

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

"Advancing the rights and interests of people with disabilities"



2012 Annual Report



Martin O'Malley
-GOVERNOR-

Anthony G. Brown
-LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-

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.

Our Mission

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



Catherine A. Raggio
-SECRETARY-



George P. Failla, Jr.
-DEPUTY SECRETARY-

Letter from the Governor



We are pleased to present the Maryland Department of Disabilities Annual Report.

Here in Maryland, we believe in a future where every person has the opportunity to be an integral and productive member of his or her community. We strive to create a State where individuals with disabilities are given support to live more independently – to learn, work and participate in all that our great State has to offer.

As part of this commitment, we're taking actions to expand opportunities to Marylanders. We take pride in the growing number of Marylanders with disabilities who have returned to the workforce thanks to the Maryland Employed Individuals with Disabilities program. An innovative partnership with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County is giving Maryland students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to attend college alongside their peers. More and more individuals have been given the support they need to leave nursing facilities and lead independent lives in the community. And, Maryland's assistive technologies are opening doors for people with disabilities in ways that were unimaginable even a decade or two ago.

To learn more, visit mdod.maryland.gov, follow us on Facebook and Twitter or send us an email. Thank you for your partnership.

Martin O'Malley

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

Governor

Message from the Secretary



Secretary Catherine A. Raggio

For Marylanders with disabilities, 2012 was a successful year! As evidence, we need only look at some outcome measures that show how people with disabilities benefitted from State policies and practices. Services for people with developmental disabilities expanded with over 600 youth transitioning from high school to either supported employment or a day habilitation program funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The Division of Rehabilitation Services provided training for 7,355 individuals and placed 2,338 people in competitive jobs. The Money Follows the Person project (DHMH) assisted 341 people to move from nursing facilities and other institutions to community homes. Access Maryland completed six large accessibility projects at our State owned properties, including two at State colleges and universities. Greater access, as we all know, means greater participation.

To top off these remarkable strides forward, we launched SUCCESS, Maryland's first program at a four year college/university for students with intellectual disabilities. In partnership with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the Department of Disabilities developed the SUCCESS program and drew in additional partners including The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, The Arc of Baltimore and two of our centers for independent living: The IMAGE Center and Independence Now. When six students were accepted for the program's first year in September, both DDA and DORS joined the partnership by paying the full tuition and fees for each of the students. From all reports, these six students love their new experience at UMBC, are making new friends and are becoming more independent and confident. Our spirits are high entering 2013 as we look forward to Maryland producing more remarkable accomplishments for our residents with disabilities.

About the Department of Disabilities

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is the voice within State government for people with disabilities. Created in 2004, 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.

Maryland Commission on Disabilities

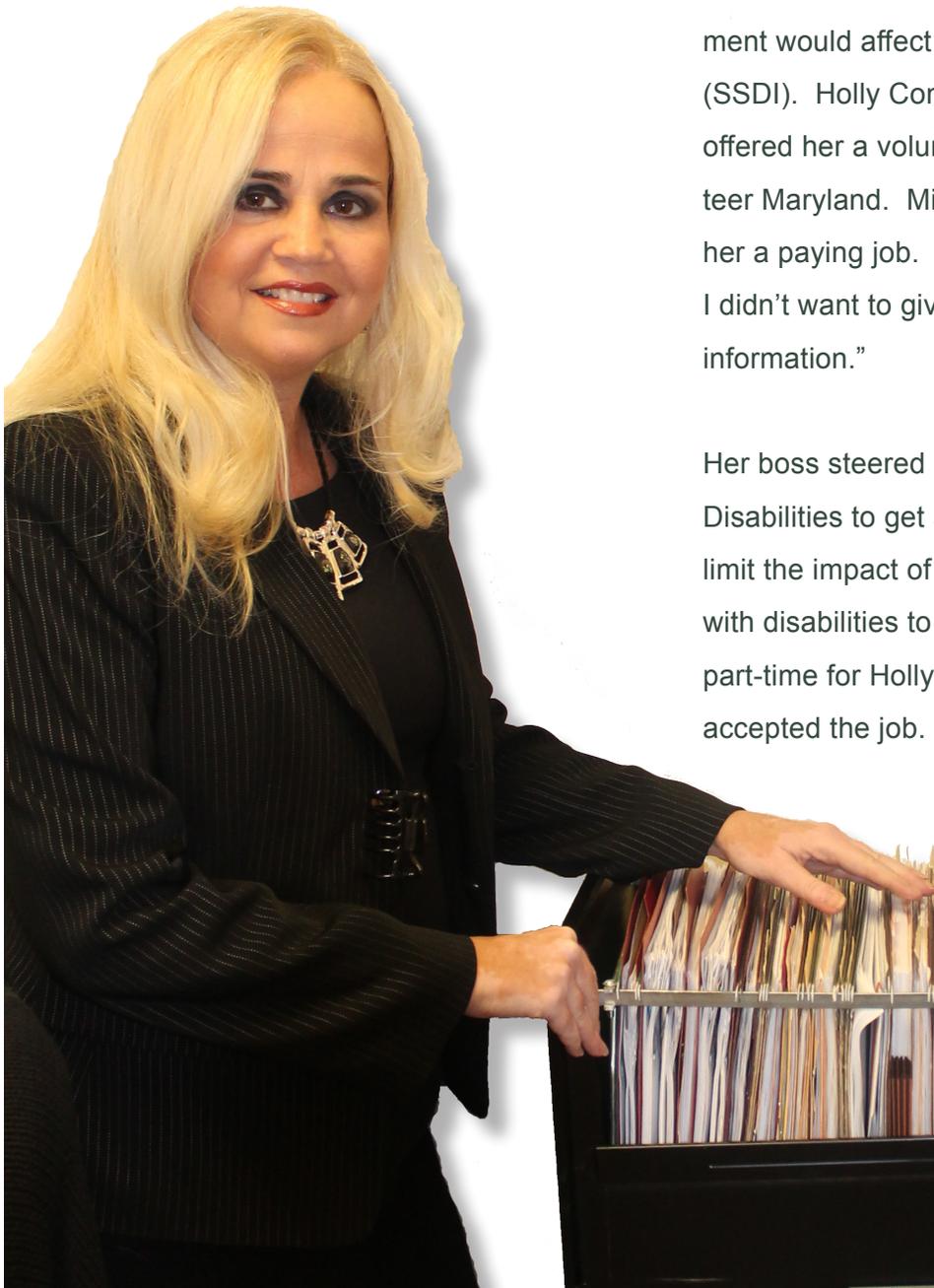
The Maryland Commission on Disabilities (MCOD), serving in an advisory role to the Maryland Department of Disabilities, recommends changes to improve, reorganize or streamline services for people with disabilities. As a part of its community outreach efforts, the Commission provides information to the public about the Department of Disabilities, other State agencies and programs to assist people 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 issues: Community Living, Employment and Training, Housing, Education, Children, Youth and Families, Health and Behavioral Health, Transportation and Assistive Technology.

EMPLOYMENT

MICHELE CORRON



Meet Michele Corron. In 2005, Michele was struggling with the impact of a deteriorating disability. She was hoping to return to work but had grave concerns about how employment would affect her Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Holly Community – a Salisbury-based nonprofit – offered her a volunteer AmeriCorps position through Volunteer Maryland. Michele did well, and soon her boss offered her a paying job. “I was pretty anxious,” she recalls, “But I didn’t want to give in to my fear. I decided to get more information.”

Her boss steered Michele to the Maryland Department of Disabilities to get advice about “work incentives” – rules that limit the impact of earnings on benefits to encourage people with disabilities to work. She learned that she could work part-time for Holly Community and still keep her SSDI. She accepted the job. She also enrolled in the Employed

Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program, which qualified her for Medicaid, a benefit that covered prescription drugs she needed to treat her disability. Finally, her big break arrived.

She accepted a full-time job as a benefits counselor for another nonprofit, Independence Now. Benefits counselors advise people with disabilities on how work will affect their benefits, and help them use work incentives to reduce the impact. Michele lost her SSDI checks, but knew how to use work incentives to get her checks back again if she needed to stop working.

Michele became the face of benefits counseling on the Eastern Shore. “When people would tell me how scared they were of losing their benefits if they went to work, I told them, ‘I felt the same way a few years ago.’ When they wondered if work incentives would really protect their benefits, I told them, ‘I know they’ll work for you, because they worked for me’.” Teaching other people to use work incentives became Michele’s passion. When Independence Now’s federal grant ended, Michele returned to her roots at Holly Community, which created a new benefits counseling position for her. Thinking back on her remarkable trajectory, Michele remembers, “When I first became disabled, I dreamed of reaching this point in my life, but I never imagined that my work after I became disabled could be even more rewarding than my career before disability.”

Accomplishments/Highlights

- As part of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, the Department of Disabilities provided outreach and training for the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (Maryland’s Medicaid Buy-in) to 746 participants, assisted with 1,056 new applications and 127 redeterminations. Enrollment increased from 561 on December 31, 2010 to 708 on June 30, 2012.
- Between January 2011 and October 2012, the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) provided benefits counseling services for 1,109 consumers, significantly improving their employment outcomes. Individuals who have participated in benefits counseling are 135 percent more likely to go to work, are also working 8.6 percent more hours and earning approximately 18 percent more per month.

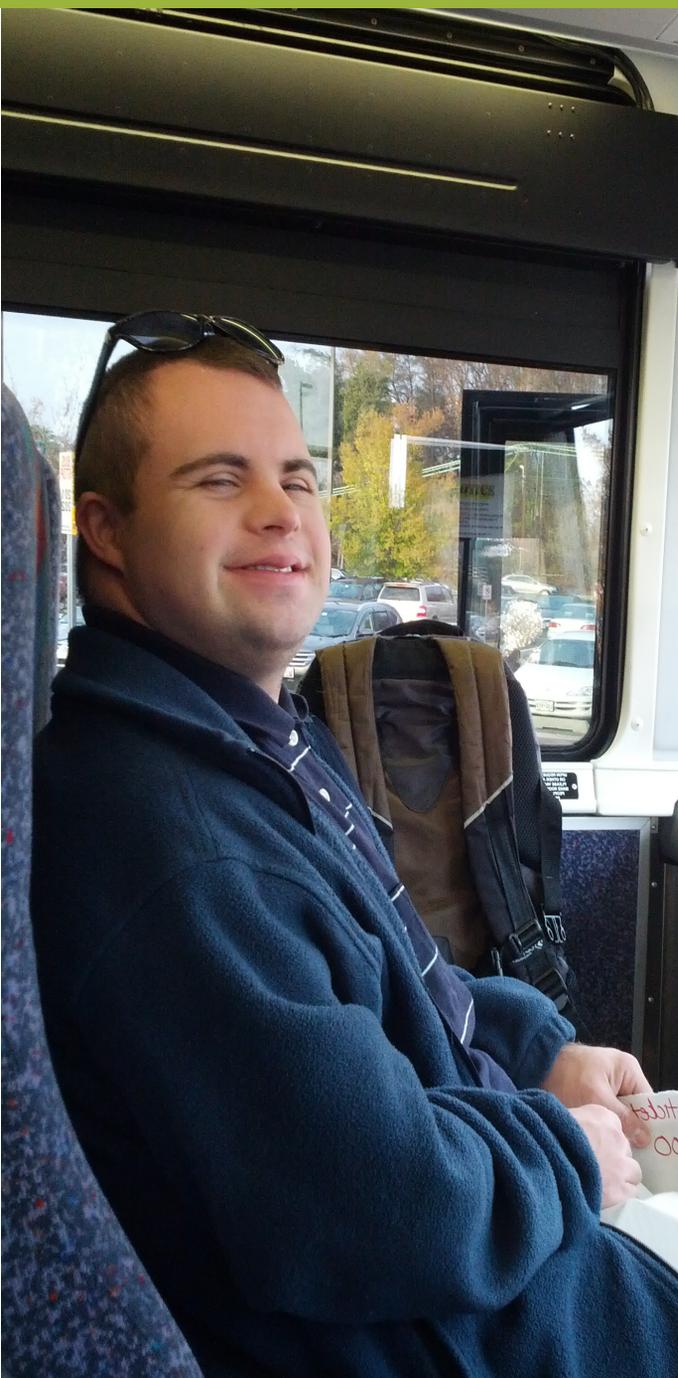


VISION

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

TRANSPORTATION

FRANCIS DWYER

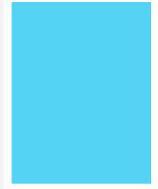
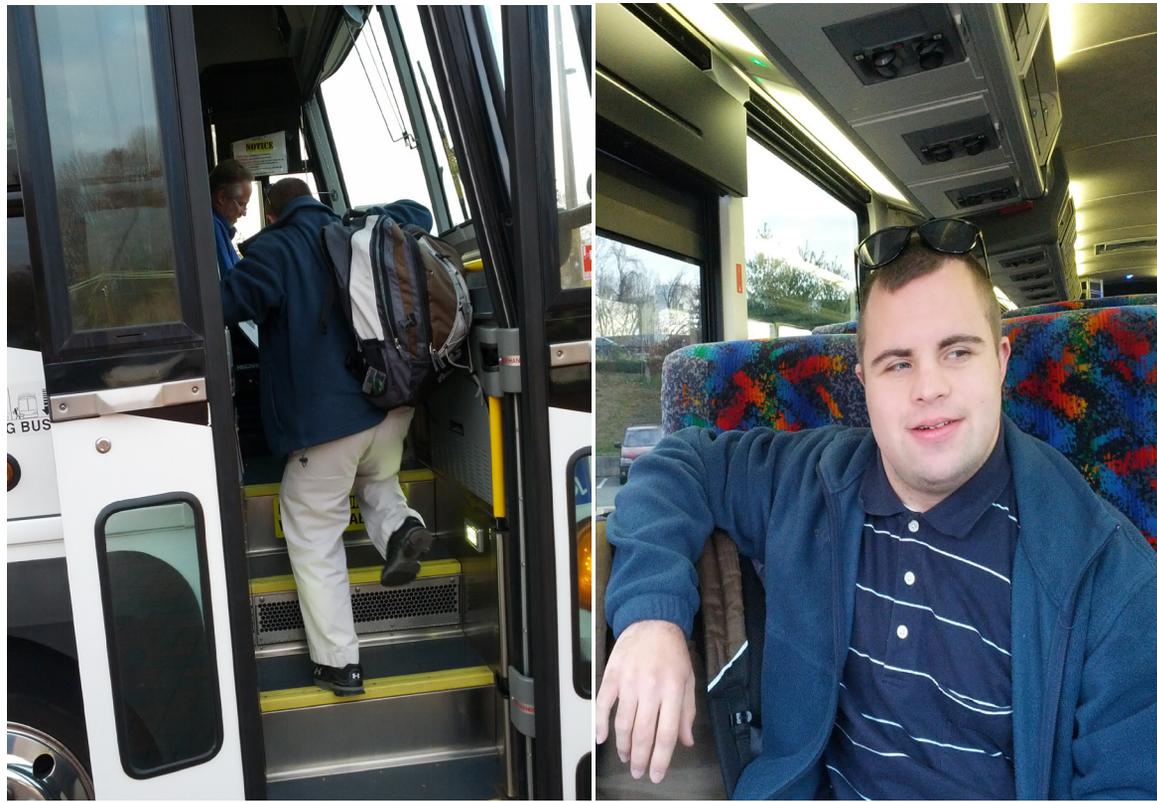


TRAVEL TRAINING

Travel training is designed to give people with disabilities the skills required to travel safely on fixed-route public transportation. Participants in the program gain essential travel skills such as the ability to read a map, plan their travel route, read bus and train schedules, pay their fare, secure a wheelchair or other mobility device, make a transfer, make judgments about safety and danger, learn how to handle travel disruptions, manage their time, and use appropriate social and communication skills.

The IMAGE Center and Independence Now, under contract with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), are currently offering travel training as a part of their services to individuals with disabilities.

Francis Dwyer, a SUCCESS student at UMBC, participated in the travel training program offered by Independence Now. Working with his counselor, and with some assistance from UMBC staff, Francis developed the skills he needed to travel from his home in Gaithersburg to his classes at the UMBC campus in Catonsville.



VISION

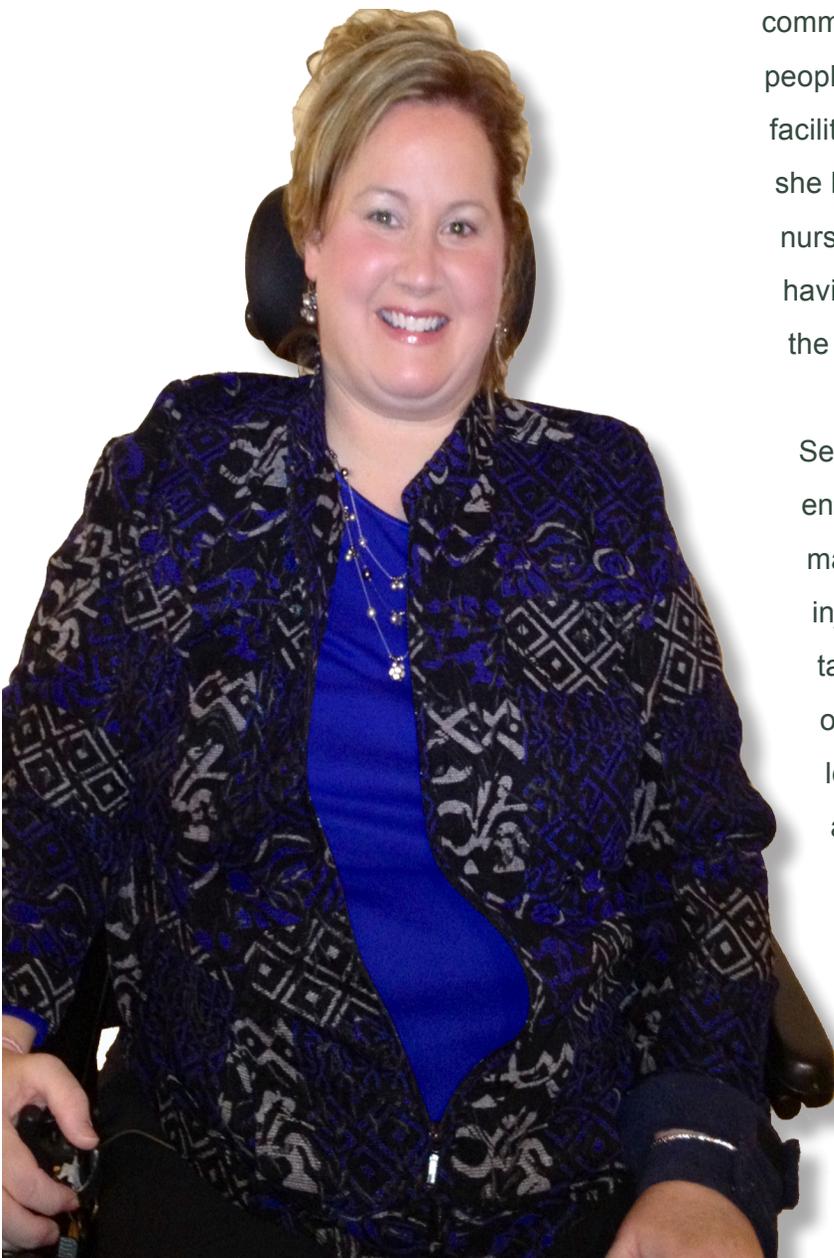
Marylanders with disabilities will access an array of reliable, cost-effective transportation options, enabling travel to destinations of their choosing at the same rate as their peers without disabilities.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- The Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) paratransit performance for the Baltimore area over the past five years improved by nearly 20 percent. MTA and the Washington Area Transit Authority (WMATA) achieved a routine on-time performance for paratransit above 90 percent.
- MTA's operations have been brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for 100 percent of vehicles and ticket machines. Accessible ticket machines at Metro and MARC stations and Light Rail locations were quality tested by individuals with disabilities.
- Approximately 400 patrons (8,000 trips) participated in the new Taxi Center Card service offered to dialysis customers in need of transportation to and from their dialysis centers. Dialysis patients are provided with a direct, non-shared trip and flexibility for occasions when health problems after dialysis caused a scheduled paratransit pick-up time to be missed.

COMMUNITY LIVING

LAURA CORBETT



As a peer counselor for Resources for Independence in Cumberland, Laura Corbett loves talking to individuals with disabilities about moving from nursing facilities into the community. She is passionate and committed to helping people see the possibilities beyond life in a nursing facility. She is a strong and believable advocate because she herself made the journey from years of living in a nursing facility to moving out into her own apartment, having a job she loves and serving as an advocate for the program which made it possible.

Seventeen years ago, Laura was in an accident that ended her dreams of becoming a nurse, getting married and having a family. A stroke, as well as injuries to her spine and pelvis, leaving her with debilitating pain and paralysis, changed her life to a series of major surgeries and hospital, rehabilitation and lengthy nursing home stays. And for Laura, living in a nursing home was a loss of hope and independence. However, this all changed when Laura became part of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program.

With the supports provided by the program, Laura was able to move into her own apartment. As a peer counselor, she can talk firsthand about her experiences, the fears, the challenges and most importantly, the joy and thrill of gaining back her independence.

According to Laura, one of the beauties of her job is understanding the programs that will allow her peers to live a different life than one in a nursing facility. The people Laura supports start revisiting their lives before their injuries and think about establishing new goals and dreams for their future. “It’s like announcing a winning ticket – a ticket to transition to a new life,” she added.

“I love seeing the hope that I can give to people, seeing their faces light up when I share my experiences and help them understand the possibilities that are available to them,” Laura said. “The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program gave me hope and promise for the future. I want to be an advocate and give this same hope to people who feel they have no other options than staying in a nursing facility.”

Accomplishments/Highlights

- Maryland was only the second state in the nation to receive approval to implement the Balancing Incentives Payment Program and was awarded a total of \$106 million to be utilized over the period of April 2012 through September 2015, to rebalance the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) spending and improve Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), supports and infrastructure (DHMH).
- Maryland’s Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program (DHMH) continued throughout the fiscal year. A total of 341 residents were successfully transitioned into community settings during FY 12.



VISION

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

HOUSING

LIVABILITY AND VISIT-ABILITY



As more and more people choose to stay in their homes, Live-Ability and Visit-Ability initiatives are gaining interest and support as government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector developers work to increase the number of accessible homes available in Maryland.

Home Modifications

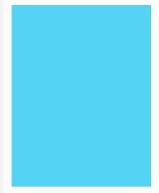
Marylanders with disabilities have a number of resources available to assist with home modifications such as ramp installation, door widening, bathroom modifications, stair lifts, safety devices and other options to increase accessibility within a residence. The Assistance Technology Loan Program at the Department of Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), are two State agencies that provide assistance with home modifications. Over the past five years, MDOD's Assistive Technology Loan Program has issued 46 home modification loans; and a total of 119 since the inception of the program. DDA

provided funding for home modifications through its Low Intensity Support Service (LISS) program. In Fiscal Year 2012, the LISS program responded to 60 requests for funding. Additional grants for home modifications were funded through Senate Bill 994 - "Sales and Use Tax – Alcoholic Beverages – Supplementary Appropriation." DDA received \$15 million to fund a Waiting List Initiative targeted to fund services and supports for people on the DDA Waiting List in

the Crisis Resolution and Crisis Prevention priority categories. As a result of the one-time funding source, 215 people in the crisis prevention category few issues, applied for and received \$1,668,211 to assist with home modifications through the Services of Short Duration (SSD) program. Maryland's Centers for Independent Living (CILS) have also provided funding for home modifications. Over the past 5 years, Resources for Independence; Accessible Resources for Independence; The IMAGE Center; Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living; Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living; The Freedom Center; and Independence Now have assisted with more than 430 home modification projects to make homes more accessible for Marylanders with disabilities.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) positioned Maryland to obtain funding for permanent supportive housing by partnering to submit an application to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. Maryland was one of 35 states to apply for an available \$85 million to provide permanent supportive housing to people with disabilities.
- MDOD and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) began accepting applications for the first Weinberg Community Apartments, which will be located in Cambridge, Maryland. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has identified a development partner for the second project, located in Montgomery County, under this joint initiative between the Weinberg Foundation and the State of Maryland.



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.

HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

JEFF REHFELD



In 2010, Jeff Rehfeld was in an auto accident that left him with a severe traumatic brain injury and cognitive deficits. Before his accident, Jeff struggled with addictions as well as bipolar disorder. The brain injury brought new challenges to his life, but may have also saved it.

Jeff began inpatient rehabilitation at University of Maryland Specialty Hospital. He applied for the Waiver for Adults with Traumatic Brain Injury, which allows participants to get the same level of service in the community as they do in a chronic hospital or nursing facility, and was accepted. “I tried to keep a positive attitude,” Jeff recalls as he waited to find a service provider who was willing to give him a chance even though he had a tracheostomy tube that made his service needs more complicated.

Jeff transitioned to NeuroRestorative in Bowie and began to rebuild his life. He found a church and located several local AA groups where he attends meetings three times per week. He says, “I would feel good if I can help one person stay sober one more day,” so he started volunteering at Sheppard Pratt sharing his experience with AA and encouraging others to get involved.

Jeff then turned his attention to another goal that will increase his independence: employment. He worked with NeuroRestorative staff and the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to focus on his strengths as he considered the type of work in which he would be most successful. He was dedicated to his search, following up on every application that he submitted. One local grocery store manager was impressed by his initiative and hired him as a stock clerk. "I try to have a good attitude whenever I am at work," he says.

Jeff is successfully managing his bipolar disorder with support through Johns Hopkins neuropsychiatry, therapy and learning to self medicate. Jeff has increased his use of the bus system and travels independently to and from work, as well as therapy. Jeff has been so successful in increasing his independence and building a support network that he is making plans to move into independent housing in the next few months.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- As part of the State's continued commitment to increase the availability of consumer and family-operated support services, the Mental Hygiene Administration supported consumer initiatives including Consumer Quality Teams (CQT) and adult and child leadership institutes. The CQT continues to conduct unannounced visits to mental health service providers and psychiatric rehabilitation programs. CQT conducted 282 site visits and interviewed more than 1,100 consumers.
- MHA's collaborative work with DORS, has increased the number of consumers participating in supported employment. Strategies in the Mental Health State Plan support this State priority as does Maryland's promotion of the Ticket to Work and Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) programs.



VISION

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

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

BRANDON GREEN



Borrowing AT for Success

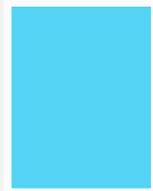
28-year-old Brandon Green doesn't yet have a firm diagnosis for his significant vision loss, but there was no doubt that to continue with his plans to return to school, Brandon would be needing access to a variety of Assistive Technology (AT). Experiencing what is believed to be pathological myopia (extreme near-sightedness), Brandon Green had already lost his ability to drive, resigned from his job and had given up drawing, cooking, and reading - pastimes that had been the most meaningful to him. So when Brandon decided to head back to college in January of 2012, he started the process of identifying what he would need to succeed.

Referred to the Maryland Technology Assistance Program through his MSDE Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) case manager in November 2011, Brandon and his mother made a trip to the MDTAP AT Lab to visit with AT Specialist Denise Schuler. Taking time to see what devices were on the market that could help him with reading books and accessing his computer, Brandon decided to borrow the Amigo, a portable electronic video magnifier. "I was entirely clueless as to what was out there for me. And [Denise] was also aware that due to a few issues, my supplies for school were

being delayed so she extended me the Amigo until my supplies arrived.” As a self-declared fervent reader, the Amigo has made it possible for Brandon to enjoy reading again, both academically and recreationally. Along with borrowing AT from MDTAP, Brandon also worked with V-Linc (a non-profit that provides off-the-shelf computer technology and customized AT services) to access ZoomText and a USB magnifier/camera for his computer. “I use it largely for school work...The USB screen reader is used in classrooms to read off the blackboard when the teacher is too far for me to view it.” And now that Brandon is through his first semester, the experience of having access to these devices has made classwork and homework far easier, “My schooling was greatly impacted by acquiring the AT from MDTAP. I’m actually getting straight A’s right now, for the first time ever.” And he’s back to doing the things that he loves best - reading, drawing, and playing guitar.

Accomplishments/Highlights

- The Assistive Technology Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans to persons with disabilities who need to purchase assistive technology, home modifications and technology supports for home-based employment opportunities, approved 80 additional loans during FY 2012 and managed 178 open loans, a 27 percent increase in activity from the previous fiscal year.
- Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP) expanded the publication of its Assistive Technology Blog, which was named by Nano Patents and Innovations (an aggregate technology website) as one of the “40 Best Blogs for Special Needs Parents” in the country. MD TAP continues to use social media, including Twitter and Facebook to reach over 1,000 individuals per month.



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.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

THE SUCCESS PROGRAM



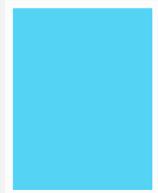
UMBC 2012 SUCCESS students: left to right, back row (behind statue): Quintanna Moody, Shaniece Young; front row, left to right: Francis Dwyer, Sarah Pagan, Bianca Bouknight, Sarda Taylor

For six new members of the Freshman Class at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), college is a particularly exciting experience, one they and their parents thought would never happen. But thanks to the SUCCESS program, students with intellectual disabilities now have the chance to experience college alongside other freshmen students. In 2012, Maryland launched its first four-year post-secondary education program for students with intellectual disabilities. A partnership between the Maryland Department of Disabilities and UMBC, the SUCCESS program enables Marylanders with intellectual disabilities to develop their independence, critical thinking, problem-solving and employment skills in a university setting.

Housed in the Shriver Center at UMBC, the SUCCESS program gives participants the opportunity to experience college life alongside UMBC's degree-seeking students – interacting with their peers through a wide array of inclusive, educational, social and recreational campus-based activities.

“At UMBC we constantly strive for innovation and creative approaches in our teaching and learning experiences,” said Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC. “This program is an opportunity to challenge SUCCESS participants and degree-seeking UMBC students in ways that will further prepare them to be outstanding members of the workforce and citizens of Maryland.”

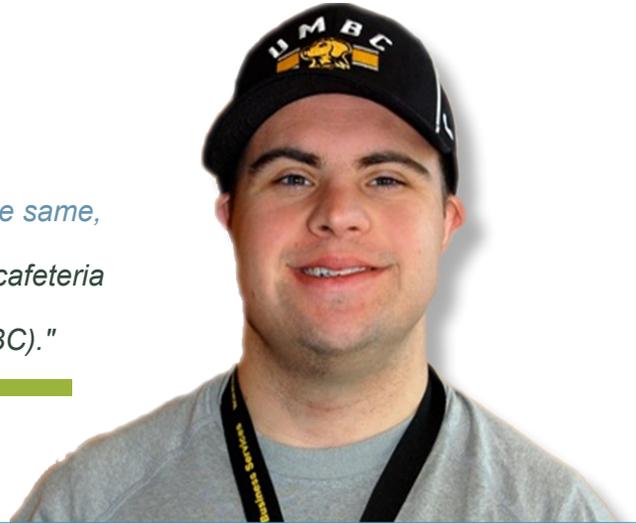
"I have always wanted to go to college. Being in the SUCCESS Program is a dream come true for me," said Quintanna Moody. "I get to enjoy the campus life and feel more independent. What a great feeling!"



VISION

Students 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, and flexible.

*SUCCESS student Francis Dwyer feels much the same,
"I enjoy my internship, especially working in the cafeteria
with Matt (one of Francis' co-workers at UMBC)."*



Accomplishments/Highlights

- The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Maryland launched the Students United for Campus-Community Engagement for Post Secondary Success (SUCCESS), program. *(see article on previous page)*
- The Governor's budget maintained State funding for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program at \$10.4 million. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) continues to implement an integrated Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) option for children from birth to age four with a federal incentive grant.



*For Sarah Pagan it's simple,
"UMBC makes me very happy," she said.*



Programs and Services

Access Maryland
Attendant Care Program
Constituent Services





HOWARD COX

“Bringing facilities into compliance with accessibility requirements is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. With each project brought to completion, more and more people are accessing Maryland’s myriad of higher education opportunities as well as having the chance to participate in all aspects of public life.”

Cari Watrous - Access Maryland Director



ACCESS MARYLAND

Coppin State University in Baltimore is a model urban, residential liberal arts university that provides academic programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, nursing, graduate studies, and continuing education. As an Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Coppin has a culturally rich history providing quality educational programs and community outreach services.

With the goal of full accessibility, Coppin State began a project that would bring the University’s Tawes Building into full ADA compliance primarily through funding from the Access Maryland program. At the time of the funding request, the three story Tawes Building, which houses the offices of the Vice President of Student Affairs, Career Development and Cooperative Education, Public Safety, computer labs, and meeting rooms used by students, faculty, staff and the community, was only 10 percent accessible. With the Access Maryland funding, the Coppin State was able to install automatic door openers, retrofit the building’s elevators, make necessary modifications to the restrooms, information counters and drinking fountains. Total estimated cost of the project \$640,000.

2012 Access Maryland Grants Awarded

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. Projects are diverse, spanning everything from rest room modifications to construction of elevator towers to replacement of door hardware.

State Projects receiving Funding for FY2012:

- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
 - Maryland Correctional Institution - Jessup - Accessible Route - \$145,000
 - Patuxent Institution DD Building – Entrance modifications - \$100,000
- Department of General Services
 - Hilton Heights Community Center - Modifications to Entrance Doors - \$16,000
 - Essex/Rosedale MSC - Accessible Route, Doors and Signage - \$45,000
- University of Maryland Baltimore County
 - Elevator Modifications in Multiple Facilities - \$179,000
- Maryland State Police
 - Quartermaster Division - Modifications to Restrooms, Platform Lift and Signage - \$120,000
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 - Western Maryland Hospital Center Patio Renovations Phase II - \$170,000
- University of Maryland College Park
 - Francis Scott Key Hall - Restroom Modifications and Water Cooler Replacement - \$72,000
 - LeFrak Hall - Restroom Modifications - \$18,000
 - School of Public Health - Accessible Main Entrance - \$28,000
 - Taliaferro Hall - Restroom and Water Cooler Modifications - \$36,000
 - Woods Hall - Restroom Modifications - \$28,000

BRIAN WALDERSEN



ATTENDANT CARE PROGRAM

A core principle of The Johns Hopkins Medical School is the concept that in order to practice medicine, young physicians need frontline training alongside veteran physicians whose knowledge and experience provides the best means of fighting disease. For medical student Brian Waldersen this means long days attending classes, doing research, and working in the hospital.

Brian always knew he wanted to go into medicine. His ultimate goal was to do something meaningful, something that would help people. However, an accident in 2007 resulted in a spinal cord injury that for some people would have meant the end of a dream. But with the support of Hopkins faculty and staff, the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Maryland Attendant Care Program, Brian is working toward his future in medicine. He's attending Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Brian hopes to specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation, working with individuals coming right out of the hospital when he says "they are at their worst." For Brian, rehab addresses all aspects of a patient's recovery – physical, psychological, social and recreational.

Living on his own, Brian's days begin with assistance from his caregiver who helps him get up, shower and dress before leaving for a long day at Hopkins. If his caregiver isn't available, the security guard at Brian's building lends a hand. At the hospital, Brian uses a standing frame wheelchair that allows him to lean over and examine patients. Brian is currently working on a rotation schedule, one that gives him experience in different specialties. He particularly enjoyed his psychiatric rotation as he believes that injuries and disease can potentiate mental illness. Brian's interested in where and how rehabilitation and psychiatric issues intersect.

A strong advocate of health care reform, Brian is a volunteer with Doctors for America, a national movement of physicians and medical students working together to improve the health of the nation and to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, high quality health care. The little free time left is spent listening to music, going to Baltimore Symphony Orchestra concerts and most recently, enjoying accessible sailing along with his fellow Hopkins residents thanks to the Downtown Sailing Center.

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 or seek employment, enroll in a college or transition from or avoid nursing facility placement. In FY 2012, 182 individuals were assisted through the Attendant Care Program. As of July 31, 2012, 83 people were on the waiting list for services.



CONSTITUENT SERVICES PROGRAM

During the past fiscal year, CSP staff has responded to numerous requests for assistance. The following are some of the types of calls they receive asking for assistance:

- A woman whose husband is in a nursing facility. They are interested in the Money Follows the Person and Living at Home Waiver program.
- A son is moving to Maryland for a new job. Needs help with activities of daily living.
- An Individual with physical disabilities needs transportation to medical appointments.
- A woman with traumatic brain injuries needs legal assistance concerning financial matters.
- A daughter (19) has cerebral palsy, needs training to find a job.
- An amputee needs assistance renovating his home to make it more accessible.
- An individual is moving to Maryland for treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital and needs transitional housing.

The Constituent Services Program provides information and referrals, resource listings and access assistance to individuals with disabilities, their families and service providers on issues including employment, housing, transportation, health care, emergency preparedness, assistive technology, education and benefits. Constituent service coordinators provide the tools that allow individuals with disabilities to make informed choices throughout every level of the service delivery process.

- A daughter has bipolar issues and needs access to mental health services.
- A daughter has Multiple Sclerosis and her family needs to make their home more accessible.
- A blind father needs transportation.
- An individual with a disability is looking for a job.
- A son has severe medical issues and needs a software programs to help communicate. Interested in types of assistive technology available.
- Individual with a disability interested in learning more about working and the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program.
- Numerous calls from individuals and family members applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs; or individuals denied benefits under the SSDI and SSI programs and looking for assistance.

Of all the issues responded to by the CSP staff, the lack of affordable accessible housing continues to be the most pressing problem for Marylanders with disabilities. The demand housing far exceeds the supply available. People with disabilities can often wait up to 10 years for for affordable Section 8 housing. It is a growing trend that when affordable

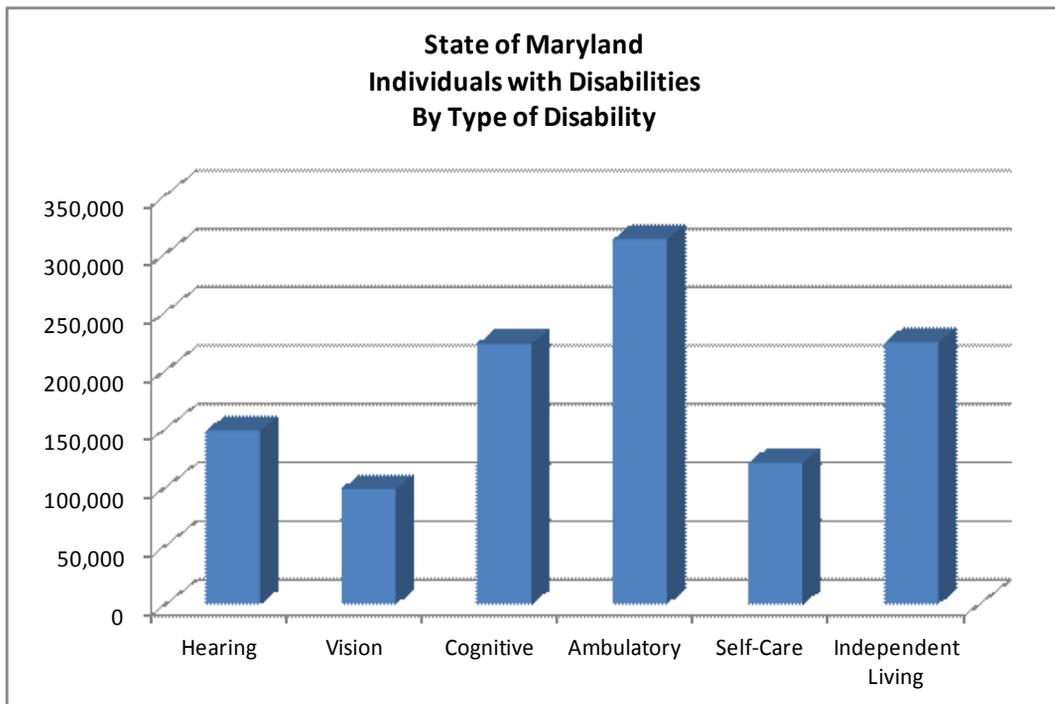
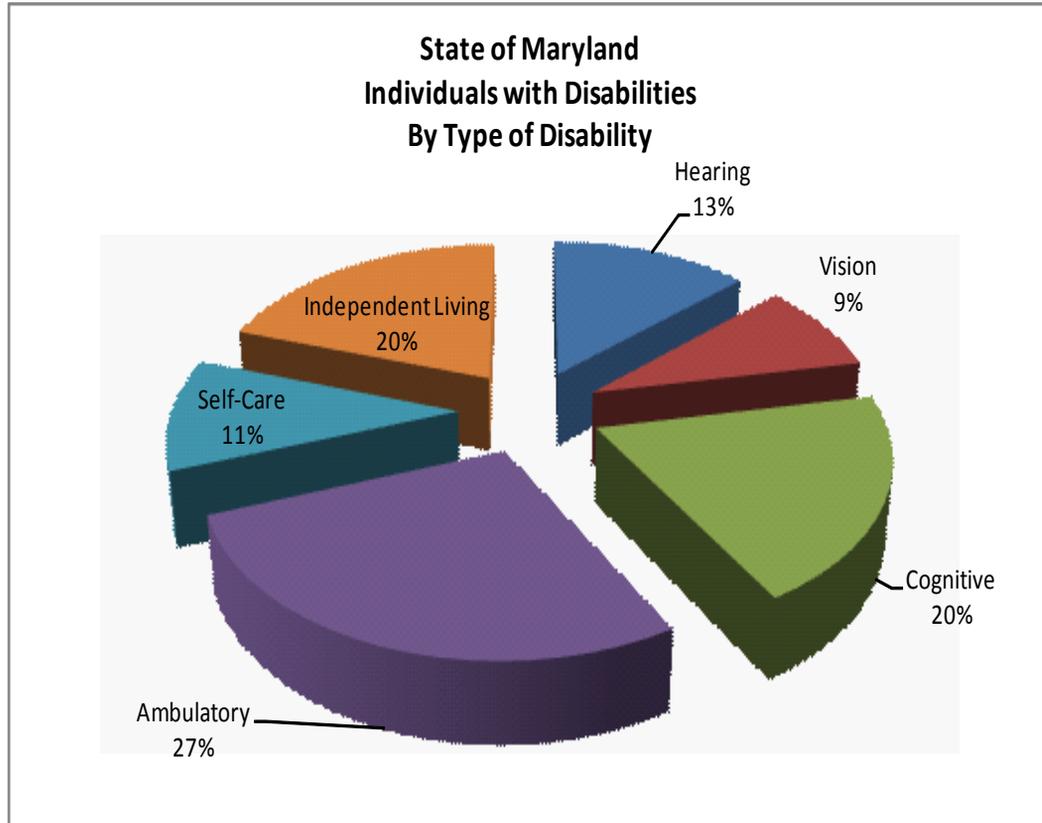
housing is located, and individuals can afford the market rent, they unfortunately cannot qualify for a rental lease under the current credit guidelines.



*Ellis Goodman and Nan Brittingham
- Constiuent Services Program -*

Marylanders with Disabilities Demographics

Source: 2011 American Community Survey from the United States Census





2012 Highlights

Departing Rosewood Wins Emmy
Legislative Highlights
2012 ADA Anniversary Celebration



DEPARTING ROSEWOOD RECEIVES REGIONAL EMMY

Steven Corderman has had a number of exciting experiences over the past two years. From leaving a residential facility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities where he'd lived for 4 years, to moving into his own apartment in Hagerstown, to being featured in *Departing Rosewood*, an Emmy-winning documentary that aired on Maryland Public Television in 2011.

Steven Corderman and Sylvia Corderman (Mother)





-photos by Jennifer Bishop-

Steven with Departing Rosewood Director Susan Hadary & John Anglin

When Governor Martin O'Malley announced the closure of the Rosewood Center in 2008, more than 150 Rosewood residents began the process of successfully transitioning into individually tailored community placements. Steven was one of those residents. As part of the *Departing Rosewood* documentary, audiences were able to see Steven during his final days at Rosewood, sitting in his room talking about his hopes of maybe going to school, working in the laundry and preparing to live independently in his own place. Steven's parents, his counselors and others talk about the transition process and their hopes for Steven's future.

"Steven's successful journey from Rosewood into a home of his own was just one of many wonderful stories that resulted from the closing of Rosewood," said Catherine A. Raggio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities. "*Departing Rosewood* allows us to increase awareness and understanding of what can be accomplished, how individuals can thrive with the freedom and independence given the necessary supports. We are delighted *Departing Rosewood* has received an Emmy."

Departing Rosewood was sponsored by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, the Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. It was produced by MedSchool Maryland Productions.

2012 DISABILITY LEGISLATION

Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law legislation that provides additional support for individuals with disabilities and their families. The new laws expand eligibility requirements for the State's Attendant Care Program; extend tax credits for employers that hire individuals with disabilities and provide Court interpreters for victims of crimes who are deaf or hard of hearing.

[Senate Bill 231 - Individuals with Disabilities - Attendant Care Program](#) - The new law will allow individuals who turn 65 and are employed to remain in the program; it also gives the MDOD Secretary flexibility when addressing the ACP waiting list.

[Senate Bill 167 - Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities - Sunset Repeal](#) - Extends tax credits for employers that hire qualifying individuals with disabilities.

[House Bill 596 - Child with a Disability - Individualized Education Program Meetings - Document Access](#) - Provides that the parents of a child with a disability may notify appropriate school personnel that they want to receive certain documents and authorizes school personnel to provide a copy of the documents relating to the development of an individualized education program for a child with a disability to the parents of the child.

[House Bill 1391 - Public School Construction Program - Maryland School for the Blind](#) - Establishes that the Maryland School for the Blind shall be eligible for school construction funding for specified fiscal years.

[House Bill 149 / Senate Bill 309 - Registration, Insurance and Required Use of Protective Headgear](#) - Prohibits an individual from operating or riding on a moped or motor scooter unless the individual is wearing specified headgear and eye protection; etc.

House Bill 1148 - Courts - Victims of Crime - Interpreters - Permits use of interpreters in court proceedings to include the appointment of an interpreter for a victims of who are deaf or cannot readily understand or communicate the spoken English language.

House Bill 390 / Senate Bill 571 - Libraries - Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library - Creates a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the establishment and coordination of a Deaf Culture Digital Library to educate individuals about deaf cultures in the United States and other countries.

House Bill 1055 / Senate Bill 744 - Health Insurance - Habilitative Services - Required Coverage and Workgroup - Specifies the format in which specified insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations must provide a notice about the coverage of habilitative services; requiring the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to establish a workgroup on access to habilitative services benefits.

Senate Bill 1302 - State & Local Revenue & Financing Act - Reinstates the 2 percent rate increase for developmental disability services, representing an increase of \$15.7 million in total funds for the program.





2012 ADA CELEBRATION

More than 250 people gathered at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on July 26 to celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. With a focus on assistive technology, the 2012 celebration featured a variety of special exhibits and interactive displays that highlighted some of the assistive technology available.

Governor Martin O'Malley and UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski gave keynote remarks as part of the celebration. Closing remarks by Kavita Krishnaswamy, a doctoral student at UMBC and a member of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities, sent a strong message about what someone with a disability can accomplish given the right supports. Departing Commission members David Ward, Juliette Rizzo, Jamey George and Ken Wireman received Governor's citations in recognition of their years of service to the Maryland Commission on Disabilities.





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SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for providing information, photographs and other assistance with the 2012 MDOD Annual Report.

Laura Corbett

Steven Corderman

Michele Corron

Howard Cox

Francis Dwyer

Brandon Green

Quintanna Moody

Sarah Pagan

Jeff Rehfeld

Brian Waldersen

Accessible Resources for Independence

Coppin State University

Developmental Disabilities Administration/
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living

The Freedom Center

Holly Community, Inc.

IMAGE Center of Maryland

Independence Now

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Mental Health Administration/Department
of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Resources for Independence

Shriver Center at University of
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Southern Maryland Center for
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