A Message from the Superintendent

2019 will be a busy year for the Cuyahoga County Board of DD. We are in the final stages of planning for the transition of our Adult Activities Centers (update inside) and have begun to develop a new strategic plan that will outline our priorities for the next three years. We look forward to your participation in our strategic planning efforts, helping us to identify our strengths, areas for improvement and new opportunities for the future. (A survey will be available later this year.)

We are proud to serve over 12,000 people with developmental disabilities each year. As we strive to advance our goals related to supporting people with disabilities to enjoy the many benefits of community life and to have opportunities to work a competitive job in the community, we are working to expand options and provide people with more choices. This is an important theme as we plan for the future. The Cuyahoga Campership Program (details inside) is an example of this, and we hope that many people will take advantage of this program which allows them to choose a camp option that works best for them.

We will be hosting a Provider & Resource Fair on September 14. I hope you will attend. This is an excellent opportunity to meet many DD provider agencies and learn about other community resources available to assist people with developmental disabilities live, learn, work and play in the community.
Update on the transition of the Adult Activities Centers

On January 7, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD released a Request for Qualifications to seek proposals from qualified, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DoDD)-certified agency providers interested in providing Adult Day Supports and/or Vocational Habilitation (piece work) in each of the Adult Activities Centers (AACs). As a part of this process, interested agencies had to submit recent financial information and DoDD compliance reviews as well as written responses to questions about:

- the quality of their services
- how they train staff
- how they are able to serve people with a wide range of disabilities
- their plan to work with family members regarding communication and parent/family involvement
- how they address health and safety issues, including prevention plans; and
- other important information

Proposals were due on March 1. These next few months will be spent reviewing and scoring the proposals and, for those that score high, interviews will occur with the provider agency. Parent/family representatives from the AACs are actively participating in this review process. The selected provider or providers for the AACs will be announced and approved at the CCBDD Board meeting on June 27, 2019. A series of transition activities will be announced and occur throughout the second half of this year. The effective date that the selected provider or providers will begin services at the AACs is January 6, 2020. More information about the transition of the AACs, including background information and frequently asked questions by parents, is available on our website: www.cuyahogabdd.org/en-US/Transition-Privatization.aspx

Join us for a Planting Seeds of Knowledge educational forum

The Cuyahoga County Board of DD is pleased to offer free educational forums on a variety of topics. These are free and open to the public. Registration is required:


Cuyahoga County Board of DD Educational Forums
6:30 - 8:30pm
Educational Services Center of Cuyahoga County

April 9  Special Education Law
Presented by:  Linda Gorczynski, Attorney
               Mary Jo O’Neill, Parent Advocate
This presentation is perfect for parents of school-aged children with disabilities. Learn from the expertise of an attorney and parent advocate almost everything you need to know about evaluations, the Individual Education Program (IEP) and important legal safeguards that are in place to help students with disabilities.

May 14  I.T. = Independence + Technology
June 11  Guardianship
July 9  Transition from School to Adulthood
Aug. 13  SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters
Sept. 10  Pathway to Employment - Employment First
Oct. 8  Recreation, Leisure and Camp Opportunities
Nov. 12  Creative Housing Options

All forums will be held at the Educational Services Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd. Independence, OH 44131

www.ProviderGuidePlus.com
Help others chose a provider.
Rate your provider!

The Cuyahoga County Board of DD proudly collaborates with University Hospitals and MetroHealth Medical Center to help assure quality medical care is available for people with developmental disabilities:

Psychiatry Clinic at University Hospitals
The Department of Psychiatry at University Hospitals operates an intellectual and developmental disabilities outpatient psychiatry clinic serving adults ages 18 and older. The clinic is staffed by psychiatrists, psychiatric fellows, residents, and advanced practice nurses. These staff have specialized knowledge and experience in working with adults with developmental disabilities who also have psychiatric needs and/or behavioral problems and their families and caregivers. For more information, call 216-983-0027.

The Comprehensive Care Clinic at MetroHealth Medical Center
The Comprehensive Care Clinic employs a medical home model that gives coordinated medical care to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Care is given across a variety of specialties and throughout the patient’s lifespan. In addition to physicians, nurses and other professionals, the clinic employs nurse care coordinators who work closely with families and their medical providers help to ensure that the patient has a coordinated plan of care and can manage any potential barriers to receiving that care.

Looking for a job in the community?
The Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County can help. Attend a hiring event and interview with local businesses:

Parma - April 18               Downtown - July 25
Beachwood - Aug. 22        Westlake - Sept.19

To register or learn more, email Daly.Jared@CuyahogaBDD.org or call 216-931-7348.