



## ADVOCACY:

### **Expectations Matter – “My Life, My Plan, My Choice” Shared Support Maryland, Inc.**

**LOCATION:** Statewide**FUNDING:** \$150,000; \$50,000 match

#### **GOALS**

**Council Goal:** People with developmental disabilities effectively advocate for themselves and others and influence issues that are important to them.

**Council Objective:** Improve the ability of people with developmental disabilities to advocate for what they want through meaningful participation in the individual planning process.

**Goals of the Initiative:** People with developmental disabilities and their family members' understand the Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Person - Centered Planning (PCP) process. Better understanding of the process will increase their ability to play an active and central role in their PCP plan development and implementation.

#### **OVERVIEW**

DDA has instituted a new Person-Centered Planning (PCP) process, utilizing new approaches and tools. The Council and DDA believe that people with developmental disabilities and their family members' must be informed and engaged fully in their own planning and to do this effectively they must understand PCP concepts, process, and tools. The purpose of this two-year initiative is to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities (DD) who have person-centered plans that focus on what they personally define as important.

#### **STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES**

- Form an Advisory Group to help recruit training participants, inform content development, and monitor progress.
- Develop two standardized PCP training modules specifically for people with DD and family members.
- Develop a user-friendly PCP written guide to accompany the training and serve as a standalone resource.
- Develop a comprehensive trainer's guide that prepares others to provide the PCP training to people with DD and family members. Train the trainer participants could include people with DD, family members, provider on-staff trainers, DDA staff, advocates, and other interested individuals and organizations.
- Conduct 28 training sessions on the new PCP process, including 10-15 train the trainer sessions.

## OUTCOMES

- People with developmental disabilities throughout Maryland increase their understanding of person-centered thinking and person-centered planning and effectively use the process to create and implement plans that focus on what they personally define as important.
- Family members throughout Maryland increase their understanding of person-centered thinking and person-centered planning and support their loved one to effectively use the process to create and implement plans that focus on what they personally define as important.
- A wide range of people have the knowledge and skills to provide PCP training for people with developmental disabilities and family members and continue to use the training to inform and empower more individuals and families.
- The user-friendly PCP materials that are developed and disseminated are readily available for people with DD and family members to use.