



# Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

**Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary**

March 25, 2022



# Agenda

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## Opening Remarks

- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Appendix K
- National Core Indicators® Staff Stability Survey 2022

## DDA's Six Focus Areas

- Overview
- Advancements and Spotlights

## Operations Updates

- Rate Setting
- LTSS*Maryland*–DDA Module Expansion

## COVID-19 Response



*Section One:*

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**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

**Appendix K Flexibilities Extension**

**National Core Indicators® Staff Stability Survey 2022**

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

*From the Governor of the State of Maryland*

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2022

- WHEREAS,** *We believe in a Maryland which recognizes the unlimited potential for all our citizens, including those with developmental disabilities, to live, work, and thrive in our communities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of ensuring inclusive environments with equal access to communication, education, employment, housing, transportation, and public accommodation; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland supports those with developmental disabilities to make their own decisions, live where and with whomever they choose, and receive the support they need to be successful, productive, and independent community members; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We are changing Maryland for the better by promoting equality of opportunity, access, and choice for Marylanders with developmental disabilities. We are committed to the promise of a Maryland in which all people with developmental disabilities have the knowledge, opportunity, and influence to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.*
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MARCH 2022 as DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens and recognize that our communities are stronger when everyone participates.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 1st day of March  
Two Thousand and twenty-two

*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.*  
Governor  
*Robert L. Hoge*  
Lt. Governor  
*John C. Wolkowitz*  
Secretary of State

## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

- Proclamation from Governor Hogan
- #DDAM and #DDawareness2022
- Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month
- Trisomy Awareness Month
- Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month
- World Down Syndrome Day
- National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day

[facebook.com/MarylandDDA/](https://facebook.com/MarylandDDA/)



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Appendix K Extension

- Those flexibilities scheduled to terminate on March 31, 2022 were extended to June 30, 2022
- Meaningful Day Services billed via PCIS2 will require minimum of 3 hours
- 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)
- While this extension provides more time, planning for the transition remains important and discussions should be occurring now with teams

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## National Core Indicators® Staff Stability Survey 2022

- The National Core Indicators®-IDD (NCI®-IDD) Staff Stability Survey gathers data on the workforce of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities age 18 and older
- The information you provide is important to state policymakers and advocates who will use the data to guide decisions
- Letters with unique login credentials and instructions will be sent to providers starting April 1, 2022
- Survey completion is due by June 30, 2022
- For questions, contact Leslie Stusiak, Director of Provider Services  
[Leslie.Stusiak@Maryland.gov](mailto:Leslie.Stusiak@Maryland.gov)



## *Section Two*

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# **Advancements in DDA's Six Focus Areas**

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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- **Self-Determination**
- **Self-Advocacy**
- **Supporting Families**
- **Independent Living**
- **Employment**
- **Assistive Technology**



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Self-Determination (Self-Direction)

- People plan their own lives
- People make their own decisions
- People plan and choose their own supports and determine how resources are spent for them
- People take responsibility for the decisions made



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## Self-Determination (Self-Direction)

- [MDH Memo - Personal Supports - Overnight Supports](#)
- [PolicyStat - Personal Supports](#)
  - Overnight support must be documented in the PCP Risks section as one of the mitigation efforts in addressing applicable behavior or medical risk
- PCP Update for State-Funded to Waiver Services
- SDS Budget Sheet line item for Personal Supports - Awake Overnight Supports

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Self-Determination (Self-Direction)

- [SDS Budget Allocation Rate Change Guidance](#)
  - Scenario #1 - Participants with an approved PCP and SDS budget prior to April 1, 2022, do not need to take any action
  - Scenario #2 - Applicants/Participants working with their teams on PCPs created in LTSSMaryland before April 1, 2022, will need to document the pre-April 1, 2022 detailed service authorization proposed budget allocations before April 1, 2022.
  - Scenario #3 - PCPs, SDS budget allocations, and SDS budgets created in LTSSMaryland – DDA Module on April 1, 2022, or later, will be based on the April 2022 rates

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Self-Determination (Self-Direction) Resources

- [Self-Directed Services](#)
- [Self-Directed Services A Handbook for People with Developmental Disabilities Who Are Interested in Directing their DDA Services in Maryland - Revised Jan 31, 2022](#)
- [Self-Directed Services Guidance, Forms, and Webinars](#)

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Self-Advocacy

- Speaking up for yourself and the things that are important to you
- Being able to ask for what you need and want and tell people about your thoughts and feelings
- Speaking up for your rights and making choices and decisions



# Deputy Secretary's Update



**Patricia Porter, SMRO**  
Advocacy Specialist

[patricia.porter@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.porter@maryland.gov)

Advocacy Specialists At-a-Glance - March 7, 2022



# Deputy Secretary's Update

DDA Region	Counties Served	Advocacy Specialist
Western Maryland	Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Washington	<b>Jessica Stine</b> Cell: 443-468-2987 Office: 240-313-4225 <a href="mailto:jessica.stine@maryland.gov">jessica.stine@maryland.gov</a>
Southern Maryland	Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's	<b>Patricia Porter</b> Cell: 410-456-8864 <a href="mailto:Patricia.Porter@maryland.gov">Patricia.Porter@maryland.gov</a>
Eastern Shore	Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester	<b>Cody Drinkwater</b> Cell: 410-409-8205 Office: 410-572-5949 <a href="mailto:Cody.Drinkwater@maryland.gov">Cody.Drinkwater@maryland.gov</a>
Central Maryland	Harford, Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City	<b>Cheryl Gottlieb</b> Cell: 443-835-5030 Office: 410-234-8210 <a href="mailto:Cheryl.gottlieb@maryland.gov">Cheryl.gottlieb@maryland.gov</a>

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Supporting Families

- Create practices and provide Services that promote and maximize capacity, strengths, and unique abilities of families to support their family members
- Connect *Families to Families* to support one another
- Increase access to resources, support and services





# Deputy Secretary's Update



## Supporting Families: Upcoming Webinars

March 30, 2022 at Noon - Your CCS:  
*Building Successful Relationships*

- [Maryland Community of Practice for Supporting Families Webinar](#)

April 27, 2022 at Noon- "Self-Direction:  
*Living your best life!*"



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***2022 Annual National Meeting for the  
Community of Practice for Supporting  
Families - April 12, 2022***

***The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Charting the LifeCourse  
Showcase – April 13 and 14, 2022***

For additional information contact: [Mary.kane-breschi@maryland.gov](mailto:Mary.kane-breschi@maryland.gov),  
Director of Family Supports

# Deputy Secretary's Update

## Independent Living

- The choice of where and how to live
- Opportunities to use and learn new skills
- Living just like everyone else
- Having the opportunities to make decisions that affects one's life
- Pursue activities of one's choosing





# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Independent Living

- This year the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Mid-Year Conference will focus on the importance of collaboration with community partners. Our own Deputy Secretary Simons along with Tim Wiens, Director of Maryland Inclusive Housing, will present on Maryland's expansion of Housing opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The conference is June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2022
- **DDA Rent Subsidy Program-** A tenant-based subsidy program similar to the housing choice voucher program, that provides rental subsidies to individuals with developmental disabilities who chose to live independently

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## DDA's Rent Subsidy Educational Opportunities

- **April 7-** Will provide families, providers and people receiving services with an overview of DDA's Housing Support Services. To Register <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1044124151454034190>
- **April 11-** Will introduce the rent subsidy program to Coordinators of Community Service and Housing Support Specialist agencies, and provide guidance on how the two work together to assist individuals obtain and maintain housing. To Register <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8577849182115024908>
- **April 29** -Will provide families, people in services and providers with information about the new DDA Rent Subsidy Program <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4292231033501230349>

# Deputy Secretary's Update

## Employment

Using each person's strengths, interests, and skills to support competitive integrated employment opportunities



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Spotlight: MD Training & Technical Assistance Project (MD-TAP)

**Goal:** Support providers to expand capacity to support people to obtain and succeed in competitive, integrated employment

**Why?** To assist providers with expanding their capacity to support people to obtain and succeed in competitive, integrated employment



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## MD-TAP Technical Assistance

- 8 DDA providers
- 13 months

## TA includes

- Strategic organizational assessment
- Virtual site visit
- Individual Action Plan
- Ongoing technical assistance including monthly Zoom meetings
- Learning Community (8-10 sessions)



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## MD-TAP Leadership & Management Training

### Who:

- Mid-level Managers and emerging leaders in employment or meaningful day supports
- Up to 3 staff from each participating provider

### What:

- 7 Online lessons: accessed through Learning Management System
- Each month 1 new topic is introduced & fieldwork is assigned
- Monthly Zoom follow-up sessions on that month's topic & fieldwork

### Commitment:

- Complete online classes & fieldwork, and attend/participate in meetings



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## Who Should Apply?

- ✓ Any current DDA employment service provider in the state of Maryland is eligible to apply
- ✓ Organizations with a commitment to shifting the focus of services from center-based supports to competitive integrated employment



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Cohort 1 members may not reapply to participate

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## How to Apply

Complete an [online application](#)

Include a signed letter of commitment from **both**:

- the organization's CEO/executive director
- the Board of Directors

Applications due April 14th



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For more information

[View a recorded webinar](#); or contact

Stephanie Jones, Maryland DDA  
[stephanie.jones2@maryland.gov](mailto:stephanie.jones2@maryland.gov)

**Institute for Community Inclusion:**

Cecilia Gandolfo, [cecilia.gandolfo@umb.edu](mailto:cecilia.gandolfo@umb.edu), or  
John Butterworth, [john.butterworth@umb.edu](mailto:john.butterworth@umb.edu)



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# Deputy Secretary's Update

## Assistive Technology

Provides support and assistance for people to:

- Increase independence
- Overcome challenges
- Become more connected to their communities



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## Spotlight: Maryland Technology First Kickoff

- The DDA in partnership with self-advocates, families and the provider community, is gearing to unveil the Maryland Technology First Kickoff on August 15, 2022
- The Technology First Committee will announce and declare Maryland becoming a Technology First state, in which all Marylanders with disabilities will be empowered to have access to technology that will enhance their ability to pursue their best life as they define it
- To allow the community and stakeholders to experience what technology is available to assist people in experiencing life, where life takes place
- Introduce resources on how technology can be obtained and/or purchased
- For further information contact [Stephanie.Jones2@maryland.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Jones2@maryland.gov)

*Section Three:*

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**Operations Update**

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## LTSSMaryland Rates - Effective 4/1/2022

- LTSSMaryland Fee-for-Service
  - Does not apply to PCIS2 rates

### **Notable Changes**

- Community Living Group Home (CLGH)
- Community Development Services (CDS)
- Meaningful Day Services
- Personal Supports/Personal Supports Enhanced

Rate Review Advisory Group Link: <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/RATE-REVIEW-ADVISORY-GROUP.aspx>



# Deputy Secretary's Update

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## LTSS*Maryland*–DDA Module Expansion

- 22 providers remain committed to the 2A pilot this spring (April - June)
- Confirmed 25 Phase 2B providers (scoping in process) with Go-Live dates planned July-September

*Section Four:*

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## **COVID-19 Response and Resources**

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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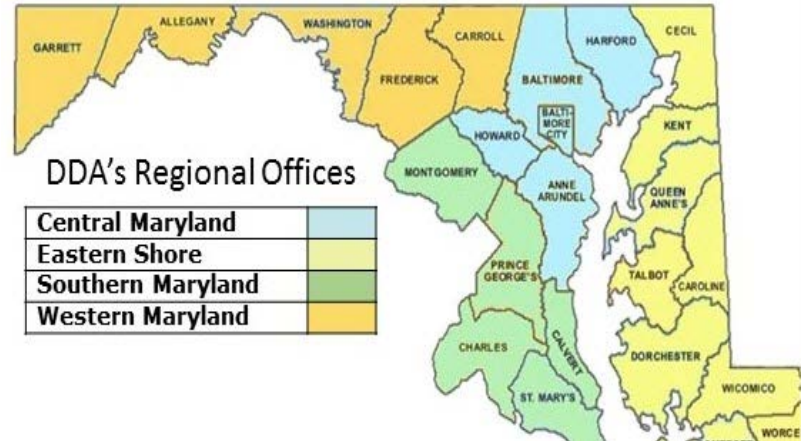
## COVID-19 Booster

- DDA Booster data – 5,700 people supported
  - CMRO-2,773
  - ESRO-478
  - SMRO-1,794
  - WMRO-655
  - Increase of **1,399** since last webinar in January
- [Local Health Departments](#) for testing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies
- Find a vaccination site and make an appointment near you [here](#) at [covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov) or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX

# Deputy Secretary's Update-Resources

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- **SMRO** - Onesta Duke  
[onesta.duke@maryland.gov](mailto:onesta.duke@maryland.gov)
- **ESRO** - Kim Gscheidle  
[kimberly.gscheidle@maryland.gov](mailto:kimberly.gscheidle@maryland.gov)
- **CMRO** - Bianca Renwick  
[bianca.renwick@maryland.gov](mailto:bianca.renwick@maryland.gov)
- **WMRO** - Cathy Marshall  
[cathy.marshall@maryland.gov](mailto:cathy.marshall@maryland.gov)



# Upcoming Monthly Webinars

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

April 29

May 27

June 24

July 29

August 26

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.



# Questions

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