

**DD Workgroup Meeting – July 30, 2018
Minutes/Meeting Summary**

Present:

Gabe Alborno	Department of Recreation
Lyda Astrove	Parent
Claire Funkhouser	Parent
Susan Hartung	DD Advisory Committee/ Commission on People with Disabilities/parent
Susan Ingram	Community Support Services and Maryland Association of Community Services
Annette Jolles	Parent
Shawn Lattanzio	Department of Health and Human Services
Betsy Luecking	Department of Health and Human Services
Kim Mayo	Department of Health and Human Services
Karen Morgret	Treatment and Learning Center/Outcomes Services
Sam Oji	Department of Transportation
Susan Smith	Housing Opportunities Commission
Kenneth Vinston	Department of Housing and Community Affairs
John Whittle	Service Coordination, Inc.
Linda McMillan	Staff, Montgomery County Council
Carolyn Chen	Staff, Montgomery County Council
Rebecca Weingarten	Summer Fellow, Montgomery County Council

Welcome and introductions; Kim Mayo, Department of Health and Human Services, welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Background Information Provided: The Workgroup was provided with drafts of report sections on Waivers and Housing prepared by Rebecca Weingarten, Council Summer Fellow and Linda McMillan, Council staff.

Review of July 9, 2018 minutes/meeting summary: The Work Group reviewed the minutes/meeting summary. No changes were made. Betsy Luecking offered to post the minutes from the meetings on the webpage for the Commission on People with Disabilities.

Discussion of draft section on Waivers:

The Workgroup discussed the following issues and items to be incorporated into the report:

There should be a more specific discussion of the general Autism Waiver up front before moving into the other Waiver descriptions.

The report should only list those organizations that are providing services in Montgomery County and not all the regions. However, the current listing on the DDA website is problematic because many organizations have not yet received their new certification and are not listed, even though they are providing services. This is also causing problems because while it is believed that people currently being served will carry-over, transitioning youth cannot be placed. The list should be revisited just before the report is finished.

It was noted that there are no Day Habilitation services listed on the DDA website.

Information should be included on how many people are being served by the two new waivers.

Has the delay in placements and uncertainty around the transition caused any increase in the number of calls to Adult Protective Services?

The transition is causing serious problems for agencies. They are not able to get certified. The application has been revised three times, they cannot offer more programming because of the uncertainty, and the new rates and fee for service may be devastating financially to organizations. Providers are questioning their ability to bring on new clients when they are not sure how much they will be paid. Billing will only for face-to-face services, case management and supports offered by phone will not be reimbursed.

Concerns were raised about the ideal of serving everyone's individual requests and the realities of providing staff and services. Now a calendar must be created for each individual. If an individual chooses/refuses to go out as planned, policies now have to be in place on what to do but it is unrealistic when one staff person may be supporting more than one client. This presents huge staffing implications for organizations.

Anyone in Day Habilitation cannot work for pay. To work, they have to shift to an employment specialist and cannot stay with the same agency all day. There should be a choice to stay with the same agency.

There was a request for an update on how many transitioning youth exited MCPS this year and how many have been placed in services.

GAP: The Family Supports Waiver is capped at \$12,000 annually and the Community Supports Waiver is capped at \$25,000 annually. What happens when services needed exceed these caps? How quickly can someone move into the Community Pathways Waiver?

GAP: Individual Support Services (ISS) is going to be phased-out and there will be no new "State-funded" only clients. What happens to clients who need this lesser level or shorter term of services?

GAP: If a child is in the Family Supports Waiver, they are supposed to have no other source of funds. What happens, for example, if a child in the Family Supports Waiver has exhausted their \$12,000 and goes to camp or another program funded by the County? Does this endanger their ability to stay in the Family Supports Waiver?

Discussion of draft section on Housing:

There will be impacts from the new Setting Rule. While it is expected that no one will be required to leave their current home if it has more than four residents, when residents leave, the agency will have to downsize to be four or less. The economics of this may not work in some existing homes.

GAP: There is an increasing need for senior housing for people with Developmental Disabilities. Most group homes and apartment are not modified to serve aging residents.

A safety concern was raised about requirements for locks on bedroom doors and whether this might endanger someone who may not respond appropriately and unlock their bedroom in the case of an emergency. It was noted that HUD rules require locks on bedroom doors.

GAP: There is a need for more Moderately Priced Dwelling Units or other affordable apartments that have two-bedroom for people who have a live-in caregiver. This is especially important in areas easily served by mass transit.

GAP: The economics don't work for people with Developmental Disabilities to pay their own rent. If you do not have a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) it is impossible to pay rent based on SSI or SSDI or from the incomes many people have. Even with a HCV it can be very difficult to pay rent and then have sufficient funds left over for food and other daily living costs. DDA pays for the vast majority of services, but it does not include the cost of housing.

Next meeting: The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2018 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at 401 Hungerford, 1st floor large conference room.