

Anne Arundel Commission on Disability Issues
Meeting Minutes
May 26th, 2009

In Attendance:

Alan Vandendriessche
Jeanne Elion
Marsha Dryden
Angela Haney
Mary Ellen McMillin (guest)
Ruth Knox
Pam Jordan
Gray Gentil
Lt. Col. Emerson Davis
Kate Rollason
Ginger Palmer
Meriel Steins (guest)
Diane Detore
Sandra Roberts
Ivan Candelaria

Susanne Boyle
Nancy Jenkins
Jeff Balentine
Donna Bowers
James Martin
Mary Ann Sabo
Frank Sullivan
Julia S. (guest)
Richard Scordo
Iris Littig
Francis Wright
Paul Lurz
Patty Algina
Joanna Clark
Gail Smith

Excused Absence:

Greg Africa
Michael Benelli
Claudia O'Keeffe

Wendy Scarborough
Joan Heinicke

Unexcused Absence:

Mary Tillar
Terry Clay

Nancy Choice

Guest Speaker:

The speaker for the month of May is Nancy Jenkins from the Anne Arundel County Commission on Disability Issues.

- “Coping with Hearing Loss”- Nancy informed the Commission on what causes hearing problems, how others can be helpful towards those with hearing loss, hearing impaired devices that are available to individuals, and the various types of hearing loss.

Introduction and Approval of Minutes:

Introductions were given. Minutes from the April meeting were approved with no additional changes☺.

ADA Coordinator Report:

Pam Jordan had 3 things to report to the Commission.

- DOAD is now publishing their Services for Seniors book with a new title “Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities and Caregivers”. The inside

cover has a message to the readers from the Commission along with a picture of former commissioner Nancy Patterson and Mahler (her dog).

- **May is Older Americans month-** DOAD planned several events, one of which the Commission will be participate in on May 18th. Richard Scordo and Jim Martin agreed to staff the Commission's information table.
- **DOAD Transportation-** Pam commended Sherry Bryson a staff member of the DOAD Transportation Department, for using her personal time to help an individual from Texas, who has a disability and uses a wheelchair. Thanks to Sherry Bryson, the individual was able to find accessible accommodations in Maryland for business and leisure when commuting back and forth from Texas. The Executive Committee voted to send a letter of recognition to the DOAD Transportation Department on Sherry's behalf. Pam will draft a letter for the Committee to review. Gray suggested the Commission present Sherry with an award for DAD.

Old Business:

Disability Awareness Day-

- Ginger has created a timeline of "things to do" to prepare for the 2009 DAD.
- Ginger and Iris have sent a formal letter to DAD honoree Vicki Callahan announcing her as the 2009 DAD nominee.
- The flyers from last year have been updated and will be used for this year's DAD.
- The employer awards forms will be updated and sent out in June (all nominations forms must be filled out completely and returned no later than August 19th.)

New Business:

Alliance Survey

- Ginger reported at the last Alliance meeting she attended that the Alliance asked each member to go back to their Commission for ideas and issues they would like to address in the upcoming year. Alliance members will report at the August meeting on issues that their Commission's would like to address. The Alliance will then vote to decide which issues the group will address in 2010.

James (Jim) Martin's interview

- Jim has been contacted by David Pearl of Family Radio's Arundel Perspective Program to be interviewed. A motion was made and an unanimous vote was received to have Jim Martin be interviewed by David Pearl and speak on behalf of the Commission.

Joanna Clarke's suggestion

- Joanna suggested that the Commission request a status report on how the County Government is doing in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). What some of the challenges are, what the Commission can advocate for that isn't too costly. Pam thought it was a great idea and agreed to come up with some kind of report.

Annual report for 2008

- Alan, Jeanne, Ginger and Pam had a meeting with County Executive Leopold and Eric Robey this morning at 9am to present the Commission's annual report. The meeting was successful and it also gave the opportunity for bus 921 to be discussed with the County Executive. Gail Smith will confirm June 9th with Pam for the annual report to be presented at the County Council work session.

Committee Reports:

Architecture and Accessibility:

Gray Gentil gave the report.

- Jim has made Gray aware of a site development plan that may be in violation with the County's approval process and the permitting and site development review. Gray is going to look into it and report back with the Commission.
- Addressing accessibility of public conference rooms in the Heritage complex. The idea is to have one public conference room in each building of the complex that can be fully accessible and universally accessible to people with disabilities.
- Looking at the accessibility that is available at doctor's offices

Transportation:

Joan Heincke was unable to attend and give the report. On her behalf Nancy Jenkins pointed out her report is the same as the AD Hoc Committee report about their meeting with the law enforcement and parking spaces. Please see the AD Hoc Committee report for further details.

Public Relation/ Website:

Rich Scordo gave the report.

- Rich and Jim Martin participated in DOAD's Older American's month celebration on May 18th. They talked with the seniors about the benefits of the Commission and welcomed everyone to come and sit in on a meeting.
- With the help of ex-officio member Terry Clay, Anne Arundel Community College is having a competition to develop a new symbol and tag line for the Commission.
- The Commission business cards have been printed for Commissioners to hand out. The cards have the basic Commission information with a blank space for Commissioners to print their name.
- The website has been updated and PR has been working with the webmaster to separate the Commission from the DOAD website and create a website solely for the Commission.
- PR is working with WNAV Radio to set up interviews with Commission members.

Membership:

Iris Littig made the Membership report.

- The Commission now has full membership and Stephanie Pipen has been approved for membership when the next Commission vacancy comes available. At that time, her name would be forwarded to the County Executive for an appointment.

Legislation:

James (Jim) Martin made the Legislation report.

- The committee met before the Commission meeting today and discussed bills that they and the County Executive supported and looked to see if they passed or not. The next Legislation meeting will be held on June 23rd before the general commission meeting.

Housing:

Fran Wright reported there is nothing to report.

Children/Education/Recreation:

Maryann Sabo made the Children/Education/Recreation report.

- Maryann met with ex officio Mary Tillar to discuss ways they can work together and work on some issues. The Department of Education will post the survey on their website at the beginning of the upcoming school year.
- A motion was made and a unanimous vote was received to have the Children's committee participate in a Teen Summit on May 30th at Annapolis High School.
- The committee is planning on having an information night in the fall this upcoming school year to inform parents of disability awareness in the schools.

Bylaws/ Ad Hoc Committee:

Nancy Jenkins made the Bylaws/ Ad Hoc Committee report.

- The Bylaws committee will be meeting in the upcoming weeks.
- The Ad Hoc and Transportation committee met with the Lt. Col. Emerson Davis (on behalf of Anne Arundel County law enforcement) to deal with two issues related to law enforcement and disability.
 1. **Enforcement of handicapped parking-** If anyone notices "hot spots" where individuals abuse handicapped parking they can call 410-222-8610 with the vehicle description and tag number. Anne Arundel County Police doesn't have enough man power to assign officers to every location with designated handicap parking spots throughout the county.
 2. **Newspaper article regarding the deaf man whose house was broken into-** Roughly around 652 police officers have been trained on how to properly interact with individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately no matter how much training is given, individuals can forget it, don't understand it completely, etc.

Announcements:

- Joanna Clarke announced the Commission will have a baby celebration for Pam's administrator, Patricia right after today's meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm. Next meeting is June 23rd, 2009.