



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

June 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 5pm – 6:30pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Guest(s): Dr. Patrice McGhee (DHHS)

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

- The chair welcomed guests, commissioners and the public.
- The chair performed the attendance roll call.
- The chair read the IDDC's purpose/mission.
- The agenda was approved with the addition of the following:
 - Miles Cox to review his presentation during the public comment section or at the next Commission meeting as time permits.
- The minutes of the May 22, 2025 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- Dr. McGhee provided an overview of the Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) two-year strategic roadmap covering FY25-FY27. The roadmap has not yet been published. The mission of the Department of Health and Human Services is to promote and ensure the health and safety of the residents of Montgomery County and to build individual and family strength and self-sufficiency. The Department will focus on three pillars in its strategic roadmap:
 - Deepening community connection
 - Leveraging technology for great access and stability
 - Establish economic justice stability and human service priorities

Old Business

- Status on update of April 17th request to meet with the county executive to discuss county employment of people with IDD. Crystel state there has been no official response from the CE office to date. The CE's office is reviewing our letter of request. Sue H. to forward a follow up email to Crystel to share with the CE's office.
- Reappointment Process Underway. The following commissioners' terms expire on 8/31/25: Steve Riley, Tracy Craig, Carmen Smith, Swapnika Madhavaram, Miles Cox and Lisa Klem. Commissioners can reapply, no need to interview again. Crystel to notify commissioners when the reapplication opens. Additionally, there is an open position to fulfill Smil Soria's open seat.

- New business- Appointment of Nominating Committee- moved to this portion of the meeting. Chair Riley appointed Jake Didinsky and Najla Wortham to serve on the nominating committee.
- Committee Updates
 - Community Engagement, Jake Didinsky, Chair
 - Jake requested increased attendance and engagement at the Community Engagement committee meetings. The Community Engagement Committee wants to partner and support the Policies and Programs and Special Education committees in the development of their priorities.
 - There is a significant need for employment among people with IDD in the County. The Committee is exploring a work related/job focused priority. How can the Commission advocate for incentives to hire and retain people with IDD in our county?
 - Special Education, Yvonne VanLowe, Chair
 - Yvonne reported that the Special Ed Committee is meeting on 6/25/25 to work on priorities.
 - Policies and Programs, Lisa Lorraine, Chair (Focus Committee)
 - Lisa requested an MD Dept of Health Roundtable meeting update from Chair Riley. The chair reported that the Department leadership stressed the importance of repairing trust with constituents and stakeholders and are planning more meetings of this nature in the future. Additionally, the eligibility determination staff has increased by 20 people since Jan 2025.
 - Lisa shared that the Committee is considering the following potential priority opportunities: a workforce pipeline idea – develop strategies to expose IDD support professions to others; employment for people with IDD; and over utilization of hospital emergency rooms particularly for dual diagnosed people.
 - The committee is very interested in hosting a Medicaid eligibility townhall/listening session in September for the IDD community and inviting participants from the June 5 Roundtable to hear community feedback.
- Chair Riley asked each committee chair about attendance at committee meetings
 - Yvonne responded that special education meetings are generally well attended. Lisa indicated that attendance is okay at the Policies and Programs meetings. Jake previously indicated attendance is low at the Community Engagement meetings.
 - Any commissioner can join any committee or committee meeting. Meeting information is posted on the IDDC website.
 - Melita Bell will serve on the Committee Engagement Committee.
- Committees should be prepared to present their priorities at the August meeting.

- Chair Riley and Crystel Britto held a wrap up conversation with Ramona Buck and Beth Pierce (Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, CRCMC, Facilitators) on 6/17/25. The facilitators expressed interest in periodically checking in with the IDDC and will do so in the Oct/Nov 2025 timeframe. They encouraged the IDDC to continue to survey commissioners and the executive team to follow up with members individually to identify barriers to engagement or interaction. Chair Riley indicated that he received feedback that commissioners feel inhibited in making comments during the meetings. He encouraged commissioners to contact him directly as necessary. The report from Beth and Ramona will be shared with the next executive board to continue to forward progress.

New Business

- Report back on Maryland Secretary of Health Roundtable, June 5, 2025.
 - Discussed during the Policies and Program committee update.
- Discussion on Medicaid Waiver Amendments.
 - Comments on the amendments are due by July 9, 2025. The commission agreed to form an ad hoc workgroup consisting of Rick Callahan, Najla Wortham, Sue Hartung (coordinator), Tracy Craig and Jake Didinsky to review the amendments and draft comments on behalf of the IDDC for approval. Crystel to send information about the amendments to commissioners via email.
- Appointment of Nominating Committee.
 - Chair Riley appointed Jake Didinsky and Najla Wortham to serve on the nominating committee.
- Election of Officers for 2025-2026 Commission Year.
 - The commission voted to hold a special meeting to be scheduled within the next three weeks to elect new officers.

Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm

Attendees:

Commissioners present:

Melita Bell, Rick Callahan, Jillian Copeland, Miles Cox, Tracy Craig, Jake Didinsky, Onesta Duke, Justin Hack, Susan Hartung, Lisa Klem, Swapnika Madhavaram, Lisa Lorraine, Karla Nabors, Eric Salzano, Steve Riley, Carmen Zahra, Yvonne VanLowe, Najla Wortham

Staff present:

Crystel Britto, Rosemary DiPietro, Kim Mayo, Dr. Patrice McGhee

Commissioners not present:

Dorne Hill, Jenn Lynn, Lori Mitchell-Keller, Margie Parrott, Carmen Smith, John Whittle

Members of the Public: Elaine