



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – June 10th, 2019**

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

Welcome

Minutes from past meetings can be found online at:

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

Updates on Topic Areas Discussed in Report from County Council Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences

Report from Employment Committee:

Betty Bahadori sent an e-mail to Committee members regarding County Council [Bill 12-19, Human Rights and Civil Liberties – Building Maintenance Worker – Minimum Work Week](#) which would require an employer to provide a minimum work week of at least 30 hours for each employee working jobs that include janitor or building cleaner. The bill would affect non-government companies. A public hearing has been scheduled for June 18th at 1:30 p.m. There may be unintended consequences for individuals who choose to work less than 30 hours per week as they may be supplementing their income with a part time job or they are unable to work 30 hours per week. Karen Lee responded to the e-mail saying it has been proposed to include waiver language that persons with vocational rehabilitation and individual plans for employment (IPEs) be waived from the 30-hour requirement. This would include people with all disabilities, not just for developmental disabilities. Betsy Luecking, Staff Liaison, Commission on People with Disabilities, forwarded this information to Leslie Frey, Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Analyst for Health and Human Services (HHS) so she can work with the County Council.

The Employment Workgroup met with Karen Hochberg, Human Resources (HR), who was hired to work on employment issues for people with disabilities. She stated there are very few part-time positions within Montgomery County Government. HR has a registry for people with disabilities to submit their applications and if a position becomes available, she screens the list. There are currently 85 people on the registry.

County Executive Marc Elrich has said he is interested in a business advisory approach and working on a concept where agencies can work with large employers in a collaborative way with support from the County. Karen has agreed to present this group's ideas with County Executive Elrich.

Chuck Short, Special Assistant to the County Executive, has convened a work group to discuss how the County can increase employment in the private sector. For years Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) had a contract with the Marriott Bridges to Work program. MCPS has not had the contract for a year. Community Support Network (CSN) currently has a \$30,000 grant with Transcend to provide services within MCPS, but they do not meet with employers. This is a separate program from Customized Employment.

Cami Fawzy has been working with Crystal to develop an online survey composed of ten questions to be sent to providers and self-directed service coordinators to understand what their challenges are, what kind of supports they need, and what fears or concerns they have about the changes occurring in DDA. Using their answers, they will identify proposed solutions that will help everyone regardless of the level of services they provided. It is important to understand capacity and how that capacity will be affected by the changes that are coming from the DDA side. The online survey will be available via link by the end of the week. Cami plans to focus on analyzing the data over the summer and present the results at the next meeting in September. She asked for Committee members to assist in forwarding out the survey to their contacts. It was suggested that the survey include a question regarding the individual's role – i.e. provider, self-directed services coordinator, etc.

Betsy will be meeting with Chuck Short next Tuesday to continue discussions on employment in the private sector. Marie Parker will also be in attendance. It was suggested that Pat from Treatment and Learning Centers be invited. County Executive Elrich asked InterACC/DD six months ago to present ideas to him regarding private sector employment of persons with developmental disabilities.

Report from Transitioning Youth (TY) Committee:

Claire Funkhouser reported the TY work group has attended two Transition Workgroup meetings that are led by Karen Leggett and let them know about this Committee. The goal is to augment what their workgroup is doing and identify gaps. The TY workgroup identified the following recommendations:

- Coordinate MCPS employment services with employment programs around the County (Worksource and non-profits) and engage employers directly to be a proactive stakeholder.
- Integrate transitioning youth planning with person-centered planning to increase coordination of services. Engage students earlier (even one-year) with State-funded services so families can work with CCS earlier.
- MCPS and CCS should return to the practice of working together when the child is age 14 or younger. Provide clear information to parents about the different eligibility criteria for school systems and DDA so they can make informed choices. Information could be shared with parents via a webinar or a YouTube video so they can learn about the transition process. Montgomery County is very diverse and there is a need for many different languages. Some parents do not attend meetings because their culture views having a family with a disability as shameful.
- Create a YouTube video that walks parents through the DDA application (a more informal version of what is currently posted on DDA's website). Include the need for clear documentation and to be subjective when filling out the form.
- Create a YouTube video that shows what adult programs look like in a more real environment as opposed to the school programs. It can be hard for working parents to visit programs and it might lessen their fear.
- Montgomery County CCS workers be trained on what services are available.

The Maryland Developmental Disability Council has some grant funding if the Committee moves forward with any recommendations. Goal over the summer are to further figure out the format and developing and outline for the webinar and videos. The TY workgroup would need to coordinate with DDA on how the transformation will affect future application process. They will be presenting these recommendations

to the Transition Workgroup tomorrow as some of their members might be an additional resource to assist over the summer.

Rosemary DiPietro, CSN, noted that CCS workers do not have the time to take additional training. It just takes time for the CCS worker to learn about resources and services. One issue is the turnover rate. CCS workers are compensated based on the time they spend on each person, not for learning about other resources. It was suggested that grant funding be used to pay CCS workers to take the training.

Sara O'Neill, MMARS, said it may be a hard sell to get her CCS workers to attend the webinar. Their caseloads are weighted geographically and there may be 10 to 15 people who handle Montgomery County. They are working internally and want to make sure their supervisors are cross-trained.

At every MCPS high school there is a transition teacher that meets with the parents who are required to sign off that they have received a Next Steps brochure. It was suggested that parents have to sign off that they have viewed the webinar as well.

The TY Workgroup will meet again on July 10th. Committee members were asked to review the report Claire Funkhouser wrote and send her feedback.

Judy gave an update on Montgomery County TY numbers

TY 17 (FY 18)

Total -107

Placed - 89

Not placed -18

- 6 - Declining services
- 2 - Denied due to citizenship
- 4 - Denied due to family not submitting documentation
- 1 - Have provider but not on waiver
- 3 - On waiver but have no provider
- 2 - Not on waiver and no provider

TY 18 (FY 19)

Total - 129

Placed - 90

Not Placed - 39

- 9 - Declined services
- 5 - Waivers denied due to documentation not being returned or waiver being expired
- 12 - on waiver and no provider
- 13 - not on waiver and no provider (8 waivers pending)

TY 19 (FY 20)

Total - 148

31 - Service Funding Plans (SFP) at Regional Office

45 - Waivers in the Regional Office

Judy stated that this year they experience many waiver applications not coming in until this spring. There does not seem to be a sense of urgency to complete and submit documentation. It is also hard to contact some parents. DDA meets quarterly with CCS agencies and go over issues case-by-case. The two biggest reasons why someone is not in services is because they were declined or lack of documentation submitted by the family. Sometimes the individual gets on the waiver, but has challenges

finding a provider for some reason. There was a question how the increase in TY numbers will affect CCS as their caseloads will increase but their budget is not increasing. DDA works hard to get plans in place before July 1st.

It was suggested that DDA offer a way for parents and individuals to see where their application is in the process – if it has information missing, if it is being reviewed, if it has been approved, etc. One issue is parents may think they have done everything they are supposed to do, but there may be missing documentation. It was suggested that CCS should have more of a role in the transition process. It was noted that CCS has changed and has more regulations. DHHS has one staff person this year designated to work on TY cases, and they have worked with all 12 of the families. Of those 12, one or two have not been responsive and is taking more work on behalf of the TY staff person.

The TY numbers are increasing every year. There may be an increase in Autism Waiver numbers.

Report from Health and Wellness Committee:

- Concern about maintaining inclusion for medically complex individuals as they transition from school to adult services. Geneva has concerns that medically complex individuals are being steered by the school system into programs that are not equivalent for those individuals who do not have medically complex needs. She questioned why programs do not have the supports available to take medically complex individuals. With DDA shifting away from Individual Support Services (ISS) and towards Medicaid Waivers there are now Federal requirements. Geneva has been in contact with a State Delegate who is working on implementing home care in Maryland. She is also working with Susan C. Lee, Maryland State Senate, to discuss issues regarding the Division of Nursing Services and has contacted Curt Decker, Executive Director of National Disability Rights Network. Geneva noted that they chose self-directed services because they only other option was adult day services. Susan asked Geneva to find the numbers of medically complex individuals in Montgomery County.
- Individuals dually diagnosed with medically complex needs and developmental disabilities have unique needs. Resources need to be pulled in from waiver programs. They have always been eligible for REM, which is managed by the Board of Nursing Care (BNC). Families oftentimes have to go through an appeal process to receive services. There should be communication between the agencies when making decisions about individuals. DDA has reached out to BNC about meeting with them on individual cases, but BNC has refused.
- Shawn Lattanzio reported she has received several calls from the County Council office regarding individuals with DD and mental health issues not being placed after emergency room visits. One parent said they waited for four days for placement while another waited a week. There are only a few beds that serve children with dual diagnosis.
- Jenn Lynn has met with the President and CEO of Kennedy Krieger Institute to pitch the need for a facility (emergency or residential) in Montgomery County for those who are dually diagnosed and too complex for hospital emergency rooms and Sheppard Pratt. There are concerns about the lack of beds statewide for mental health care for young people. He agreed and is aware of the need. There is a coalition forming in Maryland involving people from various areas of expertise and geographic locations to push this urgent need through the channels of government, etc.
- Larry Bram gave an update on the early intervention screening pilot project. Funding was received from the Washington Area Women's Foundation and the pilot project is being run through Easter Seals. TLC is providing outreach to pediatricians and CHADIS is providing the

software. The goal is to have 15 pediatricians signed up for this project by the end of the year. TLC already has several signed up. Councilmember Gabe Albornoz is on board to have this project in the County's budget for 2021 with a goal of having 100% screening in Montgomery County. This early intervention screening service is pre-Child Find and with the parent's permission refers them to Part C. 40% of children ages birth to 30 months are not receiving the right amount of screening. Not all pediatricians screen.

Report from Recreation Committee:

- Autism Ambassadors, created and sponsored by Whitney Ellenby, continues to offer recreational opportunities to people with Autism and their families. She has over 800 people on her list.
- KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) offers over 35 free recreational programs in the greater DC/Baltimore area. There are over 15 in Montgomery County.
- Potomac Community Resources and Upcounty Community Resources also offer many recreational programs.
- Montgomery County Department of Recreation continues to offer classes, camps, and special events. Susan suggested that the Therapeutic Recreation brochure include information about other programs that are available.
- The Commission on People with Disabilities Disability Network Directory has a Recreation category online of programs: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DND/DNDRecreation.pdf

Other Updates:

Susan met with County Executive Elrich a few weeks ago and he is in support of what this Committee is working on. Chuck Short proposed we hold a town hall that he would host to discuss DD issues and invite DDA, Maryland State Delegation, stakeholders, providers, parents, etc. If this Committee likes the idea, they can submit a date to County Executive Elrich. It was suggested the town hall be held in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist
Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

