



The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

March 16, 2009
Number 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Community
Café
Conversation,
April 28, 2009
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Johnston Hall,
Miami University,
Middletown

*Listening Session,
for Individual
Providers of
Supports,

April 6, 2009
6:30 p.m.
Fairfield Public
Library
(Contacts: Robin
Thomas or Heida
Powers)

We want to hold
“Community
Café
Conversations”
in Hamilton,
Fairfield, and
West Chester as
well. Some time
before April 30.

Call or e-mail
Jack at 513-867-
5924 or
jackp@butlermrdd.org

ASKING FOR IDEAS AND OPINIONS FROM LARGER GROUPS

(including groups who don't have time for
a longer conversation)

This week's “Stakeholders' Say” has an extra page. We wanted to have a way to hear from members of large groups of stakeholders—especially groups who might be reluctant (because of time, for example) to undertake a café conversation or listening session.

So, the second page of this newsletter is a format for surveying members of such groups. It should take just a few minutes for people to fill out and return the form, and compiling the responses from this “survey” will help us learn how people weigh various important issues against one another. We think that it's likely that many people would want to choose more than five of the issues on the form. It's important, though, for people who use the form to follow the instructions and pick out just those FIVE results that are most significant to them.

If someone chooses to use the survey form, we ask that the user:

- 1) Either total up the responses using a blank form (with the name of the group written at the top), or
- 2) Send all of the forms that group members completed to Jack Pealer for totaling. Jack's office is located at Janet Clemmons Center, 282 N. Fair Avenue, Hamilton, OH 45011.

We'd prefer to have as many “conversations” with stakeholders as possible, but we'd rather have people's responses to the survey format than not to hear from many of our stakeholders at all.

WHEN MONEY
GETS TIGHTER,
QUESTIONS
ABOUT POLICY

ANOTHER FAMILY'S DILEMMA

(reported by a dad and mom)

“For the last five years we have struggled with finding good support staff (at the home where our son lives). They make less than \$10 per hour; they have no sick days.... We have not had the 1:1 person our son needs in over 2 years.... Our best staff person had to quit her higher paying job in a nursing home because of lifting issues which damaged her back. Asking her to sleep on a sleeper-bed is not fair and violates her rights. Sometimes she works ten days in a row; again this is not fair to her.

What about people with disabilities buying their own homes? Families buying the homes? Creative fostercare/shared living? HUD requirements for families? Joining with other aging, single moms who need collaborative housing? Trusts and wills regarding residences? Microboards? All of these topics have been tossed around for decades by families and experts. But no one ever has the answer of how this would work in Butler County.”

TALK TO US, PLEASE!
What's MOST IMPORTANT to work toward?

The Butler County Board of MRDD is working on its next "Strategic Plan." You can help by using this form to tell us what's important to you. Please pick the five (5) most important results listed below. Mark each of those with an "X". Give the form back to us, and we'll add up the results. Thanks very much!

_____ Help for families with children at home, so their children stay strong and keep on learning.

_____ Good health care for people with developmental disabilities.

_____ People with developmental disabilities having jobs with dignity, decent wages, and (whenever possible) benefits.

_____ A "safety-net" (places to go, staff to help) for people with developmental disabilities who are in dangerous or crisis situations.

_____ Ways for people with developmental disabilities to get to work and to other places they want and need to go.

_____ As much help or support as people with developmental disabilities need to live safely and well in the community.

_____ Support that helps people with developmental disabilities make good life-decisions.

_____ Decent places to live that are affordable to people with developmental disabilities.

_____ Well-trained, experienced support workers who make careers assisting people with developmental disabilities.

_____ Financial help for people with developmental disabilities so they can have some of the necessary "goods" of life (e.g., decent clothing, furnishings, home repairs, etc.).

_____ Paying close attention to the ways public money is spent to help people with developmental disabilities.

_____ Working with families with very young children so those children will be less affected by developmental disability.

_____ People with developmental disabilities who don't have jobs will find challenging and interesting ways to use their time and contribute to community life.

_____ (Add your own issue)

_____ (Add your own issue)
