Maryland Commission on Disabilities

Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2025

Ande Kolp

Charles Rachel

Chris Mason-Hale

Claudine Paxton

Dan Martin

Dave Drezner

Del. Michelle Guyton

Doug Smith

Irene Souada

John Michaels

Lynnette Blake

Michelle Livshin

Sharon Maneki

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.

| **Presentation o**n Legislative Session **–** *Deputy Secretary Anne Blackfield, MDOD* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Reviewed dynamic changes in the federal government impacting MDOD’s work and the importance of grassroots communication in response.
* MDOD tracks many bills throughout the legislative session, most of which they do not act upon.
* Bills discussed
  + [HB 502](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0502): State Employer Act
  + [SB 208](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0208) / [HB 214](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0214): Maryland Technology Access Program
  + [HB 1481](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1481): Adapted Vehicle Access Pilot
  + [SB 157](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0157) / [HB 384](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0384?ys=2025RS): Service Dog Program
  + [HB 1473](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1473?ys=2025RS): Language Access Plans
  + [HB 1204](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB1204): Public and Nonpublic Schools
  + [HB 185](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0185?ys=2025RS): Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program

| Presentation **o**n Autism Waiver *– Carmen Brown & Dr. Tiffany Wagoner, MSDE* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Keep children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) safe at home and in the community by providing a number of services.
* Services include intensive individual Support Services, therapeutic integration, respite care, family consultation, adult life planning, residential habitation, and environmental accessibility adaptations.

| Autism Strategic **Plan** *– Victoria Rodríguez-Roldán, MDOD* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Maryland released the Autism Strategic Plan in April. This is Maryland’s comprehensive plan on autism.

| MCOD Subcommittees – *Secretary, Carol Beatty, MDOD* |
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**Highlights**

* MDOD can support up to 1 subcommittee. There is interest in emergency planning for people with disabilities from five people.

| **Alliance and Commission Updates –** *led by Van Brooks* |
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**Irene Souada** (Calvert County)

* Choice and Control met with 30 families through ARPA grant.
* [HB 983](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0983?ys=2025RS) / [SB 685](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0685?ys=2025RS): Board of Elections Language Assistance Program

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