

January 1, 2024

Thank you for taking this opportunity to review the Strategic Plan for the Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities. We continue our mission of “Promoting Possibilities and Potential” in all of the work that we do every day. Our mission is simple, but it gets at the heart of our work within the county. The last three years have shown us that we have made an impact on our community for the better. We still have work to do! As a nation we have experienced workforce shortages and our organization is no exception. We have seen the impact that has had on our community. Looking to the future, we are facing some new challenges and are ready to take them on. Over the next three years, we hope to increase our knowledge base and improve our effectiveness. All the while, continuing to move toward empowering people, integrating into our community, and changing the narrative. These principles guide our framework:

- *Empowering People – by guiding and equipping people with the tools they need to thrive in our community*
- *Integrating into our Community – by being present and in tune with the needs of our neighbors countywide*
- *Changing the Narrative – by educating the community about the efforts we are making to introduce new thinking and exciting ideas for our constituents*

We regard these goals in every facet of the work we do. You will read in the proceeding pages that we are committed to the following priorities and how we will make that happen:

- **Promoting self-advocacy through person-centered planning and making connections that are meaningful to people.**
- **Ensuring that people are served in the least restrictive environment by carefully following along with families and individuals and considering all possibilities.**
- **Increasing the number of people working in the community by partnering with others in the area and finding creative solutions to employment.**
- **Taking measures to recruit providers of services through our support of expanding educational opportunities and by meeting with new staff within 60 days of provider selection, providing training to ensure smooth life transitions.**
- **Continuing to keep our waitlist for waiver services minimized through focused intervention at every age.**
- **Investing in Early Intervention and Home Visitation programming by actively promoting positive childhoods for our youngest community members.**

While this plan is set for three years, we will review it at least annually, seeking public comment and update according to the needs of our community. Please share any feedback or ideas that may be of benefit to our community by contacting the Board office.

We look forward to seeing how the next few years unfold. We are up for the task. We will continue to learn. We will continue to help in building a stronger, inclusive community. We hope you will continue to join us in these endeavors to Promote Possibilities and Potential in the Lives of Hocking County!

Sincerely,

Jill Squires

Superintendent

THE APPROACH

In creating the 2024-26 Strategic Plan, we asked the community to give us their thoughts. We reached out to providers, families and individuals we serve, community partners and the general public. This gave us a clearer picture of the direction we needed to take in the future. Here are some of the things we learned:

- Most respondents felt that we communicated and collaborated well with community partners.
- All respondents felt we not only take time to understand the needs of individuals and families, but we also prioritize the work we do with them.



When asked what we do well, some positive responses included,

"The Hocking Co. Board of DD has great leadership; employs a concerned, dedicated, and hard-working staff; and is always willing to be a supportive and collaborative community partner!"

"Provides a sense of community."

"Communicates very well with its partners, truly has the families as their first priority."

We also learned where we can make improvements. Many responses suggested

- ✓ Partnering with our community to help in the area of child development and childcare;
 - ✓ Being a part of the solution to provide more and better mental health care;
 - ✓ Being mindful of the housing needs of people we serve

You will notice in the proceeding pages that we have made sure to address these areas for improvement and work toward meeting the needs of our community to the best of our ability.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hocking County Board of DD receives funding from local property taxes, state and federal funding. The largest source of revenue, approximately 80%, is supported by the voters of Hocking County. Remaining revenue flows from the state and federal governments and is utilized according to rules and regulations. In recent years, we have seen how the amount of support from state and federal governments has decreased. We are thankful for the support of our local community and commend the taxpayers for their commitment to giving back to their community. This funding is used to support all programs and services provided to people within our community who benefit from Medicaid waivers, Early Intervention, Help Me Grow Home Visitation and Family Support Programs. We are investing in the future of our county, to help people live their best life.

