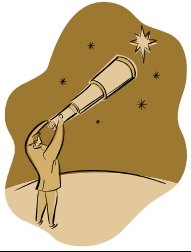


# DDA



# Prospectives

September 2008

## **DDA Money Follows the Person Activities Underway**

The federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) project will assist State efforts to reduce reliance on institutional care. Community-based supports will enable people with disabilities to more fully participate in their communities. In Maryland, it is the goal of the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to move 250 individuals with developmental disabilities from State Residential Centers and other settings into community-based services.

- MFP interest groups began planning activities in 2007.
- In March 2008 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Maryland's MFP "Protocol", which shows how the State will achieve its goals of serving more people in the community.
- In July, Wayne Reed was hired as DDA's Statewide Transition Coordinator and shortly thereafter Rick Mason and Nygera Pierson joined the Administration as Community Placement Specialists. The three will assist with transition issues, track data, and coordinate MFP activities as the project moves forward.

### **New Programs**

As part of the MFP Project, DDA is creating and expanding support programs, for individuals who are thinking about moving to the community, and their families. For individuals that have lived in institutions, nursing homes, and other long-term care

settings for long periods of time, there is a need for support from other people who have been in the same situation and successfully moved to the community. Through the new Peer to Peer Mentoring program, participating individuals who live at State Residential Centers will be matched with a mentor who receives services in the community and who can relate to their situation and offer information about the transition to community living.

### **Partnership with DD Council**

DDA is working in partnership with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council to create a Family to Family Mentoring program. This program offers support to families of individuals living at State Residential Centers who may be interested in moving into the community. Through the program, families who have already had a loved one move into the community can share experiences, lend support, offer advice, and discuss community living to family members of individuals in SRC's, nursing homes, and mental health settings. For each person considering moving into the community, a safe and smooth transition plan will be put into action with the help of other members on the transition team.

If you or your loved one currently live in a State Residential Center or nursing home and may be eligible to receive services from DDA, please contact your Resource Coordinator, who can give you information on services and providers.



## What is Resource Coordination?

Resource Coordination (sometimes referred to as “Service Coordination”) is a DDA service that exists to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in determining and meeting their needs in the ways they prefer. Individuals considering a move out of a State Residential Center or other group setting receive the assistance of a Resource Coordinator familiar with community services.



### Generally, a Resource Coordinator:

- Meets with you, your family, and others who are important to you, to gather information about your needs, preferences, and desires for supports and services.
- Helps you decide whether you want provider-managed or self-directed services.
- Helps you develop a plan of supports and services that you can use with potential providers.
- Helps you identify natural supports and basic service providers in your community, as well as DDA- licensed service providers.
- Helps you connect with other people and services in your community.
- Contacts and meets with you on a regular basis to ensure you are receiving the services you need, and are happy with the services you are receiving.
- Advocates for you to assure that your rights are protected, your needs and preferences are considered, and that your services are offered in the most integrated setting.

## New Transition Service Available

The Community Pathways Medicaid Waiver is one of two DDA Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities, and currently supports over 11,000 individuals to live in the community. In July 2008, the Community Pathways Waiver was renewed with a new service designed to help individuals transition from an institution to the community.

Community Living training allows an individual residing in a State Residential Center or other group setting the opportunity for short-term overnight stays with the community provider they have identified as their service provider upon leaving the facility. This training can be provided for a maximum of seven overnight stays within the 60 day period in advance of their move. This is an opportunity for the individual to experience community life, and for the provider to learn about and form a relationship with the individual.



*Martin O'Malley, Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*

*John M. Colmers, Secretary*

*Michael S. Chapman, Executive Director, DDA*

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