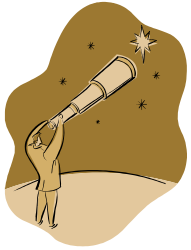


DDA



Prospectives

October 2007

Maryland Receives *Money Follows the Person* Demonstration Grant

Enacted by the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration grant is part of a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to make widespread changes to their long-term care support systems. MFP is designed to assist states, in collaboration with stakeholders, in their efforts to reduce their reliance on institutional care while developing community-based long-term care opportunities, enabling the elderly and people with disabilities to fully participate in their communities.

In November Maryland submitted a grant proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and was one of 31 states that was awarded an MFP grant this year. CMS awarded \$1,435,709,479 in MFP grants to states proposing to transition 37,731 individuals out of institutional settings over the five-year demonstration period. In Maryland, it is the goal to transition a total of 3,091 elderly and disabled individuals to community settings through the initiative, including 250 individuals with developmental disabilities currently residing in state residential centers. CMS has committed over \$67 million in funding to Maryland over the five year grant period, including \$1 million for initial planning and start-up of the project.

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 who have high levels of nursing care needs 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. Services provided through the Community Pathways Waiver include residential services, day habilitation, supported employment, transportation, and other services needed to assist someone with an ICF-MR (state residential center) level of care to live in the community.

An interagency group has been meeting to plan how to implement the initiative, and in June a MFP Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders was 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 institutions, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities for long periods of time need

(Continued on page 2)



MFP continued....

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 one in moving into the community and establishing meaningful lives for themselves. DDA continues to work with individuals that express a desire to move into community services. In addition, DDA staff and resource coordinators continue to identify and work through or alleviate barriers that prevent individuals from moving into the most integrated setting. It is anticipated that 35 - 40 individuals may move into community services in the first year of the MFP Demonstration Project.

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 currently revising its Quality Plan for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Watch for more information on MFP and quality initiatives over the coming months.

What is the Community Pathways Medicaid Waiver?

Community Pathways is Maryland's oldest Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver for individuals with developmental disabilities. There are over 10,000 individuals currently receiving services in the community through the Community Pathways waiver. Services provided through the Community Pathways waiver include:

- Residential Services;
- Community Supported Living Arrangements (CSLA);
- Respite Care;

- Personal Support;
- Accessibility Adaptations;
- Individual and Family Support Services;
- Supported Employment;
- Transportation;
- Assistive Technology and Adaptive Equipment;
- Traditional Day Services;
- Resource Coordination;
- Behavioral Supports; and
- Transition Services designed to assist someone to move in to a community setting.

In addition to services specific to the Community Pathways Waiver, individuals receive Medicaid State Plan services, including physician care, medication, hospitalization, and other acute care services. The combined Acute Care and Home and Community Based Services benefit package provides Community Pathways participants with a comprehensive package of services to maintain their health and safety in the community.



Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers, Secretary

Michael S. Chapman, Director

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