



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: December 19, 2024

Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Guest: none

Call to Order, Welcome: Chair, Steve Riley, called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

- Minutes were unanimously approved, with corrections to name spelling and inclusion of missing attendance.

Announcements:

- Steve Riley thanked Shakeela Gray for stepping into the IDDC Staff Liaison role temporarily and welcomed Crystel Britto back after a short leave of absence.
- Steve conducted a roll call to take attendance of Commissioners present.
- Steve invited members of the public to announce who was in attendance.

Discussion:

- Steve Riley noted the lack of engagement amongst commissioners. He inquired about the reasons for this, citing the low volunteer turnout at the Road to Independence Fair as an example. Various commissioners spoke, requesting clarification on expectations around participation, some noting they felt they adequately participated. Some commissioners explained that their professional commitments precluded them from attending events during work hours. A few noted their intention to increase participation once relevant committees were established. Others stated a tense environment prevented them from feeling comfortable openly sharing their opinions.
- Steve Riley called for volunteers for secretary or meeting notetaker.
 - No one volunteered. There were suggestions from the commission to employ AI tools to support notetaking.

- Steve Riley requested the status of county advertisement for the open commission slot for a person with I/DD. Shakeela Gray noted that the advertisement was made by the County Executive's office and noted in the Weekly Roundup, sent 12/18/25 by email.
- Steve Riley called for a vote to approve the draft letter sent out to the commission to communicate with DDA regarding support for Direct Support Professionals (see attached). Letter was unanimously approved. Steve stated the letter would be transmitted as approved.
- Steve called for discussion and a vote to approve new commission structure for 2024/2025 (attached). The new commission structure was approved, with one abstention.
 - Steve then roll-called, asking Commissioners to volunteer for a committee. Some commissioners volunteered to be placed where needed. Jake Didinsky noted that no Committee should have a quorum, to satisfy the Open Meetings Act. The assignments are attached.
- Steve provided an update on the CRCMC facilitator – after speaking to them, he understood that their focus was conflict resolution and would not be able to support the Commission in moving forward with the goals of the Commission. He discussed this with Dr. McGhee and she is working to find a facilitator who is willing to support the Commission in supporting the work it does.
- Steve Riley called upon County Staff to provide an update on the county program to employ people with IDD. Kim Mayo, Administrator of the Community Support Network within HHS provided an update on staff with IDD who were employed. Steve Riley clarified his question and specified needing information on how many people with IDD were employed through the passage of the approved ballot initiative to hire people with I/DD. Kim shared that she would follow up with this information.
- Steve Riley thanked Shakeela Gray for updating information on the IDDC website and invited Commissioners to visit it.
- Steve announced the resignation of Vice Chair, Jamie Doyle, on 12/11/2024. He called for the voting of a new vice-chair. Shakeela Gray shared that two commissioners volunteered for the vice chair position.
- Commissioners Sue Hartung and Jake Didinsky were invited to share about themselves and what they would bring to the position of vice-chair, as well as answered questions from fellow commissioners about their approach as vice-chair. A vote took place by online ballot. The link to the ballot was shared and commissioners voted. Sue Hartung was voted in as vice-chair in a vote of 13-3.
- Commissioner's Open Forum
- Public Input

Action Items:

- Staff Liaison, Crystel Britto, will submit the approved letter to DDA
- Crystel Britto will also share committee assignments with the commission
- Volunteers requested for the Secretary position vacancy
- Next Commission meeting will be January 16, 2025 from 5pm-6:30pm via Zoom

Commission Members Present:

Patrick (Rick) Callahan, Tracy Craig, Jake Didinsky, Onesta Duke, David Ervin, Justin Hack, Susan Hartung, Dorne Hill, Lisa Lorraine, Jenn Lynn, Lori Mitchell-Keller, Karla Nabors, Margaret Parrott, Stephen (Steve) Riley, Eric Salzano, Smil Soria, Yvonne VanLowe, John Whittle, Najla Wortham, Carmen Zahra

County Staff Present: Crystel Britto, Betsy Luecking, Kim Mayo, Dr. Patrice McGhee, Dale Tibbetts

Adjournment:

- Meeting ended at 6:33pm



INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

December 19, 2024

Marlana R. Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health
201 W. Preston Street, RM 422-C
Baltimore, Maryland 20201

Dear Deputy Secretary Hutchinson:

I hope that this finds you well.

In 2023, the Montgomery County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (I/DDC) was created by County legislation to advise the County Executive and County Council on matters of importance to the I/DD community. Its enabling legislation also authorizes the I/DDC to advocate at the State and federal levels of government to promote the interests of individuals with I/DD. It is my privilege to serve this year as I/DDC chair.

In that capacity I write to convey the Commission's broad support for the report "Direct Support Professional Workforce Shortage Think Tank: Recommendations to address workforce capacity issues in Maryland's developmental disabilities service system" issued by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council on September 27, 2024.

The I/DDC has identified the Direct Service Professional workforce crisis as one of our two top work priorities for 2024/2025, and the Commission is eager to do whatever it can to help solve this crisis. We stand ready to assist you and other stakeholders in your work to create policies and programs that will facilitate solutions. Please let us know how we can be of service in supporting this priority.

Thank you and your colleagues at the Developmental Disabilities Administration for all you do to improve the quality of life for Marylanders with I/DD.

DDA, Marlana R. Hutchinson

12/19/2024

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Very truly yours,

Steve Riley

[Steve Riley \(Jan 3, 2025 14:05 EST\)](#)

Stephen F. Riley, Chair

cc: County Executive Marc Elrich

Council President Kate Stewart

Rachel London, Executive Director

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

IDDC Committee Assignments

Executive Committee

Steve Riley
Susan Hartung
(Secretary, Vacant)

Community Engagement Committee

Jillian Copeland
*Jake Didinsky
Karla Nabors
Justin Hack
Dorne Hill
Rec Department

Programs & Policies Committee

Rick Callahan
Lori Mitchell-Keller
Lisa Lorraine
Jenn Lynn Kerwin
Eric Salzano
John Whittle
Najla Wortham
Onesta Duke

Special Education Committee

Tracey Craig
Smil Soria
Yvonne VanLowe
Carmen Zahra
Margie Parrott
*Carmen Smith