



Meeting Minutes for The Intellectual and Developmental Disability Commission (October)

Date: October 18th 2023

Time: 11:55am-2:30pm

Location: **Zoom**

Attendance: Five out of Five Non-Voting Commissioner Members were present during this meeting. Sixteen out of Eighteen Voting Commissioner Members were in attendance. A quorum was present during this meeting.

Guest Speakers and Attendees Include the following: Officer Laurie Reyes, Legislative Attorney Khandikile Sokoni, Councilmember Luedtke, Captain Jordan Satinsky, Officer Justin Saffar.

Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Greenberg who welcomed all commissioners and provided a brief overview of the meeting's agenda. He reviewed the mission statement for the commission outlined in the enabling legislation (Bill 10-23) and discussed the importance of creating a culture of respect, tolerance and inclusiveness. The importance of time management to ensure effective meetings was highlighted.

Program Liaison Remarks: Ahmna Khan, the Program Liaison, gave introductory remarks and discussed a backup Zoom link for potential technical difficulties. She introduced the guest panelists for the Q&A: Legislative Attorney Khandikile Sokoni, Officer Laurie Reyes (from the Autism & Dementia unit of Montgomery County Police Department), and Councilmember Luedtke.

Secretary's Introduction: Secretary Jake Didinsky provided introductory remarks.

Vice-Chair Remarks: John Whittle thanked the chair and discussed his role as a liaison for CPWD. He also mentioned his involvement in the steering committee for people with disabilities.

Discussion on Roberts Rules of Order: Secretary Jake Didinsky provided a brief rundown of Roberts Rules of Order and discussed the logistics of the Q&A session. He asked commissioners to raise their hands using either a raised hand emoji or a physical raised hand and introduced a speakers list.

Introduction of Legislative Attorney Khandakile: At 12:17 pm, Chair Michael Greenberg introduced Legislative Attorney Khandakile Sokoni to provide an overview of Bill 33-23 Police – Voluntary Registry For Emergency 911 Calls.

Legislative Attorney Khandakile's Sokoni Remarks: Legislative Attorney Khandakile discussed the Joint Committees (HHS/Public Safety) meeting on Sept 18, 2023 (https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/player/clip/16912?view_id=169&redirect=true&h=325f1bb156ae836eb5de2ad32edf1a5d).

She also highlighted the key “decision points” that the Commission was being asked to provide input on.

Discussion Bill 33-23: Commissioners had the opportunity to submit a list of questions and concerns regarding Bill 33-23 ahead of time for the three panelists to address (Officer Laurie Reyes, Legislative Attorney Khandakile Sokoni and Councilmember Luedtke). The Secretary moderated the question, answer, and dialogue discussion.

What types of metrics will be monitored and reported if this registry is implemented?

Officer Laurie Reyes explained that the data to be monitored is meticulously chosen to provide valuable insights to field officers. The focus is on tracking data related to incidents involving wandering, elopement, and crisis situations, with the aim of identifying individuals in need of specific resources.

How will the information in the registry be communicated to first responders during emergencies?

Officer Laurie Reyes elaborated that their specialized unit, founded in 2004, has a primary focus on delivering education, training, follow-up, and intervention for individuals with IDD. The registry, she noted, will serve as an additional resource for officers, complementing their existing knowledge. The information contained in the registry is expected to improve interactions between officers and individuals, considering the preferences and comfort levels of both caregivers and the individuals themselves. Notably, the information is associated with an individual's address, not their personal identity.

Could you provide more details about the training and its frequency for first responders in relation to registry-related behaviors and conditions?

Officer Laurie Reyes pointed out that the comprehensive training program is available to all officers, whether they are recruits or undergoing CIT (mental health instruction) training. This training, notable both nationally and locally, covers a wide range of subjects. Furthermore, there are dedicated staff members responsible for collecting interaction data, including details from 27 recent interactions involving individuals on the autism spectrum.

Councilmember Luedtke emphasized the uniqueness of the CIT training provided during academy training, particularly within their department. They believe it to be the sole program of its kind in the state.

Legislative Attorney Khandakile Sokoni clarified that first responders encompass individuals dispatched through the 911 system, including public EMS, mobile crisis response teams, police response, and fire response.

Will the information in the registry influence the choice of the first responder? In other words, will a specialist be dispatched as the initial responder?

Councilmember Luedtke explained that in the event of a 911 call, the standard response is typically led by the police. If additional resources become necessary, there is a protocol to defer certain services, allowing police officers to assess the situation and decide whether specialized resources are required.

In reference to the recommendation to exclude public guardians from registering individuals, Councilmember Luedtke emphasized that a clear distinction is made within the disability community. The compromise reached involves the exclusion of public guardians from applying to the registry, given that they may not possess the same level of familiarity with the individuals under their guardianship. It is important to note that the registry is associated with an address rather than an individual's personal identity.

Officer Laurie shared her experience with a similar registry where information is linked to specific addresses. She always ensures that caregivers are aware of this connection to a particular location. In situations where no information is available, officers are adequately trained to manage such cases.

What are the consequences for Emergency Responders who employ excessive force against individuals in the database?

Councilmember Leudtke pointed out that Maryland has established its own use-of-force statute that applies uniformly across the state, irrespective of specific jurisdictions, and it should be noted that this statute operates independently from the 911 bill.

Is it possible for this database to extend its functionality to alert Emergency Responders about individuals with specified conditions outside their residences?

Councilmember Luedtke clarified that, from a technological standpoint, the current capabilities do not support an extension of such functionality.

What if there are group homes with multiple residents?

Councilmember Luedtke pointed out that, in many instances, specific addresses within the jurisdiction are recognized as locations with a heightened level of care and specific needs. Rather than registering each individual separately, the system adopts a more geographically oriented approach, and officers are generally well-informed about these particular locations.

Officer Laurie emphasized that the responsibility for updating information in the registry is placed on a designated responsible party, particularly in situations that involve calls to 911.

A commissioner raised concerns regarding HIPAA regulations, specifically related to EMTs and not First Responders.

Legislative Khandakile noted that various settings have different privacy regulations in effect, and they may not necessarily fall under the governance of HIPAA.

Councilmember Leudtke clarified that HIPAA primarily pertains to the transmission of health information for the purpose of medical billing. Councilmember Leudtke emphasized that individual departments are responsible for maintaining their own data, which is generally not shared individually but rather compiled and aggregated.

When responding to individuals from diverse communities, including people of color with disabilities, what type of diversity and equity training is in place to prevent loss of life?

Officer Reyes pointed out that their training program, which is comprehensive and integrated throughout the entire academy curriculum, imparts the necessary skills to officers on how to effectively respond to individuals in crisis, regardless of their backgrounds. It's worth noting that the sanctity of life pledge has been made obligatory for all officers since 2021.

Councilmember Leudtke discussed the existence of a Racial and Equity Impact Statement specifically aimed at BIPOC communities, recognizing potential concerns and hesitations among marginalized communities when it comes to sharing information. Their approach relies on community partners to foster trust, understanding that what proves effective in one community might not be as effective in another. They are actively engaging with various groups to address the concerns, fears, and anxieties within these communities and remain committed to targeted outreach initiatives.

What additional information might you gather that you are currently not receiving via the registry?

Councilmember Luedtke provided an illustrative scenario involving a family with two children, one of whom has autism and is sensitive to sirens, while the other is injured. The registry, she explained, equips first responders with pre-existing knowledge of such details, allowing them to respond to the situation more effectively and with heightened sensitivity. Importantly, this enhanced approach applies to a range of behavioral health conditions and is not limited solely to autism.

Recess: At 1:35 pm, a five-minute recess was called.

Commissioner Deliberation: At 1:40 pm, commissioners deliberated on various aspects of Bill 33-23, including: This discussion covered the key “decision points” specifically requested by the Joint Committees

Question 1	Whether to recommend inclusion of a requirement for annual revalidation of registered information?
Question 2	Whether to recommend excluding public guardians from being able to register the people they serve as guardians into the registry.
Question 3	Whether to recommend that the Council require an annual report from MCPD on program participation by geography and metrics measuring improvement in police interactions to monitor the effectiveness of the registry program in advancing RESJ as recommended in OLO’s RESJ Impact Statement.
Question 4	Whether to recommend enactment of the bill as introduced or whether to adopt the proposed amendments.?
Amend #1	An amendment to state that the information provided by registrants would be automatically purged annually unless the registrant renews the registration.

Amend #2	An amendment requested by Disability Rights Maryland that provides that for purposes of this section, guardian does not include a court-appointed public guardian
Amendment #3	An amendment to line 30 of Bill 33-22 as introduced to replace the term "[[Mental health disability]]" with the term "Behavioral health condition"

Should we recommend the inclusion of a requirement for annual revalidation of registered information?

The Commissioner raised concerns regarding the automatic removal of individuals from the registry if their information is not updated within a week. The Commissioner suggested adding a convenient checkbox option. Additionally, one Commissioner inquired about the possibility of opting out of the registry in the middle of the year, stressing the importance of simplicity due to the system being overwhelming for some.

Legislative Attorney Khandikile pointed out that individuals can currently opt out at any time and discussed Howard County's proactive approach to reaching out to people for information updates. However, they noted that Montgomery County faces limitations in this regard.

A Commissioner sought clarification on what the process of "pulling out of the registry" entails. Legislative Attorney Khandikile explained that the plan is to keep the process as simple as possible, requiring only a form from a police officer.

Should we recommend excluding public guardians from registering the individuals they serve as guardians in the registry?

The Chair mentioned a recommendation to the RN about excluding public guardians. A Commissioner raised the concern that many individuals have public guardians and emphasized the need not to disadvantage this group. Another Commissioner stressed the importance of precise language distinctions. A third Commissioner expressed concern about group homes with multiple individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and questioned whether the service provider should register the group home.

A Commissioner pondered whether individuals with public guardians would even be able to register for themselves if public guardians were excluded from the registration process. Several Commissioners shared concerns related to public guardians not being able to register.

Should we recommend excluding public guardians from being able to register the people they serve as guardians into the registry?

One Commissioner expressed frustration with the program's implementation and the lack of available statistics regarding its effectiveness, particularly for individuals of varying socioeconomic statuses. They stressed the need to break down data by socioeconomic status and collect metrics to make informed decisions.

A second Commissioner highlighted the importance of having readily available metrics, suggesting that an annual or semi-annual report should be produced. They emphasized the need for data specific to Montgomery County, as it differs from other counties.

The third Commissioner discussed the importance of having data to avoid wasting time, and the fourth Commissioner pointed out the need for evidence or data regarding the outcomes of those who register versus those who do not.

The fifth Commissioner noted that only geographic metrics are provided, with no data related to race or ethnicity, and questioned the county's capacity to collect and report such data.

The sixth Commissioner expressed concerns that metrics from other counties may not align with similar demographics and expressed interest in a more in-depth understanding of police officer training due to the significance of lives at stake.

The seventh Commissioner discussed the distinction between mental health and behavioral health, suggesting a focus on the terminology of behavioral health to be more inclusive.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting concluded with the Chair briefly discussing plans for obtaining Commissioner input to guide working on Commission priorities, committee structure, and meeting schedule.

Meeting Minute Key Content from Chat:

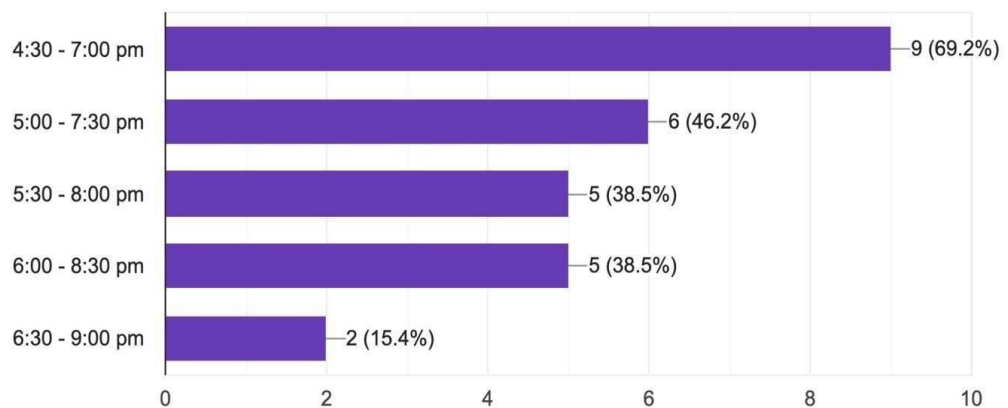
There were 0 External Interruptions or compromises of meeting integrity. All chat was deemed to be appropriate in content. There was significant use of the chat feature for troubleshooting technical issues (i.e., poor audio, unmuted microphones). There was helpful use of the chat to guide meeting efficiency (i.e., indicating a speaker was present or coming). Councilmember Luedtke posted a link related to HIPPA. There were some questions dealing with content which were then carried over into the formal meeting discussions by our Secretary.

Spirit of our mission best encapsulated
Lines 31 – 34 of Enabling Legislation

Montgomery County is committed to creating an inclusive community for people with IDD so that they are afforded every opportunity to live a life of their choosing with the supports needed to participate fully in the life of the County.

Commissioner Preferences for Meeting Times

Meeting time
13 responses



Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission Attendance Report October 2023-November 2024

VOTING MEMBERS		NOV	DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	SEPT	OCTOBER	ABSENCES
C = Conference Call / C* = Alternate Attended / P = Present / A = Absence												
W = Waived Absences by County Executive / R = Waiver Requested												
1.	Patrick Callahan	P										
2.	Jillian Copeland	P										
3.	Tracy Craig	A										
4.	Jake Didinsky	P										
5.	Jamie Doyle	P										
6.	David Ervin	P										
7.	Natori Green	P										
8.	Michael Greenberg	P										
9.	Lori Mitchell-Keller	A										
10.	Lisa Lorraine	P										
11.	Jenn Lynn	P										
12.	Stephen Riley	P										
13.	Eric Salzano	P										
14.	Carmen Smith	P										
15.	Yvonne Vanlowe	P										
16.	John Whittle	P										
17.	Carmen Smith	P										
18.	Carmen Zahra	P										
19.	VACANT											
20.												
21.												
Attendance Policy: A Voting Member may miss up to 3 meetings within a one year rolling period. Voting Members who miss more than 3 meetings in that period or who miss 3 consecutive meetings will be automatically removed. Waivers may be requested for absences caused by extenuating circumstances.												
Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members												
1.	Onesta Duke- Maryland Department of Health.	P										

2. Justin Hack- WorkSource Montgomery	P													
3. Dorne Hill- Department of Health and Human Services	P													
4. Karla Nabors- Montgomery College	P													
5. Sharon Norcio- Montgomery County Recreation	P													
6.														