



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 23, 2020

Dear DDA Service Provider:

I want to acknowledge the leadership, extraordinary efforts, and commitment you have demonstrated to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For the past four years, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has been implementing our transformation initiatives. Some of you have been involved in the rate setting study, the design and development of the LTSSMaryland IT system, and in improving our service delivery system through the refinement of existing services and the creation of new services to support people and families as they build their vision of their “Good Life”.

As we neared the provider implementation of the LTSSMaryland system and the implementation of new rates, some of you expressed concern about your readiness to transition to the new systems and DDA’s capacity to support the transformation initiatives. The DDA had been working to alleviate these concerns when the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted our daily lives and work routine.

In light of this new unexpected crisis, the DDA is postponing its planned provider billing implementation of LTSSMaryland and the transition to a fee-for-service model with new rates so that providers can prepare for the impact this pandemic will have on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and your day-to-day operations of your organizations. The Maryland Department of Health and the DDA will continue to work collaboratively with providers to work through supports needed for COVID-19. Also, moving forward, the DDA will work closely with providers to carefully consider the various recommendations you have shared with us in order for service providers to be ready for the transition to LTSSMaryland and to a fee-for-service payment model.

Lastly, the DDA will postpone the transition of providers who volunteered to be early-adopters of the LTSSMaryland system. We will continue to work with them to identify an implementation date that aligns with the benchmarks that impact LTSSMaryland and the new rates. The DDA will also work with providers of personal support services to map out an implementation timeline that avoids any federal penalties around the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act and the use of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV).

I appreciate the feedback and input you have provided to improve Maryland’s service delivery system to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families. I look forward to our continued working partnership.

Sincerely,

Bernard Simons  
DDA Deputy Secretary

cc: Robert R. Neall  
Thomas Andrews