**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

*MCOD/Alliance Joint Meeting*

Meeting Minutes –February 16, 2023

**Attendees:**

**MCOD Members**

Van Brooks

Janice Jackson

Darrin Smith

Dominique Sessa

Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi

Dave Drezner – Frederick County Commission

Seth Morgan

**Alliance Members**

Nicole Webb- *MD Statewide EEO Coord*

Carol Wheatley – *Carroll County Commission*

Kate Breen- *ODHH*

Doug Smith – *Alliance Chair*

Greg Schuckman- *Howard County Commission*

Mary Keane – *Montgomery County*

Olu Adekoya – *Howard County Commission*

Gina Valentine

Katherine Jones- *Alliance Member*

Mary O’Brien

Karen Booth- *Howard County Disability Services*

Rachel Harbin- *Harford County Government*

Katrina Dixon Patterson- *Prince George’s Co*

Corey Johns (for Delegate Guyton)

Lauren Walker

Ginger Palmer

Dahlia Shaewitz- *Prince George’s County*

Jennifer Jackson – *Anne Arundel Co Commission*

Huck Talwar – *On Our Own of Maryland*

Betsy Luecking- *Montgomery County*

Adam Hays – *Frederick County Commission*

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Elizabeth Hall

Yesheva Kelly

Kim McKay

Lorri Berrong

**Guests:**

Chris Mason- Hale

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

Van and Doug welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked to put their name and affiliation in the chat box.

October 2022 meeting minutes were approved with request to change the spelling of Dave Drezner’s name.

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| **Maryland Technology Assistance Program & I Drive -** *Lori Berrong* |

***Highlights:*** *(full presentation attached)*

* MDTAP is a program under the Department of Disabilities that provides access to technology through equipment demonstrations loans, reuse, financing and training.
* MDTAP has 9 Assistive Technology Libraries across the state that provides assistive technology demonstrations with clinicians in person or virtually. (Libraries located at: MDTAP Office, The IMAGE Center, Accessible Resources for Independence, Howard County Loan Closet, Arc of Northern Chesapeake Center, Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living, Independence Now Resources for Independence, Freedom Center Maryland)
* Devices are loaned up to 4 weeks at a time for individuals to try out at home, school, or work.
* Hosted statewide AT events including Accessible Gaming Days, Financial Resiliency Webinar Series, AT Talks and Tours.
* MDTAP maintains the Maryland Assistive Technology Exchange through Facebook Marketplace. This is an equipment exchange program for any type of assistive technology including adaptive vehicles and bed lifts.
* Manages a High-Tech AT Reuse Center (MATR). Equipment is donated, refurbished and offered to new users who are in need of these devices.
* AT Financial Loan Program loans $500-$10,000 for equipment and up to $20,000 home modifications.
* I Drive programs provides low interest loans for adaptive and non-adaptive vehicles.

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| **Legislative Update/Appointments Process** *– Kim McKay/Elizabeth Hall* |

***Legislative Bills Update-Bills MDOD is following:***

* **HB0547/SB0552**-Family Prosperity Act of 2023 – Altering the percentage of the federal earned income tax credit used for determining the amount at an individual may clam as a refund. If bill passes, taxpayers with an AGI of $15,000 or less can claim a credit against state income tax in an amount equal to $500 for every child under 6 or child with a disability under 17 years old.
* **HB546**- Serve Act- Gives students a service year option after finishing high school.
* **SB0732** – MCOD Membership -Altering the membership of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities to add one individual with a traumatic brain injury.
* **HB354/SB343** – Maryland ABLE – Establishing certain procedures regarding the persons who may establish or receive distributions from ABLE account in the Maryland ABLE Program for a certain eligible individual.
* **HB0053** – Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council – Establishing a Board of Directors for the Council and Requiring the Attorney General to be the legal advisor to the Council.
* **HB0214** – Commission on Public Health – Establishing the Commission on Public Health to make recommendations to improv the delivery of foundational public health services in the State.
* **HB0596 -** Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023- Establishing the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program for hospitals to coordinate transportation provided by a nonprofit organization.

***Appointments:***

* MCOD commissioners are appointed by the Governor. Due to the transfer of administrations, some of the appointment confirmations are delayed.

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| **Alliance /Commission Updates** *– Led by Doug Smith & Van Brooks* |

**Darin Smith**

* GABTR is working on real time captioning and looking into making more user friendly.
* Individuals have shared concerns with the Senior Cost Center that the program is not in compliance with the ADA. Will be writing a letter to the Governor to request a review.

**Ande Kolp**

* DD Day at the legislature is being held on February 23rd at the Graduate Hotel in Annapolis. It will be lived streamed on the DDC Facebook page. The video will be available on the Arc MD YouTube channel when the event is over.
* Celebrating World Down-Syndrome Day on March 21st starting off at the House and Senate Chambers in the morning and ending with a celebration at the Parish House from 11-12:30.

**Betsy Lueking**

* Local council member submitted a bill that would create a new Commission on Disabilities be created for Montgomery County for intellectual and developmental disabilities due to many coming changes with legislation affecting the IDD community.

**Olu Adekoya**

* Possibly drafting legislation requiring all apartment developments to make accommodations such as braille on walls, retrofitted doorways, accessible doorbells, etc.

**Doug Smith**

* First meeting of the Alliance held in the fall with presenters from National Disabilities Rights Network and Disability Rights Maryland to provide an update on the federally mandated protection and advocacy systems.

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| **Adjournment** |

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.