



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 12, 2023**

Eric Salzano & Karen Morgret, Co-Chairs

Attendees

Commission Members: Karen Morgret; Eric Salzano; Najla Wortham; Avner Shapiro; Richard Shermanski

HHS Staff: Odile Brunetto; Kim Mayo; Rosemary DiPietro (Community Support Network)

DDA: Onesta Duke; Nova Evans

DDA Providers: Susan Ingram; Lisa Lorraine; Marcy Bennett

CCS Staff: Susan Hartung (MMARS)

MCPS: Margie Parrott

Parents: Reda Sheinberg; Betty Bahadori

Commission Staff: Betsy Luecking, Carly Clem

Approval of the May 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the May 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved with the correction. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac.

New DDA Waiver Effective July 1, 2023 – Nova Evans, Deputy Director of Federal Programs and Integrity, DDA

DDA Waiver Renewals 2023 PowerPoint:

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/Webinars/DDA%20Waiver%20Renewal%202023%20Slides%20-%20Final%205-19-2023.pdf>

Nova reviewed the DDA Waiver Renewals 2023 Service Update Summary Chart:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/DDAWaiverRenewal2023ServicesUpdateSummaryChartFinal.pdf>

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the DDA Waiver Renewals for the Family Supports, Community Supports, and Community Pathways programs. The renewal changes go into effect on July 1, 2023.

The floor was opened to questions.

Can the new Self-Directed Services (SDS) budget form be used now? For any items starting July 1, 2023.

Updated forms can be found on the website: <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/sdforms.aspx>

Will there be a webinar on SDS budget modifications? Yes, one will be scheduled. There will be a webinar on June 21 from 10am to 11am on SDS updates – individual and family direct goods and services.

Can a Ring doorbell be included under assistive technology? Yes. If an item costs less than \$2,500 and is included in the person-centered plan goals, it could potentially be approved without an assessment. Any item that costs more than \$2,500 still requires an assessment.

Nova reported DDA has a policy available for public comment currently on an exclusion requirement for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for live in caregivers or respite. Currently, EVV is required for personal support services and respite care services for all DDA participants who self-direct. Live-in caregivers are required to opt-out of EVV at the state's discretion.

Nova reviewed DDA's Guide to Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Families: <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/Person-Centered%20Planning/5.19.23/DDA%20Guide%20To%20Services%20May%2019%202023.pdf>.

The floor was opened to questions.

Will the guide be translated into Spanish or any other languages? Nova will check and report back to the Committee. There is a version without graphics that is available. It was noted that MCPS translates their documents into seven languages: Spanish, French, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Amharic and Portuguese.

DDA Updates and Waiting List – Onesta Duke, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office, DDA

Montgomery County DDA Waiting List Data

- 708 individuals total
 - 1 in crisis resolution (working with assigned CCS to identify needed services and enroll in DDA)
 - 58 in crisis prevention (person is or will be in a crisis within the next year)
 - 649 (no immediate health or safety concerns)

DDA encourages TYs and their families to work with their CCS and participate in the person-centered plan (PCP) process, complete the waiver application packet and initial plans. For TYs that graduated or aged out last year, waiver enrollment packets need to be submitted to their regional office by June 30, 2023. DDA continues to work with CCS agencies to identify services for TYs. DDA continues to work with CCS agencies to submit waiver packets for TY24s graduating at the end of June 2023 and who are slated to start services in July 2023 or after. Onesta will have more information to share at the next meeting.

DDA will be presenting Charting the LifeCourse to providers and CCS agencies that will encourage teamwork and collaboration among the PCP team and share real life examples and strategies. It will also discuss what is next in their continued enhancement of PCP. The presentation will be given in all regions. The date for SMRO is to be determined.

Two DDA policy updates were recently added:

- Remote Support Services – <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/Final%20Remote%20Support%20Services%20%20Policy%206-2-2023.pdf>
- Vehicle Modification – <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/Final%20Vehicle%20Modifications%20Plain%20Policy%20-%206-2-2023.pdf>

DDA has launched an initiative to enhance the user-friendliness and accessibility of their website. Please take a moment to fill out [this survey](#) to support their improvement efforts.

Annual waiver redeterminations have started. Letters have been sent to individuals regarding their determination dates. DDA is encouraging teams to support their people and their families to ensure all information is gathered and submitted to EDD to maintain enrollment. DDA has a provider meeting scheduled tomorrow.

The floor was opened to questions.

Lisa Lorraine noted she is working with a TY who graduated two years ago and was approved for DDA services during the pandemic even though he should not qualify for Medicaid due to his immigration status. There are concerns he will lose services during his redetermination. Onesta said while the state emergency did allow for individuals to be approved for Medicaid more easily, if someone is no longer enrolled in the waiver it is possible for them to continue under state funding if it is approved by the state. DDA has not issued any communications stating that people who do not qualify for the waiver and have started with DDA services will be removed. Onesta will discuss this case further with Lisa.

The automated Medicaid redetermination process has been an issue for some families. The only other option is to mail in documentation. Families are unable to reach their case managers due to full mailboxes. Onesta reported some individuals received letters in error declaring that the individual had passed away. Medicaid is working to resolve those discrepancies. Everyone should have an Eligibility Determinations Division (EDD) case manager that can assist with the redetermination process. DDA regional offices are also able to assist. Nova reported redetermination dates have shifted and to be sure individuals are mindful of the dates in their letters.

What percentage of providers have transitioned to LTSS? SMRO has already transitioned approximately 35 to 37 providers. They are currently working with 21 providers that will transition between June 2023 and October 2023. From November 2023 and beyond, SMRO will be working with 36 providers to transition. Some of these providers have already partially transitioned. The deadline to transition is December 2024.

Transitioning Youth (TY) Update – Margie Parrott, M.Ed., Acting Supervisor, Transition Services Unit, Department of Special Education Services, Office of Special Education, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

Margie reported MCPS held an in-person TY fair on May 9 at Gaithersburg High School. It was the first in-person fair since 2019. In attendance were 23 providers including CCS agencies. Feedback received was positive. Nicole Sheppard, Regional Transitioning Youth Lead, SMRO, DDA, gave a presentation.

MCPS Transition Support Teachers (TST) are completing student profiles of all of their TY24 graduates. That information will be shared with parents to be used during provider visits in the summer and fall. Information is shared via email, hard copies in person and some TSTs will create packets that include the student's IEP, most recent psychiatric evaluation, student profile and other supporting documentation.

Update on New Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission (IDDC) – Odile Brunetto, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Odile reported DHHS has received applications for IDDC and will be moving forward to schedule interviews this month and into July. Interviews will occur virtually unless an in-person interview is requested. The process is confidential. Applicants are interviewed, the selection committee will make their recommendation to County Executive Elrich who will then make his recommendations to County Council for appointments. There is no firm start date for IDDC.

County Executive Elrich and the County Council approved in the FY24 operating budget a part-time staff manager position to work with IDDC. It is estimated it will take six months to establish the new position, recruit and hire an individual. DHHS has been given approval to hire a temporary contractual individual to assist with IDDC in the meantime.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program – Lynn Smith, Program Director

Website: <https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/us/>

Lynn reviewed a PowerPoint presentation about the program: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/SunflowerUS3.pdf>

Flyers:

- https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/Sunflower_leaflet1.pdf
- https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/Sunflower_leaflet2.pdf
- https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/Sunflower_leaflet3.pdf

There are 80 airports throughout the United States participating in the program. Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport is set to launch their program on June 26. Travelers can ask customer service desks for a free sunflower lanyard or order one online. Staff are trained using three videos – what is a non-visible disability, what is the sunflower program, and what to do when you see someone wearing a sunflower. Businesses can join the program via the website.

It was suggested that Lynn reach out to law firms and that the program could be a valuable tool for public safety professions.

Updates from CCS Agencies

Rosemary DiPietro, Community Support Network (CSN), DHHS, reported CSN is working on increasing their employees.

Susan Hartung, MMARS, reported MMARS is working on CCS retention.

Announcements or Updates – All

Eric thanked the County Council for approving a 4% increase for the developmental disability supplement program in the FY24 operating budget.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, announced Odile will be retiring at the end of this month although she will be staying in her role as do others in a transfer of knowledge contract for up to 75 hours. An appointment of a new Chief for Aging and Disability Services is expected within the next month or so. Dr. James Bridgers, Acting Director for DHHS, will be interviewed by the County Council tomorrow and he should be nominated by County Executive Elrich next week. The County Council is expected to vote on his appointment on June 20. He has now been appointed as the HHS Director July, 2023

Adjournment – Karen Morgret

Karen adjourned the meeting at 5:20pm

It is anticipated that the new IDDC will begin in the Fall.

Respectfully Submitted By

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist; Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager