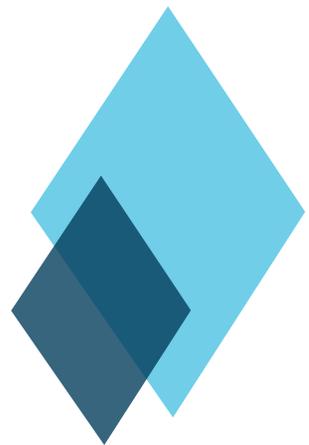


# GEAUGA COUNTY *BOARD OF* DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

*Helping Individuals Live, Learn  
and Earn in Our Community*

## ANNUAL Report 2016





**2015** was a very busy year for the Metzenbaum Center, as new state and federal rules continued to change the Developmental Disabilities system in Ohio. We served a total of 863 individuals with DD in 2015, not including the non-DD individuals who participated as role-models and integration partners.

In 2014, the federal government's Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) officially announced that it is a conflict of interest for Medicaid funded programs to be operated by the same agency that determines an individual's service plan.

In Ohio, county boards of developmental disabilities (CBDD) are the case managers who assess and determine client needs, as well as write service plans. To meet CMS' new requirement, all County Boards of Developmental Disabilities have until 2024 to completely "privatize" their traditional adult and transportation services.

According to new Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD) rules, county boards must become the facilitators and overseers of services. County boards must recruit, train and otherwise support a pool of private companies/agencies and individuals who will directly provide needed services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Pools of providers are required to give individuals free choice of providers for all direct service care. In addition, DODD requires county boards to contribute about 36% of the funding to cover these services. This funding is referred to as Medicaid Match. For Geauga County, the Medicaid match is more than \$3 million and is still growing.

We are currently in the process of finding providers for all of our individuals and working with full-time employees to help them transition to positions outside the Board. So far, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Transition Plan has resulted in more than \$500,000 in annual savings; when completed, it will save an estimated \$1,000,000 annually. These savings will be used to continue to support individuals in need and to those waiting for services.

Overall, we have more than 26 private providers who are partnering with the Metzenbaum Center to make sure that local individuals with developmental disabilities have the resources and supports they need to live, learn and earn in our community. That has always been our goal, and will continue to be the goal in this ever-changing landscape.

With Warm Regards,

*Superintendent Don Rice*





# EMPLOYMENT FIRST

The Employment First program currently has partnerships with five local agencies to provide employment services to Geauga County residents with developmental disabilities: MSI, Inc., Siffrin, Two Foundation, Creative Life & Work Services (CLW) and Kiononia. Over the past year, many strides have been made to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities for gainful employment, including:

- ◆ A collaboration with the Geauga County Education Service Center (ESC) to work with youth transitioning into adulthood. This ensures a smooth transition from school-aged services to adult services, while discussing provider options to assist in community employment.
- ◆ The first Supported Employment Community Training for Independent Providers and Agencies. The training consisted of five training sessions addressing:
  - Effective Documentation Training
  - Self Determination
  - Employment First
  - Crisis Prevention and Intervention
  - Job Coaching and Work Principles for Providers

- ◆ This training gives Agencies and Independent Providers the opportunity to add this service to their current certification through the Department of Developmental Disabilities. We are currently discussing holding additional trainings in the fall.
- ◆ Continued collaboration with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, in accordance to the Employment First Initiative.

Moving forward through the rest of 2016 and into 2017, Employment First will continue to work with the Geauga County ESC and local schools to help assist individuals transition from youth services. A specific focus will be the potential development of a Summer Youth Experience and Community Living Skills programs. As always, there will be a consistent effort to establish new partnerships within the Community Employment effort, as well as collaboration with Service Support Administrators (SSAs) and individuals' support teams to explore where that individual is on their path to community employment, focusing on the services and supports needed to help them accomplish their goals.

# HELP ME GROW/EARLY INTERVENTION

Help Me Grow/Early Intervention has increased its outreach efforts to include a variety of local entities, including:

- ◆ Amish Well Child Clinic and Amish Birthing Center
- ◆ Chagrin Falls Community Center Community Event
- ◆ Heather Hill Health Fair
- ◆ University Hospitals Health and Safety Day
- ◆ DDC Clinic
- ◆ General Health District
- ◆ Local Pediatricians
- ◆ Facebook Page

In addition, Play, Learn and Grow groups have expanded to include:

- ◆ Family Swim Days
- ◆ Middlefield Library
- ◆ Orchard Hills Park and Mel Harder Park
- ◆ Middlefield Splash Park
- ◆ Burton Elementary

- ◆ Additional play groups at the Metzenbaum Center, such as sensory exploration
- ◆ Chagrin Falls Park Community Center

During March, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we held the second annual Night to Shine to honor the children in our programs, helping them showcase what it is that make them unique.

Outreach is a critical piece of the Early Intervention/Help Me Grow programs. Families are able to connect with each other, sharing the services they received at no cost through our programs, helping to ensure that children with developmental disabilities are receiving the services and supports they need prior to transitioning to early childhood services. Earlier in 2016, we were monitored for timely receipt of services. Our program received 100% compliance!



The Early Intervention program continues to take part in the Evidence Based Practice Coaching Model for delivery of services. Our team of professionals provides services in the natural environment of the child. Young children tend to thrive when they are familiar with their surroundings and with the people and objects that are important and comfortable to them. For young children with disabilities, these reassuring surroundings are an important part of their early intervention services. Our natural environments philosophy helps children practice new skills while reaping the full benefits of professional intervention services in the comfort of their own home. ◆



## COMMUNITY & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Thus far in 2016, we have received approximately 200 calls requesting some type of provider support or assistance. Of those calls, 34 became new providers and 25 were certification renewals. The remaining calls were for technical assistance and training.

The number of individuals requesting case management services continues to increase. Many of these individuals are looking for help finding a job and transportation services.

Currently, we are trying to work closer with local schools districts to help us identify and reach out to school aged students who might be eligible for DD services. We have expanded our community inclusion outreach by offering a bi weekly dance class, weekly harp and violin lessons, bingo, weekly art classes and an annual art show. All of these activities are open to the public.

We also held our first annual Community Carnival in March. It was an amazing event with over 500 community members in attendance. There were games, face painting, balloon animals, food and lots of prizes. We received many donations and had many wonderful volunteers.

# TRANSPORTATION

In accordance to the CMS ruling, the transportation department at the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is working on completely transitioning transportation operations from the Board by increasing partnerships with private providers. As of June 1, 2016, we have successfully transitioned out of becoming the direct service provider of transportation.

We are working with several private providers to provide these services, including Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries, Services for Independent Living and Our Lady of the Wayside. More partnerships are currently being formed to provide a wider choice of providers for individuals to choose from.

## INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY (ICF)



The goal of the Intermediate Care Facility is to provide a safe environment where local individuals with developmental disabilities can be healthy, independent, self-determined and enjoy a greater quality of life. This is done by offering permanent housing options to individuals, while ensuring that all medical and personal needs are cared for.



Over the last couple of years, many changes have been made to the ICF. This includes renovating four houses, downsizing to 25 individuals and continuing efforts to ensure compliance with new state and federal mandates. Currently, we are serving 25 individuals ranging in ages from 24-71, each with their own bedroom and bathroom. This allows them to have privacy when they desire and be social with others living

in the same home.

Going into the next year, we have a renewed focus on community outings and inclusion with the community. The goal of the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to help individuals live, learn and earn in the community, as well as hosting outings that integrate the individuals we serve with the general public. We have enjoyed many outings that have brought the community together in 2016 including a Family Fun Day and a carnival, and we look forward to providing similar opportunities over the course of the next year.

# RECREATION



The recreation opportunities made available through the Metzenbaum Center offer local individuals with developmental disabilities the chance to pursue their recreational interests, from Special Olympics to dance lessons.

Among the programs offered this past year, we were able to include unified golf, softball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, basketball, track and field, bowling and roller skating. We participate in local, sectional, regional and state tournaments, competing against other similar teams.

Community integration is a primary focus for the recreation program, and we have accomplished a lot of integration through the Aktion Club! An Aktion Club is a community service group for individuals living with disabilities. The “K” in Aktion stands for the Kiwanis, our sponsoring organization. The Aktion Club provides adult citizens an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership, to serve their community and to demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities.

This year, the Aktion Club:

- Helped Job and Family services fill backpacks with items for children who are in alternative living situations
- Organized the Women Safe Easter Egg Hunt
- Organized a pancake breakfast

- Organized a bake sale at a concert in the park in Chesterland
- Organized a food drive for families in Geauga County during the holiday season

Swimming in the Metzenbaum pool is offered to individuals both currently served at the Metzenbaum Center, as well as those served by local private providers. Pool usage is also provided for senior citizen water aerobics classes from the West Geauga Senior Center.

A big part of recreation is the music therapy program, with Movin’ with Music offered to children who are 18 months to three years old and Preschool Music all preschoolers served by the Educational Services Center of Geauga County.

We also schedule a variety of dances for special occasions and day and overnight field trips to local attractions, including Recreation Unlimited, Punderson Camp and Fieldstone Farms for horseback riding.

Moving into next year, we will continue to focus on providing a variety of recreational opportunities, while continuing to increase community integration among our programs.

# FINANCES

Revenues	\$	%
County Property Taxes	9,520,952	56%
Federal Funds	3,029,274	18%
Service Contracts and Other	2,053,861	12%
Ohio Department of Education	1,948,405	11%
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities	584,235	3%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17,136,727</b>	<b>100%</b>
Transfers Between Funds	3,410,000	
<b>AUDITOR TOTAL</b>	<b>20,546,727</b>	

Expenses	\$	%
Community and Residential Support Services	9,746,835	51%
Adult Services	2,738,744	14%
Children Services	2,586,867	14%
Building Services	1,654,693	9%
Administration	1,368,749	7%
Transportation	902,679	5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18,998,567</b>	<b>100%</b>
Transfers Between Funds	3,410,000	
<b>AUDITOR TOTAL</b>	<b>22,408,567</b>	

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