



**Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**



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Stark DD gets approval to launch Gold Star Standard program

On June 20, 2017, Stark DD received approval from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to be able to designate providers who are going above and beyond the minimum standards, as Gold Star providers.

The Gold Star Standards Program was developed through a six county pilot group aimed at developing a statewide system to promote quality providers in the community. Partners in the pilot project were the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB).

The Gold Star program is follow-up to recommendations and feedback received by individuals, families, guardians, and the provider community as Stark DD developed their new 2017-2020 strategic plan. The charge was to develop provider standards that exceeded the minimum certification requirements to better assist individuals and families make informed choices during the provider selection process.

The program outlines nine Gold Star Standards that providers must meet to achieve this designation. The quality standards focus on the topics of organizational structure, provider stability, health and safety, retention and recruitment of quality employees, staff training, and ensuring a safe transition for people who choose alternative providers.

Overseeing the program will be the Quality Initiative Committee, comprised of the SSA and Investigative Services Director, Investigative Services Supervisor, the Provider Compliance and Technical Support Supervisor, a Compliance Reviewer, one SSA, one family member/guardian of an individual receiving waiver services, one self-advocate receiving waiver services, and the current providers that have met Gold Star Standards. Self-advocates and family members volunteering to serve on the committee will be selected randomly and rotate off the committee each quarter.

The mission of the Quality Initiative Committee is to determine that applicable providers have met agreed upon Gold Star Standards. Committee members also deliver suggestions, networking and peer mentoring to other community providers to promote and enhance the quality of the service delivery system. The committee will meet monthly beginning in July, with the first group of Gold Star Standard providers designated by September 1.

Providers who meet the Gold Star Standards will be listed on their website at www.starkdd.org.