2021 - 2022
ANNUAL REPORT



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

Letter from Leadership

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to present to you our annual report covering our work from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The Council has been hard at work on improving lives for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio, and we are excited to share with you the impact of our work in this annual report.

As you read on, you will see the impact working together has made on the State of Ohio. As we adapted to the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to move forward to take advantage of every opportunity to create change that improves independence, productivity, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life.

A look at the Council's outreach efforts alone shows a wide range of programs with a multitude of outcomes affecting change for the developmental disabilities (DD) community. Our successful DD Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse offered a way for all to attend, whether they were in Columbus or not, through a hybrid connection. People attending in-person, as well as those joining via Zoom, were able to talk with legislators, sharing their stories and hopes for the future.

The Council was a front runner in their work throughout the LGBTQ community for people with developmental disabilities, continuing its commitment in reaching out to those in these unserved and underserved populations. In addition, the Ohio Advocacy Taskforce was created to assist those with developmental disabilities in applying to and becoming members of their county boards.

The Council is guided by purpose, and its members provide the energy, enthusiasm, and ingenuity that drive our success.

Michael Denlinger, Chair of the Ohio DD Council
Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio DD Council



Michael Denlinger
Chair, Ohio DD Council



Carolyn Knight
Executive Director,
Ohio DD Council

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Our Mission, Our Work

The mission of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (Ohio DD Council) is to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life. The Ohio DD Council operates under the authority of and receives its funding from the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) and is a part of the Ohio DD Network. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities assists and supports the Ohio DD Council as the federally mandated designated state agency.

The Ohio DD Council is committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help individuals with developmental disabilities gain more control over their lives and be included in their communities. To achieve this, 60 percent of the Council represents people with developmental disabilities, and parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities who are appointed by the Governor. The remaining members include representatives from state agencies, non-profit organizations and agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities.

The Ohio DD Council members, staff and stakeholders work together to identify a problem or need that should be addressed for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. These issues are agreed upon by Council members and identified in the Ohio DD Council's Five-Year State Plan. The State Plan is used to offer specific grant projects to create systems change and promote independent living in an inclusive community for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network

In every state and territory in the United States, programs authorized by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to help shape policies that impact them. The Administration for Community Living oversees these programs. The programs, which make up each state's Developmental Disabilities (DD) network, are:

- State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (Councils)
- State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As)
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDDs)

Ohio's DD Network works together to improve outcomes for people with developmental disabilities and their families to access needed services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in all areas of community life.

The following programs are a part of Ohio's DD Network:

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

Disability Rights OHIO

Cincinnati Children's

University of Cincinnati

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

Five-Year State Plan:
Projects Highlights

The Ohio DD Council receives federal funding for innovative advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities. These activities are designed to contribute to a coordinated system of services, supports and other assistance that is centered around and driven by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Council's work is driven by its Five-Year State Plan covering federal fiscal years 2022-2026. The plan was developed with input from people with developmental disabilities, family members and interested stakeholders from around the state. All projects described in the plan adhere to DD Council's philosophy that people with developmental disabilities have the right to be productive, interdependent members of their communities and of society at large.
On the following pages, read highlights of grant projects organized by our specific areas of focus. Included is a description of all current grants moving forward.



Ohio DD Council's Five Year Plan Areas of Focus

- Children & Health
- Community Living
- Employment
- Leadership Development
- Outreach
- Public Policy
- Technology
- Communication

Outreach

About the Outreach Projects

Mission: To conduct outreach activities to identify individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who otherwise might not come to the attention of the Council and assist and enable individuals and families to obtain services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance including access to special adaptation of generic community or specialized services.

Project Highlight: Human Trafficking and Vulnerable Populations

People with developmental disabilities may be especially susceptible to human trafficking for a variety of reasons. But identifying human trafficking statistics poses many challenges. How many people with developmental disabilities are being used or abused by human traffickers? How can Council help stop this from happening? That's what this grant aims to find out.

This project was awarded to The Switch National Anti-Trafficking Network in 2022 to develop a white paper on how people with developmental disabilities, including people of color, are victims of human trafficking and what help is or is not available. By January 2024, the grantee will complete the research and the write paper to summarize the issue and include recommendations for problem-solving and future funding considerations.

Other Outreach Projects

- **Detecting Specific Disorders for Amish and Non-Amish Communities Project:** This project is a collaboration of medical professionals, families, hospitals, and teachers in the Amish area of Northeast, Ohio. The primary focus of the project is to visit, diagnose, test and treat genetic disorders in the Amish community.

  Grantee: DDC Clinic Center for Special Needs Children

- **Empowering ReachOut e-Diversity News:** This newsletter features information about the unserved and underserved with a focus on the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion. Readers are engaged to take action using a tool kit of information and being a part of Difference Maker Challenge virtual meetings.

  Grantee: Outcomes Management

- **Ohio's LGBTQ Community and People with Disabilities:** Research shows that people in the LGBTQ community face barriers finding employment, housing, healthcare and more. In addition, LGBTQ people with developmental disabilities report that it is challenging to have their identities fully recognized. This project will explore whether LGBTQ people with developmental disabilities receive necessary services and supports and report the findings in a white paper that will include a description of the problem, data collection and recommendations, in particular on how agencies can provide culturally competent services to the LGBTQ community.

  Grantee: Kaleidoscope Youth Center

Children & Health

About the Children and Health Projects

Mission (Children): To support and empower families of children and youth, aged birth to 21 years, with developmental disabilities to live the life they want to live; and to promote a healthy life for people with developmental disabilities.

Project Highlight: Family Support in Early Intervention

"The more authentic the relationship with the family, the more impactful the time in Early Intervention will be with building parent confidence and competence and thus the well-being of the entire family," explains Susan Jones, Project TREES grant consultant for the Family Support in Early Intervention grant awarded to the Ohio County Board Association. Two very effective tools for Early Intervention (EI) professionals were developed with the funding from this grant.

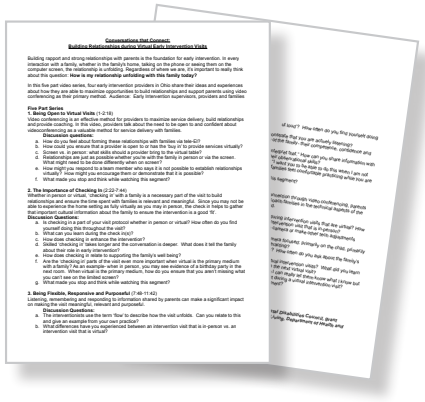


Click the thumbnail or link below to Watch Video

https://ddc.ohio.gov/resources-and-publications/early-intervention/conversations-that-connect

First, an on-demand video series, Conversations That Connect, was developed to provide information on how to engage and build relationships during virtual EI visits. The overall goal is to advance the field and practice of EI providers in their ability to maximize their relationship building skills with families using a virtual platform.

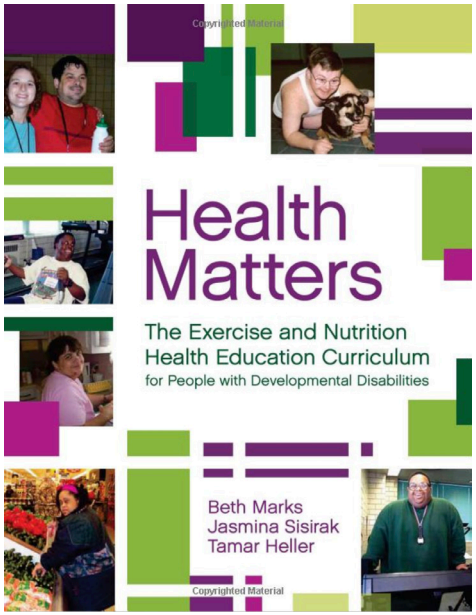
With much of the EI work being done today via virtual methods, it is important for providers to understand how powerful they can be whether in person or on screen. At times, using a virtual method is perceived as not as effective when in fact it can be equal to or even more effective with attention to the variables explained in the video series. Key to these videos is the importance of relationships to build the confidence and competence of families either in-person or via virtual visit. A discussion guide is available for use along with each video segment.



Click to Download the Discussion Guide

Mission (Health): Identify and support participation in inclusive activities that promote healthy habits.

Project Highlight: Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities



Good health is critical for maintaining employment. In turn, employment has a positive effect on health and fitness. This guideline document provides a system for integrating lessons from HealthMatters™ into Project SEARCH, or other high school transition programs, over the course of an academic year in a way that complements, rather than distracts from, the focus on employment preparation. The lesson plans were developed by Cincinnati Children's Hospital through this grant project.

While Project SEARCH is preparing young people with significant developmental disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment, the HealthMatters™ Program engages people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their support system to have access to research, education and training, service learning, and evaluation tools to improve healthcare and health outcomes where they live, work, learn, and play. This initiative worked to achieve the following for students/interns with developmental disabilities:

- Establish healthy habits as they transition to adulthood.
- Gain the knowledge to make healthy choices in their environment and advocate for their wellness.
- Become more active to improve their physical health.
- Recognize the importance and high correlation between health/wellness and obtaining and maintaining employment.

Other Children & Health Projects

- **Empowering Families:** Increase and improve support and knowledge for parents and families during the special education process.
  Grantee: Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities
- **Inclusive Sports:** Assist youth with developmental disabilities to participate in sports by increasing access, awareness, and opportunities to inclusive sports programs for students with developmental disabilities while engaging local communities to help promote participation in inclusive sports programming.
  Grantee: Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center
- **Inclusive Recreation:** Provide information and best practices on how individuals with developmental disabilities can increase their physical activity and improve their health through recreation.
  Grantee: Autism Society of Greater Akron



Community Living

About the Community Living Projects

Mission: To identify and promote strategies, approaches, and resources that support adults with developmental disabilities as they choose where and with whom they wish to live and children with developmental disabilities in safe and nurturing family settings.

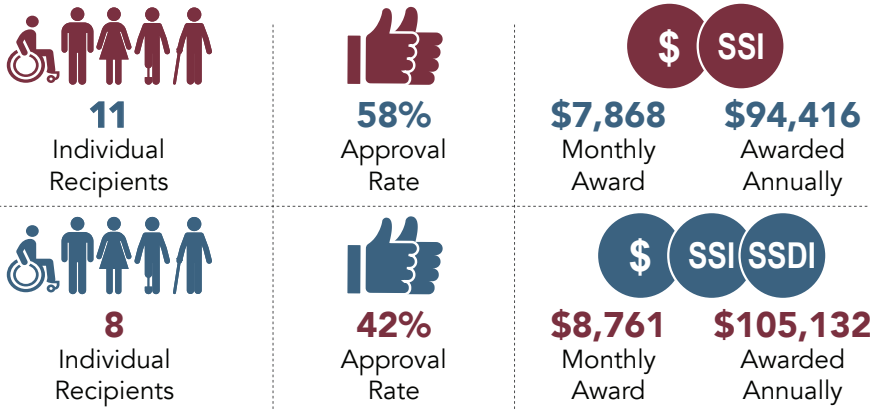
Project Highlight: SOAR Ohio Project & Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

The Ohio DD Council is providing the second year of funding for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio and the SOAR (SSI/SSDI) Outreach, Access and Recovery Ohio program. The program helps move some of Ohio's most vulnerable community members into better housing opportunities, through access to the Social Security benefits application process. SOAR Ohio provider specialists work on behalf of individuals who are living with developmental disabilities, by representing the Social Security Income/Social Security Disability Income (SSI/SSDI) benefit application claim.

"A SOAR Ohio certified specialist is the advocate who supports the individual in need of a benefits claim and completes all necessary forms and documentation needed by both the Social Security Administration and the Disability Determination Services," explained Amy Lamerson, SOAR Ohio and Housing Now for Homeless Families (HNHF) Director. "We feel the more professionals and family advocates learn about the free certification training being offered and the positive impact of the SOAR methodology, this will facilitate expert level benefits knowledge, self-advocacy, and Social Security knowledge that is power when it comes to our community members living with disabling conditions." She added that the SOAR Ohio program is currently holding a 61 percent approval rate on all first time SOAR Ohio assisted SSI/SSDI benefits claims in 101 days or less.

Here is the financial impact that the SOAR Ohio assisted approvals are having in the communities across Ohio:

11 individuals (58% approval rate) for SSI in the monthly award amount of $7,868. Annually, this equals $94,416 in SSI benefits to provide stability for those individuals over the next year.
8 individuals (42% approval rate) for SSDI or both SSI/SSDI in the monthly award of $8,761. Annually, this equals $105,132 in benefits to provide stability with those individuals over the next year.
Of these claimants, 10 individuals were awarded back pay for their disabling condition totaling $76,319 in financial resources for housing and health stability.



"As the staff person assigned the task of monitoring this project, I am not only impressed by the training and technical assistance being provided to anyone in the field wanting to be able to troubleshoot issues relating to people with disabilities being able to obtain their SSI or SSDI benefits, but also the financial impact is tremendous," said ODDC Policy Analyst Fatica Ayers.

To further these efforts, SOAR Ohio will work to provide training and technical assistance to 12 Ohio Centers for Independent Living, and to other providers who support people with developmental disabilities.

Other Community Living Projects

- **DSP White Paper in Action in Ohio:** A few years ago, the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities wrote a White Paper with Direct Support Professionals (DSP) data and recommendations for improvement to help increase and support the DSP work force. The Ohio DD Council funded a grant to work on the recommendations to ensure the most beneficial in the white paper would be maximized, including:



  - Redesign the current DSP high school program to include dual (high school and college) credits.
  - Devise a plan for a standard college loan forgiveness plan for DSPs that also incentivizes current college students to work in the field of I/DD.
  - Create a DSP immigrant program.
  - Develop a workgroup to re-evaluate the competency-based add-on and design the implementation of a statewide recognized career ladder that is tied to wages. Ensure the inclusion of DSPs and self-advocates in this group.
  - Design and supply marketing material to the public.

  Grantee: Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals

- **Replicate and Expand Transportation Project:** Ohioans with developmental disabilities have difficulty obtaining safe, affordable, and appropriate transportation. This project will conduct a pilot program that allows Athens on Demand Transit (AODT) to provide rides outside of Athens County and work with interested counties to replicate the project. To help reduce the compartmentalization of services, committees, and groups in Athens County have plugged this program's advisory committee into the existing Athens County Transportation Committee for advice on the grant. This helps streamline communication with stakeholders and provides an existing structure to funnel their stakeholders into, but they can also collect their feedback on general Athens County transportation-related topics covered in the Transportation Committee.



They are moving forward with a simple application to bring new riders into this program.

Grantee: Hocking Athens Perry Community Action



Employment

About the Employment Projects

Mission: To improve and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community to the best of their ability.

Project Highlight: **Dollars and Sense**

The aim of the Dollars and Sense project was to reach people with developmental disabilities who have never managed a budget, opened a savings or checking account, used a Social Security Work Incentive or built assets. Through the two nonprofit organizations, All Choices Matter and We Thrive Together, classes were offered weekly on various financial literacy topics, with 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes for Q&A with participants. The classes were held online, allowing for participation of individuals from all 88 Ohio counties. Experts led the classes on topics that included budgeting, debit/credit cards, gambling, online banking and more.

All Choices Matter works to connect youth to local leaders while the We Thrive Together goal is to reduce social isolation and loneliness in the community. The organizations worked together to develop the series so people with developmental disabilities have the financial knowledge and support they need to manage their finances.

Other Employment Projects

- **DB101 Videos:** The Ohio's Disability Benefits 101 (OHDB 101) website helps people with developmental disabilities make decisions about going to work. The website has Ohio specific tools and information on employment and career planning; health coverage options; disability benefits; asset building; education; housing; and community living. OHDB 101 can be used by job seekers with developmental disabilities, service providers or anyone in the community. The website can be found at https://oh.db101.org/. Funding from the Ohio DD Council will make the website more accessible and easier to use and also create more video tutorials for the website.

  Grantee: World Institute on Disabilities

- **Employer Engagement:** Educate and inform employers on how to find, keep and advance employees with developmental disabilities in their workplace, in addition to educating service providers on how to work with employers to help them support employees with developmental disabilities. This will help employees with developmental disabilities in the workplace by educating employers on inclusion strategies and best practices through a webinar series and an Employer Networking event.

  Grantee: Disability:IN Ohio

- **Employment Resources:** Several projects will be developed to increase the knowledge of and access to employment related resources, technology, and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and service providers to assist with finding and getting a job.

  Grantee: Capabilities, LLC

- **Mentoring and Career Development:** Develop and implement a one-to-one mentoring program connecting students and interested adults based on common career interests. This educational program will include professional development, leadership development and self-awareness.

  Grantee: WrightChoice Mentoring

Leadership Development

About the Leadership Development Projects

Mission: To improve and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to obtain and maintain employment in the community to the best of their ability.

Project Highlight: Ohio Advocacy Taskforce

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (OSILC), through a grant from the Ohio DD Council, established the Ohio Advocacy Taskforce to increase the leadership, advocacy skills, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The Taskforce addressed current self-advocacy efforts across Ohio, determined overarching, systemic issues and gaps, and developed methods to increase the number of self-advocates and their skills, as well as a means for participating advocacy organizations to work collaboratively and learn from each other. Their findings were presented in a report.

Other achievements of the Taskforce include a new website at https://ohioddtaskforce.org/ and a webinar that engaged judges, legislators, advocates, and county board superintendents to bring to attention the need of including people with developmental disabilities on county boards of developmental disabilities.

In June 2022, James Harley from the Ohio Advocacy Taskforce was a guest on the Council's Ohio DD Talks podcast and talked about the role of the Taskforce for people with developmental disabilities, obstacles faced by people with a developmental disability in becoming a board member of their county board of developmental disabilities, and positive changes the Taskforce has seen since it began.

Click to Watch Video



https://youtu.be/8oF8urXLO0E

Other Leadership Development Projects

- **Emerging Advocates:** Increase and improve the support children and youth with developmental disabilities receive from families, schools, direct support providers, and others to learn advocacy and leadership skills and find opportunities for children to use advocacy skills in educational planning and all decision-making so they can learn to speak on their own behalf.

  Grantee: The Ohio State University

- **Empowering People with Disabilities:** Funding provided for several projects to support a state advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities, support leaders with developmental disabilities to give leadership training to future leaders with developmental disabilities, and support and expand individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership.

  Grantees: Ohio Self Determination Association and Services for Independent Living

Public Policy

About the Public Policy Projects

Project Highlight: General Assembly Briefing Sessions

Ohioans with developmental disabilities know the challenges and complications they face in understanding and receiving supports and services. When they meet with Ohio legislators, policymakers and their staff, explaining the complications and challenges to a population unfamiliar with the history and needs for developmental disabilities supports, it adds an additional layer of difficulty.

The Ohio DD Council funded a grant for General Assembly Briefing Sessions, also known as GAB Sessions. These trainings are held throughout the year to help legislators and their staff understand how people with developmental disabilities receive services and how programs work. A person with a developmental disability or a family member tells their story at each training.



Click to Watch Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOTQk1EdVro

To understand the importance and impact of the GAB Sessions and what is involved, watch a video produced by a previous GAB Session grantee, Rick Colby of Colby and Company, that provides an overview of what the GAB Sessions are about and what they aim to achieve.

Project Highlight: Transportation Study

Transportation is consistently cited as the number one unmet need of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Through this grant project, the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) developed and conducted an accessible statewide survey to better understand transportation issues for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. A report discussing the survey results was released in January 2022 and served as a follow-up to a similar study done in 2017 on transportation challenges.



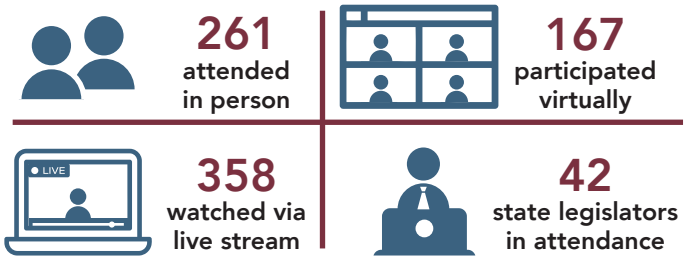
The goal of this study was to answer key questions about the current status of transportation accessibility for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, identify any new transportation challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and help inform transportation stakeholders and policy makers and determine needed steps to further improve accessibility. Both participants with developmental disabilities and transportation providers highlighted several main themes that would greatly improve transportation for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Read the report at https://ddc.ohio.gov/resources-and-publications/transportation/transportation-accessibility.

Project Highlight: Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day

People with developmental disabilities and their family members are their own best advocates when it comes to educating members of the general public and policymakers. Advancements in public policy are due to advocacy by individuals with developmental disabilities. The DD Awareness and Advocacy Day grantee, LMK Advocacy, planned and hosted a day at the Ohio Statehouse for people with developmental disabilities and family members and others.

Advocacy Day 2022 at the Statehouse was a hybrid event, with 261 attending in person, 167 participating in the virtual

space, and another 358 watching a live stream of the event. In addition, 42 state legislators were in attendance.



Advocates, with information compiled by the Ohio DD Council, shared statistics, needs and issues including:

- As of January 2022, more than 98,700 children and adults receive comprehensive services arranged by local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio.
- In Fiscal Year 2021, 1,057 people were authorized for remote supports and 3,016 were authorized for assistive technology services by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Assistive technology and remote supports helped people build independence and personal control in their lives.
- The median wage for a direct support professional in Ohio is $12.10. Most make multiple calls per day to different homes, and they're not compensated for gas. The wages are set along with Medicaid prices, meaning the wages are predetermined, tying the hands of many employers who would like to pay more.
- Advocacy and inclusion can only successfully take place when people with developmental disabilities are invited to the table to discuss issues that concern their own well-being, their own life choices and their own hopes and goals.

The top four topics advocates discussed with legislators were:

1. Direct support professionals
2. Self-advocacy
3. Transportation
4. Technology







Other Public Policy Projects

- **Value of PWD (Vocational Apprenticeship/Legislature Utilizing Employment of People with Disabilities)** Grant activities will find people with developmental disabilities who have skills or can receive skills training that would allow them to work in the legislature. The grant will also work with the legislature and legislative agencies to find out where people with developmental disabilities might be able to work.

  Grantee: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Technology

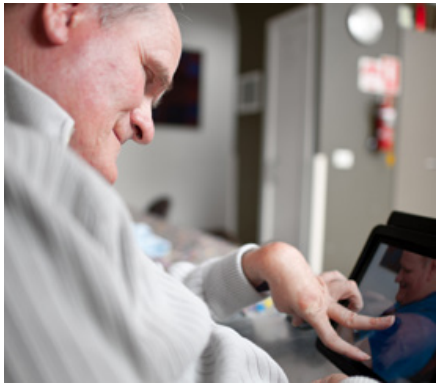
About Technology Projects

Project Highlight: Building Capacity of Assistive Technology Service Delivery in Ohio

The goal of this project was to build the capacity of Service Support Administrators (SSAs) and other county board of developmental disabilities personnel to assess and implement assistive technology (AT) services and supports so that more Ohioans with developmental disabilities will learn about and get AT to assist them in leading more independent and self-determined lives.

A grant project funded by the Ohio DD Council went to the next level of how to improve services provided by county boards of developmental disabilities to assist individuals to explore and discover technology that may help them in their daily activities. The grantee for this project was the AT & AEM Center powered by OCALI.

Through the grant's activities, several SSAs were certified by RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America) and a core group of SSAs from the training were identified as having the leadership skills to be AT resource experts for other county boards of developmental disabilities.







Communication

About Communication Projects

Project Highlight: Public Awareness Using Digital Media for People with Developmental Disabilities

This grant uses digital media, including social media, targeted email campaigns, podcasts, and video to educate and inform Ohioans with developmental disabilities about issues that are important to them.

An example of their work is Council's popular Ohio DD Talks podcast series. Ohio DD Talks is a podcast series featuring stories and conversations with Ohioans with developmental disabilities about current issues that are important to them. The podcast interviews people with developmental disabilities, agency leaders and more to cover different topics that impact the community. To include people across Ohio, there is a story collection portal allowing people to participate in the podcast as well by sharing their stories. The podcast is hosted by Ohio advocate Nathan Turner. DD Talks has allowed the Ohio DD Council to reach new counties where the Council has no representation or had rural representation, where the Council has been working to gain more awareness.

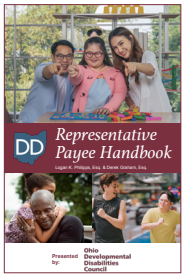
Grantee: O'Neill Communications

Publications

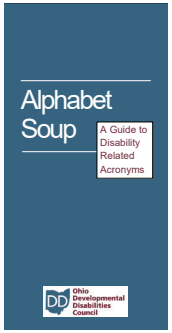
The Ohio DD Council offers free publications covering a wide range of topics. All publications are conveniently found on our website at https://ddc.ohio.gov/resources-and-publications.

Here are a few publications that were produced during the last year:

Scan QR Code to View More Resources and Publications!



Representative Payee Handbook (August 2022) – collaboration with Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC.



Alphabet Soup: A Guide to Disability Related Acronyms (August 2022) – one of our most popular resources.



A Guide to Nursing Services in Ohio (August 2021) – collaboration with Ohio Family to Family and the Ohio Nursing Collaborative. Also available in Spanish.

Newsletters

In addition, the Council communicates with the disability community through its newsletters:

- DD Council Connection: Monthly newsletter providing updates about the Council and other news of interest to Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- Empowering ReachOut e-Diversity News: Newsletter that provides information on the need to promote more interagency collaboration and coordination that results in agencies providing culturally competent services to the unserved and underserved populations in Ohio.
- This Week in Public Policy: Summary of policy and legislative actions in Ohio and at the federal level that is of interest to people with developmental disabilities.

Council Members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council activities are governed by a 30+ member board, appointed by the Governor and comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members as well as representatives of various state agencies and nonprofit organizations having a vested interest in persons with developmental disabilities.

Like other state DD Councils, the Ohio Council is founded on the principle that people with lived experience should always be included in conversations to find and foster solutions that work to remove barriers and increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Current officers:

- **Michael Denlinger**, Chair
- **Isabel Ganz**, Vice Chair
- **JaVan Brown**, Secretary

The federal DD Act requires that the membership must comply with certain categories. Those categories and the names of our current members are listed below.

Individuals with a developmental disability

- **Krystal Albright**, Paulding County
- **Brenda Brandon**, Ottawa County
- **Morgan Deavers**, Perry County
- **Michael Denlinger**, Hamilton County
- **Molly Dible**, Hancock County
- **Isabel Ganz**, Hamilton County
- **Matt Harrison**, Darke County
- **Courtney Hineman**, Butler County
- **Matthew LaFontaine**, Hancock County
- **Jodi Young**, Putnam County

Family members or guardians of children with a developmental disability

- **William "Bill" Ackman**, Franklin County
- **Kari Jones**, Franklin County
- **Debbie Lozano**, Lake County
- **Monica McCain**, Lucas County
- **Timothy Newell**, Clark County
- **Rhonda Rich**, Miami County
- **Brian Veith**, Hamilton County

Immediate relatives or guardians of adults with developmental disabilities who cannot advocate for themself

- **Amanda Via**, Miami County

Parent or guardian of a person with a developmental disability who resides in or who has resided in an institution, OR an individual with a developmental disability who resides in or who has resided in an institution

- **Jennifer Kucera**, Cuyahoga County

Private non-profit organization which serves persons with a developmental disability (education, research, and service)

- **John Banchy**, Butler County
- **Pamela Green**, Hamilton County

Private agency which serves persons with a developmental disability (education, research, and service)

- **Annette Wood**, Summit County

Protection & Advocacy Agency (P&A)

- Disability Rights Ohio: **Kerstin Sjoberg**

University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

- The Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University: **Paula Rabidoux**
- University of Cincinnati UCEDD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center: **Ilka Riddle**

Representatives of State Government

- Ohio Department of Aging: **Emilia R. Jackson**
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities: **Vicki Jenkins**
- Ohio Department of Education: **Mark Smith**
- Ohio Department of Health: **Bobbi Krabill**
- Ohio Department of Medicaid: **Vacant**
- Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services: **Ellie Jazi**
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities: **Shannon Komisarek**

County Board Representative

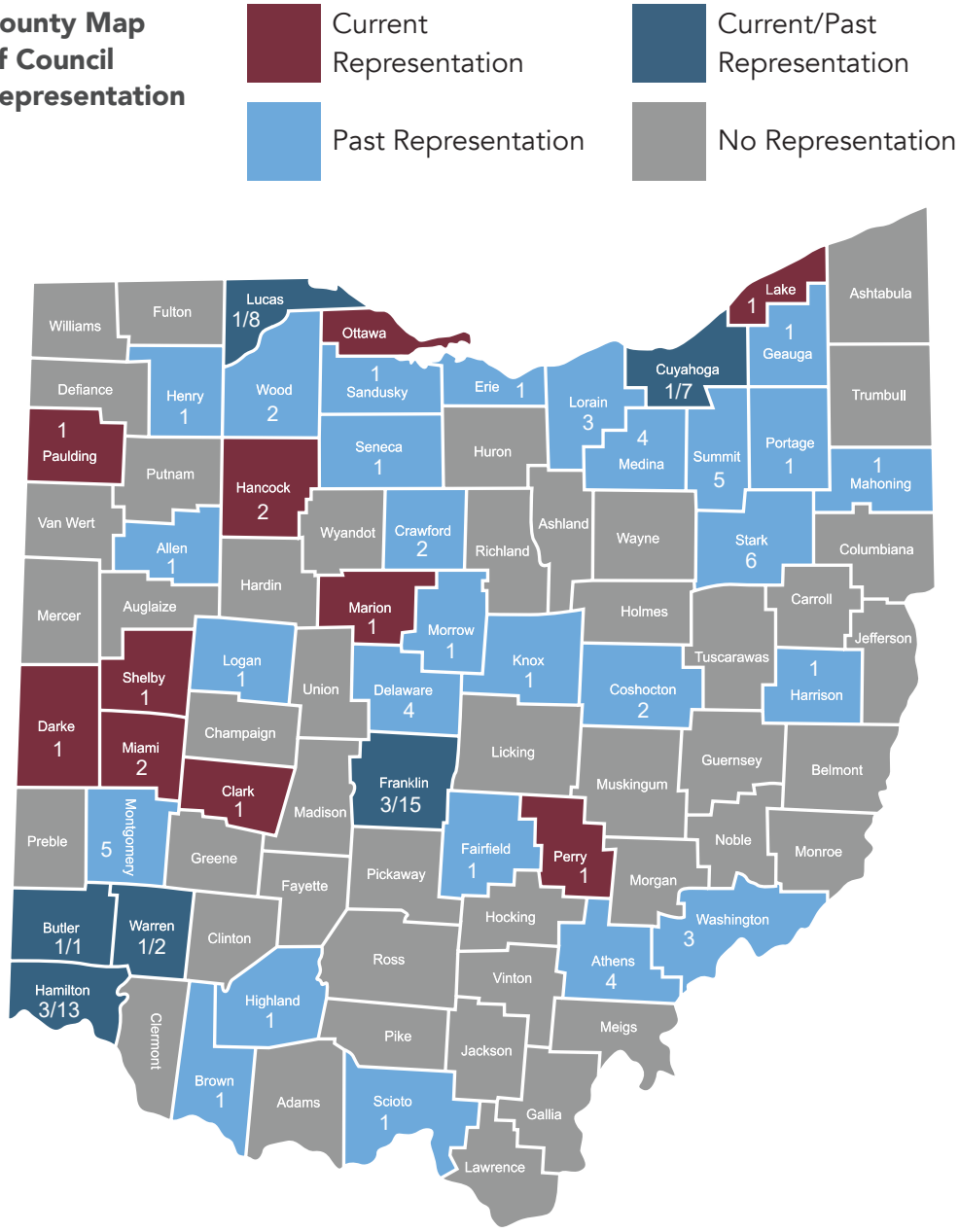
- Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities: **Kellie Brown** (non-voting representative)

In Memoriam

Rachel Rice, advocate and member of the Ohio DD Council, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at her residence in Franklin, Ohio. Rachel was entering her fourth year of being a member of Council. She was Vice Chair of Council and the Chair of Council's Children and Health Committee.



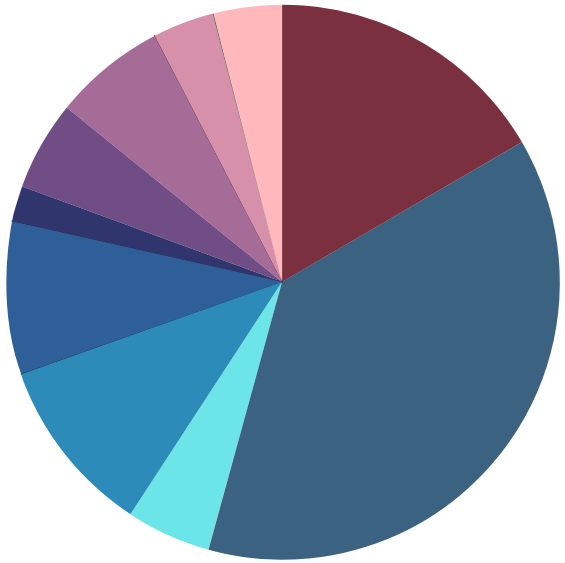
County Map of Council Representation



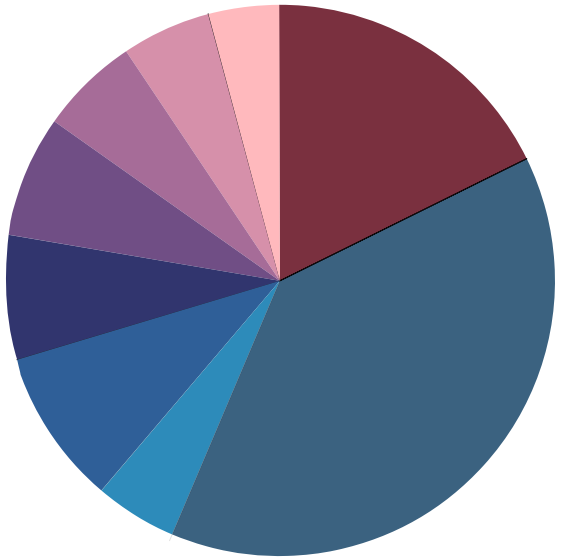
The numbers identify how many Council members are currently representing or have represented a particular county. | *Revised November 2022*

Financials

	EXPENDITURES	2021	2022
	Administrative	$459,930	$472,601
	Programs	$1,042,230	$1,035,084
	GRANT PROJECTS		
	Assistive Technology/ Communication	$136,195	$0
	Childrens & Health	$288,733	$128,999
	Community Living	$246,572	$245,000
	Executive	$57,511	$196,000
	Employment	$145,031	$190,000
	Leadership Development	$181,324	$155,000
	Outreach	$100,000	$139,981
	Public Policy	$111,325	$111,194
		$2,768,850	$2,673,859



2021



2022

(as of 10/31/22)

Council Staff

Ohio DD Council staff support the Council's members and committees and handle day-to-day operations, administration, planning, advocacy and project monitoring.

Carolyn Knight
Executive Director

Fatica Ayers
Policy Analyst
Committee Oversight: Community Living; Outreach

Rebecca Bates
Policy Analyst
Committee Oversight: Children & Health; Executive

Leslie Connelly
Policy Analyst
Committee Oversight: Employment; Leadership Development

Gilbrina Dillon
Program Administrator

Donna Foster
Program Administrator

Gary Groom
Financial Program Manager

Paul Jarvis
Policy Analyst
Committee Oversight: Public Policy

Robin Shipp
Senior Financial Analyst

Kim Shoaf
Electronic Design Specialist

Farewells



Kenneth Latham, policy analyst for the Ohio DD Council, passed away on January 23, 2022. He was with Council for 20 years primarily as the staff person for the Council's Outreach Committee.



Carla Cox, program administrator for the Ohio DD Council, retired on June 30, 2022. Carla was employed by the State of Ohio for 32 years, with the last 14 of those spent at the Ohio DD Council.

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

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