



2018 Action Plan
Draft – October 5, 2017

Introduction

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities stands firm in its resolve to ensure only the highest quality services are delivered by the provider community, promotes an inclusive lifestyle, and maintains a focus on health and safety. With these commitments in mind, the Board supports individuals and their families in developing a vision for the future based on individual strengths, interests and choices.

The Board, in its role as Medicaid administrative agent, will determine eligibility, monitor services delivered by providers, and maintain the commitment to person-centered planning. The Board will continue to provide the local match funding for Medicaid waivers.

During the first quarter of the year, the Board will complete the systemic change that ends delivery of direct services. This will bring the Board into compliance with the federal ruling that the role of service provider is a conflict of interest if performed by the same organization that also provides case management.

Mission and Vision

To guide its operations and planning, the Board recommitts to the following Mission Statement: *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

- The Board will partner with the University of Toledo Early Learning Center in the development of a fully integrated classroom experience. Children with special needs will attend with their typical peers. Resources and staffing to support the children with special needs will be provided by the Board.
- The Children's Department will research the most efficient way to operate the Prescribed Pediatrics Unit while maintaining an inclusionary setting.
- The Board, in partnership with other community agencies, such as Mental Health, Children Services, and the Family Council, will address the need for children, especially teens and older adults, for appropriate residential placement and respite care. Board will establish appropriate community-based placements (that could include employment options) for children, especially teens and young adults. All viable options will be reviewed.
- To maintain a cohesive, effective and efficient Service and Support staff, there will be a major review of training, orientation and mentoring. This review will include the identification of training gaps and the process used for training new staff.
- Our leadership role with the Human Trafficking Coalition will ensure training, outreach and education. This will include the development of a curriculum so individuals learn the skills to develop safe and healthy relationships.
- The Board will work to expand the number of providers in the areas of autism, behavior concerns, and medically fragile. The Board will partner with providers to ensure a "safety net" for families.
- Utilizing a data base of Major Unusual Incidents, the Board will work with providers in the prevention of MUI's and the development of better individual plans.
- Further development of the FANS (Friends, Allies, and Neighbors) Network will have met the goal of greater inclusion. FANS will be a volunteer effort.

- The Board, recognizing the need to not only recruit Direct Support Staff but to also retain them will maintain its involvement with the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Implementation Team.
- The Board envisions itself as an influential participant in community affairs.
- Public messaging through television, news releases and social media will be aimed at breaking down the attitudinal barriers that stand in the way of employment, housing and social activities.
- With an eye toward future levy campaigns, strategies will be developed for the foundation of a political action committee that would manage campaigns and fundraising.

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 or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LucasCountyDD