



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

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

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 5, 2025

HB 1142: Public Health – Maryland Interested Parties Advisory Group - Establishment Position: Letter of Information



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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 the federal Access Final Rule, and its requirements to strengthen access to home and community based services for people with disabilities.** We understand that the Interested Parties Advisory Group is required by that federal law, and agree it can be codified in State law. However, HB 1142 broadens the scope, membership, and requirements.

→ WHAT is the Interested Parties Advisory Group (IPAG)?

Federal law requires states to establish an IPAG to advise and consult on provider fee-for-service rates where payments are made to direct care workers providing self-directed and provider-directed services for personal care, home health aid, and homemaker services.¹ The IPAG must consult on rates for certain service categories.

→ WHO is required to be on the IPAG?

Federal law requires an IPAG to include direct care workers, beneficiaries and their authorized representatives, and other interested parties. One focus of the federal Access Final Rule is that advisory groups must include a majority of people with lived experiences.

→ Maryland is already doing this for services provide to people with developmental disabilities through the Waiver Advisory Council and Rate Review Advisory Group.

Established in 2022, the Rate Review Advisory Group (RRAG) is a group of stakeholders selected by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to advise State leadership on Medicaid rates for DDA operated Home and Community Based Waiver services. For the past three years, the RRAG has provided advice and recommendations to MDH about payment rates for DD community services.

Established in 2024, the Waiver Advisory Council consists primarily of people with lived experience, and includes other members that advise and provide recommendations to the DDA about system design, service delivery, and quality enhancement strategies for the DDA-operated Medicaid waiver programs.

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

¹ 42 CFR §447.203(b)(6) and 42 CFR §440.180(b)(2).