

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION ON PERSON'S
WITH DISABILITIES**

Julie Randall, Chair
Cynthia A. Brown, *Commission Liaison*



Francis Jack Russell, President
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Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner
Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

**Commission for Person's with Disabilities (COPD)
May 18, 2010
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building**

Minutes

Attendees: Julie Randall, Sheral St. Claire, Marie Robinson, Mary Ann Coontz, Christie Bishop

Staff Liaison: Cynthia Brown

Guests: Mitzi Bernard, United Cerebral Palsy
Rebecca Veneko, Mother/Advocate

Call to Order—Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julie Randall at 4:55pm

Minutes—February meeting minutes were accepted as presented. The commission did not meet in April and May.

EMPLOYMENT--Mitzi Bernard from United Cerebral Palsy discussed new efforts to increase supported employment. The Developmental Disabilities Council put out an RFP in 2009 and the Commission on People with Disabilities helped facilitate a consortium consisting of County Government's Department of Human Resources and Department of Human services, Center for Life Enrichment, the Abilities Network and United Cerebral Palsy. The grant was awarded in November and UCP is the lead organization. The grant will be used to provide specialized training for staff to increase knowledge of how to advocate for jobs for people with disabilities, marketing skills and establishing relationships with perspective employers. The training was contracted from a company called Transcend who worked with 10 UCP employees. These employees will now develop a consortium to meet monthly to network on how to employ people with disabilities, share best practices and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Over the past year, UCP's budget was reduced by \$230,000 and the agency has, somehow, adapted. Julie commented this is the case with all human service agencies; therefore, collaboration is more essential than ever. She stated the COPD will be looking for a progress report on the supported employment endeavor and will report to the Human Services Council, since that board is charged with making sure agencies are meeting the need in the County.

Mitzi added transportation is another barrier to supported employment. Mary Ann Coontz responded that insurance is often the barrier to collaboration for transportation. Insurance policies allowing different agencies to have their clients ride together are just too cost prohibitive. Marie advocated for integrated transportation so people with disabilities can simply take the STS bus. This helps to reduce stigma. All agreed STS is an underutilized resource. STS has a plan allowing them to pick up passengers with disabilities who live 3/4 mile outside the public route for limited stops. UCP and STS reps agreed to continue the dialogue to explore ways to improve/increase ridership.

MEMBERSHIP--County Government policy is not to appoint county staff to advisory boards as private citizens, however they can certainly participate as departmental reps. Appointments will be made in June. The commission briefly discussed changing the meeting time if it would increase participation.

BYLAWS--Bylaws were supposed to be approved when the awards were presented earlier this year but this didn't occur. Cynthia will follow up.

Autism Support Group--Rebecca Veneko mentioned she attends an autism support group and intends to report to them the many issues the COPD is working on.

ADA Anniversary Luncheon--Potential date is July 27. The theme for the day will be inclusivity. Cynthia agreed to contact the BOCC office to request Commissioners issue a proclamation and then attend a luncheon where people with disabilities will share their experiences in this County regarding recreation, housing, transportation and employment. Mary Ann agreed to invite a STS rider to speak and Christi will also find a speaker to present both positive and negative experiences. Marie will discuss universal design and Christie will contact the Director of Land Use and growth Management. A location still needs to be secured. Greenwell was suggested and Christi agreed to follow up.

Adjournment—Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown