

MEETING MINUTES
ST. MARY'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
THURSDAY – MARCH 19, 2015
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING MEETING ROOM * LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

CALL TO ORDER – The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. (This is a recorded meeting)

ROLL CALL –Members present were:

Eric Colvin	Citizen Rep
David Ryan	Citizen Rep, Chair
Christina Bishop	Recreation & Parks, Vice-Chair
Lois Coryell	St. Mary's County Library
Ben Smith	Citizen Rep
Pamela Ford on behalf of Sandra Dent	SMCIL
Lea Arnold on behalf of Mary Ann Blankenship	DPW & T
Monika Williams on behalf of Rebecca Kessler	Aging & Human Services
Melissa Seigman	DSS
Maurice Chase	DORS
Bonnie Elward	Citizen Rep – SoMd Community Resources

Sherri St. Clair, Joshua Brewster, Lisa Berry, Felton Rothwell, Michelle Tilman, Sarah Vahle, Crystal Frederick, Cynthia Brown, Jodi Campo, and Tomica Scriber were excused. Department of Aging and Human Services staff present was Nicole Lawrence.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Motion to approve the March 19, 2015 agenda was made and seconded, the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes as written was made and seconded, the motion passed.

- Mr. Ryan presented Mr. Colvin with a plaque and card acknowledging his work and dedication as Chair the previous year.

BUDGET REPORT –

Account	Budget	Balance
Other Contract Services	\$1700	\$750
Supplies & Materials	\$600	\$600
Total	\$2300	\$1350

- The Commission will research purchasing more giveaways for the commission, etiquette books, and the 25th anniversary of ADA celebration. If any members have ideas on giveaway items, they should e-mail Mr. Ryan. A motion was made to spend the remaining funds on giveaways, etiquette books, or the anniversary celebration and seconded, the motion passed.

ADA COORDINATOR REPORT –

- Ms. Bishop stated that she received a waiver request from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The applicant, a builder, is requesting a waiver from the Maryland Code that there must be one accessible residential unit in a building with five or more units. The applicant purchased a property within the Town of Leonardtown and plans to renovate the building. The current property includes commercial space on the first floor and has eight residential apartments on the second floor. The renovation plan is to add a third floor to make five two-story loft apartments and plans for commercial space on the first floor. This renovation will work to assist with the revitalization of the Town of Leonardtown downtown area. The cost to include an elevator in the project would cause the builder a financial hardship. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is requesting review and comments regarding the waiver request. Comments must be received within twenty-one days, the administration will review the waiver documents and any comments received. The administration will make a determination if the waiver should be granted or denied. The commission discussed the project in detail. A motion was made to not support the request for waiver and comments will be sent to the administration relaying the commission's suggestions and was seconded, the motion passed.

OFFICER'S REPORT –

- Mr. Ryan announced that Ms. St. Clair had been formally reappointed to the commission by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.
- Mr. Ryan reminded the commission about the training for volunteer members of boards and commissions on Wednesday, April 8th, in the commissioner's meeting room, Chesapeake Building, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Ryan stated this would be an opportunity for current and new members to attend and ask questions.
- Plans & Goals for 2015 – Mr. Ryan asked for each member to send a goal or wish list for the commission in 2015.

DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS –

- ADA Coordinator Position Follow-Up – Mr. Ryan received a response from Ms. Sabo, Director of Human Resources in regards to continuing to research the ADA Coordinator position. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Colvin spoke at the Commissioner's forum about the position and received positive feedback from a few of the Commissioners; Mr. Colvin's e-mail to the Commissioners received positive response. Mr. Ryan reminded member that letters in support of the ADA Coordinator position are encouraged.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS –

- Committee List – Mr. Ryan stated the committee list must be approved and members appointed. A motion was made to accept the committee list as presented and seconded, the motion passed. The committee list is as follows:
 - Library Outreach Committee
 - Speaker Schedule Committee
 - Awards Committee
 - ADA 25th Anniversary Committee

- Face Book Committee
 - Transportation Committee
 - Proclamations Committee
 - SMPCS Transition Fair Committee
 - County Fair Committee
 - Beach Party Committee
 - Veteran's Day Parade Committee
 - Etiquette Book Committee
 - Nominations Committee
 - Annual report Committee
 - Health Fair Committee
 - Christmas party Committee
- ADA 25th Anniversary – Ms. Elward and Ms. Ford have met to discuss possibilities for the 25th anniversary of the ADA. They feel strongly that the event should be a celebration and would like a nice venue. The event will take place in August or September and the commission discussed possible venues such as Leonardtown Wharf, the Fairgrounds, and Halls at the Fire Departments. Ms. Elward stated this event will require a lot of help and cooperation from everyone to make the event a success. The event theme will be “Silver, working on Gold.” Ms. Bishop stated that she has a tent available for the event. Mr. Smith discussed the possibility of having the event at Mission Barbeque. More discussion will follow at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Under the theme of “Bringing Community Together,” the Department of Aging and Human Services’ Aging and Disability Resource Center/Maryland Access Point is sponsoring a movie day on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will take place in Building 1, Room #133 of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, in California. The movie day is free and open to residents of all ages. To register to attend go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-movie-day-bringing-community-together-tickets-15834626795> or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1057. Two movies will be shown. Both are true stories focusing on non-fictional characters with disabilities who overcame obstacles and achieved their goals through hard work and determination. Representatives from the St. Mary’s County Health Department’s Resource Coordination Program, Pathways Incorporated, Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living, Hearing Professionals LLC and Southern Maryland Community Resources will be present to share information about programs and services available for individuals with disabilities and their families. Family Movie and Information Day also includes giveaways, snacks, and refreshments. “The hope is that this event will bring the community together for disability awareness and provide information about available services,” said Monika Williams, Coordinator of the Aging and Disability Resource Center/Maryland Access Point. Special accommodations will be made to make ensure movie day is accessible to everyone. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact Monika Williams by April 18th, to allow for reasonable accommodations or auxiliary services to be made available. For more information about the event visit <http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/>.

- ADA Photo Contest – Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act! Share your photos of the "ADA in Action"! Our photo contest is organized in five categories, just like the five titles of the ADA: Employment - Photos of people with disabilities working, State and Local Governments - Photos of people with disabilities participating in state or local government programs, services, or activities (public schools, transportation services, recreation programs, museums, voting, etc.; may also include photos showing good examples of accessible facilities), Public Accommodations - Photos of people with disabilities engaging in the marketplace (shopping, dining out, attending the theater, etc.; may also include photos showing good examples of accessible facilities), Telecommunications - Photos of people with disabilities using telecommunications systems, Miscellaneous - Anything goes! Prizes: Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of the five categories. 1st prize: \$50.00 Visa gift card, 2nd prize: \$25.00 Visa gift card, 3rd prize: "ADA25" Tee Shirt (adult size large). Rules of the contest: This is a contest of the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center; entrants must live, work, or go to school in the Mid-Atlantic region (the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, or the District of Columbia). Photos must be in jpg, jpeg, or png format; maximum file size 80 MB. You can submit as many photos as you like, but each photo must be submitted separately. Photos must not have been awarded prizes in any other contest. You must agree to allow TransCen, Inc. and the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center to post your photo(s) to websites or use them on other promotional materials (posters, brochures, etc.). TransCen staff and Board members and their families are not eligible to enter. For more information visit http://adainfo.org/photo_contest.
- The Disabilities Awards Program – Ms. Seigman stated the commission will accept nominations through June 1, 2015. The purpose of the awards program is to promote awareness and recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and organization that improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in St. Mary's County. There are six award categories which include volunteer, notable employer, care partner award, innovative program, and the Vicki Brown Award (2 awards). More information can be found at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/voluntr/DisabilityAwardsProgram.asp>.

NEXT MEETING –

- April 16, 2015 in Room 14 of the Potomac Building at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT –

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. was made and seconded, the motion passed.