



## Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

### **For Immediate Release**

***DD-1629 March 18, 2020***

**Contact:**

*Lisa Parramore*

*Communications Manager*

*Phone: 330-479-3934 (office) 330-958-4014 (mobile)*

*Email: [parramorel@starkdd.org](mailto:parramorel@starkdd.org)*

### **Stark County Board of DD mobilizes to support families, providers during COVID-19 crisis**

*Canton, OH* — The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities is responding to the COVID-19 health crisis by mobilizing employees and community providers to support people with disabilities in the Stark county community and the families and caregivers who help them.

Stark DD launched early this week a number of initiatives to reach families and how they can request help.

“We want families to know we are open 24/7 to support them at this time,” said William Green, Superintendent for Stark DD. “We know many of the people we serve fall into the category of having compromised health and very specific needs, so we need to be vigilant in getting them the support they need.”

During the past week Stark DD School personnel and Service and Support Administrators (SSA) have been calling all families to check on them and see if their basic needs are being met. As needs arise, families should email [needsupport@starkdd.org](mailto:needsupport@starkdd.org). This email is monitored daily and families can expect a response from an SSA within the day.

Additionally, Stark DD will maintain Food Kits for families in need. Kits provide nutritional staples for a family of four for a three day period. Kits will be delivered to families by Stark DD employees.

In addition, students of Stark DD preschool and school age programs were sent home last Friday with a two week supply of breakfast and lunch “Grab and Go” food items to help carry them through the mandated three-week school closure.

At-home support for children and adults with disabilities is also underway. At the request of families, Stark DD employees are being deployed into homes where people are healthy to provide day support and respite for caregivers. Any family needing assistance should contact their SSA, call Stark DD at 330-477-5200 or email the [needsupport@starkdd.org](mailto:needsupport@starkdd.org).

The board is also working with the private provider community offering support as staffing needs arise. Stark DD employees as well as the provider businesses as a whole are working together to insure that adults with disabilities remain healthy and safe at home. Providers who need guidance or help for staffing shortages should email [providersupport@starkdd.org](mailto:providersupport@starkdd.org).

“The private providers in our community are to be praised for working together, partnering, and collaborating to address people’s needs,” said Green. “Also, we thank our labor unions for their quick response and willingness to do whatever it takes to support families. It will take everyone working 24/7 to keep people with disabilities healthy and safe through this crisis.”

Online, Stark DD maintains a dedicated webpage with basic guidelines from the local and state health organizations, information for families and providers, as well as cancellations and updates specific to Stark DD. Visit <https://starkdd.org/covid-19/>.