



**Anne Arundel County
Commission on Disability Issues
2023 Annual Report
Steuart Pittman, County Executive**



2023 Membership

Voting Members January 2023 through December 2023

Karen Adams- Gilchrist	April Anderson-Comithier	Laura Anderson
Pamela Bukowski	Charlett Bundy	Katie Collins-Ihrke
Darren Comedy	Perenita Farrar	Hannah Garagiola
Lovely Grandfield	Phillip Holloway	Denise Portis
Gregory Snyder II	Jody Thomas	

**Ex-Officio Agencies/Entities and their Representatives(s)
January 2023 - December 2023**

Community and Disability Services ADA Coordinator Jennifer Jackson	Assistant Director of Disability and Community Services Brandi Francis	County Council Councilman Nathan Volke, District
County of Annapolis Hilary Riggio, Mayor's Office	Department of Public Works Alexander Baquie	Department of Inspections & Permits Kirsten Cook/Badanu Raghavenderrao

Department of Recreation and Parks Mark Garrity	Department of Social Services Deanna Morgan	Health Department Thom McCarty
Mental Health Agency Catherine Gray	Office of Planning and Zoning Christina Pompa	Police Department Sarah Schriver



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<p>Office of Transportation Tanya Asman</p>	<p>Office of the County Executive James Kitchin/Meghan Brown</p>	
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Meeting Dates:

The Commission on Disability Issues met on the second Tuesday of the month from 1-3 PM six (6) times this year. Six (6) of the scheduled meetings were virtual meetings via Zoom.

2023 Accomplishments

- ❖ In October 2023, CODI held the annual Disability Awareness Day in person at the Westfield Annapolis Mall in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities. Recognized Sunny Ceferatti, co-founder of The Musical Autist, was this year’s honoree. Thirteen (13) awards were issued, and recipients were recognized, representing various businesses and non-profit organizations serving Anne Arundel County.
- ❖ Attended the grand opening of the Severn Senior Activity Center, a new intergenerational building operated by the Department of Aging and Disabilities and Anne Arundel County Boys and Girls Club in May 2023.
- ❖ Partnered with the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County and the Department of Aging and Disabilities to host the 2023 Artists Without Limits art exhibit, recognizing over 20 artists with disabilities at the Michael E. Busche Annapolis Library in July 2023.
- ❖ Established a partnership with the Disability Inclusion Committee under the Healthy Anne Arundel initiative of the Department of Health.
- ❖ Partnered with the Department of Aging and Disabilities to sponsor one family in the Holiday Share program coordinated by the Department of Social Services. This program provides Christmas gifts to children from low-income families.
- ❖ Continued to promote the Assistive Technology Program with the ADA Office and the Department of Aging and Disabilities.
- ❖ Advised the County Executive’s Office on the impact of legislation to residents with disabilities in the County for the 2023 legislative year.



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2024 Goals

- ❖ Partner with the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County to host the annual Artist Without Limits Art Exhibit.

- ❖ Create a new set of committees to direct Commission activities to include: Legislative, Disability Inclusion Committee (DOH), Programs and Events, Community Outreach, Transportation, and Membership.

- ❖ Review, comment, track, and report the status of the bills that impact individuals with disabilities that are proposed by Anne Arundel County, State, and Federal for the 2024 legislation session.

- ❖ Participate in community planning efforts to ensure that plans are inclusive of everyone.

- ❖ Attend at least one disability awareness training facilitated by the ADA Office for the Anne Arundel County Police Department and Fire Department.

- ❖ Partner with the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities to host the annual Disability Awareness Day in October.

- ❖ Continue to promote Commission and disability-related events, education, and news via local and online media outlets, community events. Expand social media presence with a minimum of two social media posts each month and creating an additional social media account through Twitter, Instagram, etc.

- ❖ Attend the monthly Anne Arundel County Transportation Commission Meetings to represent the interests of people with disabilities.

- ❖ Have one CODI member serve on the Department of Health's Disabilities Inclusion Committee to provide feedback on new health initiatives.

- ❖ Support the ADA Coordinator with ADA-related projects as needed.

- ❖ Broaden the advisory role of the Commission on Disability Issues to focus on areas that support the vision of County Executive Pittman to be *The Best Place-For All*.