



**Commission on People with Disabilities**  
September 14th, 2016

**Welcome and Approval of June 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes:**

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

**Review of the Accomplishments of the Commission**

**Cindy Buddington, former Chairperson 2002 to 2003 and 2008 to 2009**

- In partnership with the Department of Transportation, the Commission created a transportation guide for people with disabilities and seniors, now titled the Transportation Network Directory for People with Disabilities & Adults 50+. To view the Directory online visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd)
- Encouraged the County to create more accessible housing. This started the discussion of Visit-ability, which was assigned to a Visit-Ability Subcommittee of the Commission in 2003. The voluntary Design for Life certification program was later implemented in 2007 by the Executive Branch with the County Office of Permitting Services being designated to certify homes.
- Commission testified in support of budget increases for the Special Needs Library; respite care and personal care services; and developmental disabilities supplement.
- Advocated for ending State DDA waiting lists.
- Assisted with training County Ride On drivers in working with riders who have disabilities.
- David Sharp, then Commissioner, worked with County to review accessibility of Ride On bus stops.

**Michael Bruen, former Chairperson 2004 to 2005**

- Design of Wide Enough for Wheels snow removal campaign.
- Advocated for Universal Design throughout the County.
- Advised the County on accessible bus stop inventory and Ride On accessibility.
- Assessed and made accessibility enhancement recommendations for the Strathmore Music Center, the North Bethesda Hotel and Conference Center, and the Rockville Memorial Library.
- Developed a brochure to assist Landlords and Property Managers in Montgomery County to partner with the disability community to increase the successful lease up of safe, affordable, accessible rental housing for all persons with disabilities. The brochure was printed by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs and was distributed to Landlords and Property Managers with their annual licensing renewal.

**Trish Gallalee, former Chairperson 2010 to 2015**

- Respect the Space campaign was developed after Commission asked the County Executive to explore initiatives within the Montgomery County Police Department to enforce laws pertaining to the accessibility of parking for people with disabilities. The campaign would help to prevent the abuse of parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities and prevent the illegal use of accessible placards and plates.
- Advocated for the Special Hiring Authority that was included on the 2012 Presidential Election ballot. 80% of County voters were in favor of the special hiring authority that promotes the hiring of people with disabilities.
- Since the County's Hiring Preference was passed in 2010, as of August 2, 2016 the County has hired:  
181 veterans with 9 of them have disabilities in to merit positions;  
18 people with disabilities hired non-competitively using hiring authority,  
26 people with disabilities merit positions;  
10 persons non-identified  
235 Total

- Bill 5-13 – Property Tax Credit – Accessibility Features was signed into law. Property Tax credits became available to homeowners and builders who include accessible features in new and existing residential housing.
- Involved in making recommendations to the County in regards to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement, including working with Montgomery Parks in developing a plan for renovations.
- Advocated for the County to reinstate and continue to provide Coordination Community Services (formerly Resource Coordination) individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### **Seth Morgan, Chair 2015 to Present**

- Bills 33-15 and Bill 53-14 were unanimously approved that will improve taxi service in the County by helping the existing taxi structure better compete with new types of services, such as Uber and Lyft. Bill 53-14 provides for more accessible taxicabs to be available for calls and requires the County’s Department of Transportation to develop a plan to increase the number of wheelchair accessible cabs. Bill 33-15 created a Transportation Services Improvement Fund that imposes a 25 cent per trip surcharge on certain Uber and Lyft rides to finance the fund and provide disbursements from the fund to be used to improve the delivery of accessible taxicab services.
- Design for Life website was launched by the Department of Permitting Services – March 2016
- Bill 37-15 – Boards, Committees, Commissions (BCC) - Advocacy amends County law to allow certain BCCs to advocate at the State and federal levels if the advocacy is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations. This Bill affected 18 BCCs, including the Commission on People with Disabilities – effective August, 2016
- Respect the Space campaign adds a voluntary survey component to review parking lots of compliance. Surveys are sent to Commission and then are sent to either the Office of Human Rights or the County’s ADA Compliance Office depending on jurisdiction. Letters are sent to property management with information on how to bring their parking lots into compliance.

### **Budget Development Process and Vision for People with Disabilities – Jay Kenney, Ph.D., Chief, Aging and Disability Services**

The County Executive recommends the budget and the County Council approve and appropriate funds for the budget.

Presentation: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/BudgetProcess.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/BudgetProcess.pdf)

Presentation included Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Mission Statement and Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Vision and Mission Statement as well as foundational values. The presentation also gives an overview of supports services available to individuals from three years of age through the end of life, including: transitioning services for ages 14 to 21; Coordination of Community Services (CCS) / Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA); Family and Individual Supports; Autism Waiver; developmental disabilities supplement; and homeless case management

There are eight Program Priority Categories that are used when developing the budget. The eight categories are public health (such as disease prevention), protection (safety net protecting imminent risk), basic needs (food, shelter clothing), individual health (community clinics, health and wellness), prevention, self-sufficiency (income supports), community outreach and quality of life. Programs that fall under quality of life are at risk of being cut as they are viewed as much of a priority as the other categories. The Program Priorities are just one approach used when developing the budget. There are also five key result areas used to identify priorities. Programs are placed within these priorities and matched to various funding streams from the County, State or Federal government. The five key result areas are:

1. **Protection from Abuse and Neglect:** Adults age 60+ and adults 18 to 59 with disabilities.
2. **Integrated Community Settings:** Adults age 60+ and adults 18 to 59 with disabilities are able to reside in the most integrated setting.
3. **Improved Health:** Adults age 60+ and adults 18 to 59 with disabilities.
4. **Maintain/Promote Independence:** Adults age 60+ and adults 18 to 59 with disabilities.
5. **Increase Quality of Life:** Adults age 60+ and adults 18 to 59 with disabilities.

Budget planning must also take into consideration known and anticipated Federal and/or State funding, in terms of increases and reductions. For example, Home Care Program receives \$1,000,000 from the State and the County funds \$3,000,000.

### **Strategic Planning for the Upcoming Year – Michael Bruen, Commissioner**

Michael suggested that the Commission develop a Committee that will reach out to educate elected officials such as County Executive Ike Leggett, members of the County Council, and Congressman Chris Van Hollen. He volunteered to invite elected officials to his home along with other Commission members to discuss issues. (The Commission on Aging has a breakfast every year with members of the General Assembly)

At the Steering Committee meeting it was suggested that the Commission start a blog where Commissions can post items of interest. Teleconferencing for Committee meetings was also discussed.

It was suggested that the Commission collaborate more with other BCC's. We currently have liaisons to the Commission on Aging, the Commission on Health and the Mental Health Advisory Board. By collaborating with other BCCs and aligning priorities and goals, Seth encouraged Commissioners to form liaisons with other BCCs based on their interests.

The Commission years ago used to meet bi-monthly for social outings such as dinners out. It was suggested that Commissioners could look into doing that again.

Susan encouraged Commissioners to attend the DDAC meeting that occurs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

As a reminder: Commissioners cannot speak on behalf of the Commission when advocating unless it is an item that has been voted on. All correspondence from the Commission goes out under the signature of the Chair. A Commissioner is always encouraged to write to elected officials as a private citizen.

### **Vote on Fiscal FY17 Priorities for FY18 Budget Testimony – Seth Morgan, Chair**

A discussion was had regarding the Commission's top FY17 priorities for the FY18 budget testimony.

Sue Hartung, Commissioner, reported that there are 989 people in Montgomery County on the waiting list for DDA services. Over 100 of those individuals are on the crisis resolution and will be in crisis if they do not receive services within the next 6 months. She also reported that the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) will be focusing on employment and housing issues in the upcoming year. In terms of employment DDAC is reviewing County contracts. The developmental disability supplement is an integral funding piece that helps fully fund the wages of direct support professionals. The County minimum wage is currently \$2.00 higher than the State's minimum wage. DDAC has discussed that the County increase CCS by an additional 500 individuals. The current case load per manager is approximately 50.

Avner Shapiro, Commissioner, stated that in the prison system individuals with mental health issues making up 20% of the population, while in the community they make up 5% of the population. Individuals with mental health issues as well as those with intellectual disabilities can experience discrimination and mistreatment while in the prison system. Housing and employment also tie into those leaving the system. Susan Smith, Ex-Officio Member, Housing Opportunities Commission, noted that a Mental Health Court will be starting in the District Court later this year. The Mental Health Advisory Committee had been advocating for such a court to be established within Montgomery County for four years.

Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, suggested equitable access to services be a priority. Equitable access would include recreation services, access at County clinics including sign language services, and health screenings and vaccinations for persons with disabilities.

Trish made a motion for the Commission's FY17 budget priorities be: housing, developmental disability services, employment, and equitable access to County programs. Kathy seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Next Full Commission Meeting \*\*PLEASE NOTE MEETING IS 1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH – SAME LOCATION\*\*** Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Health & Human Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 1D Conference Room, Rockville, MD 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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