

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**  
**THURSDAY – MAY 21, 2015**  
**ROOM 14 POTOMAC BUILDING \* LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

**ROLL CALL** –Members present were:

Eric Colvin	Citizen Member
David Ryan	Citizen Member, Chair
Sherri St. Clair	Citizen Member
Lois Coryell	St. Mary's County Library
Ursula Harris	Human Services
Sandra Dent	SMCIL
Mary Ann Blankenship	DPW & T
Monika Williams	Aging & Human Services
Melissa Seigman	DSS
Lisa Millikan	DORS
Bonnie Elward	Citizen Member – SoMd Community Resources

Christina Bishop, Vice-Chair, Ben Smith, Joshua Brewster, Felton Rothwell, Michelle Tilman, Sarah Vahle, Crystal Frederick, Jodi Campo, and Tomica Scriber were excused. Department of Aging and Human Services staff present was Amber Hebert.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Motion to approve the May 21, 2015 agenda was made and seconded, the motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion to approve the March 19, 2015 minutes as written was made and seconded, the motion passed.

**CORRECTION TO MOTION FROM MARCH 19, 2015 MINUTES UNDER ADA**

**COORDINATOR REPORT** – Due to research after the meeting and the project falling under the Town of Leonardtown, the commission found that they should refer the waiver request to the correct authority, **Mr. Ryan presented a corrected motion based on information provided to the commission by the county attorney, the commission refers the request for a waiver for a Leonardtown construction project to the County Administrator for distribution to the authority having jurisdiction and seconded, the motion passed.**

**BUDGET REPORT** –

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Other Contract Services	\$1700	\$.56
Supplies & Materials	\$600	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2300</b>	<b>\$.56</b>

**OFFICER'S REPORT** –

- Mr. Ryan announced that a full-time ADA Coordinator position was placed in the CSMC budget for FY2016. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Colvin spoke to a few Commissioners regarding the importance

of a position within St. Mary's County Government. Once the Commissioners vote on the budget, Mr. Ryan will have further updates as to which department the position will fall under.

#### **ADA COORDINATOR REPORT –**

- Although, Ms. Bishop could not attend the meeting, reporting was sent via e-mail. Ms. Bishop attended the Maryland Accessibility Code training May 20, 2015, any members can contact Ms. Bishop regarding the ADA Coordinator position and results of the Waiver request for the building in the Town of Leonardtown, Ms. Bishop attended the SMC Transition fair, attendees were provided an overview of the Commission and given: a COPD Brochure, COPD Awards information and the Chair and ADA Coordinators business cards. NO award nominations have been received to date and Ms. Bishop asks that members to continue to email her events for the Commission's Facebook page, the page has been very active and people are starting to use it regularly. Ms. Bishop has begun to contact past ad sponsors for the etiquette book to see if they will continue to support the commission in another print copy, one ad to date has been confirmed. Opportunities will open up to all COPD members once it is confirmed what ad space is available, SMCR has already put in a request.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

- Ms. Dent and Ms. Elward gave an update on the 25<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of the passing of the ADA which will be held at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center on September 18, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Vendors will have the opportunity to have booths at the celebration; the committee is researching speakers, there will be games, and they are obtaining quotes for the food.

#### **DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –**

- The commission discussed having the Maryland Relay come to a meeting, but they will require a larger group to present, which the celebration in September would be a good venue for their presentation.
- Ms. Elward and Ms. Bishop attended the Public Schools Transitions Fair and it was well attended.
- Ms. Williams stated the “Bringing Community Together” movie day which was held April 18, 2015 at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center was successful. The movie day was free and open to residents of all ages.

#### **DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –**

- Mr. Ryan discussed reviewing accessible housing options in St. Mary's County and if the commission would be interested in further reviewing this topic. More discussion to come at future meetings.
- Ms. Dent stated that Southern Maryland Independent Living received a grant for volunteers to visit public buildings throughout the county to determine if the buildings were accessible and where they were lacking in those areas.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

- Southern Maryland Community Resources will host an Inclusive Bowling Extravaganza on June 19, 2015 and July 17, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Esperanza Bowling Lanes in Lexington Park, Maryland.
- Southern Maryland Community Resources will host a scout disability awareness badge workshop on June 6, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Patuxent Presbyterian Church in California, Maryland. The workshop is designed to assist Boy Scouts of America in St. Mary, Calvert, and Charles counties in achieving their Disabilities Awareness merit badge. This workshop will promote inclusion by raising the awareness of youth about the abilities that people with developmental differences have so that differences are respected and attitudes change. Scouts will learn proper disability etiquette and the importance person-first language. Scouts will be exposed to and interact with people with developmental differences in a lecture and small group setting.
- The Disabilities Awards Program – Ms. Seigman stated the commission will accept nominations through June 1, 2015. The purpose of the awards program is to promote awareness and recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and organization that improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in St. Mary’s County. There are six award categories which include volunteer, notable employer, care partner award, innovative program, and the Vicki Brown Award (2 awards). More information can be found at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/voluntr/DisabilityAwardsProgram.asp>.

#### **NEXT MEETING –**

- June 18, 2015 in Room 14 of the Potomac Building at 4:00 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT –**

- **A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. was made and seconded, the motion passed.**