



Governor's Budget - Waiting List

With the enthusiastic support of the Council, The Arc of Maryland, the Maryland Association of Community Services, many legislators, and the Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities, Governor Parris Glendening proposed an initiative to significantly reduce the Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiting List of 5,000+ people, many of whom live with aging parents who are concerned about the welfare of their adult children with disabilities. "I, and many members of the legislature, have been touched by the outpouring of hope, concern, and requests for support," said Glendening, sharing the concerns of those who told their personal experiences.

The Governor's plan provides:

- ◆ \$68.4 million in new funds over the next 5 years for the Waiting List Initiative. (The funding will provide day programs, residential and support services, and respite care for thousands of people with developmental disabilities.)
- ◆ \$400,000 to eliminate the waiting list for Attendant Care Programs in the Department of Human Resources. (The funding will support a consumer-directed model of attendant care services).
- ◆ \$4 million (state and federal funds) to double the rate of reimbursement for personal assistance service providers.
- ◆ \$1 million to the Division of Rehabilitation services to expand work-related supports, self-employment programs, and Centers for Independent Living.

Also added to the DDA base budget will be emergency funding so that people with developmental disabilities in crisis are no longer stranded without assistance, and employment training and job location for students with disabilities who are graduating.

Health Care

Without adequate health care, full participation in community life is impossible for most people with developmental disabilities. The Council has therefore played a vital role in advocating for protections for children and adults with disabilities as the state implemented its managed care system for virtually all individuals who receive Medicaid. Now that many of the protections are incorporated into law, the Council continues its vigilance in advocating for enforcement of these provisions and monitoring their implementation. The Council continues to educate the disability community about health care rights and options, as well as provide information and training to the medical community about issues of importance to people with developmental disabilities.

A member of the Council staff serves on the state's Medicaid Advisory Committee and chairs the Advisory Council for Children with Special Health Care Needs. Through the Advisory Council, recommendations have been developed regarding standards for case management for children, coordination of health care services for young children receiving other educational services, continuity of care for necessary specialty services, and selected measurements of health care outcomes for children with special health care needs.

Additionally, the Council played an active part in the passage of the Maryland Children's Health Program. This new program is expected to provide needed health care coverage to approximately 60,000 currently uninsured children in just the first year of this ongoing program in Maryland, with a plan that provides a full array of benefits including preventive and specialty services.



The Ask Me! Project

The Council and the Developmental Disabilities Administration collaboratively sponsored the Ask Me! Project - a pilot consumer satisfaction survey developed by People on the Go, a statewide self-advocacy group, and The Arc of Maryland. The project name was prompted by the question "Did you ask me?" from People on the Go's publication *Signs of Quality*. The results of the pilot will be used by DDA to design and implement a statewide consumer satisfaction survey.

An innovative aspect of the project features people with developmental disabilities as interviewers with the expectation that they are more effective than traditional surveyors in obtaining meaningful responses from other people with disabilities. The Ask Me! Project also serves as a stepping stone for people with developmental disabilities to careers as interviewers.

About Families

The Council continued its leadership in focusing on the needs of families raising young children with disabilities by conducting an extensive study of family support services in Maryland and other states, and by publishing ***About Families*** - a document highlighting the value and importance of supporting families. The study of family support services, ***About Families***, and the Council's advocacy were instrumental in significantly increasing the State's commitment to families with a child with a disability, improving the manner in which services are provided, and increasing access to services.

As a result, many new families with children with disabilities will receive support over the next five years and a full range of services will be available in every county. The Council will continue to collaborate with the Developmental Disabilities Administration to maximize the quality and availability of family support services in Maryland.

Home of Your Own

The Maryland Home of Your Own Coalition is a statewide, cross-disability alliance committed to increasing homeownership opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities. Co-founded and co-chaired by the Council, the Coalition is a unique collaboration of disability and housing advocates, professionals, and people with disabilities. The HOYO Coalition works to identify public and private resources, improve public policy, and develop new programs. Coalition highlights include:

- ◆ Development of a statewide, affordable, flexible mortgage product specifically targeting people with disabilities.
- ◆ Commitment by the state, several counties and Baltimore City to offer down payment and closing cost assistance to buyers with disabilities.
- ◆ Training of housing counselors, lenders and other housing professionals to more effectively work with people with disabilities.
- ◆ Direct assistance to people with disabilities to become homeowners.

Self Determination

The Council played an integral part in the Developmental Disabilities Administrations decision to apply for a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to promote self determination for people with developmental disabilities. The Council assisted significantly with the proposal's design and promoted collaboration among its participants. Maryland was one of the few states chosen nationally by the Foundation to receive a three year \$300,000 grant to implement its vision of supporting people in their communities in lives they have chosen. Through the implementation of these principles, thousands of Marylanders will have more control over the services they receive and how those services will be provided.



Maryland Council Projects

Community Living

Expanding Homeownership Opportunities for People with Disabilities (The Maryland Center for Community Development) is designed to expand homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities through education of housing professionals, outreach and education to people with disabilities, research of best practices, identification of barriers to home ownership, and development of public policy recommendations and solutions. This is a collaborative project between the Council, Mental Hygiene Administration, and Developmental Disabilities Administration.

A video on dementia and developmental disabilities is being produced (by The Alzheimer's Association) as a training tool to enable providers to identify the early symptoms of dementia, and to understand its progression, assessment and care management techniques so that individuals with developmental disabilities are able to receive supports to "age in place" in the community.

The purpose of **Developing a Community Support System in Dorchester County, MD**, (Delmarva Community Services, Inc.) is to shift the agency's delivery of service from a slot based system to a model that supports people, when, where and how they and their families choose to be supported. Savings resulting from the shift to a support model will be used to serve 15 individuals waiting for services.

Self-Advocacy

Partners-in-Policymaking (a joint project of the Council, The Arc of Maryland and the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Family Support Network) provides leadership training for parents of young children with severe disabilities and people with developmental disabilities so that they become skilled systems change advocates.

Leadership Now! (People on the Go/The Arc of Maryland) strengthens the self-advocacy movement by supporting activities of state and local self-advocacy groups.

The Baltimore Advocacy Group (self-advocates served by eMERGE, Inc.), through **Training Staff: The Best Consumer Power** trains agency staff about the rights of people with disabilities, how people with disabilities want to be treated, and their capacities for choice making in their lives.

Mentors Raising New Voices to Shape the Future (Advocacy-in-Action/Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute) assists self-advocates in the southern tri-county area to serve on community boards, commissions, councils, committees, and similar decision-making bodies.

A Consumer's View of Personal Assistance Services (Independence Now, Inc.) is publishing a guide about personal assistance service programs in Maryland and providing training in management of personal assistance services to people with disabilities.

A Consumer Satisfaction Survey was piloted for Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration in the **Ask Me! Project** (The Arc of Maryland and People On The Go of Maryland). The survey of 240 individuals was conducted by interviewers with developmental disabilities who receive DDA funded services. Based on its success, surveys will be conducted in additional areas. The results will be utilized by DDA to evaluate the quality of services provided to Marylanders with developmental disabilities.



Maryland Council Projects

Community Education

The AHAVA Project (Jewish Family Services and AHAVA) is helping the Orthodox Jewish community in Baltimore to develop and implement a shared vision of an inclusive community for people with developmental disabilities, provide education regarding services and financial planning, and create individualized support plans for at least 10 people who are at the greatest risk.

A community theater group for people with and without disabilities called **The Paradigm Players** (Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts) has created opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop their performing, technical, and leadership skills, while educating cast and crew from other community groups about how to support people with disabilities in their own theaters and productions.

The Managed Health Care Education Program (CCHCC and Epilepsy Association of Maryland) is increasing the awareness of physicians and allied health care professionals working in Maryland's managed care system about inclusion and current practices in community based services for people with developmental disabilities. The project is also educating individuals with disabilities and their families about how best to navigate the managed care system.

Inclusion: A Community Education Campaign (Noble Steed Associates) is a media campaign to educate the general public about the benefits of inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. In the second phase of this project, posters were displayed within the Baltimore Metro system and on the Annapolis Trolley.

The **Support and Outreach Project for Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities** (Families Involved Together in collaboration with the Maryland Center for Independent Living and The Arc of Maryland) matches students enrolled in Community Service Learning hours with families of children with disabilities to provide support to families living in Baltimore. The project is also designed to foster community awareness about people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Education

The **Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education** supports parents in Maryland who seek inclusive educational opportunities for their children in neighborhood schools. MCIE provides supports to parent groups advocating for inclusive education in local school systems, individual advocacy for students seeking less restrictive educational settings, information dissemination about inclusive services and best and promising practices, and legal advocacy to increase inclusive education practices at the local, state, and federal level.

The ATLAS Project (Dorchester County Public Schools) expands access to assistive technology services for students with developmental disabilities by establishing a lending library of AT resources, evaluating student needs, and providing information, training and support to students, their families, and school personnel.

Employment

The PDQ Project (The Arc of Harford County) closes NMARC Industries by providing supported employment and integrative community opportunities to individuals currently served in the sheltered workshop. This project targets developing supports for individuals with the most intensive and extensive support needs.

The **Techworks Project** (Learning Independence Through Computers, Inc.) is a demonstration project that assists people with cognitive disabilities to obtain community-based jobs and trains them on-the-job in the use of assistive computer technology.

The **Career Development Project** (The Arc of Southern Maryland) restructures the agency's vocational and day habilitation services to provide community based employment, paid apprenticeships and volunteer opportunities with local businesses.



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Council Mission

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council advocates for public policy and supportive practices and opportunities which promote the full inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities in community life