

Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
April 21, 2009
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building
Minutes

Attendees:

Julie Randall

Cathy Zumbrun

Bill Nicholas
Jennifer Irvin

Rocco Aiello
Marie Robinson
Christina Bishop
Paula Andreas
Pam Main
Sheral St. Clair
Susan Erichsen
Jaime Jones (Staff Support)

Excused:

Dennis Phillips

Sam Brown

Vicky Brown
Jolanda Campbell

Tomica Scriber

Visitors:

MaryAnn Coontz
Sue Sabo
James Cusick

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by J. Randall. The meeting minutes were presented and approved.

STS Application C. Bishop gave a brief overview of concerns that were brought up by a citizen over the STS application. C. Bishop, MaryAnn Coontz (STS) and Jennifer Irvin (STS) recently reviewed and revised the application and came up with a new draft. This draft still needs to have a final approval by George Erichsen. J. Randall suggested that the group e-mail recommendations or suggestions to MaryAnn. The commission was advised that the current application is on-line, which may be helpful in order to compare the current application to the proposed application. Mr. Cusick (citizen) stated that the current form is complicated and should be condensed to one page. He indicated that it is confusing since all three services (Para-transit, senior discount and disability discount) are all listed on one application. He is concerned that people trying to complete the application may be overwhelmed and wont utilize the services. S. Erichsen reported that it is important to have applicant information collected for grant purposes. You have to be able to track the people who are using the system and to verify the audience. The grants that are received help support the bus system for seniors and people with disabilities.

County Employment J. Randall discussed how unemployment for people with disabilities is extremely high and how the commission would like to find opportunities within the county government. Sue Sabo (HR) shared that her department currently provides additional support to anyone who would require assistance with the application process. In addition, they also send out announcements to local vendors informing them of current vacancies. C. Bishop had contacted Montgomery County to get additional information about their customized employment program. Sue Sabo will review this information and will speak with the County Administrator and department leaders and will come back to discuss with the commission.

Customized Employment Training RFP J. Jones stated that the RFP (request for proposals) was from the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Maryland Department of Disabilities. The purpose of this initiative is to

improve employment outcomes of people with disabilities by making funds available for community employment service providers to obtain customized training and technical assistance. Service providers will identify the specific assistance and support they need to reach their desired goals. At this point, we have made contact with all five service providers who serve St. Marys County residents and have invited them to a meeting to collaborate on this grant proposal. The meeting is scheduled for the upcoming Friday, April 24, 2009.

NAS Pax River Air Show & Special Populations J. Jones received a call from a special events coordinator from NAS Patuxent River. He informed her that they had received an e-mail from a citizen requesting that there be transportation within the gates of the base during the weekend of the air show to accommodate people with disabilities who cant or dont drive. The base currently doesnt provide any type of transportation within the gates and requires that people use their own transportation. During the weekend of the air show anyone can drive on the base but you cant be dropped off at the gate and walk the few miles to the site. NAS wanted to find out if the Commission for People with Disabilities or the Department of Human Services could assist in anyway. J. Jones did find out that the STS bus drops citizens off at the gate but doesnt go inside. J. Jones will continue to investigate other avenues or opportunities for transportation to allow people with disabilities to access the air show.

Accessibility C. Bishop and R. Aiello will have an opportunity to meet with CSM regarding the pool. In addition, the COPD wants to ensure that universal design is addressed in the countys comprehensive plan; therefore, J. Jones will forward the plan out to R. Aiello and M. Robinson to review.

Other S. St. Clair shared with the commission information about a documentary that is worth looking into called, Ties that Bind. It is available at the library.

Next meeting date June 30, 2009 at 4:30 pm.