

Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
March 17, 2009
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Julie Randall

Cathy Zumbrun

Jolanda Campbell

Jennifer Irvin

Marie Robinson

Tomica Scriber

Christina Bishop

Paula Andreas

Pam Main

Jaime Jones (Staff Support)

Excused:

Dennis Phillips

Sam Brown

Vicky Brown

Sheral St. Clair

Susan Erichsen

Rocco Aiello

Bill Nicholas

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by J. Randall. The meeting minutes were presented and approved.

County Compliance / Laws and /or Regulations J. Randall suggested that we request a copy of the countys comprehensive plan and schedule. It was recommended that the commission create a subcommittee to review the comprehensive plan. J. Jones will request a copy from the Department of Land Use and Growth Management.

Human Services Coordinator C. Bishop and J. Jones had inquired about the St. Marys County Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD) becoming a voting member of the Alliance. We were informed that we cannot participate as a commission member since we cannot vote on behalf of the County Commissioners. However, we can attend meetings as individuals, not representing the COPD. The COPD continues to have interest in some type of involvement with the Alliance, therefore, J. Jones will follow-up with the Christina Valenzuela, Alliance contact, to obtain additional information.

Disability Awareness Day C. Bishop indicated that Disability Awareness Day is right around the corner and everything is coming together. At this point there are approximately 30 vendors signed up to attend. J. Randall asked if Independence Now had been invited as this had been discussed at our February meeting. M. Robinson said that she was meeting with them tomorrow and would mention it to them. P. Main mentioned that door prizes are coming in. Commission members will be on standby if there are any needs prior to the event.

Accessibility C. Bishop had previously offered assistance to the College of Southern Maryland regarding the pool installation. It was requested that C. Bishop and R. Aiello contact CSM and ask to review the pool plans.

Needs Assessment Gap Analysis The COPD had a presentation and proclamation on the morning of March 17th with the Board of County Commissioners. We gave an update of the employment status for people with disabilities in St. Marys County and had also asked the County Commissioners to consider creating a customized intern program in St. Marys County similar to that in Montgomery County. Currently, St. Marys County Department of Human Resources forwards a list of current job openings to area service providers. The COPD would like to invite

Ms. Sabo, Director of Human Resources, to the April meeting to discuss current and future initiatives. Additionally, there is needs assessment that is currently being conducted by a consultant, Linda Heisner. The members recommended that the following agencies/departments be contacted and/or visited: Arc of Southern Maryland, The Center Life Enrichment, United Cerebral Palsy, Secure Care, Abilities Network, Kennedy Institute, Pathways, Trico, Cedar Lane, Vivian Ripple Center, Greenwell, and Special Olympics. M. Robinson suggested that the consultant get to know the culture of St. Marys County by going on site visits to agencies and driving around to get a layout of the county. The COPD also suggested that Linda attend disability awareness day on March 28, 2009.

ADA Coordinator C. Bishop passed out new class information (Grief Support for Children, Anger Management for Children, Social Skills for Children, etc.) which is offered by the Department of Recreation and Parks. There was discussion among the group about the need for these same types of classes for young adults with disabilities. Additionally, C. Bishop reported that a two week summer camp for children with Autism has been scheduled for this summer, which will be more of a therapeutic camp. St. Marys County Public Schools (SMCPS) has offered to pay for all of the staff, which brings the out-of-pocket cost for the families drastically down. In addition, there will be scholarships available.

Awards The COPD needs to proceed with the nominations for awards. This will be discussed at our April meeting.

Other J. Randall encouraged all members to volunteer for subcommittees of the COPD, which includes Awareness, ADA Accessibility, Needs Assessment, and Awards. C. Bishop recommended that the new members review the COPD website to review different subcommittees.

Next meeting date April 21, 2009 at 4:30 pm.