

Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities
Monthly Meeting (Virtual)
 May 13, 2025

Present:

Gloria Whitehead, Chair
Marge Clemons, Co-Chair
Michelle Bush
Hillary Honig Ensminger
Jackie Pilgrim
Pearley Yelverton

Absent:

Trevor Bower
Michael Wilson, Co-Chair
Deborah Kolesar

Guests:

Captain Mark Morais, Durham Police Department	Cassandra Barnes, Department of Health & Human Services	Tara Walton, Transportation Department
Phillip Jordan, Neighborhood Improvement Services	Victoria Mosey, Alliance Health	Phyllis Flournoy

Staff

Sharon Williams, Committee Liaison	Danice Taylor Committee Assistant
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I. Call to Order

Called to order by Chair Gloria Whitehead

II. Attendance and Announcements

Sharon Williams called roll and attendees shared updates and announcements.

III. Meeting Protocol shared by staff

1. Share your name each time you speak.
2. Be recognized by the chair before you speak.
3. Two minutes for each speaker each time you speak.
4. Stay on the agenda topic.
5. If you are using visuals, describe what is on the screen.
6. Chat will be muted - only the host can be messaged during the meeting. Do not share documents in the chat
7. Chat messages sent to the host will be read by the host at the end of the meeting.

IV. Reading Minutes

Sharon Williams summarized the meeting minutes from April.

Michelle Bush made a motion to approve the minutes for the April meeting. Jackie Pilgrim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

V. New Business

Tara Walton with the City Transportation Department shared updates to the Go Durham Access program.

Housing for Persons who have intellectual and or developmental disabilities.
Sharon shared a document with various [housing options and resources](#) found in the public domain, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Attached.

Attendees identified the following from the list as organizations they would like to hear from: [NC Housing Search](#) at 1-877-428-8844. NCHousingSearch.org, and Durham Housing Authority (DHA): www.durhamhousingauthority.org

Victoria Mosey stated that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has a program called Inclusion Connects that provides in-depth information about

housing, funding, and support working to provide independent living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Victoria Mosey stated DHHS has a newsletter that covers topics including housing.

Hillary Ensminger said that she would like a breakdown of who can go into what kind of housing, anywhere. In the chart of options of different housing opportunities, what disabilities are permitted in those facilities, and can they be categorized, and what percentages?

VI. Old Business

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions Review, Discussion about Actionable Items

The by-laws have three subcommittees: Public Policy, Awards and Outreach, and Employment and Education. The attendees went into breakout sessions for subcommittee discussions.

Public Policy Subcommittee: breakout session included Marge Clemons, Hillary Ensminger, Michelle Bush, Victoria Mosey, and staff support was provided by Sharon Williams.

Actionable Items:

- Advocate for change, funding, and support of issues as identified directly by those with disability.
- Work to address and correct discrimination and inequities associated with disability in Durham
- Waiver for the blind provides access to long-term support services for individuals who are blind, elderly, or have significant disabilities, allowing them to remain living in their community setting
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Awards and Outreach Subcommittee: Did not have any volunteers.

Employment and Education Subcommittee: Breakout session included Gloria Whitehead, Jackie Pilgrim, Pearley Yelverton, Cassandra Barnes, Phyllis Fournoy, and staff support was provided by Danice Taylor.

- Higher skill development employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Educate faculty, administration, and parents on services available to children if they are between diagnoses.

Subcommittee Report Outs from Discussion Groups Breakout Sessions

Employment and Education Subcommittee: Jackie Pilgrim reported on the discussion for the Employment and Education Subcommittee.

She stated their discussion included adding adults to the scope to actionable item, “Educate faculty, administration, and parents on services available to children if they are between diagnoses.”

Jackie Pilgrim stated the Employment and Education Subcommittee agreed to begin their work by building a strong foundation by way of researching all available services, by learning about what their income streams are, and looking into other funding for people who are ineligible for services, who are between diagnosis.

Jackie Pilgrim stated their research will focus on one disability at a time, starting with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Public Policy Subcommittee: Sharon Williams reported on the discussion for the Public Policy Subcommittee.

She stated their discussion focused on this subcommittee’s charge which is advocating for change, funding, and support and working to address and correct discrimination. She stated this committee began by talking about the City of Durham’s Boards, Committees and Commissions materials are not accessible and the city has to think about the digital accessibility of the materials shared during meetings and that persons with disabilities need additional time to participate in the meetings as equals.

Sharon Williams stated the Public Policy Subcommittee discussed the need to implement ADA practices into programs citywide and they talked about the need

for citywide training. The subcommittee discussed working with the existing Durham Citizens Oversight Committee to tackle offering Citywide training as a possibility and recognized that there are free services available to train city staff on how to make organizations more accessible.

Hillary Ensminger stated that she would like to see regularly scheduled townhall forums for residents to discuss their issues with disabilities and express their grievances.

Other Items.

Attendees shared announcements.

VII. Adjournment.

Jackie Pilgrim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marge Clemons. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting June 10, 2025, at 12:00 pm