**Board of Developmental Disabilities**

One of the unique functions and a mandate of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and County Family and Children First Councils is to coordinate child and family serving partners to identify and address the needs of children and families through ongoing planning, implementing effective strategies, monitoring & reporting, and evaluating progress toward achieving desired outcomes.

**Why you are here.**

* To facilitate access to specialized services for youth with developmental disabilities and to help ensure the planning for long-term support as children with disabilities transition into adulthood.
* To support services for families and children with developmental disabilities to remain safely in their communities prevent placement and identify any needs and gaps.
* To advocate for individuals with special needs, early intervention, and transition services.
* To provide a perspective with respect to persons with developmental disabilities within our county.
* To provide an understanding of the continuum of care available to persons with developmental disabilities as well as guidance on how to work at improving the quality of life for all families.
* To support a well-integrated and coordinated Early Intervention system for young children, 0-3 who have an identified disability or delay, and their families.
* To encourage coordinated efforts within service coordination. Provide information and updates on your system of care, best practices, and the projects you are working on that others can assist with or simply need to be aware of.
* To fulfill governance and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the operational and fiscal operations of the council.

**How you can support the system of care efforts in our community.**

* Share Early Intervention data, service usage, caregiver support and inclusion/accessibility considerations.
* Share your needs assessments and strategic plans. Information on successful programs.
* Provide indicators for the [Shared Plan](https://fcf.ohio.gov/fcfc-resources/shared-plan-and-updates/shared-plans-and-shared-plan-update).
* Provide education and information on additional supports needed for families experiencing developmental differences in addition to other environmental stressors (including longer periods of intensive caregiving that spans into young adulthood and beyond); transition supports for youth transitioning into young adulthood with persisting developmental differences.
* Provide representation for Clinical Committees and other Council committees.
* Provide a voice on the needs of children with developmental disabilities and the services available to these families.
* Provide information and updates on your system of care, best practices, and the projects you are working on that others can assist with or simply need to be aware of.
* Provide data regarding the prevalence and needs of children with disabilities (i.e. number of youth that are Department of Disabilities eligible; number of waivers; services to DD youth, shared funding opportunities, and number of youth/families served that will require additional supports during and beyond childhood; ideas/structure for respite, transition supports and other enhanced community services.)
* Provide in-kind supports with technology, payroll, office space, and/or supplies.