



Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 29, 2019
Commission Meeting: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai
Cynthia Coburn
Elliott Finkelstein
Martin Jones
Marian Vessels
Karen Wood
Nicole Czarnecki
Diane Mikulis
Randy Murbach

Excused Absence: Andrea Kolp
Heidi Burghardt
Leslie Kornreich
Doug Lea

Absent: Arthur Gold

Staff: Michelle Henry
Terry Zeigler
Erica Lewis

Interpreters: Susan Hook
Michele Lawson

Guests: Miles Ward, Frederick County Government
Mary Becker, HC Office on Aging and Independence,
The Loan Closet

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order 6:30 pm.

II. New Business

A. Approval of Minutes for February 25, 2019

- Minutes approved as written.

B. Presentation by Mary Becker, The Loan Closet

- The Loan Closet provides short and long-term loans of donated medical equipment, free-of-charge, to residents in need. The Loan Closet is moving to a new, expanded location in late summer 2019 – Kings Contrivance neighborhood.
- Expansion of services will include assistive technology devices, through a new collaboration with the Maryland Technology Assistance Program. Ms. Becker is seeking recommendations/feedback from Commission on what assistive technology items they would like to see the Loan Closet purchase and make available to the public.

C. Suggestions for Commission Projects

- Accessible restaurants and other places of public accommodations (Access Committee)
- Ellicott City / Main Street accessibility (Access Committee)
- Improve awareness of available resources. Commission members to view the county website to determine “user friendliness.” Improve current information on Commission webpage, such as adding weblinks to the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center’s videos on service animals, hospitality, disability awareness, etc. (Marian, Elliott, Karen and Randy)
- Service animals (Karen)
- Accessible parking spaces (Access Committee)

III. Old Business

A. Council Resolution 23-2018 Report on the Status of People with Disabilities in Howard County

- The report has been submitted to County Executive Calvin Ball and members of the Howard County Council, as required by the CR 23-2018 legislation.
- On behalf of the Commission, a request has been made to meet with the County Executive to review recommendations from the report.
- Some recommendations will require funding and/or legislative changes and mandates.
- On behalf of the Commission, Cindy will invite HCPSS Superintendent Michael Martirano and HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Kevin Gilbert to meet with the Commission to discuss the CR 23-2018

recommendation of explicitly including disability in school system cultural proficiency, diversity and inclusion training activities and other initiatives.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to cdi@howardcountymd.gov at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) prior to the meeting date.