



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – September 12, 2022**

Karen Morgret, Chair

Attendees

Parents: Jeneva Stone; Betty Bahadori; Scottie Holton; Annette Jolles; Mary Keyser; Lisa Wiederlight

DDA Providers: Lisa Lorraine; Susan Ingram; Jenn Lynn

Support Brokers: Liz LaFrance; Alarice Vidale de Palacios

CCS Staff: Rosemary DiPietro (Community Support Network); Laurie Lyons (Service Coordination, Inc.); Susan Hartung (MMARS); Julia Jensen (Total Care)

HHS Staff: Odile Brunetto; Kim Mayo; Shawn Lattanzio

DDA: Onesta Duke; Patricia Sastoque; Nicholas Burton

County Council: Beth Shuman

Commission Members: Karen Morgret; Seth Morgan; Susan Smith

Commission Staff: Betsy Luecking; Carly Clem

Approval of the June 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes

A motion was made to approve the June 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. Betty Bahadori noted a typo on the first page. A vote was taken and the June 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved with the correction. Approved minutes are available online at

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac.

DDA Updates – Onesta Duke, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO), Patricia Sastoque, DDA and Nicholas Burton, DDA

Onesta reported on Montgomery County's waiting list.

Montgomery County Transitioning Youth (TY)

TY21 / FY22 – Total of 192 TYs

- 70 placed
- 122 not placed
 - 8 declined services
 - 1 waiver denial
 - 19 waivers pending
 - 52 waivers approved and awaiting identification of a provider
 - 42 in various places of completing the TY process - coordinators continue to follow-up to ensure they are enrolled in the waiver

TY22 / FY23 – Total of 171 TYs

- 8 placed
- 163 not placed
 - 2 declined services
 - 11 waivers pending
 - 18 waivers approved and awaiting identification of a provider
 - 132 in various places of completing the TY process
 - TYs have until 2023 to enroll in the waiver.
 - CCSs are in the process of working with TYs and their families to ensure everyone is enrolled in the waiver.

Not Onesta's understanding that individuals enrolling in self-directed services is due to lack of providers as individuals can potentially enroll with providers statewide. Individuals choosing to go into self-direction may be

doing so based on their individual situation. An individual is not able to enroll in DDA waiver services if they do not have a “qualified” immigration status. Currently no TYs fall into that category.

Montgomery County Waiting List Data

- 949 individuals total
 - 895 in current request
 - 46 in crisis prevention
 - 8 in crisis resolution
 - These individuals are assigned to a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) provider to initiate waiver enrollment and identify placement as soon as possible to mitigate crisis.
 - There are some challenges with CCSs identifying providers due to capacity issues.
 - CCSs are exploring providers statewide, not just in this region.

A number of Appendix K flexibilities are set to end on September 30, 2022.

- Several flexibilities have been included in Waiver Amendment #3 and will remain available after the federal public health emergency.
- DDA continues to communicate with providers and CCSs regarding the upcoming termination of Appendix K flexibilities.
- Providers, CCSs and families are encouraged to update person-centered plans (PCP) as necessary to prepare for the transition once flexibilities end.
- **Please note:** DDA sent an update on the Appendix K flexibilities on September 19: The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has confirmed that the following select list of Appendix K flexibilities will extend through January 31, 2023. Please [click here](#) to view the full updated Appendix K chart for your reference.
- Continued virtual supports for services depends on the program services being offered by the provider and what is included in the waiver.
- If a provider wants to offer virtual services they will need to update the program service descriptions and be approved by DDA to continue that service.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) wants DDA to assure that quality services are being offered virtually. PCPs should include in the written section how to measure success and quality of services. CCSs are expected to review PCPs every quarter.
- DDA will be providing more accountability and oversight through the Quality Improvement Organization.

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Quality-Improvement-Organization.aspx>

- To enhance quality within the service delivery system, the DDA contracted with a certified CMS QIO to: (1) provide strategies that enhance the quality of life and help to ensure the health and wellbeing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; (2) develop audit standards for the DDA’s services including case review and trends analysis; (3) conduct ongoing utilization reviews to safeguard against unnecessary utilization of care and services and to assure efficiency, economy and quality of care; and (4) administer the DDA’s National Core Indicators Surveys.
- Kick-off presentation hosted by Jennifer Mettrick and Kate Obert of Liberty Healthcare, the agency that was awarded the QIO contract:
<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/QIO/Quality%20Improvement%20Organization%20Introduction%208.26.22.pdf>.
- Patricia noted that the Maryland QIO is unique to other QIOs as it focuses on six items: decision review, waiver basic assurances, network accreditation, National Core Indicators Family Survey, case management oversight, and federal match. Contractor will work on each item in increments. Contract is for five years.
- QIO will focus on increasing systems performance, outcomes, accountability and improve person-centered service delivery.
- QIO will create new opportunities to hear directly from individuals in services and their families.
- QIO will also be facilitating data collection for the Council for Quality and Leadership’s (CQL) Network Accreditation process, which will create a standard tool for providers to create meaningful outcomes for individuals. Providers would be accredited under the umbrella of DDA.

- During the utilization review QIO will conduct random reviews of providers, their services, review PCPs, and billing. Review will give an opportunity for providers to fix issues.
- NCIFS will now include a face-to-face survey conducted by People on the Go.

DDA worked with a number of providers to transition successfully into the new LTSS Maryland billing system.

- Overall, the transition went well with a total of 18 providers transitioning partially or fully into LTSS Maryland.
- Providers were given the opportunity to transition into LTSS Maryland over two phases (April to June or July to September).
- Regional offices recently concluded transitioning interested providers into LTSS Maryland for some or all of the services that they provide. The last group transitioned September 1.
- Continuing to support providers that have transitioned by conducting transition meetings to assist providers with potential challenges.
- Statewide - from April to June a total of 21 providers transitioned impacting 2,800 consumers; from July to September a total of 32 providers transitioned impacting 2,200 consumers.
- At this time there is no designated date for new providers to transition to LTSS Maryland and planning discussions are occurring to determine next steps.
- Continue to encourage providers to utilize previously shared resources including the LTSS DDA Module Playbook and the [Provider Go-Live Readiness Checklist](#), which details all the essential elements a provider needs to review in order to prepare for the transition.
- One element is a review of all PCPs.
 - Patricia noted that Montgomery County Community Support Network, especially Kim Mayo and Rosemary DiPietro, did an amazing job working with providers and families, and worked very closely with Onesta, the SMRO team and headquarters to process PCPs.
 - Onesta said all CCS agencies have been phenomenal in working with the regional office to ensure PCPs reflect the services offered by providers.
 - No one lost services from the transition – regional offices ensured PCPs matched the individual's needs and were given the opportunity to ask for additional hours and enhancements for services.
- DDA has received interest from other providers indicating that they want to transition during the next opportunity.
- Early adopters of LTSS Maryland, including Jubilee and SEEC, will be able to provide technical assistance to the providers that have joined within the last six months.
- Rates within LTSS Maryland are higher than in PCIS2 and higher than they have been in the last five years.
- There may be some concerns about the rates for individuals who have more intense needs and DDA is addressing that by ensuring services addressed through their PCP's meets the persons needs and provides wrap around supports – but the data does not show this currently.
- DDA created a Rate Review Advisory Committee (RRAC) that will be reviewing rates and data, and then make recommendations to make adjustments and modifications based on trends and analysis.
- DDA's position is that rates are not set and will be based on data and trends so there is an opportunity to enhance services that Marylanders with disabilities receive.
- Address change issues can occur within LTSS Maryland as the system connects to a separate program that updates at midnight every day. Changes do not occur until a formal change is made within the Eligibility Determinations Division – DDA is continuing to work on that issue and it only affects the service providers that have already transitioned into LTSS Maryland.

Effective September 7, Patricia Sastoque will be departing DDA to pursue other career opportunities. Nicholas Burton will become the new Director of Programs.

- Patricia has been assisting with his transition over the past few weeks.
 - Nicholas started working with the DDA at SMRO before transferring to the Central Regional Office.
 - He will continue to provide updates to this Committee and is readily available and accessible.
 - He will also continue to meet monthly with agencies just as Patricia has been.

- She said it has been an honor working with DDA, the residents of Montgomery County, and working with providers, families, and individuals in services which has broadened her knowledge, her understanding, and her passion.
- Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons and Secretary Carol Beatty do listen and understand the struggles that occur when supporting persons with developmental disabilities.

Patricia gave an update on the DDA Community Pathways waiver renewal amendments.

- Community Pathways Waiver Renewal: <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Community-Pathways-Waiver---Renewal-2023.aspx>
- Rhonda Workman, Director of Federal Programs and Integrity (FPI), and Nova Evans, Deputy Directory (FPI) hosted a webinar that discussed the renewal for all three waivers – Family Supports, Community Supports and Community Pathways. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkFv5dJVh-o&feature=youtu.be)
- Webinar also shared an overview of the federal waiver requirements and reviewed of proposed waiver renewal changes for public comment.
- Public comments are open from September 6 to October 6 – Patricia encouraged attendees to submit feedback and make recommendations.
- Final review of recommendations will be completed prior to submission to CMS by January 1.
- CMS has 90 days to review recommendations – goal is to have it reviewed between January and June to become effective July 1, 2023.
- Susan Ingram noted Appendix C – Participant Services describes services that are of most interest to families and individuals.
 - She proposed a separate workgroup convene to review the Community Pathways Waiver and submit comments to Kim Mayo, who will be submitting comments on behalf of Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Kim asked for a workgroup deadline of October 1.

CMS Community Settings Rule for Home and Community-Based Settings (HCBS)

- All states must be in full compliance with the community settings rule by March 17, 2023.
- DDA is working closely with Medicaid as Medicaid takes the lead in terms of compliance.
- DDA is hosting a Community Settings Rule webinar on September 23.

Update on 2018 County Council Report – Susan Hartung

Report: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/DDWorkGroupReport2018.pdf>

- In December 2017, the County Council request a report on the issues facing residents with developmental disabilities.
- The Council took over the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee for a period of time so members could participate and provide feedback.
- Susan discussed the main issues that were included in the report developed by a workgroup and the recommendations made in the 2018 County Council report.
- Susan noted that DDAC’s advocacy efforts led to DDA allowing Montgomery County to become a CCS provider for 500 individuals as well as Montgomery County various vaccine options for persons with developmental disabilities who could not meet the protocol of receiving a vaccine at a mass vaccination center or provider.

CCS Agency Updates

- Rosemary DiPietro, Montgomery County Community Support Network, reported DDA is requiring all CCS clients receiving SDS to enroll in one of three fiscal management and counseling service (FMCS) agencies.
- Anyone who currently self-directs their DDA services will need to choose from one of these three agencies during an open enrollment process in August through November 15, 2022.
- MCDHHS has a TY22 that is not eligible for Waiver funding due to immigration status
- If a participant or their legal guardian/designated representative does not choose an FMCS by November 15, 2022, one will be chosen for them.

- FMCS have monthly fees that will be paid from the participants' self-directed budget. Each FMCS has a different monthly fee (cost varies between \$80 to \$200 per month).
- Services will be initiated January 1, 2023.
- Patricia reported information fairs have been held across the state in all four regions. More information: <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Financial-Management-and-Counseling-Services.aspx>.

Future Meeting Planning

Seth said this Committee can continue to meet on its own without staff present if they wish to meet more often than quarterly. This Committee is a subgroup of the Commission on People with Disabilities. The Commission will discuss at its next meeting how to proceed with this Committee. Future meetings are on hold until the Commission makes a decision.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Next Meeting

To be determined.