



# Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

**Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary**

April 2, 2021



# Agenda

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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](https://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](https://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](https://covidvax.maryland.gov).*

# Deputy Secretary's Update

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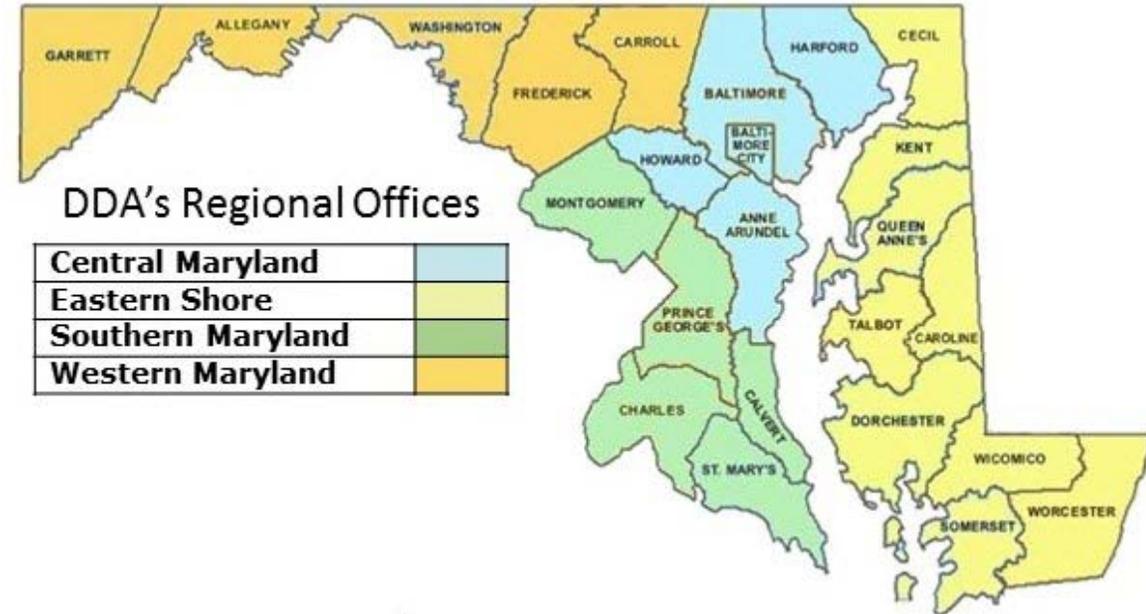
- The DDA continues to work with the Department's Public Health Services and Maryland Department of Disabilities to coordinate disability specific clinics as more vaccinations become available
- Thank you to all the providers that have hosted COVID-19 Vaccine clinics. It takes lots of coordination, communication and staff to run successful clinics



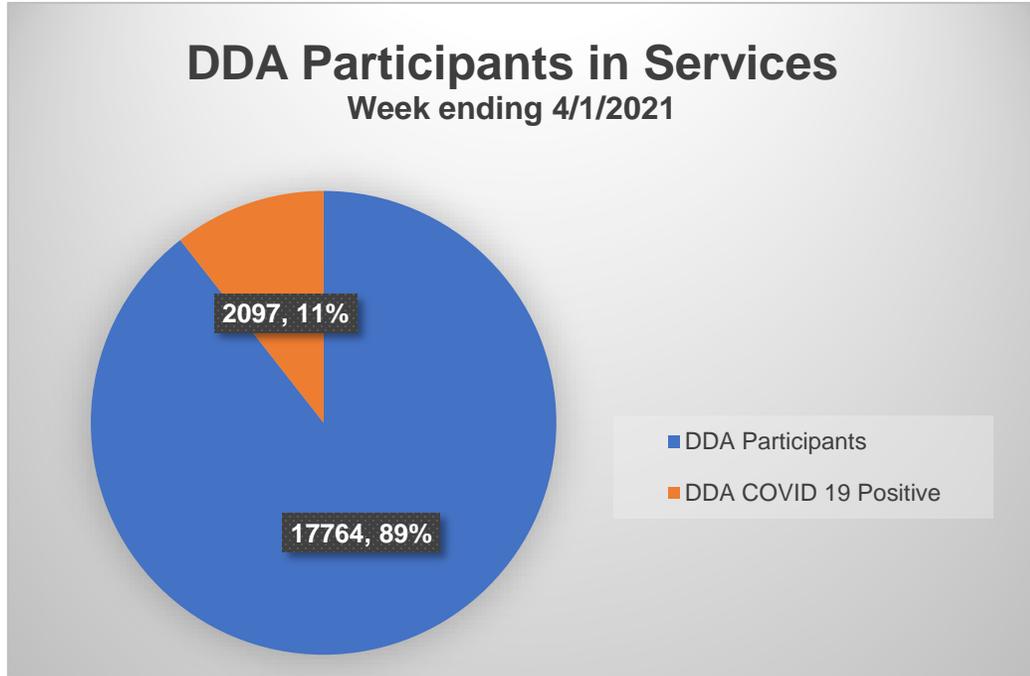
# COVID-19 Regional Updates

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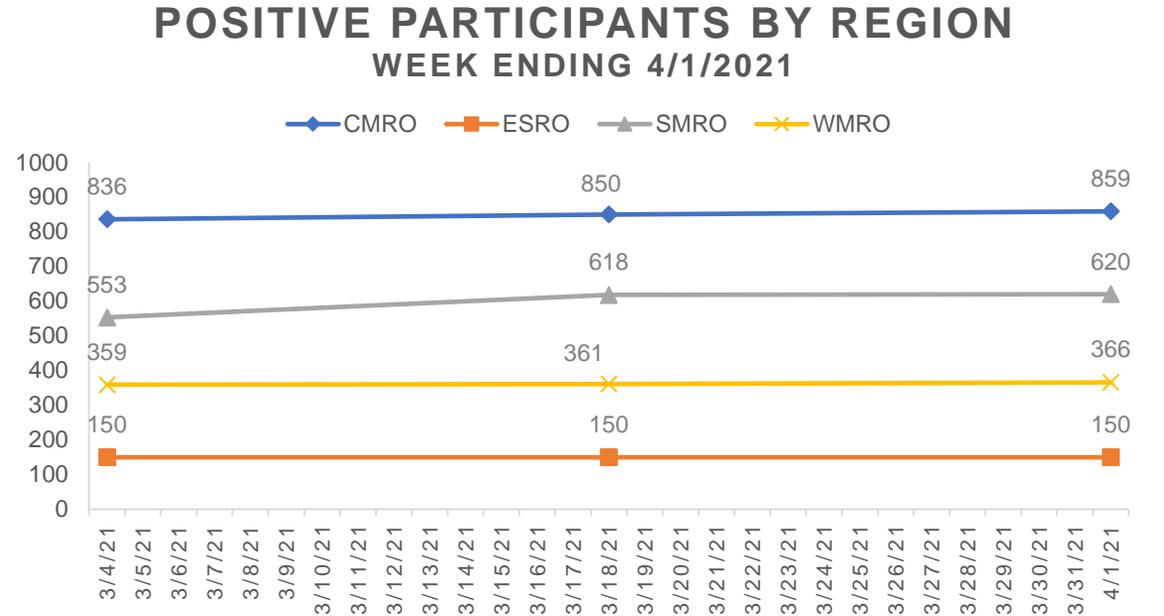
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# DDA Tracking



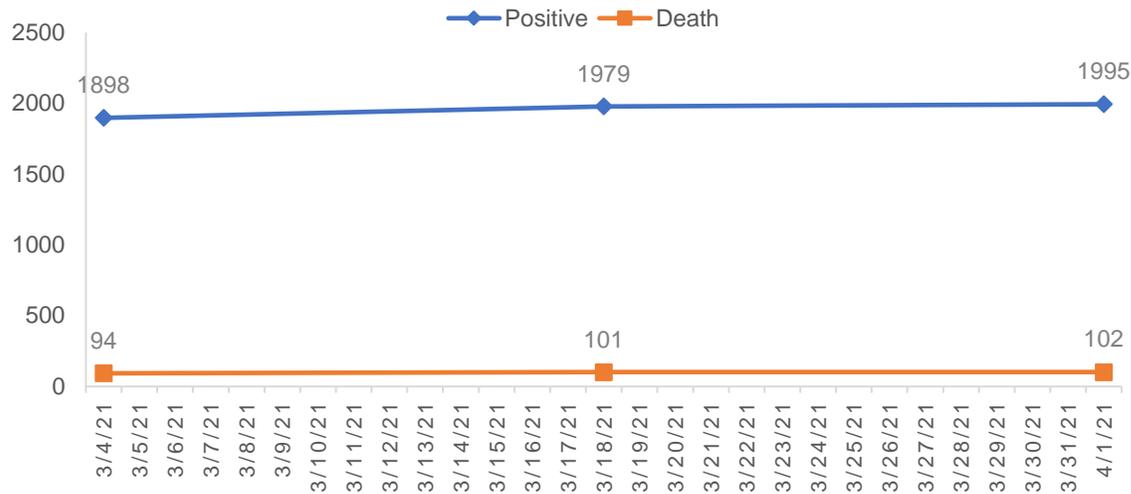
There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 11% (2,097) have tested positive for COVID-19.



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

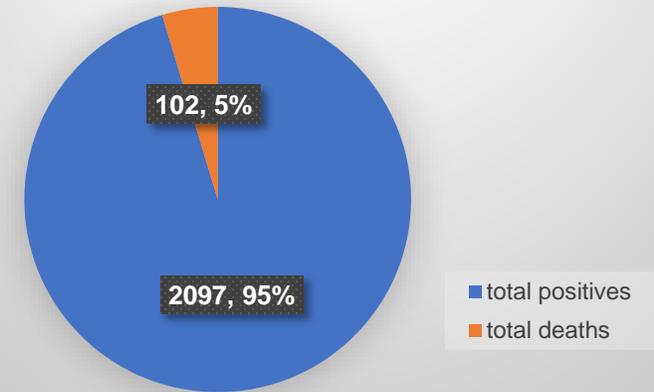
# DDA Tracking

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.

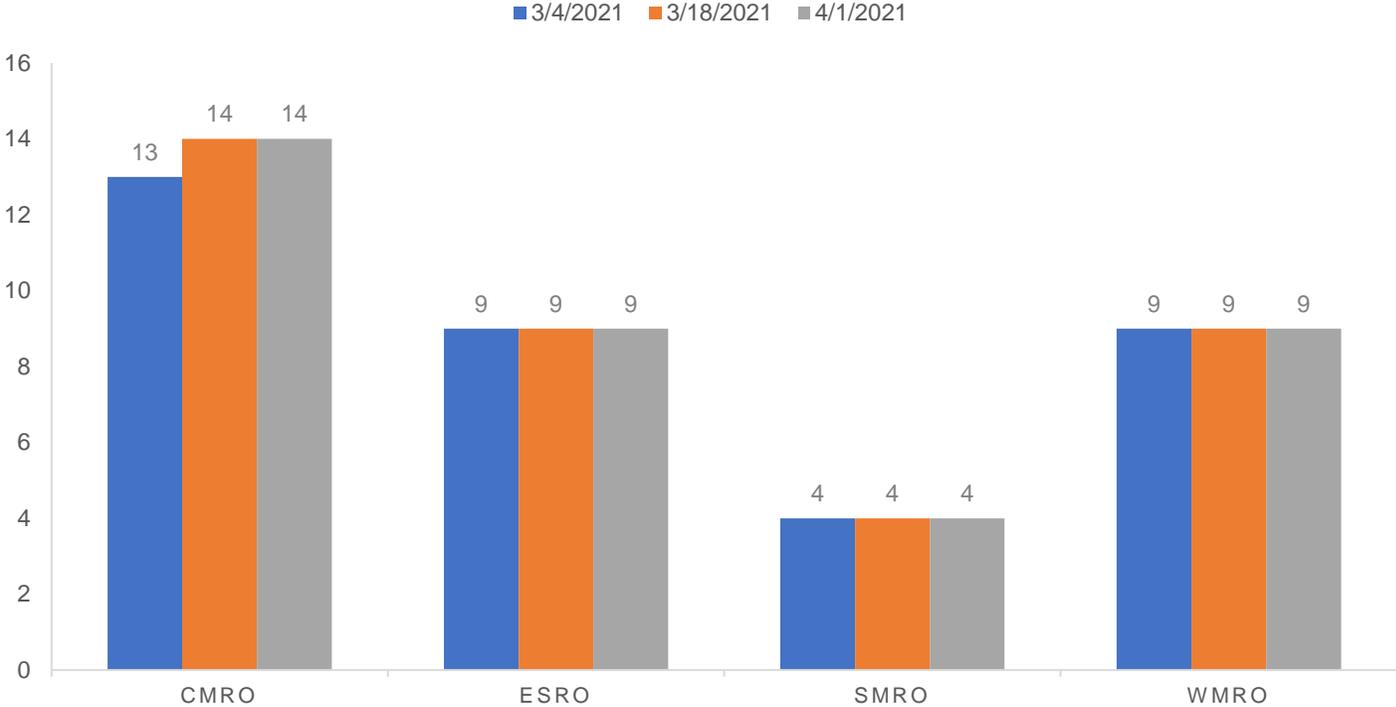
DDA COVID-19  
Positives and Deaths  
Week ending 4/1/2021



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

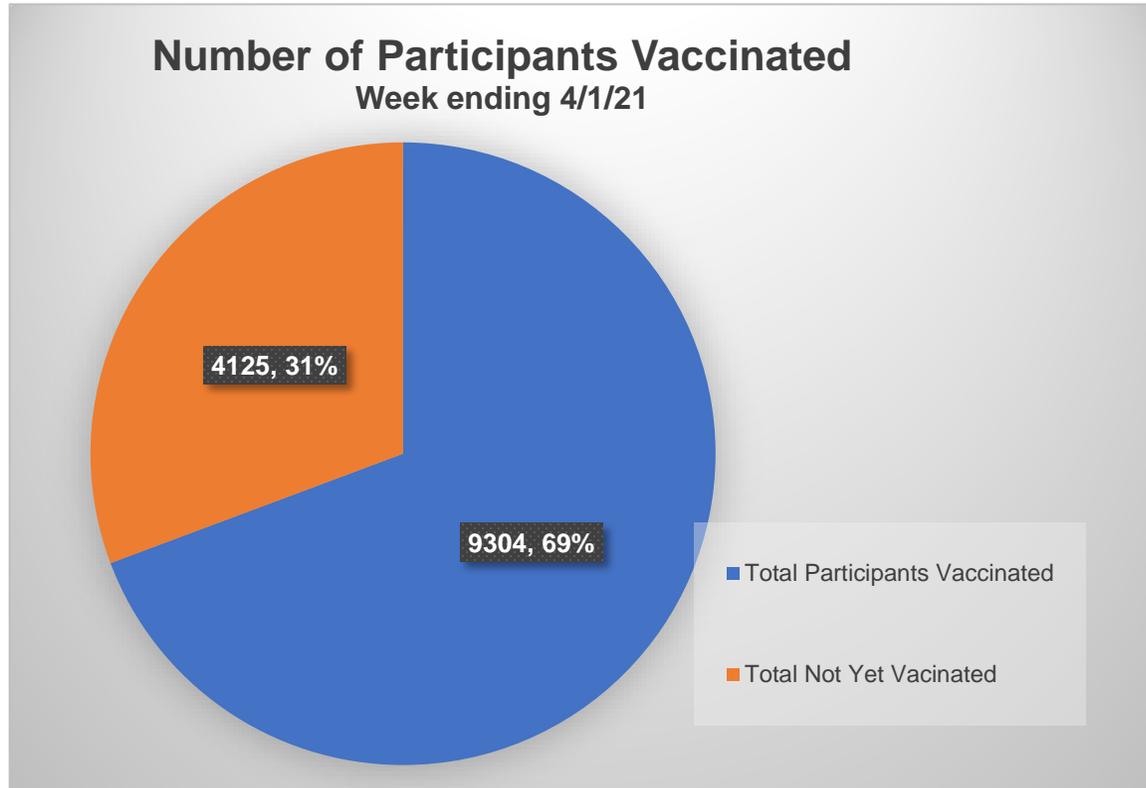
# DDA Tracking

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



36 COVID-19 Positive  
0 Deaths

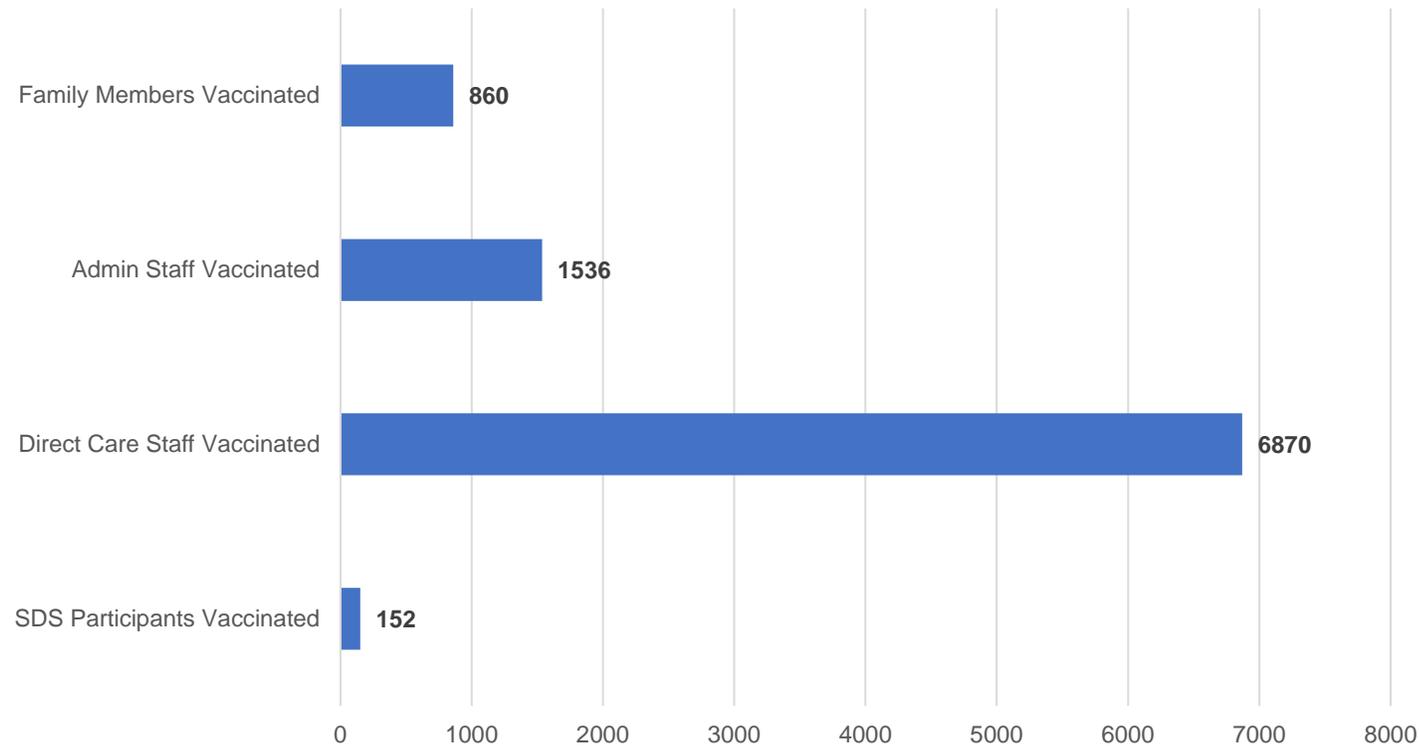
# Vaccination Tracking



- 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**



# Next Steps – How do we reintegrate

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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

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## 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

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**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?

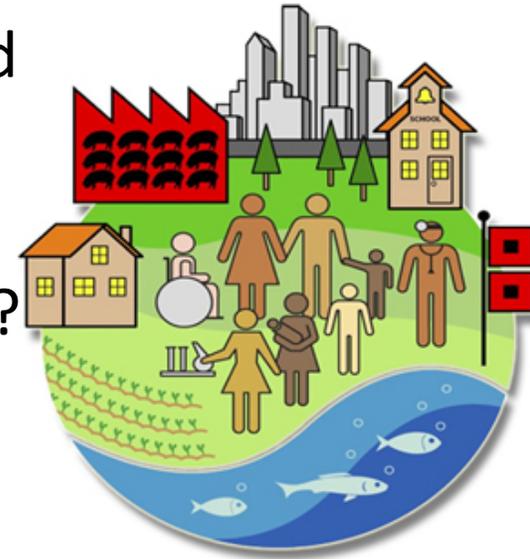
# Next Steps - Continued

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- 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

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- 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....

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- 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

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- [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](#)



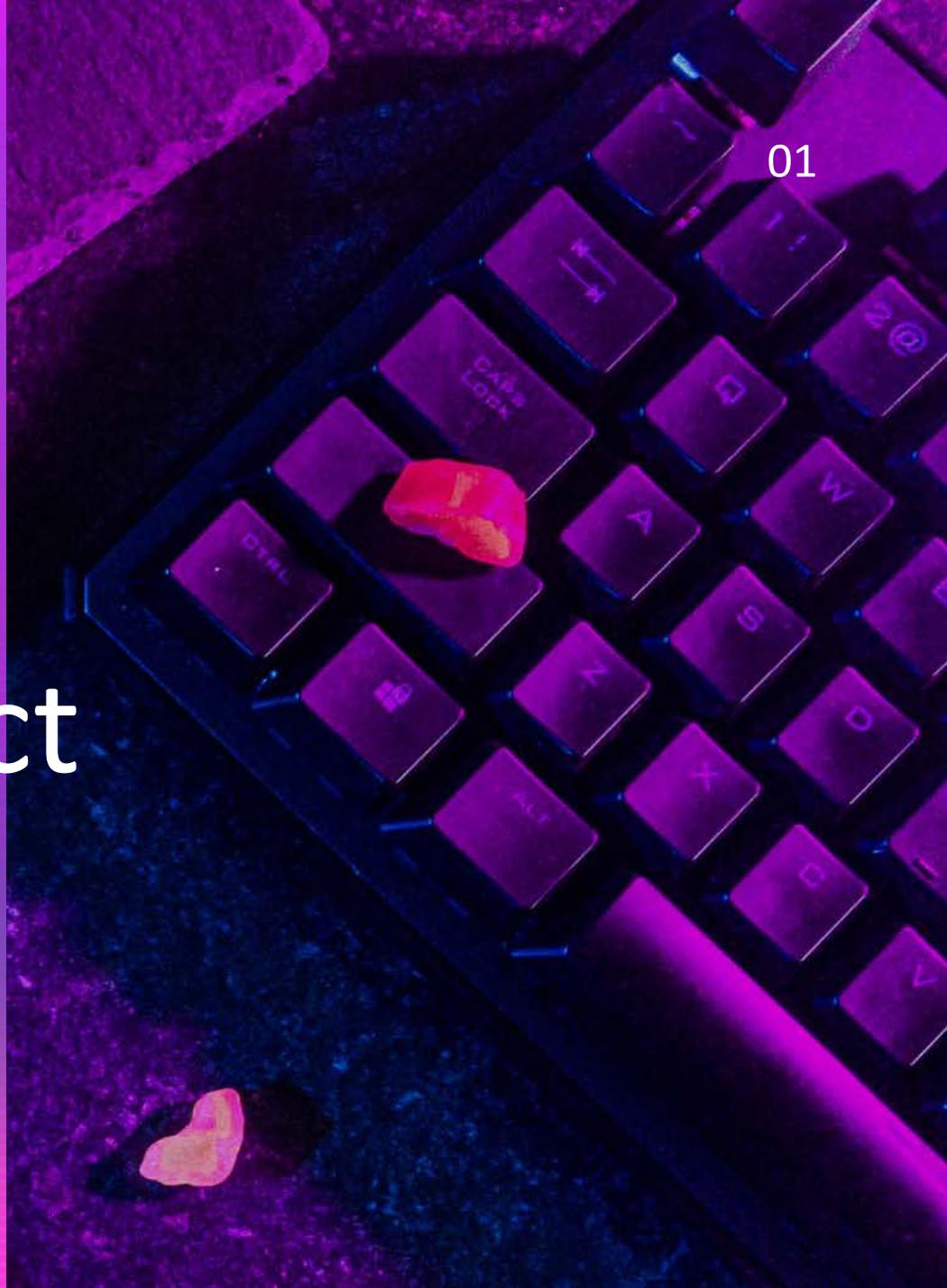
Disability Cocoon  
a technology movement

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# Technology First Project

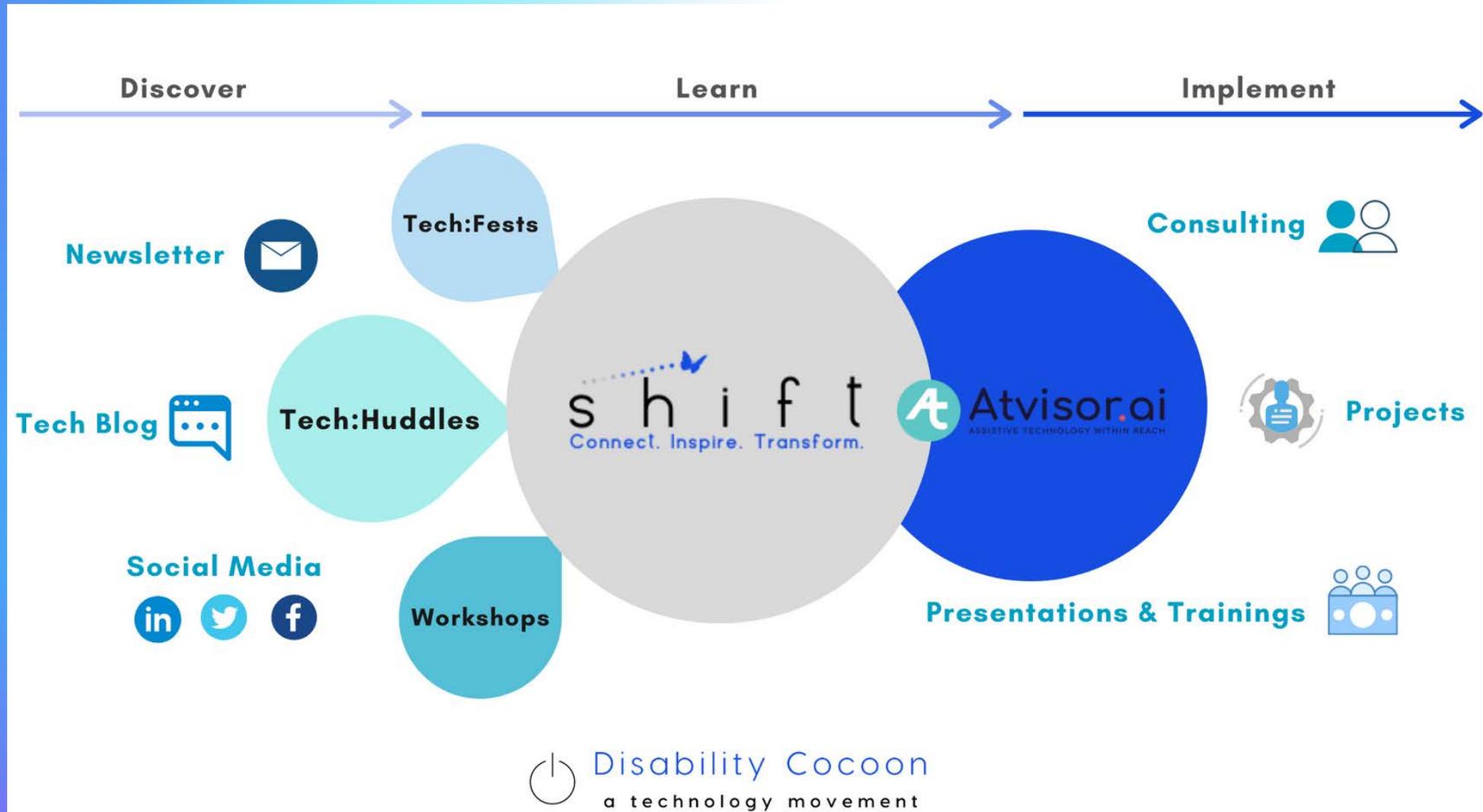
A short overview of the Maryland DDA  
project with Disability Cocoon



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.

# contact info

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CALL/TEXT

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Thank You!

# Questions

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Please join us for our 2021  
Webinar Series:

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