

- **October 2005:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum (MDF) presented a written document of recommendations for the Draft 2006 Maryland State Disabilities Plan to the Department of Disabilities. This document was the result of MDF's efforts to build consensus around the recommendations within its cross-disability partnerships.
- **October 2005:** MDF in partnership with Port Discovery Children's Museum hosts the sixth annual "Maryland Fun Days – a celebration for students with disabilities and their friends."
- **July 2005:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum receives a national grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for the fourth year in a row.
- **June 2005:** MDF took the lead among advocacy groups in providing stakeholder input to the State for their grant proposal to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for \$3.5 million in federal funding, over five years, to change Maryland's long-term care system. MDF was able to influence changes in grant language, whereby consumers would be involved in the decision-making process, not just provide input.
- **May 2005:** Beth Slepian, MDF's Director, graduated from the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organization's "Advocacy Leaders Program." This year-long program is designed to strengthen participants' knowledge and skills of nonprofit public policy advocacy.
- **March 2005:** The MDF provided the new Maryland Department of Disabilities with 12 years of task force recommendations for improving personal assistant services and long-term care that otherwise would have been lost.
- **November 2004:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum (MDF) hosts "Keeping the Promise" Gubernatorial Event. Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. reaffirms his commitment to Maryland citizens with disabilities as he reports progress on his *New Freedom Initiative for Maryland*. Kristen Cox, Secretary of the Department of Disabilities and seven other key Cabinet Secretaries also spoke to 650 in attendance.
- **September 2004:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum receives its third year grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development with an increase from the previous two years.
- **July 2004:** C. David Ward, the Chairperson of the Maryland Disabilities Forum's Board of Directors, is appointed Chairperson of the Maryland State Commission on Disabilities by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Mr. Ward is the first Chairperson of this newly formed Commission, which is part of the Department of Disabilities.
- **May 2004:** Governor Ehrlich signs legislation creating the new cabinet-level Department of Disabilities with values and objectives that mirror the MDF's recommendations for the Governor's *New Freedom Initiative for Maryland*.
- **November 2003:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum presents the cross-disability community's recommendations to Governor-elect Ehrlich and his executive staff for implementing the Governor's *New Freedom Initiative for Maryland*.

- **September 2003:** The MDF receives continued funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. This is a second year grant.
- **August 2003:** The MDF sponsors a Candidates' Forum for President of the Baltimore City Council. The Forum is held at The League for People with Disabilities, Inc., one of the MDF's partnership organizations.
- **July 2003:** The Maryland Disabilities Forum hires Beth Slepian as its Director, the MDF's first paid staff.
- **June 2003:** In partnership with Making Choices for Independent Living, the MDF sponsors the hiring of its second high school student to work in advocacy during the summer months.
- **January 2003:** The MDF sponsors the fifth annual "Fun Day for Youth with Disabilities and their Peers" at Port Discovery, Baltimore City's Children's Museum. A record 1268 youngsters attend.
- **December 2002:** Joel David Myerberg, Chairperson of the MDF, is named to Governor-elect Ehrlich's transition team.
- **November 2002:** Governor-elect Ehrlich requests that the MDF make recommendations regarding the implementation of his *New Freedom Initiative*.
- **October 2002:** The MDF sponsors a Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum between Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Congressman Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Largest forum the candidates participated in with over 1000 consumers and advocates in attendance.
- **August 2002:** The first intern with the MDF is placed by the University of Maryland School of Social Work.
- **July 2002:** The MDF, in partnership with Independence Now, Inc. hires its first student to work in advocacy during the summer months.
- **May 2002:** The MDF sponsors a fourth annual "Fun Day for Youth with Disabilities and their Peers" at Port Discovery, Baltimore City's Children's Museum. Over 1100 youngsters attend.
- **October 2001:** The MDF sponsors "The Cigarette Restitution Fund-Where Do We Fit In?" forum which results in a decision by the state to fund \$250,000 in grants for cigarette cessation programs for persons with mental illness.
- **September 2001:** The MDF receives its first grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development of \$30,000.
- **April 2001:** The MDF sponsors a "Fun Day with Youth with Disabilities" at Port Discovery, Baltimore City's Children's Museum. Over 900 youngsters attend.

- **February 2001:** The Forum has a private meeting with Governor Glendening to discuss his supplemental budget for the implementation of the “Move to Community” effort. He commits to providing some funding for this initiative.
- **February 2001:** Maryland Board of Nurses agrees to include in changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations, expected to take effect in November 2002, the right of consumers who are cognitively capable of self-direction to supervise their own personal assistance services.
- **October 2000:** The Forum’s leadership is requested to participate in the Governor Glendening’s implementation plan for the Supreme Court’s Olmstead Decision. Key members of the Forum are serving on several task forces and work groups including one member actively participating on the Governor’s Steering Committee.
- **April 2000:** The MDF sponsors a “Youth with Disabilities Day” at Port Discovery, Baltimore City’s Children’s Museum. Over 900 youngsters attend.