



**Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI)
Gateway Building, Room 303
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046**

Minutes 4-27-2015

Present: Lynn Albizo
Nicole Czarnecki
Jean Daniello
Jim Ennis
Arthur Gold
Bridget McCarthy
Gloria Smith
Chelsea Stanton

Excused: John Blake
Andrea Kolp
Doug Lea
Steve Rivers

Guests: Rebecca Bowman, Presenter
Barbara Albert, Presenter

Staff: Michelle Henry (Executive Secretary)
Erica Lewis (Staff Liaison)

Minutes recorded by Erica Lewis

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm
- II. Welcome and Introductions / Roll Call
- III. Presentation:

**Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs
Rebecca Bowman, Administrator**

The Office of Consumer Affairs works to assist and protect consumers, with a 66% to 75% success rate. Services are provided free-of-charge. The office can assist in the following areas: scam and fraud prevention including charitable giving and tax-related scams, educating the public on consumer rights, mediation of consumer disputes, landlord/tenant relations, registration/licensing of peddlers and solicitors in Howard County, and licensing of trespass tow companies in Howard County. Consumer Affairs does not handle discrimination complaints – these are referred to the Howard County Office of Human Rights. A variety of consumer fact sheets are available on the website. Staff are available to provide community presentations. For further information or to schedule a presentation, contact the office at 410-313-6420 or visit the website at <http://www.co.ho.md.us/departments.aspx?ID=4294967625>

IV. Presentation:

Howard County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
Barbara Albert, Program Coordinator

SHIP staff provide services to Medicare beneficiaries of all ages (65+, or any age receiving SSDI or with a diagnosis of ALS or end-stage renal disease) including assistance in understanding the benefits, reviewing options, comparing plans, and enrollment. Services are provided free-of-charge, and are confidential and unbiased. SHIP staff assist low-income Medicare beneficiaries in applying for programs to help pay for Medicare deductibles, premiums, co-payments, and prescription drug costs. The office also assists in preventing Medicare fraud. Outreach and education, through monthly seminars and community presentations, is available. For further information or to schedule a presentation, contact the office at 410-313-7392 or visit the website at <http://www.co.ho.md.us/displayprimary.aspx?id=1812>

V. Approval of minutes for February 23, 2015

Motions to approve made by Gloria and Lynn. Minutes approved as written, by unanimous vote.

VI. Old Business

A. Use of CDI training funds

CDI co-sponsored the HCAS Transition Symposium, which was held on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The event was well attended. No CDI members were in attendance at the Symposium.

B. Update on request to meet with County Executive Kittleman

The County Executive's Office has not yet scheduled the meeting.

C. Other old business

According to an April 14th news release from the Howard County Government Office of Public Information, the County Executive announced new initiatives as a result of the Howard County Mental Health Task Force's recommendations. CDI also made recommendations in their CDI 2014 Annual Report. (Refer to Appendix A for the April 14th news release.)

D. Erica distributed CDI Orientation & Reference folders to the following CDI members: Jim Ennis, Nicole Czarnecki, Chelsea Stanton, and Arthur Gold. It is suggested that CDI members bring their folders to meetings, for easy reference. Each folder contains the following informational materials:

1. CDI 2015 Meeting Date Schedule, and
2. Current CDI Roster updated as of 2-20-15, and
3. Current Operating Policies/Guidelines, and
4. Howard County Code, Sec. 12.401- Commission on Disability Issues, and
5. Howard County Code, Sections 6.302, 6.303, and 6.304, Boards and Commissions removal of members, absence from meetings, and resignation, and
6. Copy of CDI 2014 Annual Report, and
7. ADA reference packet containing:

- a. an overview of the ADA,
- b. U.S. Dept. of Justice publication “The ADA and City Governments: Common Problems;”
- c. Mid-Atlantic ADA Center fact sheet on the ADA and transportation requirements;
- d. U.S. Dept. of Justice publication “An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities;”
- e. U.S. Dept. of Justice Publication “Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites to People with Disabilities;”
- f. U.S. Dept. of Justice fact sheet on Project Civic Access.

VII. New Business

A. Attendance Update

Michelle reviewed CDI attendance requirements. Dr. Ahn has resigned from CDI. There are now three CDI vacancies (seats held by Alex Walker, Carol Beatty, and Dr. Ahn). New CDI appointments are coming soon, according to Michelle.

B. Chair needed for CDI Access Committee

The Access Committee needs a Chair. Must be a member of CDI. Please let Michelle know if you are interested in this position. Minimum of four quarterly regularly-scheduled meetings, plus the possibility of meetings on short notice if needed for review of plans. According to Michelle, a CDI applicant named Elliott Finkelstein has been attending Access Committee meetings and has expressed interest in the committee chair position. Lynn made a motion for CDI to recommend the CDI appointment of Mr. Finkelstein. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Michelle discussed the April 2015 Access Committee report which was distributed to all CDI members. Submit comments to Michelle by May 4th. Michelle will send out a revised report on May 6th. Motions and voting, via email, will take place by May 11th. A cover letter will be included. Suggestions were made to send the report to the County Executive, County Council Members, HC Departments of Public Works and Planning & Zoning, and the Columbia Association.

The Access Committee meets again on June 9th. Representatives of Vantage House and the Crescent are scheduled to attend.

C. Chair needed for CDI Provider Committee

The Provider Committee needs a Chair. Must be a member of CDI. Please let Michelle know if you are interested in this position, prior to the June 22nd CDI meeting. Minimum of four quarterly regularly-scheduled meetings, held during weekday daytime hours.

The Provider Committee meets again on May 13th, and will feature presentations on Howard County’s public transportation system.

D. CDI 2015 Awards Program

Erica distributed a proposal for the 2015 CDI Awards program. (The proposal is contained in Appendix B.) This year, 2015, is the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Proposal includes reducing the number of awards, and adding a student essay contest. Low number of nominations received each year is an ongoing issue. Gloria and Chelsea suggested that existing awards categories and criteria be reviewed. Erica will send existing awards category and criteria information to all CDI members. Gloria stated she will take responsibility for collaborating with Chelsea and others, perhaps via teleconference call, to put together ideas for the awards program. Program arrangements need to start as soon as possible, including reserving the event venue and public notice of nominations being accepted.

- E. 2015 goals and objectives: Employment and Transportation - Next steps?
(Discussion tabled until a future meeting, due to lack of time.)

VIII. Announcements - none

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next CDI meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2015,
6:30 to 8:30 pm, in Room 303 of the Gateway Building.

To request this document in an alternate format, or to request accommodations for participation in a Commission on Disability Issues meeting, please contact Erica Lewis at 410-313-6402 (Voice/Relay) or at ealewis@howardcountymd.gov at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.

Appendix A



Howard County Government News Release

Office of Public Information
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-313-2022 / FAX 410-313-3390 / www.howardcountymd.gov

Andy Barth, Press Secretary
abarth@howardcountymd.gov

April 14, 2015

Media Contact:

Andy Barth, Press Secretary, 410-313-2132 (o), 410-303-2039 (c)

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, Horizon Foundation, and Howard County General Hospital launch mental health initiative

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman today announced a partnership with the Horizon Foundation and the Howard County General Hospital to begin implementation of recommendations made by the Behavioral Health Task Force.

The Task Force, chaired by Nicolette Highsmith Vernick, President and CEO of the Horizon Foundation and Donna Wells, Executive Director of the Mental Health Authority, submitted its findings to the County Executive and formally released its report March 27, 2015. The report is available online. (<http://www.hcmha.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/BehavioralHealthTaskForceReport-FinalReport.pdf>)

“This partnership will help the County strengthen the delivery of urgently needed mental health services. I appreciate the Task Force’s work to provide a comprehensive blueprint that will help us improve mental health services,” Kittleman said.

The County will add a behavioral health specialist to the Health Department’s Community Care Teams, which work closely with Howard County General Hospital to serve residents who are frequently hospitalized. The Hospital will also pilot a program with Way Station to provide outpatient crisis stabilization services within 24-48 hours of an individual accessing care. Finally, Howard County Mental Health Authority’s online provider directory will be updated so that individuals in need of care have access to correct provider information on a variety of electronic devices.

“We know we have to do more and while there are budget challenges, moving the needle to improve mental health services in Howard County is a priority for me, particularly when we have so many individuals going without mental health treatment because there is no facility or plan to deal with a crisis,” Kittleman said. “I look forward to partnering with the Horizon Foundation and the Hospital to make care available at

places like Howard County General Hospital and Way Station to provide immediate intervention and help individuals navigate mental health services.”

The County Executive will include funding for this initiative in his FY16 Operating Budget, due to be released on April 20, 2015.

“The Community Needs Assessment identified behavioral health issues as one of our highest health care priorities in the county,” said Steven C. Snelgrove, president of Howard County General Hospital. “We applaud the county for starting to work on the recommendations of the Behavioral Health Task Force and are pleased to partner with the County and the Horizon Foundation to address gaps in the continuum of care.”

“Our goal is to help build a robust behavioral health system that values prevention, early intervention, and integrated care for people living with behavioral health conditions,” said Highsmith Vernick, President and CEO of the Horizon Foundation, which is providing \$50,000 in funding to support this initiative. “Together, we are advancing that work by expanding access to urgent behavioral health care services, and the Foundation applauds the County Executive and Howard County General Hospital for their commitment to this joint effort.”

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Appendix B

Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI) Proposal for 2015 Awards Program

Date:

Thursday evening, October 1, 2015, 7:00 pm

Purpose:

1. Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and
2. Recognition of outstanding efforts in:
 - a. advancing full participation in community life for ALL citizens, and
 - b. promoting the spirit and intent of the ADA and other disability rights laws

Relation to CDI Roles and Responsibilities as noted in Howard County Code:

Sec. 12.401. - Commission on Disability Issues

(h) *Duties and Responsibilities:*

(1) *Public awareness.* The Commission on Disability Issues shall:

(ii) Develop activities which will increase public awareness of the concerns and contributions in our community of persons with disabilities.

(iii) Promote equal rights and opportunities for all persons with disabilities, including identifying barriers to these rights and recommending necessary policies and actions to remove those barriers.

Keynote Address:

“The ADA at Twenty-five: Accomplishments and Challenges”

Proposed speaker:

1. Marian Vessels, Director, Mid-Atlantic ADA Technical Assistance Center

Awards:

1. A minimum of one Leadership Award (can be from employer, provider, accessibility, or individual categories) in the form of a trophy
2. A minimum of one winner of an ADA-related essay contest (can be from Howard County middle and high school students). Award to be given in the form of a gift card.

Awards Eligibility:

Members of the Howard County Commission on Disability Issues and their immediate families are not eligible. Immediate family members are defined as grandparents, parents, spouses, children, and grandchildren of CDI members.

Location:

Banneker Room of the George Howard Building in Ellicott City

Benefits of this location:

1. Ample accessible parking
2. Ample seating – approx. 300
3. Accessible facility

4. Security staff on-site
5. Location has a professional appearance
6. Professional sound system
7. Ample space for reception
8. Proximity to HC elected officials