



# The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

March 30, 2009  
Number 6

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* Community  
Café  
Conversation,  
April 21, 2009  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Fairfield Public  
Library

\*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)**

## SELF-ADVOCATES TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE! (Part 3)

### How can people get to the places they want and need to go?

→We need to support “The Shuttle,” so it will stay available and expand both its routes and its hours.

→Recruit and use more volunteer-drivers; expand on the current ways we get to meetings, etc.—use flyers and newspapers to advertise this opportunity.

→Make better use of agency vans at night and on weekends.

→Use other transportation methods, like bicycles, ride-sharing, living close to work

→Seek more help from BVR and other agencies so we could get driver’s licenses.

### How can we talk to and be heard by our government?

→Let’s get an EPRO representative to serve on the board of “Friends of Citizens with Disabilities”

→We should ask representatives of government (all levels) to talk and listen to us about issues we care about—invite them to our meetings and get to know them as well as we can

→We have to VOTE and encourage all our members and others to vote.

→Make videos about issues; get signatures on petitions; rally and march for the things we’re interested in; have retreats or caucuses to talk about public issues that concern us.

## ANOTHER CAFÉ CONVERSATION ON THE SCHEDULE!

**INVITATION TO A CONVERSATION.** *(This is a draft of an invitation that could be sent to any citizen who might attend a “café” or “listening session.”)*

You are someone who can and does make a difference to the communities in Butler County.

As part of its strategic planning process the Butler County Board of MRDD wants to invite citizens of our community to take part in a “café conversation,” at which a series of thought-provoking questions will be discussed in small groups. The results of this conversation will help guide our agency as we plan for the future. Your knowledge of the community and your insight and experience will be helpful contributions to this discussion.

Can we count on you to join us for just two hours at (day, time, location)? If you have any questions about this session, please feel free to call me (local organizers’ names) at (phone number) or to call the MRDD Ombudsman, Jack Pealer, at 513-867-5924.

For the MRDD Board, strategic planning is a major step toward assuring that we are providing the kinds of services and supports needed by people in our community and that we are continuing to be responsible stewards of Butler County taxpayers’ dollars. Thanks for considering how you can play a role in this.