



2020 Action Plan – Board approved November 25, 2019

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## **Introduction**

For more than 50 years, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been the primary conduit to supports and services for persons in our county with developmental disabilities. We do this by

- Identifying a vision for the future, through person centered planning, based on individual strengths, interests and choices;
- Providing support to providers, helping ensure quality service delivery;
- Collaborating with other agencies, schools, and employers to expand opportunities and help individuals reach their full potential; and
- Being a sound steward of the public dollars entrusted to us.

And while this Action Plan addresses goals and priorities for the year 2020, the Board will engage families, advocates, staff and the community in the process of developing a three to five-year strategic plan. This plan will address not only service needs of a growing population of individuals eligible, but also financial planning and staffing requirements.

## **Mission and Core Values**

The Mission of the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities: Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potentials.

LIFE is an acronym for our 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**

Each department within the Board of Developmental Disabilities has developed a comprehensive list of objectives and priorities for 2020 with details of how these goals will be accomplished, who is responsible for monitoring the progress, and a means for measuring success. Following is a synopsis of those goals.

### **Building an inclusive community**

- Through greater outreach to the community, we will continue the effort to break down attitudinal barriers that often stand in the way to greater access to housing, employment, recreation and social contacts.
- Expanding the Friends, Allies, Neighbors network (FANS) to address unmet needs of individuals. We are building a network of community members who are willing to give time or resources to helping people with disabilities.
- We will explore opportunities to increase unified sports, in which individuals with disabilities compete with individuals who do not have disabilities but comparable skill levels.

### **Achieving full potential**

- The Board will provide the assistance and understanding necessary for more individuals to utilize technology to enhance their independence and privacy. We will help individuals obtain the technology that best meets their needs.
- Every individual will have an employment-related goal where applicable.
- The Board recognizes the impact of self-advocates. Support for self-advocates will continue.

### Focusing on a safe and supportive environment

- We will strengthen our relationships with other agencies and organizations in the community to maximize resources for individuals with dual diagnosis, autism, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and exposure to lead.
- Involvement with the Human Trafficking Coalition will continue. The Board recognizes the importance of this commitment to focus on keeping safe and secure the individuals being served, who are among our community's most vulnerable.
- The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities joins other agencies to make Lucas County a community where we adhere to the principles of trauma informed care so individuals being served feel safe and secure. Attention will be given to a deeper awareness of the types of trauma and its triggers in order to prevent secondary trauma.

### Planning for children

- Establishing appropriate placement and identifying opportunities in the community for older children will continue to be an ongoing focus.
- The Board will partner with other agencies, schools, and the legal system to ensure that children receive the supports they need.
- Children will continue to receive services from the Board as they transition through the various stages of life. At age 14, discussion will begin on adult life choices.

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)