Maryland Commission on Disabilities/Alliance on Disabilities

Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2025

Adam Hayes

Ande Kolp

Dr. Antoine Hickman

Bryan Weinstein

Charles Rachel

Chris Mason-Hale

Claudine Paxton

Corey Johns

Dave Drezner

Diamon Halliburton

Douglas Smith

Evan Evans

Greg Schuckman

Irene Souada

John Michaels

Kaori Inoue

Michelle Livshin

Nicole Webb

Pickett Slater Harrington

Rachel Harbin

Sandra Bastinelli

Van Brooks

**MDOD Staff:**

Carol Beatty

Anne Blackfield

Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan

Ellis Sardorian

| **Welcome and Approval of Minutes -** *Van Brooks* |
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Minutes were approved with no changes. Commissioners entered their names in the chat. Alliance members introduced themselves.

| **Presentation of Implementation of ENOUGH Plan 2024 –** *Dir. Slater Harrington* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Grant funds local organizations in each region of Maryland to work with their communities and end child poverty.
* Focuses on supporting children, families, and their communities through collaborative action to end child poverty.
* 27 grantees across the state of Maryland.

| **Review of Legislative Session** *– Deputy Secretary Anne Blackfield* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Legislative session began on January 10th and will end April 8th.
* Individuals are encouraged to participate in the process by attending a bill hearing, tracking through the MGA website, engaging with your legislators via email and virtually events with disability-related organizations.
* Bills discussed
	+ [HB0031](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0031) / [SB0382](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0382) - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Powered Wheelchairs
	+ [HB0158](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0158) / [SB0223](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0223) - Department of Aging - Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program
	+ [HB0214](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0214?ys=2025RS) / [SB0208](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0208?ys=2025RS) - Human Services - Maryland Assistive Technology Program - Establishment
	+ [HB0430](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0430?ys=2025RS) - Employed Individuals With Disabilities Program - Upper Age Limit - Prohibition
	+ [HB0450](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0450) - Maryland Transit Administration - Disability Reduced Fare Program - Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals
	+ [HB0912](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0912) - Institutions of Higher Education - Instructor Training - Accommodations for Students With Disabilities
	+ [SB0182](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0182?ys=2025RS) - Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program - Eligibility - Family Members of Veterans
* Bill trackers
	+ [Mental Health Association of Maryland](https://www.mhamd.org/what-we-do/advocacy/news/)
	+ [Developmental Disabilities Council](https://www.md-council.org/policy/legislative-reports/)
	+ [The ARC MD](https://www.thearcbaltimore.org/get-involved/advocacy-public-policy/current-issues/)

| **Maryland Disabilities Plan** *– Deputy Secretary Anne Blackfield* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* The State Disabilities Plan has a rough draft and will be reviewed by the Interagency Disabilities Board (IADB) at a meeting on the 27th. Once approved by the IADB, the plan will be prepared for publication, expected in early spring.
* The plan is high-level and concise, focusing on general goals. More detailed work plans will be created by individual agencies to implement the plan's principles. These work plans will be more dynamic and focused on immediate, year-long steps and priorities.
* Please share immediate steps that you think agencies could be looking at or priorities you think they should be focusing on for the upcoming year with MDOD.

| **Alliance and Commission Updates –** *led by Van Brooks/Doug Smith* |
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**MCOD**

* Budget reductions
* Behavioral Health Administration: reductions/cuts

**Doug Smith** (Baltimore County)

* Looking to grow Alliance meetings
* Baltimore County Commission had in-person awards ceremony
* Housing and education committees making process

**Greg Schukman** – (Howard County)

* Meeting bimonthly, which limits capacity. Sharing census data to raise visibility of disability prevalence

**Evan Evans –** (Frederick County)

* Frederick has significant disability population

**Van Brooks**

* Safe & Sound partnering with an ENOUGH grant recipient. V. Brooks will be connecting with grant recipients to learn about how disability is addressed within the plans

| Adjournment |
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Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.