



April 27, 2009
Number 10

The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

ISSUES RAISED BY PEOPLE AT THE FAIRFIELD CAFÉ CONVERSATION, APRIL 21, Fairfield Library

(organized and facilitated by
Trish Musnuff and Ron Smith)

CAFÉ CONVERSATION IN FAIRFIELD!

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Community
Café
Conversation,
April 28, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Johnston Hall, Miami
University,
Middletown

*Listening
Session at
"Transition
Series"
May 6, 2009
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Janet Clemmons
Center, Hamilton

*Community
Café
Conversation,
May 12, 2009
5:00-7:00 p.m.,
Hamilton High School,
Hamilton

LONG-TERM NEEDS AND WISHES OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: These include:

- Relationships: friends, closeness to family, social activities (fun and introductions), community involvement.
- Work and income: employment with benefits, help with financial planning and handling money, opportunity for further education (college/trade school), help starting a business.
- Transportation: including support to get/use a car.
- Personal Supports: medical and dental insurance and treatment, help with personal care, psychiatric supports nearby, all of this available for as long as needed.
- Good housing.
- Capacity to live a normal life, have a home, have the assistance needed, and to be treated nicely.

LONG-TERM NEEDS AND WISHES OF FAMILIES AND OTHERS CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE WITH DEV. DIS.

- Safety and security: a person is safe in her/his home, and we need assurance of stability as long as she/he lives.
- Address of families' fears: for example, we fear loss of caregivers, turnover, new living situations, lack of real relationships ("just staff")
- Equality, inclusion, as much independence as possible.
- That a person is happy and satisfied.
- Less confusion in residential supports—reduced wait lists, compatible roommates, individual supports available, closeness to community resources (stores, library, etc.).
- More/better communication with (well-trained) provider staff.
- Enough employers and enough work in workshops.
- More involvement of Board employees in Arc events.

LIKELY COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC INFLUENCES ON BUTLER COUNTY DD BOARD, NEXT 5 YEARS

- THE ECONOMY: may influence "pooling" of Medicaid funds; anti-tax sentiment & effect on levies; forced need to "share costs" by service users; decreased ability to raise wages for direct-support workers; possible availability of foreclosed housing.
- People and Money: growing number of people said to have autism—more service needs, effects on funds; loss of individual privacy with reduced funding; threats to continued medical/dental benefits under Medicaid; increased unemployment means fewer jobs for people with disabilities.

- "Not in my neighborhood" reactions in some neighborhoods; we need more community acceptance.
- Expansion of the cap on Level 1 waiver is needed—big disparity among waivers.
- Increased need for family resources and respite
- Watching new admin. In Washington—how it affects local services—uses of "stimulus" funds.
- Need better contact among generations—talk about different expectations and ways to find future support workers.

MOST IMPORTANT THINGS DD BOARD CAN DO TO RESPOND TO NEEDS, NEXT 5 YEARS

- Continued focus on employment, housing, sex education, transportation

- Better communication: social network development; listening to what people say; family involvement; getting everyone IN on decision-making; taking education OUT to the community.

- Continued learning opportunities for providers, community, staff—especially direct-support staff; increase volunteerism of the community—helps with acceptance

- Pay attention to the relationships among the Board, providers, and users of service:
More involvement between private providers
Educate providers about services
Make sure provider-selection process is fair
Providers (residential and daytime) MUST see individuals as individuals and not as source of income