

Information from April 4, 2019, Meeting



In addition to the seven SDAN board members, over 30 members attended the meeting in person and another 16 participated on the phone. Casey Shea, from Disability Rights Maryland (DRM, formerly Maryland Disability Law Center), was our presenter.

Filing an Appeal: Casey discussed the appeal process and ways to avoid going to appeal. When denied you can:

1. Modify your request and resubmit it based on DDA's comments on the denial.
2. Request a Case Resolution Conference where you informally meet with DDA regional staff to discuss disagreements or problems with the request. Information about how to do this should be included with the denial letter.
3. Request a formal appeal hearing on the denial. Information on how to do this should be included with the denial letter.
4. Contacting your state representatives for assistance has also proven effective for some people, and it is free. It also helps to educate our lawmakers about self-direction issues -- see Legislative Outreach below.

When other efforts fail, SDAN and DRM encourage you to appeal any denials of services that result from the changes made to the waiver. We also ask

you to please keep both organizations informed of your experiences and issues.

DRM can provide general advice and guidance, but they do not have the manpower to take on all appeal cases. You can call the DRM Intake number to let them know what is happening: 410-727-6352. SDAN needs to know what is happening on the ground when meeting with DDA. Please send an email to our secretary, Carol Custer, at carol@custerllc.com to keep us apprised. Our next quarterly meeting with DDA is May 7.

See Casey's [power point presentation](#) and [Appeal handout](#).

Tips for Writing Plans: SDAN Board Members reviewed an [index of waiver services](#) and changes in waiver language included in the [Waiver effective 7-1-18](#) and [Appendix C of the proposed Amendment 1](#), both are different from the waiver that was in effect when plans were written last year.

SDAN asked the individuals present if they would be affected by the changes made to the waiver. Everyone in the room indicated that they, or the participants that they support, would be affected by one of more of the changes, as will most, if not all, SDS participants. All present are concerned about the cap on Personal Supports of 82 hours per week; the definition of Personal Supports; no longer having a standalone service for all Transportation expenses; the inability of family to be reimbursed for the use of wheelchair vans purchased for use of the participant and driven by all staff; the loss of overnight supports through the waiver; the inability to receive Community Development Services in the participant's home; and the loss of employer authority over all Employment Services, including job coaching, effective July 1, 2020. And there are many other issues. Look for a future Survey Monkey questionnaire to gather more information. We hope everyone will respond.

Reminders:

(1) There is \$500 available each year for recruitment (ads or staffing services of participants' choice). Ask your FMS or CCS how to get those funds for the remainder of this year, if needed. It is also something that you can write into

your FY2020 plans/budget. Please note that these funds cannot later be used for other services. They are ONLY for recruiting expenses/efforts, such as placing ads or engaging a matching service or staffing agency.

(2) If needed, turn in budget modifications to move funds between categories to your FMS as soon as possible!

Legislative Outreach: SDAN encouraged all meeting attendees and associated participants to get to know their state legislators and establish a relationship. Our goal is to create a booklet for each legislator with information about his/her constituents who self-direct. We need you to help educate your legislator about what self-direction is and how it has enhanced and improved the lives of participants. [Sample information sheets](#) were passed out in the hope that all participants will create an information sheet of their successes through self-direction and, if any, their concerns about the waiver changes. You can use this [sample blank form](#) or create your own, but please take this action and send your sheet to SDAN for use in our booklet and let us know when you are talking to your legislator. SDAN board members shared [advice and tips for talking with legislators](#). SDAN volunteers will be contacting you in the future to determine your election district and to encourage you to help us with this outreach effort!

Other Actions Needed: SDAN is growing fast and so are our needs. We are looking for more volunteers and actively involved members to work on established committees, which include: Membership, Legislative Outreach, Website/Media/Marketing, Transitioning Youth (TY), and Fundraising. Most of these committees consist of only one or two members. Please consider where you can help. As we are making more and more outreach efforts, we often need people to man our table and spread the word about the many benefits of self-direction. If you know of an event in your area, please let us know. We are trying to attend as many TY events around the state as we can to make sure all know of the self-directing option.

We also need funds to support our mission: **To promote and support the use of self-directed services to empower individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve purposeful and fulfilling lives.**

Please consider sending a donation via check to 3527 Chick Lane, Knoxville, MD 21758 (made out to SDAN), or through [Pay Pal](#) or by signing up for [Amazon Smile](#) where a portion of your Amazon purchases will come to us. You can access our donation links at <https://marylandsds.org/1186-2/>. You can also connect to us on our [open Facebook page](#) and our [closed Facebook Group](#).

[April 4, 2019 Treasurer's Report](#)

Our next General Membership Meeting will be June 6 at 11am. The location will be determined soon.

Thank you for your continued support!

Carol Custer, Secretary/Treasurer

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You attended a meeting of or requested information from the Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc. ---a group of families & participants involved in Self-Directed Services under the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

Our mailing address is:

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