

**Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities**  
**April 20, 2022, Virtual Meeting Minutes**  
**via Webex**

Attending: Carol Beatty (guest speaker), John Bryan, Mike Bullis, David Bycoff, Shakima Davey, Carla DeMendonca, Jay Doyle, Ben Dubin, Kathleen Durkin, Julie Gaynor, David Greenberg, Terry Hickey, Kim McKay, Greg Miller, Terri Parrish, Jose Sanchez, Mary Scott, Doug Smith, Michael Tan, Brian Trees, Santa Wallace

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Terry Hickey, Director of Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provided an update on the county's affordable housing efforts, citing new development projects that may be coming forward to increase the county's affordable housing stock. Mr. Hickey emphasized that the County now expects housing developments that receive county financial assistance to ensure that at least 10% of the housing units are accessible.

Mr. Hickey noted that he has been in touch with the head of Baltimore County Department of Public Works to discuss issues surrounding the process for reviewing/granting applications for reserved parking submitted by people with disabilities. DHCD staff are revising language on the DHCD website that identifies the programs available for housing modifications that enhance accessibility, including the possibility of creating a parking pad. This issue remains active.

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Terri Parrish introduced the meeting's guest speaker, Maryland Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, Carol Beatty. Terri noted that Maryland was the first state to appoint a cabinet-level position to lead a department dedicated to serving people with disabilities.

Ms. Beatty provided a thorough presentation on the priorities and accomplishments of the Maryland Department of Disabilities and shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Commission.

Below is a summary of Ms. Beatty's presentation:

**Maryland Department of Disabilities, Leadership**

- Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
- Christian Miele, Deputy Secretary

**Mission:** Changing Maryland for the better by promoting equality of opportunity, access and choice for Marylanders with disabilities

**History:**

- Created in 2004
- Only cabinet level department in the United States representing all disabilities
- Charged with coordinating and improving the delivery of services to individuals with disabilities in the state of Maryland
- The Department is informed by the Maryland Commission on Disabilities

**Services and Programs:**

- Access Maryland
- Attendant Care Program
- Community Living Policy Coordination
- Constituent Services
- Emergency Preparedness Policy Coordination
- Employment Policy Coordination
- Housing Policy Coordination
- Health & Behavioral Health Policy Coordination
- Maryland Technology Assistance Program
- Telecommunications Access Maryland
- Transitioning Youth
- Transportation Policy Coordination

**Achievements:**

## Employment

- Employment First Initiative
- Elimination of Sub-minimum wage
- Transition work including MD PROMISE
- Creation of Center for Transition and Career Innovation at University of Maryland

## Health and Behavioral Health

- Established dedicated position
- Lt. Governor's Commission

## Community Living

- Organizational change with DDA
- Established Ethan Saylor Alliance
- Multi-Agency Leadership Consortiums led by MDOD
- EID Program improvements
- Discussion of self-direction
- Discussion of Consortiums

## Housing

- Weinberg Initiative, Section 811 PRA and MFP Bridge Programs
- Community Choice Homes

## Telecommunications Access Maryland (TAM)

- Joined MDOD in 2020
- Deaf/Blind Communication Facilitator Program
- Discussion of meeting interfaces, Zoom, etc.
- Remote Conference Captioning (RCC)

## MD Assistive Technology Program (MDTAP)

- MD Assistive Technology ReUse Center
- Statewide network of device loan libraries

## Statewide IT Accessibility Initiative

- Training for state agencies on accessibility
- Facilitating state website accessibility

## COVID Response and Recovery

- Prioritization of PWD for PPE, vaccination
- Designation of Direct Support Professionals as essential workers
- Hospital Support Person Policy
- Provided training, coordination and equipment for accessibility at statewide testing and vaccination clinics
- Work with Equity Taskforce for specialty clinics for PWD
- Appendix K flexibilities for Medicaid Waivers

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Terri Parish thanked the following Commission members for taking part in an update to the County Resource Guide: Carla DeMondonca, Julie Gaynor, Mary Scott, Michael Tan, Brad Kressman, Kali Mallik and Larry Hughes.

Terri and Ben Dubin have been active in providing guidance to the county's 10-year Master Plan process.

Commission Staff Liaison Jay Doyle reported on correspondence that has been sent to Councilwoman Cathy Bevins regarding the revitalization plan for Belair Road.

Gregory Miller announced that a Penn-Mar employee, Maria Swift, was honored to receive a prestigious national award recognizing her exemplary service to individuals with disabilities.