

MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2017

Oakland Mills Meeting House – Columbia, MD

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Carol Beatty	JoEllen Barnhart	Faye Bell-Boulware	Silvia Jones
John Bratcher	Kathy Hargett	Brian Cox	Michael Ojo
Damon Briggs	Meghan Jones	Rachel London	Carol Murdoch
Carmen Brown	Adam VanderHook	Krista Mason	Irvin Johnson
Kalani Brown		Teri Sparks	
Jamal Cannady			
Eric Cole			
Brent Debnam			
Lisa Derx			
Sharon Dockery			
Marni Greenspoon			
Harold Gomes			
Kay Han			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Teresa Herbert			
Amanda Lay			
Miguel Mercado Jr.			
Jed Miller			
Tobi Ojo			
Rebecca Oliver			
Jill Pierce			
Julie Randall			
Ruth Shipps			
Bernie Simons			
Chris Smith			
Russell Young			

AGENDA

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. by welcoming everyone.

Approval of Minutes

One correction was noted for the June minutes: Marni Greenspoon (DRM) asked to delete “including 90 DDA staff” from the explanation of the disability symposium.

M/S/P to approve the June 29, 2017 minutes.

Introduction of New Members – Damon Briggs, Chair, Membership Committee

Current Council Members introduced the following new Council Members: Harold Gomes, Tobi Ojo, Kalani Brown, Kay Han, John Bratcher, and Brent Debnam.

Meghan Jones, another new Council Member, was attending a national convention. All guests were also introduced.

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Presentation: Community of Practice for Supporting Families (CoP) – Teri Sparks and Mary Anne Kane Breschi, Director of Family Supports, Developmental Disabilities Administration

Eric Cole introduced Mary Anne Kane Breschi and noted that the Council and DDA had been collaborating statewide on this initiative focused on formal and informal supports for families that have a member with developmental disabilities. Teri Sparks and Mary Anne Kane Breschi provided an overview of the initiative and shared an informational sheet. An invitation was extended for those who would like to attend any CoP upcoming events or get involved in local efforts.

FY2018 Budget Presentation – Rachel London

Rachel London informed members that the FY2018 budget was presented to the Executive Committee and approved and she provided an overview to the Council. (The FY2018 Budget was provided in the meeting packet.) The Council receives an annual award of federal funds from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The Council's fiscal year starts on October 1, 2017 and ends on September 30, 2018. The Council has two years to commit money but three years to spend it. New members were encouraged to ask questions, which Rachel answered.

In federal fiscal year 2017, the Council received a little more additional money because the DD Council for Puerto Rico didn't utilize all of their funding so AIDD distributed that among Councils nationwide. It was about an additional \$27,000.

Amanda Lay asked about the results of comments that were solicited to illustrate the Council's effectiveness as a response to the Trump Administration's proposed defunding and restructuring of DD Councils, Traumatic Brain Injury Programs and State Independent Living Councils (P3I proposal). Brian Cox said that 950 comments from throughout the nation were received and they were instrumental in justifying the work of DD Councils. The P3I proposal appears to be dead. Brian added that Congress has passed a Continuing Resolution through mid-December, which continues federal funding through then.

Dinner Break

New TIP Grants: Update and Additional Funding Request – Damon Briggs, Chair, Employment Work Team

Eric Cole explained that at the last Council meeting the Council approved \$40,000 to fund more employment technical assistance grants (TIP grants) to providers. This is a partnership with MD Works, which contributed \$20,000 for a total of \$60,000. Since the last meeting staff determined that the Council has \$31,000 remaining for grants that must be committed by the end of this month so the Executive Committee decide to use that \$31,000 for more TIP grants. As a result the grant review team had \$91,000 to work with (\$71,000 Council and \$20,000 MD works). There was so much interest from providers for this support that \$91,000 can't cover all of the requests. The review team is requesting additional funds.

Damon Briggs, provided background information about TIP grant funding and asked Julie Randall to explain how this initiative is reaching out to providers in rural areas. Julie explained the process and

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noted that in this round of funding, three of the providers are in rural areas.

Rachel London reported that the Employment Work Team (Damon Briggs, Julie Randall, and Jay Stewart from MD Works) met and reviewed proposals and decided they would like to fund ten organizations, all of which have never received a previous TIP grant. This is in addition to the 13 providers that have previously received a TIP grant. Nine of the 10 proposals have already been approved. The group put forth the motion to approve funding for the tenth provider (Ardmore), because it will require an additional \$5400 of Council funding.

There was a motion from the Employment Work Team to fund the additional tenth proposal (\$5400).

M/S/P to fund an additional \$5400.

5-Year State Plan Status – Brian Cox

A. Year 1 Work Plan: Progress and Funding Report

Eric Cole stated the Council just finished the first year of work plan. Brian Cox provided a progress report and discuss new funding opportunities. He reviewed a chart of all State Plan objectives and activities and noted all those that still require funding to initiate. Some require more information gathering and will be focused on and discussed at the December Council meeting: Support to local self-advocacy groups, Cross disability & culturally diverse leadership coalitions, Leadership development, and Post-secondary education. Some highlights of this review included:

Teri Sparks commented on work regarding person-centered thinking training that began this year

Brian Cox talked about the RFP focused on leadership development and reminded the Council that the Leadership Development Work Team had determined that most of the proposals were a disappointment.

The Council, DRM, and MCDD are working together to develop and widely disseminate materials that explain critical aspects of the DDA service system in a way that is easily understood and usable by people with developmental disabilities and their families. Miguel Mercado, Jr. volunteered to help with any Spanish translations of materials, and Kalani Brown asked about consideration of posting in other languages online. Brian Cox discussed the Raising Expectations initiative and mentioned that a Think Tank was held in July to address this issue that runs through all of the Council's work. Outcomes from the Think Tank are forthcoming.

Rachel London discussed our work with the Office of Child Care on a formal child care dispute resolution process for families who feel they are discriminated against. The draft of the report for the formal process is due in October, will have a final process confirmed shortly after.

DDA has \$250,000 for an RFP to set aside funding for support colleges and universities to start

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inclusive programs for people with I/DD. This is also in our State Plan so if there is high interest, the Council could consider contributing funding. More will be known once the RFP is issued. Julie

Randall expressed the need to encourage rural universities to apply.

Teri Sparks reported on the Growth Through Opportunities (GTO) Cadet training program Information Session planned for October 3, 2017. We are looking into replicating the GTO program in Maryland.

B. Funding Priorities for FY2018

\$130,000 needs to be obligated by September 2018. The following initiatives were discussed:

Childcare – Statewide Technical Assistance Initiative - Chris Smith stepped out of the room due to a potential conflict of interest. The Council has funds remaining from the Maryland Department of Health/Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs that were originally designated to support our *Upper Shore Inclusive Child Care Project*. Maryland Family Network completed the project without using all the money. \$52,500 remains and must be used for related activities. Staff recommended allocating \$22,500 of Council funds to add to the \$52,500 for a total of \$75,000 in order to maximize the impact and broaden geographic reach. A request for proposals would be developed to select an organization with expertise to provide technical assistance to child care providers throughout Maryland.

M/S/P to fund the \$22,500.

After the vote was conducted, Chris Smith came back in the room.

Employment – MD Works – Regional Employment Trainings - Lisa Derx left the room due to a potential conflict of interest. Rachel London provided an overview. MD Works has requested to co-sponsor three regional trainings (ACRE certification) so direct support professionals are certified in the job discovery and development process. The training is led by nationally recognized experts. The request is for the Council to co-sponsor and pay \$5,000 out of the total cost of \$10,000. According to Brian Cox, the Executive Committee received and rejected two small grant requests from specific providers who wanted funding for just their agencies to have this training.

Carol Beatty asked if we have reached out to Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties because there is a similar grant for these counties. Rachel London said she will inquire.

Russ Young asked about what exactly the “discovery process” entails. Rachel London explained that discovery is a specific way in which you work with people to explore what they want to do for employment. Amanda Lay mentioned that job placement services for people with disabilities could be improved so that people who are educated can have access to jobs that are not menial. Rebecca Oliver felt that the description of the training is vague. Bernie pointed out that training for direct support professionals is crucial. The DDA is in the process of developing a career ladder for Direct Support Professionals/incentivizing moving up and getting certifications. This will help

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with the problem of high turnover by these professionals.

M/S/P to fund \$5,000.

After the vote, Lisa Derx re-entered the room.

Regional Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings- Brian Cox requested that the Council allocate \$4,000 to support four regional Communities of Practice (CoP) for Supporting Families. These mini-grants would be used for transportation for people with disabilities, supplies, meeting materials and other related expenses to support local activities.

M/S/P to fund for \$4,000.

Update & Print Planning Now- Brian requested funding to update the Council's Planning Now futures and estate planning guide. The estimated cost to update and print both the English and Spanish versions is \$11,000.

Miguel mentioned that he found Planning Now to be very well done and asked about outreach to make sure Spanish speaking communities have access to it. Brian said we have researched Spanish media outlets. Roseanne Hanratty suggested that we look into translating into other languages besides English and Spanish. Rebecca Oliver mentioned that information about Maryland Medicaid must be available in the 15 most common languages in the state.

M/S/P to fund \$11,000 for Planning Now.

Executive Committee Appointments – Eric Cole, Chairperson

Eric Cole submitted to the Council the following recommended new members to the Executive Committee: Brent Debnam, Russ Young, and Kalani Brown. Amanda asked if they will replace the Executive Committee members who recently left. Brian said yes.

M/S/P to approve the new members to the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Funding Report – Damon Briggs, Vice Chairperson

There was not time to cover this agenda item. The funding charts containing this information were provided in the meeting packet.

Executive Director's Report – Brian Cox

There was not time for this agenda item. The Quarterly State Plan Status Report was provided in the meeting packet.

Farewell to Departing Member – Eric Cole, Chairperson

This was Sharon Dockery's last Council meeting. Eric Cole spoke about Sharon's time on the Council, saying she served nine years on the Council, asked the hard and uncomfortable questions and because of her hard work, the Council and the state are better. Eric presented Sharon with the Governor's Citation and paper weight. Sharon gave departing words.

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State Agency and Sister Agency Updates

Bernie Simons – Developmental Disabilities Administration

- Bernie reported on the status of the Community Pathways Waiver, the Family Supports Waiver, and the Community Supports Waiver.
- The DDA is also working on the Maryland Inclusive Higher Education Collaborative, attending capacity building institutes at Towson University and Chesapeake College. The governor approved \$250,000 for DDA's budget for this initiative.

Carmen Brown - Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- Since the last Council meeting, MSDE is in the process of enrolling 229 youth onto the autism waiver. Approximately 129 students aged out at the end of last school year which is more than ever. 124 slots have been filled to date. MSDE is trying to locate families who have been waiting the longest.
- Working on parent support trainings taking place throughout the state.
- Moving as quickly as possible to get information out to families to be able to serve children and families better.

Carol Beatty – Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)

- The Maryland Board of Public Works (9/20/2017) and the Maryland 529 Board have approved an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement with Sunday Administration, LLC as record keeper and program manager for the Maryland ABLE plan. MD ABLE will work in cooperation with Oregon ABLE to administer programs. This partnership with Oregon ABLE allows Maryland to ensure low fees, ease of enrollment, and a State income tax deduction.
- September in Maryland is Direct Support Professional week. During this time MDOD thanks Direct Support Professionals throughout the state.
- October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. MDOD will be taking part in various recognition events throughout the state.

Rosanne Hanratty – Maryland Department of Aging

- The Department continues to look at innovative ways to serve people in the community who may not be Medicaid eligible.
- The Department received a grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on the use of assistive technology to better serve clients. Maryland Access Point (MAP) options counselors have received training in the use of assistive technology. Some money from the grant was used to fund a demonstration assistive technology kit to be used by MAP counselors and it was piloted. It was very well received. The Department used additional money outside of the ACL grant to purchase additional demonstration kits. This is a grant in cooperation with Maryland Transfer Advantage Program (MTAP).

Rebecca Oliver - Maryland Medicaid Program, MDH

- Medicaid is excited to be working with DDA on two new waivers this fall and was able to fund some community outreach events all over the state. They are also working closely with MDOA to assist with hospital discharges.
- Received the initial approval of the State Transition Plan from CMS and are now waiting for word

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back from CMS to see what is needed to receive final approval.

- Writing regulations for the State implementing the Community Settings rule which are scheduled to be published in the Maryland Register October 13th. Proposed regulations can be sent out to those who request them.

Jill Pierce – Division of Rehabilitation Services

- Numerous Pre-Employment Transition Services programs have been approved through DORS across the state to serve all students with disabilities.
- A rehabilitation conference is scheduled to take on November 2-3 and registration is still open.
- Maryland is entering into the second round of RFPs for the Maryland Workplace Learning Collaborative.

Marni Greenspoon – Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)

- DRM's Statement of Goals and Priorities for developmental disabilities is currently out. DRM plans to continue vigorous advocacy for children and adults with developmental disabilities to live a good life in their homes and communities, free from harm.
- Continued work on eligibility and continue to advocate for children (families) and adults with developmental disabilities on establishing eligibility for DDA services.
- DRM hosted a conference last week on preventing and addressing crisis and improving services for children and adults with co-occurring developmental, behavior, and psychiatric disabilities. There were about 90 attendees including family members, staff from DDA, MSDE, Behavioral Health Administration, Department of Human Resources, MDOD, provider agencies and other professionals. In the process of interviewing for a new executive director.

Adjourn