

DEVELOPMENTS

A Newsletter of the Developmental Disabilities Administration

Another Farewell From DDA leadership

With very mixed emotions, I bid farewell to my dear friends and colleagues at the Developmental Disabilities Administration and in the developmental disabilities advocacy and provider communities. It seems like only yesterday that I returned to DDA Headquarters to assume the acting director position. Although I have been only a short timer as acting director, I have thoroughly enjoyed my many years and roles at DDA over the past 11 years.

I am confident that the outstanding staff at DDA will continue to insure that DDA's mission remains in the forefront of all of our work. I have been privileged to serve at DDA during a time of unprecedented growth in community services, with a focus on self determination and the development of strong and pro-

ductive working relationships with outside stakeholders and advocates.

I will assume new and exciting challenges working on federal projects for The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. My new responsibilities will give me the opportunity to work on waivers and Money Follows the Person issues that will touch the lives of people with disabilities around the country. I also expect to have more time for my family, particularly over the summer, which is something I am eagerly anticipating.

I wish you all of the best in the future.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kirchner

Money Follows the Person Demo

The *Money Follows the Person* (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Project is part of a comprehensive, coordinated strategy by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to help states collaborate with stakeholders to make widespread changes to their long-term care support systems. MFP is designed to assist states' efforts to reduce their reliance on institutional care while developing community-based long-term care opportunities. This will enable the elderly and people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities.

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Employment Pilot Project

The Southern Maryland Regional Office (SMRO) of the Developmental Disabilities Administration is sponsoring a pilot program to enhance the quality and outcomes produced by employment providers who operate within the Southern Maryland Region. The main goal is to increase the number of jobs available for people with disabilities. During this pilot training program, SMRO plans to offer one year of training at various levels of the agency with the possibility of repeating the sessions for each of the following groups:

Executive Directors	Top Management
Mid Management	Coordinators
Direct Support Staff	Job Coaches
Consumers	Employers

The SMRO will be working with those who provide training and technical assistance. Numerous agencies have expressed interest in partnering with SMRO in this project.

The 13 agencies that will participant in this pilot project are:

Abilities Network	Arc of Montgomery County
Arc of Prince Georges County	Arc of Southern Maryland
Ardmore	CHI
Maryland Community Connection	Melwood
New Horizons	Resource Connections
SEEC	Service Coordination
Spring Dell Center	

On Friday, May 11, SMRO held a kick off session with the first roundtable at the regional office in Laurel. The session opened with a brief overview about the project from Vanessa Antrum, SMRO Training Unit Director. She thanked Karen Lee for submitting the proposal that inspired the start of this pilot project. Mary Ann Mayne, SMRO acting regional director welcomed all of the participants and expressed her excitement about this happening in the Southern Region. Colleen Gauruder, DDA Headquarters Supported Employment Statewide Coordinator, gave announcements on the latest best practices happening in Maryland regarding employment and the number of agencies who are interested in partnering with SMRO on the pilot project. SMRO is also excited to have Grant Revell from Virginia Commonwealth University representing Region III

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Employment Pilot Project cont.

Community Rehabilitation Program, Regional Continuing Education Program. The featured speaker was Michael Callahan from Marc Gold & Associates. Michael shared information on the importance of moving to customized employment. Everyone in attendance was excited about this opportunity to enhance the employment opportunities in the Southern Maryland Region. The second roundtable was held with Lucy Miller in June, and was just as well received. Look for updates in future newsletters.

DDA legislative Wrap-Up

HB 325/SB302 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Money Follows the Person Grant - Report

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to report on the status of the state's *Money Follows the Person* grant to specified legislative committees by January 1 of each year. The report must include an update on grant communications between DHMH and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); information on CMS grant funding; the number of individuals moved out of institutional settings under the grant, by type of institution; and any DHMH plans or policies to move individuals out of institutional settings. The bill took effect July 1 and terminates June 30, 2013.

HB 970 Rosewood Center - Plan for Services to Residents

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop a plan for providing services to Rosewood Center residents in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. DHMH must report on the plan to the Governor and specified legislative committees by December 31. The bill took effect June 1.

HB 1009/SB 485 Task Force to Study the Developmental Disabilities Administration Rate Payment Systems

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Developmental Disabilities Administration Rate Payment Systems and develop a report for the legislative committees by December 31. The bill took effect July 1, and terminates July 31, 2008.

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DDA Legislative Wrap-up cont.

HB 315/SB 118 State Board of Nursing - Licensing, Certification, and Reinstatement Requirements

This bill makes various changes to the Maryland Nurse Practice Act relating to the revocation, reinstatement, and renewal of licenses and certificates issued by the State Board of Nursing.

HB 965/ SB 804 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Respite Bed Study – Extension

This bill extends the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) submission deadline for a study on respite bed demand in state residential centers to specified legislative committees. The deadline is extended from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2012.

HB 1359/ SB 920 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Respite Care - Sunset Extension

This bill extends the termination date relating to the requirement that state residential centers operated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) provide respite care to September 30, 2009. Accordingly, state residential centers will continue reserving the current specified percentage of respite beds in state residential centers to care for individuals with developmental disabilities whose families are caring for those persons in their home for an additional two years. Families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities in their homes must continue to have a choice of obtaining respite care in a state residential center or a community setting. The bill took effect July 1.

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Upcoming Social Event

The Eastern Shore Regional Office's annual crab feast will be held at Tuckahoe State Park on August 17. \$25 for crab eaters and \$15 for non-crab eaters. Send your dollars to Kathy Graham at 1500 Riverside Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801. Watch for the announcement.

Status of Regulation Amendments

COMAR 10.22.02.03 (Administrative Requirements for Licenses) is being amended to incorporate by reference the Policy on Reportable Incidents and Investigations. This proposal, upon being finalized, implements the requirements of House Bill 651 from 2005 which required a prioritization system for investigations.

COMAR 10.07.20.05 (Intermediate Care Facilities Servicing the Mentally Retarded) and COMAR 10.22.02.10 (Administrative Requirements for Licenses) are being amended to require that state residential centers, group homes, and alternative living units develop emergency plans and procedures regarding the evacuation, transportation, or shelter-in-place of individuals served. This proposal upon being finalized implements the requirements of House Bill 770 from 2006 regarding emergency management plans.

COMAR 10.22.01 (Definitions), COMAR 10.22.05 (The Individual Plan) and COMAR 10.22.09 (Resource Coordination Program Service Plan) are being amended to develop a written plan of habilitation for individuals in state residential centers; assure that individuals have the right to receive treatment and services in the most integrated setting; inform individuals of all service options that may be appropriate; and review, at least once per year, the licensee's execution of the plan of habilitation. This proposal, upon finalization, implements the requirements of House Bills 794 and 988 from 2005.

Personnel News From DDA

After six months as acting director of Rosewood Center, Joann Knapp has returned to the Southern Maryland Regional Office. SMRO is delighted to have her back.

Jane Carmean, former director of Holly Center, graciously agreed to come back from retirement to lead Rosewood during May until a permanent director could be hired. Jane spent June orienting the new director, Dr Robert M. Day, before returning to her home and retirement on the Eastern Shore in late June.

Dr. Day became director at the Rosewood Center on May 30. Dr. Day has extensive education and experience in the field of developmental disabilities services. He received his Ph.D. in Special Education from Vanderbilt University. Both his Masters and Bachelor's degrees are from the University of Washington, with a concentration in Special Education and Psychology respectively. Much of Dr. Day's career has been spent in Kansas. His most recent positions include working directly with the Governor of Kansas on health planning issues, serving as the State Medicaid Director and the Deputy Commissioner for Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Services. Throughout the 1990's he managed several Intermediate Care Facilities/MR in Kansas, implementing person centered planning processes and reengineering management systems to support individual choice. During his tenure in State Government, he partnered with the University of Kansas to develop a training program on positive behavioral supports for community providers of services to people with developmental disabilities.

Speaking of facility directors, Steve Smith announced his retirement from Potomac Center. Steve left at the end of June after 32 years of state service. Steve moved from the Western Maryland Regional Office to the Potomac Center when it opened in 1978 and has been the facility's only director. His departure is the end of an era.

Carolyn Brown will be functioning as the director of both Western Region State Residential Centers. While we anticipate this dual responsibility will result in some adjustments to the director's role, we are confident that Carolyn, the very capable assistant directors, and generally excellent staff at both the Brandenburg Center and the Potomac Center will meet this challenge very effectively. We appreciate Carolyn's willingness to take on this task.

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Personnel News, cont.

Denny Georg, program administrator at Brandenburg Center, had announced his retirement on June 30 after 29 years of service to the Center. However, with his boss' added duties, he has postponed his departure for now. Denny was particularly instrumental in the center's accreditation efforts starting in 1985 and culminating in 2006 by achieving three year accreditations. Thank you Denny for your sacrifice.

The Central Maryland Regional Office is in the process of hiring and training five new Coordinators of Special programs (CSP) to work on their Quality Assurance and Community Services teams. In addition, Bill Tress of the Fiscal Team has been promoted to the vacated Lead Accountant position.

The Southern Maryland Regional Office recently added two new staff to their Community Services Team (CST), and lost one person to a provider agency. We welcome Jarvis Williams and Sharon Wilson to the DDA.

Deanna Kunkel , of the Western Maryland Regional Office, retired at the end of June after 30 years of state service. Her entire tenure has been with DDA in the western region, with the last 17 years spent in the regional office. Deanna has been their specialist on the waivers and site visits.

Headquarters has lost two staff to retirement. Mary Cobb, an administrative aide with 32 years, and Freda Crump, an IT specialist who ran our help desk, left at the end of June. We appreciate their years of service and wish them the best in the future.

Mike Devadason, DDA HQ computer hardware specialist, left on June 12 to go into the private sector. He accepted a position with FTI Consulting, a forensic investigative firm that contracts primarily with the federal government.

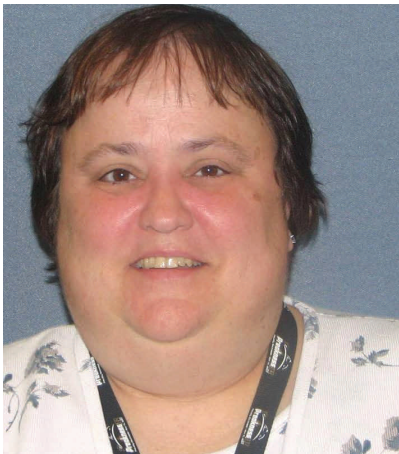
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Personnel News, cont.

Finally, as you know, Nancy Kirchner left on June 20 to take a position with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). A nationwide recruitment for the director's position is underway and the department is committed to hiring a permanent director as soon as possible. We will all miss Nancy and we wish her the best. Meanwhile...

Audrey Waters, DDA's CFO, will be the acting director and Leslie McMillan, Assistant Director for Program Services, will serve as acting deputy director. Both have many years of experience with DHMH and DDA and bring a great deal of enthusiasm to their temporary positions. Please give them your support and understanding as they lead us over the next few months.

Audrey



Leslie



MFP, Continued from page 1

Maryland is one of 31 states awarded an MFP grant by CMS in 2007. The purpose of the grant is to encourage states to move individuals out of institutional settings (i.e. nursing homes, state residential centers, psychiatric hospitals and long term care facilities) over the five year demonstration period. In Maryland, 3,091 elderly and disabled individuals will be transitioned to community settings through the initiative. This number includes 250 individuals with developmental disabilities currently residing in State Residential Centers who will move to community settings of their choice over the next five years. CMS has committed over \$67 million in funding over the 5 year grant period, including \$1 million for initial planning and start-up of the project.

The funding awarded through MFP provides an enhanced match for some services provided during the demonstration year. Rather than the usual 50 percent split in costs between the state and CMS, the enhanced match means that CMS pays 75 percent and the state only pays 25 percent of costs in the first year of services before the individual is converted into a waiver program in the second year. The state is required to direct the money saved through this enhanced match toward the goals of MFP, which are:

1. To increase the use of home and community based, rather than institutional, long term care services;
2. To eliminate barriers to the flexible use of funds for Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive support for long term services in the settings of their choice;
3. To increase the ability of the state to assure the continued availability of long term care services for eligible individuals who choose to reside in a community setting; and
4. To ensure that quality assurance and quality improvement procedures are in place for persons receiving home and community based long term care services.

Maryland has made steady progress over the past 25 years in rebalancing its long-term support system by expanding the network of home and community-based services (HCBS) that provide increasing opportunities for individuals to avoid institutional care and to transition out of institutions into community-based settings. In 2004, a legislative initiative established a Money Follows the Individual program that guarantees individuals in nursing homes an opportunity to transition to community-based waivers regardless of any budgetary caps on waiver enrollments. Since passage of that legislation, several individuals with developmental disabilities have successfully moved from nursing homes into the community supported by the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Home and Community Based Services Waiver, called Community Pathways.

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An interagency group has been meeting to plan how to implement the initiative, and a MFP Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders has been created. The first meeting of the MFP Advisory Committee was held on June 19, where peer counseling and peer mentoring were discussed. Individuals who have lived in institutional settings for a long period of time need personal encouragement and support from other people who have been in the same situation and successfully transitioned to the community. Families of these individuals also need the support of other families who have assisted their loved ones in moving into the community and establishing meaningful lives for themselves.

Along with Peer Counseling and Mentoring Programs, a key aspect of the MFP project is the development of quality systems to assure the health and safety of individuals moving from institutional settings. The Developmental Disabilities Administration is working with its other departmental partners to develop quality indicators for populations moving out of institutions and other long-term care settings, and is working to revise its Quality Plan.

Have a Great Summer
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Developments - Summer 2007 Edition



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A Newsletter from the Developmental Disabilities Administration
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The services and facilities of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. This policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin and applies to the provisions of employment and granting of advantages, privileges and accommodations."

"The Department in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits and employment opportunities."