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Cuyahoga County Board of DD plans to phase down its transportation services

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The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), under mandate from the federal government to completely phase out of its role as a provider of transportation services by 2024, has begun accelerating plans to achieve this mandate. Decreasing revenue, decreasing ridership and opportunities to relocate transportation functions to other CCBDD facilities to realize some cost-savings have led to quicker action to phase down services.

This federal mandate will result in a transition to private transportation providers, often referred to as nonmedical transportation (NMT) providers. CCBDD began transitioning people to NMT providers in 2012. Since then, over 70% of CCBDD's ridership already transitioned to a NMT provider. There are approximately 135 NMT transportation providers in Cuyahoga County in addition to other options, like public transportation. Anyone impacted by this change will have a choice from among options and this large group of NMT providers.

"We have always been an outstanding provider of transportation services for people with developmental disabilities," said CCBDD Superintendent Kelly Petty. "This federal mandate impacts all county boards across the state and has nothing to do with our excellent track record." According to Petty, CCBDD will relocate its transportation operations to other CCBDD facilities and will reduce the number of routes it operates later this year. Plans are being discussed to sell the agency's transportation services center, located on Cleveland's popular Health-Tech Corridor/Euclid Avenue. It is anticipated that many staff impacted by this move will either choose to retire or leave voluntarily. CCBDD will offer assistance in identifying opportunities for those who are interested in continuing a career in the transportation field.

CCBDD offers a continuum of services to people with developmental disabilities, including travel training. Despite the changes, the agency intends to continue partnering with schools, private provider agencies and others to offer individuals training on how to use various modes of transportation and navigate the community as independently as possible.

*The Cuyahoga County Board of DD serves more than 14,000 children and adults throughout the county.
It is supported primarily by a local property tax last approved by voters in 2005.*

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