



Monday, February 28, 2022

Public Meeting (Virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities (CoD)

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: **Adeniyi Adekoya**
 Beth Benevides
 Heidi Burghardt
 Nicole Czarnecki
 Joshua Hirsh
 Doug Lea
 Greg Schuckman
 George Stephens
 Steve Towne
 Marian Vessels
 Mia Williams
 Karen Wood

ABSENT: **N/A**

STAFF: **Erica Lewis**
 Michelle Henry
 Terry Zeigler

GUESTS: **Denise Guiliano, Executive Director, NAMI Howard**
County

 Joseline Castanos, Board Member, NAMI Howard
County

 Stephanie Adibe, Deputy Director, DCRS

INTERPRETERS: **Brenda Kelly Frey**
 Becky Frey

- I. Opening of Meeting (Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome)

Doug Lea, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming commission members and guests.

Roll call was taken; Doug declared the Commission was in quorum and brought the meeting to order.

II. New Business

A. Presentation: “Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Crisis: Resources and Training of Law Enforcement”

Presenters: Denise Guiliano, Executive Director, NAMI HC.
Joseline Castanos, Board Member, NAMI HC

Presentation highlighted statistics and prevalence of mental health disabilities, NAMI programs and resources, and training of Howard County law enforcement to handle encounters involving individuals experiencing mental health crises.

B. Committees

Motion proposed and passed to have legislative and education committees.

Education Committee – members are needed to volunteer for this committee. Beth and Doug will assist with formulating the education committee’s goals.

Legislative Committee – Greg and Joshua volunteered to be members.

Commission members should be on at least one sub-committee. Members asked to e-mail Erica or Michelle to let them know of interest in serving on a committee.

C. Strategic Plan – A recommendation was made to have a committee that focuses solely on updating the strategic plan. After discussion, it was agreed to have a series of strategic planning meetings. A special meeting of the commission will be held at 6:00 PM on March 7, 2022 at to discuss to discuss strategic planning.

There was a proposal that strategic planning be held the Monday following the regularly-scheduled meeting.

III. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion passed for the approval of the December 6, 2021 minutes.

B. 2021 Annual Report

Tabled until the commission's special meeting on March 7.

C. Welcome Packet

Welcome packet will not be sent out until commission members have submitted their releases, so that their photos and bios can be included.

D. Access Committee Update

Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8 with the Department of Public Works and architects to go over renovation plans for the 50+ East Columbia Center.

E. Opportunities to get involved

Notify Erica of your participation in any County Government events presenting information that has the potential to impact people with disabilities.

IV. Announcements

No announcements were made.

To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to CoD@howardcountymd.gov at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) prior to the meeting date.