**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

*MCOD/Alliance Joint Meeting*

Meeting Minutes –January 9, 2020

**Attendees:**

Dan McIntryre

Seth Morgan

Ben Jackson

Sharonda Huffman

Don Rowe

Nancy Jenkins

Glynis Watford

Sean McDonaugh

Janice Jackson

Kim Burton

Jose Sanchez

Robert Sweeney

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Elizabeth Hall

Yesheva Kelly

Christian Miele

**Guests:**

TraciAnn Hoglind - ODHH

Jacob Salem – Policy Manager, ODHH  
Katherine Jones – Bay Area CIL

Terri Parish – Baltimore County

Chelsea – Case Manager

Mike Bullis – Director, The Image Center

Betsy Luecking

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| **Welcome and Approval of Minutes -** *Dan McIntyre- Chair* |

Dan Mcintyre welcomed the attendees. Minutes were approved without changes.

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| **MDOD Updates -** *Secretary Carol Beatty/Christian Miele* |

* **Interpreter Funding:** The Department of Disabilities and the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have made arrangements to cover the cost of interpreting services for The Alliance for the remainder of the fiscal year.
* **30th ADA Anniversary Celebration:** Congressman Steny Hoyer and Governor Bob Erlich will be participating in this year’s event. MDOD is working closely with state and local partners for the celebration which will be held at an undetermined location in Prince George’s County. The theme will be focused on technology and how to help support independence and growth for the people with disabilities in Maryland.
* **CSG Conference:** Secretary Beatty participated on a panel discussion at the annual conference for the Council of State Goverments held in Puerto Rico. The focus of the conference was employment and increasing opportunities for people with disabilities.
* **Transition Guide:** MDOD Director of Employment Policy is working on a new transition guide. The guide is in an accessible format online and will be converted to braille as well as several other languages. The document provides a roadmap for parents and transitioning-age youth to gain access to important resources including assistive technology, community living, foster care, transportation, mental health and more.

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| **2020 Legislative Presentation** *– Christian Miele/Elizabeth Hall* |

* **MD Relay Transfer**: This bill would transfer the Telecommunications Access of Maryland program from the Department of Information Technology over to the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Several provisions were included in this bill:
  + TAM Director shall have expertise in telecommunications and should be a person with a hearing or speech impairment to ensure the individuals leading the program utilizes the services.
  + A member of the Governor’s Advisory Board for Telecommunications should be added to the Maryland Commission on Disabilities roster.
  + Creation of a deaf/blind communication facilitator. DOIT had approved approximately $150,000 grant to establish this program.
* **Self-Disclosure of Invisible Disability**: This bill would allow a voluntary self-disclosure of disabilities, that are not just physical, with the Motor Vehicle Administration. There would be no markings on the actual driver’s license to prevent “branding” people with certain disabilities. The bill is clear that self-disclosure would preclude any insurance company's ability to raise insurance rates. MDOD is not authorized to support this bill but is providing technical assistance.
* **Adult Diaper Changing Stations:** This bill would require adult changing stations to be installed in public restrooms. MDOD has been consulting with the Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of General Services and stadium authority as to whether this bill would be feasible as a legislative requirement. Elizabeth Hall created a report detailing the pros and cons of what having that as a legislative requirement would mean for the state.

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| **V-LINC Presentation – Mike Bullis** |

Summary: Introduction of the V-Linc Program

* V-Linc merged with the Image Center approx. 2-3 years ago. The engineers, occupational therapists, and physical therapists design specific devices for people with disabilities that are not available in the marketplace. Approximately 100 applications are received per year, but an estimated 40 projects are completed.

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| **Alliance Updates** *– Led by Terri Seitz, Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities* |

**Katherine Jones** – *Bay Area Center for Independent Living*

* Currently expanding pre-employment transition services
* Partnering with Talbot County Public Schools to start providing youth transition services
* Awarded the Money Follows the Person grant to help more individuals transition of nursing homes

**Nancy Jenkins** – *Anne Arundel County*

* In the new code, the AA Commission will now meet every other month
* Chaired a committee focused on the training of first responders
* Due to change in county leadership, it’s unclear if there will be an art show this year

**TraciAnn Hoglind** – *Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

* Partnered with the National Disability Institute to get funds from the Bank of America for financial education for the deaf and hard of hearing community in Maryland. Three locations have been secured in Eastern Shore, Baltimore, and Frederick counties. The purpose is to provide education for financial literacy based on the topics the community gives feedback on.

**Seth Morgan** – *Montgomery County*

* The county council in charge of health and human services attended the last commission meeting to discuss issues surrounding bike lanes, scooters, and floating bus stops.
* Working to create a program that will educate pediatricians on the importance of early intervention and how early determination could decrease the need for long term supports.
* Montgomery county has implemented a program titled “Vision Zero” which has a goal of making sidewalks and crosswalks safer for people with disabilities.

**Terri Parrish** – *Baltimore County*

* Hired a new ADA Coordinator

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| **Commission Member Updates** |

**Janice Jackson**

* Thank you to David Greenberg and the League for the creation of the first nightclub for people with disabilities named Club1111.

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| **Adjournment** |

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.