



2021 Action Plan – draft (October 7, 2020)

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## **Introduction**

Since 1967, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been the primary conduit in our community to supports and services for persons 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.

The Board of DD will begin 2021 with strict adherence to social distancing guidelines. The majority of staff will continue to work remotely, and our buildings will be open by appointment only. Though, because of the pandemic, we have had to adjust our methods of operation, we will not compromise our efforts to deliver the quality services and supports needed by the people and families we serve.

## **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 2021 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, including an increased emphasis on social media, 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.
- We will continue to expand 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 and/or resources to help people with disabilities.
- We will explore opportunities to increase sporting and recreation opportunities even though most Special Olympics events and traditional activities such as dinner-dances have been suspended because of the coronavirus.

#### **Achieving full potential**

- The Board will work with community assets to provide the assistance and understanding necessary for more individuals to obtain and utilize technology to enhance their independence and privacy. We will help individuals obtain the technology that best meets their needs.
- Every individual will have a community employment-related goal where applicable.
- The Board recognizes the impact and importance of self-advocates. Support for self-advocates will continue.
- The Board will explore and implement quality services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health concerns.

#### Focusing on a safe and supportive environment

- We will identify the training and resources needed by the provider community. This will include support for the Bridges out of Poverty program which identifies issues many employees have and suggests methods to surmount them.
- 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 to prevent secondary trauma.
- Efforts will be made partner with Preferred Properties to secure new residential/respite housing for youth.

## Planning for children

- An increased emphasis will be placed service needs for multi-system youth – children who may access services from multiple systems, such as the Board of DD, Children Services, the public schools, and juvenile court. A major focus will be on residential placements, especially short-term stabilizations.
- Establishing appropriate placement and identifying opportunities in the community for older children will continue to be an ongoing focus.
- 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)