

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 4/8/24

Motion to approve the agenda by Lisa Clark Jackie seconded motion was approved unanimously.

Attendance was taken.

Motion to hold off on approving last month's minutes until next month by Lisa Clark. Jackie seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Presentation from the Freedom Center.

Flyer was handed out for the centers for independent living reviewed the flyer. They're 7 centers in Maryland they all conduct services differently. The Freedom Center uses more of a peer run organization model, most of the board members and staff are all individuals with disabilities.

Focus on Advocacy Referrals, Peer Support, Transition Services, Independent Living Skills/Training. In addition, they help with employment services, completing forms employment network connection. Stats in the first quarter (ending March 31): total of 173 individuals 127 Frederick County residence 529 for information and referral services; helped out of nursing facilities; help one homeless family secure housing.

Barriers: Funding- need more money to do what needs to be done. Barriers in transportation- Frederick is doing well but doesn't include all areas in Frederick County. And Barrier in connectivity with Internet services.

How can COD help? Share information, advocate for services. There is NOT a 'magic wand'. No one solution- help advocate for additional support and services and keep bringing to the forefront the lack of affordable housing and the crisis in Frederick.

Old Business: Jackie will be asking Elizabeth Chung if she can present in May. In June, we hope to do a ride along with the department of transportation. Jackie will reach out to Jamie McKay.

New Business

Service Animal Rule: discussion on service animal therapy support animal. What is the difference? What are the requirements? There was a situation within Frederick County it went up to the human relations department. They are moving forward with it. Dave will follow up to see if there's anything that the COD can do or be of assistance. Would like a training by the ADA on ADA.

Formation of nominating committee Lisa Clark will be the lead on this committee and ask that members reach out to her as she will try to reach out to them. If they are interested in any of the positions the positions are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Dave will provide Lisa with a list of everybody's contact information.

Public comment:

Jackie Duda was in attendance during the meeting brought up issues of parking at Sunset Apartments in 2023 and her vehicle that displayed a handicap tag being towed brought up a second issue being towed.

She is frustrated and has reached out across the count/city. She has been in communication with Kate Nash with the city who has been helpful but no resolution. Discussion to possibly ask the city to attend one of our meetings to address some of the issues. COD recognized her concerns and frustration. The incident happened within the city limits versus the county and the commission on disability is city appointed the COD will follow up with somebody in the city.

Announcements and Member Comments: none

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM