



Finding
Developmental
Disabilities
Services
for Your
Loved One:

**Help in
Navigating
Ohio's Maze**



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DevelopmentalDisabilitiesGuide.com

Prologue

As professionals working for decades with people who have developmental disabilities in the state of Ohio, we began talking about how difficult and confusing the different parts of our system are. If we have a hard time figuring it all out, how is a parent or loved one supposed to know where to begin?

It was this conversation that led us to write this booklet for parents and other relatives of children and adults with disabilities. We hope it will give you some guidance and help you find your way through the maze of systems and services, with one overall goal in mind: opening the doors to the best education, training, and supports possible to allow your loved one to live a meaningful and happy life.

You are your child's best advocate. Keep asking questions and knocking on doors until you get answers you need.

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Acronyms Guide

One of the things you will notice very quickly about the system is the use (and overuse) of acronyms, which makes navigation through the maze even tougher. We have made a list of some of the most common ones here for your reference.

BCMh: Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps, also through the Ohio Department of Health, is a Health Care program that links children with special needs to a network of providers and also assists families to obtain payment for services that their child needs. This program promotes early identification and treatment of children with disabilities.

CBDD: The County Board of DD is the local governmental agency that administers and oversees local services for individuals, both children and adults, who have a diagnosis of a developmental disability or mental retardation. They are the point of entry into the system, and the first agency you call to get started.

CFHS: Bureau of Child and Family Health Services, also administered through the Ohio Department of Health is an organized community effort to eliminate health care disparities in all families throughout Ohio.

COEDI: Children's Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument. This is part of what will be completed with a child to determine eligibility for services. This tool contains questions about skills from language comprehension and expression to mobility and activities of daily living (ADL).

DD: Developmental Disabilities.

DODD: The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This is the state wide governmental agency that is responsible to oversee services to persons in the system. They write rules and legislation. They handle the licensing of residential homes and the certification of County Boards of DD and private providers. The Director of DODD reports directly to the Governor of Ohio. www.dodd.ohio.gov

FIN: This stands for the Family Information Network of Ohio. It provides a statewide parent network designed to keep family perspectives at the forefront of Ohio's Help Me Grow System.

FSC: The Ohio Family Support Collaborative was established to assist families to functionally access the system of services and supports throughout Ohio.

HMG: The Help Me Grow program is administered by the Ohio Department of Health and offers support to children who are 'at-risk' for a delay, and provides prenatal and newborn home visits. The Help Me Grow program is a voluntary program and consent is required before services are rendered. Some of the major components of HMG are evaluations of developmental milestones, health screenings, procedural safeguards, home

visits, service plan development and review, and other specialized services, such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy, to name a few. Early Intervention (commonly referred to as EI) is a component of HMG. Please note: There are local Help Me Grow intake and referral sites in each Ohio County which assist with the cooperative provision of services to eligible infants and children. www.ohiohelpmegrow.org

HPC: Homemaker/personal care (HPC) means the coordinated provision of a variety of services, supports and supervision necessary for the health and welfare of an individual which enables the individual to live in the community. These are tasks directed at increasing the independence of the individual within his/her home or community. The service includes tasks directed at the individual's immediate environment that are necessitated by his or her physical or mental condition (includes emotional and/or behavioral), and is of a supportive or maintenance type. This service does not include tasks supporting the individual provided through center-based day habilitation. Without this service, alone or in combination with other waiver services, the individual would require institutionalization.

IO Waiver: Individual Options Waiver. This is one of the two different types of waivers for persons with disabilities in the state of Ohio. Waiver services provide certain Ohio citizens the training and support that they need in addition to the Medicaid State Plan services. State Plan services or traditional Medicaid covers things like prescription medication, hospital care, physician visits and other healthcare services, while the Individual Options Waiver covers Homemaker/Personal Care, Home Modifications, Transportation, Respite Care, Social Work, Home-Delivered Meals, Nutrition, Interpreter Services, Specialized Adaptive Equipment/Supplies, Supported Employment, and Day Habilitation. This waiver pays for services on an annual basis and allows individuals to stay in their own home or the family home and receive services in the community instead of in a facility. The annual dollar amount of the waiver is based on peoples' individual needs and what county in the state they live in. The IO Waiver can range from \$5,001 to \$147,454.

ICF/MR: This stands for Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded, and this is a Medicaid service provided in Ohio. These programs provide residential services and they vary greatly in the number of persons served. People that live in an ICF/MR setting tend to have significant medical and/or behavioral needs and require staff services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

IDEA: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, is a federal law which provides financial assistance to states for the purpose of providing educational services to children with disabilities.

IEP: Individualized Educational Plan. If your child is over the age of three (3) through twenty-one (21) years of age and receives specialized services from the school district, they will have an IEP, which describes the

services they are to receive. This plan must be updated at least annually.

IFSP: Individual Family Service Plan. If your child receives early intervention services, you will have this kind of plan that outlines exactly what services your child & family will receive. There will be a transition plan or meet for all individuals and their families, prior to the age of 3, since early intervention services in Ohio end at age 3.

ISP: Individual Service Plan. If your child or loved one receives Waiver or County funding, you will have this kind of a plan that outlines exactly what services they will be receiving.

L1 Waiver: Level One Waiver. This is one of the two different types of waivers for persons with disabilities in the state of Ohio. Waiver services provide certain Ohio citizens the training and support that they need in addition to the Medicaid State Plan services. State Plan services or traditional Medicaid covers things like prescription medication, hospital care, physician visits and other healthcare services, while the Level One Waiver covers items like Homemaker/Personal Care, Respite Care, Transportation Services, Emergency Response Systems, Specialized Medical Equipment and Home Modifications, Emergency Assistance, Supported Employment, and Day Habilitation. This waiver pays for up to \$5,000 per year of services, and allows individuals to stay in their own home or the family home and receive services in the community instead of in a facility.

ODDP: This is the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile, used to determine the funding limits or thresholds that an individual requires and is used throughout the state of Ohio for all IO Waiver services. The ODDP is an assessment tool in which a standardized score is derived, based on the service needs of the individual. The ODDP links the assessment of the individual to a funding range. When completed statewide, the ODDP allows individuals with similar needs to access comparable waiver services throughout Ohio. An Individual Service Plan (ISP) is then developed. The ISP process identifies the actual services needed by the individual, and develops a funding level based on the funding range.

OEDI: Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument. This is an assessment completed with individuals ages 16 and over to determine their eligibility for services. It will ask questions about skills from language comprehension and expression to mobility and economic self-sufficiency.

SSA: Support Services Administrators. These are the county board workers that are assigned to link individuals to the services they need and then to monitor the services delivered to the individual and/or family. Some county boards are set up to have one type of worker for children under 22, and a different type of worker for adults over the age of 22.

Resources

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual disabilities.

Website: www.aamr.org

The Arc of the United States

Works to include all children and adults with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in every community.

Website: www.thearc.org

Brain Injury Association (US)

Nonprofit organization working on behalf of individuals with brain injury and their families.

Website: www.biausa.org

Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (formerly HCFA)

This is the federal agency that partially funds many services for persons of all ages with disabilities. This agency is also responsible for the administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Website: www.cms.hhs.gov

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

This is a national organization whose mission is to assist and advocate for individuals who have ADHD.

Website: www.chadd.org

National Down Syndrome Society

Website: www.ndss.org

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence

OCALI serves as a statewide clearinghouse for information about autism spectrum disorders and low incidence disabilities; responds to individual requests for information; maintains a collection of resources for public distribution; and monitors information on resources, trends, policies, services, and current educational interventions.

Website: www.ocali.org

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

The Ohio Coalition has focused on giving a voice to the parents and families of children dealing with the challenges of disability, and it has worked to promote support for the professionals who work with them. Their website has a wealth of great resources and tools for parents and family members, including a link to pdf. File of all Ohio Service Agencies and Resources. Website: www.ocecd.org

Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services

ODJFS serves as the statewide agency responsible to the federal government (CMS) for administration and oversight of all Medicare and Medicaid Services. This website has a lot of information available regarding Medicaid and Other State Plan benefits for families. Website: www.jfs.oh.gov

Ohio Department of Education/Special Education

This site will provide many resources for education. Website: www.ode.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

This is the state agency that oversees the 88 county boards of DD. The Director of the Department reports to the governor. Website: www.dodd.ohio.gov

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

ODDC is a planning and advocacy body committed to community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. Website: www.ddc.oh.gov

Ohio Legal Rights Service

OLRS is Ohio's protection and advocacy agency for adults and children with disabilities. Website: www.olrs.oh.gov

Ohio Parents Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders

Although this guide is accessed through the OCALI website, the guide is actually applicable for all parents trying to navigate the service delivery system within Ohio. Website: www.ocali.org/family

Ohio Sibs

Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters) an organization dedicated to serving the needs of adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities.

Website: www.ohiosibs.com

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association USA

Website: www.pwsausa.org

Rehabilitation Services Commission

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is the state agency that helps Ohioans with disabilities meet their vocational and employment goals. There are regional offices throughout the state who deliver services through two (2) different bureaus — the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI).

Website: www.state.oh.us/rsc

Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities:

Navigating your way through Ohio's Maze

In the Beginning

Once you receive a diagnosis of a developmental disability for yourself or your loved one, you are entering into a brave (and sometimes frightening) new world of systems, services and supports. There are people out there performing jobs that you may never have known existed; agencies, both public and private; educators, social workers, therapists, nurses, doctors, psychologists...all of whom are here to help. But where do you even start?

Diagnosis & Definitions

Mental retardation is one of the most common of all disabilities. More than twice as many children are born with mental retardation than with all the other physical and mental disabilities combined. It is estimated that in the United States over seven million persons have mental retardation and that over 100,000 new cases occur each year.

As defined, mental retardation refers to a less than average intellectual functioning along with deficiencies in adaptive behavior. These deficiencies are noticed during the developmental period.

Intellectual disability and cognitive disability are synonyms for mental retardation. They are generally considered to be more socially acceptable terms than mental retardation, while still being much more specific than developmental disability, which encompasses every form of disability that relates to growth and development.

Either way, mental retardation or other developmental disabilities are not emotional or psychiatric problems or illnesses. There are many causes of mental retardation or other developmental disabilities. These include metabolic disorders, abnormal chromosomes, infections or substance abuse during pregnancy, brain injury and disease, or complications prior to or at the time of birth. Frequently, several of these causes exist at the same time, making it difficult to isolate a single cause and in the majority of cases the cause is unknown. Mental retardation affects families of every social and economic level. Mental retardation is just one developmental disability.

A developmental disability is defined as a severe, chronic disability that is characterized by all of the following:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments, other than a mental or physical impairment solely caused by mental illness
- Is manifested before the person attains age 22
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in one of the following:
 - a. In the case of a person under age three, at least one developmental delay
 - b. In the case of a person at least age three, but under age six, at least two developmental delays
 - c. In the case of a person age six or older, a substantial functional limitation in at least three of the following areas of major life activity, as appropriate for one's age: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and, if the person is age 16 or older, capacity for economic self-sufficiency
- Causes the person to need a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary, or other type of care, treatment or provision of services for an extended period of time that is individually planned and coordinated for the person
- Developmental disabilities may result from a number of conditions, such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, head injury, epilepsy or autism.

Who do I call first?

Your very first call or communication needs to be to your County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Ohio has 88 counties in all, and 88 county boards. County Boards are funded by local tax, state and federal dollars. They are governmental agencies. When you call, ask to speak to the person who handles "Intake". Many of the counties offer a website, listed here. Check it out for pertinent information.

Adams County Board

3964 Wheat Ridge Road
West Union, Ohio 45693
Phone: (937)544-2574
Fax: (937) 544-2223

Allen County Board

2500 Ada Road
Lima, Ohio 45801
Phone: (419) 221-1385
Fax: (419) 221-1296
Website: www.acbdd.org

Ashland County Board

1256 South Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Phone: (419) 289-0470
Fax: (419) 281-2820

Ashtabula County Board

2505 South Ridge Road East
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
Phone: (440) 224-2155 or 224-2156
Fax: (440) 224-0678

Athens County Board

801 West Union Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
Phone: (740) 594-3539
Fax: (740) 593-3189

Auglaize County Board

20 East First St.
New Bremen, Ohio 43869
Phone: (419) 629-2419
Fax: (419) 629-3806

Belmont County Board

330 Fox Shannon Place
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950
Phone: (740) 695-0233 or 695-0407
Fax: (740) 695-3793
Website: www.bcbdd.org

Brown County Board

9116 Hamer Road
Georgetown, Ohio 45121
Phone: (937) 378-4891
Fax: (937) 378-3585

Butler County Board

155 Donald Drive
Fairfield, Ohio 45014
Phone: (513) 867-5962
Fax: (513) 867-5078
Website: www.butlerdd.org

Carroll County Board

P. O. Box 429
Carrollton, Ohio 44615
Phone: (330) 627-7651
Fax: (330) 627-6606

Champaign County Board

P. O. Box 829
1250 E. Rt. 36
Urbana, Ohio 43078
Phone: (937) 653-5217
Fax: (937) 653-7516
Website: www.champaignmrdd.com

Clark County Board

2527 Kenton Street
Springfield, Ohio 45505
Phone: (937) 328-2675
Fax: (937) 328-4625
Website: www.clarkdd.org

Clermont County Board

P. O. Box 156
4231 Grissom Drive
Batavia, Ohio 45103
Phone: (513) 732-7000
Fax: (513) 732-7006
Website: www.ccmrdd.org

Clinton County Board

4425 State Route 730
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Phone: (937) 382-7519
Fax: (937) 382-6676
Website: www.co.clinton.oh.us/mrdd

Columbiana County Board

7675 State Route 45
Lisbon, Ohio 44432
Phone: (330) 424-7788
Fax: (330) 424-6656

Coshocton County Board

23720 County Road 202
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Phone: (740) 622-2032
Fax: (740) 622-0832
Website: www.coshdd.org

Crawford County Board

1650 East Southern Avenue
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820
Phone: (419) 562-3321
Fax: (419) 562-3176

Cuyahoga County Board

1275 Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: (216) 241-8230
Fax: (216) 861-0253
Website: www.cuyahogabdd.org

Darke County Board

4932 Children's Home Road
Greenville, Ohio 45331
Phone: (937) 548-9057
Fax: (937) 548-8585
Website: www.darkedd.org

Defiance County Board

195 Island Park
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone: (419) 782-6621
Fax: (419) 784-5199

Delaware County Board

106 Stover Drive
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 368-5800
Fax: (740) 368-5809
Website: www.dcbdd.org

Erie County Board

4405 Galloway Road
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Phone: (419) 626-0208
Fax: (419) 621-3961

Fairfield County Board

795 College Avenue
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
Phone: (740) 687-7244
Fax: (740) 687-7250
Website: www.fairfielddd.com

Fayette County Board

1330 Robinson Road
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160
Phone: (740) 335-7453
Fax: (740) 335-2185

Franklin County Board

2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
Phone: (614) 475-6440
Fax: (614) 475-0403
Website: www.fcbdd.org

Fulton County Board

1210 N. Ottokee Street
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
Phone: (419) 337-4575
Fax: (419) 335-3082

Gallia County Board

8323 North State Route 7
Cheshire, Ohio 45620
Phone: (740) 367-7371
Fax: (740) 367-5101

Geauga County Board

8200 Cedar Road
Phone: (440) 729-9406
Fax: (440) 729-0131
Chesterland, Ohio 44026

Greene County Board

245 Valley Road
Xenia, Ohio 45385
Phone: (937) 562-6500
Fax: (937) 427-9511
Website: www.greenedd.org

Guernsey County Board

60770 Southgate Road
Byesville, Ohio 43723-9699
Phone: (740) 439-4451
Fax: (740) 432-7882

Hamilton County Board

1520 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45206
Phone: (513) 559-6714
Fax: (513) 559-6608
Website: www.hamiltonmrdd.com

Hancock County Board

1700 East Sandusky Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840
Phone: (419) 422-6387
Fax: (419) 425-7063
Website: www.blanchardvalley.org

Hardin County Board

705 North Ida Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
Phone: (419) 674-4158
Fax: (419) 675-3274

Harrison County Board

82480 Cadiz-Jewett Road
Cadiz, Ohio 43907
Phone: (740) 942-2158
Fax: (740) 942-9012

Henry County Board

135 E Maumee
Napoleon, Ohio 43545
Phone: (419) 599-2892 ext. 224
Fax: (419) 592-5828

Highland County Board

8919 U.S. 50 East
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133
Phone: (937) 393-4237
Fax: (937) 393-5871

Hocking County Board

P. O. Box 387
Logan, Ohio 43138
Phone: (740) 385-6805
Fax: (740) 385-5594
Website: www.hockingdd.org

Holmes County Board

8001 T.R. 574
Holmesville, Ohio 44633
Phone: (330) 674-8045
Fax: (330) 674-5182

Huron County Board

306 South Norwalk Road, West
Norwalk, Ohio 44857
Phone: (419) 668-8840
Fax: (419) 663-2321
Website: www.hcbdd.org

Jackson County Board

822 Sellers Drive
Jackson, Ohio 45640
Phone: (740) 286-6491
Fax: (740) 286-6657

Jefferson County Board

256 John Scott Highway
Steubenville, Ohio 43952
Phone: (740) 264-7176
Fax: (740) 264-0399
Website: www.jcmrdd.com

Knox County Board

11700 Upper Gilchrist Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
Phone: (740) 397-4656
Fax: (740) 392-5669
Website: www.knoxdd.com

Lake County Board

8121 Deepwood Blvd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060
Phone: (440) 350-5100
Fax: (440) 350-5290
Website: www.lakemrdd.org

Lawrence County Board

604 Carlton Davidson Lane
Coal Grove, Ohio 45638
Phone: (740) 532-7401
Fax: (740) 532-7356

Licking County Board

65 West Church Street
Newark, Ohio 43055
Phone: (740) 349-6588
Fax: (740) 349-6595

Logan County Board

P. O. Box 710, 1851 SR 47 West
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311-0710
Phone: (937) 592-0015
Fax: (937) 592-5615
Website: www.co.logan.oh.us/mrdd

Lorain County Board

1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Phone: (440) 329-3734
Fax: (440) 284-0553
Website: www.loraincountymrdd.org

Lucas County Board

1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
Phone: (419) 380-4000
Fax: (419) 244-9567
Website: www.lucasmrdd.com

Madison County Board

P. O. Box 88 (mailing address)
1423 St. Rt. 38 SE (location)
London, Ohio 43140
Phone: (740) 852-7050
Fax: (740) 852-7051

Mahoning County Board

4791 Woodridge Drive
Austintown, Ohio 44515-4899
Phone: (330) 797-2825
Fax: (330) 797-2843
Website: www.mahoningdd.org

Marion County Board

2387 Harding Highway East
Marion, Ohio 43302
Phone: (740) 387-1035
Fax: (740) 387-1159
Website: www.marioncbmrdd.com

Medina County Board

4691 Windfall Road
Medina, Ohio 44256-8705
Phone: (330) 725-7751
Fax: (330) 722-4854
Website: www.mcbdd.org

Meigs County Board

P. O. Box 307, 1310 Carlton Street
Syracuse, Ohio 45779
Phone: (740) 992-6681
Fax: (740) 992-6438

Mercer County Board

P. O. Box 137, 4980 Mud Pike
Celina, Ohio 45822
Phone: (419) 586-2369
Fax: (419) 586-6375

Miami County Board

1625 Troy-Sidney Road
Troy, Ohio 45373
Phone: (937) 339-8313
Fax: (937) 335-6907
Website: www.riversidedd.org

Monroe County Board

47011 SR 26, P.O. Box 623
Woodsfield, Ohio 43793
Phone: (740) 472-1712
Fax: (740) 472-1684

Montgomery County Board

5450 Salem Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45426-1450
Phone: (937) 837-9200
Fax: (937) 854-0492
Website: www.mcmrdd.org

Morgan County Board

900 S. Riverside Drive NE
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756-9102
Phone: (740) 962-4200
Fax: (740) 962-4435
Website: www.morganmrdd.org

Morrow County Board

406 Bank Street
Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338
Phone: (419) 947-7045
Fax: (419) 947-9102

Muskingum County Board

1304 Newark Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Phone: (740) 453-4829
Fax: (740) 455-4186

Noble County Board

18506 Woodsfield Road
Caldwell, Ohio 43724
Phone: (740) 732-7144
Fax: (740) 732-7361

Ottawa County Board

235 N. Toussaint South Rd
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
Phone: (419) 898-0400
Fax: (419) 898-3004
Website: www.ocbdd.org

Paulding County Board

900 Fairground Drive
Paulding, Ohio 45879-9601
Phone: (419) 399-4800
Fax: (419) 399-4820

Perry County Board

499 N. State Street
New Lexington, Ohio 43764
Phone: (740) 342-3542
Fax: (740) 342-1081

Pickaway County Board

200 E. High St.
Circleville, Ohio 43113
Phone: (740) 477-3353
Fax: (740) 477-6772

Pike County Board

301 Clough Street
Waverly, Ohio 45690
Phone: (740) 947-7502
Fax: (740) 947-2550

Portage County Board

2606 Brady Lake Road
Ravenna, Ohio 44266-1657
Phone: (330) 297-6209
Fax: (330) 297-1202
Website: www.pcbmrdd.org

Preble County Board

201 E. Lexington Road, Suite 1
Eaton, Ohio 45320
Phone: (937) 456-5891
Fax: (937) 456-1760
Website: www.prebledd.org

Putnam County Board

7989 State Route 108
Ottawa, Ohio 45875
Phone: (419) 876-3944
Fax: (419) 876-3945

Richland County Board

314 Cleveland Ave.
Mansfield, Ohio 44902
Website: www.rnewhope.org

Ross County Board

11268 County Road 550
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Phone: (419) 774-4200
Fax: (419) 774-4207
Website: www.rossmrdd.com

Sandusky County Board

1001 Castalia Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420
Phone: (419) 332-9296
Fax: (419) 332-9571
Website: www.scbdd.org/

Scioto County Board

2619 Gallia Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662-4898
Phone: (740) 353-0636
Fax: (740) 353-0780
Website: www.sciotodd.org

Seneca County Board

780 East Seneca County Road 20
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Phone: (419) 447-7521
Fax: (419) 448-5294
Website: www.senecacbmrdd.org

Shelby County Board

1200 South Children's Home Road
Sidney, Ohio 45365-0925
Phone: (937) 497-8155
Fax: (937) 498-4567
Website: www.shelbydd.org

Stark County Board

2950 Whipple Avenue N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708
Phone: (330) 477-5200
Fax: (330) 477-2545
Website: www.starkmrdd.org

Summit County Board

89 East Howe Road
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278-1099
Phone: (330) 634-8000
Fax: (330) 634-8081
Website: www.summitdd.org

Trumbull County Board

45 North Road
Niles, Ohio 44446
Phone: (330) 652-9800
Fax: (330) 505-5528
Website: www.fairhavenpgm.com

Tuscarawas County Board

1260 Monroe St NW PO Box 6190
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Phone: (330) 308-7173
Fax: (330) 602-3323

Union County Board

1280 Charles Lane, P.O. Box 384
Marysville, Ohio 43040-0384
Phone: (937) 645-6733 (DD)
Fax: (937) 642-8427
Website: www.ucbdd.org

Van Wert County Board

813 North Franklin Street,
P. O. Box 604
Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Phone: (419) 238-1514
Fax: (419) 238-4531

Vinton County Board

31835 State Route 93
McArthur, Ohio 45651
Phone: ((740) 596-5515
Fax: (740) 596-5216
Website: www.vintond.com

Warren County Board

410 S. East Street
Lebanon, Ohio 45036-0278
Phone: (513) 695-1652
Fax: (513) 695-2422
Website: www.co.warren.oh.us/mrdd

Washington County Board

1701 Colegate Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750-1331
Phone: (740) 373-3781
Fax: (740) 373-1373
Website: www.wcbdd.org

Wayne County Board

266 Oldman Road
Wooster, Ohio 44691
Phone: (330) 345-6016
Fax: (330) 345-7210
Website: www.waynedd.org

Williams County Board

11246 State Route 15
Montpelier, Ohio 43543
Phone: (419) 485-8331
Fax: (419) 485-5495

Wood County Board

11160 E. Gypsy Lane Road
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Phone: (419) 352-5115
Fax: (419) 354-4376
Website: www.wooddd.org

Wyandot County Board

11028 CH 44
Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351
Phone: (419) 294-4901
Fax: (419) 295-2054
Website: www.angeline.com

What should I expect when I call?

When you call the County Board, expect them to ask lots of questions. Questions will cover the pregnancy/prenatal care and complications, family history, your child's development, and specifically what prompted your call to their agency. You will have a lot of papers to fill out. Remember, they are going to make a determination if your loved one is eligible for services. They will request supporting background information and a statement from your physician. They will ask questions about developmental milestones such as when your child began turning over, talking, walking, etc. You will be talking to a number of different people, and it may seem that you are answering a lot of the same questions. One way to prepare would be to think about some about your child's medical and developmental history prior to making the call, and even write some information down so that you don't have to repeat yourself.

This process can be a little intimidating, it can be long, and it can even be a bit frustrating. Hang in there and don't give up. If your child is found to be eligible, the red tape you just went through will all be worth it.

Ages 0-2

Early Intervention includes services and supports to infants and toddlers who have a developmental delay or disability, and their families. Qualification for Early Intervention Services in the State of Ohio is relatively easy, as your child only needs to have one identified area of developmental delay to be determined eligible for services. Early Intervention is one component of the Help Me Grow system (HMG) described under the acronyms section above.

In addition to serving children with delays and disabilities, the HMG system offers support to children who are 'at-risk' for a delay, and provides prenatal and newborn home visits. Some of the major components of HMG are health screenings, procedural safeguards, home visits, service plan development and review, and other specialized services.

Early Intervention Services are identified for each child and family through the development of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Early Intervention services are provided in the home or Early Childhood Center by County Boards of DD as well as other agencies contracted by the local Help Me Grow program. Such services include child development and family support provided by certified Early Intervention Specialists, service coordination through the local Help Me Grow office, and therapies provided by licensed professional Speech, Physical, and Occupational Therapists.

As a provider to the Help Me Grow system, the focus of Early Intervention Services is to assist the family in meeting the unique needs of their child. For more information about Early Intervention or the Help Me Grow system, contact www.ohiohelpmegrow.org or your local County Board of DD.

Ages 3-6

According to the Ohio Legal Rights Service website, special education services are available for children over the age of three through age 21 who have an IEP. In the State of Ohio, Pre-School or Early Childhood services are not mandated to be provided for children with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities through the DD system, but through the Ohio Department of Education (education services are described in more detail later on in this booklet).. Many local County Boards of DD do provide these services, and/or have contract arrangements with school districts and other state agencies to provide this opportunity for children in this age group. For more information on these services, contact your local County Board of DD.

Ages 6-15

Children in this age range will have an assessment known as the COEDI (Children's Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument). It will ask questions about skills from language comprehension and expression to mobility. This assessment will help determine if an individual is eligible to receive DD services. The COEDI is the tool utilized by the local County Board of DD to determine eligibility for services; while the IEP is the tool used to determine eligibility for services through the school system. Since these are 2 separate assessment tools, a child can be determined eligible for services and have an IEP, but not be eligible for County Board of DD services when the COEDI instrument is completed.

In addition, it is federally mandated that school-age children with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities are served through the local public school system, allowing them to have the same opportunity for education as children without DD. The public school system is generally supported by groups of services provided in cooperation with the local County Board of DD, as well as other related agencies, to provide the most effective learning situation possible for each child. The availability of these opportunities is dependent upon the funding available in each community, through support of local levies and other funding.

Ages 16 +

Persons in this age range will have an assessment that is called the OEDI (Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument). It will ask questions about skills from language comprehension and expression to economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the IEP will determine the educational needs and plan of services for the educational services for your loved one.

Know Your Rights!

If you are in disagreement with the outcome of any of these assessments, at any time, the County Board or Local School District must make you aware of your appeal rights. Some of these rights require written responses, so make certain that you fully understand what is required.

The Ohio Department of DD also has a family advisory council that can prove to be an excellent resource. They can help guide you through the maze of services. The contact person for the Family Advisory Council is Peggy Martin. She may be reached via email at peggy.martin@dmr.state.oh.us; by phone at (614) 466-8706, or by writing to her at DODD, Division of Constituent Services, 30 East Broad Street., Columbus, OH 43215-3434.

Now we are linked to services...what are the services?

After eligibility is determined, a person is assigned to a Support Services Administrator (SSA). This person is a county board employee, and serves to link you to any and all of the services that may be available. While most SSAs are knowledgeable about the programs and services in their counties, their caseloads are often very large. In some of the larger counties in the state, there are sometimes more options out there than any one person can know about. It pays to educate yourself as much as possible as to what is out there. It pays to ask questions, and it pays to talk to other families.

WAIVER

One of the programs that will be described to you by your SSA will be Ohio's waiver system. Waiver services provide certain Ohio citizens the training and support that they need in addition to the Medicaid State Plan services (things like prescription medication, hospital care, physician visits and other healthcare services). Currently there are two waivers for persons with DD in Ohio, the Level One waiver and the Individual Options (IO) waiver. These waivers allow a limited number of people who meet certain conditions to stay in their own homes (or the family home) and receive services there and in the community instead of living in a facility (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded, or ICF/MR). For more information on ICF/MR services, please see the definitions page. Both waivers provide the same services, described here, but the Level One waiver has a lower annual limit.

To receive waiver services, an individual must be eligible for Medicaid, have a developmental disability, and have a limitation in one or more of the major life activities such as self care, learning, mobility, self-direction and capacity to live alone. Your SSA will help you apply for Medicaid and complete the necessary paperwork for the waiver. This can be done after you are found to be eligible for services. Even if you are told that the waiting list is long, you need to get on that waiting list immediately! Your SSA can do that for you.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT WAITING LISTS

Unfortunately, needing the service and immediately getting the service in most counties is not one and the same. And it is also true that your loved one may not need the service right now. Regardless of these facts, it is important to get on the list as soon as possible. Do not let the county board put you on the Long Term Service Planning Registry. It is not a waiting list, and you will not be automatically transferred to the waiting list.

There are a few situations that will move individuals to a higher place on the list. These are defined as Emergencies and Priorities. An Emergency is a situation that creates for a risk of substantial self harm or harm to others if action is not taken in 30 days. An emergency may include one or more of the following:

- Loss of present residence for any reason
- Loss of present caretaker for any reason
- Abuse, neglect or exploitation of the individual
- Health & safety conditions that pose a serious risk to the individual or others of immediate harm or death
- Change in emotional or physical condition of the individual that necessitates substantial accommodation that cannot be reasonably provided by the individual's existing caretaker.

A Priority situation exists for persons who meet the following criteria:

- Does not currently receive residential services or supported living and they will need such services and has a primary caregiver who is sixty years of age or older
- Is less than 22 years of age and has at least one of the following service needs that are unusual in scope or intensity: Severe behavior problems, an emotional disorder for which anti-psychotic medication is needed, a medical condition that leaves the individual dependent on life support medical technology, condition that affects multiple body systems (medical, psychological, educational, habilitation) and needs intensive supports

Being assigned a priority status simply means that you jump ahead of individuals who do not meet this status. The funding must still be available in order for you to receive services.

If you move from one county to another, you will not lose your place in line! You will simply need to contact the new county board. The date that you were originally placed on the waiting list will be the date used on the new county's list.

The county board is required to inform you on an annual basis where you are on the waiting list. But you can call and ask for an update at any time. It is advisable to do this regularly; every 6 months or so.

BACK TO WAIVER SERVICES

When your waiver becomes available, it can provide many of the supports necessary for success at home and success at work. As mentioned before, there are different levels of funding for the waiver. Your level of funding is determined by an assessment that is filled out by the county board SSA. If you are in disagreement with the outcome of the assessment and the funding level, you do have appeal rights that the county board must make known to you. So ask about them! Here's what the waiver pays for:

Adult Day Services

This is an option for individuals who are finished with school, but do not wish to, or are unable to work. More about this service will be described later.

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations

This service includes changes to the individual's home that help him/her be more independent such as widening doorways, building wheelchair ramps into the home, making bathrooms/kitchens handicap accessible, and installing special electric or plumbing changes needed to operate medical equipment. There are financial caps on this service.

Home Delivered Meals

Preparation and delivery of up to two meals per day, seven days per week for individuals who are unable to make their own meals or get healthy meals for themselves in some other way.

Homemaker/Personal Care

Services are provided to increase independence in the community and include things such as:

- Basic personal care and grooming like bathing, hair care and dressing
- Bathroom assistance
- Help with household chores
- Help with taking medications and going to medical appointments
- Help with shopping and menu planning
- Help with personal finances such as banking, bill paying and account reconciliation
- Cooking with the individual
- Assistance with the maintenance of all benefits

Interpreter Service

Transportation to Vocational Programs

Nutrition Services

A nutritionist provides direction to individuals who are at risk because they are not eating the right foods to stay healthy.

Respite Care

Services are provided to individuals for a short period of time in a home licensed by the Ohio Department of DD in order to give the persons who care for them a break.

Social Work/Counseling

Professional help is provided to assist individuals and their families to solve problems and gain social skills that will help the individual live a better life in the community.

Specialized Adaptive or Assistive Equipment and Supplies

This pays for items that are not paid for through the Medicaid State Plan.

Supported Employment - Community

This service provides job coaches, supervision and training to help individuals find and keep competitive jobs in the community, working side by side with those who do not have disabilities. More about this service will be described later.

Supported Employment - Enclave

This service provides job coaches, supervision and training to help individuals who work as a team to find and keep paying jobs at one or more work sites of "host" community business. More about this service will be described later.

Supported Employment - Adaptive Equipment

Payment can be made to modify equipment that will be owned by an individual who is receiving Supported Employment that the individual needs to get or keep a job. More about this service will be described later.

Vocational Habilitation

Day services help an individual who has completed school to learn skills related to work. More about this service will be described later.

OTHER COUNTY BOARD SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Some counties offer other services that are funded locally, and not funded through the waiver, but are very similar to the services listed above. Make sure to ask about the availability of such programs and services. You may be able to get these services while waiting for your name to come up on the waiver list.

EDUCATIONAL

The Ohio Department of Education has an excellent parent resource called, *Whose IDEA is This?* This booklet should be provided to you on an annual basis by your school district. If you have not received it, ask for it! Or get a copy on www.ode.state.oh.us.

Education ages 0-14

As mentioned earlier, there are educational services for children with disabilities, dependent upon their age. Your school district of residence is responsible to provide an education for your child at no cost to you. Some of the programs are strictly for children with disabilities (DD programs) and some are programs that are integrated into the public school system.

Once your child reaches age 3, he or she will have what's called an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP spells out exactly what services your child is to receive and how often. The plan is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting that will include you and the education team. The team must include minimally:

- A parent
- A regular education teacher (if applicable)
- A special education teacher
- A representative of the school district

The school district is responsible to make certain that a parent is present by providing sufficient notice of the meeting time and place. If you feel that another person should be added to the team and it will benefit your child, ask that they be added. As a parent, you must receive an updated copy of the plan within 30 days.

The plan includes annual goals, including academic and functional goals and benchmarks or short term objectives that will meet each of the child's other educational needs that result from the child's disability. It also addresses making progress in the general education curriculum and participating in extracurricular activities. The plan will address needs for therapies, including speech, occupational and physical, along with any nursing and/or dietary needs.

If you feel that your child requires therapy, you can ask that an assessment for that particular therapy be completed. The school district must then comply with the recommendations from the assessment.

Education ages 14-22

Education according to the IEP will continue through these years, with one very important component added: Transition Planning. It is at this point that the team begins to think about future plans. Will the student hold a competitive job to support himself/herself in the community? What vocational skills should the student be working on in order to work in the community? If the individual will not be able to hold a competitive job in the community, what other options are available?

For each child with a disability, beginning at age fourteen (or younger, if determined appropriate by the IEP team), the IEP shall include a statement, updated annually, of the transition service needs of the child under the applicable components of the child's IEP that focuses on the child's courses of study (such as participation in advanced-placement courses or a vocational education program).

Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns sixteen, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team, and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include:

- Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and
- The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.
- Transfer of rights at age of majority. Children in special education can stay in school until the age of 22.

Beginning not later than one year before the child reaches eighteen years of age, which is the age of majority under Ohio law, the IEP must include a statement that the child has been informed of the child's rights that will transfer to the child on reaching the age of majority.

During this important time period, students can have the opportunity to accomplish work study, try volunteer work, work in an "enclave" setting, or obtain gainful employment with the help of a job coach. This is a very important time for you to begin asking "What's next?"

VOCATIONAL

Historically, after graduating from high school, students in special education had very few options. They either found a job in the community, or they worked at a sheltered workshop, run by a county board of DD. Thanks to a change in funding, the waiver now pays for wider variety of vocational options. Perhaps the most significant change in the funding is the fact that private providers can now perform these services, and many experienced private providers have opened the door to truly innovative programs. Because all of the options themselves can be overwhelming and confusing, we have listed the general options, and have also included a list of questions to ask of any new program that you check out.

Your county board SSA and the school system's transition coordinator should provide you with a list of all of the programs in your area. If you don't get this list, or are only told of county board run programs, you need to ask for it! Then set up some time to visit the programs that sound promising. Visit programs at times when activities are in full swing. You can also choose more than one option; you may choose to work 3 days a week and do leisure activities 2 days per week for example.

If an individual does not have a waiver, your options may be more limited. Some programs have contract agreements with county boards to provide services to persons not on the waiver. If you find yourself in this situation, ask about it!

Adult Day Services

These programs are generally geared toward recreation and leisure activities. They are designed for people who are unable or unwilling to work.

Vocational Habilitation

These programs are designed for people who are interested in working, but need to improve their work skills. Some programs offer volunteer opportunities or even paid work under special minimum wage certificates. Sheltered workshops run by county boards fall into this category.

Supported Employment- Enclave

This program offers a job coach and a team of persons with disabilities who perform work at companies in the community. Examples include light manufacturing, cleaning and even document shredding.

Supported Employment- Community

This program offers a one on one job coach who assists a person in finding and keeping a job in the community. The job coach will assist with hands on training, and will fade over time.

Transportation

Many vocational providers also provide transportation services that are covered under the waiver.

The following page lists several questions that you should consider when choosing a vocational/day program.

When Seeking A Vocational Program, Ask These Questions!

Program Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the staff to individual ratio? Explain...
2. What are your job requirements for direct care staff?
Is there on-going training?
3. Describe a typical day including activities and staff interaction.
4. What procedures do you have in place in case of an emergency?
5. What is your policy concerning safety?
6. Describe the ability levels of the individuals served.
7. What type of communication is available between the program
and parents/guardians?
8. Are their goals set for each individual and how is this documented?
9. Are nursing services available? What personal care services are
provided?
10. Why did your company choose to provide day programming services?

Here are some helpful hints for some of the questions...

1. The state requires different ratios based on a person's needs. The lowest ratio is 1 staff to 3 individuals, then 1:6, 1:12 and 1:16.
2. The state mandates at least 30 hours of training prior to hire.
3. This question will give you a good sense of the organization of the program. Is it structured or more laid back?
4. The answer should refer to evacuations for fire, drills for tornadoes, etc.
5. This answer should include things like training for staff, and a system to report, investigate and follow up with incidents that may occur.
6. This will give you a good sense of a peer group.
7. Make certain that you are comfortable with the level of communication and know who you will be communicating with.
8. This tells you how organized the program is.
9. This can give you a little bit of history.

Remember that whomever you are interviewing is most likely not the person who will be doing the direct care. Ask how often they are at the program. Ask if you can speak to any of the other employees (and ask them some of the same questions). It's also a great idea to ask for two or three references.

Residential

Perhaps one of the largest looming questions for parents and caregivers is, "What will happen when I'm not longer able to care for my loved one?"

Fortunately, the state of Ohio has several options for persons with disabilities when it comes to residential. When considering residential options, visit as many programs as possible and ask to speak to families of other persons served. A list of questions to ask is included.

Developmental Centers

These 10 programs are run by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The programs are funded through Medicaid and state dollars. Each center, set up in a campus-like design, serves between 100-200 persons. Most individuals who live in a developmental center require a very high level of care, either medically or behaviorally. Services are provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For more information on developmental centers, visit www.odmrdd.state.oh.us

ICF/MR Programs

These programs are designed to serve the same types of individuals as the developmental centers, but most serve between 5-8 individuals. While most of the programs are run by private providers, some of the programs are run by the local county board of DD. Services are provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For vacancies in the ICF/MR programs, visit www.odmrdd.state.oh.us.

Licensed Homes

There are many private providers in the state of Ohio that provide services in licensed group homes in residential neighborhoods. Serving between 1-5 individuals in each setting, these structured homes provide safe, healthy environments where people can learn skills for independence. Individuals must have a waiver. The homes are licensed by the Ohio Department of DD. Services are provided when individuals are home. For vacancies in the licensed home programs, visit www.odmrdd.state.oh.us.

Supported Living

Supported living services are provided to persons who want to live in the community, either alone or with roommates in an apartment or home of their own. People receiving these services choose a residential provider, who will supervise the employees that provide direct care. Services are based on the needs of the individual(s), and can range from one hour a week to 24/7 services. People who get supported living services must have a waiver. For more information on Supported Living, contact your local county board of DD.

The following page lists several questions to consider when choosing a residential provider or program.

When Seeking A Residential Program, Ask These Questions!

Program Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the starting rate of pay for your direct care staff? Do you offer health benefits? What is your turnover?
2. What are your job requirements for direct care staff?
Is there on-going training?
3. Describe your money management procedures.
4. What procedures do you have in place in case of an emergency?
5. How do you help protect the health & safety of persons served?
6. What type of communication is available between the program and parents/guardians?
7. When can I visit?
8. Are nursing services available? What personal care services are provided?
9. Why did your company choose to provide residential services?

Helpful hints for some of the questions...

1. Rates of pay should be above the starting wage for entry level jobs such as fast food. While not all companies provide health benefits, those that do likely have a lower turnover rate. Happier employees lead to employees that stick around. The nationwide turnover rate is around 60% for direct care, so lower than 60% is better than average. If a provider does not know the turnover rate, they may not be very sophisticated.
2. The state mandates at least 30 hours of training prior to hire.
3. This question is particularly important for supported living settings. You want to make sure that there are safeguards in place to protect individuals from theft.
4. The answer should refer to some kind of emergency back up system where staff can reach a supervisor for assistance.
5. This answer should include things like training for staff, and a system to report, investigate and follow up with incidents that may occur.
6. Make certain that you are comfortable with the level of communication and know who you will be communicating with.
7. You should be able to visit at any reasonable time, as long as it does not interfere with other persons served.
8. These are important based on individual need.
9. This can give you a little bit of history.

Remember that whomever you are interviewing is most likely not the person who will be doing the direct care. Ask if you can speak to any of the other employees (and ask them some of the same questions). It's also a great idea to ask for two or three references.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Navigating Ohio's Maze:

Finding Developmental Disabilities
Services for Your Loved One

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