



**Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
April 13th, 2016**

Welcome and Approval of February, 2016 and March, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the February, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the February, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. A motion was made to approve the March, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the March, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Montgomery County Public Libraries Programs and Services – Rita W. Gale, Public Services Administrator, Facilities and Strategic Planning, Montgomery County Public Libraries

PowerPoint Presentation: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/CPWDMCPLApril2016.pdf

Rita noted that the Talking Book collection has been taken over by the State of Maryland. Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) can provide assistance to individuals who want to access the program.

Floor was opened to questions.

Larry Bram, Commissioner, asked if MCPL provides programs within the community, specifically relating to seniors. Rita said MCPL frequently provides story times for preschoolers, but there isn't currently much in senior programming. (**UPDATE:** The MCPL Outreach Team does visit senior sites. For details or to make arrangements please contact Rita.) She explained that libraries are divided into regions and each region has a staff person who is responsible for reaching out to various community-based organizations. Rita can connect Larry with the appropriate staff person in his region.

Francesca Pellegrino, Commissioner, asked for clarification regarding the booking of MCPL meeting rooms by non- and for-profit organizations in the County. Reservations are made through the Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) via a new online reservation system at www.activemontgomery.com. Reservation rate information is available online on CUPF's website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf/info-reservation/library.html#LibraryFee. Rates are different for non- and for-profit organizations.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, asked about movies that are screened at libraries. Movies are shown if a local library receives a request or there is an interest in showing a particular film. It is up to each individual library to decide on their programming.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, noted that when she has attempted to contact MCPL via their online form she has not received a response in regards to her requests or suggestions.

It was asked if MCPL retains information regarding an individual's 3D printing project. Rita reported that information is not retained, but she will verify what the policies and procedures are for using the devices. Customers pay for the amount of filament that is used. Payment is due at the time of pick up. 3D printers are currently available at Silver Spring and Long Branch. When Twinbrook and Kensington reopen they will also have 3D printers. Rita will verify the types of filaments that are available at these libraries. (**UPDATE:** Information regarding pricing and filament type can be found online at: <http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/studioi/3dprinters>).

Chair and Vice-Chair Report:

Seth Morgan, Chair, reported that the County Council's Government Operations (GO) Committee will be meeting on

Thursday, April 14th at 2:00 p.m. to continue discussions on Bill 37-15 - Boards, Committees, and Commissions – Advocacy. The Office of Intergovernmental Relations will be presenting their recommendations. Seth will attend the meeting and encouraged Commissioners to attend as well.

A discussion was had regarding [Bill 33-15 - Taxicabs – Transportation Services Improvement Fund](#) that became effective in December 2015. The bill imposes a 25 cent surcharge per trip on certain transportation network service providers, such as Uber and Lyft. The funds are to be used “to improve the delivery of accessible taxicab services and transportation to eligible senior citizens and persons of limited income”. There were questions regarding the term ‘eligible senior’ as well as how these funds will be tracked, monitored and utilized appropriately as the original intent of these funds was to be used to provide accessible transportation to individuals with disabilities regardless of age. It was acknowledged that accessible vehicles are more expensive to operate and drivers may need more of a monetary incentive in order to opt to drive one. Betsy noted that many years ago earned an additional surcharge of \$5.00 per ride from the County’s Department of Transportation (DOT) when driving an accessible vehicle and providing a ride to a person who needed an accessible vehicle. A motion was made for the Commission to write a letter to the County Executive and the County Council for further clarification of these items and for more details. It was asked if the letter could include a request for an update on the number of accessible vehicles that are currently on the road as a previous bill instituted a mileage requirement for those vehicles. The motion was seconded and approved. It was noted that customers who do not live within ¾ mile of a public transportation stop can only use MetroAccess if they are picked up within ¾ mile of public transportation which severely limits their ability to access transportation. In addition individuals on Medicare do not qualify for the County’s Medicaid transportation program. To date, the County has collected \$65,000 from this surcharge

Faisal Kahn, Commissioner, noted that DOT has not set any standards yet as to how the funds are to be utilized, although the funds are clearly earmarked for the services indicated in the bill. He added that the Call ‘N’ Ride program will be changing the age of eligibility from 67 to 65 to increase ridership. Faisal also added that transportation network service providers are currently not required to take the taxi driver training that all other taxi companies within Montgomery County are required to complete. He suggested that this training be required across the board for all transportation providers. Faisal will try to get some information concerning the questions raised from Bill 33-15.

Seth received a letter from a resident who was seeking the Commission’s advocacy and assistance with their complaint regarding the construction of a Montgomery County Public Schools bus depot near their residence. He reminded Commissioners that the Commission can only advise the County Executive and the Council Council and that we are not advisory to the public. Seth will send a letter to the resident indicating that they should contact the Montgomery County Board of Education regarding their issue.

Ex-Officio Updates:

Seth reported that Respect the Space training sessions will be scheduled soon. (Note, it was decided at the April 20th Steering Committee that the training will take place at the May 11, 2016 Commission meeting.

Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, reported that on Monday the County Council presented a proclamation recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month. Jay reported that Community Coordination Services (CCS) is currently providing services to 434 clients. They expect to be at capacity of 500 clients by the end of April. CCS is waiting to receive the names of the other 46 clients from the Southern Maryland Regional office (SMRO). Judy Pattik is the new Director for SMRO and her start date is April 13th. Jay added that Health & Human Services (HHS) will be meeting with the County Council’s HHS Committee on April 28th to discuss the proposed FY17 operating budget. Seth noted that the Commission provided testimony to the County Council in favor of expanding the CCS program.

Susan Hartung, Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC), reported that the Committee will be inviting the other two providers, MMARS and Total Care, to future meetings to discuss issues. She noted that the Commission testified to the County Council in support of Inter-ACC/DD’s request to include a supplement in support of direct care staff wages to be 25% above the minimum wage. The minimum wage will be \$10.75 beginning July 1st. Inter-ACC/DD requested \$5,462,915 with \$4,500,000 of this amount tied to a goal of direct staff wages above minimum wage. The State sets the rates and their minimum wage is \$2.00 less than Montgomery County.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Liaison to Commission on Health (COH) reported that COH is still looking into certification of their primary care health clinics. If certification occurs then HHS would be able to make decisions on the self-evaluations

of these clinics. Kathy suggested that the Steering Committee begin to draft demonstration points they would like to see in County clinics such as accessibility or equal access to screenings and immunizations.

Karen Maricheau, Liaison from the Commission on Aging (COA), reported that COA Committee members have begun meeting with County Councilmembers. Karen has met with both Hans Riemer and Craig Rice to discuss several COA agenda items including requesting additional funding for the Respite Care Program, the Adult Foster Home Program, and the Social Services to Adult (SSTA) Program. The COA is also requesting a full-time paid Director position be created to administer the Age-Friendly Communities initiatives and coordinate with different workgroups within the County as well as requesting that the Caregiver Coordinator position be increased from part-time to full-time. Councilmembers Riemer and Rice both stated that transportation has been an issue they hear often from their constituents. Councilmember Rice shared that he would like Uber, Lyft and other potential partners to be included as transportation providers within the County although they need to be held accountable for providing accessible transportation. He also stated that there needs to be more standardization of pricing across the board.

Roundtable: Seth encouraged Commissions to attend Steering Committee meetings, which are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 401 Hungerford Drive in Rockville from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Steering Committee meetings are used to plan future meetings as well as follow up on issues that are discussed at regular Commission meetings.

Public Comments: None.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 2016 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, MD 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 18th, 2016 – Health & Human Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor 1D Conference Room, Rockville, MD 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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