



April 7, 2009  
Number 7

# The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

## INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS GATHER TO OFFER IDEAS ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT

A number of "individual providers"\* of supported living and/or waiver supports gathered on April 6 at the Fairfield Library. Provider Relations Coordinators Robin Thomas and Heida Powers listened and took notes as providers shared their comments and suggestions for the DD Board as it makes a new plan for the next few years.

Providers said that, from their points-of-view people with developmental disabilities and their families hope for or need:

- 1) Support to build relationships and friendships—among all who have an effect on "supports" (people using support, families, providers, county Board personnel, and citizens).
- 2) Wise use of funds that are made available by citizens (i.e., through taxes) for the support of people with developmental disabilities.
- 3) Much better knowledge and understanding of the kinds and amounts of resources that are available to support people with developmental disabilities.
- 4) Respectful and dignified treatment, which, for the providers, equates with "quality."
- 5) Support for people with developmental disabilities that is organized in ways that allow those people to be more productive citizens.

The providers offered the following suggestions about the future direction of services in Butler  
*(continued, next column)*

## MORE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE!

County:

- 1) Be more frugal with money that is available for support; taxpayers should have input on how money is spent.
- 2) Increased pay for providers.
- 3) More training for those who work with individuals—and use of their training/learning by workers.
- 4) Good accountability and oversight of programs.
- 5) We continue to need BETTER quality in the performance of staff members in all arenas of service to people with developmental disabilities.

Providers said, as well, that planners must take account of the fact that many people still "fall through the cracks" in systems; these people need our attention. And, finally, providers would support efforts to teach people with developmental disabilities how to interact socially with other citizens of their communities.

## 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