



Commission on People with Disabilities

December 14th, 2016

Welcome and Approval of November 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes:

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

Updates & Looking Forward on Legislative Issues Impacting Our Community – The Honorable Roger Berliner, President, Montgomery County Council:

Council President Berliner highlighted several items that he and the Commission have worked on in the past:

- Council President Berliner was the lead sponsor on [Bill 33-15: Taxicabs – Transportation Services Improvement Fund](#). The bill imposes a 25-cent surcharge on certain transportation network service providers, such as Uber and Lyft, to create a fund that will be used to improve the delivery of accessible taxicab services. Since the bill was enacted in December 2015, \$275,000 in funds have been collected to date. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently negotiating with taxicab companies and taxi drivers. Draft regulations will be submitted in January.
- He has met with WMATA to discuss his concerns of MetroAccess service being provided through transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft as an alternative. WMATA's Request for Proposal for such services has been extended until mid-January.
- He co-sponsored [Bill 46-16: Streets and Roads – Snow Removal – Violations](#). The bill increases the penalty for violating the law requiring snow removal and ice on certain properties. The bill was enacted on December 13, 2016.

Council President Berliner discussed potentially introducing legislation during the next budget cycle that would divide Aging and Disability Services (ADS) into two distinct areas – one an Office on Aging and one service area for people with disabilities. He has had discussions with Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Jay Kenney, Chief, ADS, about the feasibility of such a proposal. While he understands there is overlap of services for both populations, he believes it would be easier to identify resources if the two service areas were separated. Council President Berliner asked for feedback and input from the Commission.

Susan Hartung, Chair, Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC), thanked the Council for their continued support of a supplement for direct care providers for persons with developmental disabilities. Susan added that DDAC will be focusing on increasing employment opportunities for the developmental disability population. Council President Berliner suggested inviting Ellie Giles, CEO, WorkSource Montgomery, to a DDAC meeting to discuss options. In regards to the developmental disability supplement, the expected budget to provide this supplement during the next fiscal year is \$22,000,000. Council President Berliner added he has concerns about [Bill 12-16: County Minimum Wage](#), which would gradually increase the County minimum wage to \$15 per hour by July 1, 2020. County Council is expected to vote on this bill at the January 17th Council Session. Larry Bram, Commissioner, added that many organizations that receive Medicaid funding will be impacted by the increase in minimum wage. Council President Berliner noted that home health care providers have testified before County Council that their reimbursement will not change with the increased minimum wage. There are concerns that these providers will lose business to unlicensed, less expensive providers.

Trish Gallalee, Commissioner, addressed the accessibility issues created by outdoor seating at restaurants. Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services (DGS), noted that a Committee is currently being convened to address these issues and discuss regulations for sidewalk cafes and outdoor seating. The Committee includes

of representatives from the Department of Permitting Services, Park & Planning Commission, DOT, and Zoning. Trish was asked to be a part of the Committee.

Kathy Mann Kopeke, Commissioner, noted that the prevalence of a disability increases as one ages and as such a large percentage of the disabled community is older. She asked about what data was cited to support the split of aging and disability. She also noted that the two groups have a stronger voice when aligning on the same issues. (Here is County self-reported data on disability and age from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015 that is on page 21 of the Commission's 2016 Annual Report:

- Population 0 - 17 with disability - 6,879
- Population 18 - 64 with disability- 36,170
- Population 65 and older with disability - 39,4300)

Avner Shapiro, Commissioner, asked if additional staff would be hired if a separate service area was created. Council President Berliner said he would add additional staff if the legislation were passed. Avner has concerns about creating another bureaucracy and funding new positions when the future of government spending is uncertain.

Council President Berliner encouraged Commissioners to contact his office with further questions and concerns.

Chair and Vice Chair Report:

The mandatory Open Meetings Act training is to be completed by March 1, 2017 for all Commission and ex-officio members. The training can be found at the following link: www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_intro1.php. Please send certificate of completion to Betsy.

There is no Steering Committee meeting this month.

Marcie Povitsky, Vice Chair, reported that the Library Accessibility Committee (LAC) is seeking input from the Commission on accessibility improvements that can be made at the libraries.

Ex-Officio and Member Updates:

Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services (DGS), reported that the Executive Office Building circle renovation is nearly complete. In the next two weeks, WMATA will be out to identify a MetroAccess stop. Nancy also reported that Marian Vessels, Director, Mid-Atlantic Center, has announced her retirement for the end of the month. She will continue to be involved as a consultant. The Department of Justice has published its final ruling [requiring movie theaters to provide captioning and audio description](#).

Charlie Butler, Department of Recreation, shared the latest version of [Therapeutic Recreation's Winter 2017 guide](#). He also reported that basketball will begin at Recreation Centers in January and parking at facilities may be difficult.

Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation (DOT), shared a brochure for the new Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center that is scheduled to open on December 22nd, 2016. He reported that DOT is holding an open vote to name the County's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Individuals who vote are automatically entered to win prizes. Vote: <http://getonboardbrt.com/vote/>. Faisal noted that the Call-n-Ride and Medicaid transportation programs cover all of the County, including areas that do not have access to public transportation, as long as the individual meets all program eligibility requirements.

Seth encouraged Commissioners to continue submitting Respect the Space surveys and photographs to Betsy. He thanked Trish for speaking at the County's Holiday Safety press conference held at the new Clarksburg Premium Outlets. View the County's report on the event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwKG03q_Ouk.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), has completed Fair Housing training for 380 HOC employees. Several HOC facilities are undergoing renovations including Arcola Towers in Silver Spring, which should be completed in March 2017, and Waverly House in downtown Bethesda. Elizabeth House in downtown Silver Spring is slated to begin renovations in January 2017. HOC will be working with Elizabeth House residents and their families and/or providers. Susan reported that HOC will begin to inventory all of their accessible housing units.

Rita Gale, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), reported that MCPL has hired an Assistant Facilities and ADA Program Manager to assist Rita Gale. Elizabeth Lang will be working on ADA issues for the libraries including programming, services and equipment. The LAC visited the Poolesville Library and noted access issues related to transportation including location of bus drop offs and lack of pedestrian crossings. These issues will be shared with the DOT.

Simone Geness, Montgomery County Public Schools, has been working to increase the number of students who participate in and complete Career Technology Education courses (CET). While some students may not be able to obtain certification, they can still benefit from participating in these programs. MCPS has partnered with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and is now making referrals to the DORS Pre-Employment Transition Service (PRE-ETS) program, which serves high school students ages 14 to 22. MCPS will be holding its annual special education parent summit on Saturday, April 22nd, 2017 at Walter Johnson High School.

Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, reported that the Department of Health and Human Services is currently working on budget development.

Sue Hartung, Chair, DDAC, reported that Marie Parker, Montgomery County Public Intern Project (MCPIP) TransCen / WorkSource Montgomery, gave a presentation at the DDAC's last meeting on the County's disability employment efforts. In the upcoming year, DDAC will be focusing on increasing employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Liaison to Commission on Health (COH), reported that COH continues to work on dental health issues and expanded dental health services. COH also continues to work on issues relating to health disparities as it relates to race and ethnicity.

Karen Maricheau, Liaison from Commission on Aging (COA), reported that the COA recently held their state legislative breakfast. Their Commission focused on two areas: increasing support for Adult Protective Services (APS) and Medicaid funding for dental treatments. COA has also identified their top three budget priorities: funding for APS; funding for group homes; and transportation for older adults who reside in foster care homes. COA is currently planning their stakeholder engagement event that will be held in the spring. The event will focus on age-friendly certification and liveable communities.

Announcements:

None.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, MD 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 – ****PLEASE NOTE LOCATION**** Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850 – 1st Floor Meeting Room – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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