



Commission on Disability Issues

Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI)
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2017
6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai
Heidi Burghardt
Cynthia Coburn
Nicole Czarnecki
Arthur Gold
Martin Jones
Andrea Kolp
Leslie Kornreich
Bridget McCarthy
Marian Vessels

Absent (Excused): Doug Lea
Diane Mikulis
Elliott Finkelstein
Chelsea Stanton
Karen Wood

Staff: Michelle Henry
Erica Lewis
Terry Zeigler

Interpreters: Becky Frey
Brenda Kelly Frey

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Welcome and Introductions. If member is not able to attend a scheduled CDI meeting, and if circumstances permit, member should let Erica Lewis or Michelle Henry know by phone or e-mail before 5:00 pm on the day of the scheduled meeting or as soon as possible.

- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - October 23, 2017 Minutes were approved as written.

III. Proposed Disability Income Housing Units Legislation

Carl Delorenzo, Director of Policy & Programs, Howard County Government
Kelly Cimino, Director of Howard County Housing and Community Development

- Carl met with the Commission to discuss *proposed* new initiative referencing Housing Disability program and to discuss the Draft Summary of Accessibility Regulations. Carl reported that the *proposed* initiative will include expanding the Housing program to include those with disabilities. Currently there is no law requiring a number of housing units for those with disabilities in housing developments.
- Kelly mentioned that these *proposed* housing units would not only be affordable but accessible.
- In the analysis, Carl has captured some of the accessibility regulations that currently exist. He asked for the Commission's input on the types of accommodations that are not listed in his analysis. Some of those mentioned by Commission members include:
 - *Physical disability with accessibility.*
 - *VISITABILITY*
 - *Accessibility in public area of building as well as the units.*
 - *Visual and hearing accommodations*
 - *Entry's that are level and have no steps.*
 - *Emergency alarms in every unit- not just in common area.*
 - *Usable kitchen – wheelchair accessible counter heights*
 - *Accessible mail system.*
 - *Accessibility standards as opposed to builder standards.*
- Andi told Carl that the Commission would like to be involved in this *proposed* legislation. Carl said he would keep Michelle and Erica posted on this analysis.

IV. Brief Reports

A. Chair/Vice

Strategic planning committee met before Commission meeting. The Committee reported that present for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting were Bridget McCarthy, Heidi Burghardt, Marian Vessels, Arthur Gold and Ande Kolp. The Committee discussed researching available data to determine the number of people in Howard County with disabilities.

B. Access Committee (Marian)

- Route One Tour by invitation of the Office of Transportation. Group toured the Route 1 corridor as well as surrounding areas that involved numerous accidents. Several areas where there are no cross-pedestrian walkways, curb-cuts and other accessible features. Those participating in the tour included those with



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disabilities, bicyclists. Jen Terrasa, Councilwoman, District 3, was part of the group doing the tour.

- Transit & Pedestrian Advisory Group – Marian. This advisory group has held two meetings so far. They have developed rules and procedures that require ADA Standards. The Central Md. Transit Development Plan and Howard County are working on rerouting buses along the corridor to better meet the needs of residents. This development will be presented to the County Council in January. Draft plan available online.
- Department of Planning and Zoning – Michelle reported that the DPZ is ready to participate in a joint tour Main Street. Will propose some dates to walk main street Ellicott City to review areas where accessibility can be improved (sidewalks, shops) and better meet the needs of the pedestrians.
- Watershed Masterplan Workshop– Two workshops were offered - both workshops three hours long. Issues being evaluated – make Ellicott City more flood proof – parking situation – lighting – better traffic pedestrian flow and street/sidewalk surfacing. Currently waiting for the analysis from the consulting firm.
- Erica thanked the Committee for their recommendations and input for Belmont Manor.

C. Provider Committee (Ande)

51 attendees for the “Understanding Special Needs Trusts” Presentation- October 18, 2017

V. Old Business

A. Re-naming the Commission

Randy Murbach, Member of the Public, addressed the Commission on concerns he has about the word “Issues” being used in the CDI title. His findings include that no other boards/commissions use the word “issues” in their titles. His recommendations are that the Commission keep title Commission on Disability and drop the word “issues.” The word disability speaks for itself. Arthur applauded Randy for his efforts. Heidi proposed motion to change name from Commission on Disability Issues to Commission on Disabilities. Passed unanimously. Andi will send a letter to County with CDI’s recommendation for name change.

B. Approval of 2018 meeting schedule

Motion to accept 2018 meeting schedule – passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Annual Report

Cyndi suggested making the awards photos smaller and moving to two pages. Motion to approve recommended changes to CDI Annual Report – passed unanimously.

D. Strategic Plan

Update from Workgroup (see above)

Implementation:

Strategic Goal 1.

Gather information on the number of Howard County residents with disabilities and the types of disabilities.

The following members (and staff) have agreed to collect data from the sources listed below:

Heidi (and Michelle) – ACS and Census Bureau data

Ande – HCPSS

Marian - Social Security Administration

Bridget – Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Strategic Goal 3.

Collaboration with County boards and offices. There was an initial meeting on 12/4/17 between Ande and Beth Benevides, Chairs of the CDI and Commission on Transitioning Youth with Disabilities, respectively, to discuss shared priorities and opening up the lines of communication. Also present were Robert Baynard from the Transition Commission. CDI Staff present were Michelle Henry and Erica Lewis. CDI's Vice Chair, Doug Lea and Keri Hyde, Howard County Office of Children and Families (staff to Transition Commission), were not able to attend.

VI. New Business

A. Training on Service Animal Requirements under the ADA – Tabled because Karen was not available.

B. Presentations and agenda items for 2018:

- Extend invitations to Clive Graham.
- Invite Carl DeLorenzo to a follow-up meeting
- Michelle reported that Metropolitan Washington Ear (Radio reading service) is interested in doing a presentation for the Commission. The commission is interested in hearing from Metropolitan Washington Ear.
- Suggestion made to invite the County Executive and County Council. Recommendation made by Michelle that the Commission must have a planned agenda with specific issues to be discussed if invitation is extended to the County Executive.
- Dr. Jones suggested Housing and Transportation as agenda items.

VII. Announcements – Michelle announced that Dr. Ashai, Nicole, Dr. Jones and Elliott completed the Open Meetings Act training and thanked them for doing so.

VIII. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.