



The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

March 25, 2009
Number 5

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)

Plans are under
way for
“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@butlermr
dd.org

SELF-ADVOCATES TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE! (Part 2)

What help do you want in order to work out problems with staff or providers? How can you be heard better by staff and teams?

→ We want to be treated: like human beings; nicely and fairly; like family. We don't want helpers to be mean, nor do we want them to hurt people's feelings.

→ We think that when people have problems or disagreements, they should:

- Talk about it together, equal-to-equal
- Have a meeting (e.g., a team meeting) before the problem gets too big
- Arrange for the “bosses” to think about the problem and talk to staff members about it.

→ We think we'll be heard better if we plan what we want to say—if we're better prepared at the meetings we go to.

What do you do for fun, and what would help you to have more enjoyment in life?

→ Among the things we enjoy are: doing things with family & friends, their pets, fishing, listening and dancing to music, skateboarding, video games,.

→ What would help are:

- Increased supports for “fun,” like leisure-coaches
- More support to groups that really build enjoyment and skill (like Visionaries & Voices)
- Groups that are for people who have specific health difficulties (e.g., arthritis, diabetes, etc.)

Other thoughts from EPRO members in the next issue!

MORE IDEAS FROM EPRO

GROUPS STARTING TO USE “TALK TO US, PLEASE!” QUESTIONS

Kris Jones from the West Chester Community Team took the “Talk to Us, Please” questionnaire to some community meetings that she attended. A few folks at each meeting were willing to complete the form and return it to us.

So, we have VERY EARLY returns about what a few citizens think are the most important things for us to pay attention to as we carry our planning forward. Those who filled out the form in West Chester said the “most important” issue was:

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

Other issues that were considered very important were:

- People with developmental disabilities having jobs;
- People having enough support to live safely;
- Decent places to live that are affordable to people with developmental disabilities

You'll see more reports about “Talk to Us, Please” as the responses come in.