

- **August 1999:** The Forum sponsors the Baltimore Mayoral Candidate's Forum on disability issues. It is attended by all four candidates and over 200 consumers.
- **July 1999:** The Forum begins a leadership role with the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities to develop a "Move to Community" plan.
- **April 1999:** The MDF sponsors a "Youth with Disabilities Day" at Port Discovery, Baltimore City's Children's Museum. Over 700 youngsters attend, along with dignitaries and legislators.
- **March 1999:** The Forum sponsors a Town Meeting on disability issues with Congressman Ben Cardin and Congressman Elijah Cummings. Over 200 people attend.
- **February 1999:** The MDF plays a leadership role in an organized advocacy effort for an increase in the Governor's budget for independent living. Governor Glendening adds an additional \$370,000 to the budget for the Maryland Centers for Independent Living and the Department of Rehabilitation Services.
- **September 1998:** The Forum plays a major role in the development of the Attendant Care Medicaid Waiver in cooperation in the Governor's office and the Healthcare Finance Administration (HCFA).
- **July 1998:** The MDF sponsors a Health Care Forum with the Secretary of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Georges Benjamin, and key staff from the various departments within the DHMH agency. This forum provides an opportunity for the over 300 consumers who attend to discuss their issues directly with the decision makers.
- **March 1998:** State representatives begin meetings with Forum representatives to plan a state request for matching federal Medicaid funding to provide a community alternative for individuals with disabilities who would otherwise be placed in a nursing home.
- **February 1998:** With Bell Atlantic funding, ten TV shows are produced in cooperation with Quality Life Services, Inc. The series "We the People" profile leaders in the disability community and available services. It is airs on county cable systems in Montgomery, Baltimore and Prince George's counties.
- **January 1998:** Governor Glendening's Assistant Chief of Staff and the Director of the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities meet with the Forum's representatives to brief them on the Governor's Disability Initiative.
- **October 1997:** The Forum representatives meet with Governor Glendening to request an administration initiative on disability.
- **August 1997:** The Forum sponsors an event, with the keynote address by Governor Glendening, attended by over 1000 individuals. State decision-makers from nine state agencies describe the services each agency provides to individuals with disabilities and then meet in small groups with conference attendees.

- **March 1997:** Governor Glendening increases the FY1998 DDA budget by \$5.4 million for emergency and community services as requested in December 1996 by the MDF.
- **February 1997:** Forum arranges a meeting with its representatives, Robert Hoffman (Maryland Works), Robert Burns (DORS), and Fred Pudderster (Secretary, Department of Budget & Fiscal Planning), along with several budget analysts, to discuss a 12% cut in the DORS budget. This meeting plays a significant part in the restoration of full funding.
- **January 1997:** Caspar Taylor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, at the Forum's request, agrees to facilitate passage of Senate Bill 122 (pedestrian safety for individuals with disabilities).
- **December 1996:** When developing his FY1998 budget, Governor Glendening proactively asks the Forum to identify the critical programs which form the safety net for individuals with disabilities in Maryland.
- **September 1996:** The MDF sponsors a "Congressional Candidates Forum on Disability Issues" involving all of the Maryland candidates for Congress. 700 people attend. According to Congressman Ben Cardin, it is by far the largest candidates' event he has ever attended.
- **March 1996:** Forum representatives meet with Governor Glendening to discuss his FY1997 supplemental budget. Over \$2 million in purchase dollars is returned to personal care.
- **January 1996:** Governor Glendening credits the Forum, in the BALTMORE SUN newspaper, with bringing information to him which results in his reversing a decision to layoff 228 state funded personal care staff.
- **December 1995:** The MDF sponsors the "1996 Legislative Forum on Disability Issues" keynoted by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. 450 people attend.
- **July 1995:** The Forum sponsors an event keynoted by the Governor with questions from the disability community responded to by his cabinet. 1500 people attend.
- **November 1994:** The Forum sponsors a gubernatorial debate between Democrat Parris Glendening and Republican Ellen Sauerbrey. 800 persons attend.
- **August 1994:** The MDF membership increases to 76 member organizations located throughout Maryland.
- **May 1994:** The Forum's first debate among candidates for Governor is attended by nearly 500 people.
- **January 1994:** Activists with disabilities, each of whom had been involved with other cross-disability organizations, formed the Maryland Disabilities Forum in order to produce statewide systems change.