



2014 Year-End-Report

The year of 2014 saw the Frederick County Commission on Disabilities grow to a full nine-member board, something that had not been fulfilled for the last two years. 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 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 Commission received and addressed a total of 51 phone calls from residents needing assistance. The calls varied from transportation issues, concerns related to affordable and accessible housing, 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 our web page on the Frederick County government website, we also created a Facebook page in July 2014. To date, it now has 176 “likes” and we hope to continue to reach out to the citizens of Frederick County so they can be aware of our service.

Our new board members for 2014 include Marlene Kenny, Monica Kirkpatrick, Mari Lee, Mallorie Marti and Cheryl Triantos. In December 2014, we unfortunately lost a valuable and long-time member of the Commission, Mary Kemp, due to residence change, but we are confident we will find a new member soon.

This year we did not receive any budget for the Commission and therefore were not able to present the annual award “Distinguished Service Award.”

The Commission members also took part in various events around Frederick County including holding a booth at the annual SECAC Resource Fair held at Rock Creek School on March 8, 2014. Two members also attended the rally for a demonstration program for deaf and hard of hearing Americans to serve in the armed services at the Maryland School for the Deaf on September 10, 2014. Others also held a

booth at the Adapt to the Future event on November 6, 2014, making our presence known to the community.

Given the focus on roads accessibility, we invited Mr. David Olney from the Department of Highways and Transportation where we were able to share our concerns including the citizens of Frederick County's issues. This is an ongoing rapport and we expect to hear an update from him in the year of 2015.

We also had several guest speakers including one from Fort Detrick, Ms. Sheniqua Bush, where she shared with us about their Installation Disabilities program. The others were from the Maryland Relay Services and the State Independent Living Council (SILC) where we learned about their various programs.

The Commission has continued to address and serve the residents of Frederick County with the same high level of support, even with no budget to do, because of the dedication we have from the Commission members and their determination to make Frederick County an exemplary place for people with disabilities to live.

Going forward 2015, Keith Nolan will continue to be the chair of the Commission until his term ends in June 2015. We hope to focus on community outreach, especially with the accessibility, independent living, and voter networking for the disability community.

Finally, the Commission wants to extend a special thanks to Denise Rudegear, our County Liaison, for her hard work and dedication the past year to the Commission.

In regards,

Keith R. Nolan
Chairperson of the Frederick County
Board on Disabilities