**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

Meeting Minutes –March 5, 2020

**Attendees:**

Rowan Powell  
Nancy Jenkins

John Gretz

Glynis Watford

Dave Drezner

Jose Sanchez

Seth Morgan

Janice Jackson

Dan McIntyre

Ronza Othman

Sean McDonough

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Elizabeth Hall

Yesheva Kelly

Christian Miele

Kim McKay

**Guests:**

Scott Dennis, Assistant State Superintendent – DORS

Toni March, Director of Blindness and Vision Services - DORS

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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* |

* **Coronavirus:** The Department of Health and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency are taking the lead on the COVID-19 pandemic. MDOD’s Emergency Management Director, Cecilia Warren is working very closely with them as they develop plans to ensure that each state agency has continuous operations during an emergency.MDOD has published an emergency planning guide called Planning for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs. The guide is available on the MDOD website.
* **MDOD Events:** 
  + MDOD is partnering with the Maryland Catholic Charities on March 20th for a conference in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day.
* **Transition Guide Update:** The new transition guide has been printed and is also available online. The document provides a roadmap for parents and transitioning-age youth to gain access to important resources.
* **MDOD Department Vacancies**:
  + MDOD has successfully transferred the pin from MDOT to MDOD and is currently recruiting for a transportation policy director.
  + MDTAP is currently interviewing for an Accessibility Evaluator and an ATLP Loan Processor

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| **Legislative Update** *– Christian Miele/Elizabeth Hall* |

* **HB1003/SB851 – Department of Disabilities – Accessibility Programs***Transferring administration and management of TAM to MDOD*
  + MDOD has been meeting with TAM Director David Bahar, Governor’s Advisory Board and the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to incorporate the bill.
  + The bill also includes prerequisite job qualifications which would require that the current and future director would be a user of the services and be deaf or hard of hearing.
* **HB10/SB44 -Public Buildings – Changing Facilities for Adult Diapers**  
  *Creates guidelines for adult changing facilities*
  + First reading held by Senate and House
  + House version has moved to the Senate
* **HB44/SB47 -Commission to Advance Next Generation 911 Across Maryland**
  + MDOD Emergency Preparedness Director Cecilia Warren has been added to the commission to assist with revamping the 911 system and make sure people with disabilities are included in the changes.
* **HB847 -State Coordinator for Autism Strategy***Creates a new position at MDOD for services and strategic plans for people with autism*
  + If passed this bill would this position could help reduce duplicate work throughout the state.
  + MDOD has submitted a letter of information to educate the members of the committee, but has not taken an official position on the bill
* **HB1118/SB885 -MVA Records – Voluntary Disclosure of Developmental Disability**  
  Authorizing certain persons over 18 to voluntarily disclose a diagnosed developmental disability
  + The original bill stated that the records could be shared with the court system and housed at MVA. After concerns about privacy issues, it was suggested that a voluntary card would be the better option. The card could be downloaded and would have language crafted by the 3 state agencies.

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| **DORS Presentation –** *Scott Dennis, Assistant State Superintendent/Toni March* |

(*See attached handouts for full presentation)*

**Highlights***:*

* The Division or Rehabilitation Services is comprised of two agencies: Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Disability Determination Services (DDS).
* DDS’s primary responsibility is to adjudicate claims for individuals filing for either SSI or SSDI. Currently adjudicating approximately 70,000 cases a year. They also provide continuing disability review services for individuals how have received those benefits.
* The Vocational Rehabilitation Services program helps individuals with disabilities get and keep employment through hands-on training, education, and life skills training.

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| **ADA Celebration/Census 2020 Update –** *Kim McKay, MDOD Director of Communications* |

**ADA Anniversary**

* This year marks the 30th year of the signing of the ADA
* Secretary Beatty, ODHH, and Dan McIntyre were invited to the floor of both the Senate and House at the beginning of session to celebrate the ADA Anniversary with legislators since they will not be in session during the actual date of the ADA anniversary in July.
* MDOD is working on 3 events to celebrate the anniversary:
  + Planning a speaker panel to celebrate women in disabilities.
  + Spoke with the Orioles regarding doing an event at Camden Yards
  + Conference/Expo with emphasis on accessible technology. The event will be held at Prince George’s community college on August 11th

**Census**

* April 1st is the beginning of the census. The census dictates the amount of federal dollars that the state of Maryland will receive including funding for disability services.

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| **Commission Member Updates** |

**Jose Sanchez** - Testified in Annapolis in support of bill 847

**Dave -** The freedom center is redoing their website and social media page as an effort to engage more people in Carroll and Frederick counties.

**Glynnis Watford -** Participated in the EEO group meeting which included EEO Officers and ADA coordinators from across the state. Kianna Baker from MDTAP presented on the Access Maryland program.

**John Gretz** – Continuing to work with the county on repairing illegal sidewalk curb ramps. Working with State Highway Administration to build a continuous sidewalk alongside Urbana Highschool and Middle schools.

**Nancy Jenkins** – Participated in a walk-thru of the transportation system at Charles Street in Baltimore. The biggest issues were the lack of signage for deaf or hard of hearing individuals; The National Association of Deafness is having deaf law day at the end of the month. Deaf lawyers get updated on the latest cases regarding accommodations.

**Seth Morgan** – In talks with the county council members to work on the issue with scooters and how the impede traffic on the sidewalks which makes it a danger for blind individuals as well as wheelchair users.

**Ronza Othman** - Working to get a bill (SD575/HB1314) passed in the hearing committee in the Senate to make the default voting method electronic and accessible. Working with the Maryland state department of education to establish a teacher certification program in Maryland to try to ensure that there are teachers who are certified and meeting the standards for blind/visually impaired or special education in general.

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| **Adjournment** |

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.