A Message from the Superintendent

The 2019 Provider & Resource Fair, which was held on September 14th, was a great success. Over 70 provider agencies and community partners were present, sharing valuable information to hundreds of fair attendees. Thank you to these agencies and partners for your dedication to supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families. If you missed this year’s fair, plan to join us for this annual event in October, 2020.

Looking ahead to the new year, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD (CCBDD) will implement a new, three-year strategic plan. This plan includes feedback shared by people served and their families, the Board and staff, and provides a strong foundation for the agency after the transition out of adult services is completed on January 6, 2020. Making sure people have access to quality supports and collaborating with families and the community to identify and increase service options, including innovative ones, are some of the goals of the plan. To achieve these, CCBDD will continue to partner with families, provider agencies and a variety of community partners. The strategic plan also places a strong focus on improved access to supports through strategies such as improving the provider selection process and expanding the Family Supports Program, which you can learn more about in this newsletter. CCBDD’s 2020-2022 strategic plan will be available on the website at the end of December.

On behalf of the Cuyahoga County Board of DD, may you and your family have a happy Thanksgiving and enjoy this festive time of the year.

Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO

Lending Libraries: Review, borrow or try before you buy

CCBDD has two equipment lending libraries containing over 2,000 pieces of equipment that are used to increase participation and promote safety and independence for individuals with developmental disabilities. Equipment can be loaned for trial periods or short term needs.

- OT/PT Library – Contains items used for mobility and activities of daily living such as wheelchairs, lifts, toileting and bathing equipment, etc.
- Assistive Technology (AT) Library – Contains items ranging from low to high tech devices such as adaptive switches, reminder wristwatches and video doorbells.

For more information: Contact Janet Cimino (OT/PT Library) at 216-736-2631 or Kathy Zielinski (AT Library) at 216-736-2730.

Looking for other opportunities to “try before you buy”? Consider a visit to the CLE (Custom Living Environment). This smart apartment, located at William Patrick Day Center, showcases many assistive technology tools that can increase independence. Examples include a robotic feeding device, adapted cookware, sensory area, standing wheelchair and more. Contact Sharon Dwertman at 216-736-2649 for more information or to schedule a visit.

New website coming soon!

CCBDD is in the process of building a brand new website to provide better and easier access to information. This new website is ADA-compliant, adjusts to any device, and, most importantly, is written using plain language. Expected launch of the new website is December, 2019. The new site will maintain the same website address: www.CuyahogaBDD.org.
Another expansion to the Family Supports Program means more people can benefit from more resources and services

The Cuyahoga County Board of DD (CCBDD) recognizes and appreciates the vital support families provide to people with developmental disabilities who live at home with them. We want to help families in this caregiving role by providing funding for goods and services available through our Family Supports Program. We believe that using a portion of our tax levy revenue for this purpose will benefit many people with developmental disabilities throughout Cuyahoga County.

In 2018, CCBDD’s Board approved a change that removed the copay requirement for people age 18 and older. At its September 26, 2019 meeting, the Board approved additional improvements to the Family Supports Program to assure that people who are not funded by a Medicaid Waiver or other sources have access to some funds for desired resources and services.

What’s new?

- Ages 18 and older, the annual allotment is $1,500. There is no income requirement or copay.
- Ages 17 and younger, the annual allotment is either $1,500 or $750 based on the family’s income. This means that all children qualify for at least $750.
- The annual financial allotment is now per person (not per family).
- Allotments will no longer be prorated. The full allotment for which you are eligible can be spent throughout the year.
- Camp assistance (formerly the Campership Program) is now offered under the Family Supports Program.
- Leisure/recreation activities no longer have to be adaptive. People may use this funding to join and participate in leisure/recreation activities available in the community.

Who is eligible? Adults and children of all income levels who are eligible for CCBDD services and who live at home with a family member. (People who live on their own, who are enrolled on a Medicaid Waiver, or who live in an Intermediate Care Facility/ICF or in foster care are not eligible.)


Prepare now for the new year. Complete and submit your application soon.

If you are new to CCBDD or are uncertain about your eligibility status, please contact us at 216-736-2673 or Intake@CuyahogaBDD.org.

If you have a SA, contact him/her as you may be eligible for similar services.

CAMP ASSISTANCE
Camp assistance (formerly the Cuyahoga Campership Program)

SPECIALIZED NUTRITION
Specialized nutrition, such as thickeners and dietary shakes

INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES
Incontinence supplies, which are not available through Medicaid or insurance, such as wipes, pull-ups, hygiene gloves and plastic sheets

SERVICE FOR INFANTS/TODDLERS
Services for children under age three, like physical, occupational, and speech/language therapies

LEISURE/RECREATION
Leisure/recreation activities, including sports, music, dance and art classes

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
Special equipment based upon the recommendation of a qualified professional, including therapy balls, sensory items and adapted utensils

RESPITE CARE
Respite care to provide an occasional break for families

HOME MODIFICATIONS
Home modifications like ramps, grab bars and widened doorways

What did you know?

- Did you know that 41% of people with developmental disabilities living in Ohio do not have a paid community job but would like one?*
- There are currently 761 people with developmental disabilities of working-age employed in an integrated, competitive job in Cuyahoga County. This represents 14.5% of the total population of adults with DD of working age in the county.

What can you do to prepare for a job in the community?

There are many things that you can do to prepare for a job in the community:

• Make sure community employment is a goal in your service plan (ISP).
• Take classes or training to learn new skills.
• Visit places in the community that you find interesting and might like to one day work there.
• Volunteer! Volunteering is a great way to meet people and build employment skills.

There are also many things that businesses can do to support people in meeting their community employment goals. If you or someone you know owns a business or is in a position to hire people, encourage them to hire someone with a developmental disability. Support is available. Contact the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County at 216-931-7348 or EmploymentCollaborativeCC@gmail.com.

Remember: People with disabilities can work and want to work.

*National Core Indicators Ohio Report 2017-18, Adult In-Person Survey 14.5% of the total population of adults with DD of working age in the county.

The month of October is a time to educate about disability employment and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America’s workers with disabilities.