

# Press Release

Secretary Carol A. Beatty • Deputy Secretary William Frank

## A Successful Southern Maryland Day

*Governor Hogan Brings State Government to Southern Maryland With A Regional Cabinet Meeting and Administration Visits*

**Prince Frederick, MD (March 12, 2018)**- On Monday, March 12th Governor Larry Hogan gathered his full administration for a regional Cabinet meeting at the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department in Calvert County. The meeting was open to the public and featured presentations from various state agencies including an update on seafood and agricultural marketing initiatives, efforts to assist the local small business community, and an overview of supports for Maryland veterans. Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford also gave an update on the administration's continuing commitment to battling the heroin and opioid epidemic.



*Leadership at SMCN discuss community mental health needs and barriers to treatment*

Following the public meeting, members of the administration spread out in the Southern Maryland community visiting over one hundred locations in the local area. Maryland Department of Disabilities' first stop was the [Southern Maryland Community Network](#). The Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc. is a private, non-profit mental health agency serving individuals in the tri-county area diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illnesses. While there, Deputy Secretary William Frank listened to the agency's mission, accomplishments, and the barriers they face in providing comprehensive mental health services in Maryland. The Deputy Secretary also

presented agency staff, Janeen Collinson, LCSW-C, with a Governor's Citation for her consistent service and advocacy work within the mental health community.

Deputy Secretary Frank later visited the sensory sensitive playgroup at [Mount Hope Community Center](#) in Sunderland. The Deputy Secretary was pleased to join toddler and preschool aged children and their caregivers while visiting the Easter Bunny in an environment providing additional sensory outlets.

Secretary Beatty, along with Assistant State Superintendent Suzanne Page, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning James Rzepkowski, and DDA Regional Director Judith Pattik held an employer roundtable at [The Arc Southern Maryland](#) in Prince Frederick following the regional cabinet meeting on Monday.



*Employers and state officials gather to discuss advancing disability employment*

Representatives from [World Gym](#), [DirectMail.com](#), and [End Hunger Calvert County](#) met with state policy makers, advocates, and Arc Southern Maryland Employment Specialists to discuss best practices and generate ideas to promote inclusive hiring in the state.



*Secretary Beatty and Secretary Peters explore accessible trail.*

Secretary Beatty also attended several events in coordination with other State agencies. The Secretary joined the Maryland Department of Planning for a tour at the [Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum](#) accessible trail. This new trail provides greater opportunity for Marylanders to access our natural spaces and enjoy the beauty of Southern Maryland's landscape.

In addition, Secretary Beatty joined Secretary Schulz from DLLR to tour Calvert County local business, DirectMail.com. Not only is [DirectMail.com](#) a fixture in the Calvert County business community, but they are also exploring further expansion of their already inclusive hiring practices. The company currently employs six individuals with disabilities many of whom receive vocational support from The Arc Southern Maryland.



*Secretary Schulz looks on during tour of DirectMail.com*

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