



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – May 8th, 2017**

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

Present

Parents: Susan Hartung (Co-Chair); Larry Bram (Co-Chair), Easter Seals; Lyda Astrove; Kathy Perlman; Claire Funkhouser; Annette Jolles

Organizations: Karen Morgret – Treatment & Learning Center; Sara O’Neil - MMARS; Judith Pattik - DDA; Eldora Taylor – Community Support Network (CSN); Melissa Shaffer-Reyes - MMARS; John Whittle – Service Coordination, Inc.; David Cross; Rosemary DiPietro – CSN; Daniel Hammond, MCPS; Shawn Lattanzio, CSN; Kim Mayo, CSN; Lu Merrick, IvyMount

Staff: Betsy Luecking

Welcome and Introductions

Susan Hartung, Co-Chair, convened the meeting and introductions were made.

Charting the Life Course – Mary Anne Kane Breschi, Director of Family Supports, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

PowerPoint:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/DDAC/DDAFamilySupportsMay2017.pdf

Ms. Kane Breschi’s role is to co-facilitate Community of Practice and Life Course framework. DDA is formally adopting Community of Practices that recognizes the work that families do, have done, and will continue to do and recognizes the need to support all of those efforts. She is the mother of 4 children and her youngest was born with a developmental disability. She shared her personal story of the pediatrician who advised her and her husband not to bond with their daughter and to not have her 3 older brothers bond with her. This was in 1993 and the pediatrician advised her to place her child in an institution. She instead chose to have their daughter live at home and provide care for her there. She had to quit her job in order to care for her daughter. They went from a two-income family to 1. She later became a service coordinator and now is Director of Family Supports and has been in this position for 7 months.

Nationwide, there are 4.7 million people with a developmental disability. 89% of those individuals live in their own home or with family and 11% of those individuals receive formal residential support services. In Maryland, there are approximately 94,000 individuals with an intellectual developmental disability. Of those individuals, 18% receive paid DD services and 12% are on the waiting list and receiving targeted case management. The rest, approximately 70% or 67,000 individuals, are unknown to the system, are not receiving services, and are being supported by their families.

In Maryland, there are over 240,000 children, birth through age 17, with special health care needs. **50,000** of those children have a diagnosis that requires their caregiver (parent or guardian) to quit work and support the child full-time.

Each agency is encouraged to take the principles and tools of Community of Practice and Life Course Framework and implement them into their own practices. DDA is currently drafting the training guide for Coordinators of Community Services around person-centered training. Language from the Life Course Framework will be included in this guide.

The Family Supports Waiver will be implemented in January, 2018. The goal is to support 400 families.

The floor was opened to questions:

Are you educating the regional staff who are making the decisions for these families? Ms. Kane Breschi has had brief moments in front of providers, but they need to be extended and the plan is that it will happen and she will work with the regional offices. In each regional office, there is an advocacy specialist for individuals with disabilities. There will now be a lead for Employment First, a lead for Self-Directed Services, and now there is a lead for Family Services. The goal is to work with families and individuals in this ideal manner. Several persons commented that COMAR and the waiver language can be so bureaucratic. The approach of the LifeCourse framework is to be more supportive of individuals and their families and it was hoped the principles discussed today would be applied to all of the policies and programs of DDA. In response to her excellent presentation, the following motion was made:

“We recommend that the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) formally adopt the Community of Practice & the LifeCourse Framework. The principles should be incorporated throughout all DDA programs and policy decisions including the existing Community Pathways Waiver, and any other waivers to be administered by DDA.”

The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Betsy will send the motion for review by the County’s Office of Legislative Oversight for permission to advise the State.

It was noted that families created advocacy organizations back in the 1950s and 1960s, which then became service providers such as the Arc and CSAAC. There is a tremendous amount of inclusion in Montgomery County. The County provides a funding supplement to providers of adults with developmental disabilities because they recognize there is not enough funding from the State. The County’s Recreation Department provides inclusive programs and Montgomery College offers programs and courses for individuals with developmental disabilities.

There is frustration in the provider field due to DDA’s regulations and their siloing of services. This reduces the flexibility of providers and for families to receive needed services. David Cross, former Autism Waiver Coordinator, noted that he was very involved in wrap-around programs and his opinion is that the best service providers in the County were started by families and are successful because they ask families what they need and assist them in decision-making. He also noted the frustration of working within DDA regulations that never asked the original question of families – what do they need?

Susan added that there is concern that if new regulation become any more restrictive more people will not receive services because providers will not be able to work under those new restrictions. She also stated that the May 15-16 DDA training is on a weekday and she works and cannot attend. She recommended something similar for weekends.

Shawn Lattanzio suggested that DDA change the focus of Employment First to Family First to align with what they are doing with Life Course. The family focus should be strengthened and families should be encouraged to be at the table. Not everyone may be employed to make a meaningful day.

Update - Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Judy Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

Judy could not attend the meeting and e-mailed her update: She is meeting with the Montgomery County TY group on May 19th and hopes to develop person-specific plans for those still in need of a placement/services.

TY16 (FY17)

Total – 127

Placed – 106

Not placed – 21

3 – declined services

1 – no contact

2 – Not eligible due to citizenship

2 – Have provider, but not on the waiver

9 – On waiver, but have no provider

4 – Not on waiver and no provider

TY17 (FY18)

Total – 101

10 – Already in service
7 – SFP at SMRO

Update – Autism Waiver (TY) – Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
None.

Update - Coordination of Community Services (CCS)

MMARS – Need update

Total Care – Ongoing Cases

- Community Coordination – 806
- Transition Coordination – 35
- Waitlist Current Request – 301
- Waitlist Crisis Prevention – 35
- Waitlist Crisis Resolution – 2
- Currently have 7 TY16s – one is placed and one has selected self-directed services. One TY16 has declined services and another has immigration issues which makes them ineligible for the waiver. One they are unable to contact and another is still conducting site visits.

Montgomery County – Need update.

Chair and Vice-Chair Update: DDA will be hosting a Developmental Disabilities Eligibility Symposium on May 17th and 18th in Columbia.

New Business: None.

Announcements:

Shawn Lattanzio reported that ABA therapy can now be billed to Medical Assistance for children who have Autism and are under the age of 18. The guidelines and rates were just released. She also reported that there will be a Behavioral Health Resource Fair on Wednesday, May 17th from 5pm to 8pm at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 12th, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ****PLEASE NOTE LOCATION**** 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 Assistant
Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
Commission on People with Disabilities