



Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 25, 2019
Commission Meeting: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai
Heidi Burghardt
Cynthia Coburn
Elliott Finkelstein
Martin Jones
Leslie Kornreich
Doug Lea
Marian Vessels
Karen Wood

Absent: Nicole Czarnecki
Arthur Gold
Andrea Kolp
Diane Mikulis

Staff: Michelle Henry
Terry Zeigler
Erica Lewis

Interpreters: Jamie Miller
Charlotte Winston

Guests: Sharonda Huffman, Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order 6:30 pm.

II. New Business

B. Approval of Minutes for 12-10-18

- Minutes approved as written with one change requested by the Chair: Include in suggested topics for Access and Provider Committees, “transition period from childhood to adulthood.”

C. Access Committee

- Topic of 3-12-19 meeting: The Commission would like to review plans for the new Howard County Circuit Courthouse. Topics for future meetings: Suggestions included meeting with Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits regarding the location of van accessible parking spaces, accessibility of historic Ellicott City’s Main Street, and outreach to Howard County’s hospitality industry businesses regarding accessibility for customers with disabilities.

D. Provider Committee

- Topic of March meeting will be respite care options. The originally-scheduled meeting date of 3-13-19 is being changed to accommodate the schedules and availability of the presenters; the new date will be announced shortly.

III. Old Business

E. Council Resolution 23-2018 Report

- Draft reports were distributed. Discussion held regarding public comments and inclusion of comments in final report. It was noted that, due to technical difficulties, the public comment deadline was extended.
- Chair recommended a central location on the Howard County website specifically for disability resources and services, data, etc. This recommendation was not voted on.
- Vice Chair submitted a motion to include wording for an education recommendation in the report, “Explicitly include awareness and education about people with disabilities in HCPSS cultural proficiency, diversity and inclusion initiatives.” The motion passed unanimously.
- Commission members discussed inviting County Executive Calvin Ball and members of the County Council to upcoming meetings, to discuss findings and recommendations contained in the report.
- Commission members discussed inviting HCPSS Superintendent Paul Martirano and HCPSS Diversity/Equity Officer Dr. Kevin Gilbert to upcoming meetings, to discuss education findings and recommendations contained in the report.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjournment

To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to cdi@howardcountymd.gov at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) prior to the meeting date.