

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (COD) Minutes

Monday October 14, 2019

Winchester Hall

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Karen Duffy, who recognized the existence of a quorum and called for the approval of the meeting agenda, which was done by unanimous vote.

- II. Attendance
The following individuals were present: Karen Duffy, Nadine Autry, Amy Crehan, Evan Evans, Marsha Flowers, Jenn Tousey, and Theresa Posthuma.
Steve McKay, County Council Liaison was present, as were Landon Morrison, ASL interpreter; guest speaker Doug Silvern from Service Coordination, Inc., and County staff member Miles Ward.

- III. Guest Speaker Doug Silvern is the Veterans Case Manager at Service Coordination, Inc.. He spoke about many programs and services that are available to help veterans with disabilities. One program was a Veterans Court that functioned well for a while but was discontinued. Mr. Silvern helps veterans with disabilities find employment, housing, social and financial support, and education. He

works with all of the veterans service organizations (VSOs) in Frederick County, where it is estimated that 17,000 to 19,000 veterans and their families live. Local veterans organizations such as AmVets, VFW and American Legion provide substantial financial support. Unfortunately, his organization's ability to serve veterans may be suspended while additional funding is pursued.

- IV. The minutes of the COD's September 9, 2019 were approved unanimously, upon a motion by Amy Crehan and a second by Theresa Posthuma.
- V. Discussion was held concerning moving the COD meeting location to another space in Winchester Hall, a room at the Division of Fire and Rescue Services on Reich's Ford Road, or to some other place. No consensus was reached, and members felt it better to take this matter up at some later time.
- VI. Discussion was held concerning the expectations of the COD's Outreach Committee, which consists of Jenn Tousey as chair, and Karen Rushing and Karen Duffy. This committee will review and revise the COD's trifold brochure. It will also undertake to propose ways that the COD could stimulate more inclusion of people with disabilities in our community. Discussion could involve spaces that may be available that permit people with disabilities to interact, transportation issues, and events that bring people together. Perhaps musical, artistic or

entertainment. One goal would be to study these issues and come up with a written report to the County Executive and County Council with some solid and specific recommendations. Other groups such as colleges, churches and service clubs could be asked to provide input and assist.

- VII. Members suggested that a critical need of people with disabilities is better transportation systems and more options. This should be followed up on at future meetings.
- VIII. Members were reminded that a proclamation for Disability Employment Awareness Month would be issued by County Executive Jan Gardner on October 29, 2019. COD members were encouraged to attend, and to help publicize this proclamation by inviting community members, friends and coworkers. The program will begin at 11:00am in the first floor hearing room at Winchester Hall. Nadine Autry said that her employer, The Freedom Center, intends to close that morning so that all staff and perhaps some clients can attend.
- IX. The meeting was adjourned.