

To: People in DDA-funded services, Families, Providers and DDA stakeholders

From: Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary 

Date: April 12, 2018

RE: Introduction of the Mandt System curriculum

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides behavioral support services to support people in a variety of settings including Community Services, State Residential Centers (SRCs), Secure and Evaluative Therapeutic Treatment (SETT) programs, and other areas where people are experiencing or are likely to experience difficulty in community living as a result of behavioral, social, or emotional issues.

The State-approved program has been Behavior Principles and Strategies (BPS) for more than two decades, and is now being replaced by the MANDT system. DDA has selected this framework for behavior supports, as it is more current with the Administration's philosophy which focuses on building healthy relationships, providing a more person-centered, values-based process that encourages positive interactions. Mandt promotes individual and organizational well-being and safety with both non-physical and physical interactions. Focus areas of the training include de-escalation during the crisis phase, Positive Behavior Supports and trauma-informed care to help direct support professionals in understanding human behavior.

Maryland is very excited to implement Mandt as part of our transformation. Supporting people through the life course with a person-centered, family-oriented system of supports will help people to have full lives. Over the next 24 months, there will be a steady transition to the Mandt System to allow the transition from BPS to Mandt. This will include training new Mandt trainers, training direct support professionals on the new curriculum, and revising behavior plans to reflect the new language and philosophy. During the transition, BPS recertification will continue until June of 2019.

The timeline will be guided by input from the Statewide Behavior Supports Committee (SBSC), which will convene later this month. Based on recommendations from the SBSC and the contract with Mandt, Train the Trainer sessions will start in April and continue until 350 trainers are certified. Please watch for the regional training announcements. Providers will be able to send staff trainers to receive training free of charge. Once the plan's writers have been trained/certified in Mandt, revisions and updates to the person's behavior plans must be made to reflect the approved Mandt techniques. It's recommended that professionals that develop and/or write behavior plans become familiar with Mandt and the states requirements on the roll-out and timeframes. By April of 2020, all direct support professionals will be trained and all plans will need to be revised if they have any behavior techniques that are not supported by the new Mandt System.

The DDA is excited about implementing Mandt and Maryland and will work to support our providers as they make this transition to a more person-centered system of supports. For more information, view the introductory [Mandt System video](#).