



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

2A

WHO: Marylanders age 60 and older
WHEN: March 23

2B

WHO: Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness
WHEN: March 30

2C

WHO: Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries
WHEN: April 13

3

WHO: All Marylanders age 16 and older
WHEN: April 27

Issued March 18, 2021. Timeline may accelerate depending upon vaccine supply.

- 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.

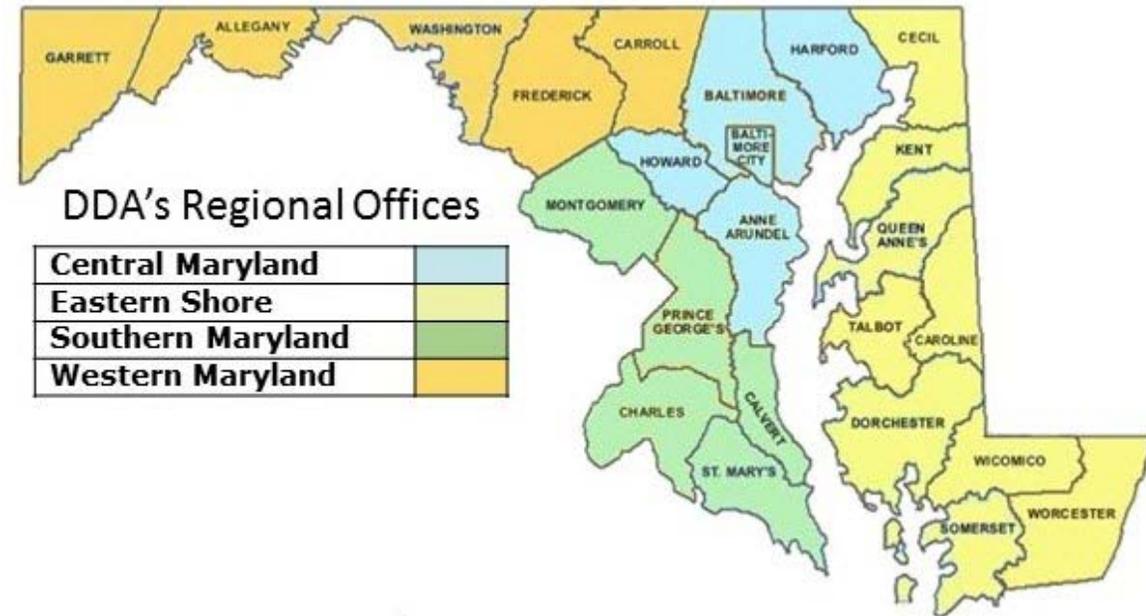
Deputy Secretary's Update

- 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

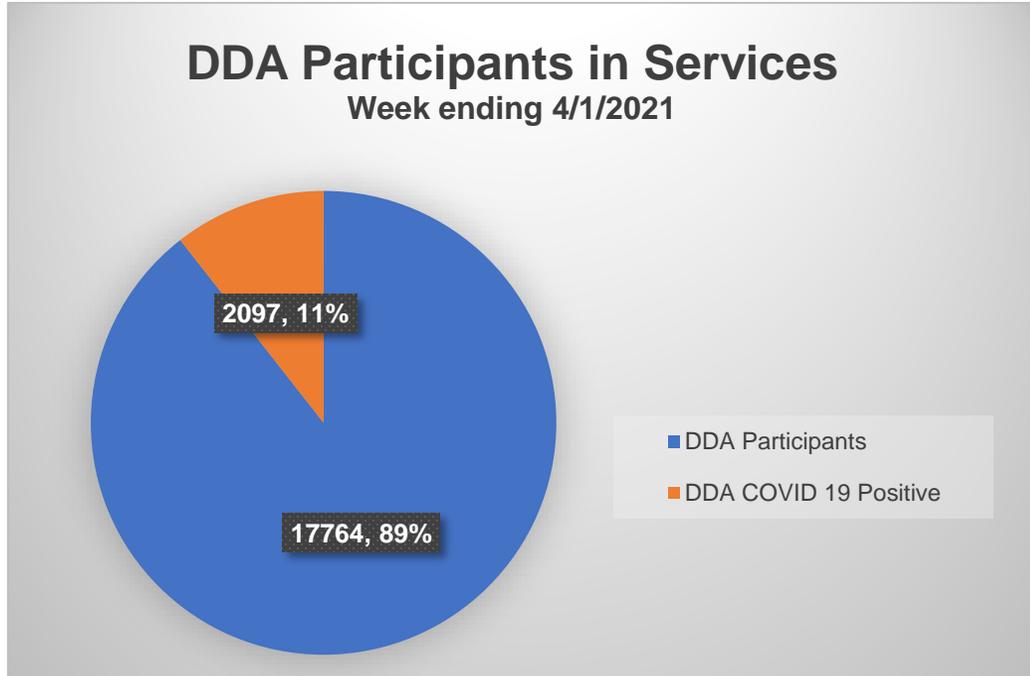


COVID-19 Regional Updates

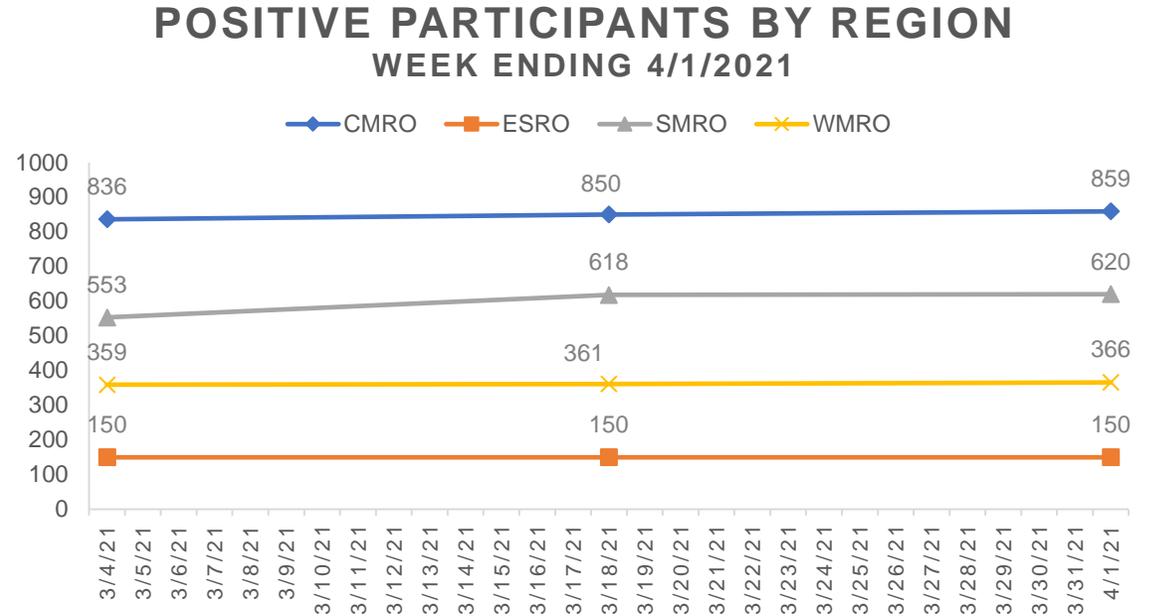
- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
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nicholasburton@maryland.gov
- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
cathymarshall@maryland.gov



DDA Tracking



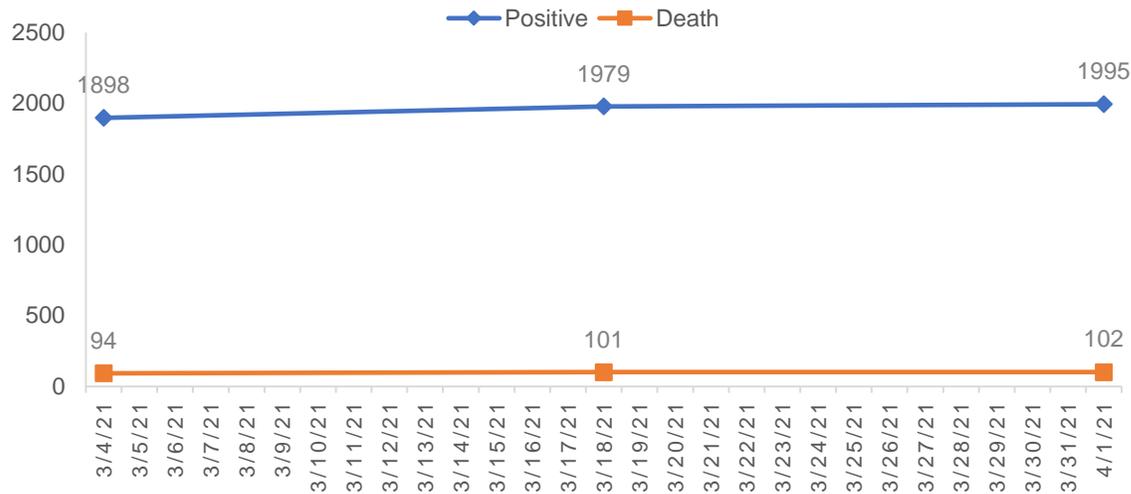
There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 11% (2,097) have tested positive for COVID-19.



CMRO 859 Positive; Increase of 9
 ESRO 150 Positive; Increase of 0
 SMRO 620 Positive; Increase of 2
 WMRO 366 Positive; Increase of 5

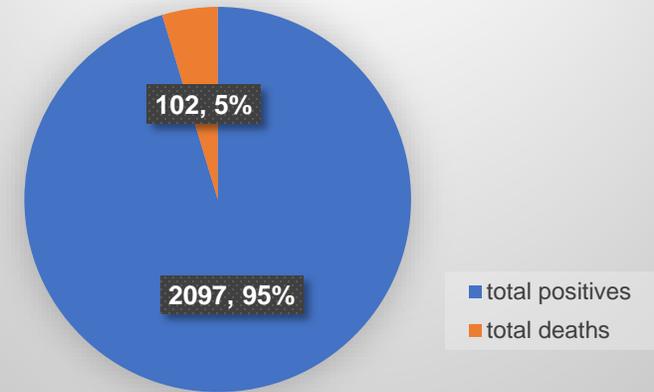
DDA Tracking

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS STATEWIDE
WEEK ENDING 04/1/2021



There have been 1,995 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 102 deaths.

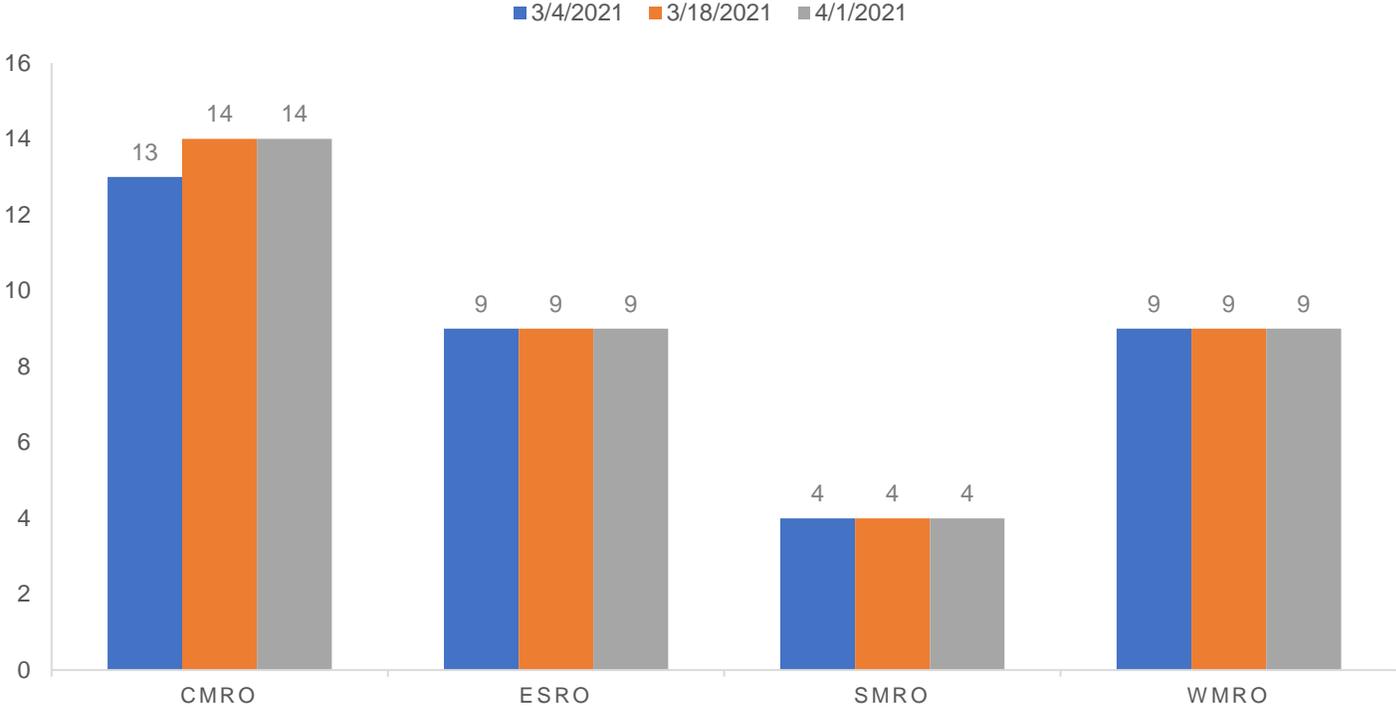
DDA COVID-19
Positives and Deaths
Week ending 4/1/2021



The 102 deaths represents approximately 5% of all (1995) participants that tested positive.

DDA Tracking

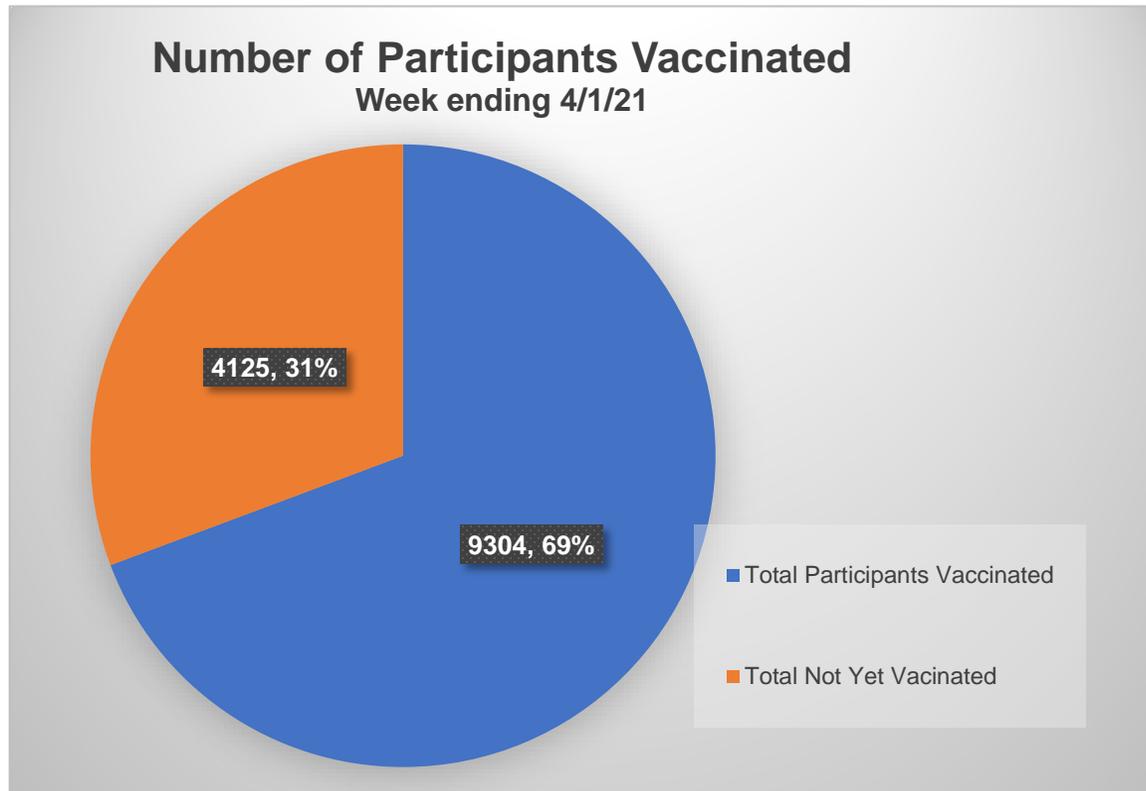
PARTICIPANTS IN SELF-DIRECTION
WEEK ENDING 04/1/2021



36 COVID-19 Positive
0 Deaths



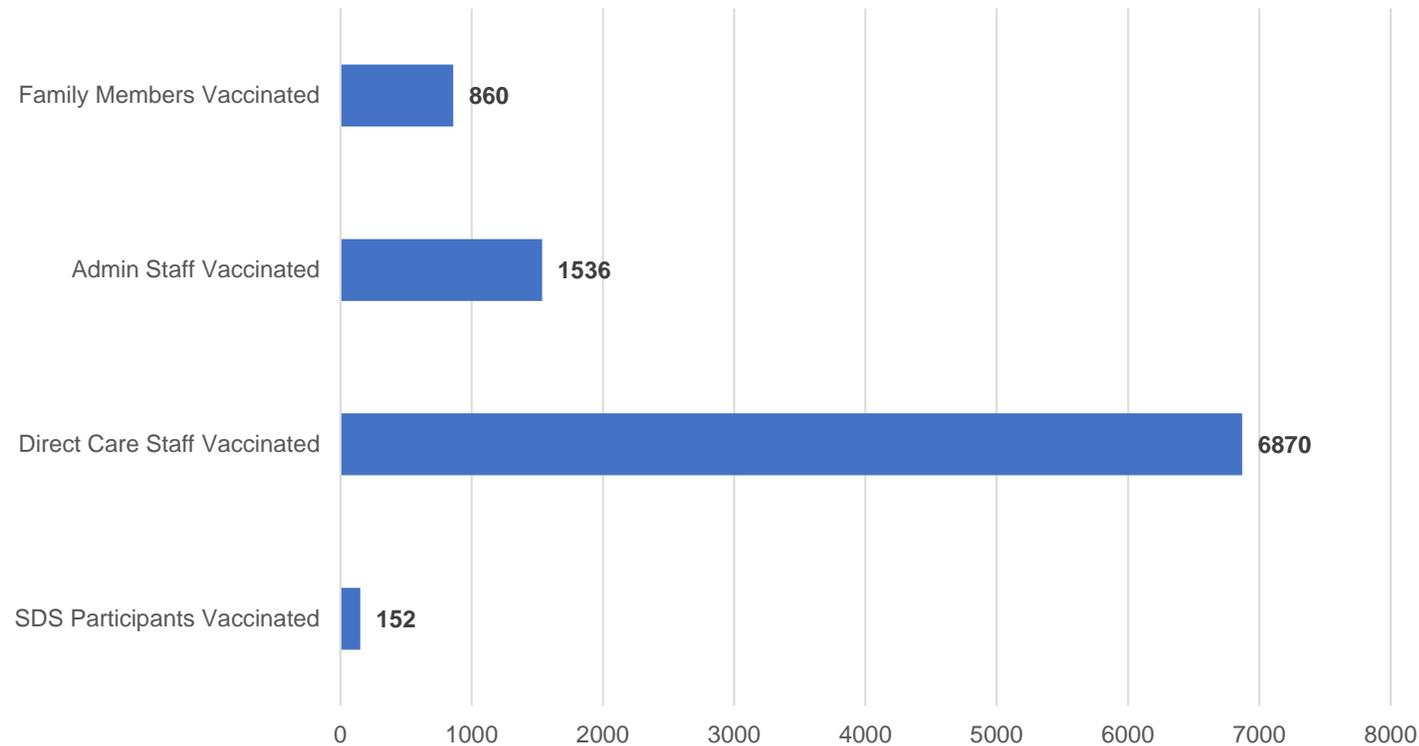
Vaccination Tracking



- 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
Week ending 4/1/2021



Others vaccinated include:

- 860 Family Members
- 1,536 Administrative staff
- 6,870 Direct Care Staff
- 137 Participants receive SDS



Back to the Future

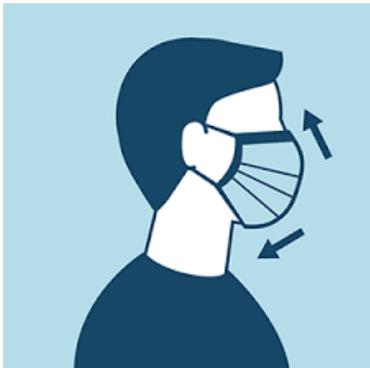
Thinking about our new everyday routine of working,
seeing people and being back in the community

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!

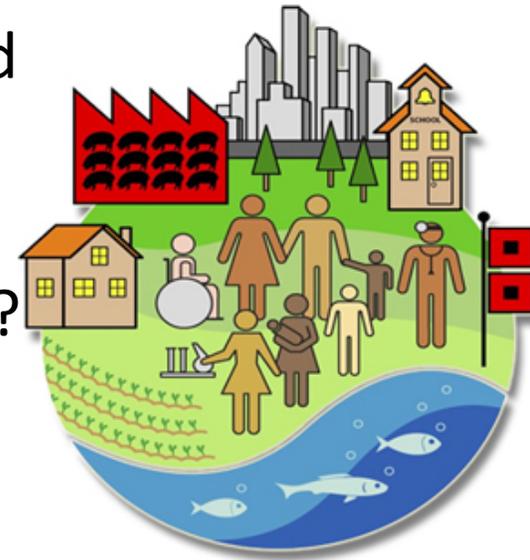
- With discussion about reopening programs and schools etc., there has been so much uncertainty
 - Anxiety (and overwhelming emotion) is rooted in not knowing what is going to happen-no control
 - What issues are individuals, families, providers and other agencies anticipating beyond their control
 - 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

Condition

- Not being able to predict anything
- Being Isolated
- Being Immobile
- Loss of sense of safety
- Loss of sense of purpose



Antidote

- Make a list - 4 or 5 items...for each day... not too many
- Connect with people! Use technology ...reach out
- Move...walk...dance...yoga
- Engage in safe practices
- Talk to safe people
- Limit news intake
- Find way to make a small difference – it count



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 greets – 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](#)



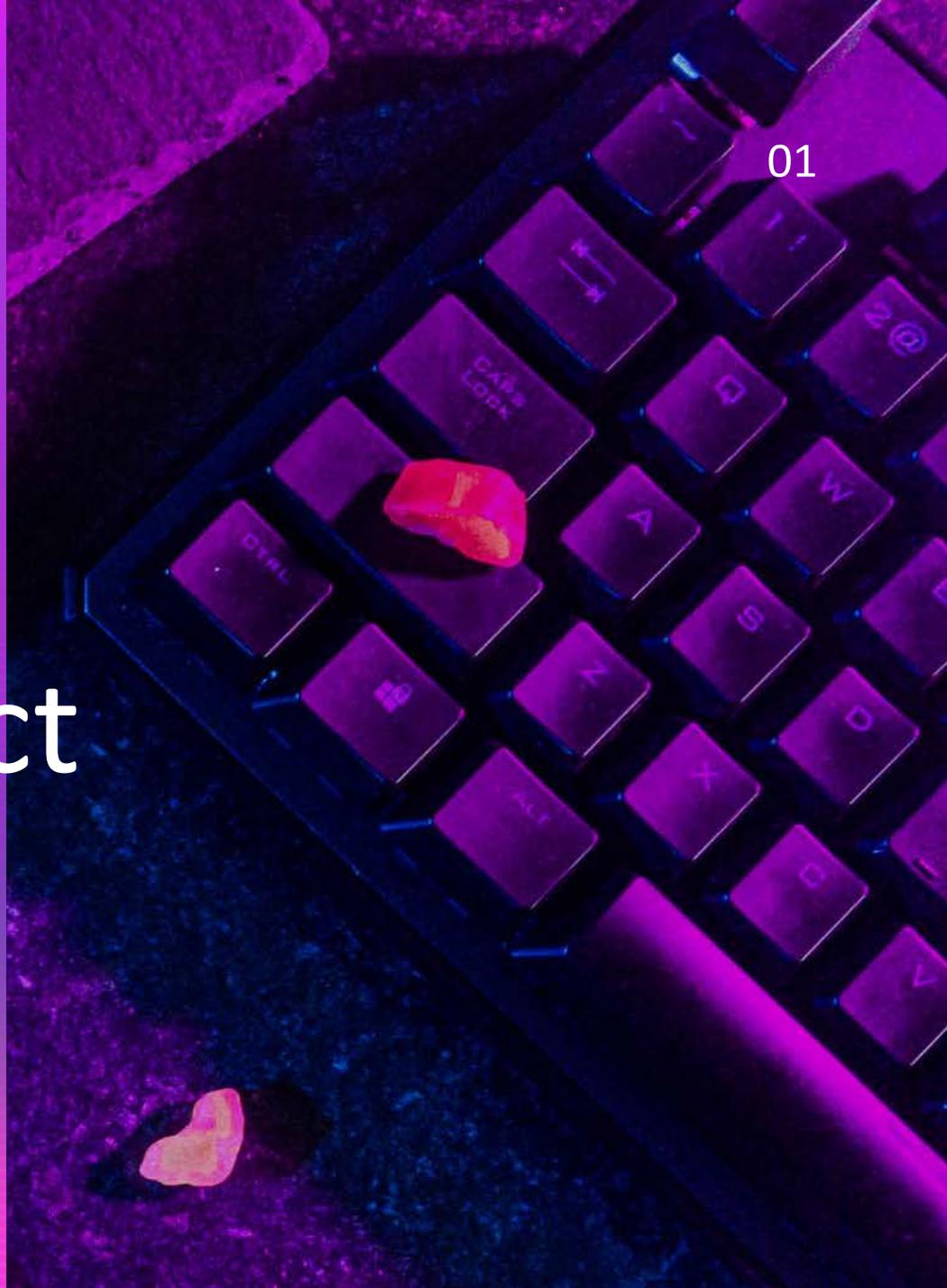
Disability Cocoon
a technology movement

01



Technology First Project

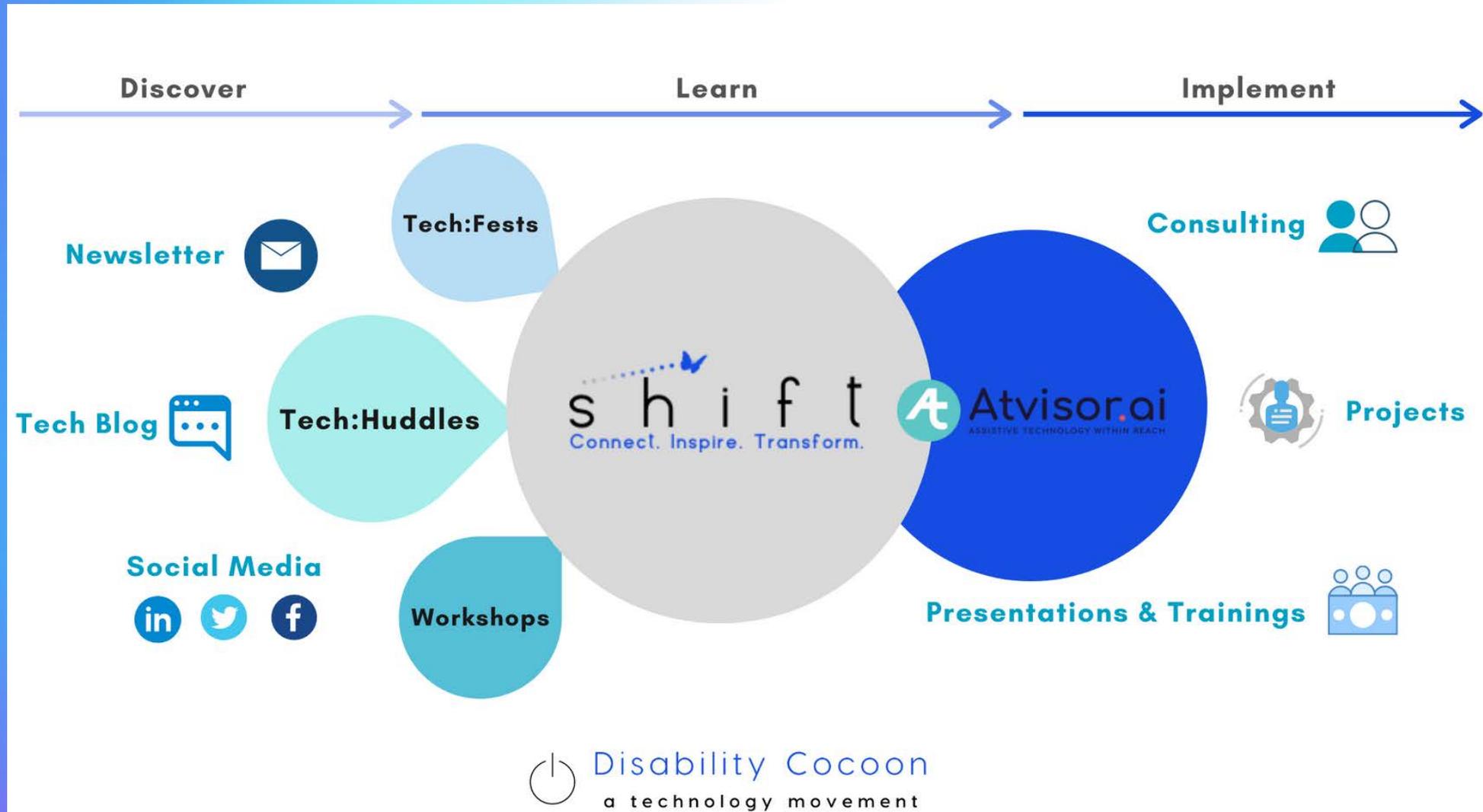
A short overview of the Maryland DDA
project with Disability Cocoon



my background & passion

Dustin Wright

President/Founder





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.

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CALL/TEXT

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Thank You!

Questions



Please join us for our 2021
Webinar Series:

- April 16, and 30 at 1pm
- May 14 and 28 at 1pm