

2023

Annual Plan



Geauga DD

Metzenbaum Center

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Metzenbaum Center

Mission

Helping people Live, Learn, and Earn in our community.

Vision

Building a caring community where individuals of all ages are Integrated, Accepted, and Achieving their full potential in:

Community Life

- Shopping
- Housing
- Enjoying Recreation
- Giving Back

Education

- Learning with Peers
- Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities
- Successfully Transitioning to Adulthood

Employment

- Working with Public
- Earning Minimum Wage or More
- Choosing an Occupation



Working with
the Public



Overview of Annual Plan

The Geauga County Board of DD (Board) serves approximately 1,000 clients each year. These services cover all ages from birth to the end of life. The services consist of therapies and supports for children from birth to age three, supports for students in school, employment supports and day programming for adults, and residential care for those who can no longer live in their family home.

The overall goal of the Board is to help our clients integrate into the community as much as possible. The Board's Mission and Vision guide our path forward. The services are designed to help make those visions a reality as much as possible for our clients. Most services are provided in collaboration with our partner agencies.

With the workforce shortage continuing to affect our partner agencies, the Board realizes that 2023 will be a tough year to make many improvements to the system. The priority for the board will focus on strengthening our relationships with our partner agencies, our clients, and the families we serve. Our primary goal during these necessary adjustments will be to maintain the health and safety of our clients. Although providing new services during the worker shortage will be limited, we will be focusing on supporting school-age clients and their families by adding an additional staff member to help coordinate services.

As the resources available to the Board are limited, the services offered must be balanced with the long-range fiscal stability of the Board. This plan outlines how the Board intends to balance the needs with the resources available in 2023.



**Learning with
Peers**



ANNUAL PLAN 2023

Priorities

During the Annual Planning Retreat, the 2022 Goals, the 2025 Vision Paper, and the imminent needs of the DD system were reviewed. The following areas of concern were discussed as being the primary focus for 2023:

- Addressing the lack of a board employee to coordinate services with families during the school-age stage of life.
- Expanding the succession plan to include the Fiscal Coordinator, Investigative Agent, and Provider Compliance positions.
- Exploring more options for collaborating with Geauga Transit to meet the transportation needs of the clients.
- Reiterating to staff the importance of customer service via a set of training sessions.
- Creating a provider portal that can be used to help with training and increasing the choice of provider options.



Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities

Enjoying Recreation



Service Provision for 2023

For 2023, the Board intends to continue to offer a wide range of services through our local partnerships with private providers and other entities. The Board will continue to support increased inclusion and employment of our individuals.

In the area of Early Intervention and Help Me Grow, the Board is the primary provider of services in Geauga County. We will continue to provide services in the child's natural environment as expected by the state. The number of referrals over the last year has increased significantly. We currently are serving the largest number of children in the last decade. We will monitor whether this increase continues to determine staffing levels.

The Board will maintain its partnership with the local school districts to educate students in their least restrictive environment. Our partnership with the local schools will continue to focus on transitioning students to employment whenever possible.

Private providers will provide all the employment, transportation, and adult day programming to our clientele, while we continue to address the fiscal crisis faced by said providers. To that end, our agreements with the various providers will support their efforts to recruit and retain quality staff. We will be making grants available to our partners that promote better use of their staff while maintaining as many services as possible. The Board is open to supporting new ventures that would help reduce the pressure on the private providers.

The primary operations of the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), better known as the Metzenbaum Residences, have transferred to Jewish Family Service Association. For 2023, our census in the ICF begins at 15 individuals. Our goal is to reach a census of 13 individuals in residence. When that census level is reached, the bed licenses will be transferred to JFSA which will complete the transition.

The Board will continue to actively evaluate the current system of services and will make any adjustments to maintain efficiency and effectiveness. The DD system may be impacted by external events, loss of funding, and changes in the law or rule that can not be predicted by the Board.

The priority will always be to continue meaningful services to those individuals currently receiving services prior to funding any new services or serving any new individuals.



Medicaid Waivers

Earning Minimum Wage or More



To date, the Board supports 298 Medicaid waivers – 196 Individual Options, 98 Level One, and 4 SELF waivers. We currently have no one on our waiting list with an immediate need. We will be requesting 5 replacement IO waivers and 6 level one waivers for 2023 to fill vacancies due to individuals moving out of the county, moving into nursing homes, passing away, or otherwise vacated. We will continue monitoring the waiting list for needs that require being transitioned to the immediate need level. If an immediate need arises, the Board will request an additional waiver to address that funding need.

Community Housing



The Board also uses local levy dollars to support 11 individuals with residential services who do not meet Level of Care or are not Medicaid eligible. 45% of the Board's clients fall into the category of not Medicaid eligible or not meeting Level of Care. All day programming and transportation costs for this category of client are covered by local levy funding.

Transferring to Adulthood



Budget

The 2023 Budget below was approved by the Board in September 2022. The GCBDD continues to wisely manage new income from the 2015 levy which will be expected to last until at least 2025. The county board will continue to explore methods to maximize revenues while limiting expenditures.

REVENUE

● Tax Levy	\$13,071,551
● Fees and Services	\$766,000
● Federal Revenue	\$696,000
● State Revenue	\$600,000
● Donations and Other	\$220,000
TOTAL	\$15,353,551

EXPENSE

● Client Services	\$9,400,000
● Salaries	\$3,502,000
● Capital Improvements	\$900,000
● Hospitalization	\$750,000
● Service Contracts	\$660,000
● PERS	\$490,280
● Supplies	\$375,000
● Other	\$325,000
● Equipment	\$200,000
● Travel & Training	\$53,000
● Medicare	\$51,000
● Advertising & Printing	\$40,000
● STRS	\$18,000
● Workers' Compensation	15,000
● Unemployment	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$16,781,280

Revenue Over (Under) Expense **\$(1,427,729)**



REVENUE

EXPENSE



2023 Initiatives

The Board acknowledges the good work and conscientious effort by all the employees and private providers who serve our clients. The central initiatives for 2023 are focused on three primary topics: Creating a School Aged Representative, Continuing Succession Preparation for three positions, Exploring/Creating closer relations with our partners to provide training and service options, and promote improved customer services. These initiatives assume the normal operation of each department will continue without being listed in the 2023 Annual Plan Goals.

2023 Annual Goals

GOAL	RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETION
• Explore Closer Collaborating with Geauga Transit	• Richelle, Rean	• June 2023
• Create a School Age Representative Position	• Megan, Tami, Meredith, Janice	• July 2023
• Complete a Customer Service Initiative	• Admin Team	• September 2023
• Initiate Succession Process for FC and IA/PC	• Rean, Tami, Jeff, Margaret	• October 2023
• Create a Provider Portal for Training and Free Choice of Provider	• Dave, Tami, Sara A., Sara G., Ken, Margaret, Polly	• November 2023





**Geauga County Board
Of Developmental
Disabilities**

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