



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – April 17th, 2017**

Sue Hartung, Co-Chair • Larry Bram, Co-Chair

Present

Parents: Susan Hartung (Co-Chair); Larry Bram (Co-Chair), Easter Seals; Reda Sheinberg; Wendy Parker; Claire Funkhouser; Penny Veerhoff

Organizations: Seth Morgan – Commission on People with Disabilities, Chair; Karen Morgret – Treatment & Learning Center; Sara O’Neil - MMARS; Judith Pattik- DDA; Eldora Taylor – Community Support Network; Melissa Shaffer-Reyes - MMARS; John Whittle – Service Coordination, Inc.

Staff: Betsy Luecking

Welcome and Introductions

Susan Hartung, Co-Chair, convened the meeting and introductions were made.

Pathways to Careers Program – Therese Fimian and Dr. Camelia Fawzy

Website: <http://www.pathwaystocareers.org/>

Pathways is a project of the Institute for Economic Empowerment (IEE) at SourceAmerica. The Pathways design begins with the Discovery phase, where staff work closely with the career-seeker to help them precisely determine their interests, skills and preferences for type of work, work environment and management style that will lead to employment success. The Discovery phase is complemented by one or more paid internship opportunities that allow the career-seeker and the staff who support them to further clarify the individual’s ideal career fit. These strategies are paired with intensive business outreach and employer engagement incentives that support businesses in hiring and retaining Pathways candidates when a good match is agreed upon.

Seven years ago, they released a request-for-proposal and reviewed over 500 providers about their experience with Customized Employment, building partnerships with employers, and their relationships with State agencies. The top few were picked to become partners. Pathways was first implemented in partnership with PARC, a disability service provider in Davis County, Utah, and with support from Marc Gold and Associates, with a thorough performance evaluation conducted by Mathematica Policy Research. The other chosen locations were Detroit, Boston, and Northern Virginia. Now they are looking to expand into other states.

Mathematica is currently evaluating outcomes for individuals with disabilities, the impacts on employers, and cost savings.

Participants complete an application and are chosen at random. 99% of participants choose to participate in an internship. Internships are paid by grant funding and they are working with every State to map out how to pay for internships. Wages are at least Federal or State minimum. The internship must also have the likelihood or possibility of employment upon completion. It takes approximately 425 hours of an internship or series of internships before an individual becomes employed. On-the-job supports include worked-related services as well as integrated mental health and behavioral health supports either through current services or new services.

If an individual currently receiving SSI or SSDI voluntarily becomes employed their benefit would be reduced between \$2,000 and \$7,000 per year. This could be a cost savings measure for the Federal Treasury. Partial use of funds could go towards the Employer Payroll Tax Adjustment for employers to receive a permanent FICA reduction for employers to create a permanent resources for accommodations and supports.

Pathways to Careers has had several conversations with Maryland State agencies as well as some provider agencies that have expressed an interest in having a site launched in Maryland.

All staff and services are funded through vocational rehabilitation and Medicaid funding from State agencies. The Utah location has 12 staff provided services for 80 individuals.

The youngest participant is 20 years old and the oldest participant is 74 years old.

Update - Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Judy Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

For Transitioning Youth – Of the 129 students that exited last year, 106 have been placed. Of the 23 that are not placed – 3 declined services, 2 are not eligible due to citizenship; 3 have a provider that is not yet on the waiver; 9 are on the waiver and have no provider; 6 are not on the waiver and do not have a provider. They are working to ensure those eligible are receiving services by the end of the year. There are 101 TY17s currently and 10 of those students are already receiving services.

There are two new waivers being supported in the upcoming budget. The Family Support Waiver is for families and their children up to age 21 and will provide \$12,000 annually to support emerging needs for the child and their family. The Community Supports Waiver provides \$25,000 annually to support anything in the comprehensive waiver with the exception of residential services.

As DDA is required to update their waiver definitions in 2018, they have decided to not move forward with the waiver amendment. A new waiver will be submitted in January 2018 which will allow time for the 30-day formal comment period and six months for input before going into effect July 1, 2018.

Discussion regarding how an individual who was previously receiving SSI or SSDI prior to their employment and how they re-enroll if they become unemployed. Larry noted that the process is relatively easy and that there is now a Social Security Administration mobile app for wage reporting.

Judy noted that later this month she will be holding a meeting regarding the transitioning youth process with stakeholders including parents, agencies, CCS's, school system staff and DDA staff. They will review the TY process from beginning to end so that everyone is of the same understanding of the time frame. Several meetings to discuss this topic are expected. She would like to develop written guidance on the process. Judy will make sure to discuss the process of agencies choosing participants as CCS agencies have noted that it can take up to four months for a decision to be made.

Update – Autism Waiver (TY) – Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

None.

Update - Coordination of Community Services (CCS)

MMARS

- TY16s - There are still 3 to be placed.
- TY17s – 48 total. They have met with 46 and 22 have acceptances with providers.

Total Care

- TY16s – 10 still need to be placed. 1 is ongoing. Most need updated paperwork. Noted a cultural difference and some families don't understand the role of the Coordinator.
- TY17s – 42 so far. 11 have acceptances with providers.

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- TY16s – 2 still need to be placed.
- TY17s – 11 so far. 1 is in service.

Chair and Vice-Chair Update: None.

New Business:

David Cross discussed two cases where the family received a letter from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that their nursing care services were to be dropped because they were enrolled in both the REM Waiver and the Adult Waiver. The Board of Nursing Care stated that the young adult did not meet the medical necessity of nursing care. He is concerned about the Board of Nursing Care and their position on the definition of a “medical necessity”.

Announcements: None.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 8th, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ****PLEASE NOTE LOCATION**** The Committee will be meeting at the Health & Human Services Building, 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor 1A Conference Room, Rockville, MD 20850

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Assistant

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Commission on People with Disabilities