



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – October 17, 2016**

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

Present: Mary Ann Blotzer; Larry Bram (Vice Chair); Michael Bryan; Ashley Chatneuff; David Cross; Rosemary DiPietro; Whitney Ellenby; Camelia Fawzy; Debbie Fickenscher; Claire Funkhouser; Daniel Hammond; Susan Hartung (Chair); Susan Ingram; Annette Jolles; Kathryn Kersey; Kim Khan; Mike Krempasky; Susan Krempasky; Shawn Lattanzio; Jenn Lynn; Kim Mayo; Venetia McDaniel; Lu Merrick; Carolyn Miller; Margie Parrott; Judith Pattik; Melissa Shaffer-Reyes; Reda Sheinberg; Nicole Sheppard; Eldora Taylor; John Whittle
Staff: Betsy Luecking

Welcome and Introductions

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

Community Support Services Self-Advocates: Presentation on Employment

Mike Krempasky, who receives Supported Employment services from Community Support Services (CSS), spoke of the importance of paid employment. He explained that it can be tough to find a good job. Employers ask a lot of questions and they can be afraid to hire someone with a disability. Having a paid job in the community makes him proud and helps him buy the things he needs and wants. It is expensive to live here in Montgomery County and he wants to be able to continue living in my home community and a paid job helps him contribute financially to his family. Sometimes people think that he doesn't need money and that other people will pay for him. But it's uncomfortable having to ask someone to buy things and it's awkward when we don't have enough money to buy the personal things we need.

One in 50 people are diagnosed to be on the autism spectrum. That's a lot of people that need to find work and there are a lot of other disabilities too that don't stop someone from being a great employee. So what can you do to help? We are good workers and a lot of us have good job experience and we need to be given a chance to prove it. Not everyone interviews well however we might still be a great employee. People can make unfair judgements about someone with a disability because they don't understand the challenges. It's important to speak up and help others. We need your help to educate others so that everyone can find paid employment.

Office of Procurement – Administrative Procedure (AP) 1-10, Disability Employment Training/Services Contracting, and Minority Female Disabled Business Certification – Cherri Branson, Director, Montgomery County Office of Procurement

The Office of Procurement's Minority, Female, Disabled-owned Business (MFD) program is responsible for ensuring that minority, female, and disabled persons-owned businesses receive a fair share of the County's contracting opportunities. A MFD-owned business is a business that is at least 51% owned, controlled and managed daily by a minority person(s) as defined by state, county, and federal laws to include the following categories: African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American, Disabled Persons, and Women. For Disabled it does not need to be owned by a disabled person but must employ at least 51% people with disabilities. An MFD-owned business can receive 10 extra points that can be added to the overall evaluation score. This also applies if a non-MFD business subcontracts with an MFD-business. Procurement will meet with the business prior to their MFD certification to verify that representation is accurate and they meet the at least 51% requirement.

The MFD program is the result of County Council legislation Bill 48-14, which established an evaluation factor in a request for proposals to increase the participation of minority owned firms in certain procurement contracts. Legislation was passed based on a disparity study that measured the level of economic participation in the County. The study found MFD businesses were under-represented in almost every category. Hispanic-owned construction companies are over-represented in the construction category and women-owned businesses are over-represented in the goods category.

The County spends approximately \$800,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 in purchasing and construction every year. This funding does not include Montgomery Public Schools, Montgomery College, or the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Not every contract is eligible for MFD. Also, a large portion of the County's overall contracting dollars go towards employee health and other benefit programs and those contracts are awarded to the same companies every year.

Link to bill: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/20150414_48-14.pdf

There are 54 active contracts with disabled-owned businesses in the County and there are 79 registered suppliers who have indicated that they are disabled-owned businesses. There are 14 active AP 1-10 contracts, which establishes a process for the County Government to contract for services from organizations that employ persons with disabilities. Contracts include custodial services, training, food services, and fare box parts for Ride On buses. In fiscal year 2016 the County conducted \$7,700,000 in business with disabled-owned companies, including AP 1-10 contracts.

According to data, since Bill 48-14 was implemented in 2015 more companies are including subcontracting proposals with MFD companies. Subcontract plans must be submitted upfront in order to receive additional evaluation points. Ms. Branson believes that this will create more opportunities for all entities.

Procurement does not engage in targeted businesses practices. It is up to the business owner to employ persons with disabilities. Procurement also does not match businesses with subcontractors that are identified as disabled-owned. Businesses can search for companies via the Central Vendor Registration System (CVRS), which is an open database. Anyone can search the database. It was suggested that there be a broader way to target and connect bidding agencies with companies that are employing persons with disabilities, perhaps by holding a meet-and-greet event for companies and subcontractors.

Procurement sends out a weekly newsletter that contains new opportunities available in the County as well as information regarding eMaryland Marketplace, which is the State's procurement portal. Anyone can view the County's current contracts via procurement's website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pro/contract.html. Click on formal solicitations and proposed awardees tabs.

Questions:

- **How does Procurement define "disabled"?** Procurement follows State disability criteria eligibility.
- **Could the preference be broken down to specific disability types, such as developmental disabilities?** That is a legislative issue that would have to be changed at the State level.
- **Once an RFP has been awarded can you find out who is competing for a particular job?** Bid holder information is available to the public. Once an award is made, Procurement notifies all the bid holders.

A pre-bid conference is held a few days after an opportunity is listed on Procurement's website. Individuals can attend the pre-bid conference to receive copies of the solicitation or it can be sent electronically. Bid-holders are recorded and made public. Not all bid-holders submit a bid. Subcontracting plans need to make up at least 22% of the overall contract. If a bid includes a subcontracting plan below that percentage, then Procurement may assist and connect them with subcontracting companies. Plans that are submitted above 22% receive additional points. Bid-holders are evaluated on their competency, their history, their ability to complete the job, and their capitalization. Contracts are not awarded based on lowest price. The extra points given to an MFD business allows a qualified company to receive a preference.

Ms. Branson was tasked with changing the perception that Montgomery County only awards contracts to the same vendors. In FY16, 30% of contracts were awarded to new vendors that had never done business with the County before.

It was noted that beginning July 1, the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) is responsible for managing the county's economic development activities, replacing the county's Department of Economic Development (DED). WorkSource Montgomery, Inc. was also launched as the workforce development resource for county businesses and jobseekers. Ellie Giles was hired as the President/CEO for DED in September
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Update - Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) – Judy Pattik, Regional Director, Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO)

SMRO has been able to fill 7 positions, some of which were internal promotions. There are still 6 positions left to fill. They will be interviewing for two positions within Quality Enhancement and other position postings will be closing soon.

There was a pilot session last spring that reviewed the process for requesting a service change and developing a service funding plan. A process has been identified that will create a more effective time frame, reducing the total time from 80 days to less than 30 days. Staff will be trained next week on combining these to processes.

DDA has been focusing on having consistency across all regional offices in the State. Next month, DDA will be having a one-day meeting for all employees so they can all hear the message at the same time. DDA has also been working to clarify roles with Quality Enhancement and Provider Relations as well as working with agencies to build their capacity.

For TY16, there are 121 individuals - 91 individuals are currently in services, 30 are still working to get into services. The total number is down from last month as 7 individuals have moved across the region.

For TY17, there are currently 96 individuals. They are identifying more as the year continues and expect that number to grow. Of that 96, 8 individuals are already in services.

The Waiver Amendment #2 process is slowing down. Public input will be consolidated and reviewed. The final amendment will be made available for a 30-day public comment period. Judy will let the Committee know about the deadline for comments.

Judy will be meeting with a provider on Friday who has some concerns regarding closure of site-based facilities. DDA recognizes and understands that not every child that leaves the school system will be ready for employment and their needs will vary. While DDA is following an Employment First model, they recognize that it is not the only option available.

Update - Coordination of Community Services (CCS)

Total Care:

- Currently serving 1,120 individuals in CCS for Montgomery County.
- There are 7 TY16s that are not in services – 3 are still looking for providers, 3 were denied services, and 1 has a plan with DDA that is awaiting approval.
- They have received 30 TY17s and have made contact with all 30 individuals to discuss an IP and the TY process.

MMARS:

- Currently serving 1,410 individuals in CCS in Montgomery. Of those individuals – 1,070 are ongoing, 3 are in crisis resolution, 29 are in crisis prevention, and 306 are current requests.
- There are 17 TY16s that have not been placed. The majority are not waiver eligible and there are a lack of providers.
- They have received 45 TY17s. They have met with 41 individuals so far and received 16 choice letters.

Montgomery County HHS:

- There are 498 persons receiving CCS with a waiting list of 41 persons
- There are 2 TY16s that Montgomery County is serving that are not in DDA services. 1 is deferring until January and does not have a service funding plan with DDA yet and 1 is not motivated.
- They have received 0 choice letters for TY17s.
- There have been a number of TY Resource Fairs
- Issue regarding County residents who are not U.S. citizens by their 21st birthday and who are not eligible for Waiver services. The County is currently serving two individuals in their mid-20s who fall into this category. Judy Pattik, DDA, noted that Bernie Simons is aware of this issue.

There was a question regarding when choice letters are due. Choice letters are due by November 1st and all agencies must direct a master list to providers by December 1st. There is no timeline for the provider to accept individuals. There was a discussion about sending a choice letter to the first choice service provider and if that provider declines, then a choice letter will be sent to the second choice service provider, and so on and so forth. Susan Ingram, CCS, advised against this procedure and asked to receive a complete list of all individuals that are interested in CCS, no matter what choice number. It is difficult to plan for services if they receive staggered choice letters. There is also the issue of possible rate and licensing changes in January and how this will affect the service providers. They may not accept new individuals until the rates and definitions have been confirmed.

Update – Transition Services – Margie Parrott, MCPS

The Next Steps Adult Services September workshop had a very good turnout and received positive feedback from families who attended. The October 27th Next Steps meeting will discuss guardianship and the November 9th Next Steps meeting will discuss financial planning.

The Transition Services Unit continues to work with DDA on the TY17 list including adding individuals, answering questions, working with Coordinators if issues arise and supporting families.

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

Sixteen names were released from the Autism Waiver. MCPS was able to enroll 8 of them. There has been a quick turnaround from the eligibility department.

Maryland is surveying the disability community as part of an overhaul of Community Pathways, its Medicaid waiver program for [Home- and Community-Based Services](#), in order to comply with a federal directive that prohibits services that "isolate" participants from the general community. The new rules will affect group homes and "alternative living units," as well as home-based services for children and adults. October 13th is the final ruling of the Maryland Medicaid Community Pathways Waiver. Site surveys have been completed for all 34 sites and most of them are in compliance. Providers have had to submit correction action plans. They have received 91% of those plans already and are not concerned that any providers will be out of compliance when the final ruling is implemented in 2019. The open comment period for the Waiver ends October 31th. There are concerns that the rule promotes community integration and free choice as much as possible, but the Autism Waiver primarily serves children under age 18. Free choice doesn't not apply to a 12-year-old whose parent is responsible for them.

Chair and Vice-Chair Update:

Susan Hartung, Chair, asked for a volunteer to attend various DDA webinars and meetings and report back to the Committee. She would like to work on a project that would recognize employers that are hiring people with disabilities. Larry Bram, Vice-Chair, reported that a report from the Task Force on Family Caregiving was sent to Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly last week. The Task Force is led by Senator Delores Kelley. The report recommended that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene include Medicaid coverage for tele-medicine across the State as well as implementing and funding training programs for family members that include caregivers of a loved one with a mental illness. The report also requests an additional \$1,400,000 for respite services in the State. The State was recently awarded a Lifespan Respite Care Program grant from the Administration for Community Living, which will help fund activities such as marketing and outreach campaigns to better educate family caregivers about respite and how to access services. Easter Seals is one of the partners for the program and Larry will be attending a meeting regarding it tomorrow.

Upcoming:

Bernie Simons, Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, DDA, will give an update on DDA at the November 14th DDAC meeting. The meeting will be at 1401 Rockville Pike, 1st Floor – Room 1002, Rockville from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Please send Susan questions for Mr. Simons prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carly Clem, Administrative Assistant
Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
Commission on People with Disabilities