



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – November 9th, 2020**

Larry Bram, Co-Chair • Karen Morgret, Co-Chair

Attendees: Betty Bahadori; Larry Bram; Odile Brunetto; Carly Clem; Christine Dagostino; Onesta Duke; Claire Funkhouser; Marie Parker Harvey; Susan Ingram; Shawn Lattanzio; Betsy Luecking; Jenn Lynn; Linda McMillan; Jennifer Mizrahi; Karen Morgret; Sara O’Neil; Gloria Odongo; Heller An Shapiro; Susan Smith

Approval of the October 2020 Meeting Summary Minutes

A motion was made to approve the October 2020 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the October 2020 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd - click on the tab Developmental Disability Advisory Committee.

Update from Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Onesta Duke, Acting Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

PowerPoint - Meaningful Day Transformation Updates October 23, 2020:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/DDAC/Meaningful%20DayUpdates10_23_20Final.pdf

Transitioning Youth (TY) Fiscal Year (FY) 20

- 150 TYs total
 - 120 have been placed
 - 30 have not been placed
 - 6 declined services
 - 2 waivers were denied
 - Working to resolve the other 22 TY service enrollments with coordination agencies

TY FY21

- 167 TYs total
 - 66 have been placed into services
 - 101 have not been placed
 - 6 have declined
 - 23 were not approved for the waiver
 - 12 have waivers pending
 - 60 have no waiver submitted
 - Working to resolve 72 TY service enrollments with coordination agencies.

Waiting list – 830 total for Montgomery County

- 14 in crisis resolution (need services within the next three months)
Working with coordination agencies to identify services or supports
- 32 crisis prevention
- 784 current request

Onesta reported DDA held a training last Friday on the Person-Centered Plan (PCP) Development and Authorization Guidance on November 6th from 1pm to 2:30pm. This training is specific for Coordinators of Community Services (CCS), provider staff, and DDA staff involved with the PCP development, provider service acceptance, and approval process.

On October 1st, DDA hosted a webinar and training on the discontinuation of the utilization of Serving Funding Plans (SFP) and Modified Service Funding Plans (MSFP). The discontinuation took effect on October 15th, 2020. The webinar focused on the entire process of PCP pre-planning, development, approval and authorization process. Effective October 15th, 2020, any updates or changes based on a person's assessed needs to their PCP will be facilitated by the person's CCS via a PCP annual update and as needed revision processes in the LTSSMaryland system. PowerPoint: <https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Documents/Person-Centered%20Planning/11.09.20/DDA%20PCP%20Dev%20and%20Authorization%20Guidance%20Training%20ppt%2011-06-2020.pdf>

The Community Pathways Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver requires renewal by the federal government, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), every five years. On October 23rd, DDA hosted a webinar on Meaningful Day Services, which provided an update on the transformation efforts. DDA has been realigning Meaningful Day Services to support competitive and integrated employment and community participation and create a menu of services based on individually identified outcomes and goals. Services will be moving from a daily rate to fee-for-service and services will be based on best practices. Services that will be unbundled are discovery, job development, self-employment, follow along supports, and co-worker supports.

Since July 1, 2020, until the DDA's system is fully transitioned into LTSSMaryland, the DDA has been operating in two systems: LTSSMaryland and the legacy Provider Consumer Information System (PCIS2). As a result, PCP will be completed and approved in LTSSMaryland and Meaningful Day services will continue to be authorized and billed through PCIS2, with the exception of pilot providers. DDA will continue to authorize legacy services within PCPs. Detailed service authorization requests for employment services including job development, ongoing job supports, follow along supports, self-employment developmental supports, and co-worker supports will all be authorized as supported employment within PCIS2 with the current daily rates. The rates will not transition to fee-for-service until DDA is fully operating in LTSSMaryland. Employment services and discovery milestones will be authorized as employment discovery and customization within PCIS2 with the current rates. Community Development Services (CDS) will be authorized as CDS. To assist stakeholders in navigating between the two systems, DDA created a Meaningful Day service mapping guide to walk through the different service names, units, scope, and billing instructions: <https://files.constantcontact.com/f401fd14401/edb0e253-d0a8-4fd4-9502-7f46b577f33c.pdf>.

Appendix K offers some flexibility for Meaningful Day services including the suspension of the 4-hour minimum of supports. Providers can now provide a minimum of one hour and bill for a full day's worth of services. It also allows for services to be provided in a multitude of settings, including remote support. There is also flexibility of staffing ratios, staff training and onboarding. Many agencies are hiring family members as staff.

DDA's Amendment #3 included proposed changes for job development and ongoing follow along supports to be more in line with value-based payments. At this time, based on public comments, DDA will not be moving forward with those proposed changes. No changes will be made to employment services in Amendment #3.

DDA continues to move forward with Eligibility Visitor Verification (EVV) implementation. There are still 300 individuals that will be going live on December 1st. There are approximately 130 plans yet to be reviewed and approved to meet that deadline.

The floor was opened to questions.

Susan Ingram, Community Support Services (CSS), asked if DDA is withdrawing changes that were proposed to combine follow along and ongoing supports into one service and if those services will be paid hourly or monthly. Onesta said she will need to get some further clarification for this question, but DDA is holding off on the value-based payment model which is any activity that the state Medicaid program undertakes to hold a provider or organization accountable for cost.

Susan also asked if Amendment #3 was submitted. Onesta reported that it was submitted and DDA is waiting for approval from CMS. Amendment #3 would go into effect whenever CMS approves it. The goal is for it to go into effect January 2021. Rates will be updated when Amendment #3 is approved. Rates will not be retroactive. The most recent rates for Personal Supports and Supported Living were posted on DDA's website last week and should match what is currently showing in LTSS:

<https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Documents/LTSS%20Page/11.07.20/LTSS%20rate%20chart%20110120.zip>

Susan asked if DDA intends to fund services for the 14 people under Crisis Resolution on the waiting list. Onesta said those individuals are prioritized for funding and CCSs are moving forward to identify providers.

Susan asked if TYs have not been placed by November of this year due to the pandemic. Onesta said of the 72 TY's not placed, 60 are awaiting submission of their waiver packets so there may need to be some work done with the CCSs. Onesta does not know what is causing the delay in submission. SMRO's TY Coordinator will be following up on these cases soon. The new TYs will use the Matrix score and eventually go through the PCP process to access services. Cost details will have to be mapped between Maryland LTSS and PCIS2 for billing.

Susan asked if there is a backlog of PCPs at the SMRO. Onesta reported that although all staff were asked to focus on EVV implementation for Personal Supports and Supported Living, staff never stopped reviewing PCPs outside of Personal Supports and Support Living.

Claire Funkhouser, Parent, asked if there has been a funding extension for FY20 TYs. Onesta said there are 22 TYs that need to be resolved. Some flexibility and extensions have been given to individuals who are FY20 and they may be able to still access funds depending on their date of birth. Onesta will follow up with this question.

Susan said Amendment #3 is very hard to follow. Onesta said she shared with the committee DDA's Stakeholder Input Summary for Amendment #3. This document shows what changes were made or clarified based on public comments. <https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Documents/Waiver%20Documents/FINAL%20-%20DDA%20Waiver%20Amendments%203%202020%20Public%20Input%20Summary%20-%20Revised.pdf>.

Susan noted one change in Amendment #3 is children will no longer be allowed in the Community Pathways waiver and they will only be accepted in the Family Supports waiver. Input from the public said this would be a serious problem for children who are in crisis and need residential service placement. The only avenue for a child to receive residential, aside from a hospital, would be educational placement or child welfare. This could have significant impact on this population especially for those children who do not meet education or child welfare criteria. Shawn Lattanzio, Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), reported several residential treatment centers that served children with developmental disabilities and children on the spectrum have closed with a loss of over 45 beds. Shawn reported Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will no longer send students to Grafton, a psychiatric residential treatment facility in Virginia. MCPS also has a very narrow definition of what meets the educational criteria so children are suffering at home during the pandemic but are not considered eligible.

Shawn said the State and child welfare is moving towards a Family First model. Some system changes may be made to keep the child or youth in the home as long as possible, but this does not work for the basic population and can be harder on the family and the child. Claire agreed especially during this time when school is virtual and

there are no after school or weekend programs. Shawn said the Autism Waiver has helped some children although there was a long waiting list. DDA's Personal Supports were also allowed to be used for after school, evenings and weekends. For a small subgroup of children and youth, it was not enough to stabilize them and they did go into residential treatment centers. Shawn reported there are children stuck in hospitals because there is no where for them to go and they are not going to be funded by DDA. There are no new providers in the state and it is going to be a challenge to place them. Claire suggested that Larry or Karen address these issues with the County Council. Betsy Luecking, Staff, asked if Onesta could speak on this issue next month. Onesta agreed and said other entities need to be taken into consideration including child welfare, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the Autism Waiver which all provide residential supports to children. Betsy said we can also see if someone from CW can speak. Shawn will ask an MCPS psychologist she works with to attend the December meeting for the discussion.

Larry Bram, Co-Chair, suggested asking Tom Liniak, Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA), for his input on Amendment #3 as it pertains to employment.

The Programs of ArtStream – Heller An Shapiro, Executive Director

Website: www.art-stream.org

PowerPoint: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/DDAC/ArtStreamforMontgomeryCountyDDAC.pdf>

ArtStream offers performing arts classes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs), including autism. Classes are accessible, empowering, and engaging. Participants learn performing arts and social skills through inclusive participation. Participants should be able to function in groups of up to 30 people with 1:4 staffing; independently meet self-care needs; follow directions; and demonstrate respectful, safe behavior at all times. Unless otherwise noted, ArtStream classes and performing companies are open to adults 18+. You do not need to have any acting experience to take a class or workshop. Programs include dance and movement; drama and storytelling; music; musical theatre; self-advocacy; workplace communication; and public speaking. ArtStream services are eligible for LISS and Respite funding. ArtStream students are eligible to pay in installments or receive full or partial scholarships. Individuals may request tuition assistance for any ArtStream activity.

ArtStream is celebrating their 15th anniversary this year with over 200 students from the DMV and beyond. In March, ArtStream pivoted to online classes. They surveyed all students and learned 93% had access to both wifi and a tablet, smartphone or computer. ArtStream created weekly practice activities titled "Artful Moments" that are sent out via video to all students to keep them engaged. They had their first virtual performance on June 19 and 20. All six inclusive theater companies participated and hundreds of households from 19 states watched. View Salute to ArtStream virtual performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JxETDS9uqU>

ArtStream regularly offers several different kinds of workshops. In their "Super Social Saturday" workshops, students practice socializing skills, let loose, and have fun. "Positively Speaking" workshops offer public speaking skills and tools to help students feel more comfortable and confident in the workplace, at home, at school, and everywhere in between. "Positively Speaking" is done in partnership with the Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County.

Performance tickets are provided free for students age 16 to 26 to provide an opportunity to be inspired by their peers and for participating students to have a large audience.

ArtStream has started a new free friendship program, ArtStream Connection. Participants are paired with a volunteer to practice social skills. ArtStream also provides on-the-job training and weekly happy hours where participants can share ideas and get advice from each other. The average tenure of a participant is nine years.

The floor was opened to questions.

It was asked if there was a way to track who leaves the program and see if they are maintaining friendships. Heller An reported the program retention rate is 91% and many people do not leave. With Zoom, many participants who had moved away have rejoined the program. She does not think those participants have lost their skills.

Karen Morgret, Co-Chair, reported ArtStream has been a great partner for Treatment & Learning Centers (TLC) . Students from both Katherine Thomas School and Outcome Adult Services have benefited from programs.

Betsy asked if ArtStream had a relationship with Imagination Stage. ArtStream has a direct line from Imagination Stage's Pegasus Program. When those participants age out of Pegasus they move into ArtStream. This provides a great opportunity for those students to stay connected and make friends.

Susan reported that since DDA is allowing for virtual access to services an individual who has Personal Supports could benefit from ArtStream with staff support. This offers possibilities if virtual programs are allowed after the pandemic. Susan added that CSS participants have been involved in ArtStream with staff supporting them. Heller An said ArtStream accepts Respite and LISS payments as well. She added that support staff are asked to participate in the program.

Heller An said she would be happy to arrange for Committee attendees to drop in on a class. She said added that post-pandemic ArtStream will most likely continue with hybrid programming as virtual classes allows students who do not have transportation to attend.

Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Updates

Medical Management & Rehabilitation Services (MMARS): Sara O'Neil, DDA QE Analyst II, reported

- 52 TY20's remaining
 - 8 either are unable to contact/or denied services
 - 44 are either on the waiver, waiting for SFP approval/provider acceptance or are waiting for both waiver and SFP approval by DDA.

- 54 TY21's
They are in the process of requesting matrix scores and facilitating Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST).

- 1,471 total individuals in Montgomery County.
 - 1,128 are actively in DDA services.
 - 343 are on the DDA waiting list.
 - 327 are Current Request
 - 8 are Crisis Prevention
 - 8 are Crisis Resolution (CR)
 - No new CR upgrades since the last meeting

- 408 EVV PSS Go Live PCPs that are being served by SMRO.
 - 310 - Were due for the 11/1 Go Live Date
 - 98 - Are due for the 12/1 Go Live Date

Claire asked how much MMARS has grown. Sara said MMARS is accumulating more southern Maryland regional cases as some of the smaller health departments have been closing. They are also seeing that fluctuation in the Eastern Shore as well. MMARS is always hiring new CCSs. All work is still being completed virtually and they have seen a huge increase in production as CCSs are not traveling and all meetings can be hosted virtually. Sara noted that DDA mandates that CCSs have a certain degree in order to be hired.

Total Care Services (TCS): Gloria Odongo, Director of Quality Enhancement, reported

Montgomery County Roster

- Total Care Services currently serves **818** people in Montgomery county
- In services – **668** people
- Waiting List: **150** people (of the 150, **[6]** are crisis prevention and **[2]** are in crisis resolution)
- Self-Direct – **34** people

Transitioning Youth

TY-20 – 19 Transitioning Youth

- (4) pending waiver acceptance
- (4) waivers in progress
- (8) Community Pathways Waiver
- (1) Community Supports Waiver
- (1) Unable to contact

TY-21 – 16 Transitioning Youth

- (11) in the process of obtaining matrix scores and scheduling PCP meetings
- (1) Community Pathways Waiver
- (4) Approved for Family Supports Waiver and will switch to Community Supports Waiver of Community Pathways Waiver next year.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) & One Time Passwords (OTP)

- 156 people receiving personal supports.
- OTPs have been mailed via certified mail.

Wellness Checks

- Still completing ongoing wellness checks.
- CCS agencies are required to submit reports to the DDA.
- TCS has a 97% compliance as some clients they are unable to reach.

TCS is still working to reduce CCS caseloads to 1 CCS per 30 cases, but TCS has had some CCS staff turnover. Gloria also introduced new staff member Christine Augustino.

Service Coordination, Inc. (SCI): Laurie Lyons, Program Manager, reported

- Serving 383 people in Montgomery County
 - 135 people in services (Community Coordination)
 - 7 people at Crisis Resolution
 - 12 people at Crisis Prevention
 - 223 at Current Request
 - 6 Comprehensive Assessments

SCI currently has 12 CCS in Montgomery County. With all working being completed remotely at this time, they are using CCSs from other counties to provide additional support while SCI hires more CCSs. Almost all clients served who receive Personal Supports are using EVV with the November 1st go-live date or are ready to use with the December 1st go-live date. Laurie reported Shakeela Gray, Supervisor, will be participating in the virtual Transitioning Youth fair on Saturday, November 14th.

Claire said CCSs now provide an informational link to the waiting list and who are in transition whereas before the waiting lists were just numbers with no personal contact to any agency. Sara said there are real system improvements with LTSS Maryland because they do not have to count by units anymore and CCSs can spend as much time as they want on the waiting list.

Announcements

Jennifer Mizrahi, RespectAbility, reported she is working with the President-Elect Biden transition team to hire persons with disabilities and individuals who know disability issues to serve in the new administration. She noted that President Obama issued an Executive Order to hire over 100,000 persons with disabilities. Since the start of President Trump's administration 40,000 people have left those positions. This is due to some individuals not being matched with the right job and some receiving no accommodations despite requesting one. Also, many individuals were hired at a Grade 7 or 8 and were never allowed any promotion opportunities. The federal government had also required through 503 that federal contractors hire persons with disabilities. These contractors then poached individuals already working within the federal government. The loss of jobs affected many local persons with disabilities and has a large local impact economically. RespectAbility will be hosting webinars on the application process. Jennifer will send more information to Betsy. Jennifer also reported that many vocational rehabilitation agencies are not being reimbursed for teleconference services. Project Search and other programs are not able to receive payment for providing job coaching if it is not in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist
Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Next Meeting

Monday, December 14th, 2020 from 4pm to 5:30pm – via Zoom
Instructions to attend will be included on the meeting agenda.