



Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Stark DD receives Three-Year Accreditation from State Department

Canton, OH — The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been accredited by the State of Ohio for the quality services and supports provided to people with disabilities.

An eleven-member team from the state department completed a comprehensive review in January that included interviews with individuals and families who receive supports. A three-year accreditation was earned, the maximum possible term.

Stark DD Superintendent William Green credited the successful review to the way the board views what it does.

“Relationships with the people are the foundation of what we do,” Green said. “We recognize that each person and family is unique, so that means helping one person at a time to live the life they want to live.”

Green also noted that receiving the full three-year accreditation certificate is particularly fulfilling during this period of change in the DD system of services. “The accreditation review is a very rigorous and thorough process. The team of surveyors reviewed all areas of county board

operations including personnel administration, services and support and the general efficiency and effectiveness of the county board,” said Green. “Rule changes are constantly happening, yet Stark DD demonstrated that we continually review and refine our procedures so that we can ensure the safety and support of people with disabilities in our county.”

Stark DD coordinates supports for more than 3,900 eligible children and adults with developmental disabilities. Supports include early intervention (birth to age three), school-age assistance, transition from school to work (ages 14 to 22), job-related training and employment, residential, transportation, and respite.

Stark DD is governed by a seven-member volunteer board of directors. Daniel Sutter is president of the Stark County Board, Maria Heege is vice-president, and Dr. Jessica Falvo Lang is recording secretary. Also serving are James Anderson, Roger Gines, Carlene Harmon and Carmelita Smith.