



2017 Action Plan

Board approved December 19, 2016

### **Introduction**

Continuing in 2017 will be the steps necessary to complete the biggest systemic changes to Ohio's service delivery structure for persons with developmental disabilities. The most prevalent of these changes is the cessation of direct services provided by county boards of developmental disabilities. This change is the result of a federal ruling that the role of service provider is a conflict of interest if performed by the same organization also providing case management.

This requires that Lott Industries must join the community of independent providers of services.

Federal and state guidelines also require that employment for persons with developmental disabilities be secured in inclusive community-based locations.

The primary focus of the Board of DD will be to ensure the services delivered by the provider community are of the highest quality. To accomplish this task the Board will continue to be the Medicaid administrative agent to determine eligibility, monitor services delivered by the providers, and maintain the commitment to person-centered planning.

### **Mission and Vision**

To guide the Board in the development of this Action Plan is our Mission Statement and supporting list of Core Values: *Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potential!*

LIFE is an acronym for the Core Values:

1. **Living LIFE-** I desire to live my life in the same manner as you. This means having the opportunity to choose my home, my relationships, my hobbies, my career, and my beliefs.
2. **Inclusion-** I am included, accepted, and able to participate in ALL things throughout my community.
3. **Freedom of choice-** My voice is heard in decisions that affect me. My opinion matters.
4. **Everyone has worth-** I have talents and abilities that I want to share. I deserve the chance to contribute to the betterment of my community.

### **Initiatives**

- Separation of Lott Industries is targeted for July. Individuals who are still receiving day habilitation services from the Board will be receiving those services at the Holland location. These individuals will be encouraged to finalize the transition to a provider from the community network.
- The Board will develop a FANS (Friends, Allies, and Neighbors) Network. The intent of FANS is to develop a volunteer network that would be able to meet the needs of individuals supported by the Board. A grant from Leadership Toledo will help launch this effort.
- Programming will be developed, in partnership with The Arc and Camp Courageous to enhance self-advocacy. Self-advocacy allows individuals to have greater involvement in decision-making that affects their lives.
- The Board will continue the implementation of a collaborative effort – the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Implementation Team -- to increase the retention of Direct Support Staff within the network of providers serving individuals with developmental disabilities. A state grant will help with hiring staff and retention efforts.
- It is the intent of the Board to continue its involvement with the Human Trafficking Coalition. The Board recognizes the vulnerability of persons with developmental disabilities to be victimized. New educational modules will be created to address risk and prevention.
- The Board will work with providers to develop capacity in areas of housing, adaptive equipment, behavior issues, mental health, and therapies.
- In all activities, the Board will foster an atmosphere where diversity is respected and valued. The Board will establish an organizational goal of ensuring everyone knows their opinions matter and are of importance.

- The Children’s Department will research the most efficient way to operate the Prescribed Pediatrics Unit while maintaining an inclusionary setting. There will also be a focus on the need for nursing for very special health care needs.
- We will refine and improve practices to ensure persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful opportunity to access Board services and benefits.
- The use of mass media and social media will be expanded to increase the positive awareness of persons with developmental disabilities. The goal will be to break down the attitudinal barriers that stand in the way of full access to housing, employment and social involvement.
- A communication plan will be developed to explain to internal and external audiences how Medicaid monies flow into the community *and* how the Board of DD accounts for its funds even though we will no longer be delivering direct services.

The Board recognizes the requirement to periodically assess the general public’s understanding and familiarity of the Board’s mission, how it addresses that mission, and its impact on the community. To that end, a countywide market research study will be undertaken during the first quarter of the year.

Comments on this Action Plan may be addressed to the Office of the Superintendent, Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 1154 Larc Lane, Toledo, OH 43614.

For more information about the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, please visit our website at [www.lucasdd.org](http://www.lucasdd.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LucasCountyDD](http://www.facebook.com/LucasCountyDD)