

DRAFT TO BE REVIEWED BEFORE DISTRIBUTION

**MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY INCLUSIO OF
INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

November 13, 2014

Prince Georges County, MD

The Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities met on November 13, 2014 in Prince George's County, MD at 1p.m. A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Members participating:

Cleary, Joseph (Jay)
Curtis, Thomas
Davis, Scott
Embert, Dwayne
Failla, George
Hedrick, Jim
Hovermale, Lisa
Imparato, Andrew
Leitess, Anne Colt
Oliveira, Rae
Pierson, Joanna
Rapp, Charles
Shriver, Timothy
Sparks, Theresa
Weir, Sara Hart
Wheeler, Erica

Agenda 1. Welcome and Chair's Remarks

Chair Timothy Shriver welcomed the members and thanked them for coming. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting.

Agenda 2. Presentations by Disability Organizations

Representatives from disability organizations made brief presentations to the Commission followed by a question and answer period. The written statements from each organization are attached as **Appendix A**.

Agenda 3. Discussion of Recommendations

The Commission discussed its legislative priorities for the 2014 annual report and the upcoming legislative session. Members further discussed the concept of a center for self-advocates as trainers and were supportive of making the center a prominent recommendation in its annual report. The Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the center be named in honor of Ethan Saylor. The Commission acknowledged the funding challenges for the center and the need to request new funds from the legislature.

The Commission also discussed the need to expand the Commission membership in order to go beyond the framework for each sector. The Commission plans to invite the Governor-Elect, Mr. Larry Hogan, to its next meeting to brief him on its work.

Agenda 4. Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda 5. Upcoming Meetings

The Commission will meet December 15, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 3p.m.

APPENDIX A

STATEMENTS FROM DISABILITY GROUPS



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities

at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.

Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

November 13, 2014

Landover, MD

Good afternoon, my name is Maureen van Stone and I am speaking on behalf of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute. The MCDD is one of a national network of University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities federally funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The mission of the MCDD is to provide leadership that advances inclusion for people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities. This is accomplished through partnerships to provide interdisciplinary training, advocacy, community service, research and evaluation, technical assistance, and information sharing.

Shortly after the tragic death of Ethan Saylor, the MCDD partnered with the Saylor family, and disability advocates throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia to create Ethan's Law Work Group. At the initial meeting, the Group discussed the need for comprehensive and mandatory disability awareness training for police officers, firefighters, and other first-responders. The ultimate goal was to conduct research and gain enough support to pass legislation to mandate disability awareness training for all first-responders in Maryland, including both new recruits and veteran members. When the Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was created in September 2013, the MCDD was encouraged that mandated training would be within reach. Since then, the Commission has not only developed specific goals, but has piloted first-responder training and drafted legislation.

The MCDD leadership team is impressed by the work the Commission has accomplished in the past year and is grateful to have the opportunity to share our thoughts. Below we have outlined our comments and concerns and we hope you will take these into consideration.

- A. Any potential legislation should generally establish the development, implementation, and evaluation of curriculum and other materials/processes. Mandating the new efforts without

evaluation of the efficacy will leave families, advocates, self-advocates, law enforcement, and the state without knowledge of what is working.

- B. Evaluation should be continuous and focused on providing support in real-time to individuals and agencies rather than on a punitive focus. This means evaluation should identify strengths as well as opportunities for improvement.
- C. Evaluation of efficacy should involve the perspectives of self-advocates and family members who can bring a critical perspective to the interpretation of evaluation results and recommendations for future action.
- D. The systems should create both continuous monitoring and periodic review of evaluation results of The Police Training Commission's Effective Community Inclusion Training Objectives and Curriculum.
- E. The evaluation should provide annual summaries of information related to number of persons trained, perspectives regarding the impact of the training, and recommendations for future efforts including changes to curriculum, tools, processes, or evaluation efforts.
- F. The evaluation should provide ongoing and real-time (web-based) access to the public regarding the work of the Interagency Disabilities Board, its curriculum and any data and recommendations related to the implementation and impacts of the work of the inclusion training.
- G. Self-advocates are involved in the design, implementation (training), and evaluation of the training. This can include involvement in choosing important content for training, indicators for success and impact of training, and helping to interpret the findings of ongoing and periodic evaluation of the curriculum and its processes.
- H. The state should identify resources to fund the ongoing evaluation of the system.
- I. The MCDD stands ready to provide comprehensive and integrated support in the design and evaluation of the training systems, as well as providing important self and family voices as part of the training and evaluation process.

We look forward to hearing how the Commission plans to address these and other concerns in the coming months. The MCDD will support the work of Commission and would welcome any opportunity to partner with the Commission to support this important work.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this testimony.

Presentation to the Governor's Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

November 13, 2014

Pathfinders for Autism

Since 2012, the Pathfinders for Autism training provides law enforcement and first responders with "scenario-based" instruction, certified by MPCTC, with practical application in the field. Pathfinders provides a balance of factual information and practical tips and strategies, along with personal stories that both entertain and provoke thoughtful consideration. We also offer a curriculum with a focus on functional ability (rather than specific diagnosis) that incorporates the most prominent developmental disabilities law enforcement and first responders may encounter. The program addresses how to identify disabilities and their characteristics and make necessary accommodations. Our curriculum team consists of Pathfinders' staff, a respected neuropsychologist, a Maryland Capitol Police Officer, a Harford County Sheriff's Officer, and a retired Maryland State Police Officer. Participants leave the session with a comprehensive understanding as to why this Autism/Developmental Disabilities training is important and how it will play into their daily work experience.

Every training is co-taught with a Pathfinders for Autism staff member, a law enforcement officer, and a self-advocate. We believe it is critical to have a co-trainer who is a member of law enforcement to address all issues of police protocol.

We begin each law enforcement training with an exercise that includes paid consultant and self-advocate Glenn Myers. Our law enforcement training partner calls on a volunteer and describes the following scenario:

" You've received a call from someone saying a suspicious person is walking on their street and does not live in the neighborhood. You need to find out who he is, where he lives, and get contact information."

The volunteer is given an opportunity to interview Glenn. We are then able to refer back to techniques used, and Glenn's reaction to certain approaches, throughout the presentation. We fully support the inclusion of self-advocates in police trainings and would encourage the development of a leadership institute to teach self-advocates multiple roles in these trainings.

It's one thing to describe a language processing disorder, or a sensory processing disorder. It's completely different to help the law enforcement recruits and officers experience it. Now, they aren't simply trying to empathize with the person they are interviewing, rather they can draw on the memory of how that challenge felt. While we aren't suggesting that any particular exercises be mandatory, we would like to present two of the exercises we use during our training to you to at least give you a first-hand experience of their effectiveness.

- "The Red Fox Jumped Over The Fence"
- Ping pong balls in bucket

While it is important to teach disability awareness to the academy classes, this training needs to be reinforced to current officers through in-service. Repeating the class at in-service will allow them to really put this training into context with their work. Plus, police veterans may be getting exposed to this information for the first time in their careers. We have had several police tell us they wish they had received this training years ago as they can recount instances where they would have reacted differently.

Pathfinders supports the need for consistency in information that is presented to the academy classes and current law enforcement. We are not suggesting that all trainers need to use the exact same presentation. We believe it's important for trainers to be able to tailor presentations to match their teaching styles. However, there does need to be a system in place to ensure that the objectives are being met and all relevant information is adequately covered.

Attached testimonials:

- S/A Anthony Hatcher, Division Manager, Field Enforcement Division, Office of the Comptroller
- Terry A. Sullivan, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Harford County State's Attorney Office
- Sgt. Michael Allred, Maryland State Police
- *Det. Janelle Myers, Harford County Sheriff's Office*
- *More can be found at <http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/about/testimonials#first responder>*

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Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

November 13, 2014

Landover, MD

Good afternoon, my name is Tami Goldsmith, and I am the state facilitator for People On the Go of Maryland. I am here to speak on behalf of the Ethan's Law Work Group (Work Group), which is a grassroots organization created shortly after of the tragic death of Ethan Saylor. The Work Group is a partnership among the Saylor family, disability advocates in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and organizational/agency representatives. Since March 2013, the Work Group has been advocating for the development and implementation of policy change and implementation of a comprehensive training for law enforcement officers and other first responders on how best to interact with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our communities. When the Governor's Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was created in September 2013, the Work Group was encouraged that mandated training for law enforcement officers would be within reach.

The Work Group is impressed by the Commission's accomplishments in the past year and is grateful to have the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the Commission's recommendations for the Governor and the potential legislation. We believe that any potential legislation should generally provide ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations including, but not limited to, comprehensive evaluation efforts. The Work Group feels that mandating the new training efforts without evaluation of the efficacy will leave families, advocates, self-advocates, law enforcement officers, and the state without knowledge of what is working and why it is successful. Furthermore, the Work Group stresses to this Commission the importance of including self-advocates and their families not only in the implementation of the training itself, but also in the evaluation process. The Work Group is committed to providing ongoing support to monitor the effectiveness of these implementation and evaluation efforts, and assist the Commission to ensure the efforts of both the Work Group and Commission are realized in our state.

The Work Group fully supports the efforts of the Commission moving forward and hopes to continue our positive and productive relationship. We appreciate the Commission's guidance and support, as we all strive toward the common goal of making Maryland inclusive and safe for all of its great citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

The Ethan's Law Work Group