



**Monday, June 27, 2022**  
**Public Meeting (Virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities**  
**6:30 to 8:30 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

PRESENT: Beth Benevides  
Heidi Burghardt  
Nicole Czarnecki  
Greg Schuckman  
George Stephens  
Steve Towne  
Marian Vessels  
Mia Williams  
Karen Wood

ABSENT: Adeniyi Olu Adekoya  
Joshua Hirsch  
Doug Lea

STAFF: Michelle Henry  
Erica Lewis  
Terry Zeigler  
Stephanie Adibe

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome**

- Marian Vessels, Co-Chair, called meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Roll call taken and attendance recorded by Erica Lewis.

**II. New Business**

**A. County Grant Programs**

- The Strategic Planning Committee will meet with Local Children’s Board, Innovation, Community Service Partnership administrators/grants managers to discuss the process of grants funding. In order to be better prepared for this meeting the committee will compile questions ahead of time for the administrators and grants Managers. Michelle Henry will share these questions with the administrators/grants managers.
- A date has not been determined for this meeting. Michelle Henry will facilitate.

- B. Approval of Minutes for April 25, 2022.
  - Minutes will be amended to reflect that George Stephens is a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. Minutes will be amended to correct the error of Steve Towne’s name appearing twice as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. The minutes will be amended to reflect that Greg Schuckman is no longer available to serve on the Legislative Committee. Minutes approved with requested amendments.
- C. Commission Event Suggestions for FY23
  - Suggestions were made, including for an employer awards event with five categories: small business, large business, small non-profit, large non-profit and public sector. Motion filed for an employer awards event, passed unanimously. Michelle Henry and Erica Lewis will prepare a nomination packet to be forwarded to commissioners for distributing in their individual networks. Event to be scheduled during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, in October. Date and venue to be determined. It was requested that the nomination packet be sent to the Howard County Chamber of Commerce. There was discussion that for the event to be successful, especially given the short turn-around time, commission members need to be fully engaged.

**III. Old Business**

- A. Update: Commission Meeting with County Executive Calvin Ball  
No scheduled date at this time.
- B. Update: Memorial Bench Dedication for Elliott Finkelstein  
Elliott’s memorial bench is installed at Tiber Park.  
A dedication ceremony to take place – date to be determined based on the County Executive’s availability. Need a show of support from the Commissioners.
- C. Resuming Commission Meetings in Person  
Motion filed – passed unanimously - to offer a hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting in August. The physical location will be 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive. The WebEx meeting link is posted on the Commission’s webpage.
- D. 2017 Strategic Plan – Summary of Commission’s Role  
Strategic Planning Committee members request that meeting notice be posted for strategic planning committee meetings in the unlikely eventuality that a quorum of the commission is present at a strategic planning committee meeting. Presently, at least 7 commission members must be present to constitute a quorum. The presence of a quorum triggers the public meeting requirements.
- E. Committee Updates
  1. Strategic Planning Committee  
Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting with the grant administrators to discuss the process for determining need, awarding grants, establishing and monitoring performance measures and outcomes.
  2. Access Committee

This committee met on May 10 – The committee has identified training and education, reviewing capital projects in the early stages as top priorities. The committee met with project managers for Harriett Tubman Center and reviewed renovations to the center. The committee plans to conduct a physical tour before the center’s grand opening.  
Next meeting is September 13.

3. Education Committee

Focusing on early childcare for children with disabilities. Are needs being met? What are the barriers? Currently working on surveys to solicit input from childcare providers and also from families. Next meeting is July 7.

F. Updated contact information

Submit your updated contact information to Erica or Michelle, as requested on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

G. Training

Michelle reported that Heidi Burghardt and HCAD President Elke Pieters recently provided a brief presentation on communicating with individuals who are or hard-of-hearing, to staff of the Howard County Government Offices of Human Resources and Risk Management. The presentation was requested by the Office of Human Resources.

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IV. **Announcements**

Haiku will be put on future CoD agendas in honor of Elliott. August haiku will be Olu, Karen has agreed to be backup.

V. **Adjournment**

- Motion passed – meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm .

DRAFT