

MORROW DD
STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024
Progress Summary Report - 2024

PRIORITY: COMMUNITY

GOALS:

- Ensure transition options are available and appropriate for individuals throughout life
- Increase support of providers to ensure opportunities for Community Connections, Self-Determination, Self-advocacy and Employment

STRATEGIES:

- Work collaboratively with schools to assist students of all ages in the transition process
- Work collaboratively with Family Children First Council (FCFC) to ensure transition supports are available to children at all stages of transition
- Work collaboratively with providers to increase community involvement and/or employment for individuals
- Educate individuals, families and providers of the benefits and availability of assistive and supportive technology
- Increase awareness in our community of the risk for abuse of persons with developmental disabilities

INITIATIVES:

- CB will participate in the Morrow County Business-Education Partnership Action Team
- Restore transition school-age workgroup
- Explore ideas to expand resources to support families' transition from EI to school
- Explore developing an Employer Advisory Council to collaborate with the county board and providers to ensure successful business-employee relationships
- Explore other county boards for ideas to expand employment opportunities, navigation and provider support

PROGRESS:

- **Distributed appreciation gifts to all Direct Service Professionals in Morrow County**
- **Distributed "Thankful" Christmas gifts to all providers and several county officials**
- **The SSA Department collaborates with FCFC to provide needed transition supports for children at all stages. SSA's assist families with transition by requesting funding for supports, services, and programs geared toward transition.**
- **The SSA Department collaborates with Safe in Home and other technology vendors to provide education to individuals, families, providers, and guardians about the potential benefits of utilizing assistive technology to increase independence.**
- **The Early Intervention (EI) Department has expanded Service Coordination to children 3-5 years old who are eligible for CB services. In an effort to improve the transition process from EI (Part C services) to school (Part B services), the EI Service Coordinators have added an extra Home Visit within 30 days of the transition date to ensure families understand and are comfortable with the next step for their children.**

PRIORITY: COLLABORATION

GOAL:

- Increase the number of quality service providers to meet the needs in Morrow County

STRATEGIES:

- Work with the Clearwater Council of Governments (COG) to expand provider capacity into Morrow County
- Provide training opportunities for current and new providers
- Work with the local transportation collaborative to increase affordable and appropriate transportation options

INITIATIVES:

- Participate at job and resource fairs to share CB resources, DD employment career paths (e.g. DSP)
- Host a Recognition lunch/resource fair for local providers and survey topics of interest for 2023 training
- Offer trauma-informed training for providers
- Participate on two advisory boards: Regional Transportation Advisory Board and the local transportation collaborative

PROGRESS:

- **Setup and participated in Tri-Rivers Expo of Career Opportunities**
- **Participation in “Real Money, Real World” at Cardington & Mt. Gilead Schools**
- **Participation in quarterly COG DSP Appreciation Meetings & activities**
- **Participated in Career Exposition at Tri-Rivers**
- **Participation in Tomorrow Center Resource Fair**
- **Participation on the Regional Transportation Advisory Board and the Morrow County Transportation Collaborative**

PRIORITY: CONTINUITY

GOAL:

- Ensure sustainability of county board services

STRATEGIES:

- Increase local funding by at least 25% by seeking approval of additional local funding
- Seek alternative funding like grants and other available resources to extend local funding
- Reduce the number of individuals in the county waiting for services

INITIATIVES:

- Evaluate the possibility of a levy request for November 2023 ballot
- Evaluate the possibility of applying for a BWC safety grant for improved workplace safety
- Collaborate with local agencies to partner in gaining grant funding for local resources
- Explore ways to provide services and supports more cost effectively, to increase resources and maximize local funding available, to address: the growth in number of people supported (emergencies and the wait list) within the constraints of the county board's resources
- Seek other grants to strengthen local resources

PROGRESS:

- **Reduced the number of individuals on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver waiting list**
- **We utilized the Keeping Families Together (KFT) grant to support youth to stay in their homes and avoid out of home placement. This grant can fund respite for families who are supporting an individual with complex needs. The grant can also fund assistive technology and safety items to keep youth in their homes and avoid out-of-home placement**
- **Completed a comprehensive review of necessary building updates and ensured mandatory and the most significant updates were completed with one-time funds.**
- **Partnered with Family Children First Council to provide approved funding for community resources, services, and supports for children and youth**
- **Received a significant grant through an application with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, to utilize ARPA funds for local projects to expand community access and inclusion. Projects included accessible bleachers, parking area and ramps at the fairgrounds, 2 accessible golf carts, 4 adaptive bicycles for Cardington and Mt. Gilead libraries, pen readers for all 4 Morrow County libraries, accessible tables and swings at some area parks and the Headwaters Outdoor Education Center, and an accessible mobile companion care restroom**
- **Participation in Medicaid Administration Claiming reimbursement program, reducing the percentage of local funds used for administrative positions**

- Continued in the Title XX grant program for Early Intervention therapy services
- Utilized funding from an Early Intervention Service Coordination grant to reimburse personnel expenses of our Early Intervention Service Coordinators

PRIORITY: COMMUNICATION

GOAL:

- Improve messaging throughout the county

STRATEGIES:

- Improve the county board's presence in school districts and community
- Create a Speaker's Bureau and empower Ambassadors to share messaging in the community
- Expand the use of social media, enhance our website, and use expanded technology to be useful resources for our community

INITIATIVES:

- Plan and implement a 2nd grade reading awareness project, partnering with individuals with DD
- Plan and track opportunities to share messaging in the community
- Explore the use of our building as a polling site for county elections

PROGRESS:

- **Multiple DD Awareness Activities:**
 - Assisted MARCA in their "Paint the Town Orange" campaign
 - Developed partnership with Gleaners for Camp PEPA Activity
 - Developed library displays for all 4 county libraries
 - Recognition and proclamations with Mt. Gilead Mayor and Morrow County Commissioners
 - Individuals read "The Elephant With a Knot in his Trunk" to all 2nd graders in the community promoting acceptance of differences in people
- Hosted 2 Camp PEPA sessions (16 total young people involved; engaged with 26 unpaid volunteers; visited 21+ community businesses or government agencies. Camp consisted of introducing school transition-age students or young adults to various community agencies, community businesses, service organizations and to meet various county officials)
- Participated in Morrow County Career Expo
- Coordinated Sensory Friendly Easter Egg Hunt and visit with Easter Bunny at Cardington and Mt. Gilead
- Coordinated "Sensory Friendly" visit with Santa during Cardington's Christmas in the Village
- Coordinated "Disney & Marvel" character Sensory-Friendly Meet & Greet at the Cardington Street Fair

- Developed booth display with resource information and guessing game at Morrow County Fair 2024
- Participation in bi-monthly OACB Communications Group meetings
- Distribution of “Community Happenings” monthly flyer
- Development and distribution of quarterly “MorrowDD Connection” newsletter
- Developed a partnership with Buckeye Fitness Training Academy to provide activities for school-age kids
- Developed a partnership with Mt. Gilead Library for their “Beyond the Book Club”
- Collaborated with “I Am Boundless” to collect donated items for Esther’s Dream and Will’s Place.
- Participated in Solar Eclipse Litter Cleanup/Pickup
- Partnered with Cardington American Legion and Gilead Christian School Students for Community Service Project
- Organized Pumpkin Pies for MARCA and Angels Home Care, provided by Russ Shah
- Assisted with the development and implementation of Community Service Projects for Staff during an In-service day
- Assisted Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) with the coordination and development of Storytelling Workshop planning session
- Assisted ODDC with the coordination of “My Life, My Story” workshop during Morrow County Fair
- Assisted Junior Fair Board in distributing information on the “Breaking Boundaries” livestock show at Morrow County Fair
- Participated in Mt. Gilead Christmas Parade, winning “Best Parade Theme”

PRIORITY: COMMITMENT

GOAL:

- Ensure commitment to our community

STRATEGIES:

- Commit to individuals and families to ensure they receive services and supports they need (as resources permit)
- Commit to strengthen person-centered planning by focusing on the individual and their vision for the future and putting them at the center of their ISP, thus reinforcing the vision that all people with developmental disabilities lead fulfilling lives;
- Commit to support the opportunity for community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities;
- Commit to support the providers' ability to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities;
- Commit to being good stewards of tax payers dollars

INITIATIVES

- Restructure SSA capacity to provide increased support to school-age families
- Explore retention ideas to stabilize SSA staffing
- Participate in *We Thrive Together* to broaden opportunities for individuals to meet others, establish friendships and expand knowledge
- Explore the use of available technologies to improve efficiencies and expand the availability of resources

PROGRESS:

- **On-going distribution of We Thrive Together information to all eligible families in Morrow County**
- **Provided materials and offered assistance to prepare for the Solar Eclipse event in April 2024**
- **Provided required guardianship training to seven guardians**
- **Started "Let's Be Friends", a new social group targeted at young ladies age 18-30ish. Began in August 2024 and meets monthly**
- **SSA's continue to strengthen person-centered planning through on-going trainings and education by focusing on each individual and their vision for the future.**
- **Reviewed services funded by local tax dollars to determine if alternative funding is available to meet these supports**
- **The SSA Department collaborates with Safe in Home and other technology vendors to provide education to individuals, families, providers, and guardians about the potential benefits of utilizing assistive technology to increase independence and access to resources.**

- Began work on succession and reorganization plans that include the creation of a new position to expand engagement with individuals and families
- Developed projects utilizing funding from the Ohio Department of DD (using an ARPA grant) to improve access and integration within Morrow County, to include: golf carts, accessible mobile companion care restroom, accessible picnic tables and swings, ramps at the fairgrounds and accessible bicycles.
- We increased funds allocated for Family Directed Resources to provide more opportunities for use by individuals and families.