

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (COD) Minutes

Monday August 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting

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

II. Attendance

The following members were present: Karen Duffy, Karen Rushing, Marsha Flowers, Theresa Posthuma and Darrell Batson and Evan Evans. Also present were David Drezner, Lisa Clark, Interpreter Crystal and County staff members Miles Ward and Pat Fleet.

III. The July minutes were approved unanimously with a motion from Theresa Posthuma and a 2nd by Karen Rushing.

Marsha Flowers was recommended for reappointment to the COD by the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Evan Evans with a second by Theresa Posthuma to approve the reappointment. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

IV. Joe Hayer and Kevin Meyer shared training policies and procedures for the City of Frederick Police Department as to how the department interacts with persons with disabilities.

Kevin Meyer shared that his job is to run the training with the police department. For the past 12 years they have a multi-week program facilitated by MHA, Frederick Health, Way Station, NAMI and ARC focusing on crisis Intervention. They do a lot of scenario based programs with Mental Health professionals. The trainings include role playing with persons that are nonverbal. In past years they have had peer training at MSD, including a full day program to meet students, interact and ask questions. They were unable to participate during this past training because of COVID.

Joe Hayer shared that the city uses the Purple VRI tablet for communication, it links directly to interpreters. They contract interpreting services through the city's procurement process. There are specific orders about handcuffing someone who needs their hands to communicate.

Every patrol officer has access to a smart phone to use as a communication board if necessary.

Ongoing refresher training is for FPD includes 42 hours with a number of skills. Officers through monthly role call training must sign off on new laws as they are passed.

The academy in Frederick is a regional training facility that trains for the entire state. The in-service training time and the entry level training time is almost double the requirements from the state.

Officer Maggie Lee will be the new school resource officer and will work with the Maryland School for the Deaf.

The Frederick City Police Department is a CALEA accredited agency. (The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.) They are audited every year.

V. Business

The updated planning document for the ADA 30th Anniversary event was sent to the members by Karen Duffy for comments. For now, the document can exist in its current format until we see what happens in the future with COVID. A Discussion was held about what to work on now.

Messaging around Positive Mental Health and resources on Facebook and twitter.

Karen Duffy said she needs content for social media.

It was noted that there is not a person of color on the commission.

Is the community aware of how to vote? In July there was a national campaign and we put the word out to the community on voting. If you are following Facebook, there is a lot of information. Evan Evans volunteered to get voting information together and send it to Karen Duffy to distribute.

We need more diversity on all of the boards and commissions including nonprofit boards. Just trying to get people to apply is a process. If the members know someone who would make a good member it is time to try to get them to apply.

Marsha Flowers wanted to say Thank you to the Mayor for having interpreters at all of the City meetings.

Karen Duffy stated if you have ideas on what you would like to tackle send them to the entire commission.

Brainstorming on speakers:

Library programs in existing to help persons with disabilities.

An interpreter so we can ask questions about interpreting, background information so we can become aware. Marsha Flowers will get some names to Miles.

The Disabilities Department at FCC.

How children with disabilities are learning through this time of virtual learning, how parents are getting through this and options that parent and students have to support a positive learning experience.

Someone from the Adult programs to talk about the effects of COVID on their programs.

Chamber of Commerce, how do the local businesses support the disabled community.

The new Veteran's Center is coming on line with lots of services someone who can share what is going on there.

Karen Duffy asked everyone to send any ideas to Miles.

VI. The meeting was adjourned.