

Anne Arundel Commission on Disability Issues
Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE:

Patty Algina	Sharlene Liberto
Jeff Balentine	Paul Lurz
Michael Benelli	Jim Martin
Susanne Boyle	Mary Ellen McMillin (guest)
Barbara Buchleitner	Claudia O'Keefe
Ivan Candelaria	Ginger Palmer
Nancy Choice	Nancy Patterson (guest)
Joanna Clarke	Stephanie Pippen
Lt. Col. Emerson Davis	Sandra Roberts
Michele Dillege-Golfdein (for Mary Tillar)	Amy Ryan
Marsha Dryden	Maryann Sabo
Ellen Dykhuis	Julia Schoenster (guest)
Mary Felter	William Schoenster (guest)
Joan Heinicke	Gail Smith (for Josh Cohen)
Nancy Jenkins	Roxanne Sporrer (for Mary Tillar)
Pam Jordan	Frank Sullivan
Ruth Knox	Anna Marie Wiseman
Yvonne Kranitz	Alan Vandendriessche

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Greg Africa	Iris Littig
Donna Bower	Kate Rollason
Terry Clay	Wendy Scarborough
Diane Detore	Rich Scordo
Jeanne Elion	Fran Wright
Gray Gentil	
Angela Haney	

GUEST SPEAKER:

Today's speaker was Lisa Kornberg from the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. Lisa has been working with the deaf and hard of hearing for 25 years in advocacy, technical assistance and program development. She shared information about what her office does and how they do it.

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Introductions were given. Minutes from the June 2009 meeting were approved with one change. Patty Algina did have an excused absence.

ADA COORDINATOR REPORT:

Pam Jordan had three things she wanted to report to the Commission.

1. The importance of emergency planning. Each of our senior centers will be available on code red days, which are determined by the Department of Health. They'll be open as cooling centers in addition to the police stations which will be open and all of that will go out through a publicity campaign.
2. Disability issues will be included in the 2010 goals and budget for the Department of Aging and Disabilities. This will develop and enhance services and resources for individuals with disability in cooperation with Maryland Access Point (MAP), represented here today by Barbara Buchleitner. MAP is a single point of entry for all services and individuals over the age of 55 and individuals over the age of 18 with a disability.

We want to enhance the ADA Title II compliance in Anne Arundel County government which is an initiative borne out of this group as well as the service for the public for Title III and Fair Housing issues. And also, to enhance disability issues

3. We were called upon to help coordinate transportation for this past weekend's ADA celebration in Annapolis and Department of Aging and Disabilities collaborated with Annapolis city and had additional transportation available on Sunday. Nobody called to sign up for any of the transportation. But we were available and could have brought people in from all over the state that came in through MARC or any of the light rail stations in Anne Arundel County but nobody called upon us and I don't know how Annapolis City fared.

Pam thanked all the staff that's here today supporting this meeting. There are all kinds of different accommodations in the Chesapeake Room and it's thanks to Jay and Terrell and Adrian, Dot from OIT and of course, Lizzie and Ashika. Pam said that it means a lot to her to have this support because we all want it to be professional.

OLD BUSINESS:

Disability Awareness Day-

Ginger Palmer reported that Iris Littig, Pam Jordan, Grey Gentil and she met with Mr. Goodman at the mall last week and did a walk-through of the space. It looks like we will be able to put in 38, 6-foot tables, which is more than what we thought we could get. We're planning on accepting 38 applications for registration and Mr. Goodman gave us a few extra spots if the kiosks do go up.

As of right now, we have 23 vendors registered. Ginger read a list of those registered thus far. Several folks have asked us if we can have more than just the employer awards. If anyone can come up with a phrase of what the award should be, we would be glad to present that.

We also have the emergency planning leadership awards and that's a new section also and we have eight awards for that.

Anne Arundel Community College is printing our fliers and cards and we should have them at the next meeting. We're on target with our time line and everyone's doing a great job, thanks to everyone for their help. The recipients of the various awards will be notified after the deadline on August 18.

Alliance Survey -

Ginger Palmer reported that the Alliance is developing their goals for next year. Ginger will be presenting the following issues from the Commission for the Alliance to consider as goals for 2010.

1. Transportation – create a true, regional transportation system. We need to create bus and rail schedules that work together rather than the current practice so that the counties will work together and it can go over the county lines.
2. Communication – effective communication in the entertainment industry for hearing impaired individual. Ginger asked Nancy Jenkins to review this issue with her.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Children/Education/Recreation

Mary Ann Sabo reported that they are still waiting on confirmation from the Special Education Office of the survey regarding their website. Mary Ann hasn't been able to get in touch with anybody to find out what's going on with that, so that means that our survey will be extended.

From their survey, they determined that autism is probably the most reported disability and speakers on the autism waiver and a provider from the autism waiver will be speaking at our next committee meeting.

They are still working on trying to get together in an open panel discussion with agencies from their survey. They had a target for the fall but that might have to be extended since they don't have all the information yet and then they're also working with the Board of Education to develop a committee to focus on awareness in the middle and high schools.

Bylaws/ Ad Hoc Committee:

Nancy Jenkins gave the committee report. Alan Vandendriessche, Marsha Dryden, Nancy Patterson, Joan Heinicke, Ginger Palmer and Nancy Jenkins went to the police training academy in Davidsonville and enacted various scenarios for the training class that was there at the time. It was useful for the Police Department to encounter service dogs and we were talking about some of the problems with wheelchair access. Nancy mentioned that they will be holding this training again in about six months and she encouraged others to volunteer.

Architecture and Accessibility:

Pam Jordan gave the committee report for Gray Gentil. There is a letter going to the County Executive asking that two of the architecture and accessibility proposals go forward. One is a survey for ADA compliance, Title II, of all government buildings and the second issue is including at a minimum ADA and Fair Housing on the developer's checklist when they make a submittal for a site development plan to the Office of Planning and Zoning. Alan and Jim have signed it and as soon as Grey's signature is on

it, that is going with some backup material to the County Executive with the two initiatives.

The Committee also worked on ensuring that disability issues and awareness are included in the general development plan. We already talked to Eric Robey and we're going to be setting up a meeting with Larry Tom to look at getting some amendments introduced during the public hearing phase to make sure it's comprehensive and addresses disability issues.

Also, Pam reported that Grey and the committee will be looking at The Field of Dreams and the Challenger Park at Lake Waterford with Wendy Scarborough. They are making comments now to make sure it has all of the accessibility elements.

Transportation:

Joan Heinicke reported the transportation committee has been somewhat stagnant for about a year. There were some suggestions that we get more members in the committee for help and ideas. So, if anybody would like to join the committee to let Joan know by e-mail or verbally. There are lots of issues to be dealt with and transportation seems to be needed everywhere in all different phases.

Alan commented that the transportation committee should clarify its role to focus on examining the availability of public transportation and whether people using public transportation are doing so in a reasonably convenient manner.

Public Relation/ Website:

Ruth Knox said that the committee is waiting for the community college as they are going to have a program to get a logo and a tag line. It won't be done until winter and we will not get it probably until spring. And because of that, they did up a temporary brochure about a month ago and it's waiting for approval. We need to have some information to bring to these various meetings that we attend.

Membership:

Iris Littig was not in attendance so Pam Jordan gave the committee report. Stephanie Phippen is imminently to be appointed to the Commission. The letter appointing her is on Mr. Leopold's desk. There are a couple of letters for members who are interested in staying on the commission and we'll be making a recommendation to the County Executive as soon as all the letters are in. Stephanie was invited to introduce herself and did so.

Legislation:

James (Jim) Martin said that there's not really much to report at this time. The committee did not have a meeting today or this month. The next meeting will be on August 25 from 11:30 to 12:30 and the topic will be the visitability language that has been put together for the exemption. Once the language is approved, we can speak to Larry Tom and the Planning and Zoning Inspections and Permits. We will also be talking about the bills that people were asked to look over and talking to delegates to see why those bills weren't passed and to review them.

Jim will send a copy of the bill that the Maryland Downs Syndrome Advocacy Coalition and delegate Josephine Pena-Melnyk have written to provide curriculum access for all students, not just for people with disabilities.

Housing:

Chairman Michael Benelli reported that the Housing Committee really needs more members. They are also working on visitability in the state. There will be a statewide meeting on August 18th at 1 o'clock in the West County Library off of 198, Maryland City. It's near the Sam's Club and Wal-Mart off of 198, Russet Green.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Joanna Clarke asked if there are forums we would want to cover and raise disability issues with the candidates in the upcoming mayoral race.

Ginger Palmer said that at the executive meeting Iris Littig had mentioned having the candidates speak at the October meeting. Once the primary occurs in September, and the candidates are determined, Iris and Pam Jordan have agreed to write a letter and invite the candidates to the October meeting. At that time, specific questions can be addressed.

Joan Heinicke attended the celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act on Sunday in Annapolis along with several Commission members, and it was very, very nice. The governor was there and spoke. John Kemp, who was born with serious disabilities, was a speaker too and it was a wonderful opportunity for exposure. She said that next year will be the 20th anniversary and she encouraged everyone to go and enjoy it.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Next meeting is August 25, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lizzie Allen-Jones