

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 via Teleconference

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Meeting Called to Order: 4:10 pm
In Attendance

Commissioners	Attendance
Raymond Smith - Chair	Present
E. Anthony Langbehn	Present
Andrea Toney-Thomas, Esq.	Present
Rev. Gloria Swieringa	Present
Marja L. Reed	Present
Veronica Davila-Steele	Present
Maher Kharma	Absent
Lynda S. Taylor	Present
Toni Paster-DuPree	Present
Tiffany Harkless	Present
Rev. Raymond Raysor	Present
Staff/Guest	Attendance
Karen Sylvester (DFS-ADSD)	Present
Lydia Williams (DFS-ADSD)	Present
Theresa Grant (DFS-ADSD)	Present
Elliott Reed-Office of Del. Darryl Barnes	Present

Prayer – Rev. Raysor

Approval of June 2020 Minutes

- After the minutes were read clarification was offered by Commissioner Rev. Swieringa on access to services offered by First Baptist Church of Glen Arden.
- There was also discussion regarding the recording of housing eligibility information (30% versus 300% of SSI income); also, correction was offered on the proper name of the Hearing Loss Association

- Minutes from previous month meeting accepted after clarification and discussion to the aforementioned items.

New Business

COVID-19 Funding Update- Theresa Grant, Division Director, Aging & Disabilities Division

- Theresa discussed the receipt of additional funding (\$400,000) via CARES to provide nutritional services to individuals with disabilities. She invited members of the Commission and other stakeholders to participate in an upcoming workgroup to discuss current gaps in nutritional services for persons with disabilities and how the Aging & Disabilities Division might assist in moving forward with this initiative. She further indicated needing input and discussion on leveraging the manpower in alignment with the financial resources to accommodate the DDA community. Commissioners Rev. Ray Raysor, Tiffany Harkless, Toni Paster-DuPree, Andrea Toney-Thomas requested to be a part of this forum. Ms. Grant stated that the details for the meeting would be forthcoming.
- Andrea Toney-Thomas emphasized in her statements that self-directed persons with disabilities not be excluded from these anticipated services because they are not connected with a provider of service. Ms. Grant emphasized no one would be excluded and reiterated the Division's commitment to ensure meals and groceries being available to all persons with disabilities.
- Theresa welcomed Lydia Williams to the Aging & Disabilities Division as ADA Compliance Program Manager. She shared Lydia's background and former roles.
- Theresa gave an overview of the Aging & Disabilities Division activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also discussed her concerns regarding social isolation and the mental health of persons with disabilities and seniors during COVID-19. She mentioned that there are over 400 persons enrolled in waiver programs.
- Commissioner Marja Reed asked if this meeting was "an open forum" as she wanted to forward the teleconference information to someone wanting to participate. She was assured by Theresa and Karen the meetings are open to the public.

Old Business:

Final plans for the ADA 30th Anniversary Recognition-Update Karen Sylvester, Unit Manager, Aging & Disabilities Division.

- Karen indicated the draft for the program has been approved.
- Commissioner Tiffany Harkless has agreed to serve as mistress of ceremonies for the Zoom format program.
- Karen explained the Zoom platform and that Jermoni Dowd, Public Information Officer with the Department of Family Services will manage the platform. Plans

- have been solidified to secure Carrie Quigley to provide sign language and CART services for the program.
- Karen explained the process for the planned videos of Prince Georgians with disabilities being recognized on the program
 - The proclamation has been drafted and forwarded to the County Executive's Office.
 - The County Executive requested talking points on ADA and the work of the Commission to include in her remarks.
 - Commissioner Chair Ray Smith stated he would follow-up regarding the participation of Secretary Beatty (Maryland Department of Disabilities Administration) and John Register (scheduled guest speaker)
 - Commissioner Rev. Gloria Swieringa indicated she would not be available to participate in the recognition program due to prior commitment.
 - Elliott Reed of Delegate Daryl Barnes office stated he would like to receive information regarding the ADA recognition program to share with the delegate and other constituents. Karen took his information and indicated she would be forwarding the electronic flier for the event to him.

Reappointments

- Karen discussed the re-appointment process for this year, indicating anyone with an immediate expiration who notified Miriam Brewer in October of their desire to remain on the Commission, would remain on the Commission unless otherwise notified. Appointments and Re-appointments will be conducted when the Courts are fully operational.
- A Commissioner requested a roster of the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities to include their name, phone #, email address and term expiration. Karen indicated this would be forwarded to the Commissioners. Theresa stated permission was needed from the Commissioners to include their phone numbers on the document.

Ethics Training

- Karen gave an update on the scheduled ethics training for the Commission as August 19, 2020. She shared that the Office of Human Resources Management is the lead agency for this training and will take the lead in making sure all presentation materials are accessible to everyone.

Commissioner's Updates

- Commissioner Marja Reed mentioned that she had given her updates via email. She also mentioned the retirement of a key Melwood officer and the assignment of an interim officer. She also mentioned 2 links for food donations.
- Commissioner Veronica Davila-Steele requested info regarding a town hall meeting for disabilities' community.
- Commissioner Tony Langbehn shared that he heard the University of Maryland now has a disabilities study program and would like to invite the person responsible for this program to speak to the Commission.

- Commissioner Lynda Taylor discussed the housing rental assistance program received (\$7million) from CARES but need assistance processing the applications. Theresa Grant indicated she would look into this by contacting leadership at the Department of Social Services.
- Commissioner Andrea Toney-Thomas requested a bio for Lydia Williams and shared her concerns regarding support for Lydia's position. Karen and Theresa assured both were forthcoming and explained the role of Debbie Jones has not changed. They both assured the group Lydia would receive appropriate support. Lydia Williams indicated she was up to the challenge of the position and full intentions to remaining with the Aging & Disabilities Division.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 via teleconference and Zoom

Meeting Adjourned – 5:47 p.m.