

Hampton Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities
Minutes from January 8, 2026

Members	Members
Vivian Austin, Chairperson	Dora Parker- Jimenez (Absent)
Philip Siff, Vice Chairperson	Venezia Jimenez (Absent)
LaShaunda Kay, Secretary	Rev. William Anderson
Gwendolyn Burnett, Treasurer	Tyrell Mullen (Absent)
Jimmy Gray, Mayor	Dana Reid (Absent)
Jacqueline Keener (Absent)	Desre Willingham
	Sally Jo Nichols (Absent)
Liaisons	
Meredith Harlow	City Attorney’s Office
Angelique Shenk	City Manager’s Office
Monique Jordan	City Manager’s Office
Kimberly Judge	Hampton City Schools
Pt. Zminkowski (Absent)	Hampton Police Division
Marie Giles (Absent)	Hampton City Schools
Shaeron King	Parks & Recreation
Patricia Parker (Absent)	Risk Management
Guests	
Carolyn Campbell	
Milly from Milly in Motion	
Carol Green	
Keishera White	
Kenneth Moore	
Evelyn E. Alson	

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chairperson Vivian Austin. A roll call of members and liaisons was conducted. The minutes from the November 13, 2025, meeting were reviewed by the Committee. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Philip Siff, Vice Chairperson and seconded by Gwendolyn Burnett, Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from Mayor Gray

Mayor Gray recently closed out 2026 with the State of the City presentation, highlighting our accomplishments under the theme "Leveling Up." The Mayor’s charge to this committee is to think broadly and act boldly to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities.

As we look toward doing things bigger and better in the upcoming year, we must identify the barriers we can remove and the opportunities we can create. Our focus should be on increasing access, activities, and meaningful participation for everyone in our city. Please consider what is currently missing and how we can take responsibility for these improvements. The Mayor has made it clear that we should not let financial constraints limit our vision at this stage. We need to think big to ensure every citizen can enjoy a meaningful life in our city.

Treasurer's Report

Gwendolyn Burnett presented the Treasurer's Report for month ending November 30, 2025, through the month ending December 31, 2025. As of November 30, 2025, the beginning balance was \$74,455.90. On December 8, 2025, check#1559 was written to Milly Motion, Inc in the amount of \$1,500.00 and this amount was debited from the account, leaving an ending balance of \$72,955.90 as of December 31, 2025.

Liaison Reports

City Manager's Office

- Angelique Sherk with the City Manager's Office provided us with an update regarding member Mr. David Andrews who has submitted his resignation. Our Vice Chair, Philip Siff reached out to Mr. Andrews, and he reported his resignation was due to obligations with his children, which made it difficult to attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Andrews was advised if things in his life change, he can reapply in the future.
- Angelique also invited us to join the City of Hampton for the Strategic Plan Community Update Meeting. The meeting is an opportunity to review the draft plan developed with resident input and hear from City leadership on the key priorities guiding Hampton's future. The meeting includes an opportunity for questions and feedback prior to the plan advancing. Mitchell Silver, a nationally recognized urban planner, will be the keynote speaker and provide insights on people-centered community planning.
 - Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026
 - Time: 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM)
 - Location: Hampton Roads Convention Center
 - Light refreshments will be served.
- Angelique also advised the committee that Budget Season is approaching, and the dates will be announced in our next meeting regarding the Budget Input Meetings.

Hampton City Schools

Kimberly Judge with Hampton City Schools (HCS) provided the following updates:

- The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is open to the public. SEAC participates in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the needs of children with disabilities. New leadership was noted.

- Please join us for the Special Education Advisory Committee 2025-2026. Meetings are held in person at the Patriot Operations Center (POC) located at 1589 Wingfield Dr. Hampton, VA. 23666
 - Meeting 1: January 14, 2026, 4:00-6:00pm
 - Meeting 2: February 11, 2026 4:00-6:00pm
 - Meeting 3: March 11, 2026, 4:00-6:00pm
 - Meeting 4: April 14, 2026, SEAC/HCS SPED Resource Fair 4:00-7:00pm

Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services (PRLS)

Shaeron King provided the following update:

- Milly in Motion: PRLS is partnering with Milly in Motion for two programs. A Learn to Swim program and adaptive group fitness training. We are still in the planning stages for Learn to Swim. Group training is ready. We will offer a 12-week adaptive group training program designed for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. These inclusive sessions are all about movement, confidence, and community-encouraging participants to get out, have fun, and get fit in a supportive environment. Join us as we build strength, make friends, and celebrate every milestone together.
 - Cost: \$5.00/session - must sign up for a minimum of 4 sessions.
 - Date: Fridays, February 6, 2026-April 24, 2026.
 - Time: 9am to 10am. Ages: 4-up.
 - Location: Dance Studio at Northampton Community Center, 1435A Todds Lane, Hampton, VA. 23666.
 - Register at www.hampton.gov/register. Click on Therapeutic Recreation. Once registered Milly in Motion will contact you about payment and the paperwork they require.
 - Questions, please contact Shaeron King, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator, (757)268-8837 or (757)251-2826 shaeron.king@hampton.gov
- Special Olympics: Basketball practices are still ongoing at Northampton Community Center and Fort Monroe Community Center on Saturdays at 2pm. We have 2 full court teams, 3 half court teams and 6 skills players. We also are headed into tournament season.
- Winter Break Camp: We met our max of 12 campers. We played laser tag, went bowling and to the pool. We also made snow gloves and watched movies with popcorn.
- Upcoming Programs:
 - Program Name: Family Fun Night
 - Dates: 10/25/25, 1/24/26, 4/25/26
 - Time: Saturday, 4pm-6pm *Time Change*
 - Cost: Free
 - Ages: All ages
 - Location: Therapeutic Recreation Center, 4315 Kecoughtan Road.
 - Description: Does a member of your family have a disability? Bring the family to participate in games and activities. You'll get the opportunity to meet with other families and learn about area resources, all while having fun! Registration is required.

- Program Name: TR Valentine's Dance
 - Date: February 7, 2026
 - Time: Saturday, 6pm-8:30pm
 - Cost: \$5/single, \$7/Couple
 - Ages: 13-up
 - Location: Therapeutic Recreation Center, 4315 Kecoughtan Road.
 - Description: This is an event you will not want to miss! Join us for good music, photos, food, and fun!

Committee Reports

Paratransit Advisory Committee Meeting

- Desre Willingham reported attending the Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Paratransit Advisory meeting.
- A report from Paratransit Advisory Committee highlighted that there is only one location (a Food Lion) in Hampton to physically purchase Handi Ride cards, which is not accessible for many. Chesapeake, by comparison, has nine such locations.
- This committee will investigate the possibility of adding more physical outlets for card purchases, particularly on the south side of Hampton.
- It was clarified that Handi Ride and bus riders use the same card, and these services are managed by HRT, not the City.
- Mayor Gray advised he will research the number of physical locations for Handi Ride card purchases in Hampton and report findings at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Work Plan Discussion and Group Exercise

Angelique Shenk led the work plan discussion and group exercise where we broke off into two groups. Below is a detailed outline of what was discussed regarding the work plan and during the group exercises:

- Reviewed results from previous prioritization of work plan items, highlighting those identified as top priorities and retaining others for future consideration.
- Discussion about structuring the work plan in a manageable, landscape format, identifying clear action items, milestones, responsibilities, and timelines for the year.
- Committee split into small groups to further refine work plan sections, focusing on actionable steps and partnership opportunities.
- Groups assigned to analyze items such as awareness events, partner engagement, public forums, program support, and resource updating.
- Guidance provided on keeping working groups small (max two appointed members) to avoid public meeting requirements but ensuring regular report-outs to the full committee.
- Emphasis on leveraging community partners and existing efforts to expand reach and impact.

Group Reports

- Group 1 led by Desre Willingham: focused on awareness and recognition events, identifying community partners, reviewing grant recipients for further collaboration, and updating resource guides. Importance of engaging military and faith-based partners, and cross promoting events and services highlighted.
- Group 2 led by Kimberly Judge: concentrated on strategic use of funds, mapping community partners (CSB, DSS, Academies of Hampton, military programs), with a suggested 90-day timeline for outreach and organization. Resource and information group discussed maintaining and updating the Hampton City Schools resource guide, expanding its audience, and improving wraparound and transition services for people with disabilities (six-month goal).
- Ideas shared about simplifying special education information for families, aligning educational and medical processes, and producing step-by-step guides.
- Inclusion and community connections discussed, including disability awareness events and annual resource fairs.

Goal 3: Resources and Information

- Update and expand the special education resource guide to reach a broader audience, including transition resources for adults.
- Identify and formalize partnerships with military, faith-based, and other community organizations for awareness events and support programs.
- Organize educational forums and public awareness events around key disability topics, leveraging current grant recipients and local agencies.
- Assign project leads and support members for each prioritized committee work plan action item at the next meeting.
- Develop clear timelines and deliverables for each work plan goal, with regular group report-outs.

Goal 2: Partnerships and Program Support

- Hampton City Schools special education collaborates with over 100 community partners, including DMV, VersAbility, DARS, Choice Group, and others to support families.
- Aim to expand awareness of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and available community services to enhance quality of life.
- Six-month collaborative timeline set for these initiatives.
- Expand partnerships and compile a comprehensive list of potential service and event partners, including faith-based organizations.
- Publicize grant opportunities through city marketing and cable TV and research additional outreach options.

Goal 1: Awareness, Recognition, and Partnerships

- No project lead yet for the awareness and recognition goal: increasing public understanding of disability issues via recognition, education, and celebration.
- Identified actions: map agencies not hosting events, build new partnerships, and highlight events tied to important proclamations (Developmental Disabilities Month, Mental Health Awareness, PTSD Awareness Day, International Week of the Deaf).

- Partner with military bases (VA, Langley AFB) and past grant recipients for event collaboration. Plan to utilize local media and the city's marketing department to publicize grant programs and success stories.
- Partnerships and program support; targeting faith-based partners and use of existing resource databases and guides for potential collaborators.

Goal 4: Education and Accessibility Initiatives

- Project lead volunteered to host two to three educational forums on laws, regulations, and accessibility topics to promote inclusivity in Hampton.
- Aim to use technology (e.g., Zoom) for accessibility and reach.
- Involve Hampton City Schools in forums on topics like the IEP process.
- Plan to feature speakers from CSB and local organizations.
- Intention to expand to quarterly forums in future.
- Develop and schedule at least two educational accessibility forums for the coming year, involving Hampton City Schools and local experts.

Next Steps

- Assign project leads for all work plan goals, particularly for awareness/recognition.
- Ensure typed summary of action items is distributed to all committee members before the next meeting.

New Business

2026 Grant Guidelines and Policies Briefing - Phil Siff provided the following update:

- Grant program updated with clarified guidelines, focusing on eligible applicants (must have up to date 501(c)(3) and state filings; individuals not eligible).
- Most recent grants funded community action days and educational/fitness events, with few physical modification requests (e.g., ramps).
- Two grant cycles: summer and winter, with review processes allowing applicants to correct deficiencies.
- Approximately \$75,000 is currently available, but ongoing annual funding is limited to \$15,900, making higher-dollar grant awards potentially unsustainable over the long term.
- This policy is set by the committee, with possibility to revisit the \$1,500 per grant cap and structure as needs and resources evolve.
- Cannot fund individuals directly must partner with nonprofits that serve Hampton residents.

Public Comment

There were no individuals signed up for public comment at this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 12, 2026, at 3:00 PM in the Community Development Conference Room, 5th floor, City Hall.

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**Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities
2026 Work Plan**

Mission: The Committee is organized and dedicated to assisting people with disabilities in the City, regardless of race, color, or creed.

Purpose: The Committee develops and conducts educational programs; proposes, reviews, and makes recommendations on programs and services in health, welfare, education, recreation, and employment; cooperates and consults with committees, agencies, and organizations; undertakes special projects as assigned by the Mayor; and performs all actions necessary and proper to advance the interests of people with disabilities within the community.

1. Awareness and Recognition Goal: Increase public understanding and visibility of disability issues through recognition, education, and celebration.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Disability-Related Proclamations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and coordinate City Council proclamations for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developmental Disabilities Month ○ Mental Health Awareness Month ○ National PTSD Awareness Day (June 27) ○ International Week of the Deaf (Sept 20-26) • Collaborate with other agencies to co-host disability awareness events. 	March 2026 May 2026 June 2026 September 2026	Angelique S.
Co-Host Awareness Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use various databases to locate organizations in Hampton that host events that align with the proclamation interests identified by the Committee. 	See Goal 5. Inclusion and Community Connection Goal	
Identify other agencies in Hampton that are hosting events. Contact local military bases/Veterans/Langley Air Force Administration to identify any events focused on PTSD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form partnerships with local military bases and veterans organizations that host events to highlight and/or support those affected by PTSD. 		

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Identify any former grant recipients that are hosting events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with former grant recipients who host events aligned with the Committee's interest. 		
Coordinate with the Marketing Department to increase awareness and promotion of Committee-selected events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the City's Marketing Department to develop and execute promotional strategies - such as digital content, calendars, and outreach - to increase public awareness and attendance for events supported by the Committee. 		

2. Partnerships and Program Support Goal: Strengthen connections and fill service gaps through collaboration and targeted funding.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Develop and maintain an inventory of partner organizations and actively engage them to support and advance Committee initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a list of current and potential community partners Engage partners quarterly 		
Identify faith-based and community partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of potential faith-based and community partners: Insight Enterprises, Eggleston, Reese Family Services, VersAbility, other licensed Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services providers, Human Services, Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), etc. Request and review historical data on former community partners from the City Manager's Office. 		Phil S.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request and review information from H-NNSCN on community organizations. Request and review information on Hampton City Schools special education partners including DMV, VersAbility, DARS, Choice Group, etc. 		Desré W.
Strategic Use of Committee Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority program gaps Strategically support programs serving people with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with Exceptional Families Program – Military Connection Connect with Faith-based Partners Establish a web or graphic organizer Coordinate with the City’s Marketing Dept. to promote grants and success stories 	June 2026 June 2026	LaShaunda K., Vivian A., Shaeron K., & Kimberly J.
Grant Program Support	Administer grant program to support projects that support the Committee’s mission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Grant Cycle Winter Grant Cycle 	March-May 2026 Sept-Nov 2026	Grant Review Sub-Committee

3. Resources and Information Goal: Improve access to accurate, up-to-date information and resources for people with disabilities and their families.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Autism / IEP Resource Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a specialized resource guide in partnership with Hampton City Schools and/or advocacy organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Hamton City Schools – Hampton Roads Resource Guide https://www.hampton.k12.va.us/flipbookSW.html [hampton.k12.va.us] 	August 2026	All – Need to identify specific members

4. Education and Accessibility Goal: Promote education and awareness to make Hampton a more inclusive city.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Host Public Educational Forums	Host 2-3 educational forums on laws, regulations, and accessibility topics.		
Identify Forum Dates	Identify available dates/times/locations to host a community forum.		Desré W./ Gwendolyn B.
Determine technology capabilities for a virtual format (i.e. Zoom)	Connect with appropriate city department /personnel to understand the feasibility of a virtual formats (Zoom, etc.) to increase accessibility and reach		Gwendolyn B.
Identify Speakers on various topics	Potential areas of interest: Topic 1: Hampton City Schools IEP process Topic 2: H-NNCSB Waiver Services Topic 3:		Desré W.

5. Inclusion and Community Connection Goal: Build community through shared experiences, fun events, and sensory-friendly environments.

Action Item	Description	Timeline	Assignment
Annual Social / Recreational Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Hampton City Schools Annual Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Resource Fair • Plan and host one annual social or recreational event in collaboration with partner organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Host a Disability Awareness Event in partnership with the Unity Commission, Reese Family Services, etc. 	<p>April 14, 2026 4-7PM</p> <p>August 2026</p>	All – Need to identify specific members