



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

December 16, 2022



Agenda



- **Opening Remarks and Happy Holidays**
- **Focus In The New Year**
- **Cold and Flu Season**
- **Federal Program Updates**
- **Program Updates**
- **Administrative Services Updates**

Focus In The New Year

DDA Key Priorities

- HCBS Settings Rule
- LTSS Expansion
- Service Flexibilities
- Employment/Tech First
- CCS Collaboration and Quality Outcomes
- Self-Direction Opportunities
- Appendix K and the Waiver Renewal Implementation
- Quality Improvement Organization Outlook
- Rate Review Advisory Group (RRAG)



Cold and Flu Season

Maryland Department of Health reminds us that reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses, like the common cold and flu, this fall and winter is more important than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three things to keep in mind:

- Get the flu shot
- Practice good health habits
- Contact your primary care physician if you have symptoms



Federal Programs Updates

**Appendix K, Waiver Renewal, New DDA Policy
Stakeholder Input Process, Self Direction**



Appendix K Flexibilities and Unwinding

- Under Secretary Schrader’s leadership, the current scope of the Appendix K flexibilities will be extended through **June 30, 2023**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful Day and PS retainer payments • Increased rate (isolation) • Residential day time shared service hours* 	<p>Training requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waive all but essential training • PORII training provided in an expedited format • Sharing staff among providers • CPR and First Aid • Training in MANDT* • Waiver of high school or GED requirement* • Annual training requirement extension for DSP who have previously completed all training requirements (less than 18 months ago) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension of the minimum number of hours of Meaningful Day services to be provided during a single day. A provider may bill for the entire day in PCIS2 only if they provide the person with, at minimum, three hours of cumulative supports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing ratios (exceed maximum) • Staffing ratios -- 1:1 and 2:1 exceptions** • Hire relatives and legally responsible individuals* 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided any day of the week and exceed 8 hours a day and 40 hours per week within person’s authorized budget 		

Note: *Will have some service-level exceptions through DDA’s Waiver
 **Requires RO approval



Appendix K Flexibilities and Unwinding

- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) shared questions related to the recent MDH Appendix K amendment to:
 - End Appendix K related residential retainer days on September 30, 2022 to provide an opportunity to access residential retainer fees for up to 18 days per calendar year under the normal waiver authority
 - Clarify additional reasons for the rate increase due to isolation (for example, the participant is symptomatic, awaiting test results, and discharged from a hospital)
 - Clarify staff training related flexibilities continue as per the unwinding strategy
 - Increase reserved category slots
- MDH submitted a response back to CMS and awaiting further information

Waiver Renewal

- MDH's Office of Long Term Services & Supports is reviewing the Waiver renewal proposals.
- Once submitted to CMS, the DDA will post track change documents and a stakeholder summary.
- Based on public input, we are withdrawing the proposals to:
 - Decrease Community Development Service (CDS) group size to up to three people – CDS group size will remain up to four people.
 - Remove *new* requirements for the use of the Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) to determine assessed need for 1:1/2:1 dedicated supports or enhanced rate.
- Other waiver revision recommendations will require CMS approval before implementation on July 1, 2023.

New DDA Stakeholder Input Process

- The DDA is committed to seeking input on policy proposals from participants, families, Coordination of Community Service agencies, community providers, and advocacy organizations.
- The DDA has established a dedicated webpage where policies will be posted.
- Stakeholders will have 10 business days to provide public comment.
- The DDA will post final policies along with summaries of stakeholder feedback.

New DDA Stakeholder Input Process

- Policy Proposals will:
 - Be based on the current approved waiver services
 - Plain language to make information clearer and more accessible
 - Changes noted in the renewal will be updated next spring prior to the July 1, 2023 implementation date
- Updates to policies will occur annually, or sooner if revisions are necessary
- Minor updates may not be posted if no changes to content (e.g., spacing, grammatical changes, etc.)

New DDA Stakeholder Input Process

- How can I be part of the policy making process?
 - Visit the new [DDA Stakeholder Input](#) webpage when policies are posted to provide feedback. Steps to submit your feedback are listed on the webpage.
- How will I know when policies will be posted?
 - DDA will send out communication as policies are posted to the webpage.
- How will I know when the Public Comment period is over?
 - Information will be included in the communication and on the webpage.
- What happens to my feedback?
 - DDA values your feedback – all feedback will be considered.
 - Public comments will be summarized and posted when the final policy is published.
 - Remember: The DDA cannot make changes to policy that do not align with the federally approved waiver application.

Navigating to DDA Stakeholder Input Webpage

The screenshot shows the Maryland.gov website. In the top left corner is the Maryland.gov logo. In the top right corner are links for "State Directory", "State Agencies", and a globe icon. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: "Quick Links", "About DDA", "Recommended Websites", "Policies, Regulations, and Forms" (highlighted with a red arrow), "Services We Provide", "Behavior Supports", "Coordination Of Community Services", "Employment", "Housing", and "Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)". The main content area is titled "DDA Policy Stakeholder Input". Below the title, there is a paragraph: "The DDA is committed to seeking input on policy and guidance proposals from participants, families, Coordination of Community Service agencies, community providers, and advocacy organizations." This is followed by another paragraph: "The DDA will post proposed policies for stakeholder feedback below. Stakeholders will have two weeks to submit their input from the time a proposed policy is posted. The DDA may include specific questions that will help guide our decision making; however, we welcome all constructive feedback for improving our policies and guidance. The DDA will summarize the specific recommendations from the public and responses which will be posted with the final version of the policy or guidance. In the event of emergent policy decisions, this process may not be used at the discretion of the Deputy Secretary." Below this text are three sections: "Policy/Guidance – Coming Soon", "What happens to my feedback? |", and "Stakeholder Groups". The "Stakeholder Groups" section contains the text: "The DDA frequently forms stakeholder groups to work and advise on policy topics. Visit this section to check for opportunities to participate. The DDA may limit participation in stakeholder groups based on size of the group and role of participants. The DDA may also reach out to stakeholders through other avenues to ensure broad and diverse perspectives are represented."

Programs Updates

CCS/Provider Collaborative follow up, Person and family forum update, Provider Directory launch

Programs Updates

- CCS/Provider Collaborative Follow-up
- Person and Family Forum Next Steps
- Provider Directory Launch



Administrative Services Update

Administrative Services-New face, Rate Review Advisory Group, QIO

Administrative Services – New Faces

Director of Finance - Nick Gabor
nicholas.gabor@maryland.gov



LTSS Program Manager - Matthew Ogunbukola
matthew.ogunbukola@maryland.gov



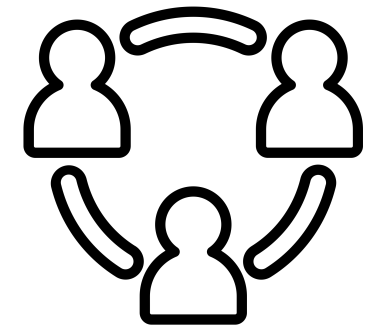
Rate Review Advisory Group

Learnings and Accomplishments

- Open Meetings to promote access, transparency and participation
- Cross-section membership to ensure a range of experiences, perspectives, and interests
- Charter to guide the approach, structure, expectations and responsibilities of all members
- Rate priorities advanced through data collection and analysis and informed the FY24 budget recommendations

Looking Ahead

- FY25 Rate Review Cycle – January 2023 - August 2023
- Development of the Provider General Ledger data-collection process



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Quality Improvement Organization(QIO) Update

Jennifer Mettrick



CQL Network Accreditation Overview Webinar – held 11/28/22, recording available

CQL Network Accreditation Data Collection

QIO Collaborative Workgroup has completed 3 sessions

NCI Adult Consumer In-Person Surveys and Family Mailed Surveys have initiated

National Core Indicator Surveying

Waiver Assurances Monitoring

QIO is currently testing the TCM Review tool & process– UR pilot begins 12/19/22

Upcoming Monthly Webinars

To register for Monthly Webinars with Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7056441753881626381>

Next webinar: **January 27, 2023 10:30am-11:30am**

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

Questions

