Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary

October 29, 2021

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Deputy Secretary Update
- COVID-19 Regional Update
- Questions

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Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The DDA's highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers

- The DDA is committed to transparency with all of our stakeholders to ensure we are all working with the same information to support our shared missions

- Thank you for your continued support in joining me during these webinars so that we can stay in-touch and be able to provide you with the most current information

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Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

- The Council on Quality Leadership (CQL) https://www.c-q-l.org/resources/newsletters/programs-that-directly-address-the-dsp-workforce-crisis/

- Administration for Community Living-https://acl.gov/DSPchallenge

- The DSP-II Training Program was created by SEEC with support from a consortium of agencies and provides CMS competency-based DSP-II training to DSPs across Maryland. Find out how it is building skills among DSPs and improving retention rates at the agency

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Deputy Secretary's Update-National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

The theme for NDEAM this year "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion," reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Deputy Secretary's Update-National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

- Thank you <u>Governor Larry Hogan</u> for issuing a proclamation honoring this month Disability Employment Awareness Month in Maryland and encouraging business to <u>#EmployAbility</u>! Hiring people with disabilities makes good business sense!

Deputy Secretary's Update-National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

End of 14c Certificates
The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) in partnership with relevant state agencies, including The Department of Commerce (MDOC) ,Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Department of Labor (Maryland Labor) and the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) developed and implemented a plan to phase out subminimum wage jobs on or before October 1, 2020

Employment Data Initiative and Technical Assistance to engage in organizational transformation

Employment First Strategic Plan
Navigating for Success: A Strategic Plan for Employment First for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Maryland

2015

2017 to Present

2023

2014 to Present

2016

2020

DDA transformation and Communication a call to action to create a flexible, person-centered, family oriented system of supports so people can have full lives. Identified the DDA essential focus areas

Rate Study
The purpose of the study was to establish a fair and equitable rate system for services provided to Marylanders with developmental disabilities

Ensure Compliance with Community Settings Rule
In 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the HCBS Settings Rule to require that every state ensure that services delivered to people with disabilities living in the community meet minimum standards for integration, access to community life, choice, autonomy, and other important consumer protections

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Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Flexibilities

- In October, the Department shared an updated [Memo - Appendix K Flexibilities Update - October 12, 2021](#) and additional resources

  - [Appendix K with Authority and Termination Date - October 4, 2021](#)

  - [DDA Appendix K #6 - Staff Training and On-boarding Flexibility – Revised October 7, 2021](#)

  - [DDA Appendix K #7 - Increased Rate for Supporting Person with COVID-19 Virus - Revised October 4, 2021](#)

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Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Unwinding

- The DDA has updated the [DDA Frequently Asked Questions – October 25, 2021](#) to assist with the most current information to assist with Appendix K unwinding

Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Unwinding

- How will DDA handle approved PCP's that include App K flexibilities when the annual date is beyond 12/31/21? (New - October 25, 2021)
  - We recommend that CCS and providers work with the person and their team around the need to add or revise services (as permitted under the approved program) as soon as these interests or changes are known. This can be done in coordination with the CCS monitoring process or through an upcoming annual PCP. It is most important that all service additions are done before services are provided so this should be carefully timed with the Appendix K flexibilities end date

  Note: *Providers need to update their Service Implementation Plan (SIP) to reflect virtual supports as one of the service delivery models and share with the CCS. The CCS will confirm with the person and upload into the Client Attachments*

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Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Unwinding

- What is needed for providers to continue to offer some services virtually after 12/31/21? Does this need to be outlined in the program service plan (PSP)? (New - October 25, 2021)

  - Yes. As detailed in Memo #3 - DDA Amendment #3 - Virtual Supports - February 16, 2021 , allowable virtual services to be offered after the end of the Appendix K flexibility will need to be outlined in the providers program service plan (PSP) and submitted prior to the end of the App K for DDA review and approval.

  Note: *Providers need to submit their PSP to the DDA before 12/31/21. The DDA will follow up with providers on any questions. Providers that submit by this due date can continue to provide virtual services, as permitted by the waiver, during the DDA review and approval process*

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Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Unwinding

- How will residential providers bill for participants when their day programs are still not open once App K ends?
  - Amendment #3 provides for use of dedicated supports/shared hours or add-on hours to continue to meet these needs and adjustments

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Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K Unwinding

- What happens longer term when a person wants virtual supports but requires residential dedicated supports as well – can they get two waiver services at same time?
  - No, meaningful day virtual service and residential dedicated supports can not be provided at the same time
  - Dedicated supports can be provided prior to and after meaningful day virtual supports

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Deputy Secretary's Update- LTSS Expansion

- Early piloting efforts have gone incredibly well and have been such a positive reflection of the collaborations between the providers, CCS agencies and our regional staff

- The learnings from the LTSSMaryland-DDA Module will support our planned transition from PCIS2 to LTSSMaryland-DDA Module. The DDA is working in partnership to develop additional readiness tools, including a go-live playbook, readiness self assessment, readiness checklist and other resources to assist providers as we move forward

- MDH/DDA is planning for expansion in CY22. Information on this expansion will be shared following the completion of the rate study

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Deputy Secretary's Update-American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched a new landing page on Medicaid.gov for state Medicaid agencies and stakeholders to access information about states' plans to enhance, expand, and strengthen home and community-based services across the country using new Medicaid funding made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)

  - https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/home-community-based-services/guidance/strengthening-and-investing-home-and-community-based-services-for-medicaid-beneficiaries-american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021-section-9817-spending-plans-and-narratives/index.html
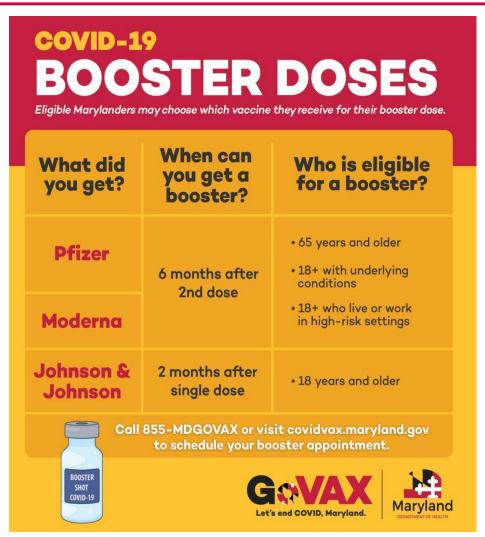
Deputy Secretary's Update-American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

- MDH remains committed to getting ARPA approved resources to DDA providers for qualified claims. Providers began receiving payments on October 28th

- These initial resources will support our providers reopening efforts and address staffing challenges to restore individual and family access to pre-pandemic levels of services
  - 5.5% retroactive rate increases will be directed to submitted claims for HCBS services billed in PCIS2

- In addition, a portion of the ARPA savings will be dedicated to non-competitive and competitive grants ($50M and $10M respectively) contingent on final approval of the State's spending plan

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Deputy Secretary's Update-COVID-19 Booster Shots

- Governor Larry Hogan announced Maryland has administered 280,000 booster shots. He also stated that "we have a robust network of vaccination providers, including pharmacies, primary-care providers, mobile clinics, local health departments and community health centers, and we have both the supply and the capacity to provide a booster shot to anyone who needs one"

- [View the slides from Monday's press conference](#)

Deputy Secretary's Update-COVID-19 Booster

- Following final CDC approval, Secretary Dennis Schrader announced on Monday the updated status of COVID-19 booster shot eligibility in the State of Maryland and the opportunity to mix and match vaccines
- <u>State health officials are strongly recommending that people with comorbidities receive either an additional dose or booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine immediately</u>
- Find a vaccination site and make an appointment near you here at covidvax.maryland.gov or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX
- 'Mix and Match' Approved-You can choose ANY vaccine as a booster shot, no matter what you received initially
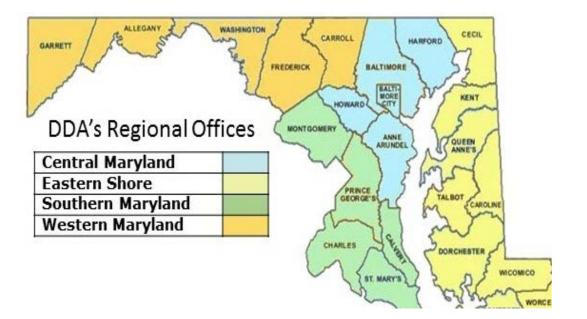
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Deputy Secretary's Update-COVID-19 Booster

- DDA/MDH **collaboration**
- Booster clinic **coordination**
- Booster clinic **communication**
- Community based boosters

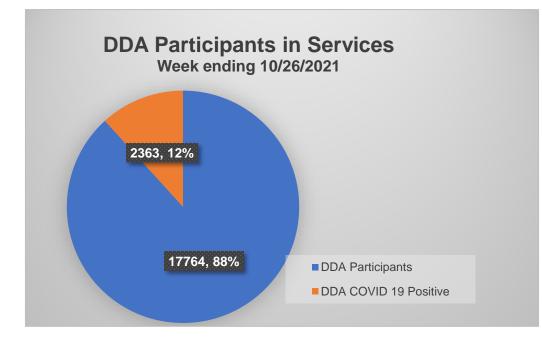Maryland
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COVID-19 Regional Updates

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke
onesta.duke@maryland.gov

- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle
kimberly.gscheidle@maryland.gov

- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton
nicholas.burton@maryland.gov

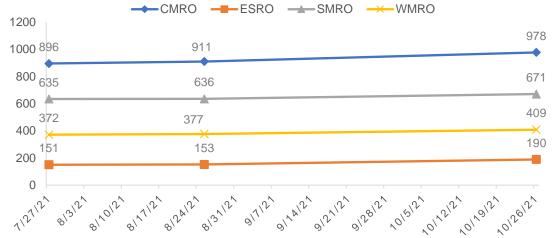- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall
cathy.marshall@maryland.gov

DDA's Regional Offices

Central Maryland	
Eastern Shore	
Southern Maryland	
Western Maryland	

DDA Tracking

DDA Participants in Services
Week ending 10/26/2021

- 2363, 12%
- 17764, 88%

Legend:
- ■ DDA Participants
- ■ DDA COVID 19 Positive

There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 12% (2,362) have tested positive for COVID-19.

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS BY REGION
WEEK ENDING 10/26/2021

Legend: ◆ CMRO ■ ESRO ▲ SMRO ✕ WMRO

CMRO: 896 → 911 → 978
SMRO: 635 → 636 → 671
WMRO: 372 → 377 → 409
ESRO: 151 → 153 → 190

Dates: 7/27/21, 8/3/21, 8/10/21, 8/17/21, 8/24/21, 8/31/21, 9/7/21, 9/14/21, 9/21/21, 9/28/21, 10/5/21, 10/12/21, 10/19/21, 10/26/21
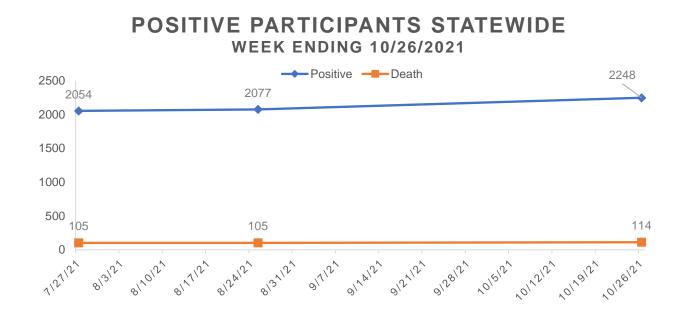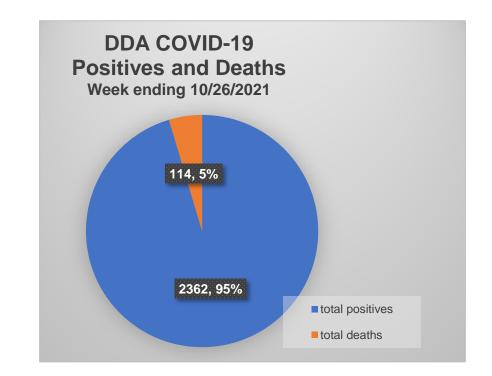
CMRO 978 Positive; Increase of   67
ESRO   190 Positive; Increase of   37
SMRO 671 Positive; Increase of   35
WMRO 409 Positive; Increase of   32

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DDA Tracking

POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS STATEWIDE
WEEK ENDING 10/26/2021

There have been 2,362 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 114 deaths.

DDA COVID-19
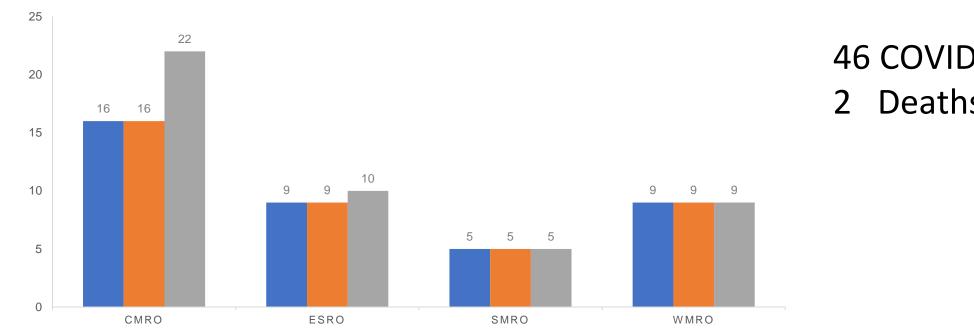### Positives and Deaths
Week ending 10/26/2021

The 114 deaths represents approximately 5% of all (2,362) participants that tested positive.

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DDA Tracking

PARTICIPANTS IN SELF-DIRECTION
WEEK ENDING 10/26/2021

■ 7/27/2021 ■ 8/25/2021 ■ 10/26/2021

46 COVID-19 Positive
2   Deaths

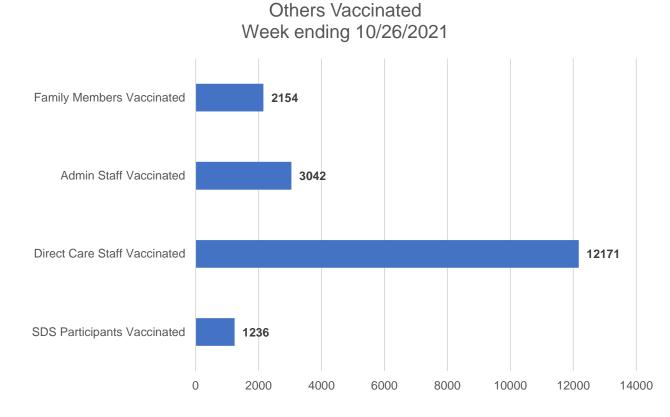Maryland
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Vaccination Tracking

Number of Participants Vaccinated
Week ending 10/26/21

1378, 8%

15896, 92%

■ Total Participants Vaccinated

■ Total Not Yet Vacinated

- Of the **17,274** participants that the agencies reported intending to have vaccinated, **15,896 (92%)** have been vaccinated,
- **1,378 (8%)** have not received a vaccine
- **137** vaccination clinics were held by the provider agencies. There are no upcoming clinics scheduled

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Vaccination Tracking

Others Vaccinated
Week ending 10/26/2021

Others vaccinated include:
- 2,154 Family Members
- 3,042 Administrative staff
- 12,171 Direct Support Staff
- 1,236 Self Directed Participants (Increase of 106)

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Upcoming Monthly Webinars

Please join us for our 2021 Webinar Series:

- November 19 at 1pm
- December   17 at 1pm

To register for the Monthly Webinars with Deputy Secretary Bernie Simons go to:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6873417036092171790

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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Questions