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## Office for People with Disabilities 2017 Budget Presentation

The Office for People with Disabilities (“OFPWD”) continues its mission of offering referrals and information to Westchester County residents while also providing an array of additional services which are detailed in the following overview below.

### Positions:

No changes in office staffing from 2016 to 2017 and will maintain **11** positions in total.

- **4** positions Office for People with Disabilities
- **7** positions ParaTransit

The Office for the People with Disabilities continues to act as the **Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Coordinator** for Westchester County providing assistance to all county departments for both personnel and consumers for all requests related to reasonable accommodations.

The Office for the People with Disabilities continues to act as the **Handicapped Parking Education Coordinator** for Westchester County. Through this program this office also provides the following program and services.

### Disability Awareness Program

- Providing Disability Awareness trainings to K-12 students in local school districts as well as undergraduate and graduate students countywide. Students experience a day in the life of a person with a disability. These trainings provide real life experiences through such demonstrations as the Kids on the Block puppet show, question and answers sessions and reviews of policies and procedures associated with the ADA.
- BEAT Plus Program: A hands-on travel training education program available to special education classrooms and service providers. The goal of this program is to provide educators the necessary tools needed to incorporate travel training skills into the core curriculum.

- The above 2 programs continue to touch over **1,000** individuals yearly.

## **Highlights:**

### *Day at Playland for People with Disabilities*

- The 2016 event hosted over **8,500** participants this past July 29, 2016.
- Funding for 2016 was again secured from an outside source. 2017 funding has again been secured.

### *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

- Co-sponsored the annual employment breakfast with the Westchester Employment Network honoring disabled employees and employers this past October 2016. **212** people attended.

### *Disability Mentoring Day*

- Co-sponsored this event with CAREERS for People with Disabilities and ACCES-VR to provide disabled individuals the opportunity to shadow various Westchester County department staff. This year **10** county departments participated with **15** individuals from local agencies providing vocational training and job placement.

### *Westchester County Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs Emergency Preparedness*

- OFPWD collaborates with the Westchester Department of Emergency Services and local independent living agencies (Such as Westchester Disabled on the Move and Westchester Independent Living Center) to update the county's policies as it relates to emergency preparation and evacuation procedures.

### *The Miracle League of Westchester*

- Children's Program operates on Saturday & Sundays from April to October with an average of **200** children participating.
- Adult Program operates Monday through Friday with an average of **600** participants from various day programs in Westchester. ARC, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, KEON Center, Ability Beyond, and Jawonio are some of our participating agencies.

### *Disability Resource Guide*

The Disability Resource Guide provides a listing of local agencies and organizations that describes various services available to the disabled community. This guide provides residents with a localized resource providing each organization's mission statement, contact information, programs offered, area of specialty and age groups served.

## **ParaTransit**

In 2016 Westchester County contracted with **4** vendors to provide ParaTransit services.

1. Suburban ParaTransit serving all of Westchester County
2. Act Now Limousine serving the Peekskill and White Plains contract.
3. Blue Bird Taxi serving the New Rochelle contract.
4. All County Taxi serving the Yonkers contract.

## **Para Highlights:**

- Purchase of new para vehicles- wheelchair accessible vans, Dodge Caravans and Toyota Prius.
- The new online reservation system continues to grow and provide our ridership with alternatives to making reservations by offering **24** hour a day **7** days a week ability to book a reservation.
- Current phone line for reservations has seen significant improvements related to call volume and hold times. The average call time to book a reservation averages to **1** minute **30** seconds.
- The Para Taxi program was re-established in the city of Yonkers and White Plains for 2016.
- Purchase of Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) for all para vehicles which will improve on time performance and overall scheduling / routing of vehicles.