Howard County Disability Inclusion, Safety and Crisis Response Task Force

October 15th, 2026
10a – 11a
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Focus

The task force convened to review proposed recommendations for submission to the County Executive by November 2, 2026, and to consider amendments before a final vote. Webex access and password difficulties delayed the start of the meeting; quorum was subsequently confirmed. Members expressed concerns about the time available for review, accessibility, the implications of changes for disability rights, and the need for all members to see proposed revisions.

Discussion: Proposed Recommendation Amendments

Members considered revising the recommendation to co-locate the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) with dispatch and provide 24/7 availability, with particular attention to overnight hours. The intended outcome is stronger coordination with dispatchers and a more comprehensive response to high-risk calls. Members emphasized that the recommendation should use clear operational language rather than relying only on terms such as "integrate" or "prioritize."

Members discussed changing the recommendation from alternative response models that "prioritize" mental health professionals over police to models that "require" mental health professionals. Members noted that any agreed revision would need to be reflected in both the summary recommendations and the detailed focus-area text.

Proposed amendments would establish an implementation committee within six months of the next County Executive's swearing-in and require an annual progress report to the County Executive by December 31.

Members raised concerns about how substantive amendments could affect the rights of people with disabilities. A member also asked about a previously discussed recommendation for a dedicated crisis response or crisis service that was not included in the current draft; members may revisit that item. Recommendations submitted by the People on the Go self-advocacy group were identified for circulation and consideration.

The task force discussed whether to vote separately on each proposed amendment or to review a consolidated version of the revised recommendations before voting. Members preferred to receive and review a consolidated document with tracked changes. The vote was postponed to allow additional review and an opportunity to raise concerns.

Accessibility and Participation

Members requested that revisions be distributed in an accessible format rather than presented only through screen sharing, to accommodate participants with visual impairments and those joining by telephone.

Two additional virtual meetings were planned: a discussion-only meeting to review the recommendations and outstanding issues, followed by a meeting for the final vote. Recommendations will again be shared with task force members in advance of the discussion-only meeting. Amendments may still be introduced during the voting session in accordance with meeting procedures.

No final vote on the proposed recommendations was taken at this meeting.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- Circulate a consolidated redlined/tracked-changes version of the recommendations, together with a summary of the review and voting process.
- Circulate recommendations from People on the Go and other separately submitted materials for informational review, consistent with Open Meetings Act requirements.
- Task force members should review the revised recommendations and submit comments through the designated process before the next meeting.
- Schedule two virtual meetings: one for discussion without a vote and one for the final vote (dates pending).
- Incorporate the final recommendations into the task force report for submission to the County Executive by November 2, 2026.