

Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
June 30, 2009
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Julie Randall
Sam Brown
Vicki Brown
Sheral St. Clair
Rocco Aiello
Marie Robinson
Christina Bishop
Paula Andreas
Jaime Jones (Staff Support)

Excused:

Dennis Phillips
Bill Nicholas
Susan Erichsen
Jolanda Campbell
Tomica Scriber
Cathy Zumbrun
Pam Main
Jennifer Irvin

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

Needs Assessment Gap Analysis Draft Review The first draft of the needs assessment was completed by the consultant and forwarded to the COPD for review. The commission members went through the report and came up with several recommendations. These recommendations will be forwarded directly to the consultant by J. Jones.

Customized Employment Training RFP J. Jones reported that three of the five providers in St. Marys County (UCP, Abilities Network, & TCLE) came together to submit a joint grant application for the Customized Training and Technical Assistance Request For Proposals (RFP). UCP has taken the lead on gathering and submitting the application. In part of the proposal they included that Trancen would provide the training to the direct support staff at the agencies. The trainings desired would include: creating win/win partnerships with businesses; offer customized employment services to businesses that will carve out jobs for people with disabilities; market and utilize effective sales techniques to businesses; gain knowledge of best practices utilized by other agencies; & provide accurate information about how individual benefits such as social security and health insurance will be affected by employment. Decision should be made by the end of July. Services can start as early as August 1st.

ADA Accessibility R. Aiello and C. Bishop met with the college and reviewed the blueprints for the pool. They were very pleased with what they saw and felt that CSM was very accommodating. J. Randall recommended that the Accessibility Committee draft a letter to the editor reporting the visit and informing them of how the citizens of St. Marys county are very excited and anticipate the opening. C. Bishop, R. Aiello and M. Robinson will work together to draft the letter. The Accessibility Committee is also interested in having an ADA seminar for the community including topics on universal design & general ADA information. This is still in the planning phase and will

be discussed at the next COPD meeting. In addition, the COPD will also discuss ways to mark the 20th anniversary of the ADA.

Human Services Council J. Randall reported that there is an employment sub-committee and the people on this group are very dedicated to expanding employment for people with developmental disabilities. The Human Services Council testified at the planning commission hearing and asked for a separate Human Services Chapter in the Countys Comprehensive Plan.

Other

1. J. Jones mentioned that the Department of Human Services will now perform contract monitoring of service providers who receive county funding.
2. J. Randall wants to invite DDA down to the next COPD meeting to talk about the following:
 - a. How much DDA funding comes into this county and how much does each provider receive;
 - b. What is DDAs monitoring accountability and quality in determining how service providers receive their funding;
 - c. Request any DDA reports on public providers.
3. R. Aiello reported that he has a student going to nationals in swimming through the adaptive aquatics program. The Arc of Southern Maryland is funding most of the expenses for the family. In addition, Mattingly Insurance is going to fund half of the cost of a wheelchair racer for this student. Her parents are looking for other funding sources to pay for the remaining cost of the bike. COPD members provided ideas for fundraising ideas.

Next meeting date August 18, 2009 at 4:30 pm.