Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

April 2, 2021
Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Deputy Secretary Update
- COVID-19 Regional Update
- Dr. Lisa Hovermale, Psychiatrist
- Dustin Wright, Present and Founder of Disability Cocoon
- Questions
Deputy Secretary’s Opening Remarks

• The DDA’s highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers

• The DDA is committed to transparency with all of our stakeholders to ensure we are all working with the same information to support our shared missions

• Thank you for your continued support in joining me during these webcast so that we can stay in-touch and be able to provide you with the most current information
Deputy Secretary’s Update

• Please remember that we are posting monthly communication highlights as a quick reference. Below are the past three months
  • Communication Highlights March 2021
  • Communication Highlights February 2021
  • Communication Highlights January 2021

• Our first quarter of 2021 transformation update was also recently shared. Below is a link
  • Transformation Newsletter – March 2021: Our First Quarter - March 31, 2021
Deputy Secretary’s Update

- Governor Larry Hogan this week announced that, according to CDC data, Maryland has surpassed 75% of Marylanders 65 and older receiving at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Maryland has arrived at this milestone at a faster rate than 30 other states.

- Marylanders eligible in Phase 1, 2A, and 2B are all eligible to pre-register for an appointment at the state’s mass vaccination sites or the new federal site in Prince George’s County. Marylanders can pre-register by visiting covidvax.maryland.gov or by calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX.
Deputy Secretary’s Update

• On March 30, Maryland entered the 2B phase: Marylander's age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions or disabilities that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness are now eligible for vaccination

• The Governor is immediately launching pre-registration for ALL Marylanders 16+ at the mass vaccination sites at covidvax.maryland.gov.

• Individuals currently eligible in Phase 1 and Phase 2 will continue to be prioritized at the state’s mass vaccination sites

Pre-registration at mass vaccination sites is now open for Marylanders 60 and older at covidvax.maryland.gov.
Deputy Secretary’s Update

• The DDA continues to work with the Department’s Public Health Services and Maryland Department of Disabilities to coordinate disability specific clinics as more vaccinations become available

• Thank you to all the providers that have hosted COVID-19 Vaccine clinics. It takes lots of coordination, communication and staff to run successful clinics
COVID-19 Regional Updates

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
  onesta.duke@maryland.gov

- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle
  kimberly.gscheidle@maryland.gov

- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton
  nicholas.burton@maryland.gov

- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
  cathy.marshall@maryland.gov
There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 11% (2,097) have tested positive for COVID-19.

CMRO 859 Positive; Increase of 9
ESRO 150 Positive; Increase of 0
SMRO 620 Positive; Increase of 2
WMRO 366 Positive; Increase of 5
There have been 1,995 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 102 deaths.

The 102 deaths represents approximately 5% of all (1995) participants that tested positive.
PARTICIPANTS IN SELF-DIRECTION
WEEK ENDING 04/1/2021

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36 COVID-19 Positive
0 Deaths
• Of the 13,429 participants that the agencies reported intending to have vaccinated, 9,304 (69%) have been vaccinated, 4,124 (31%) have not received a vaccine.

• There have been 115 vaccination clinics held by the provider agencies with 12 currently scheduled.
Vaccination Tracking

Others vaccinated include:
- 860 Family Members
- 1,536 Administrative staff
- 6,870 Direct Care Staff
- 137 Participants receive SDS
Back to the Future
Thinking about our new everyday routine of working, seeing people and being back in the community

Dr. Lisa Hovermale, MD
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Life during the Covid Pandemic

• For the past 11 months we all suddenly had to start wearing face masks, do social distancing, use PPE if we could get it, telecommute to work or talk with friends and family, see our doctors over the computer. We all had to stay at home if we could and figure out quickly how to make all the basics of life happen.

• So what is next for us all?
Next Steps – How do we reintegrate

The good news is that reintegration doesn’t have to happen with the flip of a switch or the click of a button. We have a bit of time to be flexible at the different levels of the system.

Complex System:
- The individual
- The family
- The circle of support (CCS, agency, family, BSS?, other)
- The agency (CCS)
  - Agency Infrastructure
  - DSPs
- DDA state administration
The Person and their family unit

The Center of our system

What do they need to know to make their best choices around reintegration?

• The question: What are the rules?

• The answer: We have the time to be flexible, but the best guidance we can provide needs to be provided as quickly as possible
Next Steps – How do we reintegrate

The good news is that reintegration doesn’t have to happen with the flip of a switch or the click of a button. We can be flexible!

• With discussion about reopening programs and schools etc., there has been so much uncertainty
  • Anxiety (and overwhelming emotion) is rooted in not knowing what is going to happen-no control
  • What issues are individuals, families, providers and other agencies anticipating beyond their control
    • Availability of vaccines
    • Getting the vaccine
    • Children and Transition Youth – returning to school and what does that look like?
Next Steps - Continued

• It is important to remember the individual's circle of support and how to support and empower them
• When looking at areas of concern for the individual we must consider what the person’s PCP tells us
• With input from the team should there be a team meeting to see if there are any new goals that have been identified for that person’s level of comfort with returning into a previously closed environment?
• What resources, supports and services are needed for that individual, their family as well as the provider to address any related challenges to reopening?
Adults within the community

• Recognize the anxiety and possible fear
  • There continues to be outbreaks throughout the state and that is scary
  • Some people/agencies may not be ready to “reopen”
    • How can the individual’s team and DDA assist with those people/agencies that are not ready to “reopen”? 

• Address if there have been losses
  • Individuals, their family members, friends and staff that have passed during COVID
  • Normalize feelings – recognize that everyone has been affected by this pandemic in some way.
  • If someone is experiencing stress/grief/etc. – referrals may need to be made
Adults within the community

• Recognize the little “t” trauma such as
  • Not being able to predict what is going to happen
  • Being Isolated
  • Being Immobile
  • Loss of sense of safety
  • Loss of sense of purpose

**This information is from the Community of Practice Webinar from May 13, 2020 entitled: Lessening the trauma of Covid-19**
Possible Antidotes for Destabilizing Conditions

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<th>Condition</th>
<th>Antidote</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Not being able to predict anything</td>
<td>• Make a list - 4 or 5 items...for each day... not too many</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Being Isolated</td>
<td>• Connect with people! Use technology ...reach out</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Being Immobile</td>
<td>• Move...walk...dance...yoga</td>
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<td>• Loss of sense of safety</td>
<td>• Engage in safe practices</td>
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<td>• Loss of sense of purpose</td>
<td>• Talk to safe people</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Limit news intake</td>
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<td>• Find way to make a small difference – it count</td>
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Moving forward....

• There have been many creative ideas that have come from the restrictions that were put into place
  • Community based services – creative ways to get into the community
  • Agency recognizing that having a building has really kept them from being “in the community” building is now for sale
  • Socialization ideas – meet and greats – how individuals are so excited to see their friends
  • How do we take these examples and transition them into a long-term solution – the “New Normal”
Resources

- DDA COVID-19 Resources
- Social Story Getting the Covid-19 Vaccine
- Coping in the 2020/21 School Year
- Tips to Support Mask-Wearing for Students with Disabilities
- NAMI COVID-19 Resource and Information Guide
Technology First Project

A short overview of the Maryland DDA project with Disability Cocoon
Dustin Wright
President/Founder

my background & passion
Technology First Project Highlights

**TECH TASKFORCE**
Multidisciplinary workgroup that drives the technology first initiative.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN**
Evaluate current regs and funding, and develop future policy/procedural recommendations.

**CREATE GOALS & TASKS**
Taskforce will create goals and desired outcomes for all stakeholder in MD I/DD ecosystem. Develop work plan to achieve goals.

**CULTURAL SHIFT**
Plan and execute educational activities and resources that address lack of knowledge and "buy in" of all stakeholder in I/DD ecosystem.

**COMMUNICATION PLAN**
Plan and execute methods and strategies for communicating tech first project progress and positive impact to I/DD system.
contact info

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Thank You!
Please join us for our 2021 Webinar Series:
• April 16, and 30 at 1pm
• May 14 and 28 at 1pm