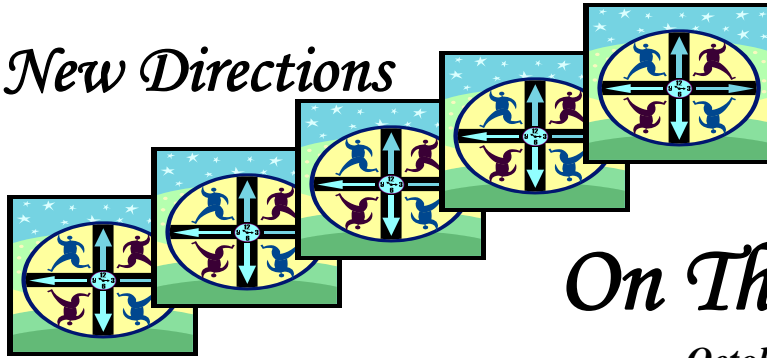


New Directions



On The Move

October/November 2005

In an effort to keep you apprised of current developments related to implementation of New Directions, Maryland's Independence Plus Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, the Developmental Disabilities Administration publishes this monthly update.



We continue to move forward one step at a time. Everyone who has submitted a Regional Information Form will be contacted by a DDA Regional New Directions Coordinator in early December to identify next steps regarding the choice of a Support Broker, doing person-centered planning, beginning to look at budget figures, etc.



Plans are also being made to train Resource Coordinators. The first group of trainees will be those Resource Coordinators who support individuals who have expressed an interest in New Directions by submitting a Regional Information Form to DDA. The resource coordination trainings will occur in mid-January and include an overview of the New Directions waiver system as well as all the details of the resource coordination role.



Representatives from People on the Go of Maryland, the DD Council, the Arc of Maryland, TASH and DDA have finalized Support Broker competencies and training requirements. The group developed a process to assist waiver participants to choose a Support Broker and ensure that the Support Broker does or can meet the requirements.



A New Directions Individual Plan is in the works. This plan is driven by information gained through person-centered planning activities and will fulfill all the requirements of the Individual Plan, the Service Funding Plan and the New Directions budgeting functions in one document. We are excited to try out this new approach to planning and budgeting.

Every Support Broker is required to complete orientation before starting work. Plans are moving forward for the first Support Broker Orientation sessions to occur late in January 2006.



TASH has training and technical assistance available to anyone interested in self-direction through the New Directions waiver. We strongly encourage you to contact them at:

410-828-8274

1-800-482-8274 (toll free)

<http://www.tash.org/mdnewdirections/about.htm>



The two FMS (Fiscal Management Services) providers are developing their informational materials. As soon as those are finalized we will post them at <http://ddamaryland.org/waiver.htm> and have them available through the DDA Regional Offices and TASH.



The Ask Me! Survey is being considered as a way to measure individual satisfaction for New Directions waiver participants. More news about this exciting possibility will be available in the next issue of *New Directions On the Move*.



The Regional Information Form is a tool for individuals and families to notify regional DDA offices of their interest in New Directions (it is not an application for service). It can be found on the DDA website: <http://ddamaryland.org/waiver.htm>



Angela Rapp Kennedy is the DDA Assistant Director responsible for DDA waiver programs. You can reach her at 410-767-5569 or by e-mail at AKennedy@dhmh.state.md.us.



Each regional DDA office has a designated New Directions Waiver contact. They are your best source of information, both for general systems questions as well as information specific to your individual situation.

CENTRAL MARYLAND

If you live in Howard County, Harford County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City or Baltimore County, please call:

John Whittle
Central Maryland Regional Office
410-902-4500

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

If you live in Prince Georges County, Montgomery County, Calvert County, St. Mary's County or Charles County, please call:

Susan Burke Harrison
Southern Maryland Regional Office
301-362-5100

WESTERN MARYLAND

If you live in Frederick County, Carroll County, Washington County, Allegany County or Garrett County, please call:

Tina Swink
Western Maryland Regional Office
301-791-4670

EASTERN SHORE

If you live in Cecil County or points east of the Bay Bridge, please call:

Mike Wool
Eastern Shore Regional Office
410-334-6920