



# Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

**Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary**

August 26, 2022



# Agenda

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## Opening Remarks

- August 2022 DDA Events
  - Maryland Technology First Kickoff
  - FMCS Information Fairs
- September 11–17 Direct Support Professionals Week

**Appendix K Extension** *Rhonda Workman, DDA Director of Federal Programs and Integrity*

**Monkeypox Presentation** *Adrienne Hollimon, MS, RN, DDA Director of Nursing Services*

**Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Guest speaker:** *Jennifer Mettrick, Executive Director of the MD DDA QIO, Liberty Healthcare*



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Maryland Technology First Kickoff

*August 15, 2022*

- 125 in-person attendees
- 617+ views of our livestream
- Meet and Greet open to the public with 23 on-site vendors
- Maryland Department of Health press release issued: [bit.ly/3w9CiqX](https://bit.ly/3w9CiqX)



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## August Statewide Financial Management and Counseling Services (FMCS) Information Fairs

- Virtual Fairs August 1st, and
- Four in-person fairs in Easton, Columbia, Hagerstown and Bowie, Maryland
- References:
  - [Virtual Fair Webinar](#)
  - [DDA's Financial Management and Counseling Services Webpage](#)



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## September 11–17 Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

- Event to be held along with the Maryland Department of Disabilities — details to come
- Nomination form available now: [conta.cc/3dTrgQt](https://conta.cc/3dTrgQt)
- Nominations are due on or before September 9, 2022



#DSPRW2022



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Appendix K Flexibilities

- Flexibilities extension is scheduled to end on September 30, 2022
- Current guidance for these flexibilities has been updated on the DDA website: [health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA\\_Appendix\\_K.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA_Appendix_K.aspx).
- People self-directing and Providers need to ensure all staff meet the required service qualifications including having current required training such as CPR, First Aid, etc. by or before September 30th
- Providers need to ensure they have current DDA licenses and certifications by or before September 30th

*Section Two - Monkeypox Presentation*

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**Guest Speaker: Adrienne Hollimon, MS, RN**

**DDA Director of Nursing Services**

# Monkeypox (MPX) Virus

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- Monkeypox virus is part of the Orthopoxvirus family that includes smallpox and cowpox.
- It is spread through direct contact with skin lesions, clothing or linens from an infected person or, rarely, through prolonged exposure (>3h) to large respiratory droplets.

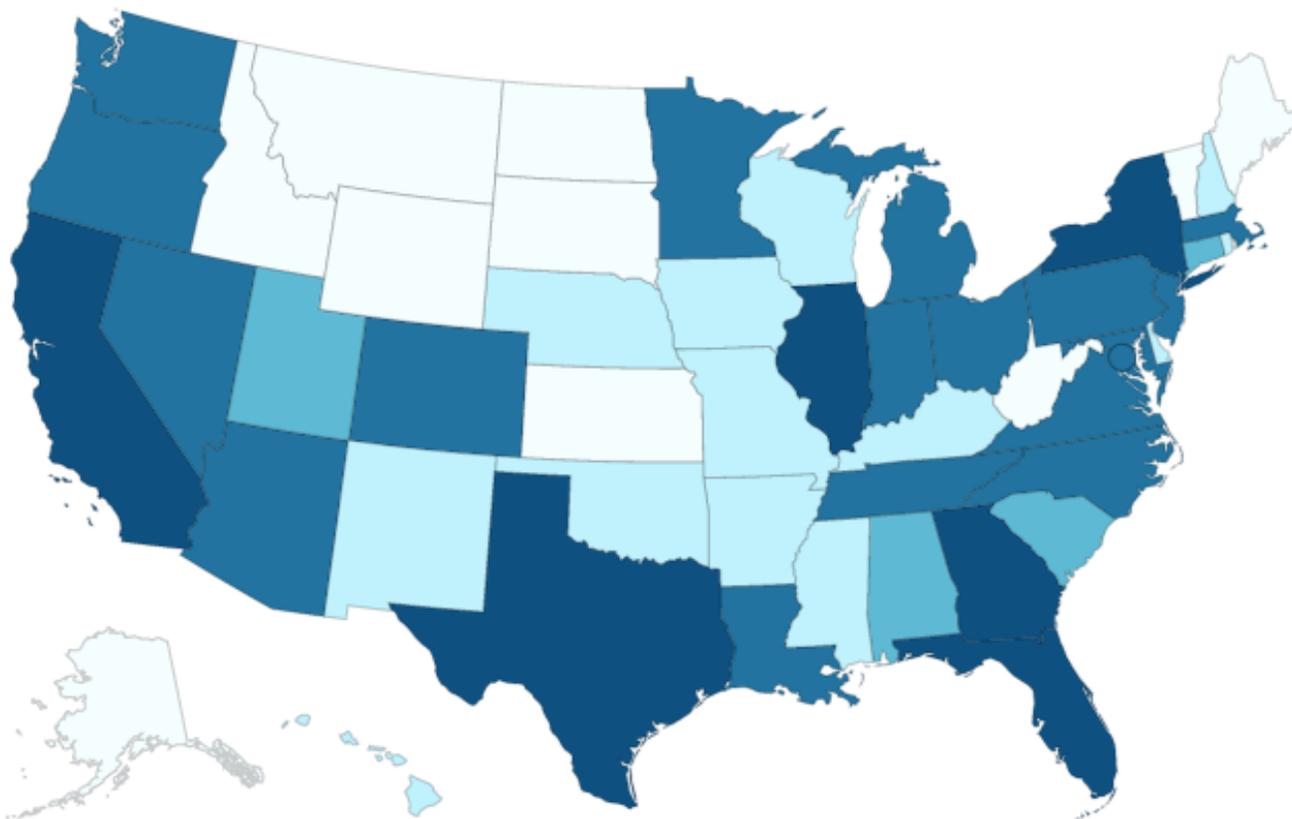
# 2022 U.S. Map & Case Count

Data as of 23 Aug 2022 2:00 PM EDT

[Print](#)

**15,909** Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxvirus cases

\*One Florida case is listed here but included in the United Kingdom case counts because the individual was tested while in the UK.



9

Territories

PR



## Total Reported Cases as of 8/23/2022: 15,909

### Region 3 Reported Cases

MD	431	PA	443
DC	402	WV	4
VA	263	DE	19



# Resources

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Maryland Department of Health MPX web page:  
[health.maryland.gov/monkeypox](https://health.maryland.gov/monkeypox)

- Clinician letters
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Testing guidance
- Videos in English, Spanish and ASL and fact sheets for the public

*Section Three - Administrative Services Updates*  
**Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)**

# Deputy Secretary's QIO Introduction

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## Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Goals:

- Ensure services are accountable and person-centered
- Improve quality and obtain feedback
- Protect the integrity of the Medicaid Program
- Increase satisfaction
- Assist and facilitate the state's goals

August 25, 2022



# Quality Improvement Organization(QIO) Introduction

Jennifer Mettrick and Kate Obert

# What Are Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)?

- QIOs are a group of **healthcare professionals and consumers** that evaluate how well services are being provided and if those services help people to live fulfilled lives.
- QIOs provide technical assistance to states to improve their **person-centered service delivery**.





## QIOs Positively Impact People by:



Interviewing people receiving services and their families **to ensure their voice is heard**



Discovering ways to improve services and supports



Providing recommendations to improve **service delivery**



# Liberty's Approach to Leading a Successful QIO in Maryland

- Ensure people are at the center of their services
- Experienced Maryland-based QIO team
- Collaboration
- Build a culture of quality

“Liberty has proven to be a **resourceful and responsive partner**... They managed the implementation of the contract extremely well, establishing from the outset, a **collaborative and transparent relationship** with my office and other DHHS executives.” Sabrena Lea, Associate Director North Carolina DHHS, Division of Medical Assistance



# Liberty's Approach to Leading a Successful QIO in Maryland

Ensure people are at the center of their services

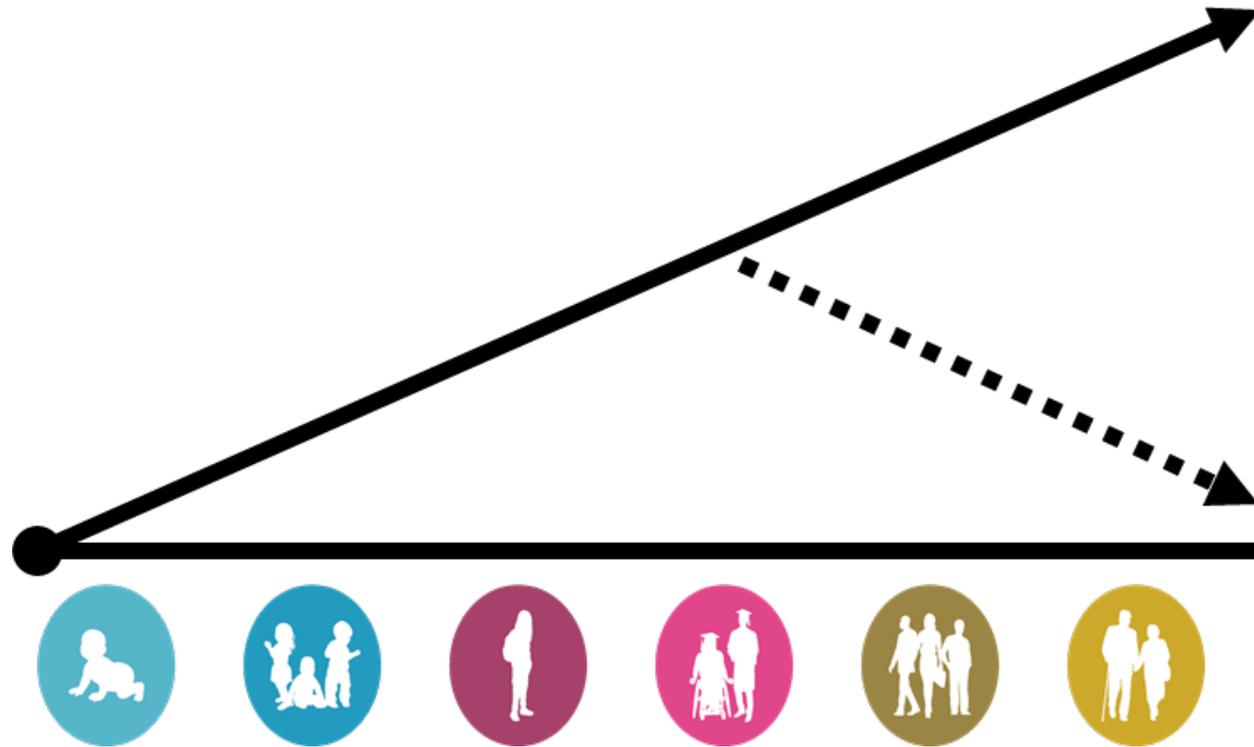
## Integrating Services and Supports





# Liberty's Approach to Leading a Successful QIO in Maryland

Ensure people are at the center of their services





# Liberty's Approach to Leading a Successful QIO in Maryland

## Experienced Maryland-based QIO Team

- **Executive Director** - 7+ years Maryland DD provider experience
- **Quality Manager** - 10+ years Maryland DD provider experience
- **Field-based team members** will have Maryland DD system experience





# Liberty's Approach to Leading a Successful QIO in Maryland

## Build a Culture of Quality:

- Focus is always on the quality of life of the people supported
- Quality is everyone's responsibility
- Constantly looking for ways to improve
- Use of evidence-based methods and tools
- Proactive vs. Reactive – Planning ahead to improve outcomes

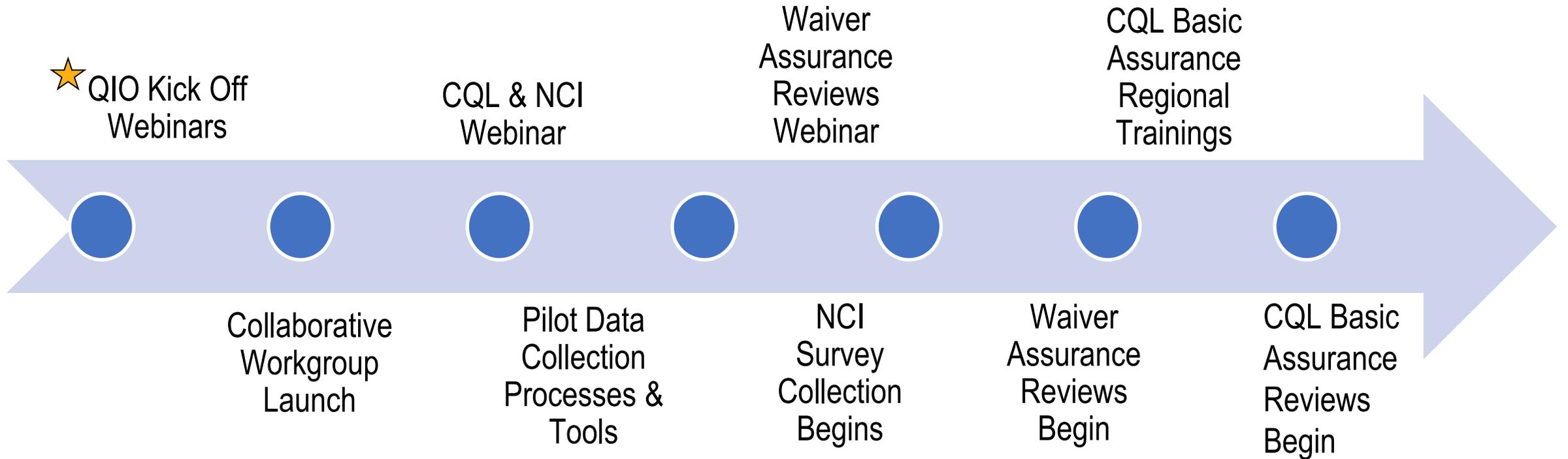
Improving quality requires a culture change, not just a new diet.

Phil Crosby





# Implementation Milestones

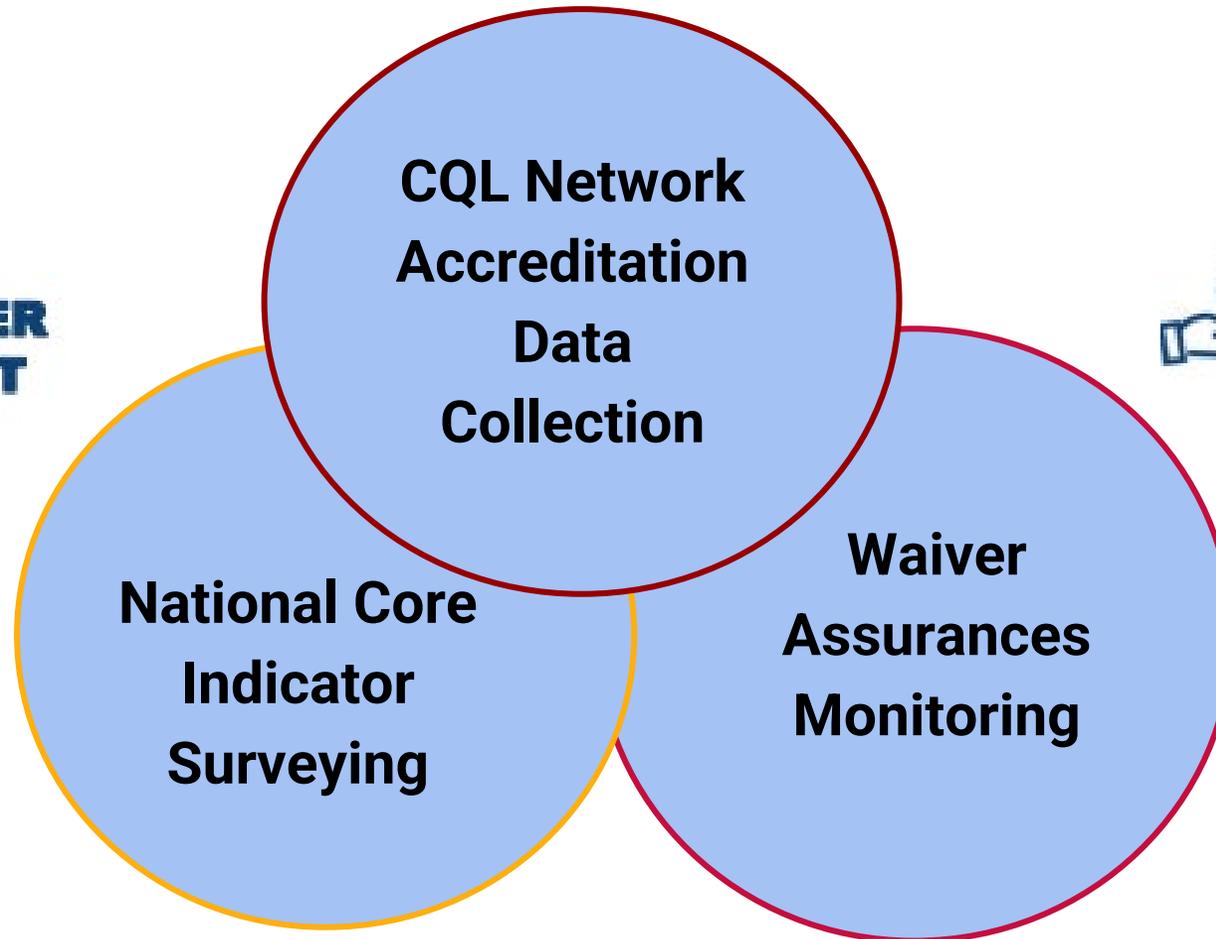




# Responsibilities & Outcomes of the QIO



**STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT**



**ENHANCED  
MATCH**



**BEST PRACTICE  
APPROACH**



# CQL-DDA Network Accreditation

## Journey to Person Centered Excellence

1. Network  
Foundation

2. Network  
Transformation

3. Network  
Accreditation



# National Core Indicator Surveying

## Adult Consumer Survey

In Person or Remote Interviews conducted by Quality Reviewers and Advocate Reviewers with people receiving services through DDA.

## The Adult Family Survey (AFS)

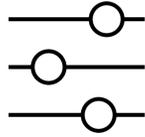
Mailed surveys to family members who have an adult (age 18 and over) with ID/DD living in their family's home.

## The Family/Guardian Survey (FGS)

Mailed surveys to family members or guardians of an adult (age 18 and over) with ID/DD living outside of the family home.



# Waiver Assurances Monitoring



Level of Care (LOC) Reviews



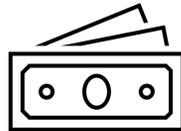
Service Plan Reviews



Health and Welfare Reviews



Qualified Provider Reviews



Financial Accountability Reviews



# What to Expect from the QIO

- Information and resources
  - Posted to the DDA QIO web page
- Collaboration
  - See attached Collaborative Workgroup summary and application to participate link <https://forms.gle/oXfZ4Er8yYdrV7MZ8>
- Opportunities for participation in:
  - Surveys
  - Interviews
  - Piloting QIO tools and processes
  - Collaboration on improvement





# Liberty Healthcare Key Contacts

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**Jennifer Mettrick, Executive Director of the MD DDA QIO**

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**Kate Obert, VP of Operations at Liberty Healthcare Corporation**

[Kate.obert@libertyhealth.com](mailto:Kate.obert@libertyhealth.com)

# Questions

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# Upcoming Monthly Webinars

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Please join us for all of our  
1:00 p.m. Friday webinars:

September 30

October 28

November 17

December 16

To register for Monthly Webinars with  
Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6873417036092171790>

After registering, you will receive a  
confirmation email containing information  
about joining the webinar.