



April 20, 2009
Number 9

The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

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

* Community
Café
Conversation,
May 12, 2009
Early Evening,

Hamilton High School,
Hamilton

On April 16 we asked representatives of supported living or waiver providers to fill-in-the-blank on the following statement:

If I had my way, between 2010 and 2014 the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities would do this one thing:

_____ *that would make a BIG DIFFERENCE in the lives of local citizens who have developmental disabilities.*

Here are the ways that people filled in the blank.

→That the parts of the Board's programs worked better together—sometimes different departments seem to work against one another.

→Concentrate on matching roommates for people who live alone and leave the ones already in congregate living (2-3 people) alone.

→Help the individuals we serve be respected and productive members of our community.

→Find other sources of funding...additional funding.

→Put a major emphasis on training and supporting those who work directly with people...those are the people who make a difference.

→Get rid of segregated dayhabs and ensure everyone has a meaningful life in the community.

→Initiate task forces focusing on priority areas—can start small but growing. Develop volunteer bases of support (e.g., family, friends, service providers) to join with the county board's oversight.

→Provide the training, resources and oversight to ensure that the highest quality of people are working directly with the individuals whom they serve.

→Put together a more intense job-placement program.

→Make funds available to give the best care possible and a better quality of life for people with disabilities; better training to staff.

SUPPORTED LIVING or WAIVER AGENCY PROVIDERS SPEAK!

→Figure out transportation so people would have more independence to go where they choose as often as they choose without a large strain on already stretched budgets.

→Find lots of places/things to do for free or very inexpensively...people just want to have fun, go places, but they never have much (if any) money. Things people can do or places they can go on a weekly basis—not just every other month. Someone working on discounts for people with developmental disabilities for places such as the zoo, Reds' games, Bengals, aquarium, Kings Island, theaters, etc.

→Increase billing rates so that we could attract more quality individuals to help folks who are in need.

→Raise standards associated with direct care staff. We can then raise the rate of pay; we can begin to retain a lot of our staff and cut the turnover rate; we can see longer-term relationships develop between the staff and the individuals we support.

→Make sure that direct-care staff will be well-trained and understand their role in providing supports to individuals with disabilities.

→Create stronger bonds with the community (individuals, agencies, etc.) to increase chances of natural supports. Besides helping people this could decrease costs.