

# DARKE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## 2017 Annual Action Plan and 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

### Philosophy

The Darke County Board of Developmental Disabilities maintains that all people are valuable and have potential.

### Mission

The mission of our agency is to empower people with developmental disabilities to explore possibilities for their lives by maximizing independence, community participation, employment, and economic self-sufficiency in their daily life experiences.

*Board Approved: November 14, 2016*

*Method(s) Available for Comment*

*Public Meeting: December 7, 2016*

*Visit [www.darkedd.org](http://www.darkedd.org)*

***Progress Report: Board Reviewed June 12, 2017***

## **Strategic Priority #1: Advocacy**

The Darke County Board of DD will promote self-advocacy for people supported through the County Board.

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will hire an “Advocacy & Recreation Coordinator.” The duties of this position will include: identifying/utilizing best practices in Advocacy, Self-Advocacy, and Legislative Advocacy; work with school systems regarding advocacy, leadership, right to full inclusion and integration; training on topic of self-determination; work with providers regarding development of self-advocacy groups; community education; voter registration; regional advocacy in coordination with Community Connections Coordinator; Student to Adult Life Transition training

Outcomes measurement for this goal will be completion of the hiring process with an effective start date by (or prior to) January 2017. Training requirements will be completed with an emphasis on strategies to continue building local, regional, and state advocacy opportunities throughout 2017. Baselines will be established regarding numbers participating in activities and number of opportunities. By the end of 2017, participants will be surveyed regarding effectiveness and quality of activities.

### **PROGRESS REPORT – JUNE 2017**

- Advocacy & Recreation Coordinator (Mary Baker) was hired on November 16, 2016. Mary was trained on strategies to build local, regional, and state advocacy opportunities; principles of self-determination; inclusion and integration.
- Current advocacy opportunities and activities include: Aktion Club, Advocacy in Action Committee with goal to host monthly training with experts on various topics (presentation from We are the Majority teen leaders to discuss drug free action alliance + Darke County Wellness and Recovery); discussion regarding Darke County Citizen Police Academy (grant application); Next Chapter Book Club established; exploration of School to Adult Life Transition (SALT) training (see monthly Community First Department reports to DD Board); participated in Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse.
- A survey is being developed as part of the 2018 Annual Action/Strategic Plans regarding effectiveness and quality of advocacy activities. This survey will be distributed during a July/August timeframe.
- Advocacy activities/articles were shared for the January – June 2017 period on Darke DD Facebook and in local news outlets

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

As a result of 2017 survey, a plan will be developed, as needed, to address goals for 2018 – 2021. Activities will be documented with information shared through organized public relations activities such as Facebook and other media.

## **Strategic Priority #2: Services in Integrated Settings**

The Darke County Board of DD will ensure that individuals receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

### **Initiative (1): Employment Navigation / Shifts from Facility-based to Community-based Services**

#### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Individuals will participate in integrated/inclusive services that meet DODD & Federal requirements for integrated settings. Darke DD will continue to monitor provider service delivery as instructed by DODD.

In 2017 Darke DD will fully implement the Employment Navigation role through two positions titled “Employment Advisor.” One position will focus on Employment Navigation for Adults and one for Youth. Both positions will require SSA certification. The major outcome sought is to support individuals in exploring community-based employment opportunities and decreasing the reliance on facility-based sheltered employment. Outcomes will be monitored monthly regarding the shift in facility-based sheltered employment to community-based employment.

Darke DD will continue Asset Based Community Development concepts; identifying community assets available for community involvement; coordination with FANS, and development of special projects utilizing non-profit board assets. Darke DD will continue support and coordination of volunteer opportunities developed throughout the year.

#### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- Two employees with SSA certification are now in place to fill the Employment Navigation role. Each position is called “Employment Advisor.” The Employment Advisors have not only attended training regarding being an SSA but also attended ENTAL training.
- Outcomes and activities are outlined in monthly DD Board reports including: MARCH 2017 - Six employment plans were developed; 7 Discovery Assessments were completed in December (received 9 new referrals with 6 additional in process); 4 new referrals were made to OOD; Path to Employment – Path 1 = 2, Path 2 = 31, Path 3 = 47, Path 4 = 44, No Path = 13. APRIL 2017 – 3 employment plans developed; 3 Path to Employment referrals were received; 7 OOD team meetings were held with job seekers; 7 Discovery Assessments were complete with 5 still in the works; 3 new referrals were made to OOD; Path to Employment – Path 1 = 2, Path 2 = 31, Path 3 = 47, Path 4 = 44, No Path = 13
- ABCD. MARCH 2017 – Speak Up Stay Safe Community Safety Training; Good Life; Public Relations (Facebook 10 posts; 23 new followers – up to 1,078 followers); Volunteerism @ 11 sites; FANS/Community Support; Aktion Club (all activities are summarized in the monthly Darke DD Board report). APRIL 2017 – same/similar activities are followed in monthly Darke DD Board report.
- Community First Director and Superintendent discussed possible use of gifts and bequest fund – possible pilot project for individuals needing additional school to work transition support (not

eligible for OOD or have exhausted other resources) – possible support for additional skills development or work experiences.

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

Monthly reports will be given to the Darke DD Board to monitor shifts from sheltered/segreated services to integrated services including employment. As needed, additional strategies will be developed to continue assurances that provider services are provided in integrated settings, as directed by DODD.

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***Initiative (2): Evaluate Provider Capacity – integrated service options for adult day and employment-related (includes adult day support, integrated employment, non-medical transportation, supported employment-community, supported employment-enclave, and vocational habilitation).***

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will continue to evaluate provider capacity availability based on individual needs. As needed, Darke DD will contact local/regional providers regarding interest in providing services in Darke County. A services survey (individuals and families) will be completed to gauge satisfaction of current available services and the need for additional services.

### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- REMOhio – employment related supports started end of 2016/beginning 2017 w/Darke County location
- Communication with Dependable Community Living regarding meeting to discuss continued NMT & new HPC services in Darke County (April 2017)
- Contact with Lel Home Services LLC (Indiana) regarding potential for services provided in Darke County (April 2017)
- WestCON collaboration regarding a regional approach to building provider capacity, addressing provider training needs, certification needs; exploring the hiring of a ‘Provider Support Specialist’ to coordinate building provider capacity building efforts (March/April 2017)
- A draft survey has been developed that includes questions about provider satisfaction (draft April 2017; results will be a part of the 2018 Annual Action/Strategic Plan)

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

Darke DD will continue to evaluate provider capacity availability based on individual needs. As needed, Darke DD will contact local/regional providers regarding interest in providing services in Darke County.

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***Initiative (3):*** Continue to evaluate / discuss changes to the current facility to a 'Community Center' that offers inclusive integrated opportunities for community members.

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will continue dialogue with community partners regarding the preliminary scope of a community center project. Dialogue will include costs, data (including need), potential resources, and identifying other partners for the project.

### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- Met with non-profit group on February 1, 2017, regarding discussions of facilities that may be used for a Senior Center/Community Center in the future; possibility of former Adult Day facility (Wayne Industries) which is owned by the Darke County Commissioners.
- Discussed possible local grants through the Ohio Consolidated Plan (CDBG, Neighborhood Revitalization Grant) for possible renovation/construction of facility with County Grants Coordinator
- March 16, 2017, met with current occupant of Adult Day facility regarding possible future use of facility (first met in 2016 to discuss); current occupant is exploring space options

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

The collaborative will complete a feasibility study which aligns and finalizes funding for a Community Center. Discussion with an engineering firm regarding development of a formalized plan will be during this timeframe. Based on the outcome of preliminary activities, renovations of Wayne Industries Facility may begin during this timeframe. By 2021, it is hoped that renovations will be completed for use of the Community Center and that the facility will begin supporting community recreational, social, and educational activities.

## **Strategic Priority #3: Waiting List**

The Darke County Board of DD will reduce the number of individuals in the county waiting for services.

***Initiative (1):*** *Waiver Waiting list is reduced by at least 5% annually (base number 224)*

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will have the following goals and actions as related to the Waiting List and provision of services:

- Complete filling 15 State-funded waivers (SELF/IO); enrollment by WL date/ biennium budget
- Have available at least 1 emergency IO waiver allocated (local funds)
- Identify DC residents on funding waiting list; identify ICF residents on funding waiting list
- Evaluate waiting list in total; needs assessment; priority categories
- Discuss added nursing services; TDD to IO – also 6% rate increase HPC
- Evaluate and address costs of waivers exceeding \$100,000; evaluate shared services
- Evaluate and determine financial impact of new waiver services/caps, etc.

### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- 15 state funded waivers are filled
- 1 emergency waiver funding is in 2017 budget (has been utilized)
- DC Downsize – completed current Waiver enrollments
- ICF Conversion/Exit – completed current Waiver enrollments
- Waiting list needs were evaluated in full to determine ‘immediate’ or ‘current’ needs (48); new waiting list rule will impact approach and numbers
- Additional costs for nursing services and 6% rate increases were included in the 2017 budget and are being monitored
- Individual Waiver funding over \$100,00 continues to be evaluated regarding the potential for additional natural supports / shared services to decrease level of funding needed

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

- Have available at least 1 emergency IO waiver allocated annually (local funds)
- Evaluate funding needs through Level 1, SELF, IO waiver funding streams; evaluate shared services
- Monitor DC downsize / ICF conversion numbers and plans
- Monitor match requirements; identify resources to address needs of individuals on waiting list

## **Strategic Priority #4: Increase Number of People in Community Employment**

The Darke County Board of DD will increase the number of individuals of working age engaged in community employment.

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will continue development of post-secondary options for education and employment. Darke DD will also continue to collaborate with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities through the Employment Partnership and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). Implementation of the employment navigation function by Darke DD will be evaluated regarding its impact on increasing community employment.

### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- At point of project Transformation (2014-15) 22 individuals community employed
- January 2016 – 45 individuals community employed
- March 2017 – 53 individuals community employed; Darke DD currently has 37% of adults served in integrated employment services. This is higher than 73 of the 88 counties in Ohio.
- Monthly Darke DD Board reports summarize employment partnerships

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

Darke DD will continue strategies for increasing community employment by continuing partnerships with OOD/BVR and continued provision of employment navigation.

## **Strategic Priority #5: Recruit Sufficient Qualified Providers**

Darke DD will take measures to recruit sufficient providers of services to meet the needs of people receiving services in the county.

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will evaluate the capacity of adult day services (community integrated), employment services, transportation services, and other 'niche' services providers who are willing to serve people living in Darke County. Darke DD will contact providers when it is determined that additional providers are needed in the community. Individual and family surveys will be included as a significant piece of the evaluation of service needs.

### **Progress Report – June 2017 (copied from Strategic Priority #2 Initiative #2)**

- REMOhio – employment related supports started end of 2016/beginning 2017 w/Darke County location
- Communication with Dependable Community Living regarding meeting to discuss continued NMT & new HPC services in Darke County (April 2017)
- Contact with Lel Home Services LLC (Indiana) regarding potential for services provided in Darke County (April 2017)
- WestCON collaboration regarding a regional approach to building provider capacity, addressing provider training needs, certification needs; exploring the hiring of a 'Provider Support Specialist' to coordinate building provider capacity building efforts (March/April 2017)
- A draft survey has been developed that includes questions about provider satisfaction (draft April 2017; results will be a part of the 2018 Annual Action/Strategic Plan)

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

Darke DD will continue to evaluate infrastructure needs regarding the need for additional service providers. Tracking of need will be monitored on an ongoing basis including the person-centered planning process. Monthly Darke DD Board reports will include summary information regarding provider capacity and needed expansion.



## **Strategic Priority #6:**

Meet with independent providers within 60 days of selection.

### **2017 – Annual Action Plan**

Darke DD will meet with independent providers within 60 days of the provider being selected to provide services.

### **Progress Report – June 2017**

- No new independent providers have been selected in 2017

### **2018 through 2021 – Strategic Plan**

Darke DD will meet with independent providers within 60 days of the provider being selected to provide services.

**DARKE COUNTY BOARD OF DD**

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Michael Beasecker

**EARLY INTERVENTION  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**LEAD E.I. SPECIALIST**  
Leslie Zimmers

**E.I. SPECIALIST  
ASSISTANT**  
Jodi Mikesell

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Tonya Clark

**SUPERINTENDENT'S SECRETARY  
ACCOUNT CLERK**  
D'Ann Hunt

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST**  
Eric Lee

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
Joseph Badell

**SERVICE SUPPORT  
ADMINISTRATORS**

**ADULT SSA's**  
Charlie Armacost  
Jonathan Connor  
Kari Hart  
Louie Masso-Rivetti  
Angela Perkins  
Elly Puthoff  
Jack Rivetti  
Vacant Position (If Needed)

**CHILDREN'S SSA's**  
Elizabeth Jennings  
Daniele Kaffenberger

**BEHAVIOR SUPPORT  
MUI / ELIGIBILITY**  
Janet Rhoades

**DATA TRACKING /  
SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
Tina Colby - .50 FTE

**CUSTODIAL**  
Patrick Clopp  
Jim Grewe – Part Time

**COMMUNITY FIRST DIRECTOR**  
Rodney Willis

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS  
COORDINATOR**  
Sue Huston

**EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR**  
Tamala Marley – Adults

**EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR**  
Brandi Olberding – Youth

**RESOURCE COORDINATOR**  
Cheryl Pressly

**ADVOCACY AND  
RECREATION COORDINATOR**  
Mary Baker

**DATA TRACKING /  
SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
Tina Colby - .50 FTE

02/2017