



**Commission for People with Disabilities (COPD)
February 16, 2010
Room 14 Governmental Center/Potomac Building**

Minutes

Attendees: Susan Erichsen, Sheral St. Clair, Cathy Zumburum, MaryAnn Coontz, Julie Randall, and Marie Robinson

Excused: Christina Bishop and Paula Andreas

Staff Support: Cynthia Brown

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:55 by Chairperson Julie Randall. The January minutes were reviewed and approved with the correct spelling of Mary Ann Coontz' last name.

II. Bylaws--Susan Erichsen reported the COPD bylaw revisions were approved by the County Commissioners in January. Cynthia Brown will follow up on getting the revised bylaws distributed to members.

Membership—Current County policy prohibits staff from serving on volunteer advisory boards however the COPD needs input from specific departments. This is reflected in the bylaws. Jacque Fournier agreed to attend meetings since she is currently serving as the Alternate Mobility Coordinator but she is not a designated representative of her department. The COPD needs input from specific departments. Julie Randall will contact the County Administrator to further discuss the need for departmental representation.

The current membership list with expiration dates was reviewed, as well as pending applications. A motion was made and approved authorizing Julie to contact a potential new member who is employed at Patuxent River Naval Base to see if he is still interested. The COPD will send a letter to the County Commissioners requesting re-appointment for Paula Andreas representing the Health Department, as well as other potential new members.

III. Needs Assessment-- The Human Services Council had requested the COPD conduct a needs assessment for the disability community. The Dept of Human Services hired a consultant to do the assessment however, the final report was incomplete. There are no additional funds at this time to complete this assessment or hire someone to begin another study. Julie suggested the COPD give a status report to the Council and see if they have funding and/or other suggestions for completing the assessment. Susan suggested looking in-house to access raw data from agencies. The Emergency Management Dept has developed a card that enables them to obtain information about local citizens with disabilities. Perhaps other agencies could use those cards as a guide to access numbers not specific names. The cards could be collected by County Government then forwarded to a statistician to get results within a specific margin of error. Jacque has a list of agencies the COPD could approach to participate in this assessment, however, the commission needs to determine all pertinent questions to be included on the card.

IV. Disability Awareness Day--Jacque suggested having the flyers on STS buses and suggested printing them in Spanish.

V. Symposium--Susan reported the College of Southern Maryland is interested in further discussions about the event. So far, it's expected to be a half day event with various speakers on universal design, hospitality and employment. Marie Robinson is chairing the symposium committee.

VI. ADA Anniversary--The BOCC will be invited to present a proclamation at a luncheon commemorating the 20 year anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. It was agreed to table discussion about other details on the event for next month's meeting.

VII. 2010 Priorities---The previous four subcommittees (Awareness, Accessibility, Employment and Awards) have now been re-established as three. Awareness is included in the Accessibility Subcommittee, which also includes concerns related to housing, transportation, public and private accommodations and education. The Employment Subcommittee will focus on supporting agencies that hire people with disabilities and educating employers on the importance of doing so. The Awards Subcommittee has developed a subcommittee description, which will be forwarded to Julie to use as a guide for the other two subcommittees.

The meeting adjourned 6:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown