

**Atlantic County**  
**Disability Advisory Board**  
**Minutes: March 9, 2021**

**Attendance:** Joanne Gahr, CheeKa Wu, Linda Klersey, Bob Ross, Trinna Rodgers, Ryan Penn

**Excused:** Joe Brown, Carol Ditmire, Doortje Schipper

**Absent:-**

**Public: -**

**Ex-Officio:** Cristine Chickadel

**Commissioner:** (Commissioner liasion representation- pending change)

**I. Call to Order:** at 12:34 by Cristine Chickadel

**II. Approval of Minutes:** The November minutes approved.

**III.**

**Committee Reports:**

**A. Legislation: as presented by Cristine:**

1. Justice Department entered into a settlement agreement with the City and County of Denver, Colorado, under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reaches-agreement-denver-improve-accessibility>

2. Amtrak is accepting claims for monetary compensation for people with mobility disabilities <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/225-million-fund-available-justice-department-settlement-amtrak>

3. NYC: hires first ever MTA (Metro Transit Authority) accessibility officer. The authority planning \$770 million in transit accessibility

**as presented by Trinna:**

4. Captioning/ Effective Communication in Zoom Meetings: [Zoom Commits To Improving Accessibility - Disability Scoop](#)

5. A new, historic bipartisan legislative caucus presents the opportunity to further improve healthcare, education, transportation, housing and employment for New Jersey citizens with disabilities [Bipartisan Disability Caucus Launched in NJ Legislature - New Jersey Business Magazine \(njbmagazine.com\)](#)

6. NJ Superior Court Appellate Division ruling on no-gaps in services through DHS Medicaid/Medicare/ SLMB programs, put owness on

agencies: [A-5749-17T1 D.C. & M.L. v. DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES](#) and [ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES \(njcourts.gov\)](#)

***B. Access:***

1. Linda Klersey commented about tight spaces at the EHT Walmart. They are to code but to the complete minimum. Very hard to navigate with a wheelchair. Perhaps a letter to the store on our behalf?

**IV. Old Business:**

1. Beach Brochures: Still seeking content from Longport, Mays Landing and Atlantic City. Counties who did not reply with content will be asked to contribute. Chee Ka Wu will contact Atlantic City to request their participation.
2. ADA 101 Webinar: Trinna commented how accessible communication was active for webinar: closed captioning.

**V. New Business:**

1. New board applicant Susan, to present her interest and contributions at next meeting. Cristine will contact.
2. Ryan Penn has agreed to draft a Disability Advisory Board brochure, to share on our webpage. Ryan will also make the remaining table tents with board members names for future in-person meetings.
3. Joe brown requested we ask neighboring counties to contribute their process and initiatives and potentially collaborate or spark further concepts to implement here in Atlantic. Cristine will further inquire.
4. Trinna discussed ongoing issue in navigating the community with a mobility device when so many cars park in driveways that extend onto sidewalk. She will ask municipality about enforcing said laws.
5. Officer voting. Members are requested to email Cristine with shift in status or addition to a committee

**VI. Good and Welfare:**

1. Covid Vaccines? Anyone needing help registering contact Cristine for help.

2. Mark Petrella resigned from the board due to change in residency. His professional contributions were appreciated and he will be missed.

**VII. Public Comment:** none

**VII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:16pm

**Next meeting date April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 12:30 pm via same conference call.  
Contact Cristine for more info: [chickadel\\_cristine@alink.org](mailto:chickadel_cristine@alink.org)**