MO V I N G F O R W A R D
together

2010 COMMUNITY REPORT

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

JULY 11, 2011
Dear Stark County Residents,

2010 was a year of change for the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Mike Miller, Superintendent; retired, Chuck Holden, became interim superintendent, and I took over responsibilities on March 29, 2010. It was clear from my first day we had a dedicated and committed workforce but that we would face a significant short fall in 2014 if we did not make changes. We had a $2 million issue we had to address and if we did not; $2 million became $4 million in 2012, $4 million became $6 million in 2013, and so on. This multiplier effect could be stopped if $2 million was removed permanently from the budget.

With the above in mind, we made difficult decisions to consolidate from four to three adult workshops, we began dual routing our buses, and we moved from a direct therapy model within adult services to one of assessment and consultation – all significant changes to the agency.

We offered an Early Retirement Incentive plan as a cost savings initiative and to minimize lay-offs to agency employees. When we totaled the savings, the agency was able to remove $2.5 million permanently from our budget and continue to provide all the same services.

With addressing our immediate financial issues, we needed a plan to move us forward. Marcel Proust, French novelist and author wrote, “The real voyage of discovery is not seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” We sought “new eyes” by seeking broad based community participation in the development of a strategic plan to assist us see beyond ourselves. We involved over 40 citizens of Stark County in our strategic planning committee. The group, made up of individuals with disabilities, parents, providers, employees, community representatives, and board members, came together to develop and provide input into the plan. The strategic plan was six months in the making and received final board approval in December 2010. The three year strategic plan is highlighted in this report for your review.

While there are some that disagree with our actions, the fact is that we had to change the way we operated in order to stave off a deficit and protect our core services. This year has been about us living within our means and the available resources we have been provided to better serve our community. Using these “new eyes” we have been able to provide the same services, differently; and more cost effectively.

We consider it an honor to be able to share with you some of the 3,150 people we touch on a daily basis, as well as the initiatives that we put into place. We thank you for the opportunity to present our 2010 Community Report to the citizens of Stark County.

Bill Green
Superintendent
accomplishments from 2010

ADULT SERVICES
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the number of buildings in Adult Services from four workshops to three. Estimated cost savings is $351,000 per year.

To begin the consolidation to three adult service sites, the Board revised the catchment assignment areas to more evenly distribute the number of adults attending each of the three workshops sites. Adults affected by the consolidation took fieldtrips to their new workshop site. The Board officially closed the doors of the Cohen-Joliet Industries adult workshop site on State Route 62 in Canton in January.

Programs will adjust their start and end times to accommodate the dual routing of 14 routes. Estimated cost savings of $400,000.

Phase 1 began in August 2010. The Board staggered the start/end times at the three adult sites. A total of 11 yellow buses operate on a dual route schedule, while 18 adult routes remain as single routes. As required under law, all routes remain under 90 minutes in duration.

Increase the number of individuals in Supported Employment from 356 to 366, or by an increase of 3%.

Presently, the Stark DD and The Workshops, Inc. have 370 people in the Stark community through the Supportive Employment program.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Follow and monitor student successes as they transition from school to adulthood due to graduation or job placement.

RS Southgate School is now participating in the Bridges to Transition initiative with the goal of enhancing career exploration options and increase employment opportunities for students 14-22 years of ages as they transition from school into adulthood. Bridges to Transition, a Vocational Rehabilitation Public-Private Partnership (VRP3) program creates a unique collaboration between County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, local school districts, employers, students and their families.

EARLY INTERVENTION
Review and evaluate early intervention and develop strategies to eliminate the waiting list for services to children birth to age 3.

By December 2010 the Early Intervention (EI) waiting list was eliminated. All EI Specialists have full caseloads of 26-28 children and families. Early Intervention currently services 162 children, the largest number in the history of the program.

SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION/INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
The SSA-IS Leadership Team will assume responsibilities

Three hundred and seventy people with developmental disabilities are employed in the Stark County community. Twenty-five businesses have learned that it is a smart business choice to hire people with disabilities for a job well done. The people we serve want to be employed by businesses in their community and the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and The Workshops, Inc. are making that dream a reality.

This listing was taken in parts from: Glossary of terms on the DODD website And from Navigating Ohio’s Maze: Finding Developmental Disabilities, Services for A Loved One, Produced and Published by Viaquest https://odmrdd.state.oh.us/
Tyler Davlin was born with cystic hygroma with vocal cord involvement causing a tracheotomy at 9 days old. His mom, Casey Huff, enrolled him in Early Intervention services through the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities. As a result, he now is wanting to talk. “Before Early Intervention, Tyler wouldn’t use his speaking valve. Now it’s as if he’s saying ‘I want to be heard,’” said Casey.
Develop a three year Strategic Plan for 2011-2013

The 2011-2013 Strategic Plan represents our commitment to provide support and services to children and adults with developmental disabilities living in the Stark County community.

The Strategic Planning committee discussed everything from who we are, who we want to become, and how we can make this happen. This resulting plan is our compass for the future. Any decisions and goals for the future will be proactive, based on our core values. By planning ahead, we will be poised to foster community partnerships, moving toward choice and integration into the community.

Refer to www.starkdd.org to download the Three Year Strategic Plan in its entirety.

For the first time, men and women who receive services from the board participated in the Strategic Planning process, sharing with other committee members their hopes and dreams for the future. From left, Harry Widder, Jeff Quinn, Michelle Yekel, Louise Cox and Diana Clifton were recognized by Superintendent Bill Green (middle) during a Board meeting for their contributions to the future vision of the agency.
Accountability. We are answerable to individuals with disabilities, their families and guardians, and to the citizens of Stark County.
WHAT IS A WAIVER?

Ohio’s Waiver services provide certain Ohio citizens the support that they need for day services and residential supports. Currently there are two waivers for persons with DD in Ohio, the Level One waiver and the Individual Options (IO) waiver. These waivers allow a limited number of people who meet certain conditions to stay in their own/ family home or to live in a community home receive services there instead of living in a larger facility.

To receive waiver services, an individual must be eligible for Medicaid, have a developmental disability, and have a limitation in three or more of the major life activities such as self care, learning, mobility, self-direction and capacity to live alone.

IO Waiver:
Individual Options Waiver. Covers Homemaker/Personal Care, Home Modifications, Transportation, Respite Care, Social Work, Home-Delivered Meals, Nutrition Services, Interpreter Services, Specialized Adaptive Equipment/Supplies, Supported Employment, and Day Habilitation. The annual dollar amount of IO waiver services is based on peoples’ individual needs.

L1 Waiver:
Level One Waiver. Covers items like Homemaker/Personal Care, Respite Care, Transportation Services, Emergency Response Systems, Specialized Medical Equipment and Home Modifications, Emergency Assistance, Supported Employment, and Day Habilitation. This waiver pays for up to $5,000 per year of services, and has some provisions to pay for more services on an emergency basis.

What is the County Board’s financial responsibility toward a waiver?
A County Board Service and Support Administrator (SSA) advises individuals with DD and their caregivers regarding application for Medicaid and assists them to request a waiver. At that point, the individual’s name is added to the waiting list of those requesting a waiver.

A waiver cannot be offered until funding is available. The County Board must fund approximately 40% of each waiver for the lifetime of each waiver granted to individuals in the county. The federal government pays the remaining 60%.

A person’s waiver money must be used for services from a certified provider in the county. A list of providers can be found on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ website at odmrd.state.oh.us or on the Stark DD website at providers.starkdd.org.

If eligible, does someone get a waiver immediately?
No, because the funding, both federally and locally, must be available to pay for the waiver services.

In Stark County, as of May 2011, there were 835 individuals on the Level One Waiting List, and 1,315 individuals on the IO Waiting List.

For a County Board, this means budgeting each year for the resources that can be designated for waivers. Until then, individuals’ names remain on the waiting list.

There are a few situations that will allow individuals to be considered for waiver enrollment before others on the waiting list. These are defined as Emergencies and Priorities.

An Emergency is a situation that creates a risk of substantial self harm or harm to others if action is not taken in 30 days. In these situations, Stark County Board of DD makes every effort to offer a waiver; finding the supporting funds from somewhere else in its budget.

Priorities situations are created when individuals have caregivers older than 60 or have intense needs. Refinancing individuals’ services to be paid for by waivers rather than local funds is also a priority.

*This text can be found in its entirety in the publication “Finding Developmental Disabilities Services for Your Loved One: Help navigating Ohio’s Maze” published by ViaQuest. Download a free copy at www.DevelopmentalDisabilitiesGuide.com.

Shelley Adelman, age 57, lived at home until her mom, Pauline, passed away at age 94. With the help of her SSA Carrie Buchanan, Shelley had recently received an Individual Options Waiver. Not only did the waiver provide staff to help Shelley immediately after her mom’s death, but it also enabled Shelley to move into a four-person community home where she is learning to explore new possibilities in the Stark community.
Locations in Stark County

West Stark Center
7891 Hills & Dales Rd. NE, Massillon, 44646
330-479-3970

Service & Support Administration, North Place
1278 S. Main St., North Canton, 44720
330-479-3570

Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center
2121 Ashland St. NE, Louisville, 44641
330-479-3440

Whipple-Dale Centre/Just Imagine Gift Shop
2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton, 44708
330-477-5200

Rebecca Stallman Southgate School
3057 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, 44707
330-484-2547

Transportation/Bus Garage
3059 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, 44707
330-484-6451