



Stark County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

All in the Family

[Read our quarterly newsletters
online.](#)

Message from the Superintendent



[True Colors as performed by the Camden Voices Choir](#)

Greetings! Given all that is occurring in our world right now: Who needs a little encouragement? Who needs some inspiration? I think each of us do. We are inundated with sickness, the fiscal impact of COVID-19, and injustice. Last week was filled with not only rallies for a worthy cause, but rioting and looting that muted much of the message.

I struggle to find words you and I may need right now. I searched for a truth common to us. Collectively, as the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the provider community, we each have chosen a vocation where our focus is outside of ourselves. Our mission is to support people with disabilities and their families. There is no higher calling when we can make even one life better.

One of my all-time favorite poems is from Emily Dickinson:

If I could stop one heart from breaking,

*I shall not live in vain;
If I could ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin,
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

Emily Dickinson's deep sensitivity for the welfare of others, even before herself, is the message of the poem. It is a reminder of the need for kindness and compassion that one human should afford another without the need for display or drama. A life that is devoted to another's welfare is a life well-lived. In our case, we are committed and dedicated to 3,859 people and their families. I hope that this fact brings us fulfillment and meaning.

Not having any more words, may you be encouraged and inspired by the song True Colors as performed by the Camden Voices Choir. May you have a good month.

Sincerely,



Editor's Note: A slightly modified version of this message was sent out to all Stark DD employees on June 1, 2020.

Updated guidance on Adult Day Programs

Ohio | Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Team Process



Provider Assurance



On Friday, May 8, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) published guidance for re-opening adult day services, publishing updates to this guidance on May 26. However, in keeping with the [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\) Order](#) on ADS settings, all guidelines still require services to be offered with no more than 10 people present (including staff). The process outlined below will not apply to larger congregate settings (more than 10 people) at this

time, as these centers remain closed by existing public health orders due to health and safety risks.

To ensure that a person is ready, willing, and able to safely rejoin 10-person ADS programs and that programs are ready to safely receive participants, the restart procedure combines an **individual team process** at the local level with a state process for receiving **provider assurances**. Both begin with a person expressing an interest to return to ADS. From there, two parallel planning and verification processes will take place.

This process applies to all Adult Day Support (ADS), Vocational Habilitation (VH), Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Day Program, or Transportation providers, regardless if services were discontinued after the order was issued.

In Stark County, by the end of May, approximately 350 individuals made the decision to return to facility based day programming. More than 45 providers have submitted their provider assurance form. This includes both NMT and Day Service. Agencies serving multiple locations must submit a form for each site.

New Alternative to In-Person ADS (STEP) Outlined in Guidelines

If the Team Process concludes that it is not the right time for a person to return to in-person ADS in small group centers, it is possible that a person may resume some forms of adult day services through new, non-traditional models and in non-center-based settings. These might include services delivered in a person's home, services delivered in a safe community setting, or services delivered remotely using telehealth-style tools.

Do you want to learn more about the updates regarding Adult Day Services? Contact [your Service and Support Administrator \(SSA\)](#).

Read [Updated Guidance: Day and Transportation Services Related to ODH Order](#).

Helping out in the provider community

During this time of COVID-19 Stark DD has made every effort to assure uninterrupted service delivery to all who may need it. To this end, we have been able to dispatch 26 of our staff to provide additional support to families and providers. These employees have gone into family homes, allowing parents to continue to work without having to be burdened with how they will meet their child's needs.



They have also joined the private provider workforce to assure improved rotation of staff in homes and improved coverage as our combined need increased.

Visitations at ICFs may occur outdoors



Following Governor Mike DeWine's announcement last week that outdoor visitation will be permitted at Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and assisted living facilities starting June 8, the Ohio Department of Health has released detailed [guidance for facility managers and staff](#).

All visits must take place outside, and facilities must adopt visitation policies that require the following:

- Screening for temperatures and symptom reporting for visitors;
- Scheduled hours and time limits for visits;
- Proper social distancing measures;
- Face coverings; and
- Education about the risks and spread of COVID-19 for residents, family members, and other visitors.

The guidance encourages facilities to consider all implications for residents' physical and mental well-being when determining when to allow facility and personal visitation decisions. In meetings with stakeholders, DODD has indicated that this may require ICFs to consider how the person's social and emotional needs may justify a minimal increase in risk. Each facility is able to determine how to best implement outdoor visitations for their residents in a way that works best for them.

The guidance also specifies that ICFs must monitor visits and enforce mask use and social distancing requirements if necessary. Visitors must also clean their hands upon arrival and agree to the facility's visitation policy before visits take place. Visitation at nursing homes remains prohibited until further notice.

Content provided by Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB)

Stark DD creates phased re-opening plan



With the input of several Stark DD departments, including Human Resources, Buildings and Grounds and Nursing Services, Stark DD has established a **Restart Plan** to protect the health and safety of employees and visitors as our building locations open for regular business hours later this summer. As we continue to support Ohio's efforts to deal with COVID-19, the cooperation of all

employees and stakeholders is needed to ensure that we all stay well. These guidelines will be updated as we near the start of the 2020/2021 School Year.

What we are doing

Stark DD Visitors

- Visitors are required to wear a face covering/mask once they enter a Stark DD building beyond the glassed in entry-ways. If they do not have a mask, one will be provided.
- All visitors will have their temperature taken if coming into a building beyond the glassed in entry-ways.

Stark DD Employees

- Building access will be limited to 50 percent capacity. Teleworking for employees, as well as meetings with individuals and families is still encouraged until further notice.
- Daily Health Assessments: All employees in Stark DD buildings will have their temperature taken twice daily. Employees experiencing at least two of the common COVID related symptoms are asked to stay home.
- Face Coverings/Mask: All employees must wear face coverings when in common areas/hallways of all buildings.
- Facility Cleaning: Our custodial staff has increased sanitizing all public spaces, including hourly cleaning of restrooms. Employees will sanitize personal workspace twice daily. Meeting conference rooms will be wiped down before and after each meeting. Conference rooms are limited to 50 percent room capacity to meet social distancing guidelines.

What's Going On...and Not

Adult Social Night



Adult Social Night events

Unfortunately, Social Nights are cancelled until further notice in this time of social distancing. We will let you know when they can resume. We may not resume regardless until 2021 unless something significantly changes, even if the large gatherings would be permitted by Ohio Department of Health.



Special Olympic events, practices, competitions

are cancelled through July 6. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about a possible softball season. Any extended cancellations will come from [Special Olympics Ohio](#). Follow the [Stark DD Special Olympics Facebook Page](#) for ways to stay in shape, stay safe and stay connected.



June 16 / 12 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre

Stark DD Monthly Finance committee meeting. The meeting will be conducted through teleconference.



June 19 / 3 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre

Stark DD Monthly Personnel committee meeting. The meeting will be conducted through teleconference.

June 23 / 6 PM / Stark County Board of DD - Whipple-Dale Centre

Stark DD Monthly Board meeting. Meetings will continue to be



done through teleconference, with the public able to attend. The meeting will also be live streamed through our [Stark DD Facebook](#).



August 24 / 8:30 AM / Glenmoor County Club, Canton
RESCHEDULED! Space is still available to be a part of the 10th Annual Citizens Who Care for DD Golf Outing. [Register online](#) to become an event sponsor or to sign up your team.



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