

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

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**Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
March 15, 2011
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building**

Minutes

Attendees: Susan Erichsen, Carole Woodward, Lois Coryell, Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Janet Smith, Mary Ann Coontz, Rebecca Kessler, Christina Bishop, Sheral St. Clair, Marie Robinson,

Guests: Shirley Hawkins, Dorothy Flynn

Staff: Adrienne Raines

Excused: Paula Andreas, Rocco Aiello, Jolanda Campbell, Cynthia Brown

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairperson S. Erichsen.

The January minutes were approved with one correction: C. Bishop's absence recorded as "excused".

Updates/Announcements:

- C. Bishop suggested the Commission start thinking about what ADA improvement/accessibility items to include in next year's budget.
- Camp Inspire and New Horizons Camp will have open registration on April 13th. Anticipated funding increase for public schools Inspire program.
- Leonardtown Library has offered space for a display.
- ADA training is available, with an emphasis on targeting job coaches at service provider agencies. Contact M. Robinson for more information.

Updated Membership Contact List: An updated contact list was requested. C. Bishop stated that she has a spreadsheet that she can email to the Commission to update. S. Erichsen referenced the by-laws about which agencies should have representation on the Commission and will inquire with C. Brown regarding follow up. Members also requested that affiliations to member names be added to the county's website.

Retreat Overview: S. Erichsen advised that she emailed members the summary and assignments resulting from discussions at the retreat. She summarized the calendar of initiatives and activities for those who were unable to attend:

March: Etiquette Handbook

C. Bishop informed members that a draft of the Handbook was complete, with all advertising being sold to underwrite production of 50 units. A PDF version will be emailed to members when it becomes available. Submit any suggested changes to C. Bishop by the end of the week.

April: 19th Annual Southern MD Caregivers Conference

The event takes place on April 15th at the Higher Education Center. The Commission has a table and C. Bishop will conduct a training session at the conference. Other sessions include body mechanics, adaptive/assistive equipment, Medicare, hands-on demonstrations and advocacy. Information on chemical and substance abuse will also be available. The registration fee is \$20; R. Kessler stated that she has limited funds available if someone cannot afford the fee.

May: Produce and Air Commercial/PSAs

S. Erichsen spoke to K. Everett about airing PSAs and a commercial on channel 95. She asked for volunteers to draft a script for a commercial. Members were informed that a "static" piece could be aired, rotated on a continual basis amongst other public announcements. There would be no charge and Metrocast will also air on channel 10. Some members expressed concern regarding copyright infringement; M. Robinson felt that there would be few restrictions since the goal of most ADA publications is to disseminate to as many people as possible.

June: Collaboration on Optimist Club Scholarships

B. Nicholas reported the Optimist Club has a summer camp scholarship program for blind individuals. He is having difficulty finding applicants and requested assistance from the Commission. C. Woodward and P. Andreas have volunteered to assist.

July: ADA Anniversary

Greenwell State Park will host an event; J. Campbell will be planning this year's with assistance from Commission members.

August: Commission Gathering at Sheral St. Clair's home
More details will follow.

September: St. Mary's County Fair

This is a labor-intensive 4 day event that requires assistance from all members, as the Commission's table needs to be staffed at all times during fair hours.

October: ADA Training, Annual Awards Ceremony, National Disability Employment Month

Members will coordinate training on base or for the Chamber of Commerce. The annual awards ceremony will take place in October, as well; the awards subcommittee will begin meeting soon.

November/December: Commission-sponsored Inclusive Social Holiday-Themed Event

January: Annual Commission Retreat

J. Campbell will coordinate use of Greenwell facilities.

Other Ideas:

- Partner with NAVAIR to explore employment
- Tourism targeting citizens with disabilities
- Members explore resources at their workplace to determine if they can be utilized by the Commission
- Encourage coworkers to get involved
- Offer voluntary ADA audits to local businesses

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 4:30pm in Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Raines.