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# ANNUAL **REPORT**



# 2018

Over the last year, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) has been working hard to increase opportunities and support for all individuals in our community. We are proud to announce a variety of accomplishments that have helped us meet, and surpass, our goals for the year.

We have increased the use of the Metzenbaum Center by renting out five classroom spaces to the Cuyahoga Educational Services Center (ESC) and workshop space to Filamint Inc., a company which employs several of our individuals. Additionally, senior citizens have been able to enjoy the Metzenbaum Center for Pickleball games and Water Aerobics classes.

Community employment was one of the main focuses of the GCBDD throughout the year and we are proud to share that more than 120 of our individuals are employed at minimum wage or higher positions. We were able to accomplish this goal with the help of community sponsors, partner agencies, and the expansion of transportation access to individuals with developmental disabilities.

In 2017, we found an increased need for residential support and adjusted accordingly in order to ensure that those we serve have the support they need. We now have more than 200 individuals receiving support 24/7 with a greater use of fostering arrangements, more private landlord situations, and an increase in apartment living.

I am incredibly proud of the work we have done this year to expand access to employment opportunities, transportation, and residential accommodations for individuals with developmental disabilities. It is the Board's overarching goal to ensure the individuals we serve have the support they need to live, learn and earn in the community. I am grateful for the tireless work of GCBDD's staff and look forward to what the next year has to offer.

With Warm Regards,

**Don Rice**

*Superintendent, Don Rice*

# Employment First

Employment is a goal for many adults, including those with developmental disabilities. Community employment can bring benefits including greater independence, financial and social skills, improved self-esteem and personal satisfaction. Employment does not have to mean 40 hours a week—every individual has different interests, skills and abilities.

With this in mind, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) is determined to support and enhance the lives of adults with special needs through its Employment Programs. Employment First is a process that leads to individual community employment outcomes for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Within the program, the offered services range from direct care-giving to helping find community employment.

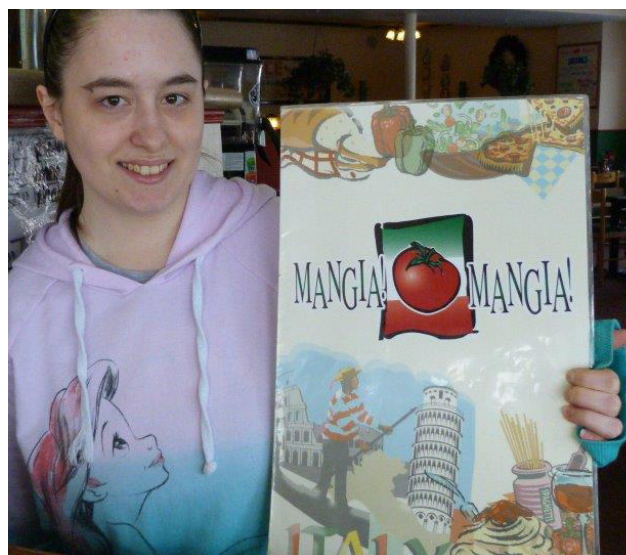
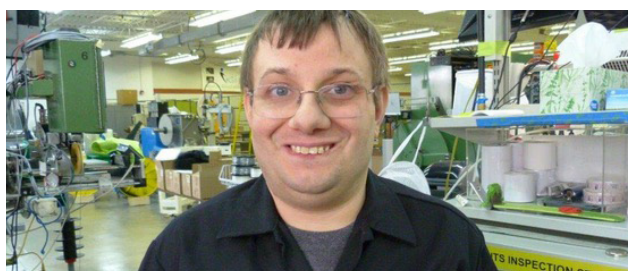
This past year, the Employment First program was able to serve 464 total individuals, of which 117 individuals are employed. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) gives GCBDD funds annually, which are federal dollars. This year, the Board will be using the money to enhance curriculum for transitioning more students into the work place.

In partnership with the Geauga Educational Service Center, these services will be provided by Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio to students identified by the districts.

Gauga County is one of nine counties across Ohio chosen to participate in the state-wide Team Multi-Agency Planning (MAP) to Employment. Gauga's team is called Gauga Multi-Agency Transition Team (MATT). This is a new, two-year commitment to extend and sustain multi-agency planning practices in local areas. The core team includes one representative from GCBDD, ODE and the organization Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Our first project this year, an Enhanced Summary of Performance, was a great success. The purpose of the project is to close the gap between entities working together to assist students in transition. Furthermore, the project hopes to create a smoother transition process year to year as students' progress through school services.

Beyond the scope of Employment First's many achievements, we look forward to seeing this and other Team MATT projects come to fruition!





# Early Intervention

Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities.

This past year, many exciting changes have occurred in the Metzenbaum Center's Early Intervention Program. Not only did the EI program reach 100% compliance for providing timely services to families, but it also achieved an 100% compliance rating on its State Accreditation Review! Since Accreditation Reviews are conducted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to ensure that our county board is meeting the required standards, this 100% rating is a huge accomplishment for the EI program.

Another positive change to the EI Program was the introduction of a new state-wide website for families seeking referral services and information. Prior to 2017, families received referrals locally. Now, there is one centralized call center for the whole state of Ohio that makes referrals to individual counties. To receive a referral or learn about local EI opportunities, families can either call the central number or visit the EI website at [www.ohioearlyintervention.org](http://www.ohioearlyintervention.org).

In August of 2017, a new system of payment rule was implemented to simplify funding applications for families. All of our staff members attended training and support meetings with DODD staff in an effort to learn more about the changes. The new rule will impact all families' ability to pay for Early Intervention services—potentially allowing for up to 55 units of services to be covered by the DODD if the service cannot be delivered at the local level. Hopefully, this new rule will streamline each family's ability to apply for and receive funding for any service they may need.

Additionally, we have been awaiting the revision of all Early Intervention rules by the DODD, since the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) no longer oversees EI Service Coordinators. We anticipate the new rules to be implemented by January 2019. In the meantime, we will continue to follow the ODH's Help Me Grow Program rules, which outline the parameters of Early Intervention services.

The EI Program is excited to have a new regional consultant, Karen Kincaid, assigned to the Metzenbaum Center. Already, Karen has come to Geauga for site visits, provided technical assistance to support staff, offered feedback on the quality of case note documentation and reviewed records for accuracy. We are happy to have Karen on board so that we can continue to improve as a staff and provide the best services for the families we serve.

At the local level, we continue to host various events that raise awareness about the services the EI program offers. We have partnered with our local libraries to offer free child development screening days, and we have also offered activities through our Play, Learn and Grow groups at the Metzenbaum Center and in the community. So far, we have about 60 children in the Play, Learn and Grow groups, including typical children as well as children with disabilities and delays. These group activities have proven to be an excellent way for families to connect with each other—so be sure to check out the group's Facebook page for upcoming events!

The Early Intervention Program currently serves over 100 children every year with disabilities and delays. We look forward to continuing our services and programs, and we hope that these new changes have a positive, lasting impact on each family that the program serves.



# Community & Residential Services



Within Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD)'s Community & Residential Services, one of the largest services the board provides is Case Management.

Approximately 700 individuals and families receive support through Service and Support Administrators or Early Intervention case managers (formally known as Help Me Group Service Coordinators). Some of these supports include linking individuals and families to community resources like personal care, respite, housing, employment, and transportation services. We currently have over 200 individuals receiving residential supports in our community in a variety of settings. We work with over 125 private providers, both agency and independent, to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities

in terms of case management and community or residential services.

Our Case Management services range from assistance with daily care, supervision, and respite to helping individuals find and maintain jobs in the community and setting up transportation to get to those jobs. We also support providers in receiving and maintaining their certifications through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This past year, we received over 300 calls related to provider certification, and we are pleased to announce that 36 new providers in Geauga received their certification in 2017.

Also this year, we held our third annual Carnival for Developmental Disabilities month in March. It was an amazing event with over 530 people from the community in attendance. There were games, face painting, balloon animals, food, and lots of prizes. We also had approximately 100 volunteers, with many of them from local churches and community groups. This is a free annual community event to raise awareness about developmental disabilities in Geauga County, and we are already looking forward to next year!

- ✓ Bingo – second Saturday of every month – average 40-50 people
- ✓ Cooking Class – second Tuesday of every month – 16 people (individuals with DD only)
- ✓ Art Class – every Wednesday – average 15-20 people
- ✓ Movie Nights – five times per year – average 50-60 people
- ✓ Dance Class – four classes per week – average 15-20 dancers – four performances per year – average attendance 50-60 people

- ✓ Pioneer Waterland – second annual – 275 people
- ✓ Internet Safety Class – 10-15 people
- ✓ Babysitting Course – 10-12 people
- ✓ Sports Unlimited with Rotary – 40 people
- ✓ CPR Class – 16 people
- ✓ Loose Ends or Legacy – 25 people



# Transportation

GCBDD coordinates transportation services with private providers so that individuals are able to participate in day programs and work in the community. GCBDD is currently working with seven private providers to transport individuals to community jobs. The Board created a bonus structure to encourage private providers to start doing transportation. In return, there are more choices for the individuals to choose from. GCBDD is still looking for providers or natural supports to transport individuals to community employment locations in and around Geauga County.



# Recreation

The recreation opportunities made available through the Metzenbaum Center offer individuals with developmental disabilities the chance to pursue their recreational interests. Individuals are able to enjoy many different activities throughout the year, such as Special Olympics, dances, and dinner clubs. In addition, we have a service organization, the Aktion Club, which helps others in the community.

Recreation - **310** people

Pool - **75** people

Music - **219** people

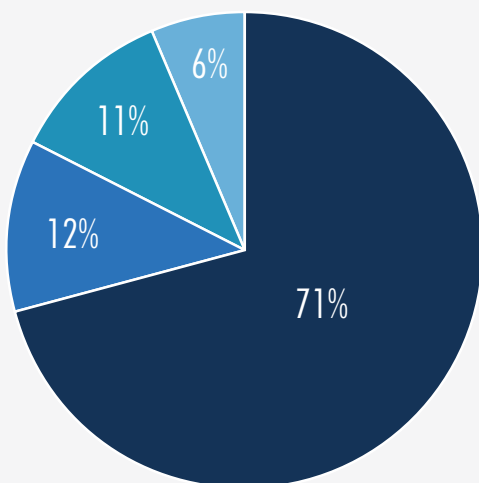
Pickleball - **20** people

# Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

The goal of our program is to provide needed care to the individuals we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion, and improved quality of life. The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) currently serves 21 individuals ranging in ages from 25-73. In 2017 we continued following the Federal and State rules regarding the downsizing of the ICF. We are completing this by not filling vacancies as they occur.

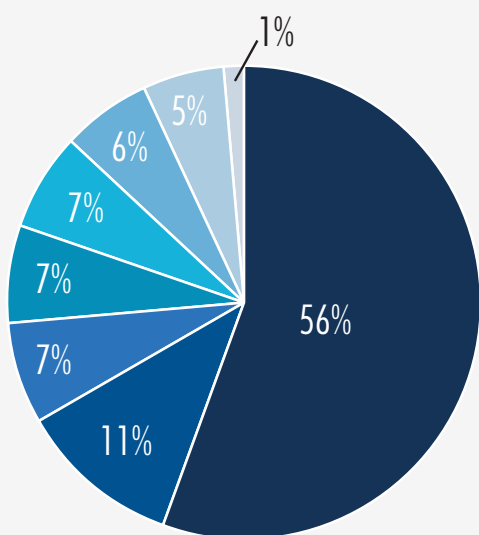


# Finances



## REVENUES

- Local Levy, \$12,861,954 - 71%
- Federal Funds, \$2,095,775 - 12%
- State Funds, \$2,023,478 - 11%
- Other Local, \$1,141,142 - 6%



## EXPENSES

- Residential, \$9,365,008 - 56%
- Children's Programs, \$1,864,506 - 11%
- Adult Services, \$1,177,488 - 7%
- Buildings and Grounds, \$1,127,152 - 7%
- Case Management, \$1,121,688 - 7%
- Administration, \$1,037,414 - 6%
- Transportation, \$925,349 - 5%
- Recreation/Special, \$202,895 - 1%

For more details, please see the full annual report at [www.GeaugaDD.org](http://www.GeaugaDD.org).



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