



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

All in the Family

[Read our quarterly newsletters online.](#)

Message from the Superintendent



More than 400 people showed up for the **Walk for Awareness** at the Belden Village Mall last March.

We are interested in what the citizens of Stark County know about us. So each year we have the [Center for Marketing and Opinion Research](#) (CMOR), an independent research firm, reach out randomly and survey a sample of 600 people.

Our 2019 poll found that 74.1% of respondents have heard of us and 33% of you are aware of the services we provide. We clearly want to do better and would like all Stark County citizens to know who we are and what we do.

Our mission is **"supporting people with disabilities and their families."** Our vision for the future is **"each person with a disability will be fully included in our community."**

So how do we go about achieving our vision and mission? We do this primarily through our mandated roles of funding, planning, and monitoring a person's services and supports. We do this through our case management function, which we call service and support administration.

What many do not know about us is that over 40% of our budget goes directly to fund services provided by 115 private agencies and 200 independent providers. We then are responsible for monitoring them to make sure that people with disabilities are getting what they want and need. Part of this monitoring role includes the investigation of allegations of abuse, neglect and mistreatment.

In addition to our mandated functions, we provide early intervention to families with infants and toddlers and this work largely takes place in the family home. With early intervention, we are working with moms and dads teaching them strategies to support

their infant and toddler that may be experiencing delays. We have an integrated preschool and a school age program for students who have intense and complex needs. We also provide transportation to our schools.

When CMOR asked citizens how we are doing with:

- Providing access to quality services, 70.5% found us to be good to excellent
- Promoting involvement/integrating of people into the community, 66.9% found us to be good to excellent
- Delivering services within our resources, 67.6% found us to be good to excellent
- Communicating the vision/mission/values of Stark DD to the public, 53% found us to be good to excellent

As can be seen, we have work to do in getting the word out about us - about what we do, how we do it, and how we are stewards of the tax dollars provided to us. Please know we are committed to making sure the people we have been entrusted to serve are receiving the supports they want and need. As of today, we are serving 3,900 people and we are committed to serving them one person at a time.

In speaking for our 400 employees and the over 1,100 direct support professionals (DSPs) who are working within Stark County, we are honored to do what we do to assist people with disabilities within our community to live not only a good life, but a great one.

Best regards,

William Green

Find value in the absence of achievements



Photo: LEIGH MERRYDAY PORCH/FLAPPINESS IS

A Florida mother's social media post about her 10-year-old son on the autism spectrum has gone viral, and was recently featured in stories on [Good Morning America](#), [People Magazine](#) and [Inside Edition](#).

Leigh Merryday Porch, of Palatka, Florida, is a seasoned blogger and advocate, and

hosts the Facebook page "[Flappiness Is](#)". In her [June 12th post](#), Porch writes that she wants the public to value people with disabilities - specifically autism - in the absence of achievements.

Porch goes on to explain, "Because some disabilities cannot be overcome. They can be accepted, worked with, planned for, and accommodated, but no amount of parental love and determination can erase them."

Ending the post, Porch said she refused to allow Callum to be "relegated as somehow less worthy for not doing the unexpected and unrealistic."

Thanks to Tom Rickels, CEO of Xexcel, for sending this story to us.

Rev up and register to vote this week



July 15 through 19 is National Disability Voter Registration Week, and the [Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities](#) (DODD) is proud to announce its participation in the REV UP campaign, a national, nonpartisan effort to increase the political participation of people with disabilities.

Coordinated nationally by the American Association of People with Disabilities, Rev Up! focuses on voter registration, education, and engagement.

Learn more about [National Disability Voter Registration Week and the available resources](#).

Know Stark DD by our stories

Know Me

NAME *Weston*

PASSION *Dr. Who*

My Story

Hi! My name is Weston Eberhardt and I was born on January 23, 1991 at Aultman Hospital. I was born prematurely at 28 weeks. I weighed 2 pounds 4 ounces and stayed at Aultman Hospital until I was 4 ½ pounds and able to breathe on my own. But, that's just the start of my story.



What's HPC?

HPC stands for **H**omemaker **P**ersonal **C**are services, which are paid for by federal and community dollars. HPC services help people live in the community independently by assisting with daily living skills.



[Have you read our stories??](#)

Get to know us through our stories about the people who receive services, the community providers of services, and Stark DD employees who work together to be the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Looking Ahead

Adult Social Night



**July 25 / 7 - 9 p.m. / Massillon Knights of Columbus
988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon**

Adult Social Night. Must be 18 years of age and over, and follow the [Adult Social Night Guidelines](#) to attend. See a complete [Adult Social Night Calendar](#).



**August 12 / 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. / Stark County Board of DD
- Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW**

Family Information Series "Special Needs Planning Workshop: Loose Ends or Legacy." For more information or to [Misty McGirr](#).

**August 12 / 6 p.m. / Walthers Twin Tavern
440 Applegate St NW, North Canton**



Sharing Solutions, an intellectual/developmental disabilities support group for families, caregivers and professionals, will host a conversation with Robert Finn, Social Security Administration, "Understanding SSI & SSDI." [RSVP to Jodi Broom](#).



September 28 / 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre, 2950 Whipple Ave. NW, Canton

Discover the resources available in our community. This is a one stop information event for people of all ages. Free and open to the public. [Vendor registration](#) deadline: September 6, 2019.



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