



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – May 14th, 2018**

Sue 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.

Update on the Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences – Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

Linda asked if she could use the same meeting dates and times for the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) for the Work Group. The meetings will be tentatively held at the Council Office Building. The resolution has designated that representatives from the following departments and agencies be appointed to the Work Group: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), WorkSource Montgomery, Representative from InterACC/DD, Representatives chosen by the Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD) that may include consumers of DDA services, family members or caregivers, and public at-large. Kim Mayo will be the representative from HHS. Representatives from MCPS and Montgomery College still need to be designated. Several DDAC members have expressed their interest to Linda about joining the Work Group as well as several individuals that are not part of DDAC. The Work Group meetings will be open to the public and attendees of the DDAC meetings are welcome to attend.

Linda would like to meet informally with a few individuals in the next two weeks to draft some key points before holding a full Work Group session on June 11th. In addition to meeting during the regularly scheduled DDAC dates, she would also like to meet the 4th Monday of every month. Tentative list of meeting dates for the Work Group: June 4th (in lieu of May 28th – Memorial Day), June 11th, June 25th, July 9th, July 23rd, August 13th, August 27th, September 10th, September 24th. The Work Group report is due to County Council by October 15th. The report will serve as an educational and policy tool for elected officials. It was noted that there will be a new County Executive and new Councilmembers coming into office next year who may not know or understand DDA or DD services. The resolution gives broad topics such as housing and transportation, but Linda would like to narrow down those topics into key items. Linda envisions the report as a series of white papers that can help to explain and provide background for the County's budget and DD programs, why the DD supplement exists, why the County pays for a DD supplement while other counties do not, etc. It was suggested the report explain issues of eligibility, DD through the life span and different ages, explain how changes to Medicare and Medicaid could have an impact on services, explain the differences of the DD population of Montgomery County versus the rest of the state in terms of size and need. Judy Pattik, Regional Director, DDA, noted that there is some data that potentially suggests Montgomery County is being targeted for a regional differential in every measure as being 10% more to provide services in the County.

It was suggested that an agenda to be sent out prior to meetings that outlines what will be discussed as that could assist non-appointed members and agency representatives in their decision to attend.

Linda noted that Carolyn Chen, County Council Staff, will be available to assist the Work Group once she has completed a grant project.

For more information regarding the Work Group, please review the resolution:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/res/2017/20171212_18-989.pdf

Betsy noted this DD Advisory committee grew out of a group with the original intent of this Committee to bring Resource Coordination back to the County. This has been achieved.

Recreational and Social Opportunities at Potomac Community Resources, Inc. - Seth Duncan, Program Director

Website: <https://pcr-inc.org/>

Potomac Community Resources (PCR) provides therapeutic, recreational, social, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences. Programs and activities foster an inclusive community of people of all ages. PCR was founded in 1994 by a small group of families Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Parish when services for individuals with developmental differences were very limited and individuals were moving out of institutions. Today, PCR serves hundreds of individuals and families in our region.

PCR offers about 30 programs including music programs run by a music therapist, art programs run by an art therapist, communication groups run by a speech and language pathologist, sports, fitness, photography, and a Friday night social club. Several parties and special events are held throughout the year. While PCR does not offer residential services, there are programs that are offered during the evenings and on weekends. The Tricia Sullivan Respite Care Program I offers five hours of fun and therapeutic activities for individuals with significant care needs and/or those with medical needs. The program is offered twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kennedy Institute in Rockville. PCR provides one-on-one staffing and a Registered Nurse is on-site. It is a private pay, but PCR can accept respite funds or provide scholarships. PCR does fundraise in order to provide scholarships so that no individual is turned away from services. Special events and parties are held in conjunction with the Connelly School of the Hold Child and include a beach party, a Halloween party, a holiday party, and a barbecue for 300 to 400 PCR members. The School has also partnered with PCR to start a Best Buddies chapter.

PCR membership is free and there are charges for some programs. Financial aid may be available. There are no wait lists for programs currently, but most classes are at capacity. The Respite Program has the highest enrollment due to the limited number of participants based on staff and space. PCR partners with other agencies to provide program space that is typically located at other agencies in the Potomac, Bethesda and Rockville areas. The Friday night social club is held at the Wisconsin Place Community Center.

There are only two full-time PCR staff with twelve part-time staff that work directly with members. PCR also works with other communities and organizations in Montgomery County, including Upcounty Community Resources (UCR) to provide mentorship and assistance as they create programs and services for persons with intellectual and developmental differences. He noted that there is a Prince George's County group that has been tasked with connecting Hispanic language communities throughout the state to services.

Seth meets with MCPS transition teachers every year to discuss recreational opportunities and stress the importance of transitioning youth not becoming isolated. The transition process is focused more on residential and employment services. DDA encourages individuals to become involved in recreational activities, but there is no funding for them and they are not reimbursable.

Seth noted that the monthly photography group is an inclusive group that includes six to seven volunteers from the North Bethesda Camera Club who teach photograph basics. Every July a photo exhibition is held. For the Friday night social club, Seth tries to recruit volunteers from the University of Maryland the Georgetown University to attend.

PCR has purchased a house that was built on extra land owned by the Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. The house will be available for four women and staff. PCR is in the process of identifying a partnering organization that can handle the staffing. PCR hopes to move individuals into the program in about six months.

Seth reported UCR will be hosting a fundraising 5K Walk / Roll-a-Thon on June 16th at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. PCR works with UCR when developing their activities calendars to make sure there is no overlap.

Update – Transitioning Youth – Judy Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

TY 17 (FY18) - Total 105

- 81 have been approved to begin services
- 3 declined
- 2 denied due to citizenship
- 6 are on the waiver, but not in service
- 12 are not on the waiver with no provider
- 1 is not on the waiver and has a provider

There are 133 TY projected to exit this year.

There is concern about getting TYs placed into services. DDA has contacted providers to let them know who in their county still needs services. Information was also shared with CCSs. Several providers have responded to the query. It was noted that providers may be reluctant to take on more clients until their application process has been finalized.

As of last week, 22 providers had submitted applications for the Family Supports Waiver; 39 providers had submitted applications for the Community Supports Waiver; and 27 providers had submitted applications for the Community Pathways Waiver. There are 71 providers who have their headquarters in SMRO. There may be other providers that serve SMRO, but their headquarters are elsewhere. Of those 71 providers, 45 applications have been received and 9 have been approved. It is expected that number of applications will increase. For behavior Support Services, 10 applications have been received and 2 have been approved.

Three additional staff have been added to SMRO who will be trained to review applications. DDA will also be required to visit providers as part of the application approval process. Providers will be receiving a letter sometime this week and regional offices will then begin to do site visits. They will not wait for an application to be approved prior to a site visit. DDA is approaching applications with every intention of assisting providers through the process in order to have capacity in the region.

Judy reported 400 people statewide have been approved for either the Family Supports Waiver or the Community Supports Waiver. DDA is regularly reviewing the Crisis Prevention list to identify individuals. Once that list is completed, DDA will review the Current Request list. If an individual's needs exceed the Community Supports Waiver, then DDA will look at the Community Pathways Waiver. If an individual's situation has changed and their current waiver is not working, they should contact DDA to discuss other options.

It was noted that some providers are waiting on application approval due to a required Child Protective Services (CPS) clearance. This clearance, depending on the jurisdiction, can take months to be approved and is out of DDA's control.

Updates on Coordination of Community Services / Challenges – Representatives from Total Care, MMARS, Montgomery County HHS Community Support Network:

Sara O'Neil of MMARS reported that for TY18, only 10 have been accepted. They share Judy's concerns regarding provider application approval and capacity. They are working with SMRO for individuals who have not been placed yet. Rosemary DiPietro, Community Support Network, reported for TY18 they are serving 8 people. No service funding plans have been submitted to DDA yet. 7 are paired with a provider or are planning to self-direct. 1 TY17 who is self-directing their services already has DDA funding that is not waived. They are working with that family to have something in place by June 30th.

Rosemary noted that CSN has 11 full-time coordinators with caseloads. 10 coordinators work with individuals who receive funding from DDA with a caseload of approximately 1 to 45 or 1 to 50. Since April, these coordinators have facilitated 71 individual planning meetings and 179 visits. Last week, DDA instructed CCS agencies to implement the portion of the new Supports Intensity Scale assessment tool that is related to individual planning for all individuals who have July anniversary dates. Planning for annual IP meetings is started 90 days before the anniversary date. 60 days prior to the anniversary date a new cost detail form is completed. DDA is given 30 days to review the plan. The CCSs are required to enter this information into a hard copy Word document that will need to be later transferred into an electronic system in August. CCSs will be receiving more training over the next months on how to use the Long-Term Support Services (LTSS) system. Rosemary asked for providers, families, administrators and DDA to have patience and provide support to CCSs over the coming months as they work to learn the new system, complete annual IP meetings, and manage their caseload. It was asked what assistance CSN would like in order to address these issues. Rosemary said more staff would be helpful as well as DDA training families on person-centered planning as CCSs are currently taking on this role. She added that it would also be helpful if the DDA Communications Director could notify families about the new system implementation and explaining to families the timeline.

Susan reported she has drafted a letter to CPWD asking them to advocate for more funding to hire additional CCSs to reduce the overall caseload. Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that CSN is restricted by the Office of Management and Budget which has set the caseload to 1 to 50.

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

Co-Chair Update:

Susan reported the CPWD has a new Legislative Committee headed by Commissioner Neal Carter. If any DDAC member has legislative issues the Commission should be aware of, please send them to Susan.

Larry Bram, Co-Chair, reported Avner Shapiro, Commissioner, CPWD, has been convening an informal work group on early intervention and diagnosis. Attendees have included the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for Montgomery County. The work group has been reviewing programs that already exist around the country. Avner has drafted a proposal for an early intervention program for MCPS and Barbara Andrews, Administrator for the Infants and Toddlers Program is looking into funding possibilities to start a pilot program within MCPS. The work group will be meeting over the next few weeks and Larry will provide this Committee with updates. It was noted it is important to remind doctors of the benefits of screenings and early interventions. It was noted that even with early diagnosis it is important for the doctor to explain to the family the diagnosis as well as helping link them to services. Larry reported that in Maryland 15,000 children enter kindergarten with an undiagnosed disability and 1 in 50 children in school have Autism.

Larry reported a study conducted by Boston Children's Hospital that studied EEG's on children EEGs were taken at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months of age. The study concluded that although autism could be predicted in some children as young as three months, by nine months old the EEG predictive accuracy for Autism was almost 100%.

Announcements:

Susan announced Regal Germantown will be offering \$1.00 movies at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She also noted that Regal Rockville offers sensory-friendly movies once a month on a Saturday morning.

Next Meeting: The Work Group will be taking over the DDAC meeting schedule starting in June through October.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager