

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES  
AGENCY RESPONSE TO  
DLS RECOMMENDATIONS  
FISCAL YEAR 2018 OPERATING BUDGET HEARINGS**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
Delegate Kirill Reznik, Chair  
Delegate Theodore Sophocleus, Vice Chair  
February 8, 2017**

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE  
SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE  
Senator Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., Chair  
February 10, 2018**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today as you review the proposed budget for the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) for FY 2018. We would like to thank our assigned DLS analyst, Mr. Jared Sussman, for his thorough analysis and are pleased with the recommendation to concur with the Governor's allowance.

In addition to our testimony, MDOD has provided information summarizing key policy areas and programs that are the focus of the Department's work on behalf of people with disabilities. It is our hope that this will be helpful to you and your staff, should you receive constituent calls related to PROMISE or other disability issues.

**Recommended Actions**

**1. Concur with the Governor's Allowance.**

We respectfully support this recommended action.

## **Discussion**

### **1. The department should provide the U.S. Department of Education's Project Review of the MD PROMISE Program and recommendations.**

#### **Response**

The Department of Disabilities provided the U.S. Department of Education MD Promise Project Review and recommendations to Mr. Sussman on February 6. Per his instructions, rather than reprint the entire review, we have included the MD PROMISE Action Plan (Action Plan) with today's written testimony. The Action Plan lists all of the recommendations that resulted from the U.S. Department of Education's review, the action we are taking to implement the recommendations as well as the current status.

MD PROMISE staff use this document to track progress and provide monthly updates to the U.S. Dept. of Education. The sub-committee members might be pleased to know that MD PROMISE Program continues to be one of the top performers among state grantees and was recognized in the federal project review as having a very committed leadership team and intervention staff. We have included a recent MD PROMISE Program success story for your information.

### **2. The department should explain the MD PROMISE Program closure process, including whether it intends to track participants and monitor progress in the future.**

#### **Response**

MD PROMISE will track participants and monitor progress until the end of the program in September, 2018. Mathematica Policy Research, the agency hired by the U.S. Social Security Administration to evaluate the program, will track participant progress until 2022.

The closure process for MD PROMISE will consist of completing a Closure Checklist for each participant. The checklist includes a requirement that each youth be linked with at least one adult State employment service provider (e.g. Division of Rehabilitation Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration, American Job Center/One-Stop) as a means to ensure a smooth transition. A copy of the Closure Checklist is included with the written testimony.