



Monday, March 7, 2022
Special Meeting (Virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT:

Adeniyi Adekoya
Beth Benevides
Nicole Czarnecki
Joshua Hirsh
Doug Lea
Greg Schuckman
George Stephens
Steve Towne
Marian Vessels
Mia Williams
Karen Wood

ABSENT: N/A

STAFF:

Michelle Henry
Terry Zeigler

- Doug called meeting to order at 6:00pm. Meeting was then turned over to Steve.
- Steve shared strategic planning suggestions (below) with the commission.
 - Vision for future to include focusing on needs and urgency.
 - Consider the environment and needs we are currently operating in (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, problems)
 - Resources – How is commission able to meet challenges
 - Possible formation of additional committees
 - Timeline – written and adopted – sooner than later
 - Draft – put together a draft of the strategic plan relatively soon
 - Determine each commissioner’s priority and have each member provide input
- There was a review of the current strategic plan.
- Additional data may be needed when developing current strategic plan.

- Discussion on statistics – who provides the statistical information and who provides the services in Howard County.
- Discussion re provision of services in the County.
- Suggestion was made to meet with a demographer or statistician for a clearer picture of Howard County's disability population.
- There was discussion regarding the accuracy of data and discussion regarding sources from which data could be obtained, including non-County sources.
- There was a discussion of protocol for reaching out to certain entities.
- There was a recommendation for exploring student assistants to compile info on any organization in the state that receives funding for disability services.
- There was a suggestion that the Commission focus on what it can realistically achieve, given its resources and the frequency with which it meets.
- There was another suggestion that the Commission establish and focus on priorities.
- A decision was made for the Access Committee and legislative, education, and strategic planning committees to convene and determine priorities, which would then feed into the commission's goals and larger strategic plan.
- Commission members also agreed to sign up for a workgroup that will focus on the April 25 meeting with the County Executive.
- A priority for the Access Committee would be to focus on educating the public on disability awareness.
- Staff will send an e-mail to commission regarding committee membership and meeting dates..