



MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

**BETTER SCHOOLS. SAFER STREETS. STRONGER
NEIGHBORHOODS. A GROWING ECONOMY.
INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT. CLEANER AND
HEALTHIER CITY.**

Mayor's Commission on Disabilities FY 2011 Annual Report

Lanie Vogelhut, LCSW-C, Chair

Thomas Huggins, Vice-Chair

Nollie P. Wood, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Executive Director

SUMMARY
FY 2011 GOALS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

3

- Ensure the accessibility of City services, facilities, programs, employment opportunities and communications.
- Ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, associated laws and regulations.
- Assist City government, businesses and non-profit organizations with educational and instructional information about reasonable accommodation and universal design.

MCD STRUCTURE – COMMISSION COMMITTEES

4

- Access
- Commission Development
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Employment
- Legislative
- Transportation

ACCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5

- **Primary Goal : Evaluate and improve accessibility at specified public and private locations.**
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Visited and evaluated various types of homeless shelters for accessibility compliance.
 - St. Vincent DePaul–Sarah’s Hope, Mount Street, (Women and Children only) 1114 N. Mount St., Baltimore, MD 21217
 - Christ Lutheran Church-Baltimore Outreach Services Shelter, (Women and Children only) 701 S. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21230
 - Fallsway Housing and Service Center, (Men and Women only) 620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202
 - Baker Street Station (Men only) 1611 Baker St., Baltimore, MD 21217

ACCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

6

- Investigated and responded to over 291 complaints and requests for assistance regarding disability services, accessibility and accommodation. Examples include: barrier free access to the Food King Supermarket entrance, curb cuts and access to Cherry Hill Splash Park.
- Assisted with accessibility plans for several major events including The Preakness and the upcoming 2011 Baltimore Grand Prix. Plans were also reviewed for Mondawmin Mall, Johns Hopkins University Graduate Housing and Mt. Vernon Park.
- Collaborated with the Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore Recreation and Parks, the Special Olympics Maryland, Baltimore City Program to continue to provide year-round recreation opportunities for 2,000-plus student and adult athletes/volunteers. Activities included basketball, aquatics, equestrian events, ice skating, track and field training and competition.

ACCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

7

- Assisted in bringing the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities' website into Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance by providing Adobe PDF and Microsoft documents available for download.
- Revised and updated the Disabilities Resource List and posted the updated information on the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities' website.
- Completed the White House Disabilities Roundtable for Disabilities Russlynn H. Ali, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights with local disability area experts at the National Federation of the Blind.

COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

8

- **Primary Goal: Provide leadership to the Commission and manage Commission activities and membership.**
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Chaired and documented Commission meetings and events.
 - Recruited, oriented and assisted potential new Commission members with the Mayoral nomination process.
 - Scheduled speakers for Commission meetings.
 - Monitored attendance and, where appropriate, intervened to assist the Commission member or representative to attend the required number of meetings.
 - Represented the Commission at meetings and events. (Examples are the Maryland Commission on Disability and the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board.)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

9

- **Primary Goals:**
 - Continue registration to enroll community providers serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Baltimore City in the Baltimore Emergency Communication Network (BECON). Continue to inform providers about emergency preparedness practices that can help them better serve staff and clients.
 - Provide ongoing awareness training to Police and Fire Department personnel who are first responders. Mandatory awareness training is required for in-service or continuing education programs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

10

- **BECON**
 - Identified developmental disability providers serving clients in Baltimore City.
 - Thirty-one organizations are registered for the BECON alert.
 - 14 agencies that are located in Baltimore City and provide services to city residents are registered to receive the BECON alert. This represents every agency in the city.
 - 9 agencies located outside of the city that serve city residents have registered.
 - 8 governmental agencies are registered.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

11

- **Awareness Training**
 - Identified DVD entitled “Working with People with Disabilities” to use in training personnel in Baltimore City Fire Department and Baltimore City Police Department. The DVD demonstrates techniques to employ when responding to people with disabilities. Additional copies of the DVD have been purchased and will be distributed to the departments when received.
 - Baltimore City Police Department began the training on May 23, 2011.
 - Baltimore City Fire Department began the training on June 14, 2011.

EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

12

- **Primary Goal : Develop and pass an Employment Bill to increase employment and economic opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.**
- **Accomplishments:**
 - The Mayor and City Council enacted City Council Bill 10-0622, Hiring Preferences for Persons with Disabilities. This law seeks to lower the employment gap between persons with disabilities and able-bodied persons and expand economic opportunities to families of people with disabilities.
 - Applied for and received a grant from the Maryland Department of Disabilities to partner with Baltimore County and Caring Communities, Inc. in co hosting a Career Fair and Disability Expo on May 6, 2011. Over 1,200 persons attended the Expo and 242 people registered for the EmployAble Job Fair.

EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

13

- Commission member Lou Ann Blake coordinated the fourth annual Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, *Bridging the Gap between the Disability Rights Movement and Other Civil Rights Movements*, hosted by the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute. This symposium brought over 150 disability law scholars, advocates and government officials throughout North America and Europe to seek solutions to address the misconception that disability rights is not a civil rights issue. Keynote Speakers were: Chai Feldblum, Commissioner, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Christopher Dodd, Chairman and CEO, Motion Picture Association of America and former Senator from Connecticut; and Russlynn H. Ali, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.
- Added literature to the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities' website: Disability: Dispelling the Myths – How People with Disabilities Can Meet Employer Needs. A resource for businesses, it provides information on successful strategies used by employers to meet their labor force needs.

EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

14

- Supported the processing of income tax returns with the Baltimore CASH Campaign, through the National Disability Institutes' Real Economic Impact Partnership (REIT) – Baltimore grant award. Eight thousand five hundred eleven tax returns were completed by CASH for total Federal tax refunds of 13,906,668 dollars and an average Earned Income Tax Credit of 1,632 dollars .
The REIT Baltimore Partners include: the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration, Department of Social Services, Bank of America, Deaf Shalom Zone, Centralized Interpreter Services, Maryland Transit Administration – Mobility Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Baltimore CASH Campaign, Goodwill Industries of Central Maryland, Mayor's Office of Human Services- Community Action Partnership (CAP), Image-Md (regional Center for Independent Living), and Consumer Credit Counseling Services.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

15

- **Primary Goals:**
- **Develop and pass an Employment Bill to increase employment and economic opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.**
- **Monitor legislation and develop testimony during the Maryland General Assembly and City Council sessions with respect to legislative efforts that affect the lives of individuals with disabilities.**
- **Accomplishments:**
 - **Local/City Council Ordinance:** In conjunction with the Employment Committee, the Legislative Committee developed and worked with Councilman Robert Curran to pass City Council Bill 10- 0622, Hiring Preferences for Persons with Disabilities. This bill was signed into law on March 11, 2011.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

16

- Legislative Committee: The Legislative Committee evaluated all disability-related bills before the Maryland General Assembly and submitted testimony on four bills during the legislative session.
 - Senate Bill 12: Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force
 - Senate Bill 22: Election Law - Campaign Advertisements - Closed Captioning
 - Senate Bill 107: Health Benefit Exchanges - Establishment and Operation
 - Senate Bill 182: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2011 – This bill was supported by President Obama’s administration, and was signed by Governor O’Malley on April 12, 2011.
 - Additionally, the Commission supported Senate Bill 994 - the Alcohol Tax Bill that will provide funds for the developmentally disabled. The bill passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by the Governor on May 19, 2011.

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

17

- **Goal: To improve transportation services and parking for the handicapped by:**
 - **Planning and implementing handicapped parking education and enforcement days in conjunction with the Departments of Transportation, Police, Parking Authority, Finance and State Motor Vehicle Administration and District Court.**
 - **Surveying MTA Mobility Riders and identifying strategies to improve service.**
 - **Conducting a Public Forum on Para-Transit Services to identify Service Improvement Areas.**

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

- **Accomplishments:**

- On 10/13/10, 3/23/11 and 6/4/11, Handicapped Parking Education and Enforcement Days were held. A total of 22 citations were issued totaling fines of \$10,142. One hundred and twenty-seven citizens were contacted and 36 handicap placards were confiscated from those who were misusing them.
- On October 27, 2010, a forum was held at The League for People with Disabilities. Approximately 145 individuals were in attendance including riders, caregivers, State and City agency representatives and members of the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities.
- A survey of mobility riders was conducted in October, 2010. While the results were not conclusive, the information was shared with the Director of MTA's Mobility Service, Ms. Sharon Smith.