



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number: Senate Bill 959
Title: Public Health – Demonstration Program and Developmental Disabilities
Hearing Date: March 10, 2020
Position: Support

The Coordinating Center (The Center) supports *Senate Bill 959 – Public Health – Demonstration Program and Developmental Disabilities*. This bill would establish a new council under the DDA Family Supports Services Program to examine policies, procedures, and proposals related to self-directed services.

The Center is an independent, care coordination organization with over 35 years of experience, coordinating services for more than 10,000 people with disabilities and complex medical needs across the state. This includes providing care coordination services under the Options Waiver and the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) program. In addition, we are also very excited to begin providing case management services for DDA in 2020, beginning in May.

In 2018, The Center supported legislation (Ch. 447) to create a pilot program to provide private duty nursing services to individuals who were eligible for the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) program and had a diagnosis that would make them also eligible for REM. Unfortunately, current rules prohibit Marylanders in the REM program from participating in the EID program at the same time.

As such, we recently submitted comments to the Maryland Medicaid program requesting that they extend the end date of the pilot as we do not believe the pilot has begun serving individuals in the EID program. This bill will ensure that there is a task force to monitor the progress of the pilot, while also reviewing other policies that prohibit individuals from receiving services because they are locked into one waiver or program.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or (410) 693-4000.