



Several people have reached out recently expressing concern that the Department on Disability Services' (DDS's) contract with Georgetown's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) will conclude at the end of August 2019. Although this contract is ending, and the mechanism for providing these services may change, as DDS Director I want to clarify for you that no services currently available under this contract to people supported by DDS's Developmental Disabilities Administration are being terminated. DDS will continue to ensure that people receive high quality, innovative services from DDS and our provider network.

The UCEDD has been a vital partner with DDS for the past thirteen years, and its Developmental Disabilities Administration Quality Assurance Health Initiative (DDA Health Initiative) was a critical component over many years. Together, we strengthened our system's ability to support people with intellectual disabilities living with complex clinical and medical needs within our community. Today, our service delivery system has matured to the point that the services not already provided under the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities can be successfully transitioned to agency staff and other providers.

With the expiration of Georgetown's latest contract on August 31, 2019, which included a base year and four, one-year options, DDS revisited each of the elements of the contractual requirements to determine how best to deliver those services. Two of the services included in the current contract (i.e. Parenting Support and Sexuality Education) are now HCBS waiver services for which DDS has adequate providers. For the remaining services, DDS will be continuing services through in-house staff or external contracts. The development and provision of training, technical assistance and onboarding of new nurses will continue and be provided by the DDS's State Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation (SOPPI). Already SOPPI has hired a registered nurse trained as a nurse educator who has experience providing this type of support. Having this position within DDS's office on innovation ensures a focus on best practices in the field of ID.

Coordination of care will continue to be supported during hospitalizations, sub-acute, and long-term acute care placements by a transition specialist under a contract, with the flexibility in hours and scheduling to enable the specialist to successfully support people in their evening, night and weekend work. DDS plans to contract with a physician who will continue the work of serving as a liaison between physicians, specialists, surgeons, providers and DDS. This contractor will have the same flexibility in both hours and scheduling.

We are actively working with Georgetown University to transition all of these activities. This transition has been thoughtfully planned. I am confident that all necessary services will continue, without interruption. DDS will continue to move forward in ensuring the health and safety of people with intellectual disabilities and providing innovative high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces and communities in every neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

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