



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – December 11th, 2017**

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

Present

Parents: Susan Hartung (Co-Chair); Larry Bram (Co-Chair); Claire Funkhouser; Betty Bahadori; Lyda Astrove; Camelia Fawzy; Annette Jolles; Katie Larkin; Mary Keyser; Whitney Ellenby

Organizations: Karen Morgret – Treatment & Learning Center; Kim Mayo, CSN; David Cross – retired MCPS; Rosemary DiPietro – CSN; Susan Smith, HOC; Daniel Hammond, MCPS; Seth Morgan, Commission on People with Disabilities; Sara O’Neill, MMARS; Ricki Sabia, National Down Syndrome Congress; Lu Merrick – IvyMount; Judith Pattik – DDA; Shawn Lattanzio, Local Behavioral Health Authority; Carolyn Chen, County Council; Linda McMillan, County Council; Christina Thomas, TCS; Allan Sheahen, Service Coordination, Inc.; Alan Ofsevit, MMARS; George Leventhal, County Councilmember

Staff: Betsy Luecking

Welcome

Minutes from past meetings can be found online at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/CPWD/CPWDIndex.html>, under the tab Developmental Disability Advisory Committee.

Person Center Planning, the Community of Practice Supporting Families, Long Term Support Services – Patricia Sastoque, Deputy Director of Programs, Developmental Disabilities Administration, and Allan Sheahen, Program Director, Service Coordination, Inc.

PowerPoint: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%20D%20Docs/DDAC/DDAPCPPPTDec2017.pdf>

It was noted that Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is not mandating that providers use the LifeCourse tools. Individuals also are not required to address every focus area domain. They can pick which areas they want to work on. Personal Outcome Measures were developed by individuals with developmental disabilities.

In Maryland, for many years the provider developed the person-centered planning. DDA will be working to increase the skill set of Coordination of Community Services to implement the new tools. Coordination of Community Services (CCS) case managers will begin training in January.

The floor was opened to questions.

Susan Hartung noted that family involvement is not mentioned in the presentation. Patricia said that the people most important to a person will be part of the whole process and DDA wants the family at the table or any person the individual chooses. The community-settings rule does include language about the family.

What training the CCS providers and families will receive? Some case managers have received training on person-centered thinking in September. From January to April, CCS will be trained on the person-centered process and how to implement it. There will be a mandatory three-month intensive training on the LTSS system from April through June. DDA will also be partnering with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council to talk to families in February.

Will this increase the workload for CCSs? DDA wants to adjust the funding to allow for smaller caseloads. The current caseload ratio is 1 to 45 and the goal is to get it down to **1 to 35**. DDA has removed individual caps so agencies can now spend as much time as needed. DDA will also be developing a Request for Proposal for CCS certification.

Is funding dependent on being accepted into the waiver? Everyone who is on the waiver will get the person-centered plan. There are currently 6,806 people on the waiting list. DDA knows their ages and where they live, but do not know what services they need. The person-centered plan will help DDA to know what services they are waiting for. For the first time, there are Federal regulations in CMS for person centered planning. The waiver does not cover 100% of services and DDA can only be one part and should not be the sole funding method. DDA is looking at all other eligibility sources including Medicaid, behavioral health, and MCPS.

Why are providers excluded from the person-centered plan? There were concerns that providers could not be objective developing the plan as they were also delivering the services. The CCS staff and the individual develop the plan and the provider implements the plan.

How long will the training on the LifeCourse tool be CCSs? There will be a two-day, 12-hour training. Then there will be a separate training for LTSS from April to June.

If an individual cannot make their own decisions then who will develop their plan? It will be a team effort.

Can the comment period for the rate study be extended? Also, those who submitted questions have only received generic answers. The comment period will not be extended past the 30 days as it has to be submitted and DDA does not want to jeopardize the waiver. Appendix I and J of the document goes into detail regarding the types and costs of services and the methodolog. For the first year, no rates will be change. Services will change the second year. DDA is planning to submit an amendment this summer to realign the family supports and community supports waivers. During that realignment, DDA will add additional to the rate study. DDA is still tweaking what the rates will be before Maryland implements the Community First Waiver. They are also analyzing the study for discrepancies. DDA has not finalized what the rates will be. The recommended rates for Person Supports Training, Day Habilitation, and Behavior Support are too low. In regard to the questions, 10 of the 17 questions received by DDA were from Montgomery County. DDA's goal is to respond to all questions by this Friday.

Susan Hartung suggested that DDA hold town hall meetings in Montgomery County and during times that the majority of people can attend. Montgomery County accounts for 25% of the Autism Waiver, but the closest meetings are held in Anne Arundel County.

Montgomery County Council Workgroup on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences – The Honorable George Leventhal, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee, County Council

Resolution: Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences -
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/res/2017/20171212_18-989.pdf

When Councilmember Leventhal became Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee (HHSC), Blair Ewing had created a task force called the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Mental Health which developed a document of goals that the Council still refers to and uses as a benchmark for progress. Councilmember Leventhal would like a similar work group to develop a document on the needs of residents with developmental differences that the County can refer to as they work on mutually agreed upon goals for the community of those with developmental differences. He noted that it would be also be helpful for the next group of elected officials as in 2018 a new County Executive will be elected along with at least four new councilmembers. Councilmember Leventhal envisions the work group to make broad, general recommendations that are feasible for elected officials to understand and make progress on.

The 2009 Study Results from the Workgroup on the Future for People with Severe Developmental Disabilities, Including Autism was suggested as a base for the workgroup, perhaps to update it. The workgroup may want to review the 2009 study to see what has been accomplished.

It was asked if members of the Developmental Disability Advisory Committee could be a part of the Council workgroup. The resolution includes some representatives chosen by the Commission on People with Disabilities.

The workgroup is finite and temporary with a set date for the report to be submitted.

The Council will vote on the resolution next Tuesday.

Updates on Coordination of Community Services / Challenges – Representatives from Total Care, MMARS, Montgomery County HHS Community Support Network: Tabled due to time constraints.

Update from DDA – Judith Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office: Tabled due to time constraints.

Update – Autism Waiver (TY) – Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS): Tabled due to time constraints.

Co-Chair Update: Tabled due to time constraints.

New Business: Tabled due to time constraints.

Announcements: Tabled due to time constraints.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8th, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. 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 Specialist

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager