

Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
November 18, 2008
Rm 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Julie Randall
Sam Brown
Campbell
Christi Bishop
Dennis Phillips
Paula Andreas
Sherri St. Clair
Pam Main
Cathy Zumbrun

Excused:

Rocco Aiello
Jolanda

Tomika Scriber
Margaret Stewart
Susan Erichsen
Bill Nicholas

Visitors:

Jaime Jones
Linda Heisner

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

Jennifer Irving, Mobility Manager, the new Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWW&T) representative was introduced to the members of the Commission.

County Compliance/Laws and/or Regulations –

- Bylaws- Copies of the new bylaws with changes highlighted were distributed to the members by C. Bishop with changes highlighted. The major change was making agency representatives EX-OFFICO members with voting rights in order for agencies to choose who their representatives would be. Other changes listed the Human Services Department as in charge of clerical services and changes previously made by the Commission. J. Randall suggested that in membership, St. Mary's College of MD. C. Bishop suggested that J. Randall write a letter to the agencies listed in members that do not currently have representatives attending meetings to encourage them to join. J. Randall also suggested for clarification purposes under membership, putting /Health Department next to St. Mary's County Resource Coordination. A motion was made by C. Zumbrun to submit the changed by-laws to legal and forward to the Commissioners, seconded by P. Main.
- FY10 budget was reviewed by C. Bishop. J. Randall suggested contacting finance regarding adding a donations line item to cover revenue including vendor fees for tables on Disability Awareness Day, Ads for the Etiquette Books and award sponsors.

Committee Status Reports

- ADA Accessibility – ADA Capital projects list that was submitted last year was distributed to the Commission members. The project status was indicated in red ink next to each project item. C. Bishop informed the Commission that the items on the list that have not been completed and any new items must be completed by the December meeting in order for timely submission to DPW&T. J. Randall suggested the DPW&T transition plan be reviewed for outstanding items with G. Erichsen.
- Needs Analysis – Linda Heisner was present to discuss the needs analysis progress. She introduced herself to the group and gave her background and qualifications to conduct the needs analysis. Heisner opened the floor to the COPD members to see what they hoped to gain from the assessment in order for her to develop her scope for the project. She introduced several similar projects to the Commission as examples of data collection. J. Randall stated she would get L. Heisner a copy of the needs assessment done by the St. Mary's County Health Department. L. Heisner asked the group what information they hoped to gain from the assessment, what age group, issues, and impairments did the group want to focus on. J. Randall stated the priority be on adults due to the fact that from birth to age 21 IDEA is covered; however, the entire life span needs to be addressed. C. Bishop suggested that other than dual diagnosis citizens, that mental health need not be included as to the extensive information already available for the population. L. Heisner stated that the quality, availability, acceptability and dependability of existing services will be of focus. J. Randall stated job development is a critical need in St. Mary's County. There are not opportunities for jobs for individuals with disabilities in the County. L. Heisner asked what the ultimate goal of this assessment. The COPD members concluded that the assessment will highlight the need for increased resources within the County for individuals with disabilities, to utilize the statistics for grants and awareness within the community. L. Heisner suggested the use of personal stories for awareness. Extensive discussion of the need of various employment opportunities, training of staff and need for social recreational needs of individuals with disabilities was held.

New business/Questions & Answers

- J. Randall encouraged members to attend the Workforce Housing meeting scheduled for this evening to advocate for housing for individuals with disabilities. It was suggested that members advocate for the modification of codes to provide incentives to build affordable homes that include universal design.

Next meeting date – December 16, 2008 at 4:30 pm.