

# **Frederick County Commission on Disabilities**

## **2025 Annual Report to The County Executive**



## **Frederick County Commission for Disabilities Annual Report 2025**

In accordance with its bylaws, the Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (FCCOD) must deliver a yearly report to the County Executive, focusing on three areas:

- a. The status of services and programs for people with disabilities Frederick County
- b. Recommendations for the more effective delivery of services and programs to people with disabilities
- c. Annual budget and policy priorities for delivery of services to people with disabilities

The Commission on Disabilities had several members who transitioned from the group but plans for the future still look to make change in the community and fulfill the organization's purpose. The FCCOD saw the departure of Evan Evans and Lisa Clark and the addition of members, Emily Kranning, Jackie Duda, Robert Gunter and Mark Florimbio. Kevin Welker succeeded Evan Evans as Chair and took the position in July. Although the transition has presented challenges because of officers learning their new roles, the commission continues to put Frederick County residents with disabilities at the forefront.

The Commission received presentations from various advocacy groups and organizations eager to contribute to our efforts, foster a constructive dialogue, and aid. The presenters were as follows:

- Lt. Corbett, Frederick City Police Department. Lt. Corbett gave an open dialogue presentation on operational procedures for both emergency and non-emergency response in Frederick as it pertains to individuals with disabilities specifically
- Frederick County Transit - Commission members rode the transit bus and participated in travel training with Deputy Director Jaime McKay and other representatives. This unique meeting clarified the process of the trip for individuals with disabilities, especially people who use wheelchairs for mobility.
- Mia Martino, LTC Ombudsman Program, regarding nursing home and assisted living care in Frederick County.

- Vivian Laxton and Sandra Sanchez - Language Access Plan. Talked about an initiative they were working on. It involved improving communication for all residents no matter what their culture or subculture may be. This includes individuals with a disability. They sought FCCOD input.

Throughout the year, the Frederick County Commission for Disabilities (FCCOD) actively engaged in a variety of community events. Our involvement included organizing, attending events, and collaborating with local organizations to promote inclusivity and support for individuals with disabilities. These events not only helped to raise awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities but also provided valuable resources and information to the community, fostering a spirit of collaboration and understanding. The Commission's consistent presence at these events highlighted our commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of those we serve. These activities included:

- Helped plan and coordinate the County Disability Pride Event;
- Represented Frederick County at the Alliance of Disability Commissions quarterly
- With assistance from the County's Video Services team, prepared and released a Public Service Announcement about Accessible Parking;
- FCCOD Vice Chair Jackie Kanekuni took a leadership role in the planning and execution of the Deaf History Month event,
- Attended the recognition of Evan Evans' service to the FCCOD over the years at a county ceremony.

Looking ahead, the Commission plans to continue its efforts to educate and inform the public about effective services and programs for the disability community. The continued initiatives, including Deaf History Month and Disability Pride Month events, reflect a proactive approach to fostering understanding and collaboration within the community. Overall, the Commission is poised to build on its efforts, ensuring that the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities are not only recognized but actively supported in Frederick County.

In conclusion, this report of the Frederick County Commission on Disabilities highlights both the challenges and achievements experienced throughout the year. Despite a reduction in membership and transitions in leadership, the Commission remains committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities through active engagement with community partners and

advocacy organizations. The presentations from various groups and the successful organization of community events underscore the Commission's dedication to raising awareness and promoting inclusivity.