



# The Stakeholders say ...

a newsletter to help with strategic planning

May 4, 2009  
Number 11

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*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

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

Wilks Conference  
Ctr.  
Hamilton

ISSUES RAISED BY PEOPLE AT THE MIDDLETOWN  
CAFÉ CONVERSATION, APRIL 28,  
Miami University, Middletown  
(organized and facilitated by  
Linda McDowell and Cathy Howell)

WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, THERE ARE  
THINGS WE **WORRY** ABOUT:

- Parents ask: where will our kids LIVE?
  - In what kinds of dwellings?
  - With what kind of support?
  - Supported by what funds?
- Will there be enough money for what's needed? If we're able to get more money, will it be secure enough?
- The certainty and the pace of change—how that will affect people with developmental disabilities. For example:
  - \*Health care—how will the need be met?
    - e.g., the growing number of people who are said to have "dementia"
  - \*Where will jobs be found for people with disabilities?
  - \*What about "autism?"
    - Number of people identified
    - Need for individualization (made more serious when we think of how many people are being identified)
    - Our uncertainty about how to support identified people well

→THESE ARE HARD PROBLEMS!

WHAT WE **HOPE** FOR:

- A CHANGED PERCEPTION of people with disabilities and of the Butler County Developmental Disabilities Program, by local citizens and local businesses (we recognize there's both risk—i.e., of confusion—and opportunity—for a more positive image of people— in the NAME CHANGE for the agency)
  - \*perception that BCDD is an agency that helps people get jobs and is a source of good employees for businesses
  - \*perception that people with developmental disabilities will be good, dependable, highly productive workers
  - \*perception that BCDD assists people toward living in their own homes, with just enough support to do that well
  - \*perception that people with disabilities will make useful contributions to their communities as reliable volunteers

## CAFÉ CONVERSATION IN MIDDLETOWN!

→ That each person with a disability will belong with and be an important member of a social network or circle

- \*for friendship; to be able to contribute to others; for safety
- \*Networking, working together, is absolutely necessary
- \*we'll find whom we need—that is, connectors and network builders will become more evident—are already revealing themselves to us

→ That everyone involved in the lives of people with developmental disabilities (people themselves, their families, agencies, etc.) will TRUST one another—we can't do it without trust.

→That services and supports will be of HIGH QUALITY, meaning:

- \*Everything happens in the COMMUNITY—fewer and fewer closed settings
- \*More work with faith communities
- \*People with disabilities get to choose what they want to do and be
- \*People are increasingly seen as:
  - workers
  - taxpayers
  - contributors
  - citizens
  - members of groups and associations
- \*People can get to community places where they need and want to go

→ That those of us trying to help (we hope that's more of us all the time) can work:

- \*Together
- \*"Outside the box"
- \*Through SHARING (because that's the only way it can be done)