



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – September 12, 2016**

**Sue Hartung, Chair
Larry Bram, Vice-Chair**

Present: Lyda Astrove; Betty Bahadori; Scott Bleggi; Larry Bram, David Cross; David Hammond; Rosemary DiPietro; Debbie Fickenscher; Claire Funkhouser; Susan Hartung, Susan Ingram; Annette Jolles; Jay Kenney; Katie Larkin; Shawn Lattanzio; Kim Mayo; Lu Merrick; Seth Morgan; Karen Morgret; Alan Ofsevit; Margie Parrott; Judith Pattik; Michael Bryan, Marcia Rohrer; Reda Sheinberg; Susan Smith; Eldora Taylor;
Staff: Betsy Luecking

Welcome and Introductions

Susan Hartung convened the meeting and introductions were made.

Office of Legislative Oversight's Study on Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities & Seeking Input from the Group – Sue Richards, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council, Office of Legislative Oversight

Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) staff conduct program evaluations, budget analyses, audits, investigations, and other special studies. OLO receives assignments from the nine elected members of the County Council, which annually adopt a Council Resolution that sets forth the Work Program for the office. For each assignment, OLO prepares a written report that provides information. Last year, OLO was asked to research housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. This topic is of specific concern to Councilmember George Leventhal who has received concerns from many families regarding the system.

The topic has three major tasks involved.

1. Research if there's a methodology for doing a long term forecast of housing demand for individuals with developmental disabilities, including determining what the demand is and how it compares to supply.
2. Review practices at the national, state and local level that impact families' experiences and whether there are research efforts in other places that could be useful for the County.
3. Solicit suggestions and ideas for where there could be improvements in the County's gaps as well as services.

Sue Richards noted that she is reviewing how housing fits into the whole range of services a person with developmental disabilities receives. She specifically wanted to meet with this Committee as its members have direct experience with this issue. There are some inclusive approaches in Omaha and Lincoln Nebraska.

The floor was open to questions and discussion.

Annette Jolles said that the key to successfully housing individuals with developmental disabilities is direct community support. She indicated that she was the founder for group homes in the County.

It was asked what methodology for forecasting will be used. Sue is thinking of using the same methodology used for support services for people with disabilities and modifying it specifically for housing. They will use the population forecast from the State of Maryland as well as the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey results for Montgomery County that identify the number of individuals of various types of disability, by age, and by gender. She came across a chart via the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) website that she can use to differentiate between people who can live independently and those who need more intensive supports. They

will also study data regarding young adults who move out of their parents home regardless if they have a disability. The report will examine what the demand will be from now until 2025 or could be expanded until 2035.

It was asked if the housing for individuals for developmental disabilities referred to housing in general or residential services, which are two different areas. Housing can include supportive and shared living, such as group homes, but they also include residential services. In general, the trend now is smaller group homes as the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has as set a limit of four persons in one housing unit for that model of service. It used to be 6 – 8 persons in a group home. The best practice is 1,2 and 3 persons.

The Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program has been an invaluable and affordable option for providers. The Single Family Home Improvement program has also been invaluable in assisting providers to renovate their homes, although the funding for the program was cut a few years ago. Housing Choice Vouchers through the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) are beneficial not only for the holder, but also help to offset the costs of housing for a housemate or roommate. Larry Bram noted that his daughter has an HOC voucher, but they are having difficulty finding an apartment due to inaccessibility of lower cost units. There is a disconnect for homes built before March 1991 or the Fair Housing Amendments Act are affordable and not accessible. Newer units are accessible but not affordable.

Data suggests that the need for DDA funding is increased at an average of 6.5% every year. Health and Human Services (HHS) can confirm this data as they base their yearly DD supplement on the numbers of those who are receiving residential or personal support services. The number one request for from people on the crisis resolution list is housing.

The number one request for individuals aged over 21 and in crisis resolution is housing.

Maedi Tanham Carney, Founder/President/CEO, Integrated Living Opportunities (ILO), gave background information regarding ILO which is a non-profit which helps participating families create intentional communities for adults with developmental disabilities. ILO follows a model used by Center for Independent Futures based in Evanston, IL. Participating families along with four self-advocates (young adults with developmental disabilities) have worked together to establish an intentional community in a new apartment complex in Gaithersburg beginning this Fall. Two of the individuals have Housing Choice Vouchers. ILO is providing the training and the organizational infrastructure to assist the families and the four self-advocates. Each self-advocate will have personal supports, as needed, through a combination of family, hired support through private and government funding, and other support within the community. For more information, please visit www.ilonow.org.

It was asked if the aging population of both caregivers and their adult individuals with disabilities will impact the need for housing and services in the future. There is currently no data. Given that residential services were first offered in the late 70s when moving individuals from institutions into the community, there is already an aging population using that service. Housing accommodations, such as accessibility, will need to change. Developmental disability providers are envisioning more aging in place communities.

Larry noted recently the United States filed a Statement of Interest in the case of Ball v. Kasich. In Ball, individuals on a wait list for home- and community-based services allege that Ohio's ongoing denial of services has placed them at serious risk of institutionalization. The Statement of Interest clarifies that non-institutionalized individuals with disabilities who are not currently receiving state-funded home- and community-based services may bring a claim that a public entity has placed them at risk of institutionalization or segregation in violation of Title II's "integration mandate." It is unclear if the lawsuit outcome will have any effect on other States. Sue Richards indicated that the issue of housing is a problem that the general population is facing within the County; for both those with and without disabilities. This is also an issue of affordable housing.

<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2016/08/30/waiting-list-may-violate-ada/22685/>

It was noted that there is a project called Encore in New York City where several buildings have been dedicated to house formerly homeless individuals with mental illness who can live independently. Years ago the Commission on People with Disabilities discussed that this wasn't an appropriate option as it was not inclusive living.

Individuals can contact Sue Richards at sue.richards@montgomerycountymd.gov to share information or to receive updates.

Update from Developmental Disabilities Administration – Judy Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office

In the Spring when Judy last gave an update, the DDA Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO) has several vacancies and potentially would be losing two positions – one for training and one for quality enhancement. Since then SMRO has filled many positions and will be offering more positions this week. Michael Bryan, formerly the Director of Provider Relations, was promoted to Deputy Director.

Several webinars have been held regarding Community Pathways Waiver Amendment #2. Individuals can view past webinars at:

<http://dda.dhmdh.maryland.gov/Documents/2016/Amendment%202%20Webinar%20Announcements%20with%20Links.pdf>. The information that was shared was generated from listening sessions and from consultants that have been working for DDA. This information helped to formalize the handout (Attachment A) Community Pathways Waiver Amendment #2 – Service Proposals. The left side column is the current service name and the right side column is the proposed service name. Supported Employment will not change much from what it is right now. Maryland supports Employment First and believes if anyone is able to work then they should. Sue Hartung questioned where does a person who cannot work fit in? The Service Proposals draft is still open to revisions.

It was stated that the webinars were confusing due to the amount of terminology used. Terms need to be presented in a clearer manner for the families, individuals and providers to understand.

It was asked if the Montgomery County Public Schools Transition Specialists have a clear understanding of the Waiver and are able to present this information to parents of those students who will be transitioning. Margie Parrott said not at this time.

Amendment #3 will be addressing self-directed services.

Susan Ingram noted that if DDA alters service names to be more specific then they will have to meet more specific Federal requirements. If they fail to meet Federal criteria, it could potentially prevent DDA from receiving funding. She suggested that service names be kept nonspecific and in general terms. She also noted that under Day Habilitation you can no longer work unless you meet the current requirements of a four-hour work day.

Judy gave an update on the number of Transitioning Youth for Montgomery County.

There were a total of 128 students that exited last June:

4 have been newly added for a number of reasons.

12 students were not approved for the DDA waiver.

18 students were approved and almost all of them have decisions.

34 students do not have a plan and have until July 1st, 2017

18 are in services and includes students in non-public schools

For the current school year, they know of 78 students - 7 of which are already in services. The number is currently low as the list is developed as Transition Teachers in schools give the information to Margie Parrott, who then shares it with SMRO. Margie and SMRO staff work together to create the list. They also meet quarterly to discuss TY students, including those who are bob-public.

There are currently 989 individuals in Montgomery County on the DDA Waiting List – not in any services

12 are in crisis resolution, meaning will be in crisis if they do not receive services within 3 months

106 are in crisis prevention, meaning will be in crisis if they do not receive services within 6 months

and 871 are in current request.

There is no information regarding their age or location.

Margie Parrott reported that there will be a Next Steps Adult Services parent/student workshop on September 29th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School – Auditorium. Coordinators of Community Services agencies will be in attendance, including Division of Rehab Services (DORS). MCPS Transition Services Unit lost 7.5

positions last year. There is at least one Transition Specialist in every high school who works full- or part-time depending on the number of students. Several schools have 1.5 staff.

Update - Coordination of Community Services (CCS)

MMARS now has a total of 68 coordinators and managers providing service to 1,400 individuals. Of those individuals, 1,067 are receiving ongoing services. Caseloads are between 42 and 45. They recently hired 7 more staff and would like to get the case load down to 35 to 40. They are seeing a greater need for providers that can handle behavioral issues and significant mental health issues, but there is not the capacity to serve them. Some are waiting in a hospital for discharge. Oftentimes the person is connected to a provider, but there is no appropriate staff available to work with the individual. There are plans to locate a Montgomery County office in the future. For TY16, they had 68 individuals and 44 are placed. Of the 19 that are not, 9 of the families have not followed through with the provider, 8 are waiver issues, and 2 individuals have not responded. For FY17, they have 45 TY and 80% have already had their meeting.

Rosemary Di Pietro, Community Support Network (CSN), gave an update. For TY16, we had 13 TYs. 11 are in services, 1 is medically involved and they have not identified how that person can be served. CSN and SMRO are encouraging the family to seek self-direction. The other individual had their school year extended. For CCS, they are at full capacity currently with 500 clients with 42 on the waiting list. They have been able to take people off the wait list a few at a time. They are fully staffed, although two are on maternity leave at the time and an interim Coordinator is handling those cases. They are seeing a greater uptick in clients making requests for service change, which could be due to the Community Pathways waiver changing. Service change requests increase the workload of the Coordinators. They are under a tremendous amount of pressure and stress from multiple angles right now.

Update: Autism Waiver – Daniel Hammond, Autism Waiver Coordinator, MCPS

David Cross has retired and Daniel Hammond is his replacement. The Autism Waiver waiting list for the State is 4,800. Of those, 950 are in Montgomery County. 252 of the 950 are in services. DDA does not oversee the Maryland Autism Waiver, it is run by the Maryland State Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The program is being conservative with funds and recently only released 60 names throughout the State. They usually release 120 names. Of the 60 listed, 16 names were from Montgomery County. They are starting a rolling enrollment process rather than just accepting enrollment during the summer. Last year, we ran over budget hence why they are being more fiscally conservative. Of the 16 names released, 8 individuals had moved or had aged out of the Waiver. The typical age for those coming off the waiting list are 14 or 15, but this time there is a 10-year-old. There has been an increase in residential treatment center placements. They receive full residential services for 6 months to a year and then go home. If they go into RTC, they are temporarily removed from the Autism Waiver waiting list. They can reapply once they are out and they will not go back on the 9 year waiting list. Children will not be eligible for personal care assistance.

Discussion on Goals for the Year – Larry Bram, Vice Chair

The Committee will continue to work on CCS. With all the recent rules and regulation changes regarding subminimum wage, Section 14c of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), Larry suggested that the Committee begin to focus more on employment and what the group can do at the County level. The Commission on People with Disabilities can now lobby at the State level with approval from the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. It was suggested that the County acknowledge employers in the County who are hiring persons with disabilities. The County used to host an annual Pyramid Awards ceremony that honored leaders in hiring and promoting the persons with disabilities. Private employers need to be at the table when discussing employment of individuals with developmental disabilities. It was noted that families are not knowledgeable about the work incentives that are available and keep their children from working in fear of losing benefits. There are Certified Work Incentive Coordinators that provide counseling and assistance to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability beneficiaries between the ages 14 to 64, who are considering or anticipating changes in their employment situation. Larry also shared information on the recent Ford Foundation pledge to include people with disabilities in its diversity strategies

<http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/ford-adds-people-with-disabilities-to-focus-on-inequality>

Roundtable:

The ARC will be hosting a parent exchange meeting tomorrow night.

The Ivymount School will be hosting a Project Search Information Session on September 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Upcoming

The October Committee meeting will discuss employment. Cherri Bronson, Director, Montgomery County Office of Procurement will discuss contracts, MFD and AP1-10 Contracts. The meeting will be at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville from 4 – 5:30 pm. Sample AP1-10 Contract: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Parking/Resources/Files/InformalADA/ADA%20Informal%201064120.pdf>

In November, Bernie Simons, Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, DDA, will give an update on DDA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Assistant

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Commission on People with Disabilities