

**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)
September 21, 2010
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building**

Minutes

Excused: Julie Randall, Rebecca Kessler

Attendees: Carole Woodward, Rocco Aiello, Marie Robinson, Janet Smith, Sheral St. Clair, Paula Andreas, Christina Bishop, Cynthia Brown

Christina Bishop convened the meeting at 4:45 PM.

ANNUAL AWARDS---The Commission selected October 26 as the date to request the County Commissioners present certificates to the recipients of the 2010 annual CFPD Awards. Cynthia Brown will confirm the date with the County Administrator's Office. C. Bishop asked the membership for more nominations. Commission members aren't eligible.

Sheral St. Clair discussed the Best Buddies Program as a possible nomination. This is a program at the high school level that matches disabled to non-disabled students for friendships/peer relationships. Best Buddies is international not specifically a county program so is it eligible for the award? FYI---The Best Buddies Citizens Program is being developed to extend peer relationships beyond high school.

The Helpful Hooves Program was also suggested. This is a program providing social and therapeutic activities for young people. Activities like feeding and grooming horses, horse shows and parties are featured. While all agreed it's a quality program, it's not eligible for the award because it's provided by a Commission member.

The MSTC program was discussed (MD State Seamless Transition Program) as a possibility under the 'innovative program' category of the awards. MSTC is a community program for young people ages 18 through 21 to give them real life experiences (i.e. going to the gym, participating in a self-defense course, etc.)

SUB-COMMITTEES----This topic was tabled for the next meeting. The sub-committees need to be reviewed to see if they are still valid or need to be re-defined. C. Bishop will provide definitions of established sub-committees.

ACCESSIBILITY SUMMIT---There was a group consensus that at this point there isn't enough time to plan a summit during this calendar year. More participation is needed from members. Members were reminded to be realistic in what they can accomplish as volunteers since most agencies have an increased work load at this time. Budgeting is also a consideration as this Commission spends the majority of its \$2300 annual budget on the Disability Awareness Day event. And the Disability Awareness Day turnout has gotten smaller each year. The summit is not canceled but re-evaluation is needed.

DEBRIEFING ON ADA 20TH ANNIVERSARY---Members agreed the turnout exceeded expectations. Participants gave positive feedback. It was a successful event.

ELECTIONS---tabled to the next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS---Rocco Aiello distributed brochures from the public schools on the corollary athletic program. The program is in need of donated bikes. The bikes can be adapted to meet the needs of the rider. All donations are tax deductible. There is an effort to get St. Mary's County registered as a Para-Olympics community organizer. The Special Olympics is more focused on intellectual disabilities whereas the Para-Olympics is geared more toward physical disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT—Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown