Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOD)

Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2024

Adam Hays

Andrea Kolp

Dr. Antoine Hickman

Braden Stinar

Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi, Ph.D

Christopher Mason-Hale

Claudine Paxton

Craig Zucker, Senator

Dan Martin

David S. Drezner

Darrin Smith

Douglas Smith

Gillian Justice

Irene Souada

John Michaels Jr.

Megan Jones

Michelle Livshin

Nicole Webb

Ronza Othman

Sean McDonough

Warren W. Wilson Jr.

Van D. Brooks (Chair)

**MDOD Staff:**

Dep. Sec. Anne Blackfield

Sec. Carol Beatty

Ellis Z Sardorian

Victoria Rodríguez-Roldán

| **Voting Rights -** *Braden Stinar, Disability Rights Maryland* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* Discussion of voting rights and who is eligible to vote.
* Reviewed in-person and technological voting assistance available at the polls.
* Conversation on community concerns with voting

| **Voting Rights History –** *Ronza Othman, NFB MD* |
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**Highlights** *(full presentation attached)*

* A review of the history of voting rights with a focus on how the legislation developed.
* Voters with disabilities have historically faced discrimination and misconceptions about their competence, creating significant barriers to accessing voting services and facilities.
* Despite improvements, challenges remain for voters with disabilities, particularly in regards to equal access that affords voters with the same privacy protections.

| **Alliance and Commission Updates –** *led by Van Brooks* |
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Minutes were approved with changes.

**Dominique Sessa** (Wicomico County)

* Coordinated a video on a local channel with various experts focusing on transitioning people from education into the workforce

| Adjournment |
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Meeting adjourned.