



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities

We, at Cuyahoga DD, entered 2020 like everyone else, with optimism and well-made plans. Our priorities were focused on our four strategic goals that put people first:

- People have **access** to needed supports.
- People receive **person-centered**, quality supports.
- People are supported with **innovative** solutions and options.
- People recognize and **value** the Cuyahoga County Board of DD.

And, after years of careful planning, we were confident that the transition of service delivery to SAW, Inc. and Vocational Guidance Centers (VGS) at our adult activities centers would be successful.

When the year took an unexpected turn, the key words in our strategic goals took on new and greater meaning. We worked together to meet needs that came to the forefront and sought solutions to maintain strong services and supports.

We learned and accomplished many things in 2020 that would not have been possible had we not been presented with the challenges introduced by the pandemic. We explored new ways of approaching our work that resulted in great outcomes we can continue to build upon. For example, we discovered that video conferencing created new opportunities for engagement for people with disabilities and, that overall, there may be greater understanding of the message, **inclusion matters**.

Our relationships with community partners were key to meeting the needs of individuals and families in Cuyahoga County. In a year full of loss, hardship and challenge we take pride in how we united to help each other, demonstrating what people with developmental disabilities have said all along, **our community is better together**.


Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO


Lisa M. Hunt
President of the Board

2020 Board

**Our mission is
to support and empower
people with developmental disabilities
to live, learn, work and play
in the community.**



Lisa M. Hunt
President



Cynthia V. Schulz
Vice President



Mozelle T. Jackson
Secretary



Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO



Allison R. Frazier



Steven M. Licciardi



Stephen M. Scheidt



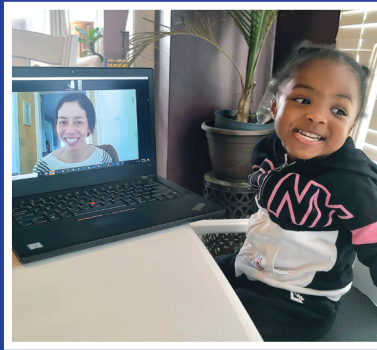
Tania J. Younkin

Access to needed supports



When schools transitioned to remote learning, Cuyahoga DD navigators worked with students and families to access the supports and services they needed, including virtual resources from the community.

Cuyahoga DD Provider Development and Support Department increased communication and resources for private providers who support people with developmental disabilities in their homes and in the community through conference calls, weekly newsletters and social media efforts.



Early Intervention (EI)

29,137 Early Intervention visits conducted

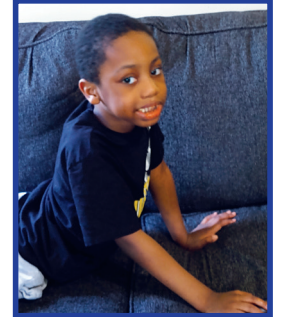
Virtual visits, first introduced in 2019, became very important in 2020 as a way to continue delivering EI services during the pandemic.

11%

Ohio's Early Intervention population served by Cuyahoga DD

For families, the pandemic brought many changes and challenges. Cuyahoga DD was there to help.

Joziah and his mom teamed up with Cuyahoga DD staff from several departments (Support Administration, Behavior Curriculum Intervention Services, Family Supports, Occupational Therapy and Speech/Language Supports) to find the best home modifications and adaptive equipment to help him thrive at home during quarantine.



When Emily's day program closed due to COVID, her family wondered how she could stay safe, active and socially engaged. They called Emily's support administrator to discuss ideas. A referral was made for a physical therapy consult, and a meeting to explore equipment options took place over Zoom. An adapted walker, or "gait trainer" was recommended for Emily. After a demonstration and fitting with a physical therapist, Emily was soon seen out and about, walking in her community and greeting her neighbors.

Person-centered quality supports

Ashley, an essential worker who lives with her family, used funds from the Cuyahoga DD Family Supports Program to remain active during the pandemic. Horseback riding, a naturally social-distant activity, was a way for Ashley to reduce stress and stay connected. It not only makes her happy and enhances her quality of life, it helps her physically with posture, core-strength and eye/hand coordination. It also gives her a sense of responsibility and allows her to be a part of a group, which adds to her enjoyment!



Family Supports Program



2,732
people

living at home with family benefited from funding to access resources & services like respite, recreation, home modifications, special equipment and more.

1,962 recreation/leisure service requests were processed, promoting increased participation in inclusive community activities.

The top **5** recreation/leisure requests were for **aquatics/swimming, music, karate, dance and gymnastics.**

Innovative solutions and options



Early Intervention professionals from Cuyahoga DD created a video to share their experiences and advice for using video conferencing to deliver home visits. The video was shared throughout the country.

Cuyahoga DD's new website launched with accessibility features and easy-to-access to forms.

859 applications for Cuyahoga DD services

2,232 applications for the Family Supports Program were completed through the website.



The **CLE** (Custom Living Environment), which showcases assistive technology items, was one of three finalists for the Greater Cleveland Partnership 2020 Best of Technology Award.

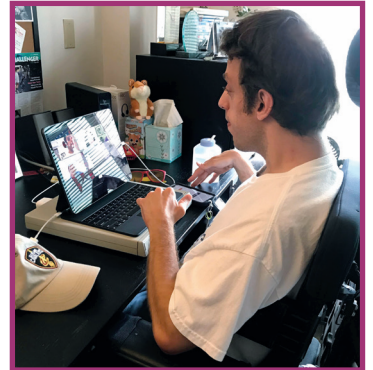


Good Life Ambassadors

Quality Time in Quarantine was created and led by the GLAs, reaching more than **410** peers and professionals by video conference.

Meaningful discussions on a wide range topics took place twice a month as a way to stay connected.

Good Life Ambassadors Will, Grace and Sean, were awarded the Ohio Self-Determination Association's 2020 ESDY award "in honor of the steadfast efforts displayed to advance self-determination."



Lending Libraries

700+ items loaned to more than **450** people valued at **\$300,000**.

Judy used an iPad every day at her day program. During the stay-at-home order, her support administrator helped connect her to the Cuyahoga DD equipment lending library to borrow an iPad. Thanks to the lending library Judy was able to use technology to stay connected with her sisters and keep busy while at home.

Value to individuals, families and the community



20 Community outreach, presentations and trainings were given by our Behavioral Health Services and Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Departments by video conference and in the community for first responders, college personnel, local organizations, parent groups, DD providers and more.

Behavioral Health Services staff took measures to ensure that required trainings for providers who support people with developmental disabilities were done promptly and safely during quarantine.



755 people were competitively employed, many as essential workers.

Our established relationships with local employers proved to be vital for finding and maintaining jobs during quarantine.

52 unique businesses hired people with DD.

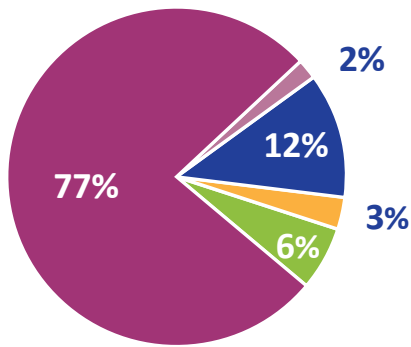
Cuyahoga DD Workforce Development staff engaged with hundreds of businesses and hosted a Hiring Event in February at First Energy Stadium with the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County for **60** employers and **150** job seekers.



Cuyahoga DD health service coordinators led multiple medication certification courses for provider agencies.

During quarantine, trainings were modified to a hybrid model, virtual and in-person, to ensure that certification requirements were upheld.

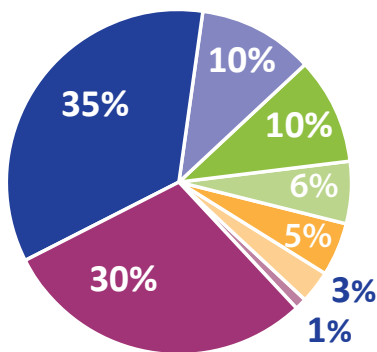
Sources of Revenue:



Levy	77%
Federal	12%
Special/One-time	6%
Other	3%
State of Ohio	2%

Total 2020 Revenue: \$133,057,548

Expenditures:



Local Waiver Match*	35%
Community & Medicaid Services	30%
Business Administration	10%
Special Services	10%
Building Operations	6%
Services for Adults	5%
Services for Children	3%
Provider Support	1%

Total 2020 Expenditures: \$115,346,535

*Medicaid waivers pay for needed services and supports provided by private caregivers and provider agencies. Waiver match refers to the local share of funding that comes from Cuyahoga DD's county-wide property tax levy. The remaining share comes from federal funding.

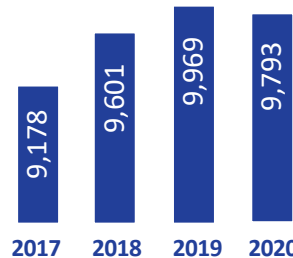
Local Waiver Match Federal Waiver Match

People served in 2020:



9,793

people receiving services on 12/31/20 (unduplicated)



63% Male

37% Female

12,895 people served over the course of the year (unduplicated).

People served by Age:



Birth - 2
13%



22 - 60
45%



3 - 21
35%



61+
7%

Participation by Service:

Support Administration	6,207
Children's Services	2,428
Family Supports Program	2,751
Behavioral Health Services	1,173
Employment Supports	755
Assistive Technology & Therapy Services	788

People are counted in every area in which they receive services.

When the stay-at-home orders were put in place, Cuyahoga DD staff personally called everyone we serve to see how we could help.



Support Administrators (SA) made contact monthly with people they support, and other Cuyahoga DD staff called individuals not assigned to a SA.

We connected people to resources, including food and personal care products, and provided information and online resources to keep busy while day programs were closed.

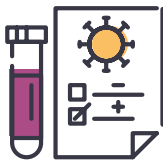
To support providers working directly with people with developmental disabilities during the pandemic

Our governing Board approved **\$1.75 million+**

for unusual and extraordinary expenses due to COVID.



100s of boxes of PPE - gloves, masks, gowns, hand sanitizers, etc.- were given to providers to keep everyone safe.



Cuyahoga DD health service coordinators worked with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and provider agency nurses on COVID-19 testing procedures and provided ongoing support to facilitate access to test kits. Additional coordination took place with

MetroHealth Medical Center to get the test kits analyzed.

Cuyahoga DD developed potential "relocation sites" for staff and/or people served - including two unused houses and several local hotels - for COVID-positive emergency housing.



Behavioral Health Services staff held monthly Zoom dances (including a special event with Slider), virtual yoga sessions and shared weekly lists of things-to-do with providers and others to help people stay engaged and promote mental and physical well-being during quarantine.

A "Success at Home Tool-Kit" was created for provider staff with resources to promote safety, support and connections for individuals with DD during quarantine.

An additional **\$350** was allocated to people enrolled in the Family Supports Program to help with increased needs from COVID challenges. With camp closures and other factors, **50%** of expenditures went toward respite services.



Provider Development and Support conducted outreach to help fill direct support professional shifts and staff homes during quarantine.



Volunteers donated **250+** handmade masks that were given to our community partners who serve people with DD.

Cuyahoga DD Cares



Cuyahoga DD staff "adopted" **155** homes in the community for people with developmental disabilities by donating meals, treats, games, puzzles, craft supplies and more to help bring cheer to residents and caregivers.

Better TOGETHER