



## **2021**

### **Annual Action Plan**

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# **2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN GUERNSEY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

## **I. Statement of Philosophy**

The Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) defines its philosophy, as follows (Board Policy 4.01):

GCBDD believes in providing programs and services for each eligible individual with a developmental disability that will allow the individual to use his/her intellectual and physical abilities to their fullest. Self-sufficiency and independence is the goal for each individual. The service plan for each individual shall be based on a concept of self-determination and choice.

GCBDD believes that all people should be treated with dignity and respect. It is committed to educating the community to expand and encourage acceptance of individuals with developmental disabilities. Whereas, GCBDD encourages individuals to live as positive contributors to the community, by promoting programs designed to enable every individual to achieve the maximum development of his/her potential in the least restrictive, most appropriate environment.

From the above philosophy, GCBDD adopts the following Mission Statement.

**The mission of the Guernsey County Board of DD is to:**

**ENSURE** quality services that

**ENHANCE** the lives of individuals through

**EFFECTIVE** use of available resources.

**The Vision of the Board is:**

\*People with developmental disabilities will lead self directed lives in their communities.

\*GCBDD will be a benchmark by which other programs measure themselves.

**The Core Values of the Board are:**

Agility, Customer Driven Excellence, Focus on the Future, Focus on Results and Creating Value, Social Responsibility, Valuing Workforce Members and Partners, and Visionary Leadership.

### **The Board's Funding Priorities**

As long as resources are available, the following are the Board's priorities for funding consistent with the requirements of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-4-01.

#### **1. Services to young children from birth to age six.**

Special Instruction provided by an Early Intervention Specialist certified by GCBDD meeting the requirements of 5123:2-5-05 that are interest and strength based, using Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Project and Sheldon and Rush evidenced based practices that are delivered in natural environments.

#### **2. Services to school age children.**

GCBDD will provide technical assistance and training opportunities to professionals working in the county's public schools. Additionally, GCBDD has identified a priority of offering grants to the public schools in Guernsey County to assist in meeting the unique needs of children who are found eligible for County Board services thus providing value-added opportunities that are outside what IDEA requires of

public schools. During the 2020-2021 school year, we plan to continue to offer grants to the local school districts in Guernsey County.

**3. Medicaid Waiver Match.**

Medicaid is leveraged to secure federal funds that pay approximately 63.04% of the cost of transportation, adult services, residential supports and other services available through enrollment on the Level One, Individual Options, and SELF waivers. The amount of money determined by GCBDD to be available for a waiver match will dictate the number of waiver slots GCBDD applies for. GCBDD will not request waiver slots for which no source of match is identified and committed. All waiver enrollment will be based off the waiting list needs assessment which determines if a person has an immediate, current, or no need.

**4. Family Support Services.**

Described in GCBDD's Policy 8:00 Family Support Services. The GCBDD makes an annual budgetary allocation to FSS in an effort to unity of the family. In August of 2020, the Board authorized an additional allocation of funds to assist with child-care during school closure related to COVID-19.

**5. Services that promote the transition of teenagers from school to adult life, including self-determination classes in public schools and life map exercises.**

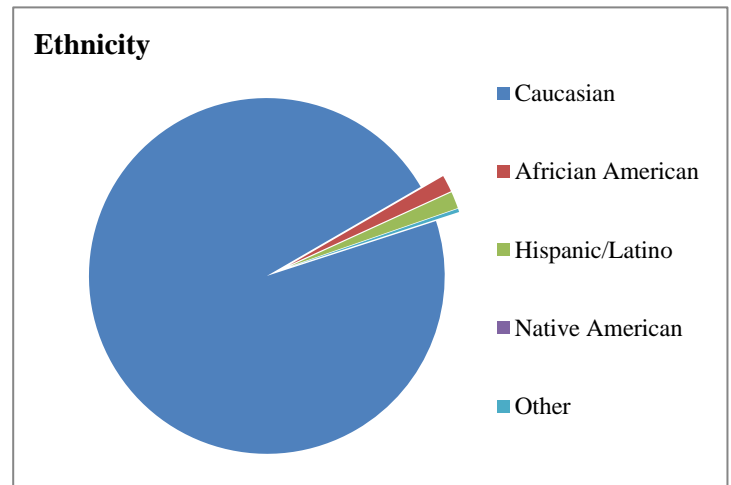
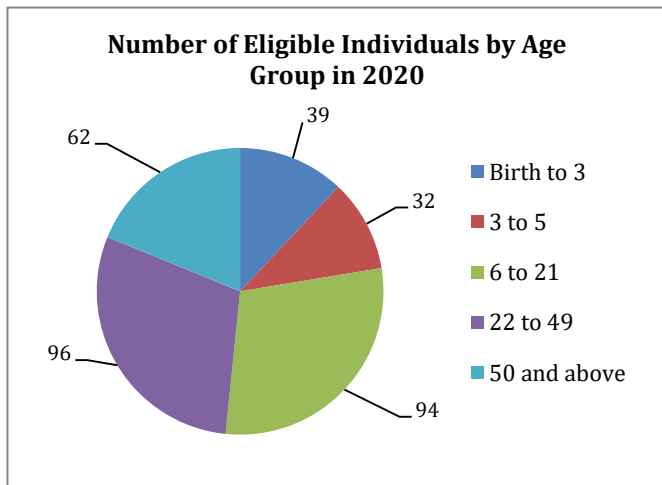
**6. Supported Living.**

Services to individuals not eligible for Medicaid waiver services due to their assessed level of care or ineligibility for Medicaid. GCBDD will authorize an annual allocation for these services. When the allocation is exhausted, no additional services will be authorized without Board approval.

GCBDD will support an increase in licensed capacity for any existing licensed providers in Guernsey County in the event of an emergency for only a specified length of time (not to exceed 60 days).

**Cultural Competency and Diversity**

Consistent with the Mission, GCBDD strives to ensure that people we serve have access to services provided by culturally competent staff with whom they communicate. GCBDD is located in south-eastern Ohio in rural Appalachia. The residents of the county are primarily English speaking. The ethnicity and age of the individuals we serve are:



GCBDD recognizes, respects, and responds to the unique and culturally defined needs of the various populations in our county. Employees of the Board must understand that cultural competency goes beyond race or language identifiers. It is the responsibility of all GCBDD employees and volunteers to generate and maintain work environments in which those we serve and their families, employees, volunteers, customers and vendors are respected, valued and welcomed. In compliance with its Equal Opportunity Policies, GCBDD shall:

- Recognize that cultural differences are not limited to ethnicity, but may also include age, gender, sexual orientation, spiritual beliefs, socioeconomic status, race, and language.
- Maintain a respectful service delivery network, free of offensive practices and conditions.
- Support a work environment free from all types of discrimination, including harassment.
- Recognize each individual's unique value, contribution, and potential.
- Develop approaches/programs/services to meet the identified needs of each individual.
- Develop a diverse workforce which reflects the community.
- Orientate and train GCBDD staff in the diversity of the individuals we serve.
- Recognize that discrimination is a violation of state/federal civil rights laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. GCBDD is committed to providing affirmative action and equal employment opportunities in all phases of employment through recruitment, retention and advancement of culturally diverse and qualified people and utilization of job-related criteria in making employment decisions.

GCBDD engages in the following initiatives to address cultural competency of the staff, organization, and community to meet the diverse needs of the people we serve:

- Identify cultural and language needs of those we serve through the discovery phase of person centered planning.
- Behavior Intervention Strategies training for all staff at orientation and direct care staff annually thereafter.
- Recruit providers through the state provider pool to address unique cultural differences.
- Early Intervention Specialists are trained in the PLAY project to advance child development for those children on the autism spectrum.
- Early Intervention Service Providers and Service Coordinators are trained in Sheldon and Rush evidenced based practice to use coaching techniques with parents as they assist their children in child development.
- Early Intervention Service Providers and Service Coordinators are trained in the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) to better serve the social and emotional health of children.
- Early Intervention is utilizing the use of technology as an option to serve families.
- All managers take CORSA Institute classes relating to identifying and eliminating harassment and violence in the workplace.
- Early Childhood Manager and GCBDD Speech Language Pathologist are trained in the Autism Diagnosis Education Project (ADEP)
- In 2015, all staff received Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) training to respond to an active shooter.
- In 2016, staff received training on the board's Emergency Operations Plan and continues to practice monthly "lockdown" drills. The Emergency Operations Plan training included the implementation of the "Bearcade" door locking system.
- Supervisors, SSA's and direct care staff are trained in person-centered thinking and approaches.
- GCBDD has staff available who can communicate using American Sign Language.
- GCBDD has made tele-psychiatry available
- Modified diets and thickened liquids training for Providers by GCBDD Speech Language Pathologist and Healthcare Coordinator.
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Training for Providers by GCBDD Speech Language Pathologist.

- The GCBDD is committed to provide Autism training to law enforcement and fire departments either in person or through Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). In addition, GCBDD is committed to providing First Responders and County Employees training/ information on other various topics.
- GCBDD along with the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office and the Mental Health Board are working together with Cambridge Municipal Court to create a process for DD and MH inmates for arraignment.
- SSA & EI/ HMG staff had Home Visitor Safety Training and Drug Awareness training with the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office.
- The Board offered 3 beginner, 1 EMS/First Responder, and 1 advanced sign language class that was free and open to the public as long as the attendees attended 9 of the 10 classes in each session. The Board had 92 participants from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.
- The GCBDD website was updated to ensure ADA Compliance.
- In 2019-2020, GCBDD along with Soul Bird Consulting conducted a series of three training sessions about Trauma Informed Care.
- GCBDD contracts with Haugland Behavioral services to provide 2 Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA) and 6 Registered Behavior Therapists (RBT) in 3 public schools.
- In 2019, GCBDD provided M.O.V.E. International training for therapists, teachers, aides, administrators, and parents of individuals who are in a wheelchair.
- In 2019, GCBDD Speech Language Pathologist and two Developmental Specialists were trained in the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) to support individuals with significant communication needs.

## **II. Organization**

GCBDD Board of Directors consists of seven members, five of whom are appointed by the County Commissioners (Steve Marvin, Attorney Lindsey Donehue-Angler, Dennis Harding, Christine Veselenak and Melinda Yerian) and two are appointed by the Probate Judge (Charles Fair and Brenda Caldwell). GCBDD works within a budget recommended to and approved by the Guernsey County Board of Commissioners. Major funding mechanisms include the following: local tax levies, subsidies from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities(DODD), federal and state grants, Medicaid reimbursements and donations. A Superintendent, employed by GCBDD, is responsible for the operation of the GCBDD's programs, for recommending improvements to the facilities and employing qualified staff. GCBDD serves eligible individuals of all ages. Beginning in January of 2018, Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities began to Contract with GCBDD for their Superintendent, subsequently sharing the GCBDD Business Manager in October of 2018. Starting in September of 2020, GCBDD will begin to contract with MCBDD for a shared Human Resources.

In SFY 20 the GCBDD received 110 infant and toddler referrals for Early Intervention.-Additionally, 30 children and adults were newly enrolled for board services in 2019. Presently, GCBDD serves a combined total of 347 individuals from birth through adulthood.

### **A. Service and Support Administration:** (Previously called Case Management Services)

Service and Support Administration (SSA) supports children and adults with developmental disabilities, their families and guardians. They assist the individual in determining outcomes for their services and ways to reach those desired outcomes. SSA serves as the individual's primary point of coordination by working through many systems to attain appropriate assistance and/or support as needed in any life area. The SSA Department assists individuals with developing outcomes that are meaningful to them to help achieve the life they want. Part of this process is determining the important to/fors and helping them to establish fully integrated lives in their community. The choice of the individual provides the scope and direction to the SSA including Eligibility Determinations, Assessments, ISP Development, Budget for Services, Free Choice of Provider Process, Coordinating Services, Monitoring ISP Implementation, Designating Persons to Provide Daily Representation, and Emergency Intervention. As of September 1, 2020, SSA's worked with 263 individuals along with their guardians and/or families and providers in Guernsey County.

GCBDD is mandated to report cases of abuse, neglect or other Major Unusual Incidents (MUI's) to the Ohio DODD and in cases involving infants and children to the Guernsey County Children Services Board. The SSA

files all initial reports for MUI's to the Ohio DODD and the Mid- East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) completes an independent investigation for all cases. In cases of abuse, neglect, and misappropriation, MEORC works with local law enforcement and Guernsey County Children Services Board, then report outcomes and make recommendations to GCBDD. The SSA's then work with the individual, families and/or providers to establish preventative measures and provide follow-up for all MUI's. In 2019, there were 122 MUIs filed and as of September 1, 2020 there are 51 MUI's filed.

**B. Early Intervention Part C:**

Early Intervention Part C is a coordinated, community-based service that promotes family-centered programs for children from birth to three years of age and their families. The program focuses on the family as a whole. During SFY 20, the Early Intervention Part C program provided services to 84 children, ages birth to three, and their families. Early Intervention Part C provides health and developmental services so children can start school healthy and ready to learn. The Early Intervention Part C agreement provides Service Coordination and evaluations. It also provides early identification of children with developmental delays as well as information, guidance, and links to therapeutic interventions. During home visits, Service Coordinators provide the family with up-to-date information on child health, development, early infant stimulation and growth promoting activities. Service Coordinators complete developmental screenings for health, hearing, vision, nutrition, social/emotional health and overall development. Activities are held to promote family literacy and support parents as full partners in their child's education. The program's goal is to lay the foundation for later school success.

During SFY 20, Early Intervention conducted outreach at the local WIC, baby time at the library, local daycares, and the farmers market. Outreach items purchased consisted of I Am One books, I Am Two books, toothbrush holders, sunscreen, balloons, phone holders, thermometers, a baby carrier, and Rock-A-Bye Baby Reader books.

**C. Early Intervention:**

"Developmental specialist" means a professional, certified by GCBDD in accordance with rule 5123:2-5-05 of the Administrative Code, trained to develop and implement strategies and interventions of special instruction identified in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Guernsey County, Developmental Specialists are trained in and utilize PLAY Project and Sheldon and Rush evidenced based practice during special instruction. During SFY 20 the Early Intervention program provided services to 84 children ages birth to three. Early Intervention services are identified for each child and family through development of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Early Intervention services are provided in the child's natural environment. Services provided by credentialed Developmental Specialists may include home visits, specialized instruction, coaching, child development information, and family support. The focus of the program is to assist the family in meeting the unique needs of their child and to assist the system in meeting its mandates through collaboration with other local agencies and providers within Guernsey County Family and Children First Council. In the fall of 2016, GCBDD contracted with Southeast Ohio Rehabilitation Services for OT and PT. This gives Early Intervention access to a core team. Guernsey County's core team consists of Service Coordinator, Developmental Specialist, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, and a Physical Therapist. In 2015, GCBDD agreed to provide Early Intervention services to children and families through age five for those children with two or more developmental delays or a diagnosis. In 2019, Early Intervention served 60 children ages three through age five. The assessment and evaluation tool being used is the Battelle Developmental Inventory which evaluates infants and children from birth through age seven.

The PLAY Project is a program that is designed to focus on the behaviors of children with Autism. It is a program that teaches parents to become better play partners with their child. The program teaches techniques and strategies to help engage parents and their child in an effort to help the child reach their potential and become better equipped to socially interact with family and peers. GCBDD is a licensed PLAY Project facility. As certified consultants and a licensed facility, the program consultants can work within the community (homes, schools and business) to provide knowledge and strategies to assist children with Autism. Two Developmental Specialists have completed the certification process and have become credentialed as PLAY Project consultants. One Developmental Specialist is currently going through the certification process. 11 families received PLAY Project services in 2019. In the fall of 2013, the GCBDD agreed to provide Early Intervention to children and families through age 5 for those children enrolled in the PLAY Project.

#### **D. Speech Therapy Services**

In April of 2016, a Speech Language Pathologist was added to the staff at GCBDD. With the use of assistive technology and evidence-based practices, speech and language therapy services provide direct and indirect therapy as well as family education, support, and coaching to work toward the goal of functional communication development for children and adults with identified communication deficits. Speech services are currently serving children ages birth through five in their natural home environment through Early Intervention and school age children and adults with disabilities. Approximately, 35 individuals at a time receive this service throughout the year.

The goal of speech and language therapy services at GCBDD is to provide Early Intervention and/or give access to augmentative and alternative modes of communication for those who do not use words to communicate or do not effectively communicate verbally in the community.

Our Speech Language Pathologist was trained in the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). PECS is a unique alternative/augmentative communication system. PECS consists of six phases and begins by teaching an individual to give a single picture of a desired item or action to a “communicative partner” who immediately honors the exchange as a request. The system goes on to teach discrimination of pictures and how to put them together in sentences. In the more advanced phases, individuals are taught to use modifiers, answer questions, and comment. The primary goal of PECS is to teach functional communication. PECS has successfully been implemented worldwide with thousands of learners of all ages who have various cognitive, physical, and communication challenges. In 2019, GCBDD offered a 2-day PECS training free of charge to all Guernsey County parents and special educators.

#### **E. Public School Mini-Grants and Services to Schools**

Grants are awarded annually to school districts within the county to those districts serving county board eligible children for value-added supports that are outside the requirements of IDEA.

The service grant provides a behavior therapist for the four school districts with a behavior consultant who oversees those behavior therapists. These are provided at the public school district level. Additionally, training is provided for those teachers as well as cost related to attendance to the OCALI conference in November. This conference provides valuable information to teachers with children who have autism. During 2020, GCBDD awarded \$450,991.75 to schools under this grant.

Traditionally, equipment mini-grants are provided to school districts to purchase equipment used in instruction. Items purchased included Chromebooks, informational materials, therapy equipment and a myriad of other instructional and behavioral tools and supplies. Due to the continued roll-back of the GCBDD levy, the Board was unable to offer this grant in 2020.

GCBDD continues to contract with a part-time Lead Teacher to visit classrooms in public schools to help identify curriculum and equipment that the Board can assist with procuring. Additionally, the Lead Teacher follows up with those students that transitioned from Golden Rule School to their home school to facilitate a successful educational experience. In May of 2019, GCBDD provided training for the OT/PT and classroom staff in public schools on Mobility Opportunities Via Education(MOVE). The training was well attended and is currently being used for students with physical limitations to assist with their educational milestones.

#### **F. Family Support Services:**

Family Support Services (FSS) provides assistance and financial support to families with members who are served by the County Board. This allows them to remain in their homes and experience enduring relationships with their family and friends who are committed to their welfare. In the previous program year, the Family Support Services program provided services to 73 families. Family Support Services is considered a component of the individual planning process. The services/items included in the individual's plan must be related to the individual's documented delay or developmental disability. GCBDD will review and provide Family Support Services to all eligible families requesting the service. A maximum allocation for each family is board approved annually. The annual family support allocation for an eligible family shall not exceed \$800.00 per year for one family member. For families who have additional members, an additional \$400.00 may be allocated per year.

In August 2020, GCBDD approved additional respite in the amount of \$500 per month due to COVID-19 for respite needs due to school closures.

**G. Waiver and Supported Living Services:**

Waiver and Supported Living Services provide services and support to eligible individuals who need support to remain living in their community. We support individuals in the least restrictive settings to meet their needs and work to help people be served in integrated settings. In addition to low need respite services offered through Family Support Services, GCBDD provides residential, employment, and transportation services through Supported Living, Level One, Individual Options (IO), and Self-Empowering Life Funding (SELF) waivers. Currently, GCBDD serves 11 individuals in Supported Living, 33 individuals on the Level One Waiver, 33 on the SELF Waiver and 81 individuals on the Individual Options Waiver.

GCBDD maintains a waiting list for Medicaid Waiver and Support Living needs. Waiver enrollment is based upon immediate and current needs and enrollment will occur per rule. GCBDD is committed to examine the waiting list on a quarterly basis to determine new enrollment.

**H. Capital Housing:**

Our Board, in conjunction with Ohio Network of Innovation (ONI), have nine (9) homes in the community that were purchased with the assistance of State Capital Housing dollars. These make available housing with reduced rent to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Board maintains and makes improvements in these homes for safety, access, and economy. A comprehensive housing plan was completed for a complete report on all properties.

**I. Transportation Services:**

Transportation services provide a specialized, safe, efficient, and coordinated transportation program for the GCBDD. A fleet of seven (7) Board vehicles includes, four (4) administrative vehicles, one (1) shuttle, one (1) van and one (1) truck. This enables us to provide services and transportation to Board programs. Goals to provide technical assistance to public school districts were met as we provided assistance and information to three of our home districts. In the interest of fiscal responsibility, we monitor the need for the number and type of vehicles necessary to provide service and support. Qualified maintenance personnel on site at our garage perform repairs and maintenance for these vehicles.

**J. Maintenance Services:**

Maintenance services provide a responsive, cost effective and coordinated maintenance program for GCBDD. Regular upkeep including monthly maintenance of equipment throughout the physical plant, custodial work, grounds keeping and basic repairs are tended to by three (3) full-time maintenance staff. GCBDD property is prepared for all safety inspections made by the Fire Marshall at any time. maintenance personnel are present or available whenever the program and/or campus are open to attend to staff needs and to address problems that may arise. They also tend to tasks regularly when the program is not in operation in order to minimize any interference with program operation or to ready the facility for normal operations.

In addition, the maintenance department provides normal home maintenance and repairs to the nine (9) community homes that GCBDD has purchased. Home inspections are done monthly to ensure safety and preventative maintenance so that all Board homes are cost effective. After-hour emergencies at the campus or the homes are fielded by maintenance staff.

**K. Special Olympics:**

Guernsey DD Athletic Booster is a non-profit local organization accredited through Special Olympics Ohio. This is provided as a service to all GCBDD eligible individuals residing in Guernsey County regardless of provider affiliation free of charge and is staffed by registered, certified and trained volunteers under the direction of the Special Olympic Coordinator hired by the Guernsey DD Athletic Boosters. The program includes competition and training and is generously funded through No-Show Ball donations, fund-raisers, the George Decker Memorial Foundation, and local grants. Athletes may choose to participate in: Aquatics (Sept.–Dec.); Basketball league and individual skills team (Nov.–March); Bowling (year round); Athletics and Bocce (March-June); Golf (July-Oct.); State Summer Games (last weekend in June); and the George Decker Memorial Invitational Swim Meet (August). Each July, athletes are honored at the annual Sports Banquet in recognition of their achievements. Guernsey D.D. Athletic Boosters attempt to meet on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss and approve fundraising



and plan events. Some meetings are pushed to other dates depending on Special Olympic events and practices. Meetings are scheduled at the conclusion of the meetings. Additionally the Guernsey DD Athletic Boosters sponsors the club sport activities in Rolling Hills, East Guernsey, and Cambridge School Districts through direct funding by GCBDD. During 2020, Special Olympics sanctioned events were cancelled due to COVID19.

**L. Self-Advocacy:**

The Guernsey Independent Stars focuses on teaching individuals with developmental disabilities the pillars of self-determination. These pillars are dreaming, contribution and community, dignity and respect, choice, responsibilities, and relationships. Through this group, individuals are learning self-advocacy skills to improve their lives. At least annually, members from the group will present to the board their advocacy efforts. In addition, the advocates are learning about Good Life.

In 2017, GCBDD formed a young adult Guernsey Independent Stars group where 18-25 year olds come together to learn about self-advocacy and self-determination. This group of young adults are developing leaders in the community. Also, the group provides an avenue for them to learn about available resources while empowering them to try new things.

Self-Advocacy groups are held at Mid-East Career and Technology Center, Cambridge City Schools, East Guernsey Schools and Rolling Hills Schools. The groups focus on teaching transition aged youth the importance of being an active member of their communities through employment, civic work, and recreation. Each meeting brings a new perspective to the students through real life examples and exploration of their own interests and talents.

**M. Contracted Services:**

Contracted services are procured by GCBDD for needed services not directly provided by Board employees. These include: Adult Day Services, Non-Medical Transportation, and Community services, Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapy as well as clinical OT and PT; MUI Investigative services; Behavior Support services; Psychological services; Snow removal; Supported Employment; and locally funded residential services (Supported Living contracts). The Human Resource Administrator obtains the credentials from each contracted service contract to ensure proper education is secured.

**N. Nursing/Health and Welfare Services:**

Nursing/Health and Welfare services are provided as necessary. The SSA/Healthcare Coordinator completes the required Nurse Quality Assessment Reviews (NQAR) and Human Sexuality Assessments as needed. Training in CPR/First Aid instructions/AED will be provided on site at the programs campus.

Behavior Support Intervention Strategies including positive behavior support, verbal de-escalation, and physical intervention training are provided initially to all new board employees and annually board employed direct care staff. Behavior Support training includes understanding human rights, identifying and implementing restrictive measures, and employee core responsibilities related to providing behavioral support.

**O. Financial Management:**

Financial Management department's goal is to maximize the quality and quantity of services provided to each individual through efficient management of budgetary and departmental allocations, audits, Day Array and non-medical transportation waiver services, Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) and Targeted Case Management (TCM) billing, contract negotiations, grants management, health and liability insurance, payroll, county, state and federal reporting, and retirement funding. In addition, the county board has completed and submitted the County Board Cost Projection as required by statute. This projection is for ten years and will assist the county board with future levy planning as well as implementing cost saving measures to extend the county board's levy cycle. Resources are maximized by accessing all avenues of funding; including state capital housing and federal grants including, HMG, and Title XX. GCBDD has again presented a balanced budget for 2020. In accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 5126.054(A)(1)(b), GCBDD has pledged funds to satisfy the nonfederal portion of Medicaid expenditures as is required by sections 5126.059 and 5126.0510 of the Revised Code. In February 2020, GCBDD pledged \$1,000,320.69 to satisfy the annual non-federal match for authorized Medicaid services. GCBDD continues to monitor this liability regularly to ensure funds are sufficient to support such. GCBDD continues to refinance available monies from Supported Living and Adult Services.

**P. Outreach/Communication:**

Each year, an Annual Report is developed to inform the public of our programs. Stories from individuals and families are shared to illustrate the importance of our services. These stories are also sent to media outlets and shared via social media.

The Eagles Wings newsletter is published quarterly. It includes updates on our programs and special events.

Social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and You Tube) are used frequently to communicate with the public and individuals served about regular programs and services, as well as special events.

In 2020, the GCBDD logo, program logos, website, and brochures were re-designed to have a consistent, branded look. Any future marketing materials or artwork will have this branded look as well.

Special events are held throughout the year to enhance the lives of those with developmental disabilities. These events also help to raise awareness and inclusivity in the community.

Extensive outreach plans will be put in place for DSP Week (September), Developmental Disability Employment Month (October), and Developmental Disability Month (March).

**Q. Employment Navigation**

In 2017, GCBDD hired an Employment Navigator to assist in the transition process for young adults and helping all others gain employment. Over the past year, we have created new initiatives to encourage and promote employment efforts. In 2020, the Employment Navigator will lead the charge in developing an Employment Task force about employment in the county.

Working Wednesdays is a spotlight that showcases the employment efforts of people who are working or developing the skills needed to find and maintain employment. GCBDD's spotlights community partners and employers by highlighting them through means of social media.

Knowledge Education Youth Success (K.E.Y.S.) is a two week program that is split into two age groups (16-17 and 18-22) that focuses on transition services and career exploration. Those methods include life skills, budgeting, resume building, time management, and interviewing skills. In addition, college exploration is discussed for those looking at post-secondary education.

**R. Provider Support**

GCBDD has developed a network of provider support for new and existing certified providers. This includes regular meetings to discuss local, state, and federal topics. Additionally, recruitment activities are held to seek new providers in all service areas as needed. Our Provider Support offers assistance with the online application and helps providers prepare for compliance reviews. Upon the completion of a newly certified independent provider, our Provider Support meets with independent providers within the first 60 days to ensure the provider understands the ISP and responsibilities for mandated reporting.

**S. Appendix**

"Table of Organization" for the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities, showing the lines of authority, communication, and responsibility, is included with this report as **Appendix A**.

"Public Hearing Notice" for the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities, to obtain public comment and input on the proposed Annual Action Plan, is included with this report as **Appendix B**.

"How to Find Us"... directions to the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities from I-77 north or south and from I-70 east or west, is included with this report as **Appendix C**.

The Administrative office is located at 60770 Southgate Road, Byesville, Ohio and is open to the public Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information, visit <http://www.guernseycountydd.org>.

### **III. Assessment**

Based on input from the 2020 survey of consumers, families, providers, and staff, the GCBDD is a valuable and essential component in the continuum of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Thus GCBDD commits to continuing to provide or contract for services in Help Me Grow, Early Intervention, school age, adult day array and employment services, waiver and supported living services, transportation, service & support administration, residential, and Special Olympics.

In March 2018, the Ohio DODD reviewed the operations of and the services provided by the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The GCBDD was granted a three-year accreditation (highest available) with only one citation. In an effort to continually improve services and supports, GCBDD annually conducts a self-review to ensure they continually meet the standards for accreditation.

GCBDD continues to perform Quality Assurance Reviews and Nursing Quality Assurance Reviews for all individuals receiving residential services. These reviews address documentation, services provided, health and safety, wants and needs, and outcomes achieved. Additionally, the SSA provides continuous monitoring through listening and learning.

DODD reviews compliance of the Early Intervention program through the Early Intervention Data System (EIDS system). Completing a 45 day timeline, timely receipt of services, as well as transition to preschool timelines are monitored. Last year the Board passed with 100% compliance.

The Office of the Fire Marshal conducts visits to inspect the premises for safety, hygiene and compliance. The safety of individuals and staff is of primary importance and is reviewed monthly at the Management Team meetings. The County Board Program has monthly representation at both the County Administrative Safety Meetings as well as the safety meeting conducted at the Guernsey EMA Safety Council.

In 2020, DODD conducted a Self Waiver review of Participants Directed Goods & Services; there were no findings reported.

GCBDD maintenance and SSA department conduct monthly house inspections. Annually furnace, air conditioning, and fire inspections are completed on all GCBDD buildings and homes.

The state auditor conducts or coordinates annual fiscal audits of all financial records and transactions conducted by GCBDD. The 2018 audit contained no citations or comments related to the GCBDD operations.

### **IV. Opportunities**

- Eligible individuals are currently choosing from 5 vocational habilitation or employment providers and 3 habilitative service providers.
- The Governor's Employment First Initiative has established that community employment is the priority. This initiative encompasses public school special education.
- We continue to maximize the operational efficiencies of our membership in the Mideast Ohio Regional Council of Government (MEORC COG). The Region 5 county collaborative project has re-designed several key processes.
- In 2018, Ohio Network of Innovation (ONI) was established in order to create a housing board to manage county owned properties. In 2019, ONI started exploring the issues with the lack of guardians for people supported. ONI has started developing a guardianship board that will serve Guernsey County residents who have intellectual disabilities. This is a partnership with Guernsey and Muskingum County Probate Courts.
- In January of 2018 the Muskingum County Board of DD entered into a shared agreement for the services of the Superintendent with Guernsey. In October 2018 MCBDD expanded their share request to include Business Manager. In the Fall of 2020, GCBDD entered into a shared agreement with MCBDD for the services of their Human Resources Director.
- As GCBDD works to increase the community's capacity to support and include people with

developmental disabilities, the numbers and types of contractual relationships with both specialized and generic community agencies grow. As a result, our influence in the community grows and we continue to build capacity in the community to support people eligible for services.

- Our reputation in the community remains solid and the community survey data shows that the majority of the responders to our survey thought their tax dollars were being spent wisely.
- GCBDD offered service grants to school districts in 2020 where \$450,991.75 was awarded to public schools to assist with behavior therapy services. Due to the Guernsey County Budget Commissions continued roll back of the two DD Levies, GCBDD was not able to continue the mini-grants to support the schools with technology and adaptive equipment for value-added services.
- In 2015, GCBDD passed a motion for extended Early Intervention Service for children to three through age 5 years if the child has two or more developmental delays or a diagnosis. In 2019, GCBDD served 60 children in the 3-5 program.
- GCBDD participates in provider recruitment activities on an ongoing basis based upon the needs of the individuals we support. Provider Support and the SSA Director meet monthly to determine needs and efforts around provider recruitment. Activities around recruitment of Shared Living providers and Employment providers have been a focus over the past 3 years.
- Local districts have expressed interest in Club sports expansion.
- Through the Discovery process it was found that individuals express high interest in art. GCBDD held its first Art Walk Show
- Ohio has developed STABLE Accounts for individuals and families to save money without affecting their Medicaid benefits.
- In 2016, the GCBDD established a scholarship fund for individuals eligible to receive services to assist in their post-secondary endeavors.
- The SSA's meet with each newly certified independent provider within 60 days of the provider being selected to provide services. The purpose of these meetings is to make sure that the provider understands the ISP and the provider's responsibilities and to make sure the provider has the contact information for the SSA and GCBDD.
- GCBDD is partnering with Cedar Ridge Behavioral Health to provide parent mentoring services. This will be to help parents who are struggling with various parenting issues. Currently this initiative is on hold due to the Levy roll-back.
- GCBDD is partnering with Soul Bird Consulting, Inc. to provide a 4 part trauma informed training.
- Each classroom in the public schools with students served by GCBDD will be visited at least once a quarter by the Lead Teacher to check if the teacher has questions or needs anything to help with student's learning. The Lead Teacher will help get materials or equipment if needed.

## **V. Goals and Objectives for 2021-2023**

A Strategic Planning Process, involving Board Members, staff, individuals, families, guardians, volunteers, advocates, collaborative agencies and the community at large looked five years into the GCBDD's future and identified the following goals and objectives to assure continued, high quality services to all enrolled in Board programs based on self-determination principles.

**GOAL #1:** GCBDD will improve methods for service delivery to infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Objective 1-a:** Annually, each member of the management team employed by the GCBDD will have visited at least one similar program and have attended one meeting of their peers to compare and contrast training methods and/or service delivery methods.

**Objective 1-b:** GCBDD will continue to offer mini-grants to the schools in Guernsey County in an effort to provide needed equipment, technology, and services to students eligible

for our services being educated in their home schools.

- Objective 1-c:** By December 2021, the GCBDD Speech Language Pathologist will evaluate and implement the appropriate form of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) such as, PECS, low-tech switches, low-tech communication boards, or speech generating devices for at least two (2) individuals with significant communication needs.
- Objective 1-d:** By December 2021, recruitment activities for (Employment) providers will be completed to secure two additional providers. We will focus our recruitment campaign through the use of social media and traditional media. In addition, we will host a recruitment activity at our provider fair.
- Objective 1-e:** In 2021, continue holding or partnering with a community partner on a quarterly “get together” such as Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter events.
- Objective 1-f:** At least 3 times per year, members of a self-advocacy group will be asked to attend a Board meeting to discuss what the group is doing and to provide feedback to GCBDD regarding services offered.
- Objective 1-g:** By December 2021, the Early Childhood Manager and Speech Language Pathologist will have the ADEP program up and running.
- Objective 1-h:** In 2021, the Employment Taskforce will start phase three which will include expansion of the group.
- Objective 1-i:** In 2021, the Board will offer and promote training in LEAN, provider review readiness, NQAR, and Strategic planning. The Board has set aside \$10,000 for providers to access training through MEORC. SSA Director will report out quarterly on the use of these training dollars.

**Goal #2:** The GCBDD will increase communication and educational opportunities for individuals, their families, staff, service providers and the community.

- Objective 2-a:** At least one time per year, the Business Office will present a summary of financial highlights which include results, trends, and any expected funding changes for the period.
- Objective 2-b:** Quarterly, the SSA Department will provide opportunities for agencies and independent providers to obtain training information, updates on state and federal guidelines and other relevant topics. Additional, employment focused provider meetings will be held quarterly to discuss unique issues for employment providers.
- Objective 2-c:** Monthly, GCBDD will update public service announcements for the radio. Articles will be submitted to the newspaper often to promote special events and inform the public of our services. Staff will appear on Talk of the Town to promote special events.
- Objective 2-d:** Annually, GCBDD will sponsor at least one staff person to attend the SYNERGY convention, at least two consumers to attend the Self-Determination conference, and at least one family member to attend the Ohio SIBS conference. Open to all providers.
- Objective 2-e:** By June 2021, GCBDD, led by Community Relations/Special Projects

Coordinator, will facilitate monthly self-advocacy group meetings. Focusing on charting a life course and covering the principles of self-determination.

**Objective 2-f:** By December 2021, the Board will add, to it's funds at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, \$5,000 to support individuals seeking further educational opportunities past the high school level.

**Objective 2-g:** Annually, GCBDD staff will complete training on the staff intranet which includes the medical authorization, press release, review of updated policies, HIPAA, confidentiality, vehicle insurance, seizure protocol, blood borne pathogens, EPIPen, lockdown, tourniquet training, MUI procedures, Health and Welfare trainings and the Bill of Rights.

**Goal #3:** The GCBDD will assure quality services to those individuals it serves.

**Objective 3-a:** Increase the number of individuals in supported and integrated employment to 30% of all eligible adults by December 31, 2021.

**Objective 3-b:** At least quarterly, IT Officer will review the technology plan and make recommendations for upgrades. IT Officer will continue to work collaboratively with the Muskingum County Board of DD IT Coordinator to better coordinate future data transfers, applications, hardware and IT employees.

**Objective 3-c:** PLAY Project Consultants will utilize the use of PLAY with a minimum of 5 children and families enrolled in the PLAY Project.

**Objective 3-d:** By December 2021, GCBDD will partner with ONI to create a guardianship board that will serve individuals in GCBDD who are found incompetent through the Guernsey Probate Court.

**Objective 3-e:** At least quarterly, EI service providers trained in PECS will meet with school staff for students using PECS in the home environment.

**Objective 3-f:** At least annually, GCBDD's Speech Language Pathologist will offer additional support and training to providers supporting individuals with communication and/or swallowing deficits.

**Objective 3-g:** By December 2021, Early Intervention contracted Occupational and Physical Therapists will have completed all necessary EI trainings.

**Objective 3-h:** During 2021, GCBDD will offer mini grants to community organizations in Guernsey County, in an effort to provide sensory friendly materials to better support individuals with developmental disabilities within their organization.

**Objective 3-i:** The Technology Information Officer will conduct monthly meetings for staff instructing technology practices for the maintaining of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) information and confidentiality.

**Objective 3-j:** By December 2021, GCBDD will partner with Cedar Ridge to hire a Parent Mentor to provide support to parents who have children with intensive needs.

**Objective 3-k:** By June 2021, GCBDD will offer a Parent Support Group for parents with children and adults with Trisomy 21.

**Objective 3-l:**

The updated GCBDD website will be a clear and user friendly representation of the services we offer. It will also function as a resource for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The resource page will be updated quarterly (links checked, new links added). Analytics will be monitored quarterly. A baseline will be established after the first quarter of monitored analytics and goals will be set from those numbers.

**Goal #4:** The GCBDD will develop and implement plans and strategies for additional, alternative funding and resource acquisition to support its mission.

**Objective 4-a:**

GCBDD will continue levy fundraising activities with at one fundraiser by December 31, 2021 to raise an additional \$1,500.

**Objective 4-b:**

GCBDD will maintain a minimum of three years of match requirement for all Medicaid Services currently authorized. The amount for the next three years (with 2% assumed annual growth for years 2 and 3) is \$3,061,548.32.

**Goal #5:** GCBDD will furnish and maintain adequate physical facilities and equipment to meet the needs for services and programming for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Objective 5-a:**

Annually, Administrative staff will inspect utilization of space for new and existing programs.

**Objective 5-b:**

By December 31, 2021, the Maintenance Supervisor will get pricing for bulletproof glass for the doors to the school.

**Objective 5 -c:**

The Maintenance Supervisor will research grants for solar energy to help offset cost of electricity usage and be environmentally friendly by December 2021.

**Objective 5-d:**

The Maintenance Supervisor will research the cost to purchase a ranch style home for individuals served by the Board.

**Goal #6:** All components of GCBDD's three year plan will be completed.

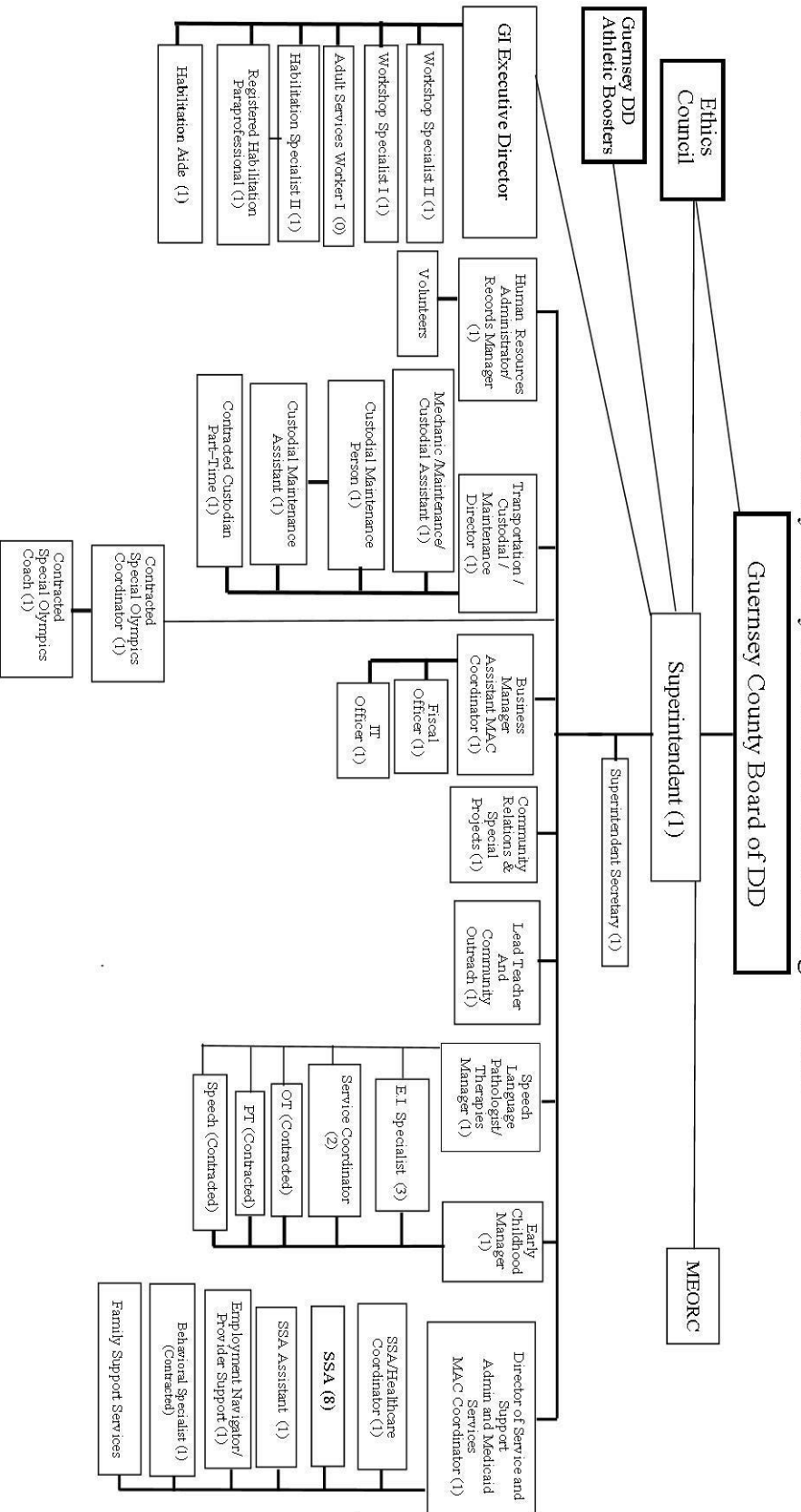
**Objective 6-a:**

Quarterly, the objectives of the Annual Action Plan will be reviewed at the support staff meeting. The Administrative Assistant shall include the Annual Action Plan review quarterly as an agenda item for the management team meetings.

**Objective 6-b:**

Annually, The Superintendent will complete an Outcome Performance Report to be presented to the GCBDD Board regarding the status of the Goals and objectives of the Annual Action Plan/Strategic Plan.

# Guernsey County Board of DD Table of Organization



( ) = Current Filled Positions

— = Line of Supervision  
 — = Line of Communication

As of 7/01/2020



## Appendix B

The Administrative office is located at 60770 Southgate Road, Byesville, Ohio and is open to the public Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The 24-hour emergency response telephone number is 740-260-3206. If this is a life-threatening emergency—call 911. To report Abuse-Neglect-MUIs Hotline number is 1-866-313-6733. The facility is completely accessible. Offices are closed on legal holidays. A copy of the calendar of operations is available upon request. For more information, visit <http://www.guernseycountydd.org>.

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(PLEASE ADVERTISE UNDER PUBLIC NOTICES: (10/21/20, 10/22/20, & 10/23/20)

### **NOTICE**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities will conduct a Public Hearing on its Annual Action Plan on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at Guernsey County Board of DD. “The intent of the hearing is to obtain public comment and input on the proposed plan, including annual goals and objectives,” said Superintendent, Kellie Brown. All attending will be allowed to make oral or written comments. Each person presenting oral testimony will have a limitation of fifteen (15) minutes.

**DATE:**                      **December 2, 2020**

**PLACE:**                    **Guernsey County Board of DD**

**TIME:**                      **10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.**

Copies of the proposed plan will be available prior to the hearing at the Guernsey County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 60770 Southgate Road, Byesville, Ohio 43723-9699.

## Appendix C

### **How to find us...**

#### From Canton:

I-77 South to I-70 West (Exit 44B)  
to Exit 178 (209-Cambridge)  
Left on 209 East approximately two miles  
GCBDD on left

#### From Marietta:

I-77 North to Exit 41 (Byesville)  
Left at Exit 41 (turns into 209 West)  
Approximately two miles  
GCBDD on right

#### From Wheeling:

I-70 West to Exit 178 (209-Cambridge)  
Left on 209 East, approximately two miles  
GCBDD on left

#### From Columbus:

I-70 East to Exit 178 (209-Cambridge)  
Right on 209 East, approximately two miles  
GCBDD on left

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/60770+Southgate+Rd,+Byesville,+OH+43723/@39.98315,-81.5640534,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x8837ca605a61758f:0x2279a0aa1391b2cf!8m2!3d39.9831459!4d-81.5618647>