education, Yvonne VanLowe, Chair

- Yvonne requested approval from the Commission to send an introductory letter to Dr. Margaret Cage in MCPS. The letter will be sent with date of today's meeting. Commissioners voted to approve sending the letter to Dr. Cage. Motioned by Lori M. Seconded by Jenn L.

2) Response to the IDDC CRCMC Report and discussion, Crystel Britto and Steve Riley

- Crystel and Steve shared their responses to the CRCMC Report to address lack of sense of common purpose, dysfunction during meetings and lack of transparency:
 - Suggestions include the need to assess and evaluate progress, commission Annual Report will record progress, rose/bud/thorn follow-up at May meeting
 - Crystel to create a tracker document for committees to document areas of concern and resolution. Document to be stored on SharePoint site (to be developed).
 - Jake D. requested that all comments be addressed to the chair.
 - Committees will provide reports/updates at monthly IDDC meetings for transparency.

New Business

- Status of Maryland State Budget (DDA Updates), Sue Hartung
 - Rick Callahan shared that the FY25 funding had been restored and \$292M had been restored for FY26. Final budget vote is pending. Rick will share updates with Crystel for distribution to the IDDC.
- Update on the Rec Department Vacancy for IDDC, Crystel Britto
 - Melita Bell will be assigned to the Commission.
- A discussion to work in Committee Forums into IDDC Monthly Meetings
 - Jake proposed dedicating meeting time on a rotating basis to one committee to engage in a more robust dialogue with commissioners about the committees' work.
 - Beginning at the May meeting, the Commission will move forward as follows:
 - All committees will be on the meeting agenda and provide a brief update. Committee items requiring votes will be taken at this time.
 - One committee will be designated as the focus committee for the meeting and will have additional time to engage in discussion with commissioners.
 - Committees can share/send written updates as meeting pre-reads.
- Suggestions for the IDDC Website
 - The website has been updated. Please share photos along with consent to be posted on the site.

d. Commission Meetings during the Summer

- a. Next commission meeting is May 22 at 5pm in person.

b. Proposed June Planning Meeting: June 11, 2025, 5-6pm, Proposed June Commission Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 5-6:30pm

- Depending on when commissioners can attend, there could be an August meeting. Meetings to be voted on at May meeting
- Reminder: Committees meet during the summer to finalize recommended priorities due in the fall.
- Commissioner needs to elect a new executive board
- Communication/Email exchange
 - Commissioners can email each other, with consent. All formal IDDC communication must go through staff liaison. There must not be a quorum on email threads to avoid violating the Open Meetings Act. Crystel will send out a form to collect email addresses with consent and will share this list with the Commission.

Commissioners' Open Forum

- Commissioners voted to skip the commissioners' open forum due to time constraints.

Public Comments

- Alex Matzurreff introduced himself and shared that he had information about homelessness in Montgomery County. Steve to connect with Alex to discuss further.
- A question about the availability of pro bono day services for undocumented person with IDD. Crystel to coordinate with Lisa Lorraine.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Yvonne V., Seconded by Jake D.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Attendees:

Commissioners Present: Tracy Craig, Jake Didinsky, Onesta Duke, Justin Hack, Susan Hartung, Lisa Klem, Jenn Lynn, Lori Mitchell-Keller, Swapnika Madhavaram, Margie Parrott, Eric Salzano, Steve Riley, Carmen Zahra, Carmen Smith, Yvonne VanLowe

Staff Present: Crystel Britto, Rosemary DiPietro, Kim Mayo, Karen Gipson, Dr. Patrice McGhee

Commissioners not Present: Jillian Copeland, Rick Callahan, Miles Cox, Dorne Hill, Karla Nabors, Lisa Lorraine, Smil Soria, Najla Wortham, John Whittle

Other: Alex Matzurreff, Alyssa Monsale, Jamie Lai, Magaly Esquivel, Ramona Buck, Sugitha Elango, Ianna Anotado, Flora, Health Tech Alley, Catherine Granados, Jamee Ponce