



Nursing Therapy Services

The Health Services Department

The Health Services department is committed to maintaining and promoting the health of individuals attending Stark DD programs so that each may achieve their maximum potential and experience an improved quality of life. The Health Services Department is prepared to meet the health and medical needs of individuals with developmental disabilities across the life span. Health Services is involved in all service levels of the agency and offers a skilled, licensed professional staff of Nurses, Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational and Physical Therapists. All Health Services are based on the individual's needs as determined through evaluation and assessment.

Therapies in the School Programs

Occupational and Physical therapy:

Emphasis is given to neurodevelopmental and sensory integration type treatments. Services include:

- Treatment and/or consultation for adapted equipment and splinting
- Gait training and weight bearing
- Feeding evaluations and oral stimulation
- Transfers and activities of daily living
- Gross and fine motor and perceptual motor treatment
- Range of motion therapy
- Scoliosis screenings
- Home visits
- In-services for staff

Both direct and consultation services are provided in the classroom, natural environments and the home setting.

Early Intervention and Preschool:

Therapies are focused on building a foundation for reaching developmental milestones and preparation for learning in community and natural environments.

School Age Program:

Therapies assist students in the advancement of their educational, daily living, and vocational skills as they prepare to transition into the work force and community living options.



Speech and Language Therapy

Individuals with Speech/Language needs are identified and referred to the pathologists for evaluation. Service is provided in individual/group programs and targets individual needs including but not limited to speech (articulation, rate, voice, and fluency), language (receptive, expressive, pragmatic, sign language, and alternative communication modes), cognitive skill, swallowing evaluations and hearing screenings. Evaluations and screenings are completed on admission. Both direct and consultation services are provided in the classroom, natural environments and the home setting.

Early Intervention and Preschool:

Services are focused on building functional communication skills and promoting oral motor skills that demonstrate improved swallowing, chewing, and eating skills.

School Age Program:

Emphasis is placed on enhancing communication skills to assist the student in becoming a successful confident communicator. Alternative communication devices are utilized to expand communication opportunities for students with communication limitations.

Therapies in the Adult Service Program

Occupational/Physical and Speech/Language therapies:

Therapy services are provided through a consultative and evaluation /assessment model. Evaluations/assessments are managed by referral. Individuals have the choice to have an evaluation/assessment completed through Stark DD or in the community. Direct therapy services are not available in the Adult Services programs. Individuals needing direct therapy services will be referred to the community. A community provider may arrange to provide limited services in the workplace as it relates to the treatment plan.



Nursing Services

All program sites have a well-equipped clinic stocked with appropriate first aid supplies and staffed by licensed nurses skilled in the field of developmental disabilities nursing. The Nursing practice is goal directed and adapted to the needs of the individuals. Program Nurses function as part of the interdisciplinary team and participate in the formation of both Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students and Individual Plans (IP) for adults enrolled in Stark DD programs. Nursing Services provides extensive training and oversees the implementation and monitoring of medication administration by DD Personnel certified in medication administration by the Ohio Department of Developmental disabilities.

Direct Service

Program nurses provide direct health care services for individuals, promote environmental health and safety, and serve as resources for health information and health education. In addition to providing direct health care services for individuals and Board employees, the nurses provide and interpret medical information, evaluate health-related programs, administer prescribed medications and treatments, act as a liaison between physician, parent/guardian/residential provider, and board employee, and act as a resource person for staff in areas of health and nutrition.

Staff training

Program nurses provide training for staff in the following;

- Infection control
- CPR and First Aid
- Medication Administration



Health and Wellness Programs

Adult Services

Nursing services provide direction and oversight for the Health Matters program. This is a wellness program designed for adult individuals with developmental disabilities to improve their overall fitness and increase their knowledge about healthy lifestyles. The program includes nutrition and cooking classes, an exercise program, and health education classes. Individuals attending the adult program have an opportunity to participate in the Health Matters Program.

School Age

The school nurse provides health education to students in grades 5 through high school using the Family Life and Sexual Health (F.L.A.S.H.) curriculum. This is a three tiered program developed for middle and high school students with special needs. Students learn about social skills and sexuality survival skills.

Quality Assurance

Nursing Services also provide coordination and oversight of the quality assessment reviews by a Registered Nurse as mandated by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities medication administration rule OAC 5123:2-6-01 through 5123:2-6-07 in the following settings:

- Certified Supported Living Services with 1-4 individuals per living arrangement
- Certified Home and Community based Services with 1-4 individuals per living arrangement
- Residential facilities with 1-5 beds.

Quality Assurance reviews are completed to assure the health and safety of individuals to whom medications and health related tasks are administered by DD Staff.

**For more information, please call
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