



Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Headlines and Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

March 20, 2020



Deputy Secretary's Agenda



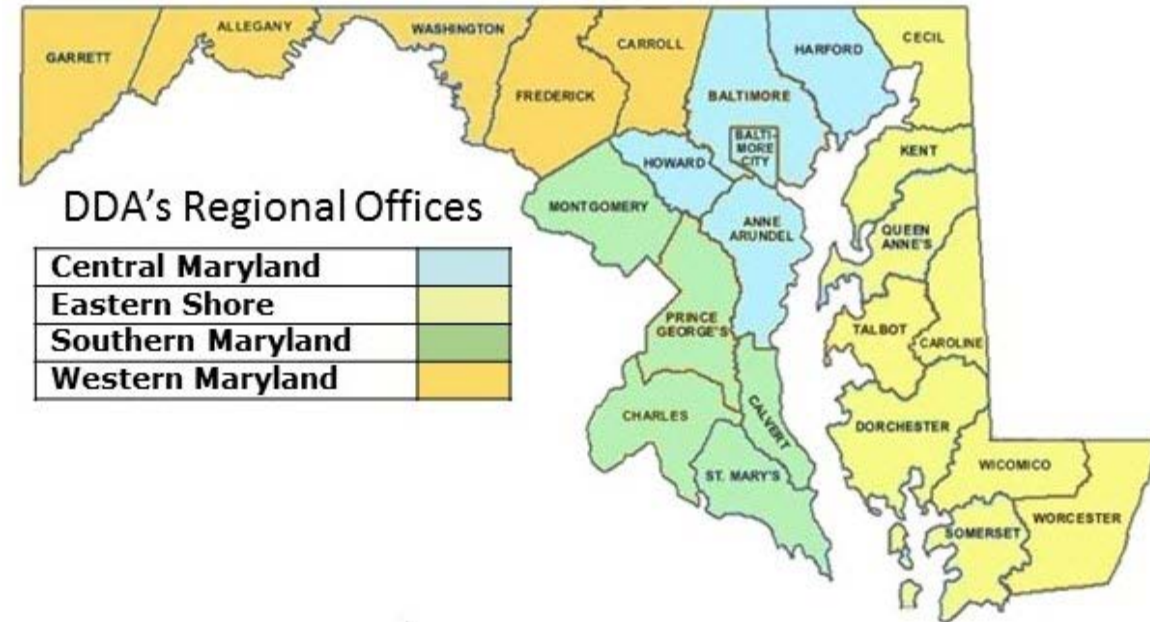
- Update
- Regions Update
- Fiscal, Operations and Programs
- Communication and Resources

Deputy Secretary's Update

- The DDA is working with our national association, consultants, Medicaid, and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) budget team on federal Medicaid emergency authority options related to new service options, rates, and exceptions to current service requirements, limits, and staff qualification requirements
- We want to be diligent in considering all options so that a comprehensive proposal can be submitted to the federal government
- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has advised that approval of request will be retroactive

Regions Update

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
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- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle
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- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton
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- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
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Fiscal, Operations and Programs

- The DDA is closely monitoring the fourth quarterly payment to ensure on-time payments. Right now, payments are on schedule and providers should receive the payment by April 3rd
- The DDA is exploring funding options through the Centers of Medicaid Medicare (CMS) for payment during the closure of day programs and other meaningful day programs, and the need for additional coverage in residential programs

Fiscal, Operations and Programs

continued

- Examples include “retainer payments” for both day and residential providers
- The use of family members, legal guardians, and spouses for staff; and exceeding service limits
- We know the high demand for Direct Support Professionals and will be flexible in your onboarding efforts

Fiscal, Operations and Programs

continued

- We have requested recommendations from advocacy organizations for staff qualification exceptions while still protecting participants and ensuring their health and safety
- We are aware that staffing needs of provider has increased to meet the demands of social distancing and day programming closures. To assist in this matter, the DDA is partnering with the Maryland Department of Disability and the Maryland Department of Labor to connect Marylanders currently out of work or school due to COVID-19 with provider agencies in need of staff

Communication and Resources

- Together we will continue to provide the best care and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and direct support professionals
- I will conduct daily and/or weekly updates to ensure the Provider Community receives the most up-to-date information
- We have established a dedicated email where you can share questions - dda.toolkitinfo@maryland.gov

Communication and Resources

continued

There are many ways you can get the information you may need based on your preference -- you can contact family members, CCS, Provider Agency, Support Broker (if self-directing) and your Regional DDA Office or email the DDA directly at dda.toolkitinfo@maryland.gov

Communication and Resources

continued

- MDH COVID-19 information is available at coronavirus.maryland.gov
- A plain language overview of COVID-19 is available at <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus.pdf>
- COVID-19 information for Older Adults and People with Disabilities is available at <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>

Communication and Resources

continued

- Remember to keep yourself safe by:
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water
 - Covering your mouth and nose while sneezing or coughing
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Avoid contact with sick people
 - If you are sick, staying home and call your health care provider
 - Keep distance between yourself and others and avoid crowds
- Thank you for the work you do and your understanding during this difficult time in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Questions

