



CURRENT INITIATIVES

ADVOCACY

Enhancing Self-Advocacy and Public Policy Work *People On the Go of Maryland (POG)*

POG, a group of advocates with developmental disabilities, is supported by the Council and the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD). The group advocates for people with developmental disabilities and educates people with developmental disabilities through leadership trainings and mentoring opportunities, and provides support and training to local self-advocacy groups. The group is also a driving force behind legislative changes in the state to ensure people with disabilities have equal rights and opportunities.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Eastern Shore LEADers *The Parents' Place of Maryland*

This project provides leadership training on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for parents of children with developmental disabilities and ensures ongoing engagement by participants in advocacy and leadership.

Parent Leadership Learning Parties *Ready At Five*

This project supports Ready At Five to expand its family engagement efforts by funding eight Parent Leadership Learning Parties (PLLPs) statewide. PLLPs provide parents and caregivers with important leadership and advocacy skills to promote civic engagement and this initiative is designed specifically to include parents and caregivers with developmental disabilities and delays.

Partners in Policymaking® **The Arc Maryland**

Through a series of eight sessions and related hands-on activities, The Partners in Policymaking® program (Partners) trains individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to become effective advocates for long-term change. The Council is working closely



with The Arc Maryland to conduct Partners, the most prominent leadership development program for individuals with disabilities and their families in the country.

EMPLOYMENT

Transforming and Improving Practices through Customized Technical Assistance, (TIP grants)

Service Providers throughout Maryland

TIP grants provide funding to improve employment outcomes of people with developmental disabilities by funding customized technical assistance for community service providers licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The grants allow providers to improve the way services are provided, building their capacity so that more people with developmental disabilities are supported to obtain and keep the meaningful work they want in their communities and to have meaningful days when not working. The Council has funded three rounds of TIP grants to a total of 34 organizations.

Currently funded organizations include: *Delmarva Community Services, Gallagher Services, New Horizons Supported Services/Compass, Inc., The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA), Penn-Mar Human Services; Spectrum Supports, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Jewish Community Services, The Arc Carroll County, The League for People with Disabilities, SEEC: (Seeking Employment, Equality, and Community for People with Developmental Disabilities), and Community Options.*

Southern Maryland Provider Technical Assistance

The Arc Southern Maryland

This project funds a subject matter expert to provide technical assistance and training to licensed DDA providers in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. This technical assistance and training will increase the knowledge and skills of provider professionals and facilitate organizational transformation so that more people with developmental disabilities are supported to get and keep the meaningful work they want in their communities and to have meaningful days when not working.

Employment Publication: Success Stories

In-house initiative

The Council is developing a publication that highlights the employment success stories of people with developmental disabilities, sharing the perspectives of people with disabilities, families, direct support professionals, and employers. By addressing topics such as safety, dignity of risk, and opportunities in rural areas, the publication will allay fears and negative



perceptions and help to improve attitudes about employment and meaningful opportunities for people with developmental disabilities throughout the entire state.

CHILD CARE

Building Capacity through Technical Assistance *Abilities Network*

This initiative provides intensive, customized technical assistance to child care providers throughout Maryland to increase their skills, knowledge, and capacity. As a result of this investment, more children with developmental disabilities and special health care needs will be in child care settings alongside children without disabilities. Abilities Network will increase the capacity of child care providers statewide using three major components: Strategy, Action, and Reflection (STAR). The project uses reflective coaching and requires the participation of child care program directors and classroom staff so the strategies learned are retained and benefit many children. By the project's conclusion, at least 225 technical assistance sessions will be facilitated.

Nurse Consultation and Coaching Demonstration Project *PACT: Helping Children with Special Needs*

This demonstration project supports an experienced pediatric registered nurse to train, coach, and consult with 50 licensed child care providers in the Baltimore metro area to increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to care for and support children with developmental disabilities who also have special healthcare needs in inclusive child care settings.

As a result of this initiative, more children with developmental disabilities who also have special healthcare needs will be in child care settings alongside their peers without disabilities and a model of nurse consultation and consulting will be developed and expanded statewide.

Community Supports

Building Frontline Leaders: Coaching and Supervision Training Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS)

This project funds comprehensive training for frontline supervisors working for DDA-licensed service providers in Maryland. This coaching and supervision course will build organizational capacity and help key agency staff develop the leadership skills and knowledge needed to implement the CMS Community Settings Rule, strengthen the DSP workforce, and enhance the quality of community supports for people with developmental disabilities.



Information and Resources

Raising Expectations

In-house initiative

The purpose of this initiative is to identify challenges and create strategic messaging to increase expectations of people with developmental disabilities. The Council convened a think tank of people with developmental disabilities, professionals, and educators to discuss ideas surrounding expectations and worked with a designer/communications professional to develop and implement an awareness campaign to spread the message of increasing expectations of people with developmental disabilities.

Planning Now

In-house initiative

The Planning Now guide is a comprehensive, easy to use futures and estate planning guide for families of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Future & estates planning includes envisioning a desired future for your child. Topics covered include financial and healthcare benefits, wills, trusts, tax considerations, financial planning, and others. This publication is available in English and Spanish on our website. Limited hard copies area also available in English.

User Friendly ABLE Guide

Katie Engen, contractor

This user friendly guide will help people with disabilities and their families understand Maryland ABLE. Maryland ABLE is a savings and investment program that offers eligible people with disabilities the opportunity to save money for disability-related expenses without jeopardizing access to federal and state means-tested benefits.