

# Metzenbaum Center

Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**2021**  
Annual Plan



# Metzenbaum Center

Geauga County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

## 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 Above
- Choosing an Occupation





# Overview

The Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board) offers a continuum of services to all Geauga County residents with developmental disabilities (DD). These services are designed to cover clients of every age group and to help improve life for the individuals served.

In 2019, the Board approved a Strategic Plan for 2019-2021. This plan outlined four major goals:

1. Strengthen the Local Provider Network - support local providers as they serve clients.
2. Advocate for a Simplified DD System - create a single DD waiver with simplified billing and increased rates.
3. Boost the Community Use of the Metzenbaum Campus - allow public use or rent of the facilities not being used.
4. And Create a Countywide Adult Services Collaborative - include Mental Health, Courts, Department of Jobs and Family Services, and non-profits.

The first two goals are long term efforts that will extend beyond 2021. Goal three has been accomplished and will be further developed when some of the facilities are transferred to the ownership of outside agencies. The fourth goal is complete with the collaborative efforts of United Way who is heading up the effort.

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 2021.



# Data Gathering

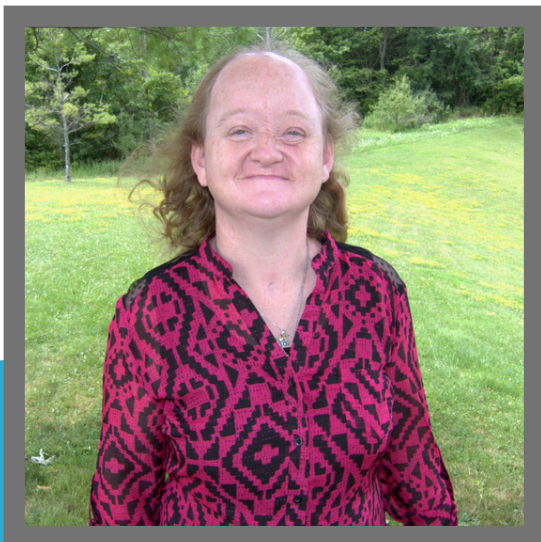
2020 has been an unusual year with COVID forcing many new changes to normal processes, increasing health and safety concerns for clients and staff members, and jumping technology to the forefront of our daily lives. The staff and the private providers have done a marvelous job handling these changes. The length of the crisis is exhausting many of the caregivers.

In 2020, we have shifted many of our community outreach efforts to technological options like Zoom, Facebook Live, and DOXY. Some of the programs that have been operating remotely during the COVID crisis are:

- Moving with Music
- Parent Forums
- Exercise Classes
- Just Metzing Around
- Board Meetings

During the Annual Planning Retreat, the 2020 Goals, the Strategic Plan objectives, the completed 2020 Vision, the new 2025 Vision Paper, and the imminent needs of the DD system were reviewed. The following areas of concern were discussed:

- The difficulty providers are having in finding and retaining staff,
- The focus on employment and integration are still of primary importance,
- Transportation continues to be a limiting factor to clients finding Community Employment,
- The use of technology is beneficial and needs to be permanent, and
- The transfer of the unused facilities at the Metzenbaum Center will continue into 2021.





# Service Provision

For 2021, 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 an increase in integration 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 three years has dropped significantly due to numerous changes mandated by the State of Ohio. We intend to work to increase the number of families being served in this program by increasing the community outreach.

The Board will maintain their 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. We need to address the fiscal crisis faced by the private providers. Our agreements with the various providers will support their efforts to recruit and retain quality staff. We want to increase integration opportunities for our clients who are not employed in the community, so we will be making grants available to promote some new models of day programming.

The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), better known as the Metzenbaum Residences, will continue the transition process as Jewish Family Services Association (JFSA) assumes the total operation of the residences. Our revised goal for the population of the ICF is now 12 with the possibility of 13 residents should the need arise. By August 2021, JFSA will employ all the ICF staff members.

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

In the organization, all grants and improvements will be balanced with the 2025 Vision Plan. Should efficiencies be found or services needs decrease in one area, the liberated resources will be reassigned where the need is determined to be the greatest. 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

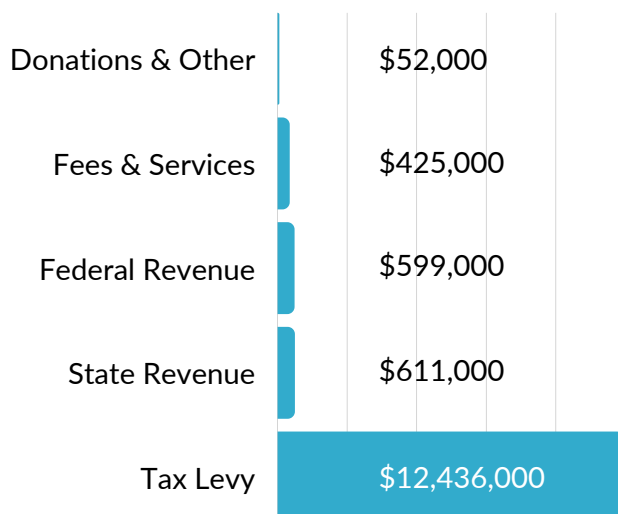
The Board currently supports 290 Medicaid waivers, which are a federal funding source for services. There are 195 Individual Options, 92 Level One, and 3 SELF waivers. We currently have 11 people on our waiting list – 1 with an immediate need who is slotted for a waiver and 10 with current needs. We will be requesting 4 new Individual Options waivers and 6 new Level One waivers for 2021. We will continue monitoring the 10 on the waiting list to determine whose needs transition to the immediate level. The Board will implement wait lists in accordance with OAC 5123:2-1-08.

The Board also uses local levy dollars to support 12 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 of the day programming and transportation costs for this category of client are covered by local levy funding.

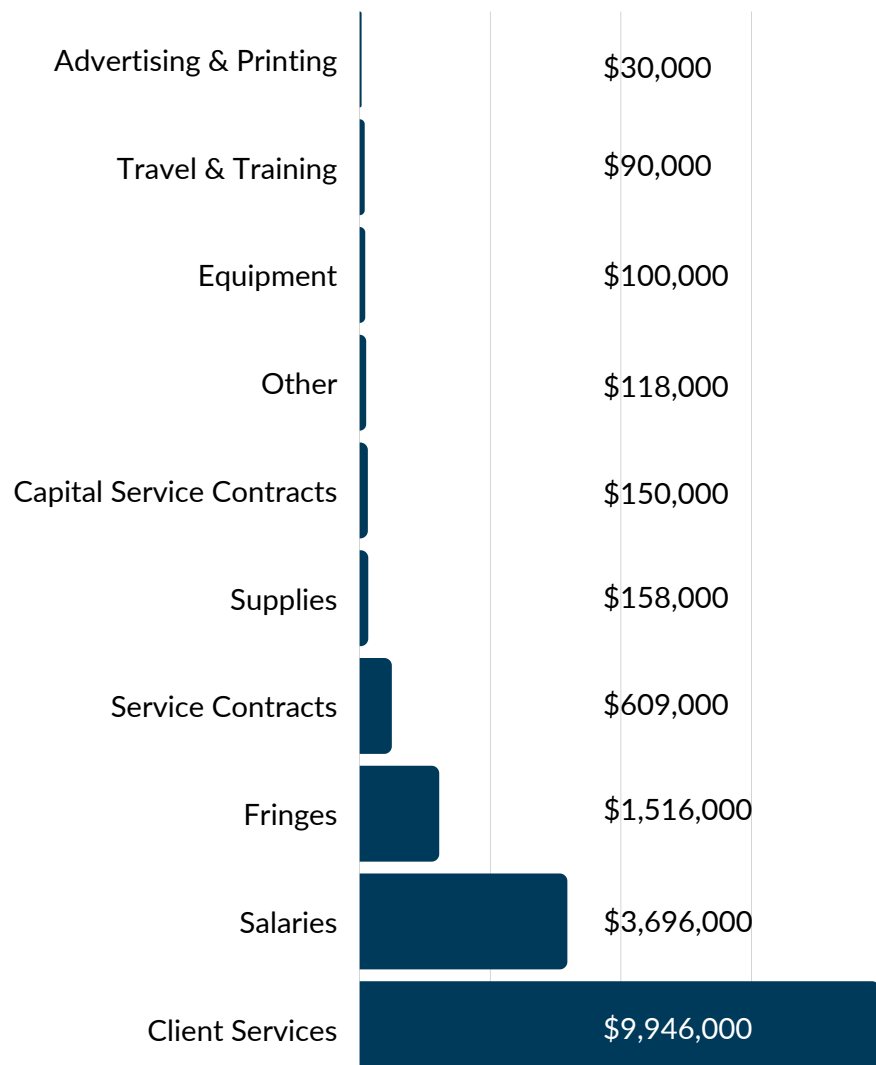
## Budget

The 2021 Budget was approved by the Board in September 2020. The new income from the 2015 levy continues to be wisely managed and is expected to last until at least 2025. The 2021 budget plans for deficit spending, which is to be expected at this point in our levy cycle. We budget revenue and expense conservatively, and we hope to outperform in both areas. We will continue to explore methods to maximize revenues while limiting expenditures.

### Revenue: \$14.1 million



### Expenses: \$16.6 million





# 2021 Initiatives

The Board acknowledges the good work and conscientious effort by all the employees and private providers to serve our clients. The central initiatives for 2021 are focused on two primary topics: Strengthen the Local Provider Network and Advocate for a Simplified DD System. These initiatives assume the normal operations of each department will continue without being listed in the 2021 Annual Plan Goals.

Goal	Responsible	Completion
Release a Request for Proposal for Innovative Integration Projects	Superintendent	January
Release a Request for Proposal to Transfer Recreation to a Provider	Director of Business Operations	February
Create a Parent Advocacy Group	Board President	March
Allow Providers to Access Brittco System	IT Manager	April
Create a Provider Quality Service Improvement Committee	Director of CSS	April
Create a System to Capture Unmet Client Needs	Administrative Team	July
Complete Building Transfers to Other Entities	Superintendent	October





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