**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2023

**Attendees:**

Van Brooks

John Michaels

Senator Craig Zuckerberg

Nick Burton

Irene Souada

Chris Mason-Hale

Dan Martin

Dave Drezner

Caroline Kobek-Pezzarossi

Veronica Davila-Steele

Darrin Smith

Megan Jones

Nicole Webb

Sharon Maneki

Corey Johns (for Delegate Michelle Guyton)

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Kirsten Rob-McGrath

Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan

Yesheva Kelly

Elizabeth Hall

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| **Welcome and Approval of Minutes -** *Van Brooks- Chair* |

Van motioned to approve the minutes. Ande Kolp moved to approve. Irene Souda seconded. No one opposed. Minutes were approved without changes.

New Members introduced themselves – Chris Mason-Hall/Dan Martin/Doug Smith/Irene Souada/Nick Burton/Michele Livshin/John Michaels/Sharon Maneki/ Victoria Rodrigues- Roldan

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| **MDOD Autism Coordinator Presentation –** *Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan* |

* Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan was appointed by Governor Moore as the Statewide Autism Coordinator for the ASGARN (Autism Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs).
* Priorities for the coordinator are to develop and reorganize ASGARN starting with board appointments and drafting a strategic plan to present to the general assembly by June 30th.
* MDOD held several listening sessions across the state to get input from individuals with autism, their families and supporting agencies.

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| **Inclusive Playgrounds Presentation** *– Kirsten– Dir. of Health and Behavioral Health Policy* |

Summary: ***For full presentation – See Attached***

* MDOD in partnership with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council developed a framework for accessible playgrounds.
* Both the State Disabilities Plan and the Council’s 5-year plan have language surrounding health and wellness which includes an expansion of efforts for inclusive playgrounds.
* Development of the framework included identifying specific needs for the playgrounds, conducting research, convening an advisory group, and hiring photographers/graphic designers to photograph and format the framework.
* Anticipating fall 2023 launch of the Inclusive Playground Framework

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| **MDOD State Disabilities Plan –** *Lisa Belcastro* |

 *Summary:*

* MDOD has kicked-off development of the State Disabilities 4-year Plan by scheduling several town halls in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and Eastern shore.
* Conducting internal analysis to look at processes across State agencies.
* MCOD will be provided with a draft of the plan at the January meeting to receive input.
* Next step is to create a strategic direction to develop goals, objectives, and metrics to measure success of the plan.

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| **Secretary’s Updates** |

* Secretary Beatty welcomed all the new MCOD committee and thanked retiring members.
* MDOD in partnership with MDC is hosting the 2nd Annual Governor’s Disability Cultural & Achievements Awards Ceremony will be held in the Governor’s Reception Room on November 15, 2023. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

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| **Commissioner Update** |

**Veronica Davila Steele** –

* PG County started a series of virtual listening sessions across the county. The last session is scheduled for November 6th in lower Beltsville. Commissioners are encouraged to participate.

**Darren Smith -**

* Shared Alfred Sonnenstrahl’s concerns with the senior call check-in program not being in compliance with the ADA and scheduling conflicts with the Secretary of the Department of Aging.

**Ande Kolp**

* The Arc Maryland’s Partners in Policy making program is currently accepting applications for the program.
* Seeking proposals for innovative ideas that benefit people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

**Dave Drezner**

* Maryland Centers for Independent living is currently in the final year of the 4-year plan and preparing the development of the new plan. Will be reaching out commissioner for input during
* 15, 2023. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

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| **Adjournment** |

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.