**Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2024

**Commissioners:**

Adam Hays

Andrea Kolp

Chris Mason-Hale

Dan Martin

Dave Drezner

Douglas Smith

Irene Souada

John Michaels

Michelle Livshin

Nicole Webb

Sharon Maneki

Van Brooks

Victoria Rodríguez-Roldán

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Charmeda McCready

Elizabeth Hall

Ellis Sardorian

Jennifer Eastman

Kim McKay

Yesheva Kelly

**Guest:**

Alyssa Lord

Amber Woods

Dahlia Shaewitz

Dominique Sessa

Frederick Kamara

Meg Jancuk

Del. Michele Guyton

Sara Barr

| **Welcome -** *Secretary Carol Beatty, MDOD* |
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Commissioners entered their names in the chat.

| **Behavioral Health Presentation -** *Alyssa Lord, MDH* |
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***Highlights:*** *(full presentation attached)*

* **Behavioral Health Mapping:** Reviewing the resources, crisis levels, and local supports. Considering how people are involved with better agencies. Using data collected to increase supports before they are in crisis.
* **Expanded Services for Families:** Focusing on expanding services for children to include their families to improve youth health outcomes.
* **Providing Care Before Crisis:** We're working on making sure people get the care they need before they are very sick or in crisis. We're paying special attention to young people who have either developmental or intellectual disabilities. We want to change how we provide services and offer more options to help them.
* Alyssa is happy to make introductions between commission members with local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs).

| **Welcome and Approval of Minutes -** *Van Brooks, MCOD Chair* |
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Minutes were approved with no changes. Commissioners entered their names in the chat.

| **Housing Presentation –** *Charmed “Char” McCready, MDOD* |
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***Highlights:***

* New Housing Director of Policy, 20 years experience in fair housing
* Will come back for a more in depth presentation soon

| **Ethan Saylor Alliance Presentation** *– Jennifer Eastman, MDOD* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* **Advocacy Efforts and Policy Changes:** Ethan Saylor died in 2013 after a fight with off-duty police officers. His mom, Patti Saylor, and others who care about people with developmental disabilities wanted things to change. They made a group called the Ethan Saylor Alliance. They wanted better community inclusion and safety. They focused on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
* **Standardized Police Training:** One of the big changes was on the training police officers receive. Now police trainings include interactions with disabled people. They changed Maryland Code of Regulations to do this. There are now requirements with specific objectives for education. New and currently serving police officers all receive this education.
* **Community Engagement and Impact:** The Ethan Saylor Alliance has been actively engaged in community impact initiatives. Efforts are ongoing to revise training curricula and expand outreach efforts, with a focus on involving people with disabilities in shaping future initiatives. They have also:
	+ Contract with University of Maryland for training programs involving role-playing scenarios
	+ Grants to promote meaningful engagement between people with IDD and first responders

| **2024 Legislative Wrap-Up –** *led by Van Brooks/Doug Smith* |
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* 1,053 passed out of 2,714 bills introduced. MDOD tracks hundreds of those bills which impact disability
* Highlighted 2 bills
	+ House Bill 215
	+ House Bill 981
* Del. Guyton continuing legislative work:
	+ House Bill 195
	+ House Bill 60
	+ House Bill 1199

| **Alliance and Commission Updates –** *led by Van Brooks/Doug Smith* |
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* Commission support staff position, thus far held by Elizabeth Hall, will be taken over by Ellis Sardorian.
* Recommended that interested parties go to Census.gov to look at the disability data according to the latest census report.

**Irene Souada** - (Montgomery County)

* Group invited to speak with DDA to improve language access. There is frustration with the lack of staff–bilingual or otherwise. Consideration for external communications via different formats and different user skill sets.
* Loved the last meeting with different breakout sessions, would love to do that again.

**Sharon Maneki** - (Howard County)

* Good legislation. Voting issues - would like a return of electronic voting. Requested meeting on voting. Established a cooperative relationship with Save Our Vote.

**Dominique Sessa** - (Wicomico County)

* Recently testified on Capitol Hill as an assistive technology user. Recently became Miss Wheelchair Maryland.

**Ande Kolp** - (Howard County)

* The ARC MD convention was held on May 30, 2024 in Ellicott City.

**Dahlia Shaewitz** - (PG County)

* PG commission hosted listening sessions on June 5, 2024 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the University of MD in the Thurgood Marshall center at MDOT.

| **Adjournment** |
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Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.