

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

November 18, 2004
Room 12, Health Dept.

Minutes

Attendants: Paula Marcos – Health Dept.
Arthur Shepherd – (R, P & CS) Recreation Division
Julie Randall – Community Representative
Kathy Sears – Greenwell Foundation
Cynthia Brown – (R, P & CS) Community Services Division
Dennis Phillips – Department of Rehabilitation Services
Margaret Stewart –

The meeting was convened at 4:10 p.m. by chairperson, Arthur Shepherd.

October minutes were accepted as presented. The membership voted to have Co-chairs: Arthur Shepherd and Julie Randall.

The Co-chairs met previously and drafted a working guide for the commission, which was distributed and reviewed. The by-law was reviewed. Members discussed ways to recruit increased participation by persons with disabilities as well as services providers and advocates. Suggestions were made to start the meeting later, perhaps 5:00, and to move the location slightly south of Leonardtown (possibly the Higher Education Center). Members stated there had been several members with disabilities on the commission in the past and sometimes health considerations influenced participation.

Arthur Shepherd agreed to check on the availability of the Higher Education Center and to contact the County's STS Transit System regarding the route to and from the location.

Membership – The discussion about membership continued. It was suggested to have a representative with a medical/nursing/therapeutic background. Other agencies to be contacted regarding membership included Social Services, United Cerebral Palsy, Office on Aging, Center for Life Enrichment and Parent's Place.

Disability Awareness Day Event – It was suggested to conduct an informal survey at the Disability Awareness Day to determine the three top disability related concerns among agencies and participants.

Recreation – It was suggested that the commission advocate for a local vocational program after high school for students with disabilities.

New Business – Julia Randall suggested the commission inquire with the County Government about decreased funds allocated for ADA related matters.

Future meetings will begin promptly at 4:30 – In light of the Christmas Holidays, it was agreed to move the December meeting from late December to December 9 at the Greenwell State Park. Rather than a formal meeting, the group agreed to hold "information". Elected officials, agency representatives and potential members will be invited for refreshments to learn more about the commission and to request their participation. Cynthia Brown agreed to provide a photo display board featuring Commission on People with Disabilities activities, brochures and citizen advisory board applications.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Next meeting will be held on January 27, 2005 at the Higher Education Center

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown