

MDOD Commission on Disabilities
April 9, 2015 – Strategic Planning Meeting of the Commission

Attendees:

Secretary Carol Beatty
Chairman Andy Levy
Staff Liaison to the Commission Anne Blackfield
Facilitator Beth Benevides
Commission Members

Purpose:

- Secretary Beatty will discuss the importance of the commission and a vision for increased input from the commission.
- Anne Blackfield will discuss her role as staff liaison to the commission.
- The commission will discuss its charter/statute, its role and responsibilities in general, its meeting structure, and the potential for subcommittees to work with the department on membership, the State Disability Plan, and the annual ADA celebration.

Guided Discussion Items:

Commission Statute / Charter

- Anne Blackfield – clarification of the statute establishing the Commission and the status of the original charter
- Anne Blackfield – update on commissioners’ terms, necessary re-appointment letters
- Discussion
 - What are the key differences between the statute and charter?
 - Is there a need to update the charter?

Membership

- Anne Blackfield – update on vacancies
- Discussion
 - Should we consider a subcommittee to take on the responsibility of commission membership—compiling list of potential members and recruiting new members?

Function

- Current function and roles of the commission
- Discussion
 - What input does the commission regularly provide to the Secretary and MDOD?
 - What additional input does the secretary wish to have from the commission?
 - What role should the commission have in developing, guiding, and evaluating the State Disability Plan along with staff and the Interagency Disability Board?
 - What are perceived or noted challenges to greater commission involvement?

Meetings

- Current structure of meetings – six times per year, 4-6pm, MDoT conference room
- Discussion
 - Should we consider changes to frequency, location, time?
 - Barriers to attendance?
 - Web access?
 - Does the current structure work, or should we consider adding guest speakers? Asking agency representatives to provide updates? Other suggestions to engage all attendees?

Subcommittees

- History suggests that subcommittees have been ineffective and lagged in getting work accomplished between commission meetings
- Discussion
 - Would committees be helpful in supporting the secretary and department's work?
 - Which committees might be considered?
 - Membership committee (charter, term limits, recruiting new commissioners)
 - State Disability Plan committee (would work with the department for the next nine months to develop the plan; then would review the plan annually)
 - ADA celebration committee

Priorities

- Discussion of MDOD priorities outside of the state plan and commission's role in each