

**The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
February 15, 2017**

Welcome and Introductions: Benjamin Dubin, Philester Ealy, Mike Gahagan, Julie Gaynor, David Greenberg, Larry Hughes, Tony Lawson, Elizabeth Lazzaro, Angela Manning, Mary Manzoni, Greg Miller, Stephen Morgan, Kathleen O'Brien, Terri Parrish, Ellen Platt, Lt. Jay Ringgold, Dr. Jay Schein, Jo Anne Schneider, Mary Scott, Michael Tan, Brian Trees, Judy Volkman, Carla de Mendonca, Joan Walen, Santa Wallace, Karl Ph.D. Weber, Stephen Sophel, Lois Pusinsky, Debora Edlow

Staff: Hal Franklin, Colleen Nevy

Report of the Executive Committee:

- Letters to Baltimore County Council Members
 - Letters to Council members by their Commission representatives were sign and are being mailed out to Council person as of February 15, 2017. Along with the letters are a copy of the *Resource Guide* and the Housing Accessibility Modification brochure.
- Recommended Speakers and Topics
 - March – Marsha Parham, BCDSS to discuss the status of the Conciliation Agreement with HUD and MDLC, and the HOME Act
 - April – Del Sandy Rosenberg re: Maryland MDLC
 - May –
- Respect the Space – Parking Lot Accessibility
 - We have received around 80 parking lot surveys from Commission members.
 - Mr. Franklin sent the surveys Permits and Licensing for further review and action.
- HOME Act – State Bill
 - Mike Bullis testified on behave of the Centers for Independent Living for the State wide HOME Act.
 - When figuring out income they want to take out the word Gift.

Guest Speaker: Ellen S. Platt, the Option Group, LLC/Senior Management Options

- The Option Group conducts assessments for seniors and their families, appointed guardians, or caregivers. Case Managers evaluate the senior's level of safety, independences and comfort in their current living situations, and conduct an overall assessment of their status.

Navigating Benefits

- 8 core areas of expertise
 - Crisis intervention
 - Health and disability
 - Financial
 - Housing
 - Family
 - Advocacy
 - Local
 - Legal

- Goal is to increase safety decrease and risk for seniors
- For families and caregivers this means
 - Action and Empowerment for families
 - Allows them to make planned and educated decisions
 - Provides options at a time of crisis
 - Navigate the most appropriate and best possible care
- An average cost can between \$140 - \$200 an hour

Living Options

- Independent Living (IL)
- Group Home
- Assisted living (AL)
- Dementia or Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)
- Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC)

Insurance

- Maryland health Plans for individuals families and small business
- Maryland Medical Assistance State of md medical assistance programs
mmcp.dhmh.maryland.gov
- The MD Department of health and mental hygiene provides these programs in order to improve access to health care services for low-income residents.

Medication

Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program
Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
Baltimore county SHIP Office 410-887-2059

Medicare (Age 65 and older)

- PART A
 - Hospital insurance
 - Covers inpatient hospital care
 - Covers skilled nursing facility, and, in limited circumstances, at home.
- Part B
 - Medical Insurance
 - Covers services and supplies that are medically necessary to treat your health condition.
 - Outpatient care
 - Preventive services
 - Ambulance services
 - Durable medical equipment
 - Medicare –In most cases if you don't sign up for Medicare when you're first eligible, you'll have to pay a late enrollment penalty with higher fees.
- Part C
 - Also called Medicare advantage plan.
 - Medicare part c is optional and there is no penalty for not signing up.

- Medicare advantage plans typically cover more than original Medicare (part A and Part B).
- You must have Medicare Part A and Part B to get Part C, live in the service area of a Medicare.
- Part D
 - Prescription drug coverage
 - Provided and coordinated by Medicare-approved private insurance companies.
 - You can get Medicare Part D coverage through a stand-alone Medicare Prescription Drug Plan if you're enrolled in Original Medicare.

Medigap

- Extra health insurance that you buy from a private company to pay health care costs not covered by Part A, Part B, and Part C.
 - Co-payments
 - Deductibles
 - Health care if you travel outside the United States.
- Medigap policies do not cover;
 - Long-term care
 - Dental Care
 - Vision Care
 - Hearing Aids
 - Eyeglasses
 - Private-duty nursing

Initial enrollment

- Enrollment period begins three months before you turn 65 and last for seven months.
- If you miss your initial enrollment for whatever reason, you can sign up for Medicare Part A and/or Part B during the **General Enrollment Period** that runs from January 1 through March 31 of every year.

Contact Information

- Medicare www.medicare.gov
- 1-800-MEDICARE TTY user 1-877-486-2048?

Update: 2017 Maryland Legislative Session

- HOME Act – Will ensure that landlords throughout the County will treat people as individuals- and not reject them solely because of the individual's source of income.
- Has been brought up several times at the State. First hearing was held last Tuesday.
 - Five people testified in support of the HOME Act.
 - Four people spoke against.
- Senate Bill 728 – The HOME Act was submitted. Will be heard on February 28, 2017.

Workgroups

Education

- Efforts between health education and special education to train all secondary teachers on the Family Life curriculum who work in self-contained classes with students on the certificate track.
 - They are figuring out how to do this.
 - Teachers meet once a month and their supervisor has offered to use part of that meeting to do the training.
- On track to give out consistent information at strategic times to families and students.
- The Education Work Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30am at the Odyssey School.

Housing

- Going line by line through the county's plan for CDBG money for the next 5 years.
- We're looking for recommendations that were made.
 - Includes funding for people who do not have child under age 6 in their home to get lead paint and assistance, etc.
- Meeting 1st Thursday over every month at 1pm at the IMAGE center

Announcements:

Youth Reach Maryland – Maryland's first, multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive survey and census of youth and young adults struggling with homelessness.

- Looking for youth and young adults who are under the age of 25, not in the physical custody or care of parent/legal guardian, and without a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence.
- Between March 20, 2017 – April 2, 2017

Meeting adjourned 1:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission on Disabilities is scheduled for March 15, 2017.