

HB1244. The Arc Maryland. Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Ande Kolp

Position: FAV



The Arc Maryland
8601 Robert Fulton Drive
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046
T 410.571.9320
www.thearcmd.org

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

HB 1244: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We were started in the 1950s by parents who sought a better life for their children with developmental disabilities, and since that time, our network in Maryland has grown to several chapters of The Arc who provide direct services and supports to over 8,000 people with IDD and thousands more individuals who do not access our network's provider-supported services, but rely on The Arc for free information and referral services, advice, guidance, and advocacy support and training. Our connections, supports to families and people with IDD, and representations span both models of service delivery, and we advocate for the viability of all, with a lens on quality, efficiency, informed choice, modernization, and sustainability.

We support ensuring DDA's existing Waiver Advisory Council (WAC) has a **broader representation of community advocacy organizations**, like The Arc Maryland, and the responsibility to collaborate with the DDA to conduct important work with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

While the bill intentions were clear in drafting, there were necessary amendments made and approved in the House to **add The Arc Maryland and The Maryland Association of Community Services** as named statewide organizational members.

This bill is important because it **codifies and expands** the existing DDA Waiver Advisory Council to provide advice and make recommendations to DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the

Medicaid waivers operated by the department. Additionally, it ensures the DD WAC includes representatives from the statewide organizations who have supported the DDA, have extensive experience with our state systems of support, and advocate for individuals with IDD statewide, while still maintaining the ever-important balance of people with lived experience and facilitating their active involvement in the decisions that will impact their lives.

HB 1244 outlines that the purpose of the WAC is to foster meaningful engagement and establish a feedback loop with enhanced communication for all stakeholders. It will ensure the WAC adheres to person-centered thinking, diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and evidence-based and data-driven discussion and problem solving.

Current and future beneficiaries of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's vital community supports rely on services and supports that enable them to live, work, and thrive in their communities, regardless of the service model through which they choose to receive their supports.

Finally, it is important to note that the Fiscal Note is in need of revision now, since the bill was amended to correct a technical placement error in the House. The original fiscal note contains an inaccurate statement under additional comments, and does not include consideration of that adopted corrective amendment:

Original: Additional Comments: DDA advises that the membership of the council under the bill does not mirror the current council. DDA will have to recruit the following additional members: one additional person with lived experience participating in a DDA program and two additional family members (one with experience with self-directed services and one with traditional services). DDA will also have to remove one current coordination of community services provider and at least one current provider member to make an open seat for a representative from The Arc of Maryland. To meet the bill's requirement that the licensed or certified providers on the council include representatives from each DDA region, additional changes to current provider membership may be required.



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With the House-amended language in this bill, that moves The Arc Maryland to the intended category of membership (under “statewide advocacy organization”, NOT “licensed and certified provider organizational member” portion of the membership), **The Arc’s inclusion in the WAC will NOT be a cause for removal of a CCS and current provider member** and shall not be cause to upset current WAC membership in any way.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report on HB1244 as passed in the House.

Sincerely,
Ande Kolp, Executive Director
The Arc Maryland, akolp@thearcmd.org

HB1244 To Senate Finance.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Gude

Position: FAV

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee

HB1244 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council –
Establishment

Favorable

By Beth Munro

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about this important legislation. My name is Beth Munro, I am the parent of a young lady with developmental disabilities am a Board Member of the Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland (SDAN).

SDAN is appreciative and wants to thank Delegate Guyton for sponsoring this legislation and ushering it through this hectic session.

We fully support the inclusion of all stakeholders with the intent of collaboration, transparency, and consensus and ask for your favorable report.

Thank you

Beth Munro

egmunro@aol.com

301-461-3615

HB1244_Developmental_Disabilities_Administration_W

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR HB1244
Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council -
Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Guyton

Committee: Finance

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1244 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our Coalition members are very supportive of their fellow Marylanders, and especially those whose children have developmental disabilities. We were horrified to learn that the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), which oversees the programs that relate to persons with developmental disabilities, chose to change major aspects of the program without any input from the people who would be affected by those changes.

This bill will hopefully ensure that such a catastrophic action does not happen again. The Waiver Advisory Council will advise and provide recommendations to the DDA on system design, service delivery and quality enhancement strategies. It will include ALL the voices that are affected by the DDA program and will ensure that everyone gets a seat at the table.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition fully supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_HB1244_SenateCros

Uploaded by: Diane Arias

Position: FAV



March 25, 2025

House Bill 1244

**Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council –
Establishment
Senate Finance Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 1244 establishes the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council to advise and provide recommendations to the Developmental Disabilities Administration on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waiver programs operated by the Administration.

Developmental disabilities encompass impairments in physical abilities, learning, language, or behavior that emerge during childhood and typically persist throughout a person's life.¹ This legislation prioritizes the well-being of individuals with disabilities by ensuring that Medicaid funds are allocated based on demonstrated needs, rather than solely administrative discretion. By establishing a dedicated council, this legislation would provide a more inclusive and thorough review process within the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), incorporating diverse perspectives and firsthand experiences. Currently, the DDA determines Medicaid waiver fund recipients without input from key providers, including those represented by the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS).

Involving key stakeholders in decision-making ensures that funding decisions reflect the needs of those directly impacted. Additionally, this legislation empowers individuals with disabilities to advocate for themselves within their communities. The MCC strongly supports initiatives that enhance the quality of life, equity, and independence of individuals with disabilities, and we believe this measure is a crucial step toward achieving those goals.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/child-development/about/developmental-disability-basics.html>

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report on **HB 1244**.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB1244 testimony FWA 3.5.25.pdf

Uploaded by: Gregory Snyder

Position: FAV

Board of Directors

Scott Evans, President
Benedictine Programs and Services

Rob Baynard, President Elect
Community Options

Karen Adams-Gilchrist, Past President
Providence Center

Daria Cervantes, Secretary
The Arc Montgomery County

Michael Planz, Treasurer
Community Living

Rick Callahan
Compass

Kevin Drumheller
Richcroft

Randy Ferguson
The Center for Life Enrichment

Cindy Freeman
Spectrum Support

Terra Gaillard
United Community Supports
of Maryland

Katie Gell
Somerset Community Services

David Greenberg
The League

Michelle Kilkenny
Linwood Center

Greg Miller
Penn-Mar Human Services

Cindy Plavier-Truitt
Humanim

Jonathon Rondeau
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Ami Taubenfeld
Itineris

Ron Vaughn
New Horizons Supported Services, Inc.

Najla Wortham
Rock Creek Foundation

Laura Howell,
Chief Executive Officer

March 5, 2025

**House Health and Government Operations Committee
HB 1244 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration
Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment
Position: Favorable with Amendment**

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) is a non-profit association of over 125 agencies across Maryland serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). MACS members provide residential, day and supported employment services to thousands of Marylanders, so that they can live, work and fully participate in their communities.

MACS is in support, with an amendment, of HB 1244, which seeks to codify the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council and expand its membership. We commend Delegates Guyton and Bagnall for their initiative to formalize the council's role in advising on critical aspects of DDA waiver programs, including system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies.

We are pleased to note that the bill aims to address our concerns by proposing the inclusion of MACS as a member of this council. This is a crucial step, as recent data from the Maryland Department of Health indicates that over 82% of people using DDA-funded supports choose the community provider model, with MACS members receiving over 80% of the funding allocated to community providers. Clearly, MACS represents the largest constituency of providers and beneficiaries of DDA-funded supports.

Key Points

- ***Inclusion of MACS:*** The bill's proposal to include MACS on the council ensures that the voices of community providers are heard. This inclusion is essential for balanced representation and comprehensive policymaking.
- ***Balanced Policymaking:*** The council's role in shaping Medicaid waiver policies is crucial. MACS's participation is essential to ensure that all perspectives within the IDD service delivery landscape are adequately represented, preventing an imbalance that favors one model over another.
- ***Commitment to Collaboration:*** We are eager to bring our extensive experience and insights to the table and work collaboratively with the Developmental Disabilities Administration and all stakeholders to enhance the quality and accessibility of services for people with developmental disabilities.

We support ensuring that the existing Waiver Advisory Council has broader representation of key stakeholder organizations. To achieve this, we propose the following amendments:

- Add The Arc Maryland and Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) explicitly as members in section 7-12B-03.
- Enhance section 7-12B-05(A)(2) to ensure the Waiver Advisory Council provides advice and makes recommendations to DDA about service delivery and access to services, including strategies for cost efficiency, flexibility, and system modernization.
- Clarify that voting members appointed under certain sections are appointed for 2-year terms and eligible for 2 consecutive terms.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to adopt these proposed amendments to strengthen the language that would include MACS as a member of the council. This will ensure that every facet of service provision is represented.

Respectfully,

Laura Howell
Chief Executive Officer
Maryland Association of Community Services

Melwood Letter of Support for HB1244.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez

Position: FAV

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Michele Guyton
304 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Guyton,

Melwood is one of the nation's leading advocates, employers, and service providers for people with disabilities and their caregivers. We offer employment, job placement, job training, life skills for independence, support services, and youth and community recreational services to more than 3,000 people each year. For more information, visit www.Melwood.org.

Melwood provides a variety of services that are funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) including day habilitation, one-to-one and group community support, employment services (job development, follow along and on-going supports), and personal supports. These services are provided to nearly 400 Marylanders in Prince George's, Charles and Montgomery Counties.

Melwood believes it is critical that members of the provider community are included in discussions and decisions around recommendations that impact the provision of services to individuals with disabilities in the state of Maryland. HB 1244 would ensure that providers have the representation by adding the Arc of Maryland and the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) to the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council.

Melwood supports passage of HB 1244 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment.

You can contact me at kmissimer@melwood.org, if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Katie Missimer
Director, Government Relations
Melwood

2025 MOTA HB 1244 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Navabi

Position: FAV



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 📧 www.mota-members.com

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 1244 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration
Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 1244 – Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment*. The bill creates the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council to advise and provide recommendations to the Developmental Disabilities Administration on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waiver programs.

The Maryland Medicaid waivers are instrumental in allowing people to access services within the community as an alternative to receiving them in an institution. Occupational therapists regularly see patients through these waiver programs, allowing people with a variety of conditions, including developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and physical disabilities to take advantage of all the benefits that occupational therapy has to offer, such as participating in daily activities and living independently. The Council created by this bill will ensure that the Maryland Medicaid waiver programs are available and accessible to all who qualify.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Senate - HB 1244 - Favorable - Del. Guyton.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 25, 2025

Support – HB 1244

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment

Dear Chair Biedle and members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1244 to establish the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council in state law. This Council already exists as a federal requirement and has met a few times. The purpose of establishing this Council in Maryland law is to empower the state to influence the membership and direction of the Waiver Advisory Council and address the unique concerns of Maryland's developmentally disabled constituents. Certainly, with the potential loss of funding and guidance from our federal administration, this action is more important than ever. A few changes to the Council that are included in this bill are the addition of members and enforceable guidance to the council that expands their work to include improvement of collaboration, communication, and feedback to both the General Assembly and to the stakeholders among other changes.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1244 to support the disabilities community and the DDA in their efforts to work together for improvement of the system in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton

Senate - HB 1244 - Favorable - Del. Guyton.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 25, 2025

Support – HB 1244

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment

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I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1244 to support the disabilities community and the DDA in their efforts to work together for improvement of the system in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton

HB1244.DDCoalition.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: FAV



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2025

HB 1244: Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment Position: Support



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**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**
CREATING CHANGE · IMPROVING LIVES

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. As such, **we support HB 1244 as a way to ensure DDA's existing Waiver Advisory Council (WAC) has a broader representation of community organizations, and the responsibility to make more recommendations.**

WHAT does this bill do?

- Codifies and expands the existing WAC to provide advice and make recommendations to DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waivers operated by DDA.
- Ensures the WAC includes representatives from statewide organizations that work with and for people with developmental disabilities, as well as people with lived experience who receive Medicaid waiver services in both delivery models – self-directed services and community provider, families, and providers.
- Adds The Arc Maryland and Maryland Associations of Community Services explicitly as members.

WHY is this important?

- **Nothing about us without us!** HB 1244 outlines that the purpose of the WAC is to **foster meaningful engagement and establish a feedback loop with all stakeholders.**
- **Ensures the WAC adheres to person-centered thinking, diversity, equity, and inclusion principles, and evidence-based and data-driven discussion and problem solving.** Almost 20,000 Marylanders rely on the Developmental Disabilities Administration for vital community supports that enable them to live, work, and thrive in their communities. Whether through community providers or self-directed services, people with developmental disabilities and their families rely on DDA-funded services. These services allow people with developmental disabilities to get the support they need and want, and allow their families to continue to work and support themselves.

For more information, contact any member of the DD Coalition.

SS LOS SP Feb 25.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



Bill: SB 1027/HB 1244- Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council-Establishment

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Spectrum Support, a non-profit providing support services for people with disabilities, I am writing to express our support for SB 1027/HB 1244, which proposes the establishment of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council. I believe that this bill represents an important step forward in ensuring that the voices of individuals with lived experience, their families, and service providers are central to shaping Medicaid waiver programs in our state.

Spectrum had a resident who has lived in one of our homes for over 20 years and is dually diagnosed, which means periodically he returns to the state institutions for a few months to get a “reset”. He went to that facility in April 2024 and became eligible for release from the hospital late summer and was expected to be home in October. However, because of continuous delays with his waiver reapplication, he was given a potential discharge date of January 16th. After additional paperwork delays, he was finally released to go home on January 29, 2025.

These delays were unnecessary and burdensome and led to additional concerns, including depression and confusion. Said individual would contact Spectrum staff daily to find out when he would get out and did not understand what was keeping him or why the process was not completed sooner. Unfortunately, Spectrum did not have any answers. While this delay occurred, the State of Maryland was paying higher rates for his hospital stay, Spectrum had a vacant room in an apartment and his hospital bed could have been used for someone else.

By creating a dedicated advisory council, the bill will foster a system that is more responsive and accountable to the needs of Maryland’s diverse community. The inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders—from representatives of advocacy groups and licensed providers to family members with firsthand experience—will enable the Developmental Disabilities Administration to design and deliver services that are truly person-centered. This approach not only enhances service delivery but also promotes transparency and public trust through regular, publicly accessible meetings and a structured feedback process.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Cindy Freeman, Executive Director

HB1244 MD DDA Waiver Advisory Council Favorable wi

Uploaded by: Elizabeth LaFrance

Position: FWA

HB1244 Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council – Establishment

Sponsors: Delegates Guyton and Bagnall

FAVORABLE

The Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc. (SDAN)

We are grateful to Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, Delegates Guyton and Bagnall, and the committee for your ongoing support of the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, especially the right to play a role in the development of public policies that affect them.

SDAN supports the bill for ensuring that the DDA Waiver Advisory Council is codified in law, includes a broad range of stakeholders and aims for consensus in its recommendations.

We would like the committee to consider adding an additional member. Support Brokers are integral members of the team for individuals in the Self-Directed Service model. With the addition of a Support Broker, the committee would have someone who can quickly see how policies might affect multiple individuals, as well as how policies might affect employees, vendors, and others working within the framework of Self-Directed Services who are not represented in the current makeup of the committee. We believe this will bring further balance to the panel in regard to the service models.

We can be contacted at info@marylandsds.org should you or your team wish to discuss this further.

SCI Written Testimony Maryland Senate (HB1244 Fina

Uploaded by: Sarah Butts

Position: FWA

**HB1244 MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION WAIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL -
ESTABLISHMENT**

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, East Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair

Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Please accept the following as the written testimony of Service Coordination, Inc. regarding HB 1244 *Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council Establishment*.

Introduction:

SCI is a leading non-profit organization providing award-winning case management services and advocacy for more than 16,000 individuals with disabilities and medically complex needs across Maryland through our Coordination of Community Services and Supports Planning Programs. SCI's mission is to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities understand their choices and create pathways to community resources that respect their dignity and rights. SCI employs over 1,000 team members across the state of Maryland, a majority of whom are Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) and Supports Planning Services (SPS) professionals.

SCI provides services to 12,000 of the approximately 19,000 people in the state of Maryland who currently receive case management services through funding from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). We are the largest nonprofit case management organization in the state, and we organize and chair a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (CCS CoP) comprised of a majority of CCS providers across the state.

As mandated by COMAR 10.09.48, SCI provides core services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to include comprehensive assessments, development of person-centered plans, referral and related activities, as well as monitoring and follow up. This is accomplished through case management, person-centered planning, and the coordination of comprehensive services related to housing, employment, relationships, financial management, health monitoring, and recreation. Case managers often serve as the initial contact for people seeking services, providing crucial guidance throughout the complex application and eligibility determination and redetermination processes. Case managers assist people in understanding the criteria and requirements, help them gather the necessary documentation and submit the eligibility recommendation. Case managers engage with people and their families to explore their unique wants and needs, facilitating the development of a person-centered plan that reflects the person's preferences and goals. They play a pivotal role in connecting people to essential supports and services,

addressing various aspects of the person's life and promoting overall well-being. After services are initiated, case managers continue to monitor the delivery of those services to ensure they align with the person-centered plan. They advocate for the person's preferences and needs, addressing any issues that arise.

SCI's Recommendations to Strengthen the Waiver Advisory Council:

Waiver Advisory Council members advise and provide recommendations to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waiver programs. SCI agrees that improved collaboration among ID/DD providers and the Maryland Department of Health is critical and especially, given the proposed DDA budget cuts and coordination that will be required for effective implementation of associated cost containment measures.

In addition to being the largest case management service provider in the state, SCI convenes, organizes and chairs, a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (CCS COP) that is open to all CCS case manager provider organizations across the state. In this forum, we discuss policy, and practice matters which regard CCS service best practices, administration and requirements and facilitate close coordination with officials at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). MDH officials have recently attended CCS COP meetings to share about upcoming policy changes which impact CCS providers. Despite SCI's reach, expertise and efforts leading the CCS Community of Practice, SCI was previously denied a seat on the Waiver Advisory Council.

We ask that SCI is added to the Waiver Advisory Council and that two seats for Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Providers are retained. Adoption of both proposed amendments will ensure that all facets of service provision are represented. We cannot overemphasize the need to collaborate closely with MDH in order for SCI to effectively serve over 12,000 people who are currently receiving state mandated case management services through our organization. SCI wishes to thank The Coordinating Center and the Worcester County Health Department who currently serve on the Waiver Advisory Council as CCS providers and hope to join them in representing the interests of CCS providers, which we believe will be of substantial benefit to the state.

Accordingly, we request the following:

SCI proposes two amendments to House Bill 1244

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, in line 5, strike "**ONE**" and substitute "**TWO**".

Rationale: Revise one to two Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) providers, as the current Waiver Advisory Charter already includes two seats for two CCS providers.

Amendment No. 2

On page 3, after line 20, insert: "**(XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF SERVICE COORDINATION, INC.;**"

and in lines 21 and 23, strike "**(XIII)**" and "**(XIV)**", respectively, and substitute "**(XV)**" and "**(XVI)**", respectively.

Rationale: Service Coordination, Inc. serves over 16,000 people through case management across the state of Maryland, is the largest Coordination of Community Services (CCS) provider in the state and facilitates a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (COP). SCI would like to represent Coordination of Community Services (CCS) providers on the Waiver Advisory Council, because of our reach, expertise and leadership.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to adopt these proposed amendments. We value collaboration and welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations further. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Sarah Butts, Vice President of Government Relations at sbutts@sc-inc.org.

SCI Written Testimony Maryland Senate (HB1244 Fina

Uploaded by: Tenneille Aleshire

Position: FWA

**HB1244 MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION WAIVER ADVISORY COUNCIL -
ESTABLISHMENT**

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, East Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair

Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair

Position: Favorable with Amendment

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SCI provides services to 12,000 of the approximately 19,000 people in the state of Maryland who currently receive case management services through funding from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). We are the largest nonprofit case management organization in the state, and we organize and chair a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (CCS CoP) comprised of a majority of CCS providers across the state.

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addressing various aspects of the person's life and promoting overall well-being. After services are initiated, case managers continue to monitor the delivery of those services to ensure they align with the person-centered plan. They advocate for the person's preferences and needs, addressing any issues that arise.

SCI's Recommendations to Strengthen the Waiver Advisory Council:

Waiver Advisory Council members advise and provide recommendations to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) on system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the Medicaid waiver programs. SCI agrees that improved collaboration among ID/DD providers and the Maryland Department of Health is critical and especially, given the proposed DDA budget cuts and coordination that will be required for effective implementation of associated cost containment measures.

In addition to being the largest case management service provider in the state, SCI convenes, organizes and chairs, a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (CCS COP) that is open to all CCS case manager provider organizations across the state. In this forum, we discuss policy, and practice matters which regard CCS service best practices, administration and requirements and facilitate close coordination with officials at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). MDH officials have recently attended CCS COP meetings to share about upcoming policy changes which impact CCS providers. Despite SCI's reach, expertise and efforts leading the CCS Community of Practice, SCI was previously denied a seat on the Waiver Advisory Council.

We ask that SCI is added to the Waiver Advisory Council and that two seats for Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Providers are retained. Adoption of both proposed amendments will ensure that all facets of service provision are represented. We cannot overemphasize the need to collaborate closely with MDH in order for SCI to effectively serve over 12,000 people who are currently receiving state mandated case management services through our organization. SCI wishes to thank The Coordinating Center and the Worcester County Health Department who currently serve on the Waiver Advisory Council as CCS providers and hope to join them in representing the interests of CCS providers, which we believe will be of substantial benefit to the state.

Accordingly, we request the following:

SCI proposes two amendments to House Bill 1244

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, in line 5, strike "**ONE**" and substitute "**TWO**".

Rationale: Revise one to two Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) providers, as the current Waiver Advisory Charter already includes two seats for two CCS providers.

Amendment No. 2

On page 3, after line 20, insert: "**(XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF SERVICE COORDINATION, INC.;**"

and in lines 21 and 23, strike "**(XIII)**" and "**(XIV)**", respectively, and substitute "**(XV)**" and "**(XVI)**", respectively.

Rationale: Service Coordination, Inc. serves over 16,000 people through case management across the state of Maryland, is the largest Coordination of Community Services (CCS) provider in the state and facilitates a Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Community of Practice (COP). SCI would like to represent Coordination of Community Services (CCS) providers on the Waiver Advisory Council, because of our reach, expertise and leadership.

In conclusion, we urge the committee to adopt these proposed amendments. We value collaboration and welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations further. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Sarah Butts, Vice President of Government Relations at sbutts@sc-inc.org.

HB 1244 - FIN - MDH - LOI .docx (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: INFO



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill (HB) 1244 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 1244 - Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiver Advisory Council - Establishment. HB 1244 would partially codify the existing Waiver Advisory Council within the MDH Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).¹

The DDA established its Waiver Advisory Council in October 2024 with the goal of creating a forum where individuals with lived experiences—primarily individuals receiving Medicaid waiver services operated by the DDA—could provide direct input for the design and implementation of Medicaid waiver services. To this end, the DDA’s Waiver Advisory Council is designed to feature a majority of members with lived experiences. Additionally, the DDA sought to design its Waiver Advisory Council to mirror the composition and values underlying the future Medicaid Advisory Council and Beneficiary Advisory Council, which are required to be established under the new federal Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule (Access Rule).²

Further, the DDA sought to align the practices and focus of the DDA’s Waiver Advisory Council (previously as the Quality Advisory Council) with existing Waiver Advisory Councils that support other Medicaid waiver programs in Maryland. No other Waiver Advisory Council in the state is presently codified in state law, as the Department seeks to operate all of its Waiver Advisory Councils in alignment with federal requirements and assurances.

Finally, the DDA sought to emphasize input from organizations and individuals who do not have

¹ <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Waiver-Advisory-Council.aspx>

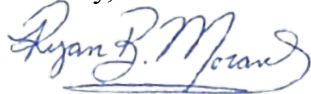
² <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/access-care/medicaid-advisory-committees-and-beneficiary-advisory-councils/index.html>

existing pathways to advocacy within the state. In particular, the current Council includes two seats for member organizations of the Maryland Association of Community Services but does not require that the persons holding these seats directly represent the broader association. Additionally, the current Council does not reserve a seat for The Arc Maryland, giving all provider organizations within the state equal consideration.

While HB 1244 bears numerous similarities to the current Waiver Advisory Council Charter,³ MDH wishes to note that the proposed changes in the Council's membership would result in several current members being removed from the Council. First, the number of seats for Coordination of Community Services providers is reduced from two to one, requiring that either Teresa Michelle Titus-Howard of The Coordinating Center or Caitlin Bishop of Worcester County Health Department is removed from the Council. Second, at least one provider member would be removed to open a seat for The Arc of Maryland, requiring that Karen Lee of SEEC or Matthew Ramsey of Target be removed from the Council. Finally, either Rob Baynard of Opportunities, Inc. or Najla Wortham of Rock Creek Foundation would be required to dually represent both the Maryland Association of Community Services and their own provider organization.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Moran" clearly legible.

Ryan Moran, Dr. P.H., MHSA
Acting Secretary

³ <https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Documents/DDA%20Waiver%20Advisory%20Council%20Charter>