

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (COD) Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2020

Winchester Hall

12 E. Church Street, Frederick, Maryland

- 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 members were present: Karen Duffy, Amy Crehan, Evan Evans, Marsha Flowers, Jenn Tousey, and Theresa Posthuma; County Council liaison Steve McKay was also present.
Guest speakers Kris Fair and Peter Brehm from The Frederick Center; Myra Foley, ASL interpreter; COD applicant Darrell Batson, and County staff members Pat Fleet and Miles Ward were present.

- III. Guest speakers Kris Fair (board chair) and Peter Brehm (board member) from The Frederick Center spoke about some of the disability issues and concerns involving Frederick County's more than 10,500 LGBTQ residents.

They described how The Frederick Center is providing assistance in dealing with these problems, which include both developmental and behavioral disabilities.

IV. Business

- A) Upon motion and vote, the minutes of the November 14, 2019 COD meeting were approved.
- B) Discussion took place whether the COD should undertake to plan and present a public event to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act in July 2020. One suggestion was to hold a resource fair and panel discussion somewhere in downtown Frederick, lasting about three hours on a Saturday afternoon. It was agreed that a point person from the COD Outreach Committee was needed, and ultimately all COD members would be expected to work to make this a success.
- C) The purchase of the following items was discussed in general terms: give away items for public events, a large COD banner for the ADA anniversary event, and COD table banners.
- D) Marsha Flowers proposed that work should be undertaken to create a deaf center in Frederick, since the State of Maryland estimates that more than 50,000 people in Frederick County are deaf or hard of hearing.
- E) Evan Evans said he was very concerned to hear that the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration does not allow additional time on the written portion of the driving test for people with learning disabilities or other disabilities. It was suggested that someone should look into whether a person

with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a documented diagnosis from a medical expert might be able to use them to get additional time for the MVA written test.

V. The meeting was adjourned.