



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities  
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary – March 13, 2023**

**Eric Salzano & Karen Morgret, Co-Chairs**

**Attendees**

**Commission Members:** Karen Morgret; Eric Salzano; Michael Greenberg; John Whittle; Najla Wortham

**HHS Staff:** Odile Brunetto; Shawn Lattanzio; Crystal Britto

**DDA:** Onesta Duke

**MCPS Staff:** Margie Parrott

**DDA Providers:** Susan Ingram; Jenn Lynn; Lisa Lorraine

**CCS Staff:** Susan Hartung (MMARS)

**Parents:** Betty Bahadori; Reda Sheinberg; Annette Jolles

**Other:** Lisa Slifer-Mbacke

**Commission Staff:** Betsy Luecking; Carly Clem

**Approval of the February 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes**

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

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac).

**Update from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Federal Program Team (e.g. New Community Pathways Waiver, New Community Supports Waiver, 24 hr. Non-Delegable Nursing Care, DDA Policy Stakeholder Input) – Onesta Duke, Regional Director Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO), DDA**

Onesta reported Maryland Department of Health (MDH) began Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for participants in the Self-Directed Services (SDS) model starting January 1, 2023.

- EVV is required for personal supports and respite care services within the SDS model.
- EVV is a time sheet that is completed via mobile or online app or via the telephone.
- SDS employees are expected to record their time and the timesheet ensures participants are receiving the services they need and want at the right time, in the right place and by the right person.
- The participant's Financial Management and Counseling Services (FMCS) agency verify's the participant's employee's time and assists with timely payments.
- Three FMCS agencies – The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, GT Independence, and Public Partnerships, LLC
- Each FMCS has their own app and they are responsible for EVV participants and family members are able to utilize the application and will work diligently with participants and their employees to ensure that time is correctly input into their system.
  - Customer service support is available via email, phone or in person.
- During the first six months of 2023, no corrective action will be made so participants and employees can become more comfortable and acclimated to using the app.
  - Only July 1, 2023 the number of missed EVV clock-ins and clock-outs will restart.
  - FMCS agencies will track missed clock-ins and clock-outs.
  - DDA has updated their guidance related to corrective action.

- Corrective action by the participant must be taken for any employee that misses more than six clock-ins and clock-outs in a month.
- For the second month any employee misses more than six clock-ins or clock-outs, correction active will include in-person training for participants and their employees.
- For the third month of any employee missing more than six clock-ins or clock-outs, corrective action will include developing a plan of correction for their employees.
- DDA removed corrective action for fourth occurrence which was transferring the participant to the traditional model – this will no longer happen.

EVV Website: [https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Electronic\\_Visit\\_Verification.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Electronic_Visit_Verification.aspx)

EVV SDS Webinar:

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/EVV/2.13.23/EVV%20SDS%20Webinar%20Revised%2002-13-23.pdf>

Reda Sheinberg, Parent, reported her son is not receiving compliance numbers or budget reports from their FMCS agency. Onesta reported there have been some challenges with some of the FMCS agencies. DDA has a contract monitor for FMCS agencies. Individuals experiencing challenges are encouraged to reach out to the SDS Lead at their regional office. SDS Leads are working with DDA Headquarters staff to ensure those concerns are being addressed. SMRO SDS Lead: Tia Henry, 301-362-5111, email [tia.henry2@maryland.gov](mailto:tia.henry2@maryland.gov). Onesta will provide DDA with the feedback received today. It was asked that Onesta provide an update on the EVV implementation to this Committee.

Michael Greenberg, Commissioner, ask why non-delegable nursing services are not covered under the waiver; if there are currently individuals who are receiving state-funded non-delegable nursing services in their PCPs; and if DDA look at non-delegable nursing services if the individual was not eligible under any state medical programs. Onesta reported that DDA is not a medical entity. There are other Medicaid entities that are able to provide for those that have skilled nursing needs. Those individuals are encouraged to reach out to those Medicaid entities to acquire nursing. REM is an option that is available, but there are some individuals who are not eligible to receive REM services. Onesta acknowledged that there can be a gap in services. The Model Waiver and home health services also provide private duty nursing. There are some individuals that were grandfathered into receiving those services. New requests are currently under question and DDA continues internal conversations regarding non-delegable nursing needs and how to meet those needs. DDA is working with the Medicaid Office of Long Term Services and Supports (OLTSS) and other Medicaid entities to identify a solution and how to partner to meet an individuals needs. Michael asked that providers should be involved in those discussions. He added that there are certain tasks (medication, blood pressure, insulin) that could be authorized to be completed by a direct support professional. He asked Eric said many of those tasks would require extra training and certification.

Susan Hartung, MMARS, asked if medical day habilitation is funded by DDA. Onesta said some medical day programs are funded by DDA while others are funded by Medicaid.

**Follow up on Developmental Disability Awareness Day Proclamation Hearing and Council Worksession on the Creation of a new Commission/Committee on Intellectual and Development Disabilities and Timetable - Eric Salzano**

Developmental Disability Awareness Day Proclamation video:

[www.youtube.com/live/hnFs4liZKmQ?feature=share&t=224](http://www.youtube.com/live/hnFs4liZKmQ?feature=share&t=224)

**[Bill 10-23, Health - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission - Established](#)**

- Anticipate that the Council will pass bill soon – it has unanimous support from all councilmembers.
- Betsy will notify participants when the new Commission advertises vacancies.

- Interested individuals will need to apply online and submit a resume through the County's Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCC) website ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/))
- Vacancies will include two individuals who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- Bill will allow Commission to work with state level entities.
- Commission will follow BCC policies and regulations – members of the public can attend meetings but will not be allowed to speak unless called on by the Chair.
  - Commission could set aside time at each meeting for public comments.
- County Executive Marc Elrich will be releasing his FY24 recommended operating budget on March 15. If a staff person for the Commission is included in the FY24 budget the County may be able to start advertising for that position once the budget is passed by the County Council.

A public hearing was held on March 7.

- Written Testimony: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/OnDemand/testimony/20230307/item6.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/OnDemand/testimony/20230307/item6.html)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/live/fDhJPoGDo-M?feature=share&t=2435>

Council HHS Committee worksession was held March 9.

- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/live/VbPyFAlvJbU?feature=share&t=4200](http://www.youtube.com/live/VbPyFAlvJbU?feature=share&t=4200)
- Worksession documents: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2023/20230309/20230309\\_HHS3.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2023/20230309/20230309_HHS3.pdf)

Onesta was asked to provide data on individuals in SDS. She will follow-up on how that particular data can be pulled and shared.

**Transitioning Youth Update – Onesta Duke, Regional Director SMRO, DDA and Margie Parrott M.Ed., Acting Supervisor, Transition Services Unit, Department of Special Education Services, Office of Special Education, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)**

MCPS continues to work with individuals to get them into services and continues to work with families and attend Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meetings. MCPS is planning to host a Transitioning youth (TY) resource fair for 2024 graduates this May at Gaithersburg High School.

It was asked how MCPS is connecting with non-English speaking families. Translators are available for IEP meetings. Spanish-speaking families have been given Lisa Lorraine's contact information. Lisa has been participating in a number of IEP and TY meetings. She also hosts monthly meetings with Spanish-speaking parents. All TY documentation is translated into seven different languages (including Spanish, Korean and Chinese). Families also need assistance with the educational component and MCPS has been taking the extra time to help families through the process. Families reach a barrier when partnering agencies do not provide the same information or if a coordinator leaves messages in English.

Lisa reported Transition Support Teachers (TST) are highly motivated to help these families and collaborate with them. Understanding IEPs and all the terminology used is a systemic issues across all ages at MCPS and is made more complicated due to language barriers. TSTs do communicate through interpreters. Pre-K and Headstart are very family oriented and it's important to educate Spanish-speaking families on how to engage with their children, how to help with their education, what the school environment is like and how school can help their children.

Susan Hartung reported prior to COVID-19, Claire Funkhouser received grant funding to prepare a video about transition services that could be translated into other languages.

Lisa has directed families to the ARC as they also have IEP resources in Spanish, but as every child is so individual and specialized, the families may need to understand very specific issues and services

such as speech and language or toileting services. Eric noted that mentoring programs have been very successful and could be successful in these situations as well where the parent speaks the same language as the parent needing assistance.

The grant funding for Lisa's position with the Breaking Barriers program and Jubilee Association ends February 2024. Jubilee Association is working to identify additional funding. It was asked if MCPS could create a full-time position for someone to continue the work that Lisa has been doing. Margie noted that would be an MCPS budget decision. MCPS is still experiencing staff shortages with bus drivers and para-educators. The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) has started a workgroup to discuss this idea as it is a statewide issue and a position should be included in the school system. It would be good to have parent educators throughout a student's career in MCPS – not just for families who do not speak Spanish. The new Commission has a non-voting position for MCPS and perhaps these issues can be discussed at those meetings.

MCPS will have a table at the upcoming TY Fair on March 26 [get location information]

### **DDA Waiver Updates and Waiting List for Montgomery County – Onesta Duke**

FY21 / TY20 – 163 TYs total

- 129 placed
- 14 not placed
  - 13 waivers approved – access to
  - 1 waiver is in process
- 17 declined services
- 3 denied waiver enrollment

FY22 / TY21 – 190 TYs total

- 151 placed
- 17 not placed
  - 7 enrolled in DDA waiver program
  - 3 waivers pending with EDD
  - 4 waivers in the process of being submitted
  - 3 others – unknown status
- 17 declined services
- 5 denied waiver enrollment

FY23 / TY22 – 176 TYs total

- 115 placed
- 45 not placed
  - 14 waivers pending
  - 14 waivers approved and PCPs in process of being submitted with an identified provider
  - 17 CCSs still working with individuals to gather documentation.
- 8 declined services
- 8 denied waiver enrollment

Overall, CCSs have been working hard to obtain placements for TYs. The numbers are looking better in comparison to last year. DDA is conducting monthly meetings with each CCS agencies and working closer with their TY leads to monitor and track the progress of TYs as well as making sure requests and waiver enrollments are being submitted and providers are being identified.

It was asked if DDA is monitoring the direct support professionals (DSP) labor shortage levels. Onesta reported DDA only receives general information from some providers stating if they are short 'x' amount of staff or if the staffing shortage is impacting them in a certain way. The staffing shortage is a statewide issue and other regions have noted that their providers are experiencing the same challenges.

#### Waiting list data for Montgomery County

- 668 individuals total (increased by 20 people since last month)
  - 1 – crisis resolution (working with assigned CCS to identify needed services and enroll in DDA)
    - An increase of 1 since last month
  - 49 – crisis prevention (person is or will be in a crisis within the next year)
    - An increase of 2 since last month
  - 618 – current request (no immediate health or safety concerns)
    - An increase of 17 since last month
- 15 to 20 individuals have been identified to receive a waiver slot under the Family Supports Waiver.
  - Some individuals are declining the slot.
  - Others are working with CCS agencies to enroll the individual into the waiver and identify needed services.

#### **Update - DDA Policies for Stakeholder Input**

DDA headquarters has all input from stakeholders for policies “Assistive Technology and Services” and “Environmental Assessments and Modifications” that were discussed at last month’s meeting. DDA agreed with some input received and included it in the policies. Updated versions will be shared soon.

#### **Announcements or Updates – All**

Eric reported DDA is scheduled to implement a 4% rate increase for DD Community Services funding. The state minimum wage increase to \$15.00 may not be implemented on July 1, 2023, but rather sometime between October 2023 and January 2024.

#### **Adjournment – Karen Morgret**

Karen adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm

#### **Respectfully Submitted By**

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