



2012 Year End Report

Good Morning County Commission members.

I'm Mary Kemp, the current Chairperson of the Frederick County Commission on Disabilities. Here with me today are the current FCCOD members.

We are happy to be here today to present the activities and accomplishments of the commission for 2012 and to answer any questions you may have. We have provided each of you with a copy of our report.

The Commission meets every second Monday of the month with the exception of August and December, to discuss matters that are important or affect residents with disabilities in Frederick County. Frederick residents have many concerns involving accessibility issues, employment, transportation, housing and discrimination. The Commission on Disability addresses each of these concerns that are brought to us and come up with effective ways to resolve the issue that meets the need of everyone involved.

This year the FCCOD received and addressed a total of 65 phone calls from residents needing assistance. The calls varied from transportation issues, concerns related to affordable, accessible housing and community accessibility issues, just to mention a few. Between the different commission members, we were able to address each of these calls and assist with a resolution, including linking people to community resources.

In addition to the phones calls, commission member Gil House, spent a vast amount of his time assisting with and addressed the following issues and concerns;

Assisted with sign location for the new Citizen's Nursing Home

Reviewed plans for the new nursing facility prior to construction and at the completion of construction to ensure accessibility issues were in compliance with the ADA.

Provided information to Fire and Rescue Services

Did a site review at Urbana High School to address safety issues for visitor with disabilities while they viewed band activities

Addressed parking issue at a business in Monrovia.

Identified issues with a new bus stop and ramp at Health Dept. on Montevue Lane that was so wrong that it had to be removed and a new one is in process of being designed.

Assisted someone who had a problem accessing the entrance to a doctor's office. A commission member wrote a letter to the property owner and they are in the process of installing a power assist door.

In April this past year, we presented our "Distinguished Service Award" to Bill Derbyshire. He has dedicated his life to making the lives of people with disabilities better through his work as a Social Worker for Blue Ridge Behavioral Health, CASS program and now at Rock Creek School. We thank the Frederick County Commissioners for their help with presenting this award.

This past year has been a struggle for the FCCOD with the loss of several members. However, even with those loses; we have continued to provide our residents of Frederick County the same high level of support as we have in the past. This is due to the dedication of the FCCOD members and their determination to make Frederick County an exemplary place for people with disabilities to live.

Going forward this year, our focus will be on recruiting new members to the commission that have disabilities so our commission is a true blend of diversities and representative of all residents in our community. We are also in the process of breaking down the calls we received from the previous year, seeing what the major concerns or issues were and adding additional information to our website that will link people to resources.

We welcome our newest member Keith Nolan to the FCCOD and look forward to the knowledge and strength he will bring to the commission.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Denise Rudegeair, County Liaison, for her hard work and dedication this past year to the commission.

