



# Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

**Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary**

November 19, 2021



# Agenda

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- Opening Remarks
- COVID-19 Booster Shots
- Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning
  - Individuals and Families
  - Providers
  - CCS Agencies
- Resources

# Deputy Secretary's Update-COVID-19 Booster

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- Find a vaccination site and make an appointment near you [here](#) at [covidvax.maryland.gov](https://covidvax.maryland.gov) or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX
- DDA Booster data
- MDH/DDA Booster Clinic collaboration



# Deputy Secretary's Update-Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning

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- Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning for:
  - Individuals and Families;
  - Providers; and
  - CCS
- DDA Resources

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- What does unwinding Appendix K mean and what is important for me to know about this?
  - Appendix K is the approval from CMS to use a number of flexibilities which supported us during the COVID-19 pandemic. We learned a lot through these flexibilities and because of that many were included in the approved Waiver Amendment #3. This means, some of these flexibilities will be continued rather than ending on 12/31/21
  - Understanding if the flexibilities you are using are continuing or ending is really important for planning for your supports and any changes after 12/31/21. Your CCS and providers can help you understand these options

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- What recommendations or advice do you have as I am thinking about services that I or my family member will need after 12/31/21?
- Areas that might be important for you to consider as programs and services are reopening or increasing attendance include:
  - How comfortable am I with being back in the community and/or with groups?
  - How do I feel about transportation with others or if transportation is limited, can my family assist me with transportation?
  - How do I feel about being with staff or other participants who may not be fully vaccinated?
  - Are there any activities or services that were used during the pandemic that I would like to continue? If so, what type of schedule might work best?
  - Did I benefit or enjoy receiving any supports virtually? Do I want to continue to receive some of my supports virtually?

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- If I have hired family members as staff during the pandemic, what do I need to do before the end of the Appendix K?
  - Because the DDA's Waiver Amendment #3 keeps the hiring of staff for a number of services, it is important to work your CCS to figure out how this applies to your interests and your services
  - If you are self-directing your services and want to continue to employ your family members as staff after 12/31/21, you will need to be sure they have all of their required trainings completed before 12/31/21. This training requirement for family members had been waived during Appendix K so this planning is really important
  - Also, you will need to complete and submit the new Family As Staff form to identify these family members but you do not need to do a PCP revision just for this reason. Guidance and this form can be accessed here:

<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/sdforms.aspx>

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- What do I need to know or do if I am a Transitioning Youth (TY) on the Autism Waiver and want to be considered for the DDA services?
  - Individuals who are TY eligible for July 2020, July 2021 and July 2022 have until June 30, 2022 to complete and submit the DDA waiver application to be considered for DDA funding services.
  - The Appendix K for the Autism Waiver, which is different than the DDA's Appendix K, extended the enrollments in their waiver through the state of emergency even when a TY had concluded their entitled educational services
  - If you are TY eligible and have not completed the DDA waiver application process by June 30, 2022, you will be placed on the DDA waiting list for services
  - For any questions or assistance, please contact your DDA Regional Office Transitioning Youth lead staff



# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- What do I need to know or do if I am a Transitioning Youth (TY) but I am not on the Autism Waiver and want to be considered for the DDA services?
  - Individuals who are TY eligible for July 2020, July 2021 and July 2022 have until June 30, 2022 to complete and submit the DDA waiver application to be considered for DDA funding services.
  - If you are TY eligible and have not completed the DDA waiver application process by June 30, 2022, you will be placed on the DDA waiting list for services
  - For any questions or assistance, please contact your DDA Regional Office Transitioning Youth lead staff

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- Do I need to update my PCP before 12/31/21 if I want to continue to employ family members hired during the pandemic?
  - No. The DDA has worked with our SDAN partners and together developed a new Family As Staff form to identify these family members. This can be used in place of a plan revision.
  - These forms can be accessed here:  
<https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/sdforms.aspx>

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- If my PCP has flexibilities or services that will no longer be available after 12/31/21, do I need to update my PCP?
  - PCP updates should be prioritized for situations where new services or providers are being added to ensure authorization for these changes
  - If you are interested in new services or have experienced a loss of a service, your CCS should be supporting you to explore other options
  - Appendix K flexibilities that will no longer apply should be reflected in the next Revised or Annual PCP, which ever occurs first

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- How does the LTSS *Maryland* rate study apply to me? What do I need to know about these rates and this process?
  - DDA is transitioning from one IT platform, PCIS2, to another system, LTSS *Maryland*, to move the system, services and the rates in a more person-centered, flexible way
  - The DDA has been piloting the new system and is conducting a look behind review at the rates as the final step in the current rate study
  - Budgeted rates will be updated in the LTSS *Maryland*--DDA Module
  - If you are a person who self-directs your services, you will use these new rates for the development and budget of your annual PCP or if you submit a plan revision

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Individuals and Families

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- How does the ARPA funding apply to me and my services?
  - ARPA stands for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This provides states with additional funding to support a number of investments including Home and Community Based Services like DDA's waivers
  - For DDA, these increases were applied to the rates paid to providers to help them enhance the Direct Support Professional wages to keep current or recruit new staff. These funds will also provide grants to DDA providers to help them with their critical reopening efforts as well as to support them in other areas such as staff training and their transition to *LTSSMaryland*
  - Providers are working hard to support their dedicated employees and to hire more staff to get services reopened or back to where they were before the pandemic

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Providers

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- Is the ARPA 5.5% retroactive increase a one-time increase?
  - The 5.5% retroactive increase in PCIS2 will provide a one-time increase to the base of rates for eligible services which will carry forward in the rates. For targeted case management supports in the LTSS*Maryland* - DDA Module, this is also a 5.5% rate increase effective 11/1/2021 that will carry forward.
- Will providers who are waiting for error updates that are being processed receive the 5.5% increase?
  - Yes. Please see the recent communication sent via PCIS2 on 11/9/21 that details timeline and process for both error updates as well as certifying attendance to be eligible for these increases.

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Providers

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- If a person does not want to return to in-person services after 12/31, are they able to use virtual supports through the waiver as the sole method of service delivery?
  - The DDAs waiver amendment #3 specifies that virtual support cannot comprise the entirety of the service to promote community engagement and the goals of the HCBS setting final rule. The PCP for each person should identify how they want to receive services including the amount of virtual supports they prefer to compliment in person supports provision

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Providers

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- What happens after 12/31/21 when a person receiving residential supports also wants virtual day supports? Can they get two waiver services at same time?
  - Meaningful day service and residential dedicated supports cannot be provided at the same time
  - Waiver Amendment #3 provides the use of dedicated supports/shared hours or add-on hours prior to and after meaningful day virtual supports
  - If use of dedicated supports/shared hours or add-on is not in a person's plan, these services do need to be included and approved by completing a revised PCP
  - The DDA is working on billing guidance for providers in PCIS2 to support this approach



# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Providers

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- Post Appendix K, what is required for submitting or updating a Program Service Plan (PSP)?
  - Providers who are interested in continuing some or all of the retained service modalities permitted under Amendment #3, must ensure that they have these approved by updating and submitting their PSP to the DDA Provider Services
  - These request must be submitted before 12/31/21 in order to continue these after the Appendix K. The DDA remains committed to working with providers through this process for providers who submit by this due date. Examples of required PSP update: Shared/Dedicated hours; Virtual Supports; and Supports during an Acute Care Hospital Stay

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Providers

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- Is the flexibility for one hour of meaningful day service to bill for the full day continuing or when will this end?
  - The current emergency regulation and the approved Appendix K provides the authority for providers to deliver fewer than the minimum hours required for billing for meaningful day services. This flexibility will end on 12/31/21 unless otherwise updated and so transition planning should be occurring to best support individuals.

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Providers

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- How is the data being used from the twice monthly provider reopening surveys
  - The DDA appreciates the partnership with DD Coalition to develop these surveys
  - The data is shared with the DD Coalition as this is mutually beneficial to tracking the impact and effect of the actions on reopening and workforce stability
  - This data is driving decisions by MDH
  - As of Nov 15, the Direct Support Professional (DSP) vacancy rate in the five Meaningful Day Services is reported to be 30.6% with a response rate this period of only 31% of providers reporting

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Coordinators of Community Services

- Do all plans need to be revised to remove Appendix K flexibilities after they expire?
  - No. These updates to remove services or flexibilities can be done at the annual PCP or when a plan revision occurs
  - It remains important, however, that plan revisions do occur to add any new services or providers to ensure authorization for these additions

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition Planning: Coordinators of Community Services

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- For individuals who want to continue with virtual supports as part of how they receive services, after 12/31/21, is a full plan revision required?
  - No. Individuals should be supported with confirming this interest and this can be updated by the provider in the individual's Service Implementation Plan (SIP)
  - At the annual PCP, this interest would be reflected in the plan as well as in the SIP
  - Virtual supports are available to compliment in-person supports but cannot comprise the entirety of the service

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

## Planning: Coordinators of Community Services

- Waiver Amendment #3 provides new access to some supports when a person is in an acute care hospital. What needs to occur for individuals who may want to use these supports after Appendix K?
  - Similar to virtual supports, which is a modality or way to receive an existing service, the same is true for supports during acute care hospital stays
  - Individuals should be updating their plans (as they occur) to reflect this interest at the service level and additionally this should be reflected in the SIP
  - Providers would also need to update their Program Service Plan (PSP) to add these modalities

# Appendix K and Reopening Transition

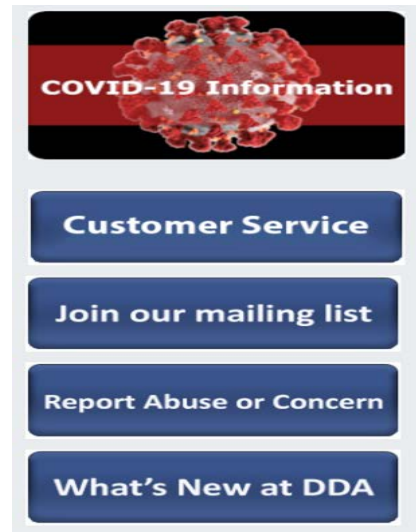
## Planning: Coordinators of Community Services

- To support reopening and transition planning, are full team meetings expected before 12/31/21?
  - No, unless there are significant changes anticipated
  - Through monthly monitoring visits and contact, individuals should be supported around how they are using various flexibilities that may be ending with the Appendix K
  - In addition, individuals should be supported around considerations for services and programs that are reopening. For example, are they interested in resuming group activities, what are their preferences for transportation, how do they feel about unvaccinated staff or other participants

# Deputy Secretary's Update-Resources

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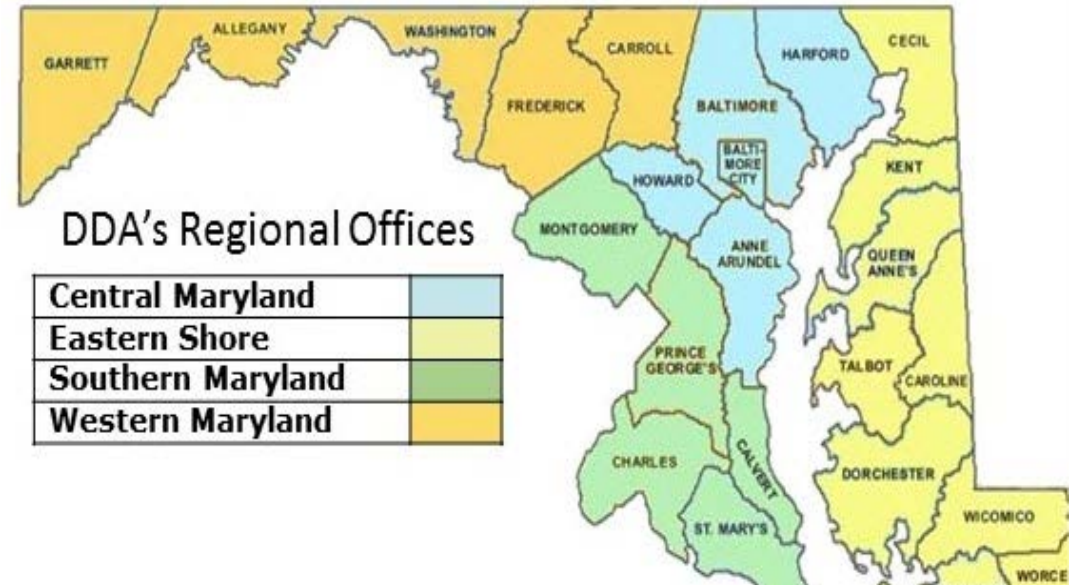
- The DDA has updated the [DDA Frequently Asked Questions – November 17, 2021](#) to assist with the most current information to assist with Appendix K unwinding
- These can be found on the DDA website by clicking on the What's New at DDA





# Deputy Secretary's Update-Resources

- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke  
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- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle  
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- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton  
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# Upcoming Monthly Webinars

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Please join us for our final  
Webinar Series of 2021:  
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.