



SENATE FINACNE COMMITTEE
House Bill 870: Division of Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities
Administration - Memorandum of Understanding
March 22, 2023
Position: Support

The Parents' Place of MD (PPMD), as Maryland's Parent Training and Health Information Center for the state, serves families who have children and youth with disabilities and special healthcare needs including families who have youth eligible for both Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration. PPMD supports House Bill 870, which would require a memorandum of understanding between the cases and systemic advocacy. PPMD has a long history of supporting families with students with disabilities in special education matters, including older students who are preparing to transition out of the school system.

PPMD has served on the Commission to Study the Division of Rehabilitative Services (the Commission). One of the Commission's responsibilities was to consider methods for improving the relationship and communication between transition professionals at the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In its interim report, the Commission recommended DORS enter a memorandum of understanding with DDA to "enable DORS to access the necessary medical, psychological, and school documentation of DDA applicants seeking DORS services." PPMD fully supports this recommendation and agrees that access to medical, psychological, and school documentation will support DORS in better serving consumers.

The transition from school to adult services is very challenging for families so the Commission's recommendation that a deep dive be conducted into the DORS and DDA documentation requirements to streamline the necessary supporting documentation of services would be incredibly beneficial to families and their youth. As one Commission member noted in comments before the last Commission meeting, a formalized data-sharing and partnership process is needed to ensure the timely flow of information between DORS, DDA, and Community Rehabilitation Providers.

For these reasons, The Parents' Place of MD supports House Bill 870.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Averitt-Sanzone
Executive Director