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2019 Action Plan  
approved November 26, 2018

### **Introduction**

2019 will be the first full year for the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities following the transition away from providing direct services. The Board now stands as the primary support agency for the provider community to ensure high quality service delivery, compliance with federal and state regulations, and a commitment to health and safety.

Person-centered planning is the approach used by the Board of DD for planning individualized services and supports based on an individual strengths, interests, and choices. Each person's individualized plan will have targeted outcomes that will monitor growth, success, and achieving potential.

In its role as Medicaid administrative agent, the Board will determine eligibility, monitor services delivered by providers, and maintain the commitment to person-centered planning. For individuals receiving services through a Medicaid waiver, the Board will continue to fund approximately 40% of the cost of services with the remaining 60% covered with federal dollars.

### **Mission and Vision**

To guide its operations and planning, the Board has established 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 effort will continue to establish appropriate placement and community options for children with complex behavioral needs. This could result in a major impact to youth ages 10-17 who are in need of residential placement. A respite house for children will be opened.
- The Children's Department will strengthen partnerships with local schools and child care centers to support inclusion. There will be an increase in the number of community playgroups.
- Individuals will be served better as Board staff employ the principles of Trauma Informed Care. Staff will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma. The goal is to ensure individuals served feel physically and emotionally safe.
- Efforts will be made to strengthen relations with community partners to maximize resources for individuals with dual diagnoses. Community partners could include mental health agencies, schools, hospitals, and universities.
- An emphasis will be placed on the use of Technology First in order to assist individuals reach to reach higher levels of independence and privacy.
- Assistance will be given to the provider community in recruiting direct support staff. A development team from the Board will attend job fairs and success coaches will be utilized to address issues that an employee may face that interfere with maintaining employment.
- Recognizing that individuals with developmental disabilities are among the most vulnerable, the Board will continue its training in how to recognize human trafficking. The Board will also maintain its participation with the Human Trafficking Coalition.
- The Friends, Allies, and Neighbors (FANS) Network will expand. This effort involves people who are committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- As part of the effort to increase inclusion, an effort will be made to increase the number of Special Olympics unified sports at the high school level.

- Support will continue for self-advocates. Areas of impact will include training on self-advocacy, increased involvement in the community, and educating employers on the benefits of hiring people with developmental disabilities.
- The Board will continue its participation in the Employment First Initiative. Individuals served will receive support to find employment in the community. We recognize that when individuals have the opportunity for employment, they become more independent, more confident, and more included in their community.
- Strategic planning will ensure the Board maintains its status as a noteworthy steward of public funds.

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)