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 14th.

G. Training
Michelle reported that Heidi Burghardt and HCAD President Elke Pieters recently provided a brief presentation on communicating with individuals who are deaf 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.

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.