



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

TO: Developmental Disabilities Stakeholders

FROM: Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary
Developmental Disabilities Administration

DATE: December 21, 2016

RE: DDA Amendment #2 Update

The Developmental Disabilities Administration has not made final decisions on the draft waiver service definitions and will delay the submission of Amendment #2 until spring 2017. We received several questions, comments and suggestions from various stakeholders regarding our proposed draft waiver definitions for Amendment #2. The DDA appreciates and respects the opinions of all stakeholders and is carefully considering each one for possible changes to the drafts we previously shared.

For Amendment #2, the DDA is proposing to make changes to the current waiver services – including service definitions, limitations and provider qualifications. The purposes of these changes are to:

- simplify the waiver language and description of processes, so that all stakeholders can more easily understand them;
- incorporate best practices;
- reflect stakeholder listening sessions, consultant reports and workgroup recommendations; and
- meet federal service requirements.

In addition, the DDA has been meeting with various groups to hear their concerns, to clarify or to correct information and to answer questions.

The DDA will make an official announcement once final decisions are made on the draft service definitions. The next step for DDA is to follow the federally required 30-day public comment period for additional public input prior to submission to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We appreciate your support and input as we continue to transform our business practice and services. With assistance and support of individuals, family members and other stakeholders, we will continue to transform the current system into one that consistently empowers people with developmental disabilities to have full lives in the communities of their choice in which they are included and to which they contribute. Thank you.