



**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary – January 25, 2023**

Eric Salzano & Karen Morgret, Co-Chairs

Attendees

Commission Members: Karen Morgret; Eric Salzano; Michael Greenberg; Susan Smith; John Whittle; Candance Groudine; Avner Shapiro; Coni Nepomuceno; Tonya Gilchrist; Najla Wortham; Jeneva Stone; Melissa Wyman

Former Commission Members: Seth Morgan; Mark Maxin

County Executive Staff: Ken Hartman-Espada

County Council Staff: Beth Shuman

HHS Staff: Odile Brunetto; Kim Mayo; Shawn Lattanzio

DDA: Onesta Duke; Nicholas Burton

MCPS Staff: Margie Parrott; David Cross

DDA Providers: Susan Ingram; Tom Liniak; Jenn Lynn; Lisa Lorraine

CCS Staff: Laurie Lyons (Service Coordination, Inc.); Susan Hartung (MMARS); Julia Jensen (Total Care)

Transition Work Group: Karen Leggett

Parents: Betty Bahadori; Reda Sheinberg; Lyda Astrove; Anette Jolles; Claire Funkhouser; Scottie Holton; Mary Keyser; Elizabeth Tsakiris

Other: Mimi Silverman; Rebecca Grayson; Azeb Adere

Commission Staff: Betsy Luecking; Carly Clem

Approval of the November 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes

A motion was made to approve the November 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the November 2022 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved with the correction. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ddac.

Discussion on the Creation of a New Commission/Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Timetable – Ken Hartman-Espada, M.P.A., Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

In September 2022, the Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD) sent a letter to County Executive Marc Elrich recommending the establishment of a County appointed and confirmed Developmental Disability Advisory Commission (DDAC) independent of the Commission on People with Disabilities. On January 11, 2023 County Executive Elrich notified Dr. Odile Brunetto that he is in support of the creation of a new Commission on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process which will include staff support. Ken Hartman has been working with the County Attorney to draft legislation as well as staff within Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide feedback and input. Draft will be made available to this group for feedback prior to submission to County Council for introduction. Goal to have legislation to Council by February 14. Councilmember Gabe Albornoz has indicated his support of this new commission.

Questions to resolve regarding newly established commission include:

- name (Council, Commission, Committee)
- diverse membership (parents, service providers, organizations, government agencies in ex-officio roles and others)
- duties and responsibilities (suggestion – conduct a periodic needs assessment)

- [2018 County Council Report on the Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences](#) – updated report to the 2009 Work Group on the Future of People with Severe Developmental Disabilities, including Autism – Call to Action
- advocacy role (advise County Council and County Executive, ability to advise state and federal government) – CPWD cannot advise state without prior approval from intergovernmental affairs
- staffing support (for Commission, function within HHS and county government, potential DDA ombudsman role)
 - Assumption staff will be full-time – expert on DDA, interface with community, under DHHS and report to Chief of Aging and Disability Services
 - County Executive Elrich will issue proposed budget items for FY24 on March 15. Council reviews and approves budget in April/May. FY24 starts July 1.
 - Will require a county budget fiscal impact report.
 - Discussions with DHHS occurring now to identify staff support in the interim and during transition.
 - Current DDAC still falls under umbrella of CPWD and its by-laws (cannot advise the state or federal government without Office of Intergovernmental Relations approval)

Feedback can be sent directly to ken.hartman@montgomerycountymd.gov .

DDAC/Public Comments/Input

- Commission on Aging has authority to advise state government
 - Meet with state legislators every year.
 - Recently met with Governor Wes Moore and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller transition teams.
 - Commissioners invited Councilmembers and key staff to report on accomplishments and issues.
- Membership should include persons with disabilities
- Include in legislation the collaboration needed between CPWD and DDAC as there will be overlapping on common goals.
- Staff should be a subject matter expert with working knowledge of I/DD community, understand services provided, meet individuals in programs, meet with providers.
- Transition Work Group – coalition including service providers, coordination of community support (CCS) agencies, organizations working with the I/DD and Autism community, and local and state government agencies. Work Group focuses on the transition from high school to adulthood. Suggestion to identify gaps in services and resources to fill those gaps. Resources needed across the lifespan.
- Jubilee Association Breaking Barriers grant program helps underserved populations specifically, Asian and Hispanic communities, break through the barriers that block their ability to access disability support services. Suggestion to reach out to underserved communities and in other languages, identify gaps in transition from infants and toddlers (in home services) to school age (services in school)
- Will group Include individuals with acquired traumatic brain injury – what definition is included for I/DD?
 - For DDA eligibility – if the injury occurs or manifests prior to age 21 and impacts overall functioning the individual can receive DDA services if eligible. Injuries occurring after the age of 22 are on a case-by-case basis depending on how the injury occurred, level of functioning of individual.
 - Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver for individuals over age 22 - has a specific set of guidelines
 - DDA is not an entitlement – it is an eligibility-based program with an eligibility process to determine services and funding.
- [MoCoBetter Beginnings](#) – coalition of stakeholders who have come together to develop initiatives geared toward improving early intervention in Montgomery County.
- Gaps - how to help individuals who are not eligible for DDA services/funding, how to help those on DDA waiting list who need services now – more dependent on county resources.

- DDAC should report to CPWD every month.
- Include and review Behavioral Health Administration, other state agencies that impact I/DD community.
- Need more advocacy for individuals with I/DD who are admitted to hospitals – tend to be discharged quickly.

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

- Appendix K – Extended to June 30, 2023
 - [Updated Appendix K and Executive Orders](#)
- LTSS Maryland Transition - DDA licensed and certified providers have until December 2024 to fully transition into LTSS Maryland fee-for-service system
 - Regional offices actively working to assist 35 interested providers with transitioning between January 2023 and April 2023 – of those 35 providers, SMRO is assisting 12 providers.
 - Regional directors continue to scope provider readiness to begin their transition into system.
 - Medicaid provider services and DDA closely monitoring providers that have transitioned and providing assistance as needed.
 - [LTSS DDA Module Playbook](#)
 - LTSS Maryland DDA Module Billing Exceptions Guide
 - [LTSS Maryland Troubleshooting Companion Guide](#)
- Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons reported last month a new dedicated website to allow input on policy proposals from participants, families, CCS agencies, community providers, advocacy organizations.
 - <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA-Policy-Stakeholder-Input.aspx>
 - Website is still in development.
 - DDA will post policy proposals based on current approved waiver services in plain language.
 - Notifications of policy proposal postings will be made via email.
 - Stakeholders have 10 business days to provide public comment.
 - DDA will post final policies with summaries of stakeholder feedback.
 - Updates to policies will occur annually or when revisions are necessary.
 - Changes made to renewal will be made available in the spring prior to July 2023 implementation date.
- Maryland Department of Health began electronic visit verification (EVV) on January 1 for all individuals within the Self-Directed Services (SDS) model.
 - EVV is federally required for personal supports and respite services for professionals, vendors and family caregivers.
 - Six-month transition period during initial implementation to allow SDS participants to learn how to utilize EVV.
 - DDA and three Financial Management Service (FMS) agencies will work with SDS to support participants and provide assistance throughout the transition process.
 - Families with questions and concerns should reach out to their regional SDS lead staff.
 - SDS has grown significantly over the past several years – approximately 600 individuals in the SDS model currently.
 - Participant can hire parent or legal guardian as paid staff.
 - Suggestion to review long term impact of providers.
- DDA Individual and Family Forum scheduled February 15 to discuss enhancing our Person-Centered Planning (PCP) process using Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) principles.
 - In-person event in Columbia.
- Data on Transitioning Youth (TY) and waiting lists have been tabled until next month due to data tracking software updates.

MCPS

Tabled due to time constraints.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted, Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist
Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager