

OUR COMMUNITY IS BETTER

together

2011 COMMUNITY REPORT



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

www.starkdd.org



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Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

History

The Board was created by Ohio Law in 1967 to provide services to people with developmental disabilities. The name of the Board changed from the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) to the Board of Developmental Disabilities in 2009.

Board selection and eligibility

Five members of the Board are appointed by the Board of Stark County Commissioners and two members are selected by the Judge of Probate Court. At least two of the members appointed by the county commissioners must be parents of an individual with mental retardation or developmental disabilities receiving Board services. Of the two members appointed by the probate judge, at least one must be a member of the family of an individual eligible for services. All board members serve without pay.

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities meets on the third Saturday of the month, except for July and November in the Multi-Purpose room at the Whipple-Dale Center. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are open to the public.

Refer to www.starkdd.org for updated schedules.

2011 BOARD



Robert Milliken
President



Richard Hoffman
Vice President



Roger Gines
Recording Secretary



Tom Bucka



Jack Calhoun



Carlene Harmon



Larry Marcus

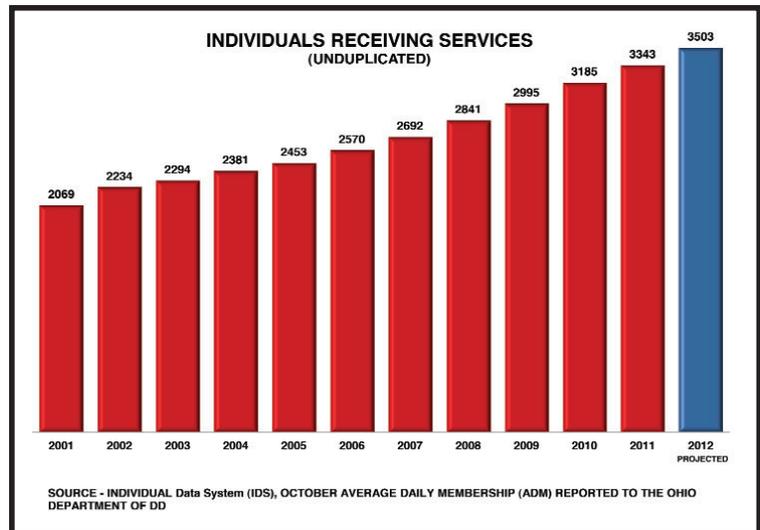
Dear Stark County Residents,



For more than 40 years, Stark DD has been a community partner that medical professionals, educators and social service agencies turn to when our most vulnerable citizens and their families are in need of life-long supports and services. We continue our pursuit of new and inventive management strategies that allow the Board to remain an efficient and responsive community partner. By using bold thinking and strategic decision making, Stark DD has streamlined the budget, leveraged new technology to ensure effective communications, and charted a course with our 3 year strategic plan that will allow the Board to keep offering high quality services at no cost to participants or their families. We are honored to be able to share with the citizens of Stark County some of our 2011 accomplishments.

Bill Green

SUPERINTENDENT



MISSION STATEMENT

// To be the support that connects individuals and families with the services they need. //

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DD: Developmental Disabilities. Conditions that may impair physical or intellectual/cognitive functions or behavior, and occur before a person is age 22.

Finance/ Cost-Cutting

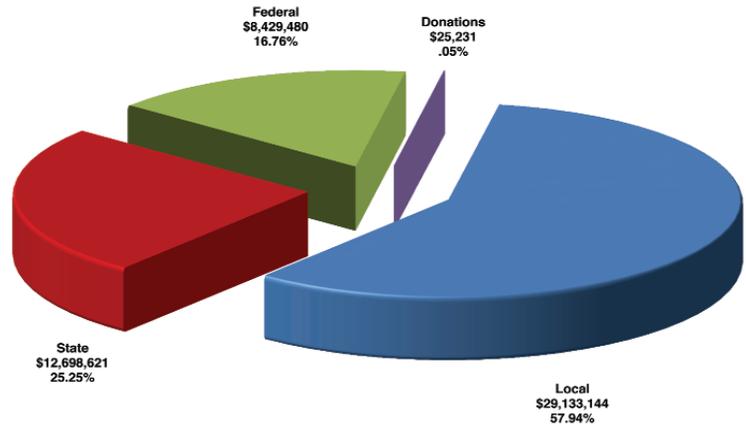
Like other public organizations, Stark DD has worked hard to maximize taxpayers' dollars, while offering vital services to our participants.

Through grant programs, maximizing federal Medicaid dollars and implementing more than \$2.5 million in cost saving reductions, we are stretching local taxpayer dollars and trying to do more with less.

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities' expenditures in our preliminary 2013 budget mirror the expenditures that were reported in 2010. By using bold thinking and strategic decision making, we were able to keep expenditures at 2010 levels and maintain the services more than 3,300 Stark County residents depend on. In fact, we have successfully eliminated waiting lists for early intervention and adult services, offered 10 Individual Option waivers directly from the waiting list, embedded three classrooms into public schools, implemented and expanded a subcontracting initiative that enhances choice for a person coming into adult services, expanded supportive employment opportunities so that over 43% of adults served work in the community, implemented a new Health Matters curriculum that focuses on wellness for people with disabilities, expanded self-advocacy efforts by establishing three People First Chapters, and continued to use local tax dollars as a last resort, all while seeing our average daily enrollment increase.

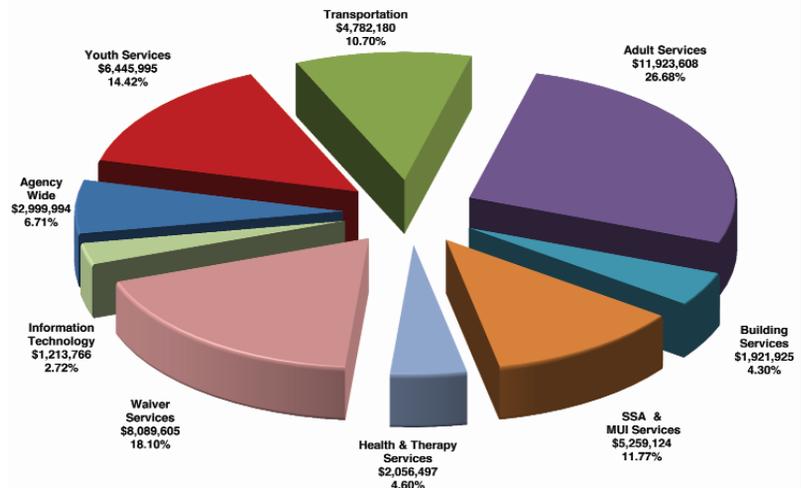
With continuous planning, resourceful thinking and strategic decision making, Stark DD will continue streamlining the budget while providing the vital, high-quality services Stark County's residents and families depend on.

REVENUES BY SOURCE 2011 (\$50,286,475)



“ If the money we have today is all we may have for the next ten years, how do we adapt to meet the needs of the new person entering the system? ”

EXPENDITURES BY SERVICES 2011 (\$44,692,694)



Waivers help families

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 on applying for Medicaid and requesting a waiver. At that point, the individual's name is added to the waiting list. 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.

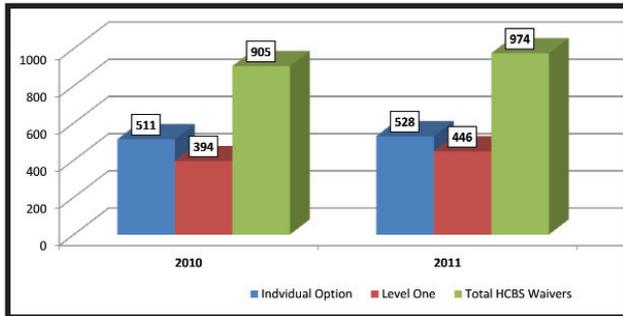
The federal government pays the remaining 60%.

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. For a County Board, this means budgeting each year for the resources that can be designated to pay the waiver "match" (40%). 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. 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 DD makes every effort to offer a waiver; finding the supporting funds from somewhere else in its budget. **Priority** situations are created when individuals have caregivers older than 60 or have intense needs.



FACTOID:
In Stark County, as of May 2012, there were 809 individuals on the Level One Waiting List, and 1,439 individuals on the IO Waiting List.

WHAT IS A WAIVER?

The Medicaid Waiver services administered by the Ohio DD system 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 (L1) 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 and 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 major life activities such as self care, learning, mobility, self-direction, and the capacity to live alone.

IO Waiver:

Can provide 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 budget for each individual's services is based on an assessment of his/her needs.

L1 Waiver:

Can provide 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 Homemaker/Personal Care services, and has various budgeted amounts available for the other services.



ANNA HARRIS

Anna Harris, age 36, is one of 10 adults with developmental disabilities who was granted an IO Waiver this year in accordance to a plan to address our waiting list. This is the first time in recent history the Board has been able to offer waivers in non-emergency situations to individuals on the IO Waiver waiting list.

Anna, who has been on the Waiver waiting list since 1996, has severe mental retardation, seizure disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and anxiety. Since the death of Anna's mother three years ago, her father has been her primary caregiver, while her sister serves as her guardian. This July, the IO Waiver will help Anna move into an adult foster care home operated by Siffrin, Inc., a local provider. For Anna's father Dan, sister Chris Bernier, and Esther DD SSA, her Stark DD SSA, this means comfort in knowing that Anna will remain in a smaller home-based environment, with consistent care. For Anna and her family, this support is "heaven sent."



Moving from Segregated to Community Environments

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities prides itself on providing services to over 3,300 Stark County residents with developmental disabilities. However the impact of our services is not limited to those residents. It extends to the other 340,000 residents of the county as well. We pride ourselves on providing experiences that encourage those with disabilities to mesh into our community knowing that when

people with disabilities are welcomed into local neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools, everyone wins. We have extended our reach into the community by initiating several new programs.

Embedded classrooms

Collaborating with the Educational Service Center and Plain Local Schools, we embedded three classrooms within Plain Local neighborhood schools. Twenty

preschool and elementary students participated in this pilot program, which is part of our strategic plan.

Project STIR

Project STIR, sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility. It is designed to provide individuals with disabilities the tools to advocate for themselves and gain leadership experience. Project STIR now has five trained Stark County participants.

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

HMG: The Help Me Grow program is administered by the Ohio Department of Health and offers support to children who are 'at-risk' for a delay, and provides prenatal and newborn home visits. Early Intervention is a component of HMG. Visit www.ohiohelpmefgrow.org to find a local intake/referral site.

Self-Advocacy: People with developmental disabilities, either individually or in groups, speaking or acting on behalf of themselves, or on behalf of issues that affect people with disabilities.

People First

This year Stark DD established a People First program at every adult service site. People First of Ohio believes "that all people with disabilities should be treated as equals and be able to speak up for what they want by serving as leaders and working together as a team with all members of the community." Members held weekly meetings and participated in the Annual Hall of Fame Community Parade last July in downtown Canton.

Parents have the greatest impact on their child's learning and are their child's most important teachers. That is why the Early Intervention Services provided at no cost by the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities focuses on teaching families how to foster their child's development through participation in routine family activities. Infants who are at risk for a delay are referred for Early Intervention services through the Help Me Grow program. Early Intervention is just one of the reasons that 90 percent of children enrolled in Board services are able to return to their home school districts for their education. During 2011, Stark DD helped more than 250 infants and toddlers in our community get the early support they needed.

Lucas Ransom began receiving Early Intervention services from the Board when he was five months old. Born with Pierre Robin Sequence and a cleft palate, Lucas has also endured encephalitis and spinal meningitis, along with several other physical challenges. Stark Board staff have worked with parents Beth and Brent through each stage, helping Lucas meet developmental milestones.



Doing the Job

The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities prides itself on providing services from infancy onward to more than 3,300 Stark County residents with mild, moderate, severe, or profound mental retardation or other developmental disabilities. While we provide direct services to more than 3,300 Stark County residents, our impact is much larger. Our services affect families, educational institutions and the local economy. Many residents may be unaware of our contribution to the county's economy. Through our Bridges to Transition, Supportive Employment Enclave and Community programs, and partnerships with the United Disability Services of Akron and Coleman Professional Services of Northeast Ohio, we provide employment and experience to more than 380 DD residents working in more than 150 businesses throughout the county. With these programs and partnerships, Stark DD is able to enrich the lives of individuals with dis-



abilities and serve as a driver of economic development in the community.

Bridges to Transition

The Bridges to Transition program allows students who are nearing graduation to move into a work environment and expose them to the front end requirements of work. The program features "coaches" who build relationships with students and community businesses. These relationships allow



the coaches to find jobs for students based on their interests and the community's needs. Exploration is driven by the student. Sometimes a job coach will take them to a job site in which they show an interest, and let them talk to an employee so they discover what the job entails.

The program is in its inaugural year and was composed of 26 students from Stark DD school programs and the Educational Service Center.

Supported Employment - Enclave

This program offers a job coach and a team of individuals with disabilities who perform work at companies in the community. Examples include light manufacturing, cleaning and even document shredding. Currently 160 adults with disabilities work on Supported Employment-Enclave crews. These crews work at 45 businesses in the Stark community. Crews typically work a mini-



To continue our initiative to move from segregated to integrated environments, Stark DD strived to develop relationships with business, civic, and educational partners to further promote community involvement and integration of people with disabilities into the Stark County community.

This year, more than twenty adults with disabilities volunteered almost 600 hours in our community, cleaning up our parks, collecting recyclables and doing acts of kindness for the elderly. Volunteer sites included the Humane Society of Stark County, Meals on Wheels and the Akron/Canton Food Bank. Other times we have partnered with groups, such as Project Rebuild, on local beautification projects. Students in our school programs have also given to their community, fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness and filling holiday gift bags for a local soup kitchen. Wherever they gave their time, our volunteers were committed to giving back to the community that has given them so much. They ended the day by saying "I helped someone today!"

mum of four hour shifts daily. Our most successful enclave partnership is with the Rubbermaid Company. Since first hiring an enclave crew more than 15 years ago, we've now placed 76 people on eight enclave crews at the Mogadore plant. Those working on the fast-paced production line have been welcomed into the Rubbermaid family and wear their Rubbermaid shirts with pride.

Supported Employment - Community

This program offers a one-on-one job coach who assists a person in finding and keeping a job in the community. The job coach assists with hands on training and as the worker progresses in learning their job, more independence is granted to them.

Currently 120 individuals with disabilities work at 110 community businesses, including supermarkets, nursing homes, fast food restaurants and large retail shops.

Community Partners

In addition to our Supported Employment programs, Stark DD also entered into partnerships with United Disability Services of Akron and Coleman Professional Services of Northeast Ohio. These partnerships allow Stark DD to seek work opportunities and training to individuals with severe develop-

mental disabilities or health issues. Our involvement in these partnerships not only allows us to expand work experience and opportunities, but also allows us to take advantage of federal funds. For every \$1 that Stark DD invests in the program, the federal government contributes \$3.69.

**FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.STARKDD.ORG**

A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Supported Employment-Enclave: This program offers a job coach and a team of persons with disabilities who perform work at companies in the community. Examples include light manufacturing, cleaning and even document shredding.

Supported Employment-Community: This program offers a one-on-one job coach who assists a person in finding and keeping a job in the community. The job coach will assist with hands-on training and will fade over time. The employment services are provided in an integrated community work setting where individuals with DD and persons without disabilities are employed to perform the same or similar work tasks.

“ We provide employment and experience to more than 380 DD residents working in more than 150 businesses throughout the county. ”

Bridget Taylor, (center) 48, has worked at McKinley Life Care Center in the housekeeping department for the past 22 years. With the guidance of her Stark DD Job Coach Steve Sedlock and her supervisor Brenda Donovan, Bridget works full time, receiving above minimum wage salary, vacation and overtime benefits, and participates in the company's 401K plan. Just like her co-workers, Bridget keeps up on all company requirements including staff trainings and uniform purchases. Her paychecks also allow her to continue living at home with her mother and contribute to their expenses.

Bridget is just one of 120 people in the Supported Employment- Community division working in our community. More than 110 businesses throughout Stark County 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.



BRIDGET TAYLOR

Locations in Stark County

2



West Stark Center

7891 Hills & Dales Rd. NE, Massillon, 44646

330-479-3970

4



Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center

2121 Ashland St. NE, Louisville, 44641

330-479-3440

1



Whipple-Dale Centre/ Just Imagine Gift Shop

2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton, 44708

330-477-5200

3



Service & Support Administration, North Place

1278 S. Main St., North Canton, 44720

330-479-3570



5



Lester Higgins Adult Center

3041 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, 44707

330-484-4814

7



Transportation/Bus Garage

3059 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, 44707

330-484-6451

6



Rebecca Stallman Southgate School

3057 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, 44707

330-484-2547