

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – March 14, 2016 meeting

Present: Sue Hartung, Chair, Annette Jolles, Karen Morgret, Claire Funkhouser, Dave Cross, Penny Veerhoff, Margie Parrott, Lu Merrick, Eldora Taylor, Debbie Fickenscher, Katie Larkin, Kathryn Kersoy, Reda Sheinberg, Marc Sheinberg Kim Mayo, Rosemary DiPietro, Betsy Luecking

www.MySupport.com

<http://connectability.devpost.com/submissions/37782-mysupport-the-match-com-of-homecare-support>

Presentation - Ari Ne'eman, MySupport via remote and Cindy Kauffman, SEEC

Ari Ne'eman is the President and co-founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, an advocacy organization run by and for Autistic adults seeking to increase the representation of Autistic people across society.

MySupport offers people with disabilities tools to enable them to self-direct their own services. The platform has a significant positive impact on policy and society, through assisting with the expansion of self-directed and home and community based services. Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead v. L.C. decision, states have been shifting away from nursing home and institutional care for people with disabilities and towards integrated, in-home supports. Unfortunately, while most seniors and people with disabilities report that they would like to select and manage their own support workers, little infrastructure exists to assist them in doing so.

MySupport exists to solve that problem. By offering people with disabilities and support workers the ability to create a profile, answer match questions and be connected with compatible users looking to receive or provide support, finding the right support relationship has never been easier. MySupport's easy to use scheduling software makes it easy for workers and people with disabilities to keep track of upcoming shifts with free text message reminders and to submit timesheets to Medicaid-vendorized agencies for payment.

MySupport is designed to empower both people with disabilities and workers, through the use of self-directed services. Under self-direction, people with disabilities retain the power to hire, fire and manage their own workers, rather than delegating that authority to an agency. While over 835,000 people with disabilities, seniors and others with long term services and supports needs self-direct in the United States, self-direction is still the exception rather than the norm. The founders believe that MySupport can change that. The stakes are high. In a multi-year study of self-directed models across several states, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation concluded that self-directed services can significantly reduce nursing home admissions, improve the quality of services provided and ultimately help states control costs and serve more people. MySupport can and will help bring those changes about. The goal is to

help people with disabilities and workers realize the four goals of the ADA - equality of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency and independent living.

People who sign up to be caregivers do have a background check. How it works is very similar to Match.com and it for the Medicaid homecare market. They are in discussions with DDA to establish a pilot of this program in Maryland. There was interest in looking more into establishing a pilot for this program. Nelson Chu is the founder.

Patricia Sastoque, Deputy Director for Programs, Developmental Disabilities Administration, State of Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene reported the following in reference to the Transitioning Youth for Montgomery County:

How many are transitioning? 119

How many have been submitted? 9 SFPs submitted. This is a very low number and we need to start getting the plans in as soon as possible

Summary on filling vacancies and the SMRO Director position:

We hired a new individual in the Provider Relations department who will be working under Michael Bryan.

The Director position closed on March 2nd and we are checking references of a possible candidate. Our goal is to have a selection and decision by the end of the month.

Overview of DDA's transformation, upcoming events, and webinars:

Self-Direction - April 11 and 12th

Employment First conference June 3rd and 4th

Non- residential provider self-assessment to be roll out March 28th

Residential provider self-assessment to be piloted in April and roll out May