



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: October 24th, 2024

Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm (extended from 6pm)

Location: 401 Hungerford Drive 1st Floor 1A/1B Conference Room

Guest Speakers: none

Call to Order:

- Chair, Steve Riley, called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

Announcements:

- Welcome and introduction of new liaison, Crystel Britto
- Update on Appointments/ Reappointments
- Road to Independence Transition Fair at CLE for November 10th from 1pm-4pm – Steve R. informed us sign-ups are available to volunteer to staff the table
- 3 Weekly roundups have been sent– commissioners can give Crystel resources to share
- County Council presentation of priorities for the IDDC

Discussion:

Consideration of 90-minute Commission meetings:

- Discussion and Vote
 - The commission voted unanimously in favor of Jake D.'s proposal to extend meeting duration to 90 minutes.

Approval of Minutes

- The meeting minutes of September 19, 2024, were unanimously approved, subject to the inclusion of a note indicating that the meeting was recorded in compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, and will be preserved and accessible to the public for a period of five years.

Group Exercise: Rose, Thorn, Bud: Reflecting on the good, the growth and the hope!

- What went well last commission year? What progress are we proud of?
 - Priorities, commission being created, and commissioner communication
- What are areas of growth and learning from last year?
 - Communication, County governance, stability with liaison
- What are we hopeful for, this upcoming commission year?
 - Room for improvement
- Discussion
 - The group expressed collective pride in establishing the Commission, challenges in the long length of meetings and anticipation of productive work in the upcoming year with the established liaison and leadership.
 - Michael G. wanted clarification on the government structure as it relates to commissions; Patrice M. weighted in

Commission Structure for Year 2:

- Steve R. proposed subcommittees: Executive, Programs, Policy, and Communication
- Discussion
 - Carmen Z.: Where does the topic of Education belong?
 - Jake D.: Education should stand on its own, the subgroups should stay as subcommittees
 - Yvonne V. : Refocus committees; establish a set of broad structured subcommittees
 - Lisa L.: Community engagement instead communication subcommittee
 - David. E input: stay nimble; the restructure should have space to react to urgent calls of action
 - Steve R. will let subgroups continue their work during the restructure
 - Crystel B. emphasized liaisons need to be present during subgroup meetings

Review of the CERB Questionnaire:

- Discussion and Vote
 - Jake D. explained that the Community Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) is a group of community members who meet every six years to evaluate all boards, committees, and commissions.
 - Discussion to amend language in CERB question #6
 - Vote to move forward with CERB questionnaire response, called by Steve R. and 2nd by Carmen Z: 12 in favor, 1 abstain/recusal

Public Input:

- Lowenberg D introduced self and talked about the importance of this group to the community

Action Items:

- Decide on subcommittees structure
- CERB member coming to November 21, 2024 IDDC meeting
- Read DSP Workforce Shortage Think Tank proposal; vote on writing a letter of support during November 21, 2024 IDDC meeting
- Rick C. and David E. present of provider related items and subsidies
- Next Commission meeting will be November 21, 2024 from 5pm-6:30pm via Zoom
- Next planning meeting will be November 13, 2024 from 5-6pm via Zoom

Commission Members Present:

Patrick (Rick) Callahan, Jillian Copeland, Jake Didinsky, Onesta Duke, Natori Green, Michael Greenberg, Justin Hack, Jenn Lynn, Lisa Lorraine, Karla Nabors, Sharon Norcio, Margaret Parrott, Stephen (Steve) Riley, Smil Soria, Yvonne Vanlowe, Carmen Zahra, Najla Wortham, David Ervin

County Members Present: Crystel Britto, Kim Mayo, Dr. Patrice McGhee, Rosemary DiPietro

Members of the Public: Lowenberg Didinsky

Adjournment:

- Meeting ended at 6:35pm



INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSION

FY26 Policy Priorities

Montgomery County Council HHS Committee

October 16, 2024

Steve Riley, Chair

In 2023, the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Commission was formed and comprises 25 members, representing a diverse range of stakeholders including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, service providers, and representatives from the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission's primary focus is on fostering open communication and collaboration among families, support staff, private and public organizations, and the general public regarding programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

IDDC's Policy Priority Proposal

1. **The Commission supports policies and programs that focus on outreach to underserved and marginalized members of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) community, including those that promote Montgomery County as a sensory friendly community, with appropriate levels of County staff support.**
 - a. *Outreach to underserved communities:* outreach to underserved and marginalized members of the I/DD community is essential for promoting equity, improving quality of life, building inclusive communities, fulfilling ethical obligations, and leveraging resources effectively. By prioritizing this outreach, our local government can help to create a more just and equitable society for all.
 - b. *Create inclusive spaces for these to participate in the community:* Kulture City, a national non-profit, spoke at our April 2024 Commission meeting and highlighted the importance of making public spaces, events, and businesses more accessible and welcoming for individuals with sensory sensitivities, many of whom have I/DD. Often people with I/DD may not feel welcomed or able to shop, exist or participate in events or spaces that the general public may find easily accessible.
 - i. A 2018 County Government work group on meeting the needs of residents with developmental disabilities/differences recommended increasing sensory-friendly programming. We propose an addition of a Senior Fellow role within Aging & Disabilities to push this longstanding and recognized priority forward in creating more sensory-friendly spaces and being designated as a sensory-friendly county.

Department of Health and Human Services

2. The Commission supports policies designed to ensure a quality and robust Direct Service Professional (DSP) workforce in Montgomery County to support County residents who have I/DD.

- a. *The 2024 Report from the President's Committee for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PCPIDD)* highlights the critical shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) as a major obstacle to providing high-quality Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for individuals with I/DD.

The Report recommends investing in training, resources, career advancement opportunities, and competitive compensation and benefits for DSPs to address this crisis. DSPs are essential for helping individuals with I/DD live independently, participate in the workforce, and be active members of their communities. Families also rely on DSPs to provide care and support for their loved ones, allowing them to maintain employment.

- b. *Montgomery County DSPs:* Montgomery County residents with I/DD have experienced a shortage of qualified and well-compensated DSPs, which jeopardizes the ability of individuals with I/DD to live fulfilling lives within their communities.

This past year, IDDC's Workforce Development Subcommittee focused on developing solutions to both the current DSP workforce crisis and creating robust and lasting career growth opportunities for current and future DSPs. These solutions centered on opportunities for 'upward mobility,' wage growth to a living wage appropriate to Montgomery County, and professional certification of DSPs that is portable and recognized by any/all Maryland providers of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities supports.

Montgomery County is positioned to address the DSP crisis, with partners like Workforce Montgomery, Montgomery College, and DDA service providers. The I/DD Commission is committed to playing a pivotal role in this effort over the coming year.