



ISLAND DISABILITY COALITION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

OUR MISSION:

IDC's mission is to bring together community members dedicated to promoting the full and equal participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life.

NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 4

Greetings From The IDC

Greetings from the IDC. We are excited to be looking ahead and planning for the year to come. We are committed to our vision of an inclusive Martha's Vineyard, and feel even stronger for the need to work collaboratively to ensure all Islanders have access to opportunities to live full and active lives. Our Steering Committee, Resource Specialist and Coordinator have continued to meet regularly to review progress of the past year. The IDC team is ready to get things rolling again, and as always, we want you to join the conversation. We look forward to "seeing" you soon!

New Website / Facebook

We are thrilled to share the news of our NEW website [idcmvy.org](http://www.idcmvy.org). One of the key goals of the IDC is to connect community members with information and access to resources. We will be updating this site regularly with calendar events, upcoming programs, as well as resources for families, individuals, employers and general community members. Please feel free to contact us to include your events or activities on the calendar. Be sure to follow us on Facebook as well: <http://www.idcmvy.org/index.html>

Community Corner - Dukes County

Dick Cohen, the Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities, is collaborating with his committee, the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the IDC, and others to increase the accessibility of the over 40 miles of paved multi-use bike paths on Martha's Vineyard. Dick has prepared recommendations to make them fully accessible, the primary need being accessible parking spaces. Once recommendations are approved and implemented, the paths can be fully marketed by DCR and other organizations as accessible in accordance with state and federal guidelines. In the meantime, get out there and explore!

Dick is also collaborating to make sure town, county and state operated beaches are fully accessible. Check with local beach and recreation officials and citizens as to the current level of accessibility. While many have some accessible features, don't hesitate to advocate for more. These initiatives will help further one of IDC's key priorities to make Island recreation and leisure activities and opportunities more inclusive. The IDC is thankful for Dick and his leadership in this regard. Stay tuned as the IDC will continue to publicize the plans and progress as well as the other initiatives spearheaded by Dick.



Upcoming Meetings:

Employment/Transition Workgroup *(all welcome)*

Thursday, 9/24 at 4:00PM Via Zoom

IDC General Meeting- All Welcome!

Wednesday, 10/7 at 12:00 PM Via Zoom

**Links to join will be on www.idcmvy.org & shared ahead of time*

Contact:

Beth Wike, IDC Coordinator

bwike@mvcommunityservices.org

idcmvy@gmail.com

Julie Lively, Resource Specialist

jlively@mvcommunityservices.org

Learn more at www.idcmvy.org

508-693-7900 x 252