**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2019

**Attendees:**

Dan McIntyre

John Gretz

Nancy Jenkins

Glynis Watford

Ben Jackson

Jose Sanchez

Bob Sweeney

Don Rowe

Mark Leeds

Nancy Jenkins

Seth Morgan

Kim Burton

Ronza Othman

Michael Aronin

Senator Craig Zucker

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Elizabeth Hall

Yesheva Kelly

Kimberly McKay

Andrew Drummond

Christian Miele

**Guests:**

David Bahar – DoIT Director of TAM

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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* |

* MDOD has been working closely with the Department of Health on the Medicaid Buy-In program for people with disabilities who are working and need health care or personal support.
* Deputy Secretary Miele has been representing the Department on the Lieutenant Governor's commission to study mental and behavioral health and is also chairing the subcommittee on youth and families.
* Working with MSDE on employment, including youth tracking which connects youth to employment, training, and post-secondary pilot programs.
* Working with DDA with their RFP or request for proposal for fiscal management services for their directions program which will also allow people in community first choice to self-direct for the first time in about 41/2 years.
* Hired an accessibility coordinator who will be co-located with MDOD and the Department of Information Technology to start the process of working with other state agencies to assess their web sites and to look at IT purchase accessibility.  
  MDOD will be hiring somebody for accessibility evaluating. That person will be a resource to state agencies for all their website and application processes.
* MDTAP had a big anniversary celebration over the summer, which included, two open houses and an accessible gaming night for youth. They also participated at the federal level in Senate hearings and house forum on the Tech Act federal funding.
* Partnered with the Developmental Disabilities Administration to recognize direct support professionals week. The lieutenant governor hosted a reception in Annapolis for direct support professionals from all over the state.

Senator Craig Zucker drafted a bill which would allow people with invisible disabilities to self-disclose the same to the motor vehicle administration. In the event of a situation, where law enforcement must interact with somebody with an invisible disability, it would provide that law enforcement officer an opportunity to address the person appropriately. This bill would also include training for police officers.

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| **Telecommunications Access of Maryland** *– David Bahar – DOIT Director of TAM* |

Summary: Overview of the Maryland Relay Service and other accessible communication options.

***For full presentation – See Attached***

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| **Information Technology Accessibility Presentation -** *Andrew Drummond* |

Summary: Introduction of the Statewide Accessible Information Technology Initiative.

***For full presentation – See Attached***

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| **MCOD Communication and Outreach Presentation** *– Kimberly McKay* |

**30TH ADA Anniversary Celebration**:

Met with the National ADA to talk about our 30th anniversary celebration plans and their 30th anniversary plans. They are planning a huge event in DC the weekend of July 25th and 26th.

The theme for MDOD’s celebration will be technology and accessibility. Event will consist of IT vendors, speakers, and exhibits including smart home demos. Celebration will be held on Monday, July 27th.

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| **Commission Member Updates** |

**Bob Sweeney** –

* Contacted Senator Van Hollen’s office to schedule a meeting to discuss possible legislation that would require all buildings to have automatic door openers. Will inform the commission when that date has been set. Commission members are encouraged to attend.

**Mark Leeds** –

* Last term with the Commission on Disabilities.
* Retiring December 31, 2019.
* Developed a strategy for the lengthy registry of individuals interested in accessing a limit number of the Medicaid home-based services waiver slots. Rather than first come first serve, individuals have been screened and an algorithm has been developed to assess those who may be most at risk of institutionalization to give them a higher priority access to apply for the waiver. This went into effect as of October 1, and the first waiver letters went out last week based on the risk factors being considered.

**John Gretz** –

* Had a series of conversations with US Senator Markey from Massachusetts and US House of Representatives, Congressman Cohen from Tennessee, and their legal staff to garner support for U.S. Senate bill 2077 and its companion bill House of Representatives 3663, called the complete streets act, which would federally mandate full accessibility with regard to streets and sidewalks.
* One month after Trump administration took office, as part of the deregulation a bill was passed that states, for every new piece of legislation that is to be enacted, two must be removed. Therefore, the proposed complete street act bill is sitting right now.

**Nancy Jenkins** –

* Howard County Department of Aging and Disabilities is having their Disability Awareness Day on Saturday, October 12th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00.
* The new county executive disbanded the Howard County Commission and requested that everybody reapply and provide resumes. Appointees were supposed to be notified by September 21st, but that hasn’t happened. Will be speaking before the county council on October 21st regarding the disbandment and mission/duties of the commission based on the county code. The commission has not met since June 2019.

**Seth Morgan** –

* Receiving a proclamation in honor of disability employment month by County Executive Mark Eldridge

**Ronza Othman** –

* NFB Annual Conference is being held on November 8th -10th. Secretary Beatty, Mary Young from Baltimore City and Kevin Quinn, the MTA administrator are some of the government attendees.
* Working with the state legislature and the board of elections to address the voter concerns regarding usage of electronic and paper ballets which could make the votes of people with disabilities easily identifiable. In August, we sued the Maryland state board of elections to try to require them to switch to default voting system being the ballot marking system, and people will have to request paper ballot instead. As of last week, a motion for preliminary injunction was filed to compel the State Board of Elections to implement this solution of the default option being the electronic voting system, and to opt in to the paper voting system. A decision is expected in the next month or so.

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| **Adjournment** |

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.