



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

**Minutes 6-22-2015**

Present: Lynn Albizo  
John Blake  
Nicole Czarnecki  
Jean Daniello  
Arthur Gold  
Andrea Kolp  
Steve Rivers  
Gloria Smith  
Chelsea Stanton

Excused: Jim Ennis  
Doug Lea  
Bridget McCarthy

Guests: Alexandra Dupree, Presenter

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

Minutes recorded by Erica Lewis

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:43 pm
- II. Welcome and Introductions / Roll Call
- III. Presentation #1:

**Central Maryland Regional Transit (CMRT)  
Alexandra Dupree, Manager of Training and Community Relations**

CMRT is a Laurel-based organization, with a 25+ year history, providing transit-related services. The organization managed public transit services in Howard County and other localities until July 2014, when the Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) of Central Maryland took over this role. CMRT now provides mobility management and travel training services. These services are provided free-of-charge, and are grant-funded.

- A. TRIP (Transportation Resource Information Point) is a regional mobility management tool designed to reduce travel barriers and assist riders in planning their use of public transportation, especially when crossing the jurisdictional boundaries of the RTA, MTA, and WMATA transportation systems. TRIP services consist of a website and a call center. Plans are to expand TRIP statewide. To use TRIP, visit the web page at <http://www.mdtrip.org/> or call TRIP Customer Service at 1-877-331-TRIP (8747).

- B. The Travel Training program teaches people the necessary skills to travel safely and independently on fixed-route public transportation. The program seeks to eliminate barriers to using fixed-route transportation so that people can get to their jobs and other community destinations, especially on short-notice. The program also has a secondary goal of reducing the cost of paratransit services by encouraging use of fixed-route. Completion of CMRT travel training does not impact paratransit eligibility for riders with paratransit certification. Training is provided in both a “train-the-trainer” approach, and also an individualized “one-on-one” approach, with a focus on transitioning youth. Travel training consists of both classroom and field instruction; includes education on the rights of individuals who use public transit. CMRT’s travel training program currently serves a 6-county area. In the course of travel training, CMRT has also advocated for public transit changes. For one-on-one travel training, the application process involves an assessment of functioning level. To apply, contact Alexandria Pelzer at 1-240-581-5800 or at [Alex.Pelzer@cmrtransit.org](mailto:Alex.Pelzer@cmrtransit.org)
- C. CMRT is available to give presentations to community groups. Contact Alexandra Dupree at 1-240-581-5770 or at [alexandra.dupree@cmrtransit.org](mailto:alexandra.dupree@cmrtransit.org)

IV. Presentation #2:

**Howard County’s Public Transportation System**  
**John Powell, Howard County Office of Transportation**  
**Victor Jimenez, Regional Transit Agency of Central Md**

Presentation cancelled due to absence of the presenters.

- V. Approval of minutes from April 27, 2015.  
Minutes approved as written, by majority vote.

VI. Old Business

A. CDI Access Committee Update

A Chair person is needed; must be a CDI member. At the recommendation of CDI, commission applicant Elliott Finkelstein has been appointed to CDI. Confirmation by the County Council is pending. Elliott has expressed interest in the Chair position for the CDI Access Committee. This committee has a minimum of four quarterly regularly-scheduled meetings, plus the possibility of meetings on short notice if needed for review of plans. The committee met on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

B. CDI Provider Committee Update

A Chair person is needed; must be a CDI member. Ande Kolp volunteered for the Chair position of the CDI Provider Committee. This committee has four quarterly regularly-scheduled meetings. The meeting notes from May 13<sup>th</sup> were emailed to all CDI members on 6-22-15. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

C. CDI 2015 Awards Program

A review and discussion of the proposal submitted by Erica took place. Some suggested hiring an entertainer for the annual awards in October. It was noted

that planning for event entertainment, such as a singer or comedian, should start eight to twelve months in advance and so this will not be considered for the 2015 event. To facilitate a more efficient process, it was agreed that voting on award winners should be done through scoring on a tally sheet using criteria from the award categories. Ande will provide a sample form to be tailored to the CDI categories. CDI members were each asked to solicit nominations. Each member was asked to nominate at least one person. Erica will update and distribute the nomination packets; deadline for submission will be August 14<sup>th</sup>. CDI is requesting the participation of County Executive Kittleman in the October 1<sup>st</sup> ceremony. No changes will be made to the awards categories this year. The 2015 awards program proposal was approved by majority vote, with the following changes as noted in italics:

**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 / Speaker:**

*Changed. Theme will be "Disability Rights ARE Civil Rights"*

Proposed: Marian Vessels, Director, Mid-Atlantic ADA Technical Assistance Center

**Awards:**

1. One or more Leadership Awards (can be from employer, provider, accessibility, individual adult and youth categories) in the form of a trophy.
2. *Changed. To be placed on August CDI meeting agenda. CDI will work with the HCPSS to sponsor a student essay contest on an ADA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-related topic. A minimum of one student winner will be selected (can be from Howard County middle and high school students), and award(s) to be given in the form of a gift card(s). Essay award(s) will take place by the end of the 2015 calendar year, not at the October 1<sup>st</sup> ceremony.*

**Awards Eligibility:**

*Changed. No restrictions will be placed on eligibility.*

**Location:**

*Changed. Location selected is The Bain Center in Columbia, by unanimous vote.*

- D. Review of CDI attendance requirements  
Discussion postponed until a future meeting.
  - E. Update on request to meet with County Executive Kittleman  
Michelle reports that a meeting has not yet been scheduled by the County Executive's office. Michelle will follow up on CDI's request to meet with County Executive.
- VII. New Business
- A. 2015 goals and objectives: Employment and Transportation - Next steps?  
Discussion postponed until a future meeting.
- VIII. Announcements
- A. Erica reported that the Howard County Council office is tracking annual reports submitted by the County's Commissions, including CDI.
  - B. Gloria reported that a disability symposium is scheduled for September 19, 2015, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at St. John's Baptist Church. Sponsored by the "Special Needs Disability Cluster" group – an alliance of three local churches.
  - C. Gloria reported that she will share news from the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, a group in which she participates, at the next CDI meeting.
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next CDI meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 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 (CDI) meeting, please contact Erica Lewis at 410-313-6402 (Voice/Relay) or at [ealewis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ealewis@howardcountymd.gov) at least 7 days prior to the meeting date.*