



2019 Annual Report

Geauga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities



Metzenbaum Center - GCBDD

Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

440.729.9406 | geaugadd.org | 8200 Cedar Road, Chesterland, OH 44026

From the Superintendent

2019 may go down as the last hurrah for handshakes, large group meetings and standing in line without marks on the floors, but I hope not. I liked the way that we used to do things. Looking back at 2019, some important things happened.

In November 2019, our renewal levy passed. **Thank you** to all of our supporters. We couldn't have done it without you. We are financially sound until at least 2025, unless something drastic happens with Medicaid funding in Washington or Columbus. We will have to wait and see what impact COVID-19 has in the long run.

In September 2019, the Geauga County Department on Aging began to use the empty space at the workshop for some of their programs. The plans are for the Senior Programs to take over more of the space at the workshop as our clients move to community employment options or better integrated settings nearer to their homes.

In June 2019, the state legislature stepped up to promote a large increase for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages. This is the first time in history that the legislature drove an increase in rates for DSP wages. We want to thank everyone who supported this increase, because it will help to recruit and retain direct care staff.

In February 2019, our partnership with the Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland began in the Metzenbaum residences. JFSA began to hire replacements who will provide ongoing care to the residents in the houses. With staff retirements and the shrinking population of the residents, it was a good time to consider the transition. By July 2021, JFSA will take total control of the day-to-day operations.

2019 also saw an increase in the number of adult clients who are working in community employment options. By December 2019, 148 clients were employed in community jobs earning minimum wage or higher. This is the highest number ever for Geauga County. While the coronavirus pandemic has made a dent in that number, we hope to recover quickly once everything is allowed to reopen.

2020 will usher in some changes to how we do things, but not all change is bad. You can trust that GCBDD will continue to adapt so that we always help people to live, learn, and earn in our community.

Don Rice



Employment Services

GCBDD's employment services are designed to **help people find what is best for them as individuals**. In partnership with private providers, we help people identify their interests, strengths, and preferences, then match them with opportunities aligned with their personal and career goals.

Community employment is a goal for many of the people we serve because it means greater independence, more money, improved social skills, better self-esteem, and increased personal satisfaction.



148



PEOPLE COMPETITIVELY EMPLOYED

GCBDD supports Employment First, which is the national movement that encourages employment as the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. All adults we serve are given the chance to think about what having a job could mean for them.

Providers help people with their career goals through:

- Job development (help to find jobs)
- Job coaching (help to learn and carry out job duties - fades as skills increase)
- Follow-along services (checking in with employer/employee)

Early Intervention



Eligible children under the age of three and their parents receive coordinated Early Intervention (EI) services from GCBDD.

We believe young children learn best from people they know in places they know. For that reason, EI services occur in the child's home or other familiar places where the child is comfortable. EI builds on existing supports and resources so that parents are empowered to best assist their child.



207

CHILDREN SERVED

Research shows Early Intervention helps reduce the need for further intervention.

Our goal is to reach as many families as possible. Throughout 2019, we continued targeted outreach with doctor's offices, day cares, and the Amish population.

EI offers playgroups such as **Play, Learn and Grow** and **Movin' With Music** with activities designed to encourage development in socialization, play, listening, attention span and preschool readiness.



Community and Residential Services



601

PEOPLE
SUPPORTED BY
CASE MANAGERS



150

PROVIDER
PARTNERSHIPS



197

PEOPLE RECEIVE
RESIDENTIAL
SUPPORT



Case Management (also known as Service & Support Administration or SSA) is one of the largest service areas provided by GCBDD. **SSAs help people to figure out what they need and make a plan to get those needs met**, whether related to daily care, residential supports, employment, transportation, respite, behavioral health and more. SSAs are the critical link between the people we support and our provider partners.

Our 150 provider partners are supported by a team at GCBDD that helps with certification and training requirements, as well as technical assistance and troubleshooting.

197 people receive residential support, which enables them to be **valued members of communities throughout Geauga County**.



Transportation



GCBDD coordinates transportation services with private providers to ensure people get to their jobs in the community or attend day programs. We currently partner with seven private providers to transport people to community jobs.

+85,000 TRIPS PROVIDED

 **417** PEOPLE TRANSPORTED

Transportation continues to be in high demand, so in response we created a bonus structure to encourage more private providers to start offering transportation. As a result, there are more choices available and greater responsiveness to needs. GCBDD remains committed to continuing provider development in this area.



Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

The goal of this program is to provide needed care to the people we serve as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion and improved quality of life. The ICF currently serves 16 people ranging in ages from 25-73. In 2019, we began a partnership with the Jewish Family Service Association, and in 2020, they took over as the operator of the ICF.



Recreation



GCBDD offers a variety of recreational opportunities designed for people of all abilities and interests. From Special Olympics, to bowling, to dinner club, and our very own service organization Aktion club, we've got it all covered.



RECREATION



246

PEOPLE

POOL



84

PEOPLE

PICKLEBALL



75

PEOPLE

Special Olympics



140

PEOPLE



Metzenbaum Foundation

Community Connections is a program designed to integrate people served by **GCBDD into their communities on a social basis.** The Metzenbaum Foundation (TMF) began running this program in June 2019. Below is a sample of Community Connections programs and the average number of participants:

Carnival - 700+ people | *Amish Safety Day* - 220 children | *Pioneer Waterland* - 175 people

Talent Show - 100 people | *Movie Night* - 40 people | *Bingo* - 35 people | *Art Class* - 20 people

Cooking Class - 16 people | *Dance Class* - 15 people | *Self Defense Class* - 5 people

For info about activities, contact metzenbaum.foundation@gmail.com

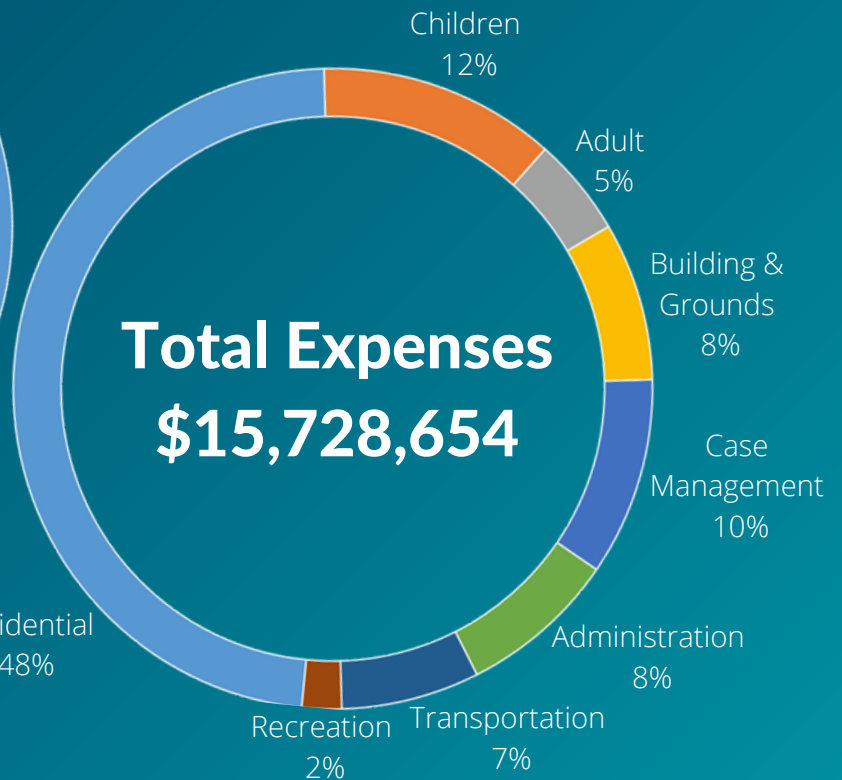


TMF also runs a grant programs that benefits people served by GCBDD. These grants fund respite care, home modifications, adaptive equipment, summer camp, and more. Additionally, TMF funds transportation for Amish Schools, and provides Metzenbaum recreation with funding for coach stipends.

 **321**
GRANTS AWARDED



2019 Financials



PEOPLE SERVED PER PROGRAM

Adult Services	509
Case Management	601
Early Intervention	207
Employment	148
Recreation	386
Residential	197
School Age	163
Transportation	417



982

PEOPLE SERVED IN 2019





Metzenbaum Center - GCBDD
Helping People Live, Learn, and Earn

2019
Annual Report

440.729.9406 | geaugadd.org | 8200 Cedar Road, Chesterland, OH 44026