

Commission on Disability

The Lancaster Commission on Disability (COD) accomplished the following goals and participated in the following events in the 2011 calendar year:

The COD disseminated a confidential questionnaire that allowed citizens of Lancaster to identify themselves or family members as having a disability and indicated whether they might need assistance in the case of a natural or manmade emergency. The proportion of returns was quite good, and the information was shared solely with the Lancaster Emergency Preparedness Agency for necessary follow up. Relevant to that follow up, as well as our emphasis on community outreach, the COD conducted a pilot study of several homes in the Lancaster community asking residents questions that would allow them to self-identify, or identify other Lancasterians known to them, who might need such emergency assistance. It was an interesting coincidence, underscoring the timeliness and relevancy of this effort, that the canvassing occurred about the same time that the October 2011 Nor'easter struck our town and rendered over 90% of our homes without power. The COD plans to expand upon this study during the meteorologically gentler months of 2012.

Lancaster COD has become more involved with other town organizations in Lancaster. It has actively participated with the Open Space and Recreation Task Force in identifying and implementing plans for the fully accessible, multipurpose use Recreational Campus that is to be located on the 22 (+/-) acre land area contiguous with the proposed Community Center in the Tercentenary Building.

Lancaster COD has also engaged in outreach to private businesses to view and offer recommendations on how to make their properties more open and accessible to their staff and business invitees.

Lancaster holds regular monthly meetings, as well as planning trainings and seminars such as the MOD sponsored Community Access Monitor (CAM) state Certification Training. The COD recently held an informational forum to which it mailed invitations to those who responded to the above questionnaire and indicated a willingness to do more in their community and to inquire how participation with the COD could assist them in the goal.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman, Lancaster COD