



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 Administration's Stakeholders

**From:** Bernard Simons  
Deputy Secretary, Developmental Disabilities Administration

**CC:** Patricia Sastoque, Director of Programs, DDA  
Valerie Roddy, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, DDA

**Date:** February 17, 2017

**Re:** Update on the DDA's Community Pathways Waiver Amendment #2 and DDA's Transition to LTSS Information Technology System

Greetings:

The Developmental Disabilities Administration ("DDA") would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders that have been involved in the DDA's transformation efforts to date, especially providing your feedback in reference to the proposed Amendment #2 service definitions and language changes. Your involvement and recommendations throughout this process are critical in the development of a robust Community Pathways Waiver and the DDA of tomorrow.

With many projects underway, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide a brief update regarding the status of the DDA's Community Pathways Waiver (the "Waiver") and the DDA's transition to the Long Term Services and Supports Information Technology System ("LTSS System").

### **DDA's Community Pathways Waiver - Amendment #2**

The DDA's current Community Pathways Waiver is currently in effect for 5 years: July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018. After submitting Amendment #1 to the Waiver<sup>1</sup> to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS"), the DDA began working on Amendment #2 to redefine existing services and establish new services to meet the developmentally disabled community's evolving needs.

However, the renewal application for the Waiver must be submitted to CMS by January, 2018. Given this timeline, the DDA will **no longer be submitting Amendment #2 this spring**. Instead, the DDA will submit the updated service definitions and program descriptions originally proposed for Amendment #2 in the DDA's renewal application in January, 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> CMS approved Amendment #1 to the Waiver effective July 1, 2016.

Please note that the DDA will continue to engage stakeholders in its development of the updated service definitions. In addition, DDA will provide a 30 day comment period prior to the final submission in accordance with CMS requirements.

Specifically, the DDA will be hosting regular meetings to share the revisions to the proposed definitions based on input and recommendations. These meetings will take place on a weekly basis and may be attended either in-person or via webinar remote access. These meetings will be advertised via DDA's Website, Facebook, and Constant Contacts. The goal of these meetings is to have open communication and transparency with DDA's stakeholders regarding DDA's renewal application for its Community Pathways Waiver.

### **Transition to the LTSS System**

To support the goals of DDA's Transformation Plan,<sup>2</sup> DDA is developing the LTSS System to replace PCIS2. LTSS System will provide new functionality for DDA to manage and oversee the services and funding DDA provides to eligible individuals.

The first and second phases of full implementation of the LTSS System<sup>3</sup> are being delayed to July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2019, respectively. The reasons for such delay is to ensure the launch of the LTSS System:

- (1) Better aligns with the Waiver's renewal application;
- (2) Allows for the acquisition of infrastructure needed to fully support the DDA's large user base;
- (3) Enables the development of additional functionality to better support the DDA's transformed processes; and
- (4) Provides for adequate testing, training, and transition time.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Pathways Waiver or the LTSS System, please contact Patricia Sastoque, Director of Programs at [Patricia.Sastoque@maryland.gov](mailto:Patricia.Sastoque@maryland.gov).

Thank you for your support, advocacy, and commitment in improving the lives of people with developmental disability in Maryland.

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<sup>2</sup> For more details, you may access DDA's Transformation Plan at: <http://dda.dhbmh.maryland.gov/Pages/DDA%20Transformation.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> The first phase will be released to Coordinators of Community Services ("CCS") agencies and will focus on Person-Centered Planning components and other CCS-related activities. The second phase will be released to licensed provider agencies and will focus on billing and other provider-related activities.