



# MOVING FORWARD

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES  
2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Martin O'Malley  
**Governor**

Anthony G. Brown  
**Lt. Governor**

Catherine A. Raggio  
**Secretary**

George P. Failla, Jr.  
**Deputy Secretary**

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### **Our Mission**

The Maryland Department of Disabilities advances the rights and interests of people with disabilities so they may fully participate in their communities.

### **Our Vision**

ALL Marylanders are valued and respected and have the knowledge, opportunity, and power to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

# MOVING FORWARD

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## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR



I am pleased to present to you the 2011 Annual Report of the Maryland Department of Disabilities.

Maryland is committed to protecting every citizen's right to live independently, with equal access to all that our State has to offer. To that end, the Maryland Department of Disabilities is working in partnership with other State and local agencies to create jobs, improve our communities and ensure that people with disabilities have access to quality education, housing and transportation. Over the past year, Maryland has made forward strides by partnering with the Weinberg Foundation to increase affordable rental housing options for people with disabilities. We've seen a 242 percent increase in enrollment in the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program since December 2007. And, we launched a website specifically for families with transitioning youth.

In our State, there is no such thing as a "spare Marylander." We believe in the dignity of every individual and are committed to creating and supporting an environment where people with disabilities can lead full and productive lives in their communities. I hope that as you read about the accomplishments and diverse work of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, you will be inspired to connect with them via social media to stay informed throughout 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Martin O'Malley".

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

This past year, the Maryland Department of Disabilities and members of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities hosted a number of listening posts and stakeholder meetings across the State. It was an outstanding opportunity to talk with individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers and advocacy organizations about their issues and concerns and the various programs and services available in Maryland.

In partnership with other State agencies and Marylanders with disabilities, MDOD is working very hard to assure that Marylanders with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of community life and make their contributions to the workforce. Our constituent services team is always working to help individuals navigate the many local, state and federal resources available for individuals with disabilities.

During the past year, we have faced a number of economic challenges in Maryland. But these challenges have made us stronger and more committed to ensuring that Marylanders with disabilities have the resources and opportunities they need to meet their personal and professional goals.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Catherine A. Raggs".

# ABOUT MDOD

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## **Maryland Department of Disabilities**

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is the voice within government for people with disabilities. It is the only department in the United States that represents people with all disabilities at the cabinet-level of state government. MDOD works in partnership with many other State agencies to assure that government services used by people with disabilities meet their needs. MDOD's agenda is expansive and designed to promote educational and employment opportunities. The State Disabilities Plan developed by MDOD and its partner agencies encompasses all supports and services, including transportation and housing, needed by people with various disabilities if they are to succeed in the workforce and fully enjoy community living.

## **Maryland Commission on Disabilities**

The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOD), serving in an advisory role to MDOD, recommends changes to improve, reorganize or streamline services for people with disabilities. As a part of its community outreach efforts, the Commission provides information to the public about MDOD and other state agencies and programs to assist with disabilities. In addition to acting as a liaison with local commissions and committees that serve people with disabilities, MCOd also provides a forum for the public to communicate recommendations for changes to State disabilities policies.

## **Maryland Disabilities Plan**

The Maryland State Disabilities Plan is the blueprint for disability support services in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Disabilities has partnered with consumers, families, providers and State agency staff to develop the State Disabilities Plan to reflect the needs and preferences of Maryland citizens with disabilities. The State Disabilities Plan addresses the following policy domains: Community Living, Employment and Training, Housing, Education and Children, Youth and Families, Health and Behavioral Health, Transportation and Assistive Technology.

The next 24 pages report on Maryland's progress in each of the MDOD policy domains and program areas.

## ENCOURAGING

## EMPLOYMENT



**John Michaels**

**John Michaels** has blazed some trails during his career. While still in college, John was the first person in Allegany County, Maryland to use a Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS). PASS is a work incentive that enables a person with a disability to keep higher monthly payments from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, and use the extra money to help pay for expenses to reach a work goal. John used his PASS to buy a van to get to and from college; the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) equipped the van with a wheelchair lift and other adaptive equipment so John could use it. John also planned to use his van for future employment.

John's opportunity came sooner than he expected. Resources for Independence, the nonprofit center for independent living that helped John write his PASS, hired him as a part-time Transition Specialist. For a time, John earned little enough that he kept his Social Security Disability checks, as well as the SSI checks that his PASS qualified him for. When he finished college, Resources for Independence offered John a full-time job. Eventually, he became Assistant Director. By this point, John had worked his way off all cash benefits from Social Security, but kept his Medicaid through a special rule for people who have lost SSI due to work.

John added a part-time job with a durable medical equipment company to his full-time job last year, and his income finally rose

high enough that he could no longer keep his Medicaid through the special rule. He couldn't afford to lose Medicaid, however. "If I had lost Medicaid, I would have lost coverage for attendant care, my wheelchair and other medical equipment, and medical supplies I use every day," explained John. "I would have had to pay so much for those items that I could not have afforded to keep working."

Fortunately, John knew about the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program, which enables people with disabilities who work for pay to qualify for Medicaid even with very substantial incomes. He applied and was able to keep Medicaid. "I was willing to work my way off cash benefits," John related, "But couldn't lose Medicaid. EID enabled me to keep working. I didn't want to have to quit or cut my earnings just to keep Medicaid, and luckily, EID didn't force me to make that choice."

## EMPLOYMENT VISION

Marylanders with disabilities will have a variety of meaningful employment and training opportunities, incentive to work, and will choose and control the individualized services that support their diverse careers in integrated settings.

### ACCOMPLISHMENT/HIGHLIGHTS:

- As part of the Quest Internship, a program that allows individuals with disabilities to receive valuable skills training, experience, knowledge, and in collaboration with Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and hosting state agencies, a total of 32 interns were placed in work experience opportunities within State Government.
- DORS assisted more than 1,000 people move from public benefits to employment opportunities in the past year. These new employees added \$35.2 million to Maryland's economy in 2010.
- MDOD and the Maryland Higher Education Commission facilitated passage of an enhanced Community College Tuition Waiver (CCTW); expanding application of the CCTW to students receiving Supplemental Security Income.
- MDOD began a feasibility study for replication of Specialisterne Denmark, a software testing company that utilizes the unique skills of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to address employment for Marylanders with ASD.
- With the continuing Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), Maryland:
  - Continued its support of the national "Think Beyond the Label" marketing campaign to increase awareness and support of employment of individuals with disabilities and also coordinated a regional and statewide campaign in October 2010.
  - Developed and created the Maryland Work Matters website, [www.mdworkmatters.org](http://www.mdworkmatters.org), a one stop portal for employers interested and engaged in hiring individuals with disabilities. The website is a collaborative project of the MDOD, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), Department of Business & Economic Development (DBED) and DORS. It includes information about the business case, innovative strategies and best practices, hiring and recruitment resources, and other useful resources and tools regarding employing individuals with disabilities.
  - Assisted in the completion of 709 new Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) applications and 125 redetermination applications. The EID is a work incentive program that enables Marylanders with disabilities to return to the workforce without losing their critical Medicaid health coverage. (Through June 2011, there has been a 242 percent increase in the EID enrollment since the EID Outreach Project began operating in January 2008, with a total enrollment of 613.)

## STORIES OF SUCCESSFUL MARYLANDERS

## EMPLOYMENT



**Deanna Suggs**

**Deanna Suggs** was a shy and pleasant model student who knew that she wanted to get a job after graduation. Deanna had no idea what kind of job she wanted, but knew she would need to become more independent in order to secure a job. Enrolled in the Project SEARCH High School Transition Program, Deanna had the opportunity to intern in several departments at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), and she excelled at all of them, gaining confidence and self-esteem with every experience. Deanna especially enjoyed her internship in the UMMC Mailroom. After graduation, Deanna was offered a job in that department, and began working there this past June. As a Postal Services Processor, Deanna is responsible for processing incoming and outgoing mail, looking up information in the database so patients' mail can be directed to them, and delivering mail throughout the hospital. Deanna also learned how to take the bus to the hospital, so she can now get back and forth to work every day independently.



**Brian Rubin**

**Brian Rubin**, who has Asperger's syndrome, is the owner of Maryland Hydroponics in Laurel, Maryland. A gardening enthusiast, Brian has been interested in plants, especially hydroponics gardening, since high school. After completing two years of college and living in Holland for 10 years, he decided to pursue his dream of owning a hydroponics store. With the help of the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Brian was able to win a grant, take classes, and most of all, his idea of becoming an entrepreneur was welcomed and supported by DORS staff. In addition, Brian was enrolled in the Reach Independence Through Self Employment Program (RISE) where again he attended classes, was helped with business plans and advised with regard to marketing tools and efforts. In 2003, Brian opened Maryland Hydroponics, his flagship store in Laurel. In 2011, he opened two additional stores in Kensington, Maryland and most recently in Falls Church, Virginia.



**Christa Bucks Camacho**

Prior to joining the Social Security Administration, **Christa Bucks Camacho**, a wheelchair user, served as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching employment readiness and life skills to underprivileged youth in Paraguay; and worked as a Public Relations Coordinator for Mobility International USA. During her 12 years at SSA, Christa has supervised employees developing policy for the Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare programs; led public meetings to align SSA's initiatives with public interests; and designed and managed the Youth Transition Demonstration (YTD). She currently is the Director of the Center for Records Management, Office of Business, Finance and Management, Social Security Administration. Beginning January 2012, she will begin the Social Security Administration's Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.



**James "Andrew" Parrott**

**James "Andrew" Parrott** worked on his apprenticeship as a plumber for many years before acquiring a brain injury. A young, confident man, Andrew has made great strides in his recovery process during his time working with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Andrew has completed Sinai Hospital's "RETURN! To Work Program" and since has gone back multiple times to provide his support and encouragement for other Brain Injury Survivors. Participating in Cognitive Strategies classes, Andrew has made real insight into the person he was, the person he is now, and the person he wants to be in the future. Setting short and long term goals for himself, Andrew is on a path of success and determined to keep moving. He has worked to improve his family and personal life connections, he has regained his driver's license and bought a car, and has held down a part time job to supplement his income. Andrew is excited and ready to tackle the next hurdle in his way, one of his main long term goals. He will be completing prep classes and taking the Journeyman's License Exam for Plumbing. Andrew, his family, and his Vocational Support Team are more than confident he will reach this goal and exceed all expectations.



**Milena Vanous**

For 25-year old **Milena Vanous**, being able to travel on her own is about having the freedom to meet friends, get to class or go to her job. A graduate of the Metro Access Travel Training Program, Milena no longer has to rely on her parents or others to get her where she wants to go each day.

Milena now uses the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) Metrorail and Metrobus transit services to travel from her home in Chevy Chase to the Montgomery College Rockville campus. At Montgomery College, Milena was enrolled in the GTP and the Challenge program, a two-year program that provides courses for adults with developmental disabilities that helps them function more independently in their homes, at work and in the community.

After graduating from this program in the Spring of 2011, she continues coming to Montgomery College and takes a variety of non-credit courses in their adult education program. She also takes the Metro to travel to her volunteer job at the Shady Grove Hospital where she does filing and other office work.

Milena says that travel training is important because of the challenges in taking public transportation, not just for herself, but for others with disabilities. “For some people, it’s difficult. They get anxious because they don’t like the loud noises or crowds around them, or maybe the buses are late.”

Thanks to her travel training, Milena says she now has the freedom to go to the movies, meet her friends at the mall, go out to dinner, or even take the Metrorail subway to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. “I can be independent, have fun and make new friends. I feel like a person thanks to Metro Access.”

The Travel Training Program was developed to teach individuals with disabilities how to travel safely and independently in the community using public transportation. The training includes a variety of plans, methods and strategies to increase the independent travel skills of the individual. Professional travel trainers provide one-on-one and group instruction to facilitate use of transportation systems such as bus and rail service.

## **TRANSPORTATION VISION**

Marylanders with disabilities will access an array of reliable, cost-effective transportation options, enabling travel to destinations of their choosing at the same rate as their peers without disabilities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Accessible ticket machines at MARC commuter train stations and at Baltimore Metro subway and Light Rail locations were quality tested by individuals with disabilities.
- MDOD worked with Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to facilitate changes to the Taxi Access Program in the Baltimore metropolitan area, a program that provides over 1,000 rides every day through private contracts with 17 Maryland companies. Taxi Access II is more cost effective than its predecessor, while remaining the most patron-favorable such program in the nation.
- MTA has expanded the Taxi Access pilot program for people undergoing kidney dialysis to include additional dialysis centers.
- MTA initiated expanded travel training and fixed route system orientation for paratransit patrons, prospective paratransit riders and other passengers with a range of disabilities, in order that passengers with disabilities have an enhanced array of transportation options.
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA ) advanced travel training program in the Washington Metropolitan Area provided travel training through Centers for Independent Living in the Maryland suburbs, in addition to a less intensive travel training and system familiarization conducted by WMATA personnel.



**Michael Bullis**  
The Image Center



**James Martin**  
ARI

Two new Centers for Independent Living (CILs) opened their doors for business in the past year. The IMAGE (Independent Marylanders Achieving Growth through Empowerment) Center of Maryland, which opened in February 2011, serves the Baltimore City, and Baltimore and Harford County region. Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI) opened in June 2011 and serves Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are grassroots nonresidential centers operated for and by people with disabilities. They focus on helping people with disabilities participate fully in the rights and responsibilities of family, community and employment. CILs help individuals advocate for themselves, as well as work toward broader community change. Centers provide information and referral, peer support, and the skills people with disabilities need to live independently.

#### **The IMAGE Center of Maryland**

“Here at the IMAGE Center we are dedicated to the creation of a learning and thinking environment that challenges concepts of what people with disabilities can do. We see the potential for people to become full contributing partners in their families, on the job and in the community. The more full contributors we empower, the sooner disability is seen as a normal part of life - challenging, manageable, possible,” said Executive Director Michael Bullis. For more information about its programs and services, visit the IMAGE website at [www.imagemd.org](http://www.imagemd.org), call 410-982-6311 (voice/tty) or send an email to [info@imagemd.org](mailto:info@imagemd.org). The IMAGE Center is located at 300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 302, Towson, MD 21286.

#### **Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI)**

“I truly believe in the mission of what a Center for Independent Living provides people with disabilities. I have lived through pre ADA

and post ADA. I understand there are still barriers that need to be addressed for all people with disabilities through the lack of transportation, housing, jobs and other services,” said Executive Director James Martin. “CILs can bridge the gap, helping find resources and other means to address the needs of individuals with disabilities.” For more information about ARI, its programs and services, visit its website at [www.arinow.org](http://www.arinow.org), call 410-636-2274 or send an email to [arinow@arinow.org](mailto:arinow@arinow.org). Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI) is located at 810 Nursery Road, Suite I, Linthicum, Maryland 21090.

## COMMUNITY LIVING VISION

Individuals with long-term support and service needs will have access to a wide range of options in choosing their own community supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

- In April 2011, the Maryland General Assembly passed and Governor O’Malley signed the Lorraine Sheehan Act (Senate Bill 994) to provide an additional \$15 million in funding for a waiting list initiative of the Developmental Disabilities Administration and other community-based services.
- As part of the State’s Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project, administered by, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), 934 individuals with disabilities have transitioned out of institutions and into community living opportunities since fiscal year 2009.
- In its first year, approximately \$188,000 was donated to the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List Fund, a program that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities, through the 2010 State Personal Income Tax Check off program.
- The MDOD Attendant Care Program (ACP) expanded access through regulatory revisions that allows family members (other than a spouse) to be personal assistance providers, and increased the age of an eligible participant to older than 64 years (*if initial eligibility is established prior to the individual’s 65 birthday*).
- The Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, awarded funding to start two (2) new centers for independent living in Maryland. (*See article on page 10.*)

## FINDING AFFORDABLE

# HOUSING



**MetroPointe—Wheaton, MD**

When most people think about individuals living in nursing facilities, they think about seniors at the end of their lives, unable to live on their own, needing constant care and supervision. But there are thousands of young people who are in nursing facilities, not by their own choice, but because there isn't any other place for them to go. There is simply not enough affordable, accessible housing and other support services for them to live independently in their community.

### **Michael Fitzpatrick**

A legal assistant and a veteran, who also did home remodeling, Michael was 33 years old when he was in a serious automobile accident. The accident left him with a spinal cord injury. With no family support, after his recovery Michael moved from the hospital into a nursing facility. It's where he lived for the next four years.

"In the nursing home, you lose control of your life. You are unable to direct your own care. Someone else determines how and where you'll spend your day." For Michael the most frustrating aspect of living in a nursing facility was the loss of control and little or no chance for independence or employment.

However, all of this changed when Michael qualified for and received a housing voucher through a joint initiative of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Housing Opportunities Commission. Michael moved to MetroPointe, an apartment community located above the Wheaton Metro Station. The MetroPointe apartment was designed specifically for individuals with disabilities. It had an accessible kitchen where Michael could prepare his own food and wash the dishes. The bathroom featured a roll-in shower and other amenities. For Michael, this meant real freedom and independence.

MetroPointe's transit-oriented location above a Washington D.C. metro station also gives Michael easy access to both the Metro rail and bus services. He's no longer totally dependent on paratransit services for travel, a significant cost savings for someone on a fixed income. He's able to travel on his own to meet with friends or go on a job interview. He's looking forward to finding full time employment doing legal or policy work. For Michael Fitzpatrick living in his own apartment is about having a sense of normalcy in one's life. It's a chance to fulfill his hopes and aspirations.

## HOUSING VISION

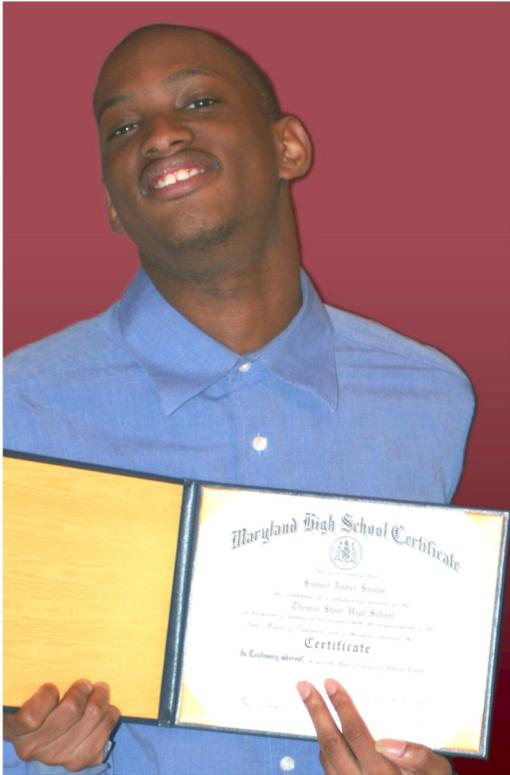
People with disabilities will have a full array of housing options similar to their non-disabled peers. People with disabilities will have access to affordable, accessible housing in their communities with linkages to appropriate support services.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

- MDOD coordinated efforts with Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to implement a state-private partnership with the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation to provide low-income housing for people with disabilities. The partnership is the first of its kind in the nation and is one of the many innovative strategies the State is pursuing to increase affordable housing for those who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) as their sole source of income.
- During the 2011 Legislative Session, House Bill 437 – Real Property – Sales of New Homes – Minimum Visitability Features was approved by the Maryland General Assembly. The bill requires home builders to offer minimum visitability features, such as a zero step entrance with at least a 36-inch wide entryway, as an option for purchase at the time they are offering new homes for sale in a subdivision.
- Maryland obtained 260 Category I and 112 Category II vouchers from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) totaling \$3.9 million. Category I vouchers are set aside for non-elderly individuals with disabilities to remain in their communities. Category II vouchers are designated for non-elderly people with disabilities who wish to transition from nursing facilities and other institutional settings. Of note, Maryland received 11.8 percent of the total number of Category II vouchers awarded nationally through this program.
- MDOD convened the Statewide Housing Taskforce in preparation for the notice of funding availability under HUD's Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program. The Taskforce is coordinating the State's application for Section 811 funds and to develop the infrastructure necessary to enhance Maryland's ability to obtain these funds.

## PROMOTING INCLUSION

# EDUCATION, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



**Sam Swann**  
**MSTC Program Graduate**

Successful transition planning begins with the student and family, educators and service providers looking at what kind of work the student wants to do. What additional training or education is required? What will be required to live independently? Will they need assistive technology or other supports and accommodations? What transportation options do they have?

The **Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative (MSTC)** is a model program to assist students with disabilities and their parents. To date, eleven school systems in Maryland have been selected by the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to participate in MSTC. TransCen, Inc., a Rockville non-profit organization dedicated to improving educational and employment outcomes for people with disabilities, is the contractor responsible for providing training and technical assistance to all eleven participating school systems.

Funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, MSTC is designed to improve the postsecondary outcomes of students with disabilities through a sequential delivery of specific transition service components beginning in early high school. Uninterrupted, seamless transition from secondary education to employment and/or postsecondary education is a critical element in the MSTC model. Beginning while

the student is still in school, the MSTC model identifies a student's interests and goals, determines how these goals can be accomplished and looks at what services are needed for a successful transition. As part of the seamless transition process, TransCen has developed a series of online self-paced modules that provide an overview and orientation to main concepts, geared to help understand the basics of transition services.

"MSTC is a model that includes components of transition service that have been validated in national research and practice as necessary for successful transition from school to employment and adult life for students with disabilities," said Richard Luecking, President of TransCen, Inc. The TransCen modules are available by visiting the MSTC website: <http://www.seamlesstransition.org>.

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES VISION

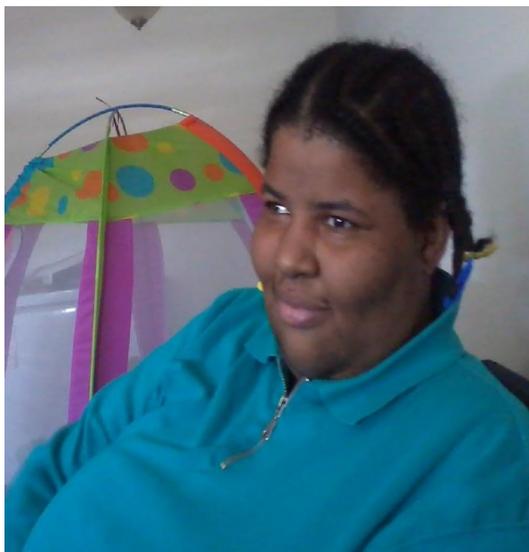
Students with disabilities will receive a free, high-quality public education in the least restrictive environment and emerge prepared and able to access employment or higher education. All youth with disabilities will have the necessary services and accommodations to succeed and experience a successful transition to post-secondary education or employment. Children and youth with disabilities (and their families) will have equal access to an integrated support system that is self-directed, responsive, flexible and available.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the past year, the percentage of students with disabilities spending at least 80 percent of the school day in general education settings with their non-disabled peers increased from 56 percent to 66 percent.
- The percentage of students with disabilities exiting high school with a diploma increased 4 percent while the dropout rate for students with disabilities fell from 14.6 percent to 13.7 percent.
- On March 19, 2011, MDOD, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), and Prince George's Community College held the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Statewide Forum for Students with Learning Disabilities*. Over 60 parents and transition age youth with learning disabilities who plan to attend community colleges participated.
- The O'Malley-Brown Administration maintained its commitment to State funding for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program at \$10.4 million dollars.
- Through the work of the Governor's Children's Cabinet and partner agencies including the Department of Human Resources (DHR), Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA), 400 children and youth throughout the state were provided funding for up to two years for intensive services available in the community.
- On October 1, 2010, a new interagency transitioning youth website, [www.mdtransition.org](http://www.mdtransition.org), was launched to provide information to students and families with disabilities in key areas such as post-secondary education, employment and access to health care and other support services.
- The DHR Social Services Administration and the DHMH Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) created a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure services are provided in a timely and efficient manner to youth with developmental disabilities in DHR's custody that are determined eligible for services from DDA.

## PROVIDING ACCESS TO

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



Lavonnya Gardner

A few months ago, **Lavonnya Gardner** ordered her own coffee for the first time in 33 years. Then, she took her fiancé to breakfast and ordered her own food. Diagnosed with autism, selective mutism, and visual impairment, Lavonnya used her iPad with Proloquo2go to place her order on both occasions. However, this is not a story of how the iPad has revolutionized assistive technology (AT), it is the story of a woman who has utilized her resilience and self-advocacy to find a way to communicate in a world that often doesn't understand people with communication disorders.

Nearly a year ago, Lavonnya contacted MD TAP to talk about the various communication devices and other AT available in the TAP lab that might assist her in communicating with others. This was not a typical conversation. Lavonnya does not speak face-to-face in public and will only converse by phone if she's comfortable with the other person. So, using her phone, she sent text messages to Peggy

Murphy, AT Specialist at TAP. Communicating through text messages, they discussed a variety of items, narrowing the possibilities to those that might be most useful for Lavonnya to borrow from the MD TAP Equipment Demonstration and Loan program.

Over the next few months, Lavonnya tried a number of AT devices including the DynaWrite, the iPad, the Vantage, as well as some low tech communication books. With the loan of different AT devices, Lavonnya had the opportunity to put each borrowed device to use to see which device would best meet her communications needs. The mother of a precocious 6-year-old named Breezy, Lavonnya has used her borrowed AT devices to communicate with Breezy's teachers and school staff about her daughter's education. Breezy has also benefited from the Equipment Loan Program. "Breezy usually uses one word sentences. But with the picture communication book we borrowed, she's communicating much easier. She's saying a lot!" Lavonnya said.



A self-proclaimed lover of technology and gadgets, Lavonnya has taken another big step since utilizing TAP's equipment loan program. She arranged a formal augmentative communication evaluation through the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Using MD TAP's borrowed AT devices, Lavonnya was able to more fully participate in the process and as a result obtained her own speech generating device, the Maestro. The Maestro is a powerful, lightweight communication system that gives Lavonnya the power to communicate using words, phrases and novel messages. "I really like the Maestro. I can use it much like the iPad."

Lavonnya is not finished with the MD TAP device loan program, she is now looking at some screen magnification devices to try so she can read her mail without anyone's help.

## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY VISION**

Maryland citizens with disabilities will access State services and employment opportunities through the use of assistive technology and accessible information technology. People with disabilities will have increased options for assistive technology acquisition that is both accessible and affordable.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Assistive Technology Loan Program which provides people with low interest loans to purchase assistive technology or for home modifications approved 60 additional loans during FY 2011 and managed 148 open loans for these purposes.
- Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP) located within MDOD, helped Marylanders with disabilities acquire the technology they need to take advantage of home-based employment opportunities. From FFY09 to FFY10, the WorkABILITY Loan Program more than quadrupled the number of approved employment loans, supporting a larger number of Marylanders with disabilities in gaining and maintaining employment-related technology.
- MD TAP is also facilitating ongoing web accessibility technical assistance via email and electronic newsletters to over 300 state agency IT staff, state contractors, and other recipients.

## PROVIDING ACCESS TO

# HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



**Jordan Geddes**

In May of 2011, The Redhead Companies, a leading marketing company in the Baltimore/Washington region, selected **Jordan Geddes** as their 2011 Redhead of the Year winner. The annual award goes to the person who “stands up for what she or he believes and does good things for the world.” For Jordan, this meant speaking about her experiences with mental health issues, working at the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health and advocacy for zero tolerance for bullying and harassment.

From the ages 12 to 19, Jordan struggled with mental health issues including depression, gender identity and thoughts of suicide. During that time, she attended various schools and was in and out of hospitals and rehabilitation facilities. At the time, her family thought she might have to be hospitalized for the remainder of her life.

However, this changed when Jordan participated in a Transition Age Youth Residential Rehabilitation Program developed by Humanim with a grant from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Under the program, twelve young people received counseling and mental health support services while living in one of three townhouse residences in Howard County. Under the supervision of a case manager, the program was designed to assist young adults with mental health issues, helping them work their way to recovery.

Jordan and her mother, Ann Geddes, credit the commitment and dedication of Jordan’s case manager, Christine Strohecker, with Jordan’s recovery. Christine never gave up on Jordan in spite of some difficulties and recommendations that Jordan should be taken out of the program. Under Christine’s guidance, Jordan decided to take control of her life. She was tired of being sick. She decided to live a healthier lifestyle, exercising and eating better.

Jordan started working. At the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health she became an advocate for young people with mental health issues. Over a two year period, Jordan participated in youth panels talking about mental health issues and provided testimony before the Maryland General Assembly on bills affecting young people with mental health needs. She worked to change the term “emotionally disturbed” to “having emotional disabilities.” She has also worked to promote zero tolerance for bullying and harassment, an issue that can have a devastating effect on a child’s ability to learn and develop, particularly for children with disabilities.

“I learned I can do more than I think I can. Life gets better. We are all stronger than we think we are. I have no regrets, and while I wish my family and I didn’t have to go through all that pain, it shaped who I am today and I like who I am today. I like my life, my family and my friends,” said Jordan on the announcement of her winning the 2011 Redhead of the Year Award.

Today, Jordan is enrolled as a full-time student at Howard Community College. After finishing her prerequisite course work, she plans on attending University of Maryland Baltimore County, possibly majoring in mathematics. Her goal is to live a happy and normal life, doing what she wants to do.

## HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VISION

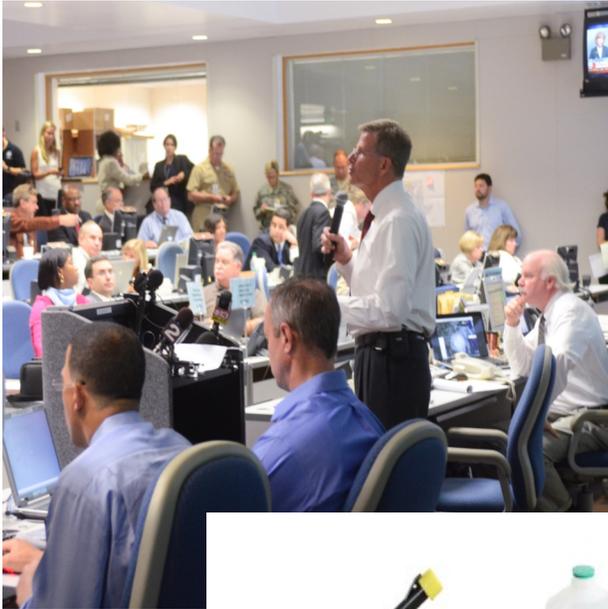
Citizens with disabilities will have access to a system of high quality health care, including behavioral health services and supports and people with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and are protected from abuse, neglect, or other harm.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

- Governor O’Malley included \$15 million in the Supplemental Budget for the Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) across FY 2011 and FY 2012.
- In this fourth and final year of the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant, Wellness and Recovery Action Planning was incorporated into all Wellness and Recovery Centers. A collaboration between MHA and *On Our Own of Maryland*, the plan is part of the State’s ongoing efforts to increase the wellness and recovery orientation for people with mental illness. Wellness and Recovery Centers now operate in every area of the state.
- Reflecting the State’s continued commitment to increase the availability of consumer and family-operated support services, MHA also supported consumer initiatives including Consumer Quality Teams (CQT) unannounced visits to mental health service providers. In FY 2010, the CQT conducted visits to Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRP’s) in 16 jurisdictions, up from 10 in FY 2009. The CQT conducted 180 site visits, interviewing more than 1,000 consumers.
- MHA’s collaborative work with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) has increased the number of consumers employed through multiple strategies including evidence-based practices in supported employment. Several innovative strategies in the State Plan support this State priority as does Maryland’s promotion of Ticket to Work and Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) programs.

GIVING THE TOOLS FOR

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



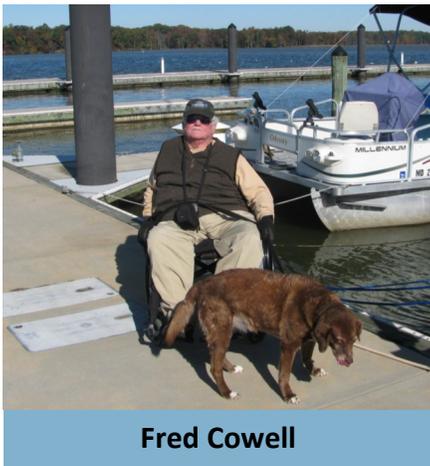
## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VISION

People with disabilities and other special needs will be prepared for any natural or man-made disaster or emergency, and emergency personnel, employers, and others will be prepared to effectively address all major issues related to individuals with disabilities and other special needs during any disaster or emergency.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS

- Constituent Services staff continued to distribute “Path to Readiness Guide” and “Path to Readiness Assistant’s Guide.” These guides were developed with Urban Area Sheltering Initiative funds to be used primarily by individuals with disabilities and other special needs, including the elderly who are living independently with minimal or no supports from provider organizations.
- MDOD continued to partner with MEMA, DHR and DHMH to plan for the needs of individuals with disabilities in Sheltering and Special Health Care Needs. MDOD facilitated planning with DHR, DHMH, MEMA, DGS, and the American Red Cross regarding changes in federal guidance surrounding Functional Needs Sheltering.
- MDOD collaborated with MEMA, DHR, DHMH, the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Local Emergency management staff during the series of weather events in the Fall of 2011 to determine level of disability related constituent concerns. Specific needs identified included accessible communication, evacuation of nursing facilities, and prescription medication access.
- MDOD surveyed each of the local commissions on disabilities to gauge how people with disabilities fared during the blizzard and snow storms and solicited recommendations and input to enhance future emergency preparedness planning.

# ACCESS MARYLAND PROGRAM



**Fred Cowell**

Located on the Eastern Shore, Tuckahoe State Park in Caroline and Queen Anne counties features 3,800 acres of wooded marshlands, fields, forests and a 60-acre lake. The park has 20 miles of scenic hiking, biking and equestrian trails, flat water canoeing, hunting, picnicking, as well as a recycled tire playground for children. In 2011, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources received \$273,483 in funding from the Access Maryland program to improve access in six areas of the park – the Cherry Lane Day Use area, Camp Loop A, Camp Loop B, the Amphitheatre, Administration offices and the Lakefront area.

**Fred Cowell**, a disabled veteran and chair of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ADA Advisory Council, understands the importance of accessibility in Maryland’s state parks.

“I have always been a person who enjoys the outdoors and especially Maryland’s wonderful state parks,” said Cowell, an avid fisherman, boater and hiker. “As a person with a spinal cord injury who uses a wheelchair for mobility, I am especially proud of DNR’s progress toward making all of its parks more usable for all people, especially those of us with various disabilities.”

As part of the access modifications, DNR created or improved accessible paths from playgrounds to bathrooms; added accessible picnic tables throughout the park; renovated existing bathrooms with accessible toilets, fixtures and shower facilities; improved or installed ADA accessible paths to the lakeside pavilion and bathhouse. The project also included construction of a ramp and installation of a new accessible bathroom to the Park Administration building.

“The accessibility improvements made at Tuckahoe State Park now allow all Marylanders the freedom to enjoy the wonders of this spectacular Maryland park,” Cowell added. “Yes, more work needs to be done and we are working to make necessary changes every year so that every Marylander can visit one of Maryland’s wonderful and accessible parks in the near future.”

## ACCESS MARYLAND

The Access Maryland Program brings State-owned facilities into compliance with State and Federal mandates requiring access for persons with disabilities. Access Maryland funds are capital funds and thus are limited to “brick and mortar” projects. Access Maryland Funds are used to modify facilities ranging from State office and legislative complexes, State parks and campuses in the University System of Maryland. State-owned projects receiving funding for FY11 included:

### **Coppin State**

- Tawes Building - Multiple elevators, restrooms, automatic door at entrance, multiple accessible drinking fountains, signage and lowering a counter. \$640,000

### **University of Maryland College Park**

- Marie Mount Hall - Restrooms, accessible water fountain and lever hardware. \$83,300

### **Maryland Military Department**

- Cade Armory - Accessible parking, accessible route, signage, fire safety, power doors and rest room modifications. \$72,600

### **Department of General Services**

- Attman-Glazer Building - Automatic doors. \$18,000

### **University of Maryland Baltimore County**

- Campus Wide - Campus Wayfinding, Phase II. \$115,000

### **Department Natural Resources**

- Tuckahoe State Park - Renovation of six areas including Cherry Lane day-use, Camping Loop A, Camping Loop B, administration office, lakefront and amphitheater. \$273,483
- Martinak State Park - Phase II of a project currently in construction - trail system, amphitheater, kiosk and fitness trail are in Phase II. \$51,900

### **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

- Mental Hygiene Administration - Dix Building, Spring Grove Hospital Center Design elevator, rest room modifications including stall configuration and fixture installation and accessible parking spaces. \$500,000

### **University of Maryland Baltimore**

- Medical School Teaching Facility - Door closers (1), door hardware (104), replacement of multiple drinking fountains, replacement of one pay phone. \$118,000

# ATTENDANT CARE PROGRAM



**Maxine Morris, ACP Manager  
with Lauren Dodson**



**Lauren Dodson**

For **Lauren Dodson**, passion is essential to accomplishing your goals. And passion is something she brings to almost everything she does, whether it is singing opera, studying for a second bachelor's degree in Spanish or working as a speech pathologist at Holabird and Dundalk Middle Schools in Baltimore County.

The first thing Lauren wants people to know is that she is a teacher. She provides language therapy to middle school students with speech and language disorders associated with Autism and Down syndrome. It is a career she loves and finds very rewarding. It was not her first choice of career, but one that she discovered when other career paths were closed to her because it was assumed she would not be able to succeed in those programs. Lauren has cerebral palsy and quadriplegia. Her love of music determined her first career choice. However, music students were required to "perform" two instruments as part of the course requirements. Her voice was one instrument, but because of her paralysis, she could not play an additional instrument. Lauren

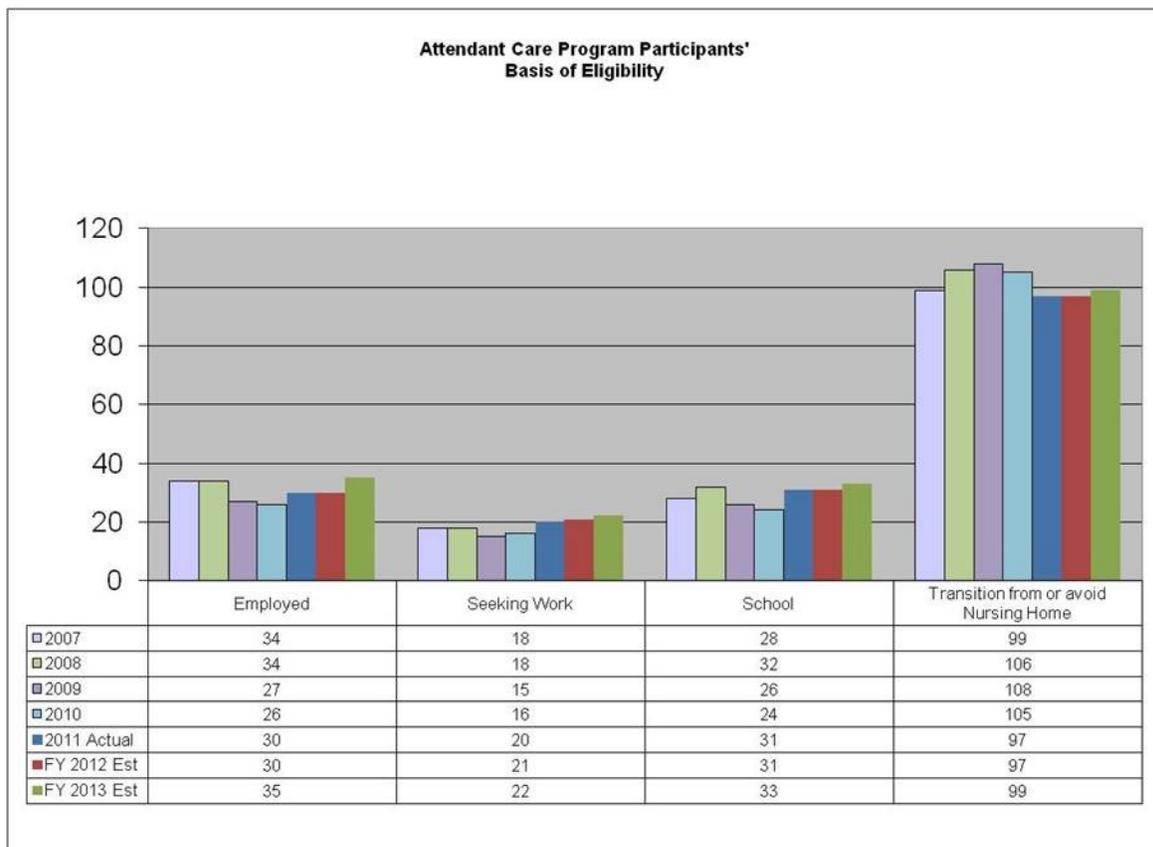
speaks fluent Spanish, but a bachelor's degree in Spanish was not possible because the assistive technology to convert speech to written Spanish was not widely available during the time she was in college.

Lauren turned to speech pathology and received both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Speech Pathology from Loyola College. Over the years, Lauren has continued to develop her passion for music, performing as part of the Loyola College Chorale, Chapel and Gospel choirs. In June 2009, she performed at Loyola College in a solo recital that included arias, art songs, and musical theatre. She is currently working on receiving music certification in singing and music theory from Trinity College London as a distance learning student. With the development of new assistive technology for dictation, Lauren is working on a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Towson University.

Lauren is very proud of the fact that she was the first student with quadriplegia to successfully complete the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree program in speech pathology at Loyola. She is confident in her abilities and sometimes frustrated by the need to prove to people what she can accomplish.

Lauren is a passionate advocate for what someone can do if given the right supports – supports such as those provided through the Maryland Attendant Care Program. Over the years, ACP resources have successfully seen her through college and into her current career as a speech pathologist. Today, Lauren has a busy and successful career as a teacher, a student and a performer.

The Attendant Care Program, administered by MDOD, provides financial reimbursement to eligible individuals with significant physical disabilities so they can meet their personal assistance service needs. The goal of the program is to supplement the cost of attendant care so that individuals with disabilities living in the community can remain employed, seek employment, enroll in a college, or transition from or avoid nursing facility placement. In FY 2011, 178 individuals were assisted through the Attendant Care Program. As of July 31, 2011, 84 people were on the waiting list for services.



# CONSTITUENT SERVICES PROGRAM



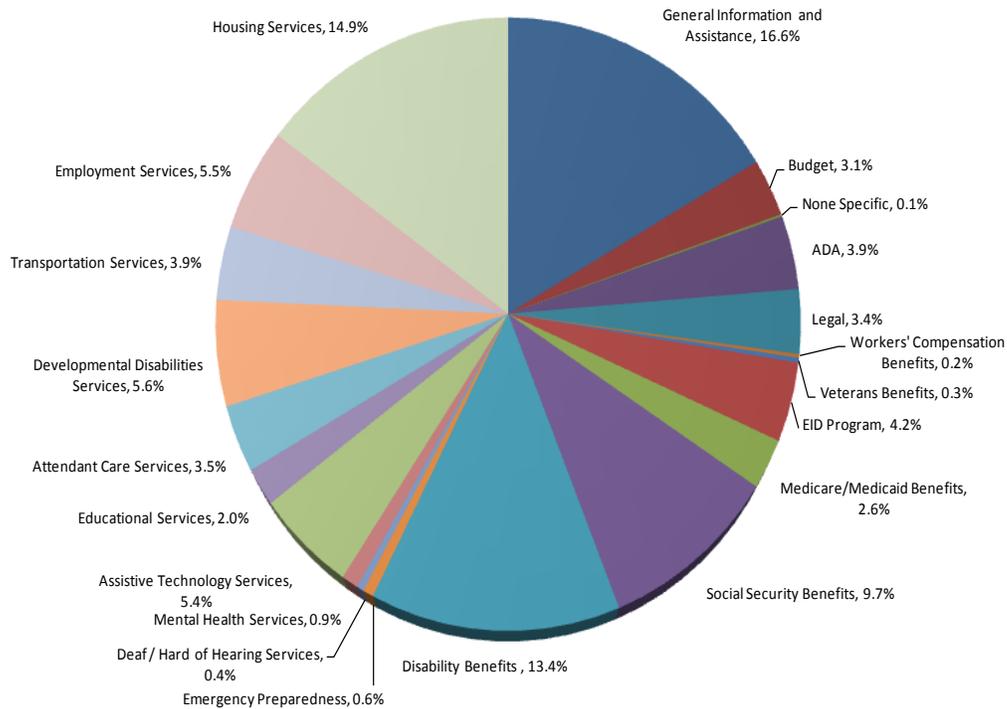
**Craig Webster**

**Craig Webster** contacted the MDOD Constituent Services Program with a dilemma. Due to unforeseen circumstances Craig was going to lose his phone and internet service. Living on Deal Island in Somerset County and relying on Shore Transit to get him to appointments, he knew he had to have some type of phone service, especially in the event of an emergency. The Constituent Services Coordinator spoke with Craig about his concerns, listened as he outlined the services he receives, and was able to refer him to the ReachOut Wireless government-assisted wireless phone service. Craig was able to enroll on-line and he received his new cell phone within two weeks. As a life-long resident of Deal Island, Craig leads a full life volunteering at his church and participating in programs at Go Getters, a psychiatric rehab center in Salisbury.

Craig's story is not unlike many of the people who come to the MDOD. Over the past year, a family of five received an eviction notice from their landlord claiming failure to pay their monthly rent. After referring the family to a pro bono attorney, it was determined that in fact the rent had been paid and was credited to another tenant in error. A single mother with two children had recently been laid off due to her company's downsizing. After suggesting that she go to the Career Center in Baltimore, she called several weeks later excited to let Constituent Services staff know that she had just started a new job.

During these past five years, a growing number of constituents continue to reach out to the Maryland Department of Disabilities for guidance and direction related to a wide range of concerns. Questions often arise about services for people with developmental disabilities, the availability of assistive technology, compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), transportation services, landlord/tenant legal problems, veterans programs, Social Security disability claims, Medicare and Medicaid guidelines, housing availability, as well as the prime area of concern – disability benefits. The scope of questions raised by individuals with disabilities throughout Maryland has expanded as the needs of so many increase, while economic growth has stalled. Using a wide variety of resources and contacts, the Constituent Services Program is able to respond in a timely manner to Maryland citizens who need answers to questions that have a major impact on their lives.

## Distribution of Areas of Concern Presented by Constituents Contacting MDOD CSP in FY 2011



In keeping with the MDOD vision, the Constituent Services Program provides information and referrals so that Marylanders have the knowledge, opportunities, and power to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. Requests for information cover a myriad of topics as illustrated in the chart above. State, federal, and local government resources as well as private entity resources are shared with constituents. Calls are received from constituents in each of the 24 jurisdictions, in addition to referrals from the Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office and members of the General Assembly.

The Constituent Services Program strives to increase the visibility of the Department so that Marylanders are aware and better informed of services and programs available to individuals with disabilities. This year MDOD participated and exhibited in the following events:

- 20<sup>th</sup> ADA Anniversary Celebration
- Reinventing Quality Conference
- Kinderfest
- Federal Executive Board Disability Employment and Awareness Training Conference
- Maryland Respite Care Coalition Conference
- Community Resource Fair for Families with Children and Youth with Special Needs
- The Arc of Maryland Convention
- World Of Possibilities Expo

# MDOD AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In early 2011, MDOD began using Facebook and Twitter to better communicate with individuals with disabilities. Social media gives the Department the opportunity to share more information in a timely manner with up-to-the-minute updates about meetings, events, and tips on emergency preparedness. In addition to the MDOD Facebook and Twitter accounts, the Department continues to disseminate information through the “In The Community” newsletter, “News Update” news bulletins and press releases.

## facebook



### Maryland Department of Disabilities

Tomorrow - April 29 - MDOD staff will be exhibiting at the Arc of Maryland 2011 State Convention at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis. Stop by our booth and learn more about the Department, its programs and services, assistive technology and other resources for Marylanders with disabilities

331 Impressions - 0% Feedback

Like Comment Share April 28 at 6:53 p.m.



### Maryland Department of Disabilities

MDOD will present a free webinar series “Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program Medical Assistance for Workers beginning in May. The webinar will provide information and answer questions about enrollment in the EID program including eligibility, how to apply and benefits. Visit [www.mdod.maryland.gov](http://www.mdod.maryland.gov) for more information about the Webinar series.

323 Impressions - 0% Feedback

Like Comment Share April 28 at 6:44 p.m.

## twitter



### MDDisabilities MDDISABILITIES

MEMA is encouraging Marylanders to prepare as the National Weather Service is reporting potential for heavy rains and potential flooding

9 Mar



### MDDisabilities MDDISABILITIES

Governor O'Malley encourages Marylanders to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors with disabilities. <http://tinyurl.com/5v9f29h>

16 Feb

# 2011 DISABILITY LEGISLATION

**Senate Bill 994 - Sales and Use Tax - Alcoholic Beverages - Supplementary Appropriation** increases the rate of the sales and use tax imposed on the sale of an alcoholic beverage to 9 percent in fiscal year 2012, and for each fiscal year thereafter. The funds generated from the alcohol tax increase include \$15,000,000 for a Developmental Disabilities Waiting List initiative.

**Senate Bill 132 / House Bill 87 - Job Applicant Fairness Act** – prohibits employers from using an applicant's or employee's credit report or credit history in determining whether to deny employment to the applicant, discharge the employee, or determine compensation or the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment.

**SB 830 - Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities - Sunset Repeal** extends the termination provision and alters the dates of applicability for specified tax credits for employers that hire qualifying individuals with disabilities for one year.

**Senate Bill 754 / House Bill 1013 - Permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program - Establishment and Operation** establishes a permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the Maryland State Department of Education.

**House Bill 38 / Senate Bill 489 - Nonpublic Schools Participating in State-Funded Education Programs - Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation – Policies** requires nonpublic schools that participate in State-funded education programs to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, and intimidation by March 31, 2012.

**House Bill 104 - The Higher Education – Community Colleges – Tuition Waiver for Students Receiving SSI and SSDI Benefits** clarifies and standardizes the requirements and eligibility for obtaining a tuition waiver and also establishes a maximum number of credits per semester for the waiver.

**House Bill 621 - Fire Safety - High-Rise Buildings - Mobility Impaired Individuals** requires the owner of a residential high-rise building with rental units to provide a specified notice to individuals with a mobility impairment of their right to request specified rental units when specified units in the building become available.

**House Bill 437 - Real Property - Sales of New Homes - Minimum Visitability Features** requires a home builder at the time of offering new homes in a subdivision for sale to offer minimum visitability features as an option for purchase under specified circumstances.

**Senate Bill 188 - Recreational Fishing Licenses – Exemption** authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to issue an annual exemption from the requirement for a fishing license to governmental entities or nonprofit organizations to take individuals serving or who have served in the armed forces with physical or mental disabilities fishing in specified waters.

# EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 1, 2011

Beginning in 2011, Marylanders across the state “mark” the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List Tax check off box on their 2010 State Personal Income Tax return. Donations, which support the Developmental Disabilities Administration’s (DDA) Waiting List Fund, will provide job training and employment, opportunities to live in the community and crisis intervention for thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome who are currently on the waiting list for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. In the first year of the tax check off, \$188,339 was contributed as of August 31, 2011 to the DDA Waiting List Fund from more than 11,750 tax returns.

## END THE WAIT. CHECK LINE 38!

*and help children & adults with developmental disabilities.*

Right now, the lives of thousands of children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities like autism, Down Syndrome and cerebral palsy are on hold. They are counting on concerned citizens like you to help the Maryland Waiting List Fund provide:

- services for children
  - job training and employment
  - opportunities to live in the community
  - crisis intervention
- 
- Enter the amount you want to donate. Every dollar helps.
  - You gift will be deduced from your refund or added to your tax payment
  - You can deduct the gift next year.

(Use Line 14 on form 503, Line 34 on Fiduciary Form 504 or Line 40 on Non-Resident Form 505)

For more information, call the  
Maryland Department of Disabilities at 800-637-4113  
or visit [www.mdod.maryland.gov](http://www.mdod.maryland.gov)

January 7, 2011



U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) partnership announce that four Maryland jurisdictions will receive nearly \$1 million in rental assistance for Marylanders with disabilities as part of a first time partnership to assist non-elderly Marylanders with disabilities to leave nursing homes or other institutions to live independently. The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) assisted Maryland public housing authorities over the past few months with their applications for the voucher program. The vouchers were awarded to the Baltimore County Department of Social Services Housing Office, Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Howard County Housing Commission and DHCD.

**March 23, 2011**

*Departing Rosewood*, a 30-minute documentary that follows Steve Corderman's journey from Rosewood, Maryland's oldest and largest institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to his own home in Washington County, airs on Maryland Public Television. Sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Department of Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Administration and produced by MedSchool Maryland Productions, *Departing Rosewood* captures the challenges, hopes and transformations that occur during one man's transition to independent living.



**May 9, 2011**

Governor Martin O'Malley and Donn Weinberg, Chairman of the Weinberg Foundation, announced the "Affordable Rental Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities" initiative with the Weinberg Foundation. Facilitated by the Maryland Department of Disabilities and in partnership the Maryland Departments of Housing and Community Development and Health and Mental Hygiene, the initiative focuses on financing affordable, quality, independent, integrated housing opportunities for very low income persons with disabilities who meet certain eligibility criteria.



**July 26, 2011**

Maryland celebrates the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland College Park. The celebration featured remarks by Fred Beam, founder of Invisible Hands, Inc., an award winning non-profit organization that promotes Deaf culture awareness through art and entertainment. Following his remarks was the highlight of the program, a special dance performance by Fred Beam and The Wild Zappers, an all-deaf dance company.

# MARYLAND COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES



**Andrew Levy, Chair**  
Howard County



**Marc Nicole**  
Dept. of Budget & Management



**Karen-Ann Lichtenstein**  
Anne Arundel County



**C. David Ward**  
Baltimore County



**Lauren Newman**  
Montgomery County



**Nancy Jenkins**  
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**Kavita Krishnaswamy**  
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**Patricia Heagy**  
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**Christine Towne**  
Howard County



**Juliette Rizzo**  
Montgomery County



**Senator Karen Montgomery**  
Montgomery County



**Ken Wireman**  
Howard County



**Dr. Nollie Wood**  
Baltimore City



**Delegate Eric Luedtke**  
Montgomery County



**Harry Chase**  
Baltimore County

## PHOTOS UNAVAILABLE

**Jamey George**  
Frederick County

**James McCarthy**  
Baltimore City

**Norma Rodriguez**  
Prince George's County

**Lauren Young**  
Anne Arundel

**Mark Leeds**  
DHMH

*Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for providing information, photographs and other assistance with the 2011 MDOD Annual Report.*

Christa Bucks Camacho  
Fred Cowell  
Lauren Dodson  
Michael Fitzpatrick  
Lavonnya Gardner  
Jordan Geddes  
John Michaels  
James Andrew Parrott  
Brian Rubin  
Deanna Suggs  
Milena Vanous  
Craig Webster

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Accessible Resources for Independence (ARI)  
Arc Baltimore  
IMAGE Center of Maryland  
Maryland Coalition for Families for Children's Mental Health  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)  
MetroPointe  
The Coordinating Center  
TransCen, Inc.  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA)

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**MARYLAND**  
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