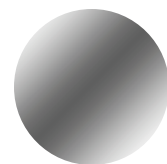




*Encouraging, Supporting and
Respecting People on their
Journey through Life*

**2008-09
Annual Plan
Update**

Board Approved: April 16, 2009



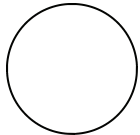


The mission of the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to encourage, support and respect people on their journey through life.

Our mission keeps us focused on making certain that people with disabilities are valued for who they are and what they bring to their communities. This means giving them the power to choose the supports they want and need and helping them locate opportunities in the community. Our guiding philosophy is the self-determination of each individual. This means that the people we serve are at the center, exercising freedom, authority, choice and control over their own lives.

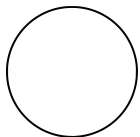
The strategy outlined in the 2008-09 Strategic Plan, which continues in 2009, follows the **Good to Great** business model created by Jim Collins. We looked at the primary elements present in great organizations that enable them to maintain a high level of performance over time and answered three questions in what Collins calls The Three Circles of the “Hedgehog Concept.”

What are you deeply passionate about?



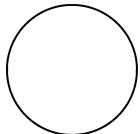
The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is passionate about people having control over their lives.

What can you be the best at?



The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities can be the best at building community relationships.

What will enable services to grow?



The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities believes that services will grow by using natural and community resources effectively and efficiently

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PLANNING

The guiding principle behind the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities' 2008-09 Strategic Plan and 2009 Update is Self-Determination. This principle shifts the focus from programs to people and gives them choice and control in making life decisions. When the Board made the commitment to practice Self-Determination for every person served, individuals and their families moved to the core with supports and services surrounding them. Program goals were then established in four Core Service areas: Advocacy, Prevention, Protections and Connections/ Relationships.

The program goals and objectives reflect The Three Circles, as shown here:

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is passionate about people having control over their lives.

The Board will fully implement Self-Determination, giving individuals and families authority and control over resources spent on their behalf. The Board will develop Person-Centered Plans that foster independence. We will help people become *of the community* through the discovery of opportunities for living.

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities can be the best at building community relationships.

We will develop relationships that bring meaning into people's lives, partnering with the community and reaching out to civic organizations, providers, other agencies, families and individuals.

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities believes that services will grow by using natural and community resources effectively and efficiently.

We will impact the cost of doing business by assessing every aspect of the County Board for efficiency; using natural and community supports first; ensuring maximum reimbursements; and discovering new funding sources (grants).

OVERVIEW OF SUPPORTS

EARLY INTERVENTION

Children ages birth through 2, who are at risk for, or have a developmental disability or delay, are served by Early Intervention, a family centered and community based service. The County Board's Community Intervention Specialist works in cooperation with Help Me Grow, Easter Seals and other agencies to meet each child's developmental needs.

INTEGRATED PRESCHOOL

Children with developmental disabilities, ages three to five, and their typically developing peers are educated in the Integrated Preschool program at the School of Hope. Classes are held four days per week.

SCHOOL OF HOPE

The Board's school-age setting is the School of Hope, where children (ages 6 to 22 years) with developmental disabilities are educated. Classes are held five days per week.

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Services are for people with developmental disabilities ages 22 and older. The Board provides service coordination, 24-hour crisis intervention, and funding for various services offered by independent providers, which include the following: work skill development, employment, occupational, physical, and speech services, emotional, physical and personal development. Day habilitation providers include Belco Works, Inc., which provides employment and other vocational opportunities and education, and Tomorrow's Corner, which provides recreation/leisure activities, sensory, assessment, and training to individuals for whom work is not a priority or within their skill range.

RESIDENTIAL

The County Board works with organizations like Eastern Ohio Housing Development Corporation, Sunrise Acres Ranch, ResCare and Paramount Support Services to develop community living options. The Board also funds residential supports through various sources.

TRANSPORTATION

Board Transportation travels about 1,700 miles per day taking people to places like school, work, and Special Olympics' events. Children ride familiar yellow school buses while adults are transported in light transit vehicles or cars.

2008 ASSESSMENT OF FACILITY, SERVICE AND SUPPORT NEEDS

The 2008 Assessment of Facility, Service and Support Needs was available to individuals receiving services, their families, guardians, advocates, and residential providers. This survey was designed to gather information regarding service and support quality, service gaps, and recommendations for improvement or change. Surveys were also made available to Board employees, provider agencies, and community agency representatives. The annual Public Forum also presented an opportunity for views and opinions to be heard.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Quality of Facilities – 80% of the individuals and families surveyed rated the overall quality of facilities as excellent or very good.

Quality of Services –80% of the individuals and families surveyed rated the overall quality of services as excellent or very good

In the core service areas, the survey revealed the following:

Advocacy – 100% of the individuals and families surveyed agreed that people with disabilities and their families choose the supports they need and want.

Prevention – 85% agreed that BCBDD takes the lead in providing public awareness/ education to prevent or reduce developmental disabilities in Belmont County. 80% agreed that BCBDD provides access to information/resources to prevent or minimize health and safety conditions associated with developmental disabilities.

Protections – 95% agreed that BCBDD takes the lead in assuring health and safety of people served. 90% agreed that BCBDD is responsive in coordinating and monitoring prevention plans regarding health and safety issues.

Connections/Relationships – 85% agreed that BCBDD takes the lead in developing opportunities for community connections and is effective at using natural and community resources. 75% agreed that BCBDD is effective at building community relationships and partnerships.

Items identified by individuals and families as priorities to improve services included more community involvement and opportunities, and post-high school learning opportunities for adults.

One respondent noted the need for clarification regarding the role of the Board and independent providers, writing “(Most parents) don’t understand who provides such services as Special Olympics, dances, transportation.”



2008-09 GOALS

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL 1

People with disabilities and their families will choose the supports they need and want to pursue a life of worth and meaning.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- √ Selected 5 Self-Advocates as Self-Determination Leadership (SDL) Team
- √ Established roles, responsibilities, expectations and goals for SDL
- √ Established weekly meetings and compensation for SDL team services
- √ SDL Team attended Ohio Self-Determination Conference
- √ SDL Team conducted in-service trainings at agencies (Harrison CBMRDD, Belmont CBDD, Paramount Support Services, Tomorrow's Corner)

2009 GOALS

- Provide training, resources and opportunities for SDL Team to advocate for peers and families
- SDL Team to continue trainings on Self-Determination, Self-Advocacy, etc.
- Develop SDL Team to serve as a leadership component for BCBD
- Continue to promote Self Determination through development of Person-Centered Plans and Individual budgets

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL 2

People are healthy and safe in all aspects of their lives.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- √ Developed a county-wide resource database of sample prevention and risk reduction actions that have been utilized for substantiated or unsubstantiated MUIs for abuse, neglect, misappropriation, and unapproved behavior support.
- √ Developed the booklet "Understanding the MUI Reporting System"

2009 GOALS

- Provide training/information/resources to the provider network on the Conflict-Crisis -Resolution (CCR) procedure.
- Provide oversight of prevention plans to ensure implementation
- Provide Health and Safety Alerts to provider network

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL 4

The County Board will use natural and community resources effectively and efficiently.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- √ Developed Individual Supports Guidelines that promote an equitable system of supports (Hierarchy of Supports) for all individuals served by the Board
- √ Developed a Financial Management Plan to address rising costs, decreased funding
- √ Implemented a new intake process to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness

2009 GOALS

- Seek grant funding for playground improvements
- Search for new sources of revenue
- Develop efficiency systems and scrutinize budgets to determine areas in which savings may be realized
- Continue development of individual budgets

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL 4

Develop a County Board workforce that is trained in the practice and implementation of Self-Determination and Servant Leadership

GOALS ACHIEVED

- √ Provided communication skills training by professional trainer, Brian Blasko
- √ Acquired resource material on Self-Determination for self-advocates/families

2009 GOALS

- Continued training and resources will be provided to support staff in the implementation of self-determination
- Utilize talents of SDL Team to provide self-determination training to CB employees
- Develop a quality review process using self-advocates/family members to monitor implementation of self-determination

ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL 5

Provide information, education and awareness of disability issues and the services and supports available.

GOALS ACHIEVED

- √ Compiled comprehensive list of sources on various developmental disabilities and supports available
- √ Organized Family Advisory Committee, a group that meets to share information on topics of importance to families served

2009 GOALS

- Add information on various developmental disabilities to BCBDD website
- Collaborate with other agencies/organizations to educate about preventable developmental disabilities

HOW THE BOARD ADDRESSES SERVICE NEEDS

Service Coordination and Monitoring

A service and support administrator (SSA) is assigned to each individual determined eligible for services through the Ohio Eligibility and Determination Instrument (OEDI). The SSA is the single point of accountability for the individual and performs the following duties:

- Assesses need for services and supports
- Develops/revises the Individual's ISP and monitors the plan
- Establishes the individual's budget for services
- Assists the individual in choosing providers
- Ensures that the individual's services are effectively coordinated and provided by appropriate providers
- Assists in selection of a daily representative
- Ensures crisis intervention/emergency response

Crisis Intervention

The Board operates an emergency response system 24-hours per day, seven days per week through its Service and Support Administration department. When emergencies involving people with developmental disabilities happen on evenings, weekends and holidays, families, providers, social service agencies, and emergency personnel can call 740-310-2255 and a trained member of the SSA Department will provide necessary assistance.

Information and Referral

Requests for information and referrals are handled through the Service and Support Administration department. Individuals who are determined ineligible for services are referred, with their consent, to other agencies or sources of services and supports.

Major Unusual Incident Review/Assessment

The Board has a system in place to report, investigate, review, correct and analyze incidents adversely affecting health and safety of individuals and to monitor preventative actions to ensure health and safety. Incident reports are received in the MUI Office where the MUI Coordinator enters the information regarding the incident via ODMRDD's online system. The Board contracts with the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) for the investigation of MUIs.

The MUI Coordinator is responsible for the internal review of all MUIs; for ensuring all reasonable steps are taken to prevent reoccurrence; and for identifying and addressing trends and patterns.

Family Support Services

Family Support Services (FSS) promotes family unity by helping the family meet the special needs of the individual with a developmental disability who lives in the home. It helps the individual maximize self-sufficiency and prevent inappropriate institutionalization by providing financial support to meet his or her needs.

Reimbursement is determined through the Family Support Services' component of the Board's annual plan. The plan allows for flexibility in tailoring the level of reimbursement to the unique needs of families. The co-payment schedule is based on the family's federal taxable income. The amount of funds available to each family in 2008 was \$200 per calendar quarter.

There were 106 individuals who received services through FSS in 2008. This included respite, adaptive equipment, reimbursement for specialized diet needs, medical needs and emergency needs. Annual surveys provide feedback on service quality provided and the funding needs of families receiving FSS.

The Board collaborates with other agencies to locate needed services and supports. Information about FSS is provided to individuals and families during the intake and planning processes. Information is also distributed to schools, community agencies, and the general public through Board publications and its website, www.bcbdd.org. It is anticipated that more than 100 individuals will need FSS in 2009.

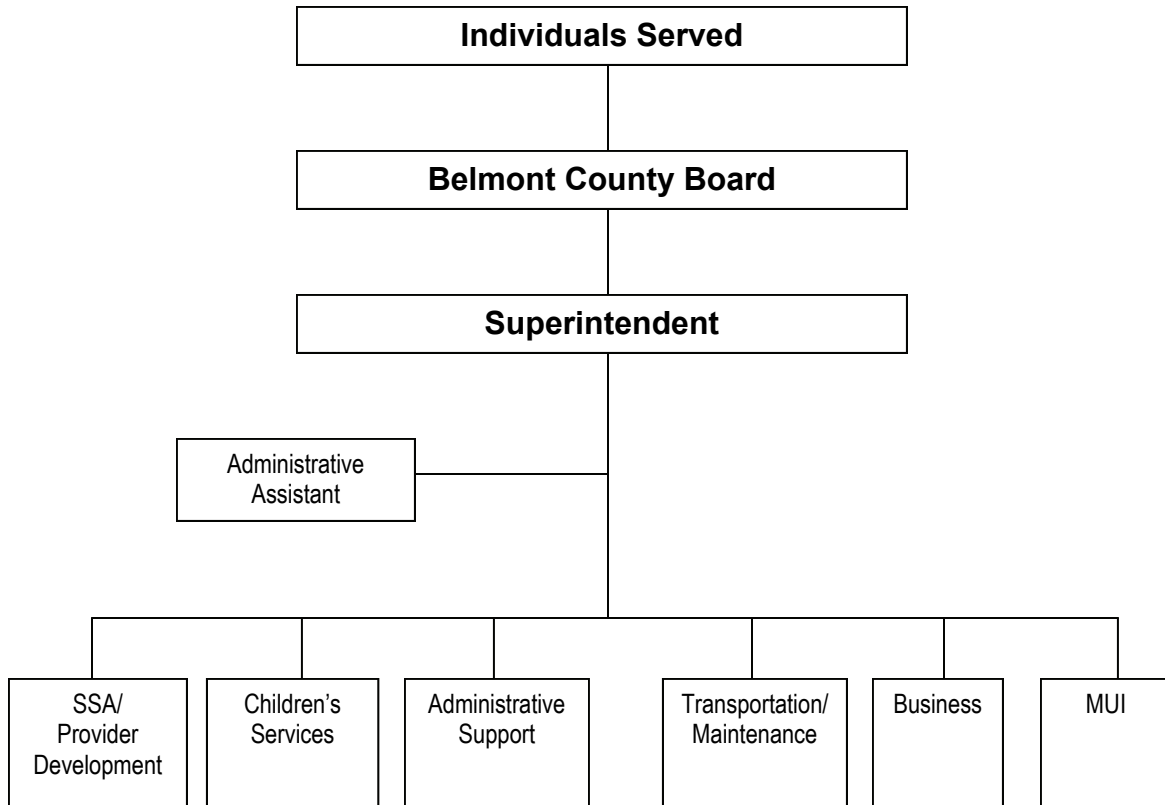


STATISTICAL DATA

The following categories show the number of active participants who were served in various areas in 2008. Because individuals receive multiple services, they can appear in more than one service area.

SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION	384
ADULT NON-VOCATIONAL	71
SHELTERED WORK SETTING	163
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING	39
EARLY INTERVENTION	30
SCHOOL-AGE	24
PRESCHOOL	13
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES	106
TRANSPORTATION	283
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	
FAMILY	246
LIVING IN HOME OWNED/LEASED BY INDIVIDUAL	68
LICENSED FACILITY	106
NURSING FACILITY	23
FOSTER CARE	14

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION





STAFF DIRECTORY

CEO/Superintendent	Monty Kerr
Operations Manager	Willie Jones
SSA Director/Provider Support	Steve Williams
Children’s Services Director	Jamie Bauman
Human Resources Coordinator.....	Holly Weatherson
Finance Director	Jim Ray
Transportation Coordinator	Bill West
MUI Coordinator	Melanie Ritz

CONTACT INFORMATION

Superintendent’s Office	740-695-0233
Service and Support Administration	740-695-7433
Children’s Services	740-695-0460
Administration	740-695-0407
Transportation	740-695-7420

Public Access to County Board Offices

The County Board offices, located at 330 Fox-Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, are equipped and operated in accordance with all applicable laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. They are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and other times as requested by appointment.