

MORROW DD
STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2027
Progress Summary Report - CY2025

Goal: Enhance and enrich opportunities, services and resources for youth and their families

INITIATIVES

- Expand service coordination to eligible children who are 3 years old and transitioning out of Early Intervention
- Collaborate with schools to assist students who are county board eligible to identify services and support needed to help ensure health and safety

PROGRESS:

- **Developed a pilot program for continuing support for selected 3-5 year-old children**
- **Added a new position, Service and Support Administrator/Children, to expand service coordination for young children and support them and their families as they grow and move through the school-age and transition years**
- **Developed a “Let’s Be Friends” group for young ladies and their mothers to improve social, communication, self-advocacy and daily living skills.**

GOAL: Strengthen relationships and retention of quality providers

INITIATIVES:

- Survey providers to assess need in resources
- Collaborate with the Clearwater COG to expand and enhance resources for providers
- Offer unique opportunities to providers 4 or more times annually and solicit feedback

PROGRESS:

- **Member of Clearwater COG’s DSP Appreciation Committee**
- **Participated in a Regional Tech Learning Lab**
- **Shared information from the Clearwater COG regarding relevant news, trainings, and educational opportunities available for providers**
- **Created two Winter Blues Baskets given to 2 DSPs in Morrow County**
- **Sent monthly reminders to providers regarding provider certification expirations**
- **Visits to providers throughout the year by the Outreach Team**

- Distributed appreciation gifts to providers during DSP Appreciation Month in September
- Developed social media posts spotlighting Morrow Co. DSPs in DSP Appreciation Month
- Participation in On Seen LiveCare Marketplace, a system to better manage providers in Morrow County
- Hosted Family Fun Picnic (July 18) and invited all providers
- Participated in COG Provider coordination meetings quarterly
- Participated in Ohio Provider Coordination Workgroup
- Coordinated “Pumpkin Pie Day” provided by Russ Shah at both MARCA and Angels Home Care adult day services

GOAL: Ensure sustainability of county board services

INITIATIVES:

- Increase local funding by seeking approval of additional levy revenue
- Seek alternative funding like grants and other available resources to extend local funding
- Reduce the number of individuals in the county waiting for services
- Develop a team to monitor cost efficiencies within service planning

PROGRESS:

- Passed a ballot issue in November 2025 for Replacement of Continuing Levy with a 0.25 mill reduction to bring the effective rate up to current property values
- Utilized grant funds received from DODD in 2024 to complete the following projects: accessible bleachers, parking area and ramps at the fairgrounds; two accessible golf carts used during county events including the county fair and parades; four adaptive bicycles for Cardington and Mt. Gilead libraries, pen readers for all four Morrow County libraries; accessible tables and swings at some area parks and the Headwaters Outdoor Education Center, and an accessible mobile companion care restroom
- Utilized Keeping Families Together grant funds- AngelSense Subscription for 8 families
- Developed a review team that meets quarterly to review cost efficiencies within service planning

GOAL: Expand awareness of Morrow DD throughout the county

INITIATIVES:

- Develop a new communication plan
- Increase events and activities, partnering with providers and self-advocates when possible to promote the awareness of county board services and role in our community

PROGRESS:

- Coordinated the Sensory Easter Event at Cardington Street Fair – Apr. 12
- Attended the Statehouse Advocacy Day, partnering with MARCA and individuals with lived experience
- Participated with an information/resource table at the Farmers Share Breakfast – Mar. 15
- Participated in a Real Money/Real World event at Cardington and Mt. Gilead Middle Schools
- Attended Safe Harbor’s “Annie’s House” Open House – May 29
- Presented at Kiwanis Club Meeting – Mar. 26
- Created and distributed quarterly newsletters
- DD Awareness Activities included: library displays in all 4 county libraries and reading to all Morrow County 2nd graders by an individual with lived experience in all county schools
- Coordinated DD Awareness Proclamation with Morrow Co. Commissioners
- Coordinated DD Awareness Proclamation with Mt. Gilead Village
- Coordinated distribution of Sensory Cruiser Bags with Cardington and Mt. Gilead Police Cruisers and Morrow County Sheriff’s Department
- Purchased and gifted pen readers to all 4 county libraries
- Purchased 2 adaptive bicycles for Cardington Library and Mt. Gilead Library Bike Lending Programs
- Create and distribute monthly Community Happenings calendar
- Provided an Accessible Restroom Companion Care mobile unit at community events
- Provided accessible golf carts for community events
- Items purchased and installed at Morrow County Fairgrounds: accessible bleachers, accessible parking behind the youth building, accessible ramp for the stage in youth building
- Purchased and installed accessible concrete paths and pads and accessible tables at various parks around the county
- Purchased adaptive swings for various parks in the county
- Hosted Family Fun Day on July 18 for families, providers and stakeholders

- Hosted 2 weeks of Camp PEPA, coordinated educational visits for campers to various community locations throughout Morrow County
- Hosted a booth at Morrow County Fair
- Distributed quarterly newsletters through mail and at community locations
- Provided raffle basket for Seniors on Center at the Morrow Co. Fair
- Participated in the 9th grade Morrow Co. Career Expo – Sept. 2025
- Hosted a Trunk or Treat Event
- Designed 6 billboards posted around the county focused on National Disability Employment Month – October
- Created social media posts spotlighting individuals at their places of employment
- Participated in the Tomorrow Center Resource Fair – Oct. 16
- Coordinated Sensory Santa event during Cardington’s Christmas in the Village
- Participation in Mt. Gilead’s Christmas parade
- Loaned historical items to Morrow County Historical Society for display
- Developed radio ads for MorrowDD Awareness
- Delivery of appreciation fruit baskets to community partners, including county offices, agency providers and group homes
- Sent Christmas cards with magnetic calendars to community partners
- Participated in Salvation Army bell ringing with individuals with learned experiences
- Presented at the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce monthly Lunch & Learn session that highlighted non-profit agencies

GOAL: Ensure commitment to our community

INITIATIVES

- Participate in community planning and development workgroups and initiatives
- Partner with other organizations in community clean-up, health and wellbeing, and other activities
- Strengthen commitment to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars

PROGRESS:

- County Board employees served as camp volunteers for the Flying Horse Farm to help get camp cleaned and ready between sessions; these volunteer opportunities are known as Camp Creator Days and are a big part of making camp possible
- Attended Marion Matters C.O.P.E. program – June 2025
- Attended Goodwill Coffee & Conversation – Jan. 16
- Participation in Friends of Cardington Group

- Participated in Delaware/Morrow Mental Health's Re-entry Resource Job Fair – April
- Participated in monthly Community Services Meetings
- Participated in Mid-Ohio ESC Business Advisory Council (quarterly)
- Participated in Morrow County Business-Education Action Team (Morrow County Business Advisory Council)
- Participated in Morrow Workforce Alliance
- Participated in Morrow County Suicide Prevention Coalition and helped to plan the first Faith-Based Summit
- Participated in Morrow County Reentry Coalition (Reentry to Morrow)
- Participated in the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Council

GOAL: Plan and set priorities based on available resources

INITIATIVES

- Accomplish strategic plan requirements in compliance with ORC 5126.04, ORC 5126.05, 5126.054 and 5123-4-01;
- Utilize leadership mapping and succession planning to meet future service demands

PROGRESS:

- Promoted advocacy for and by individuals served through person-centered planning process, activities and community connections by the following: assisting & encouraging individuals to participate in self advocacy groups such as Aktion Club, Project STIR, attending advocacy conferences, and community events that provide advocacy opportunities.
- Ensured that individuals receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs through person-centered planning.
- Reduced the number of individuals in the county waiting for services by addressing needs funded through Supported Living services or Waiver funded services
- Efforts to increase the number of individuals of working age engaged in competitive integrated competitive employment: SSA's assisted individuals to pursue competitive employment through the person-centered process by coordinating employment services through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.
- Collaborated with Clearwater COG to recruit sufficient providers of services to meet the needs of individuals receiving services in the county
- Identified and addressed gaps in services: the most significant gap identified was support for young children and their families. Added a new position: Individual &

Family Engagement Coordinator in June 2025 to ensure better communication, identification of resources and support of individuals and families with young children as they navigate the DD process. Added a new position, Service and Support Administrator (SSA)/Children in December to address the growing need for specific supports of children as they grow and move through school-age education and services.

GOAL: Simplify the DD experience

INITIATIVES

- Evaluate forms and processes to simplify language, reduce process time, and improve the experience for individuals, families, and others involved, and solicit feedback

PROGRESS:

- **Added a new position: Individual & Family Engagement Coordinator in June 2025 to ensure better communication, identification of resources and support of individuals and families with children, assistance with navigating the DD process, including simplification as the new position reviews existing processes and gaps**
- **Consolidated Early Intervention forms that are needed in Brittco so these could be completed electronically on a tablet in-person with service coordinators**