



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 14th, 2021**

Larry Bram, Co-Chair • Karen Morgret, Co-Chair

Attendees: Larry Bram; Odile Brunetto; Onesta Duke; Susan Hartung; Lisa Hazell; Annette Jolles; Shawn Lattanzio; Lisa Lorraine; Laurie Lyons; Kim Mayo; Karen Morgret; Sara O’Neil; Gloria Odongo; Beth Shuman; Susan Smith; Jeneva Stone

Staff: Betsy Luecking; Carly Clem

Approval of the May 2021 Meeting Summary Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 2021 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the May 2021 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac.

Underserved Populations/Barriers to Obtaining Services from DDA - Lisa Lorraine, Community Support Navigator, Jubilee Association of Maryland

Please be sure to Review this PowerPoint: https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/BreakingBarriers6_14_21Presentation.pdf

Jubilee is a residential service provider for people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County.

- Jubilee received a grant in February 2021 that for the next three years will help reach out to underserved communities, specifically the Asian and Hispanic populations in Montgomery County.
- Goals are to identify and increase the number of adults of Hispanic and Asian descent with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) in Montgomery County, MD, who are accessing services from Jubilee and partnering disability services organizations and to recommend and develop enduring systems that help underrepresented groups learn about and access IDD services.
- The project, known as Breaking Barriers, includes participation from DDA and 15 adult IDD disability service provider agencies. Each service provider will be reviewing their demographic data to see how it matches with the demographic data in the County.
 - Project should be able to address cultural competency barriers in the system.
- Slide 3 of the PowerPoint shows the demographic data of those who live in Montgomery County versus those who receive services from DDA.
 - DDA serves a higher percentage of the Black or African American population that live in the County but serves a lower rate of the Hispanic and Asian populations that live in the County.
- Since February, Lisa has met with more than 40 people in the system including people with I/DD, their family members as well as individuals at CCS agencies, school staff, advocates within the system, and volunteers with provider or advocacy organizations.
- Barriers people face on the journey to adult services include cultural differences, immigration status, systemic racism in health and education, stigma, information access, CCS system and accountability, and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
 - Lisa noted that accessing adult services is complex and hard for anyone going through the system. Information and resources is scattered among many different organizations.
 - Some CCS agencies struggle with retention and the many changes that occur within the DDA system.
 - Presentation and webinar content typically is not translated and the registration process is in English.
 - Written materials in other languages may exist but is scarce and may not always reach the target populations.

Short Term Next Steps

- Develop relationships with point of entry organizations that can help educate and refer community members
- Execute the communications strategy and written materials/ resources (e.g. Spanish Facebook Page, Public Charge resource, short videos on how services can benefit you, etc.)

Long Term Next Steps

- Community outreach, to organizations and also working one-on-one with people with IDD and their families.
- Identify, recommend, and develop enduring systems change.
 - Includes more funding, better accountability within the CCS system, culturally competent information, access to information.

Additional comments can be sent to Lisa at llorraine@jubileemd.org.

The floor was opened to questions.

Will demographic data and level of service be reviewed to determine if they are comparable and equitable?

- Lisa is meeting with the stakeholder group next week to determine what data will be reviewed or tracked.
- Stakeholder group wants to know day services versus residential services.
- She would like to see the DDA data that this Committee request last month regarding race and ethnicity for people currently served and for TYs
 - Onesta is working on this request.

Beth Shuman asked Lisa to present before the County Council Health & Human Services Committee.

- County Council and the County have made social justice and racial equity a priority.
- This project also fits into the Department of HHS' social justice and racial equity plan.
- Lisa will be reaching out to the Latino and Asian American Health Initiatives.
- Betsy suggested Lisa reach out to the African American Health Initiative as well

Concern for children who are Asian and Hispanic not having learned English prior to attending school.

- Issue of being tested in English if you speak a different language.
- Critical to involve MCPS transition services.

Invited Lisa to attend future Committee meetings and share stories and experiences from individuals.

- Service Coordination Inc. serves families who speak Spanish and may be able to provide experiences.

Update from Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Onesta Duke, Regional Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

As of June 12, 2021:

871 people on the Montgomery County waiting list.

- 20 in Crisis Resolution
 - Prioritized for funding and working with CCS to enroll in waivers and to access services.
- 32 in Crisis Prevention
- 819 in Current Request

TY20 / FY21 – 166 Total

- 82 placed
- 84 not placed
 - 8 declined
 - 1 waiver denied due to citizenship issues
 - 10 waiver packet enrollments pending
 - 4 providers identified
 - 40 waivers approved

- 14 have providers, CCSs are working on developing PCPs subject to DDA review and approval
- 26 are still waiting for an identified agency to provide necessary services
- 25 have CCSs working to submit waivers

TY21/FY22 – 177 TYs

- 3 declined services
- 30 have approved waivers
- 30 have waiver status pending
- 114 have plans or CCSs are still working with families to complete the process
- On track for July 1 deadline.

DDA held a provider meeting and shared vaccination updates.

- Continue to track the number of direct service providers, participants and family members that are vaccinated.
- Approximately 4,000 or 72% of participants reported as being vaccinated.
 - Includes people in the traditional service delivery model and the self-directed delivery model.
 - Those who have not been vaccinated yet is due to hesitancy, although that has improved over the last month.
 - Working with CCSs and checking on self-directed participants on their vaccination status.
 - Collecting data on persons who are homebound and may have difficulty accessing the vaccine.
- DDA continues to send out a weekly survey for providers to complete.
- Data is shared during Deputy Secretary Bernie Simon’s monthly webinar.

DDA sent out an updated survey this spring to individuals and families similar to the one DDA sent out last fall.

- This survey will provide the DDA with information about the interests of individuals and their families around returning to services and the learnings that came out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transition into LTSS Maryland (LTSS meaning is Medicaid Long Term Supports and Services)

- Two providers have “go live” dates of July 1.
- Two providers have “go live” dates in October.
- Other agencies (approximately 30) will “go live” September 1.

Working with coordination agencies to submit person-centered plans for those in self-directed services.

- Have to transition into utilizing the rate in LTSS Maryland.
- Southern Maryland Region has over 400 persons in self-directed services.
 - 1500 persons in self-directed services in Maryland.
- Significant increase in people interested in self-directed services within the last year.
- Working to manage that increase and get people transitioned into self-directed as quickly as possible.

Transitioning Workgroup led by Claire Funkhouser

- Put on hold due to the pandemic.
- Opportunity for that project to work with this three-year grant project.
- Discussed creating webinars and videos in different languages.
- Addressing gaps and obstacles with transitioning into services.
- Kim Mayo said it’s time to regroup and move forward.

General Discussion

Planning for fall meetings

- Discussion on racial equity efforts and preparing a strategic plan.
- Discuss testing, what languages testing is available
- Two separate tests - educational and cognitive psychological completed at the school level
 - DDA eligibility requires testing
- Transition Services Teachers (TST) are the link between DORS and providers when students transition
 - How many TSTs are bilingual?

- Presenter suggestions –
 - Simone Geness, Transition Services Unit, MCPS
 - Jonathan Langsam, Special Education, MCPS - manages the summer assessment center
 - Kyle Potter, Psychological Services, MCPS – social and emotional supports
- Susan Hartung did education testing at Walter Johnson
 - Limited in languages offered
- May not be culturally competent
- Bilingual Assessment Team collaborates with schools' Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to assess and interpret data from English Language Learners who have or are suspected of having an educational disability.
- Handles referrals for providing testing in different languages and approved to provide testing in certain languages

Approximately 3,000 unaccompanied minors coming to Montgomery County from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador

- Shawn Lattanzio will be working with them.
- Will need to provide housing, psychology services, education and food security
- Will need more Spanish speaking therapists and psychologists
- Some minors are indigenous and do not speak or read native languages
- Need to prepare for unaccompanied minors with significant cognitive needs

Montgomery County Councilmembers Will Jawando and Craig Rice announced on May 11, 2021 the creation of a new workgroup through Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) comprised of 29 organizations that widely represent our students, community and school system.

- Workgroup was created to hear from these stakeholders to collaboratively determine the best ways to support our students and ensure their safety.
- Removal of School Resource Officers (SRO) is not finalized.
- Recommendations focus on mental health support and mobile crisis teams

Delegate Karen Lewis Young is hosting a virtual meeting on June 30 at 1pm on a bill she is working on for self-direction for individuals with disabilities.

- [House Bill 318](#) was filed in October 2020 but withdrawn by Delegate Young July 2021.
- Original bill language included:
 - Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to increase by a certain amount certain funding to certain recipients of services funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration under certain circumstances;
 - Requiring the Developmental Disabilities Administration to provide certain recipients of services certain options and services under certain circumstances;
 - establishing the State Advisory Council on Self-Directed Services; etc.

Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Updates

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services – Community Support Network

Kim Mayo, Administrator, reported

- 5 out of our 7 TYs have start dates for their transition to adult services
 - 1 has a Revised Person-Centered Plan w/ a provider listed for July 1st start that is under DDA review
 - 1 is awaiting EDD (waiver submitted 4/20)

Service Coordination Inc. (SCI)

Laurie Lyons, Program Manager, reported

- TY21 = 54 (these 54 are also counted in one of the categories below)
- Waiting List – Current Request = 257
- Waiting List- Crisis Prevention = 10

- Waiting List Crisis Resolution = 11
- Community Coordination =141
- Comprehensive Assessments = 6
- More individuals are moving to the self-directed model
 - More TYs pursuing self-directed services

Recruiting/Staffing

- Adding two more supervisors to Montgomery County
- Four coordinators were recently hired
- Approved to hire four more additional coordinator positions
- Tweaking recruitment and assessment process
- Expectations when providers open
 - Some coordinators have never met the individuals they support in person
 - Need to recognize safety, respect personal choices and individual’s private health information

Total Care

Gloria Odongo, Director of Quality Enhancement, reported

Montgomery County Roster

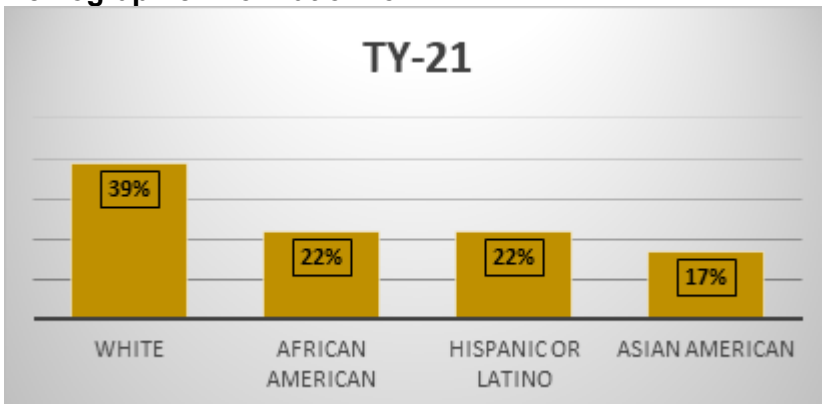
Total Care Services currently serves **803** people in Montgomery County

- In services – **647** people
- Waiting List: **144** people (of the 144, **[8]** are crisis prevention and **[4]** are in crisis resolution)
- Self-Direct – **34** people.
- Comprehensive Assessments – **(4)**
- Since the last meeting we have had **(2)** people transfer in and **(2)** person transfer out.

Transitioning Youth

- **TY20 – Total of 19 students**
 - (13) Students have been placed
 - (4) Students – need a providers
 - (1) student – Pending waiver acceptance
 - (1) Student unable to contact.
- **TY21- Total of 18 students**
 - (3) Students have been placed
 - (8) matrix scores have been submitted.
 - (3) Students – Initial PCPs submitted and are pending regional staff review.
 - (4) Students are in the FSW need to switch to CSW.

Demographic information for TY21



New Hires

- Hired (3) additional Coordinators since the last DDAC meeting

MMARS

Sara O'Neil, DDA QE Analyst II, reported

1459 Total Consumers

- 1150 in Services
 - 81 - Self-Directing Services
- 309 on the Waiting List
 - 288 - Current Request
 - 12 - Crisis Prevention
 - 9 - Crisis Resolution
 - 2 Crisis Resolution Upgrades Since the Last Meeting
- 102 Active TYs
 - 47 are TY'20s [various issues] instructed CCSs not to close out that we can't get in contact with until they pass their funding due date
 - 55 are TY'21s [starting to pull lists for TY22 that we'll start work with in the next month]

MMARS has been on a hiring spree.

- Optimistic about coordinators recently hired.
- Reworking trainings and requirements.

Announcements

Will discuss at September meeting when to hold in-person meetings. Meetings will continue to be held virtually for now.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Next Meeting

Monday, September 13th, 2021 from 4pm to 5:30pm – via Zoom
Instructions to attend will be included on the meeting agenda.