

Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
September 15, 2009
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Sam Brown
Vicki Brown
Christina Bishop
Cathy Zumbrun
Rocco Aiello
Pam Main
Jaime Jones (Staff Support)

Excused:

Julie Randall
Sheral St. Clair
Susan Erichsen
Dennis Phillips
Jolanda Campbell
Bill Nicholas
Paula Andreas
Marie Robinson
Tomica Scriber

Visitors:

Janice Stallworth (Developmental Disabilities Administration)
Janet Andrews (Resource Coordination)

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by C. Bishop. Meeting minutes from August could not be approved at this time because there wasn't a quorum. Minutes will need to be approved

Special Agenda Items - C. Bishop handed out the sign-in sheet for the St. Mary's County Fair and encouraged all members to volunteer at the COPD booth.

ADA Coordinator – C. Bishop reminded the commission that the Mid-Atlantic ADA update training is scheduled for October 9, 2009. If anyone is planning on attending please bring copies of the information you receive back to the commission.

Awareness- C. Bishop handed out event ideas for the 20th ADA Anniversary. The goal is for each member to sign up for at least one event. Please review and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Awards – We have received several nominations for the awards program. The awards committee will meet after October 1st to make their final selections. The Awards Recognition will be held on October 27, 2009 at the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Announcements –

- Pam Main – Family Services Department through the ARC will no longer exist as we now know it. Not sure at this time where the Rolling Access funds will be going.
- Cathy Zumbrun – Department of Social Services has received several furlough days.
- Janet Andrews – Rolling Access funding is used up for this quarter.

Other – Janice Stallworth from the DDA (Developmental Disabilities Administration) joined us and introductions were made.

- State funding cuts - Janice indicated that Resource Coordination's funding was cut by 15%; provider agencies were cut by 2%; and other grants were cut by 2%. Additionally, Rolling Access was cut 10% across the board. The last day Rolling Access will be with the provider agencies will be September 30, 2009. The state will re-bid this contract, which will mean there will be fewer agencies within our region that will oversee this funding. J. Stallworth understands that service providers have to make tough decisions internally due to these budget cuts.
- Transitioning Youth- J. Jones asked if transitioning youth are automatically eligible for services. J. Stallworth stated that as long as the students/families apply for services; work with Resource Coordination; and follow timelines they are automatically eligible for day or supported employment.
- Community Pathways Waiver – The waiver through the Developmental Disabilities Administration, known as the Community Pathways Waiver, provides community-based support services to people with cognitive

impairments and other developmental disabilities. This Waiver allows the federal government to pay for a certain percentage and the state pays the remaining cost of services. When families first apply for DDA services they also must apply for medical assistance at the same time. If families refuse to participate in the waiver or they refuse to protect their financial assets, they could go without services. Families can work with Resource Coordination to make arrangements to put their assets in a "Protected Trust". At this point in time it is a voluntary waiver but soon it will be mandated.

- Monitoring of the service providers – DDA's Quality Assurance Team goes into the community and monitors agencies. DDA wants to know that the individual is getting the services that DDA is paying for and they want to make sure that individuals are involved in Person Centered Planning and are self-directing. Resource Coordination is also involved in the process. J. Andrews said that Resource Coordination is the arm of DDA in the local community.
- DDA's "Employment First" position - Employment will be the "first" option considered for all people of working age who receive DDA services.

An invitation was extended to DDA to join our commission. J. Stallworth indicated that she would attend or she would send a representative from DDA.

Next meeting date – October 20, 2009 at 4:30 pm.