



# AUGLAIZE DD CHILDHOOD & TRANSITION UPDATES

## Collaboratively Supporting Children with Disabilities

County boards of developmental disabilities provide assessment, service planning, and coordination to adults and children with developmental disabilities. When it comes to supporting children specifically, we rely heavily on the collaborative partnership we have with each school district. We value and respect the roles and responsibilities of each system and believe knowledge of each system helps us all work more effectively.

In this spirit of learning, we will attempt to make sense of one of the many ways a county board can support people with disabilities: the Medicaid waiver. Understanding the complex world of Medicaid waiver services is often made simpler by understanding some of the history and intent behind the waiver. In short, when someone accesses a Medicaid waiver, they are "waiving" the right to receive services in an institutional setting, opting instead to receive those services in home and community-based settings.

A notable milestone in the evolution of Medicaid home and community-based services was the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* This case involved two women, both diagnosed with mental illness and developmental disabilities, who were voluntarily admitted for treatment in a hospital psychiatric unit (institution). Their treatment professionals concluded the women could be cared for appropriately in a community-based program, yet they remained confined to the institution. A lawsuit ensued, eventually leading to the Supreme Court ruling that the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

So, what does this have to do with supporting children? Well, Medicaid plays an important role in providing access to services that help people, including children or young adults, transition from institutional to community settings or maintain their community living status by waiving their right to institutional care. Based on assessed needs, those services may include personal hygiene care, nursing, nonmedical transportation, adult day programming, employment training and/or support in the community.

Medicaid waivers, funded jointly by federal and local county board dollars, are only one way to pay for services that support someone with a developmental disability. To be eligible for a waiver, a person must be Medicaid-eligible and meet an institutional level of care. Thanks to community-supported tax levies, Auglaize DD is also able to use local funding to flexibly meet the individualized needs of children, youth, and families in Auglaize County.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Children, ages 3 +, collaboratively supported by Auglaize DD and their local school districts.



## STAY TUNED

In February, we are bringing back our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Disability Awareness presentation and essay writing contest. In honor of DD Awareness Month in March, we will be visiting 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes for book readings on disability inclusion.

## Our Team



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## Upcoming Events

January 19<sup>th</sup>: Play with a Purpose at The YMCA in Minster from 10:30-11:30am

February 1st: A Parent's Guide to Talking About Suicide with Brianna Jurosic at Auglaize DD from 5:30-7:00PM or Virtually via Zoom

March TBD: S.A.L.T Karaoke Event



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County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
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