

## ***SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION***

### ***Person Centered Thinking Philosophy***

Athens County Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department is leading our agency in a paradigm shift in system processes. With the new SSA Rule that came out March of last year and the new rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (Jan. 2014) our focus has changed from a system approach to a person-centered approach of delivering service to individuals we serve. Person-centered thinking/planning means that everything centers on the individual and what he/she says and that he/she gets to share his/her thoughts about what others say about his/her success plan. This new rule clearly describes and encourages participation of people with developmental disabilities in the development of their Individual Success Plans (ISP) formerly known as Individual Service Plans and in the selection of the people they chose to help in this process and achieve desired outcomes. It also means that the individual gets to speak up about the things that they want their team to know, and that they want to have in their ISP. Person-centered means that the individual is the main source of information about them! It also means they are the main focus of the planning process but not the only focus.

This new rule also addresses things like self-advocacy, helping individuals have different things in their lives in the future, Natural Supports, and communication to name a few. The Service and Support Specialist (SSS) can help individuals learn to speak up for themselves or let others know what they are thinking; this is called self-advocacy. The SSS and the person's team must support the outcomes that the individual wants. Outcomes are things the person wants to have in their life, learn to do, get, or do in the future. These are things that do not exist right now. Outcomes are also those things that are important for the person for their health and welfare. The SSS must make sure that the individual and their team agree on the things that are important to him/her and the things that are important for him/her and to find a good balance.

Natural Supports are those supports that are not paid supports but come from personal relationships such as family, friends, neighbors or other people or organizations that also do the same thing for other people living in his/her community. The people who help individuals with developmental disabilities participate in community activities that they want to, such as attending sporting events, going to concerts, fairs, out to eat, attending religious activities, shopping or any other activity chosen by the person.

Your SSS will make sure that the person and his/her team have the information and training they need to do what the Individual Success Plan identifies as the supports and services you need and want. This includes natural supports as well as paid supports.

We are excited as we continue to discover improved ways to assist the individuals we serve!

## **Important Information & Resources to Stay Informed**

**Conflict-Free Case Management**—The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has announced that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has accepted the state's proposal as a plan for compliance that meets the federal requirements regarding Conflict Free Case Management. The following elements are included in the DODD proposal:

- County boards of DD will not be permitted to provide waiver services to new enrollees unless there is no other willing and able provider in the geographic region to do so. DODD has not set a date certain as an effective date for this to occur.
- County Boards of DD will be permitted to continue to directly provide waiver services to existing enrollees that choose to remain in their programs until 2024. Over the 9-year period, county boards will work to reduce their number of enrollees by transitioning them to private providers. In accordance with the recently revised Free Choice of Provider rule, counties are required to recruit providers of these services and will need to submit benchmarks to DODD by September 1 of this year. The 9-year transition period will allow boards to develop private provider capacity, particularly in geographic areas where the capacity does not currently exist.
- In addition to the above, CMS has asked DODD to ensure that county boards will reduce the number of waiver enrollees directly served by boards to 30% on a statewide aggregate by 2020. This means private providers would be serving 70% of waiver enrollees in these services in Ohio by 2020.

At the July 28 ACBDD Board meeting, a panel discussion was led by John Pekar, Superintendent of Fairfield County Board of DD, and Jenny Rousculp-Miller, Superintendent, Clark County Board of DD, on this topic, and was well attended. We will continue to keep individuals, staff, providers, stakeholders, and the community informed as we transition into this new era and begin to develop our 2016 Strategic Plan. Please stay tuned to see how you can become involved in our planning as we comply with the new rules.

### **IPAC—Integrating Professionals for Appalachian Children**

IPAC is a rural health network of community partners dedicated to ensuring healthy development for all children in the Appalachian region of Ohio. IPAC provides resources and advances initiatives to improve the access, coordination and quality of healthcare services within our region. Since its' inception in 2002, IPAC has established six sustaining regional health initiatives:

- Family Navigator Program- provides assessment, advocacy, resources and education for families who have concerns about their child's behavior and development.
- Southeastern Ohio Interdisciplinary Assessment Team— provides comprehensive diagnostic assessments for children from birth to age 8 who have multiple developmental concerns.
- Pathways Care Coordination Program— offers care coordination services to ensure healthy outcomes for pregnant women and children.
- Early Identification and Screening Program- focuses on implementation of standardized developmental screenings on both preschool and primary care settings.
- Integration of Behavioral health in Primary Care- offers holistic approach for identifying and treating medical and behavioral health concerns.
- Early Childhood Mean Health Consultation- promotes young children's social-emotional development and addresses challenging behaviors in early care and education settings.

In addition, IPAC has entered into an agreement with Partner for Kids (PFK) in an effort to improve maternal and child healthy outcomes. IPAC contracts with local agencies that provide services to Medicaid-eligible women, children and teens in SE Ohio interested in improving specific health outcomes. Health outcomes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pregnant smoking cessation
- High risk/healthy birth
- Health supervision visit
- Timely prenatal care

For more information, see [www.ipacohio.org](http://www.ipacohio.org)



**-Mark your Calendars-**

- Aug. 17—First Day for Teachers, Beacon
- Aug. 19—First Day of School, Beacon
- Aug. 25—ACBDD Board Meeting, 6 pm
- Sept. 7—Labor Day—Programs Closed
- October 12—Columbus Day—Programs Closed

**Staff Notes....**

**New Hires/Transfers —Congrats!**

**Julie Jones- Habilitation Specialist – June 29**

**Jordan Pepper—Transition Coordinator—June 29**

**Resigning Staff—Good Luck!**

**Sally Biancone, Executive Secretary- 7 yrs.—July 13**

**ACBDD SUMMER PICNIC**  
**A FUN-TASTIC TIME!**

What a perfect day to relax and have fun together! On July 24th, we hosted the much requested Summer Picnic at Beacon School. Smiles started at arrival and lasted throughout the day. There was definitely some amazing energy coming away from the whiffle ball game and the water balloon toss. Tie-dyeing, face painting, and the slip-n-slide also kept everyone active and involved through the day. It was a pleasure to see individuals, their families, and our staff mingling and enjoying the day, and each others' company.

A special thanks to the PersonnelPlus Advocacy and Advisory Council (PPAAC), Atco Hab Leader, Athens County Board staff, the volunteers and Chris Biester for making July 24th such a wonderful day. Enjoy the photos, and we'll see you next year!

