



May 14, 2009
Number 15

The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

THEMES FROM THE HAMILTON CAFÉ CONVERSATION, MAY 12 AT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Seventeen people—mostly family members from the Hamilton and western Butler County area—took part in a conversation in the evening of May 12. Here are the main themes that were part of that conversation.

*Services and service systems are **CONFUSING** to families—there's so much information to consider and not as much guidance as families need

- How would we get schools and school-teachers involved in knowing the necessary information and assisting families to consider it?
 - We'd need to have this happen at the elementary and middle-school levels as well as high school
 - The information on the BCBMRDD web site is useful and it would help to have teachers familiar with that

Families need much more help to sort everything out—about residential/supported living services, waivers, employment supports, guardianship, financial planning, etc. We noted that families who have been “around” for a while—even a LONG while—need this kind of help.

*Different questions and different kinds of “transitions” take place at different times in an individual's life—means that there are different opportunities for learning that have to be considered. Maybe we need a series or group for each kind of transition—EI to school, school to adult, living with family to living in one's own place, etc.

*We need and want MORE OPPORTUNITIES for the people with disabilities we care about

- Adults need good places to live; we worry that staff in those places are poorly paid and need more incentive to stay for a long time.
 - Worry as well about who's watching over the residential/supported living locations, to make sure that things are going OK.
 - What's the motivation or incentive for providers and direct support workers to do well?
- Why not work with businesses to develop JOBS for people with disabilities—many people want jobs

HAMILTON CAFÉ CONVERSATION

- We could interact with the business community to identify jobs and match people with the job and support with the people
 - If we did this, how would families know about it? How would they be involved in it?
 - Summer and volunteer jobs too
- People need places to go where they can learn things (e.g., computers) required for work.

*Families worry about their children eventually finding themselves ALONE... having outlived their parents. What happens then?

- Could “letters-of-intent” or other similar process be done for more people?

*NO TRANSPORTATION (PUBLIC)

- Hard on families
- How will we pay for this?

*Parents have a hard time (and need help with) “letting go” and, thus, promoting independence for their children.

*Families of people who have “mental health” difficulties need more and different forms of response and guidance from service agencies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Strategic
Planning
Search
Conference,
May 18-19, 2009

Wilks Conference
Ctr.
Hamilton

Please contact Sharon
Sheets, 867-5924, ext.
27, if you haven't yet
responded to your
invitation to take part
in the Search
Conference.