
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes- August 28th, 2023

Members Present:

Parnell Barmer
Andrea Beichler
Jaimie Brunner
Chuck Kelly
Mike Mathias
Jim Morrison
Sarah Ortiz-Brown
David Pickett
Stephanie Schwartz
Kirk Vollmecke
Malcom Whyte
Rachel Trovato (staff)
Barbara Richardson (staff)

Guests Present:

Members Absent:

Rebecca Cook
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Michael Raidt

- I. Barbara called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. Rachel Trovato welcomed members and each member present introduced themselves to the Commission.
- II. Barbara Richardson, Director of Housing & Community Services, gave a brief introduction about the Office of Disability Services and the recent merger between the Dept. of Community Services and the Dept. of Housing & Community Development creating the Department of Housing & Community Services. Ms. Richardson noted that the Commission lacks both a Chair and a Vice Chair and that the first order of business would be to elect chairs.

Old Business

- III. A motion was made by Sarah Ortiz-Brown and seconded by Andrea Beichler to appoint Mike Mathias as Chair. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried. A

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motion was made by Chuck Kelly and seconded by David Picket to appoint Parnell Barner as Vice Chair. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Chairman Mathias presented the March 2023 minutes – A motion was made by Jim Morrison and seconded by David Picket to approve the minutes with the correction of the spelling of “significant” on the second page. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Coordinator Trovato presented an overview of the “Nature Social Group”, a pilot program and partnership between HCPS Partners for Success and the Office of Disability Services, that took place at Mariner Point Park last Spring. Ms. Trovato also gave an overview of the “I Can Bike Camp”, that took place at the Churchville Rec Center in early August. WJZ filmed a [news story](#) and *The Baltimore Sun* published an [article with photos](#).

New Business

- IV. Barbara Richardson gave a brief update about the transition of departments and mentioned that the Office of Disability Services may be moving to the Office on Aging, but there would be no substantive changes to the coordinator position or the department.

Ms. Trovato discussed the Annual Employment Luncheon that will take place on October 4, 2023, at the Richlin Ballroom from 11:30- 2:00 – members are encouraged to attend. Ms. Trovato mentioned that they have some nominations but are still looking for additional nominees through the deadline of September 1 – with the possibility of extending the nomination deadline. Mr. Kirk Vollmecke has reached out to the Veteran’s Commission for a Veteran of the Year nominee.

Ms. Trovato asked for guest speaker ideas for future meetings. Suggestions included:

- “Favored Angels” – individuals receiving services or needing transportation to employment may be eligible for services through their organization.
- “Discovery Center”
- “Voices of Us”
- “Harmer’s Town Art Center”
- The new Airbnb in Havre de Grace
- Moore Crunch



Committee Reports

- V. **Employment Committee:** No report but David Pickett agreed to chair. Ms. Trovato will email the meeting link to the Employment Committee meeting happening on August 30th at 2pm.

Legislative Committee: No updates

Accessibility Committee: Jim Morrison agreed to Chair moving forward. Stephanie Schwartz shared some disability friendly builders who specialize in accessibility modifications:

- Lee's Handy Services
- Senior Handy Services
- Meals on Wheels
- Elhan Improvements
- Coastal Mobility Equipment

There was discussion on putting together a shared resource document and uploading the information onto the Disabilities website page.

Membership: Currently the commission has one member vacancy and one student vacancy. Rachel Harbin's name was submitted to the County Executive for appointment and her nomination must be approved by the County Council. The Council does not meet during the summer months, but her appointment vote should be forthcoming once the Council resumes. Chair, Sarah Ortiz-Brown, will reach out to HCPS Voices of Equity for a possible student member to fill the student vacancy on the commission.

Harford County Council: No Report

Member Updates and Public Comments

- VI. Members agreed the next COD meeting will be held virtually on September 18th due to the holiday on September 25th.

9/19/23 Arc Northern Chesapeake – Sprout Film and Art Festival
Richlin Event Center – 5:30 – 8:30 pm - Tickets - \$20

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- 9/20/23 The Voices of U.S. – Self-Advocacy Group Meeting – 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Aspire - 2109 Laurel Bush Road, Bel Air, MD 21015
- 9/23/23 - The Image Center Big Bike Build – 9:00 am -4:00 pm – Stevenson
University - They are looking for teams to build bikes
- 9/23/23 Hank Rocks Bingo – Jarrettsville VFW – 1714 Morse Road, Forest Hill
Doors Open 6 pm – Games start at 7 pm - \$15 in advance, \$18 at door
- 10/21/2023 Veteran’s Resource Fair – Bel Air Armory 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- 10/25/2023 Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Open House – 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, MD – transition youth 18-21
- Saturdays Miracle League of Harford County – beginning 9/2 – 10/28 – games
generally begin at 9:30 – full schedule:

<https://miracleleagueharford.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-MLHC-FALL-SCHEDULE.pdf>

VII. Adjournment