



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

All in the Family

[Read our quarterly newsletters
online.](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Looking back on 2019, I am thrilled as to what we accomplished. As we begin a new year I would like us to reflect and celebrate our accomplishments and use them as a springboard for 2020.

In 2019 we earned a three year accreditation award from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. We had two firsts. We held our first Disability Awareness walk at Belden Village Mall that brought out over 500 people to raise awareness to our mission and vision. We held our first Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition luncheon that honored 10 DSPs and the event was attended by over 100 people. The Direct Support Professionals are the hands and feet of our service delivery system. They are over 1,200 strong working for one of the 115 agency providers or the 125 independent providers we support.



2019 Walk for Awareness

During 2019 we:

- served 3,859 people with disabilities and their families.
- supported over 700 families within early intervention.
- educated 88 preschoolers and 105 school age students.
- maintained our top rated school buses so they could travel nearly 500,000 miles.
- collaborated with our 17 school districts and served over 250 transition aged youth.
- supported 2,100 people through our service and support administration function, and completed at least 1,880 individual service plans.
- enrolled nearly 190 new people on home and community based services

waivers - providing them life-long services and supports.

- provided direct cash assistance in the amount of \$287,000 through Family Support Services to at least 400 families in need.

We also:

- investigated 915 major unusual incidents and ensured immediate actions and preventative measures were in place to make sure people served were healthy and safe.
- evaluated over 464 locations through nursing assessments - 439 within homes and 25 at adult day sites.
- completed 33 provider compliance reviews and issued over 110 citations for follow-up.
- made over 400 visits to see the services provided through the provider supports we offer.
- provided training to 288 direct support professionals in either CPR-First Aid, Medication Administration, or Mandt (direct support relationship building).

We worked collaboratively to secure labor agreements with SCEPTA and the Support Staff Union. We had over 150 employees participate in our inaugural year for our Employee Wellness Program. We made security upgrades in all of our buildings as well as installed a new roof on our Eastgate Early Learning Center. We resurfaced several parking areas and acquired land to expand parking at our Whipple-Dale Centre.

As is customary, we:

- celebrated disability awareness and disability employment months in March and October.
- held our annual Citizens Who Care Golf Outing, Street Fair and Great Pumpkin Race.
- hosted Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) for 34 self-advocates.

For everything accomplished, there is one common denominator - our highly dedicated and committed workforce. I am personally grateful to our 420 employees and the over 1,200 direct support professionals (DSP) who are working diligently to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

As we enter 2020, there is more to be done. We must continually get better at what we do - because the need is great and the people requiring our support deserve it.

May you each have good health, lots of happiness, and a great New Year.



New year invests in DSP compensation



Photo courtesy of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)

On July 18, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed into law the state's operating budget for fiscal years 2020-2021.

In this budget, county boards of developmental disabilities agreed to a first-of-its-kind partnership with DODD to jointly invest in higher rates for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). This is the first meaningful compensation increase for direct support professionals (DSPs) in more than a decade. To make this happen, county boards will use local tax dollars to match committed state funds.

This partnership and support from Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Legislature makes a historic investment in the DSP Homemaker/Personal Care rate. An investment of \$253 million will increase the state-wide average salary for DSP's from \$12.39 to \$12.82 on January 1, 2020. The wage increases again to an average of \$13.23 by January 1, 2021.

The budget also invests \$55.3 million to raise the On-Site/On-Call DSP reimbursement rate from \$6.09 to \$8.55.

Learn more as [Director Jeff Davis explains the DSP rate increase.](#)

Information courtesy of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Looking for a new career? Consider a DSP



[Watch this video](#) to learn more about the rewarding career of a Direct Support Professional (DSP). To learn about career opportunities in our area, visit [DSP Ohio](#).



Featuring:

- Project STIR
- Stark DD New board member
- Holiday photos
- Movie & Conversation
- 2nd Annual Walk for Awareness
- and much more!

Mission:
Supporting people with disabilities and their families.



View the [All in the Family January 2020 edition](#).

Looking Ahead

Sharing Solutions
IDD Support Group
for Families, Caregivers & Professionals



January 13 / 6 PM / Walthers Twin Tavern, 440 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton

Sharing Solutions, an intellectual/developmental disabilities support group for families, caregivers and professionals. Topic: Behavior Nursing Services and Mental Health with I/DD. RSVP to [Jodi Broom](#). *Social hour from 5-6 PM*

Adult Social Night



January 16 / 7-9 PM / St. George Serbian Center, 4667 Applegrove St. NW, North Canton

Adult Social Night. Must be 18 years of age and over, and follow the [Adult Social Night Guidelines](#) to attend. Plan ahead, see the [2020 Adult Social Night Calendar](#).



January 21 / 12 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre

Stark DD Monthly Finance committee meeting. Open to the public.



January 24 / 3 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre
Stark DD Monthly Personnel committee meeting. Open to the public.



January 28 / 6 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre
Stark DD Monthly Board meeting. Open to the public.



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