



A Regional Partnership of  
**East Tennessee Communities**  
 ANDERSON • BLOUNT • KNOX • LOUDON • UNION



**Disability & Accessibility Forum**  
 February 20, 2013 - 9 to 11:30 a.m.  
 Jacob Building – Chilhowee Park

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**8:30 to 9 a.m.      Networking & Breakfast**

**9 to 9:15 a.m.      Welcome & Introduction**  
 Mayor Madeline Rogero, City of Knoxville

**9:15 to 9:25 a.m.   Panel Member Welcome and Introductions**  
 Anna Bass, Mayor’s Council on Disability Issues

**9:25 to 10:25 a.m. Panel Discussion on Disability & Accessibility**  
**Discussion Topics & Panel Member Experts:**  
 (Biographies are listed on the back of this agenda)

• Disability & Health	Dr. Martha Buchanan - Director of the Knox County Health Department
• Accessibility in Housing	Barbara Monty - Director of the Knox County CAC Office on Aging
• Accessibility in Transportation	William Von Schipmann - former mayor of Plainview, Union County
• Economic Equality	Dr. Robert Nicholas – Senior Visiting Fellow for Disability Research at Rutgers John J Heldrich Center
• Building an Accessible Community	Stephanie Cook - City of Knoxville ADA Coordinator

**10:25 to 10:30 a.m.      BREAK**

**10:30 to 10:45 a.m.      Disability & Accessibility: Growing Stronger Together**  
 PlanET Project Overview & Series 3 Regional Participation Instructions

**10:45 to 11:30 a.m.      PlanET Series 3 Participation Activity & Discussion**

**11:30 a.m.              Adjourn**

## Mayor & Panel Member Biographies

- **Mayor Madeline Rogero, City of Knoxville**  
Madeline Rogero was elected the 68th Mayor of the City of Knoxville on November 8, 2011. She is the first woman to hold the office. During the past 32 years, Mayor Rogero has served Knoxville as Community Development Director, County Commissioner, non-profit executive, urban and regional planner, community volunteer, and neighborhood champion. She and her husband Gene Monaco live in South Knoxville where they enjoy music, beekeeping, kayaking, and the beauty of East Tennessee. They have five grown children and four grandchildren.
  
- **Ms. Anna Bass** is Chairwoman of the Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI) and Regional Manager of the Disability Law & Advocacy Center (DLAC) for the past for five years. Ms. Bass has also worked as a professional Sign Language Interpreter for the past fifteen years and is nationally certified as an interpreter by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She serves as the secretary of Region II Planning and Policy Council for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She also currently serves on Tennesseans for Behavioral Health Access for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Growing up in Alabama, East Tennessee was a second home. After earning two degrees from the University of Tennessee, she decided to make Knoxville her permanent home. She lives in West Knoxville and enjoys traveling throughout the region exploring the natural beauty and cultural resources.
  
- **Dr. Martha Buchanan** is Director of the Knox County Health Department and has served in this capacity since May of 2010. Dr. Buchanan has been with the Health Department since 2004. A Knox county native, she graduated from Carson Newman College and received her medical degree from East Tennessee State University, James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Dr. Buchanan is board certified in family practice and is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the Tennessee Academy of Family Practice. She completed Leadership Knoxville in 2009 and is a member of the Executive Women's Association. Dr. Buchanan currently serves on the Metropolitan Drug Commission.
  
- **Ms. Barbara Monty** is Director of the Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging, an agency that focuses on the needs and well-being of local seniors. Ms. Monty has been with CAC for 42 years, developing resources and creating programs to assist seniors and persons with disabilities such as: Mobile Meals, Knox PAWS (Placing Animals With Seniors,) One Call Club, and the Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) Program that provides trained volunteers to drive seniors and persons with disabilities who need a little assistance to their appointments. Ms. Monty has a passion for seniors and works hard to see that their needs are met and that the programs offered by the Office on Aging are designed in a way that all seniors can live rich, fulfilling lives. She apologizes for her voice, which is a semi-permanent condition resulting from some throat surgery.
  
- **Mr. William Von Schipmann** served as Mayor of Plainview in Union County for 14 years (1992-2006) and President/CEO of the Union County Chamber of Commerce from April 2007 to June 2008. He has served on many boards in Union County during the past 16 years from Solid Waste to Leadership, Industrial Development, and the local chapter of the United Way as well as local planning. He has also represented Union County on the East Tennessee Development District (ETDD) Board, and on the Policy Council and steering

committee for East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA) from 1992 to 2012. He served as the Chairman of both ETDD and ETHRA Board of Directors between 1997-1998, and on the Tennessee Commission of Aging and Disability from 2010 to 2012. At present, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Union County Chamber of Commerce, Humane Society, East Tennessee Quality Growth and Keep Union County Beautiful. “Von” has been a resident of Tennessee since 1964 and Union County since 1971.

- **Dr. Robert Nicholas** is a twenty-seven year career veteran with the New Jersey Department of Human Services where he spent three years as Deputy Commissioner for Operations and nine years as Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Nicholas is currently a Senior Visiting Fellow for Disability Research at the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University and an employment consultant to the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities where he assists with efforts to foster employer-driven initiatives in Tennessee. He lives in Corryton with his wife Beth and grandson Cameron.
- **Mrs. Stephanie Cook** is the City of Knoxville’s ADA Coordinator and Staff Liaison to the Mayor’s Council on Disability Issues (CODI). As a person with a disability, she has been an advocate and volunteer with many organizations that work to improve the independence of people with disabilities. Currently, she is the Chair of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, a federally-mandated statewide organization that works to create systems change for people with disabilities. Ms. Cook is a Tennessee Partners In Policymaking alumni and a member of the Knoxville Area Employment Consortium (KAEC). She also sits on the boards of the Epilepsy Foundation of East TN and Rebuilding Together Knoxville. Ms. Cook is a South Knoxville native where she still lives with her husband, son and a plethora of pets.

CODI, created by the Council of the City of Knoxville in 1984, was founded to serve as an advisory group to provide direction and guidance to the Mayor of Knoxville and the Knoxville City Council in matters concerning persons with disabilities, and to promote coordination, communication, and cooperation in working toward common goals concerning persons with disabilities. You can find more information online about CODI here:

[www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/uc.asp](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/uc.asp)

PlanET is a regional partnership of communities in Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and Union counties building a shared direction for our future.

The main goals of PlanET are to:

- Foster ongoing citizen involvement in planning for the region’s future;
- Develop regional strategies to ensure our region has a competitive advantage over the next 10, 20, 30 years; and
- Increase local capacity to continue the regional dialogue and support for implementation.

More information about PlanET can be found online here: [www.planeasttn.org](http://www.planeasttn.org)

*Special thanks to the staff at Chilhowee Park for helping to make this forum successful!*