

Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences (Developmental Disabilities)

Council requested Work Group by Adopting Resolution No. 18-989

The Work Group met during the regular meeting times of the DD Advisory Committee of the Commission on People with Disabilities.

Several participants were a part of a 2009 Workgroup that transmitted a Call to Action (included in this report). They agreed that there is **still a sense of urgency!**

Given the significant changes since 2009, the Work Group viewed this as an opportunity to update and refresh information and recommendations.

Report Contents

- System-wide Recommendations
- Our Stories and Experiences
- Data and trends on number of people with I/DD and wait list information.
- FY19 County Government Funding
- *“White Papers”*:

Coordination of Community Services

Health & Wellness

Law Enforcement/Public Safety

Respite

Transportation

Employment

Housing

Recreation

Transitioning Youth

Waivers

Population and Wait Lists

- OLO Report 2017-13 used the “Larson Method” to estimate there are 7,170 adults and 8,240 children with I/DD in Montgomery County.
- From 2013 to 2017, the County population increased 4.3%.
- From 2013 to 2017, County population age 5 to 17 increased 3.4%.
- At the same time, the number of MCPS students aged 3 to 21 with Autism increased by 17.9% and with an intellectual disability by 5.3%.
- The CDC finds that the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder for 8 year olds, went from 1 in 150 in 2002; to 1 in 59 in 2014.
- Maryland (one of the study sites) had a higher 2014 rate than the network; 1 in 31 among boys and 1 in 139 among girls.

Receiving CCS Services and Waiting Lists

(Does not include Future Needs Registry)

	November 2016	November 2018
MMARS	1,413	1,411
Montgomery County DHHS	498	480
Optimal Health	na	103
Resource Connections Inc.	na	92
Service Coordination Inc.	na	140
Total Care Services	1,126	1,064
Total	3,037	3,290

	September 12, 2016	August 1, 2018
DDA Waiting List – receiving no services	989	1,058
Crisis Resolution (need services within 3 months)	12	9
Crisis Prevention (need services with a year)	106	59
Current Request	871	757

DDA Transformation Plan

Announced in 2015

Vision: People with developmental disabilities will have full lives in the communities of their choice where they are included, participate, and are active members.

Call to Action: Create a flexible, person-centered, family-oriented system of support so people can have full lives.

Includes: implementation of new waiver structures, requirements for person-centered planning, and implementation of “Community Settings Rule” that limits the number of people with I/DD that may participate in a program and restrict programs that only have participates with I/DD. Requires providers to have flexibility to respond to same-day individual requests for activities. Limits number of people in group homes.

Rate Setting Study

Study began in 2015.

Only Phase 1 has been released. Now expected to be a three-phase process completed by start of FY20.

DDA has hired another consultant to review the data and assumptions in Phase 1.

After review, a system-wide impact will be developed, new rates will be piloted, additional feedback will be sought.

Concerns include level of reimbursement for high-cost areas, non-reimbursement for work that is not face-to-face, timing and certainty of rate changes.

System-Wide Recommendations

#1: The Montgomery County Executive and Council must partner with the General Assembly Delegation to receive regular progress reports on the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Transformation Plan. The progress reports should focus on real impacts to individuals, families and providers. Is the Transformation Plan resulting in increases or decreases to the time individuals remain on waiting lists? Is it changing the quality of services provided?

#2: The County Executive and Council must carefully monitor the ongoing rate setting study and advocate strongly for rates that reflect the cost of doing business in Montgomery County. Services must be funded in a manner that allows providers to afford to continue to provide services.

System-wide Recommendations

#3 The focus on opportunity for employment is critical, but the County must advocate with DDA to ensure that new rules truly incentivize employment.

#4 DDA should use its full budget allocation to support more people instead of ending the year with surpluses.

#5 The County must continue to invest local funds to support providers, increase inclusion in County programs, and provide needed services to County residents with developmental disabilities who are either on a waitlist or not eligible for DDA services.

System-wide Recommendations

#6 Don't forget about those who are not eligible for DDA services.

#7 Residents with developmental disabilities face the same issues as the general population. They are aging, they are more culturally and language diverse, and face barriers to employment if they are ex-offenders.

“White Papers”

Each white paper includes:

1. Definition of the topic area
2. Eligibility by age group
3. Description of Programs and Services
4. Data and Trends
5. Gaps
6. Innovations
7. Recommendations

Coordination of Community Services

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Council and Executive should inform the Governor and Delegation that the implementation of the Transformation Plan is causing confusion for CCS providers, and stress and disruption for people with I/DD and their families.
- ✓ All CCS providers, including DHHS, should be staffed at a 1:35 ratio and CCS providers believe a 1:25 ratio is appropriate given the responsibilities with person-centered planning. The Council should review DHHS staffing ratio as a part of FY20 budget.
- ✓ DDA and Montgomery County should work together to fund a flexible program for adults similar to the DHHS My Turn Program, which serves children age 3 to 13.

Employment

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Undertake a gaps analysis in the County for employment, underemployment, and unemployment of people with I/DD. Look at the continuum of employment supports for people with severe to mild I/DD.
- ✓ The County should create its own vision of meaningful employment and advocate with the State for its vision.
- ✓ Promote and award businesses with successful programs for hiring people with disabilities in partnership with the Chambers of Commerce, MCEDC, and WorkSource Montgomery. Strengthen partnerships with economic development.
- ✓ Advocate for a rate structure and billing system that keeps organizations financially stable and supports drop-in visits and phone supports.

Health & Wellness

Recommendations:

- ✓ Increase awareness and education of health and wellness coverage and services as individuals with I/DD age out of the school system to minimize gaps in coverage.
- ✓ Provide educational opportunities for physicians, dentists, psychiatrists, therapists, and medical/dental providers to obtain training on working with individuals with I/DD. Advocate that this issue be included in curriculum for training of medical, dental, and behavioral health providers. (Note: there was discussion about the specific needs of people with I/DD and mental health/behavioral health co-occurring disorders.)

Housing (non-institutional)

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ More affordable housing for people with I/DD at all stages of life. Reflecting County policy on affordable housing, it should be provided throughout neighborhoods in all parts of the County.
- ✓ Ensure individuals who need a 24/7 caregiver are eligible for a two-bedroom MPDU.
- ✓ Use new MPDU provisions to allow people with I/DD to access MPDUs during the priority marketing period.
- ✓ Develop residential programs for individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome who need 24/7 restricted access to food as a result of the syndrome.
- ✓ Support HOC with applying and advocating for additional HCVs.

Law Enforcement/Public Safety

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Continue funding needed to make sure specialized training is provided to law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel as part of recruit school and in-service training.
- ✓ Consider additional funding for MCPD Search Operations Team to make sure resources are available to respond to missing at-risk persons calls.
- ✓ Create outreach/education campaigns for parents on when and how to call the police or alternative resources such as the mobile crisis team. Help families create scripts on what to say. Families can be scared to call, fearing they will be referred to Child Protective Services.
- ✓ Discuss with law enforcement their expertise transporting individuals with I/DD to hospitals and psychiatric facilities.

Recreation

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Development of new facilities should be planned intentionally for inclusion beyond the ADA.
- ✓ Provide specialized training for people interested in working with people with I/DD in a variety of recreations programs to increase the number of staff that can safely handle situations with both children and adults. Recreation currently does not have staff that can assist people functioning at the level of a very young child or in need of personal care.
- ✓ Explore ways to leverage the use of volunteers.
- ✓ Review funding and policies on the cost of fields, ice skating rinks, and pool time, which can be the biggest cost for a program.

Respite Care

Excerpt of Recommendations (may require changes to COMAR):

- ✓ Increase flexibility of respite services parameters to make it more family –oriented instead of limiting services for the individual with the disability.
- ✓ Support opening a community respite house for children in Montgomery County where primary caregivers that that multiple children with and without disabilities could drop their children off. Respite should be able to care for children with challenging behaviors.
- ✓ Conduct a study on how many families are turned away due to income ineligibility.
- ✓ Develop a Montgomery County Respite Services Fee Scale so it is easier to adjustments. Address low State rate for nursing level respite.

Transitioning Youth

(As described in the “stories,” transitioning from school-based services that are entitlements to adult services can be a very stressful transition.)

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Coordinate MCPS employment services with employment programs around the County (WorkSource and non-profits) and engage employers directly to be a proactive stakeholder.
- ✓ Integrate transitioning youth planning with person-centered planning to increase coordination of services. Engage students earlier (even one-year) with State-funded services so families can work with CCS earlier.
- ✓ MCPS and CCS should return to practice of working together when the child is age 14 or younger. Provide clear information to parents about the different eligibility criteria for school systems and DDA so they can make informed choices.

Transportation

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ Advocate with DDA to allow the County to reinstate the CAP program or other innovative options in partnership with the service provider. The CAP program was reliable and the provider knew the needs of the individual.
- ✓ The County should work with WMATA for better background checks and safety measures to prevent criminal sexual assaults against passengers.
- ✓ The County should work with WMATA to ensure there are enough resources to pick people up on time and deliver them to their destination in a reasonable amount of time.
- ✓ Make sure that any options for senior transportation are made available to seniors with I/DD.

Waivers

Excerpt of Recommendations:

- ✓ The Executive and Council should partner with the Delegation to receive regular progress reports on the implementation of DDA's Transformation Plan. (System-wide recommendation)
- ✓ Evaluate whether the new structure of Maryland's Waivers, which are more restrictive, is increasing or working against inclusion. Look to other states to see if Maryland is a model of excellence.
- ✓ Executive and Council should carefully monitor the rate setting study and advocate for rates that reflect the cost of business in Montgomery County. (System-wide recommendation)
- ✓ Executive and Council should receive updates on the impacts of the Community Settings Rule on housing and programs.