

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 via Zoom

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Meeting Called to Order: 4:03 pm
In Attendance

Commissioners	Attendance
Raymond Smith - Chair	Present
E. Anthony Langbehn	Present
Andrea Toney-Thomas, Esq.	Present
Rev. Gloria Swieringa	Present
Veronica Davila-Steele	Present
Maher Kharma	Present
Toni Paster-DuPree	Present
Tiffany Harkless	Present
Rev. Raymond Raysor	Absent
Marja L. Reed	Absent
Staff/Guest	Attendance
Karen Sylvester (DFS-A&DD)	Present
Lydia Williams (DFS-A&DD)	Present
Janice Jackson (W.E.A.N.)	Present

Prayer – Lydia Williams

Approval of August 2020 Minutes

- Minutes from previous month meeting accepted & approved.

New Business

Presentation on TOTE MY VOTE Janice Jackson, Founder/Director of W.E.A.N. (Women Embracing Abilities Network)

- Ms. Jackson provided an overview of her life story and background. Ms. Jackson serves as a Commissioner on the Maryland Department of Disability. Ms. Jackson discussed her bipartisan initiative called TOTE MY VOTE; an initiative to assist & provide tools to people with disabilities to ensure their vote is counted. After her presentation, Ms. Jackson responded to questions and concerns from the Commissioners. Chair Ray Smith asked about how seniors were being assisted throughout the county to vote. Staff Liaison, Karen Sylvester shared information that the Prince George's County Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has visited senior buildings throughout the county to assist with mail-in ballots & County Aging Commission has visited senior facilities.
- Lydia informed the board that Ms. Jackson's contact information was emailed to everyone for future reference.

Old Business:

RECAP - COVID-19 Funding for Individuals with Disabilities, Ethics Training, State of Maryland Commission Board Meeting, Mid- Atlantic ADA Virtual Conference

- **Ethics Training** took place on Wednesday, September 16th via Zoom. Commissioners who attended the training received a Certificate of Completion. Any Commissioner who did not attend will be able to attend an upcoming training with other County board commissioners when scheduled.
- Chairman Ray Smith provided an update on what was discussed during the State of Maryland Commission Board Meeting.
 1. **Labor/Employment** - Employment Opportunities for the Middle-Aged & Seniors
 2. **Transportation** - State of Maryland has implemented Floating Bus Stops. Formalize all bus stops look the same & make busy roads easier for cyclists and bus riders.
 3. **Legislation** - Name change in the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped. The new name is Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. State Plan for Individuals with Disabilities has been submitted to Secretary Beatty for review. Board Liaison Lydia Williams made a statement that a representative from the board should attend State Commission Board Meeting as well as provide a Commission Board Report. Commissioner Rev. Gloria Swierigna stated she would like to attend.
 4. Lydia provided an update regarding the Mid-Atlantic ADA Network Virtual Conference. She received her certification for ADA Coordination and will be collaborating with various agencies within the Prince George's County to meet with their respective ADA Coordinators once in place. It was a paid training; usually held in Alexandria, Virginia. This year held virtually due to the pandemic.

Commissioner's Updates-

- Staff Liaison Lydia Williams provided board updates regarding approvals such as: Update Board Website, ADA accessibility for community, Disability Accommodations for future Commission Board Zoom Meetings.
 1. 30th Anniversary ADA recognition certificates have been delayed from County Executive's office; no updates at this time.
 2. Commission Board need to establish sub-committees as stated in Board By-Laws to prepare for Tele-Town Hall Meeting in Spring 2021.
 3. Board Secretary needed. Asked if any Commissioner wants to volunteer. Commissioner Tiffany Harkless volunteered to be the Board Secretary. Chair Ray Smith asked to put vote on the Board Secretary. Board made a unanimous vote.
- Cochair Tony Langbehn shared on October 29th, 2020 a hearing held for his Board Reappointment.
- Commissioner Veronica Davila shared "Hearing Loss of America (HLAA) - Prince George's County Chapter's "Voting Matters" meeting October 24th via Zoom at 10a.m.
- Commissioner Toni Paster-Dupree shared October 19th - October 23rd, 2020 is "Invisible Disability Week" - Awareness for those who have Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Autoimmune Disease, Speech Disorder.
- Commissioner Andrea Toney-Thomas shared information about an upcoming Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) being held on Monday, October 26th, 2020 and the new Regional Director from the SMRO (Southern Maryland Region Office), Onesta Duke will be the speaker.
- Chair Ray Smith shared that the National Federation of the Blind State Conference will take place on November 6th-8th, 2020 and it will be virtual event. October 15th, 2020 is National White Cane Safety Day for the Blind and/or Visually Impaired.
- Commissioner Tiffany Harkless shared that the World of Possibilities Expo will be taking place on Saturday, October 24th at the Mall of Prince George's.
- Next Meeting November 18, 2020 4 to 6 p.m. via Zoom and Conference Call-in.

Meeting Adjourned – 5:16 p.m.