



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – April 11, 2016**

Sue Hartung, Chair

Present: Sue Hartung, Chair; Annette Jolles; Claire Funkhouser; Dave Cross; Mary Keyser; Shawn Lattanzio; Susan Ingram; Simone Geness; Rosemary DiPietro; Kim Mayo; Jay Kenney; Larry Bram; John Whittle; Seth Morgan Penny Veerhoff
Staff: Betsy Luecking

SFP - Service Funding Plans (plan a provider agency submits to explain the plan for the individual (including how much it will cost them to serve the individual)

CCS - Coordination of Community Services

PCIS2 - Provider Consumer Information Systems (DDA's Management Information System)

CNLR - Critical Needs List Recommendation Form (form required to document a change in a person's status)

Updated Information from DDA Quality Assurance Committee:

Sue Hartung shared information from the DDA Quality Assurance Committee that meets six times a year. Last month three presentations were given:

- **Self-Direction:** http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/SelfDirectionQAC3_23_16.pdf
- **Secondary Transition Updates – DDA Quality Advisory Council Meeting:** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/MSDEQACTransition.pdf>
- **Employment 1st Maryland PowerPoint:** http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/EmploymentFirstQAC3_23_16.pdf

Sue stated that DDA and Bernie Simons consider self-direction to be the future for Maryland. The program works well for independent individuals who are able to take care of themselves. DDA was looking to put together a statewide workgroup to review this program and examine the policies behind it. No more information has been given regarding this workgroup. There are approximately 300 to 400 individuals in the self-direction program whereas there are 8,000 to 9,000 individuals in the waiver program. Self-direction is a viable alternative for small counties that cannot support an agency. Self-directed funding determination is based on if a person was placed in a traditional day program. This is an issue for individuals who are more severely impaired.

Concerns were raised regarding additional communication and training issues, quality assurance, quality of support services, and the possibility of self-directed services being more expensive.

In regards to Secondary Transitions PowerPoint, the Maryland Transition Digital Portfolio is an interactive website where parents, individuals and transition support teachers can post information about a student's strengths and weaknesses. The Digital Portfolio is meant to make the transition process more person-centered and give students more control over their transition plan. Students can enter their personal profiles, resumes and school career. The Digital Portfolio will not replace transition interviews.

Simone Geness reported that transitioning youth (TY) staff have asked for DDA staff to speak to them about these changes and updates, but no one from DDA has been able to schedule a meeting. There was a question regarding how information regarding employment of TY is tracked. Currently TYs are tracked for one year after post-secondary. DDA can also pull statistics from the Department of Labor. There were questions regarding statistics of jobs available for TYs. Many programs that were subsidized by the Federal Government are no longer functioning. Transition services need to be more customized for students as there seems to be a disconnect between school and adult services. There used to be assessments that determined a TY's strengths and needs. These are no longer completed. TYs should be trained on how to look for a job, talk with employers, etc.

DDA used to hold monthly meetings with all of the regional offices to track and coordinate TY placements. These meetings were also used to discuss critical cases and issues. Since Janice Stallworth retired, these meetings have stopped. Judy Pattik has been hired to be the new Regional Director and she will begin April 13th. Rosemary DiPietro suggested that she contact Terah Tessier, Director of Coordination of Community Services, about this issue. Susan suggested that Rosemary copy her on the e-mail so that can she contact Judy about the issue as well.

Update on Coordination of Community Resources (CCS):

CCS currently has 434 clients and will reach 500 clients by April 27th. CCS has just received the names of 46 people on the waiting list from the Southern Regional Office (SRO). At this point those individuals have not been notified. SRO is not maintaining a waiting list. CCS has requested date stamped letters so they can create a waiting list. It was asked if CCS is looking to expand services in the future. Kim Mayo reported that CCS has not been stable long enough yet to determine any financial trends or make an accurate analysis regarding funding for future expansion of the program. A decision would need to be made by all parties involved, including the County Executive.

Transitioning Youth Update:

Simone Geness reported that there are 15 transitioning youths (TYs) who have SFP and approximately 10 TYs who are interested in self-directed services. There are approximately 110 TYs. If individuals have not chosen a provider by July 1st there may be other mitigating factors such as immigration status or behavioral issues. Simone visited with agencies during the summer and asked if they were full. Agencies stated that it's not about being at capacity, it's about being able to provide services to that specific individual and if it is feasible from a budgetary standpoint given the DDA guidelines. Agencies are taking clients from all over the State.

It was suggested that representatives from MMARS, Total Care, and Community Support Network present at a future meeting to discuss their issues and challenges. Sue Hartung will invite all 3 agencies to participate.

County Budget Update – Minimum Wage:

The County Executive has recommended in the FY17 operating budget \$1,053,395 that would provide funding to providers of services to people with developmental disabilities for the 3rd year of the 4 year plan for expansion of new individuals entering into the system. There is currently no

funding in the budget that would increase the minimum wage for direct care workers to 25% above the County minimum wage, which will be \$10.75 per hour starting July 1st. The Commission on People with Disabilities has testified in support of Inter-ACC/DD's request to fund \$5,046,685 for the minimum wage increase for direct care workers. The State sets the rate and the State's minimum wage is lower than the County's minimum wage. It was suggested that DDAC write a letter to the County Council expressing their concerns. Jay reported that Health and Human Services (HHS) will be meeting with the County Council's HHS Committee on April 28th.

Family Services has a new short-term intensive child stabilization program that helps children ages 6 to 17 receive services to stabilize them in the home.

Individual Support Services is not serving any clients currently and the grant is closing out. This program monitored the funding that families and individuals with developmental disabilities were receiving from DDA.

My Turn funding is still available for children ages 3 to 13 years of age with a developmental disability. The program provides short term or one time only financial assistance to caregivers of children with developmental disabilities and assists caregivers with accessing information, linking to other community resources and designing individual support services. Funding is received from the County. A flyer regarding the My Turn program was sent to all the Special Education teachers within MCPS to notify them about current funding availability.

Susan addressed the issue of students with severe emotional disabilities who have stopped attending school and thus they are not receiving special education services and assistance with the IP process.

Autism Waiver Update:

David Cross, Autism Waiver, Montgomery County Public Schools is retiring and his last day will be June 30th. There are currently about 1,060 students enrolled in the waiver statewide and 251 enrolled in the Montgomery County autism waiver. The County has about 21 students transitioning this year and we anticipate taking in between 10-15 new students from the wait list.

Roundtable:

That's a Wrap is a deli established by Community Support Services, has recently opened at 12158 Darnestown Road North Potomac. <https://www.thatsawrapdeli.com/> They are open M-F, 9am to 4 pm and Saturdays 10am – 4 pm. They are located behind McDonald's at the intersection of Darnestown Road and Quince Orchard Boulevard. The project combines health food products with inclusive employment opportunities for people with disabilities.