



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

September 30, 2022



Agenda



- **Opening Remarks**
 - September 11–17 Direct Support Professionals Week
 - National Disability Employment Month | October
 - ARPA One-Time Emergency Rate Increase
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Information**
- **Waiver Renewal and Public Comment Period**
- **Appendix K Extension and Unwinding**
- **Self-Directed Services**
- **Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Updates**

Direct Support Professional Recognition

*We rise
by lifting others*
—Robert Ingersoll

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION WEEK
SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2022

DSP RECOGNITION WEEK
September 11-17, 2022

ANCOR | RELIAS

 **Maryland**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK
SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2022**

- WHEREAS,** *Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are vital to the life experiences of many people with disabilities in Maryland, from employment support to community living assistance, DSPs are often the difference between community participation and isolation; and*
- WHEREAS,** *DSPs have been on the front lines of the public health emergency due to the pandemic as they continue to arrive for work every day, ready to do everything they can to ensure the health and safety of people with disabilities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We believe in a Maryland which recognizes the unlimited potential for all our citizens, including those with disabilities, to live, work, and thrive in our communities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Direct Support Professional Week is an opportunity to recognize the important work of those, who ensure inclusive environments with equal access to all which contributes to community life for those with disabilities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We are changing Maryland for the better by promoting equality of opportunity, access, and choice for Marylanders with disabilities. We are committed to the promise of a Maryland in which all people with disabilities have the knowledge 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 September 11 - 17, 2022 as **DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK** in Maryland, and encourage all citizens to participate and promote events throughout the year which celebrate the rights and abilities of those with disabilities.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 11th day of September
Two Thousand and twenty-two

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Robert H. Wittke
Lt. Governor

John C. Winkler
Secretary of State

September 11–17 Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

- Proclamation from Governor Larry Hogan
- Daily social media promotion facebook.com/MarylandDDA/
- Nominations received for 28 outstanding DSPs
- Governor's citations are to be presented the first week of October



National Disability Employment Month

October is
National Disability
Employment Month

#NDEAM

A graphic for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) set against a chalkboard background filled with mathematical equations. At the top, a blue banner reads "NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH". The word "DISABILITY:" is written in large white letters. Below it, a visual equation is shown: a circular inset of a woman in a wheelchair working at a computer, plus a rectangular inset of a woman and a man in business attire reviewing documents, equals a glowing yellow lightbulb. Below this, the text "PART OF THE EQUITY EQUATION" is written in bold yellow and white letters. At the bottom right, a blue banner contains the hashtag "#NDEAM" and the website "DOL.GOV/ODEP". In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for the Office of Disability Employment Policy, United States Department of Labor.

Section Two - COVID-19 Vaccination Information

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: What You Need to Know

- The COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses are **free, safe, effective, and authorized** by the FDA and CDC.
- The new bivalent COVID-19 booster targets the original strain of the coronavirus and two Omicron sub-variants, which are predicted to continue circulating this fall and winter.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: Bivalent Booster Dose Requirements

- **Complete a vaccine primary series:** The CDC's website has information about [how many doses you need to complete your primary series](#).
- **Waiting period:** **You must wait 2 months** following your most recent COVID-19 shot before getting a bivalent booster dose.
- **Age Matters:**
 - The **Pfizer-BioNTech** bivalent booster is authorized for people **ages 12 and older**.
 - The **Moderna** bivalent booster is authorized for people **ages 18 and older**.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: Frequently Asked Questions (1 of 2)

- **Is there a significant difference between the Pfizer and Moderna bivalent vaccines?**

No. The FDA has authorized and CDC has updated clinical guidance on the use of mix-and-match booster doses for currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

- **What are the side effects for the new bivalent COVID-19 booster?**

The data is still rolling in, but experts say people can expect to have generally the same reaction to the new bivalent vaccines as they did with the first generation COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: Frequently Asked Questions (2 of 2)

- **Am I still eligible for the new bivalent COVID-19 booster if I received a booster dose prior to 9/1?**

Anyone, 12 years or older, who has completed at least a primary series is eligible for a bivalent booster, regardless of the number or type of prior booster doses received so long as at least two months have passed since their last COVID-19 vaccine dose.

- **When might bivalent COVID-19 bivalent boosters be authorized for younger kids, under age 12?**

To be determined.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: Resources



Questions about the updated bivalent boosters can be sent to mdh.covidvax@maryland.gov

COVID-19 resources for health care providers can be found on the Maryland Department of Health website: <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/provider-resources>



Section Three - Federal Programs Updates

Waiver Renewal and Public Comment Period

Appendix K Extension and Unwinding

Self-Directed Services

Waiver Renewal and Public Comment Period (1 of 3)

- The official public comments period opened on September 6, 2022 and must be made by 11:59 PM on October 6, 2022 to be considered.
- Track change documents regarding the amendment proposals are available on each Waiver program's dedicated webpage, listed on the next slide.
- Public comments can be:
 - Submitted to: wfb.dda@maryland.gov; or
 - Mailed to: DDA Federal Programs
201 West Preston Street, 4th Floor
Baltimore MD 21201

Waiver Renewal and Public Comment Period (2 of 3)

- [Family Supports Waiver - Renewal 2023](#)
 - <https://tinyurl.com/5rj2858z>
- [Community Supports Waiver - Renewal 2023](#)
 - <https://tinyurl.com/bdd85ufp>
- [Community Pathways Waiver – Renewal 2023](#)
 - <https://tinyurl.com/bdd85ufp>

Waiver Renewal and Public Comment Period (3 of 3)

- Stakeholder Waiver Renewal Webinar – September 1, 2022
 - Stakeholder Waiver Renewal Webinar Presentation
 - Presentacion en Espanol - <https://tinyurl.com/2s39hzt5>

Appendix K Flexibilities (1 of 3)

- Targeted flexibilities have been extended to January 31, 2023 including:
 - Staffing ratios
 - Hiring relatives and legally responsible individuals
 - Increased rate (isolation)
 - Services provided any day of the week and exceed 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week within the person's authorized budget
 - 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 least three hours of cumulative supports

Reference: [Appendix K and Executive Orders Flexibilities - September 16, 2022](#)

Appendix K Flexibilities (2 of 3)

- Targeted flexibilities, continued:
 - Residential day time shared service hours
 - Training flexibilities
 - Effective September 30, 2022, training flexibilities do not apply:
 - If the previous training exceeds 18 months from prior date/certification; and
 - If the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) has a finding that mandates a training requirement for a staff involved in an incident that resulted in a statement of deficiency or plan of correction
- Current guidance for these flexibilities has been updated on the DDA website:
[Appendix K and Executive Orders Flexibilities - September 16, 2022](https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA_Appendix_K.aspx) -
health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA_Appendix_K.aspx

Appendix K Flexibilities (3 of 3)

- Participants with the support of their teams should review Appendix K staffing flexibilities and current assessed need for possible person-centered plan revisions.
- People self-directing and Providers should continue to ensure all staff meet the required service qualifications including having current required training such as CPR, First Aid, etc. by or before January 31, 2023.

Self-Directed Services Financial Management and Counseling Services (FMCS)

October Information Fairs

- October Virtual fairs dates
- October In-person fairs locations
- References:
 - [August Virtual Fair Webinar](#)
 - [DDA's Financial Management and Counseling Services Webpage](#)



Registration for October Informational Fairs

Virtual Information Fairs

- [Wednesday, October 5, 2022](#) (12 pm - 2 pm) or (5 pm - 7 pm)
- [Tuesday, October 25, 2022](#) (12 pm - 2 pm) or (5 pm - 7 pm)

In-Person Information Fairs

- Wicomico, MD (ESRO) - **Tuesday, October 11, 2022** ([12 pm - 2 pm](#)) or ([5 pm - 7 pm](#))
- Frederick, MD (WMRO) - **Thursday, October 13, 2022** ([12 pm - 2 pm](#)) or ([5 pm - 7 pm](#))
- Rockville, MD (SMRO) - **Saturday, October 15, 2022** ([10 am - 12 pm](#))
- Randallstown, MD (CMRO) - **Saturday, October 22, 2022** ([10 am - 12 pm](#))

Self Directed Services - Criminal Background Checks

- A new background check must be completed for all employees, even those who may have had a similar one run for another reason or another program like the Autism Waiver.
- The background check requirement applies to all services as listed in the waivers, including Support Brokers.
- The FMCS pays for all background checks for employees. Each FMCS will have a process for this; reach out to them for more details.
- The FMCS will not pay for background checks for vendors. Background checks are a part of doing business as a vendor and the vendor's responsibility to provide.

Self Directed Services - Criminal Background Checks

- The DDA announced this week that current employees of participants self-directing services, prior to the transition to the new FMCS services regardless of the transition date, will have until December 1, 2022, to meet the criminal background check requirements.
- Today we are announcing an update to this guidance as follows:
 - All **current** and **new employees** will have until **February 1, 2023** to meet the State fingerprinting criminal background check.
 - FMCS will conduct private background checks while coordinating the program required fingerprinting background checks prior to **February 1, 2023**.

Section Four - Quality Improvement Organization (QIO)

September 30, 2022



Quality Improvement Organization(QIO) Update

Jennifer Mettrick



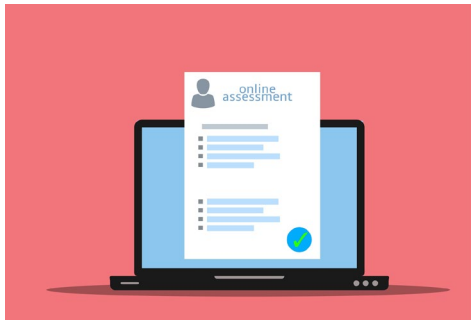
QIO Functions



Interviewing people receiving services and their families **to ensure their voice is heard**



Discovering ways to improve services and supports

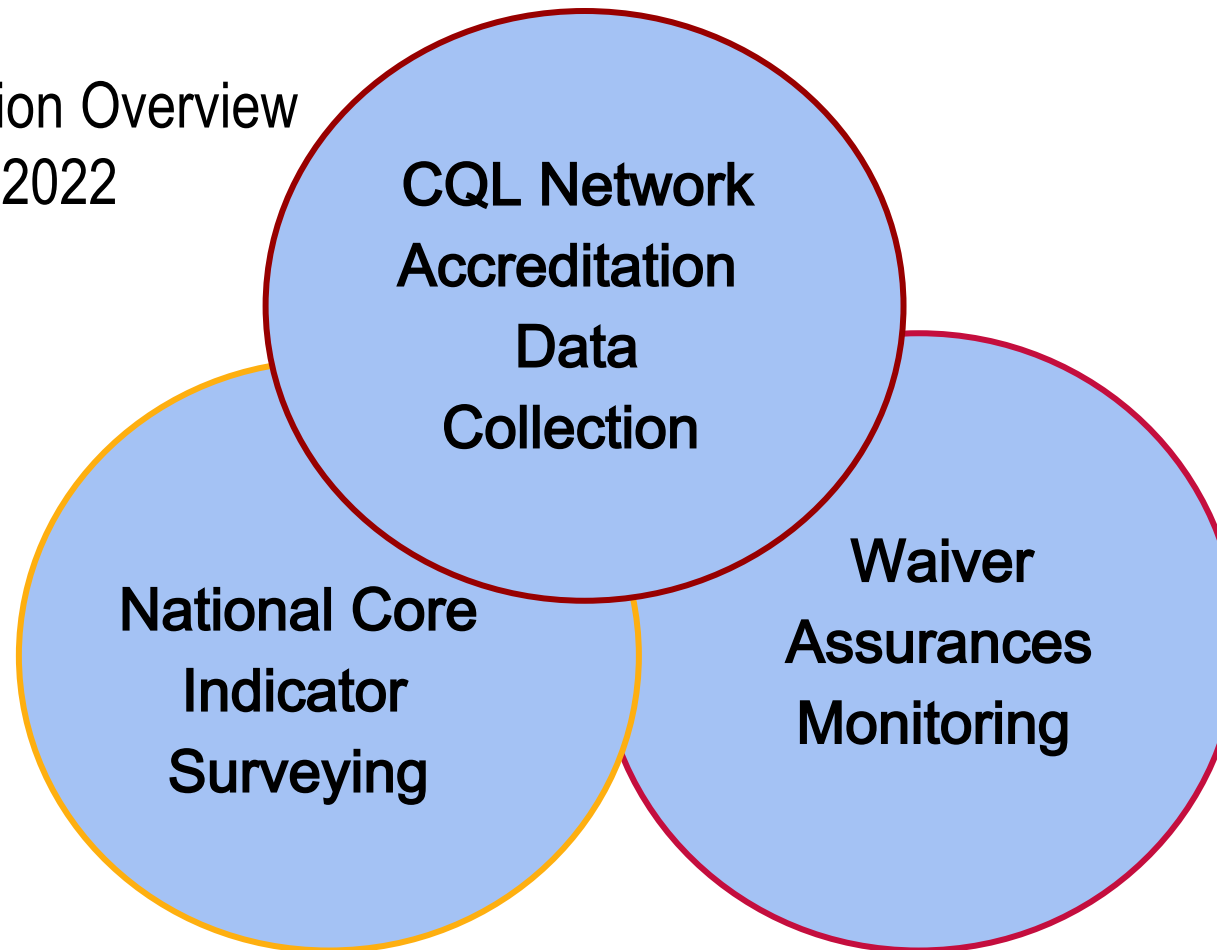


Providing recommendations to improve **service delivery**



QIO Update

CQL Network Accreditation Overview
Webinar – November 3, 2022



NCI Adult Consumer
In-Person Surveys and
Family Mailed Surveys
begin November 2022

QIO Collaborative
Workgroup has been
selected and begins
October 20, 2022

QIO will begin pilot
testing data collection
tools & processes –
November 2022

Upcoming Monthly Webinars

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

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

