

Disability Services & Ministries System Bulletin

Services and Ministries for Persons with Disabilities from 1966-Present

Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

House Bill 94 / Medicaid Redesign

(The following edited excerpt is from the Lorain County Bd. of MR/DD newsletter)

The State of Ohio's two-year budget bill, House Bill 94, set up our State's budget for the next two years. It also made some major changes in Ohio's service system for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. One change involves the ability of a county Board to increase residential supports by providing matching funds for Medicaid waivers. (They are called "waivers" because Medicaid residency and income requirements will be "waived" for eligible individuals.) These Medicaid Waivers supply funding to help individuals continue to live with their families or live in other homes or apartments. This funding will be available as long as the State of Ohio receives Medicaid funding and the county Board has local levy money, which it can use as its share.

An individual plan is developed for each waiver-eligible person when funding becomes available. The intent of this plan is to choose the services and providers which will keep the individuals safe and healthy within their systems of support. The planning process then results in a budget, specific to each individual's needs, services, and providers.

Each waiver-eligible individual is assigned a Service and Support Administrator (SSA). This person works with the individual and family to develop and coordinate the Individual Services Plan. The SSA monitors the progress of the plan and makes changes as necessary.

If current state law and funding projections continue in effect, a gradual (more than 5-year) transformation will change the way that services are provided and funded today. At first, the changes will be in refinancing and reorganization. Eventually, programs will look different because the individual and family can customize what services they receive based on their individual needs. They may not need nor want the services available today. There will be more providers of services like respite, recreation, and vocational. Also, opportunities for living in homes and apartments with support will increase. You can look forward to planning with one staff member who will help you choose and pay for the services and providers you need to live.

Director's News!!!

Got E-Mail?? If you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail Dennis McNulty at dcmcnulty@dioceseofcleveland.org Write "Subscribe" in the subject box... and give us your name! Tell your friends!

Pat Price ~ Lake County Supported Employment

The Supported Employment Program continues to grow in both Lake and Geauga Counties. They have reached 40 referrals for this program! Congratulations to the Supported Employment Program!

Jim Gepperth ~ Family Center of Lorain County

The Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain is preparing for visitors from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

One of the things they will be looking for when they visit us is evidence that we acknowledge the rights of the many people we serve. Our family center proudly posts the rights of individuals seeking service, including the rights of persons with developmental disabilities, in prominent places in our facility. For more information regarding the rights of persons with disabilities or to have a copy sent to you, please call us at 440-244-9915!

Molly Worthington ~ Social & Recreational Activities

Summer camp is right around the corner and so is the sunshine and warm weather! We have been busy sending out Camp Happiness and Camp Agape information to interested individuals. We urge you to complete your camp information and send it in as soon as possible. We find ourselves with a waiting list in mid-May. If you have not received your Camp Happiness or Camp Agape information, or you would like to receive information regarding these camp programs, please call 216-696-6525 ext. 2700 or 2590.

The Continuing Adult Education Class has been busy preparing for progress reports and the end of the year report cards. We welcomed three new students to the CAEP program in February. Welcome Edward, John and David! The students celebrated everything green with a St. Patrick's Day party complete with dancing and music. The students and staff had a wonderful afternoon -- We did not know we had so many Irish Dancers in the CAEP!!

Disability Ministry

Beatitudes Faith Formation will next meet on May 11th from 11:00am to 12 noon at Walsh Hall at St. Augustine Church in Cleveland (2486 W. 14th Street). As always, transportation is available. We are still in need of volunteer teachers and aides to assist our students. If you are interested in the Beatitudes or in volunteering, please call Sheila Gelzinis or Sr. Miriam - 216-781-5530.

Upcoming Dates ~ New Hope Faith & Light will meet at St. Augustine's Walsh Hall from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Friday, April 26.

The next **Circle ~ Everyone Belongs** is Tuesday, May 28th at Warrensville Developmental Center ~ Auditorium, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm with Beacon Street and Beyer Family Ministry.

Upcoming Events / News...

Extra Money for Working Families ~

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate income. In order to receive the benefit, the worker must file a 1040, or 1040A income tax form and attach a separate form called Schedule Earned Income Credit.

Who is eligible?

- Workers who were raising one child in their home and had family income of less than \$28,281 in 2001 can get an EIC of up to \$2,428.
- Workers who were raising two or more children in their home and had family income of less than \$32,121 in 2001 can get an EIC of up to \$4,008.
- Workers who were not raising children in their home between ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2001 and had an income of below \$10,710 can get an EIC of up to \$364.

NEW FOR 2002—The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a federal tax credit, worth up to \$600 per child in 2001, for families with dependent children under age 17. CTC is now refundable, meaning families can get credit even if they owe no income tax. You must file a 1040 or 1040A tax return and file form 8812 in order to receive the CTC refund.

Still Another Tax Benefit for Families ~ The Child and Dependent Care Credit ~ The Child and Dependent Care Credit is a tax benefit that help families pay for child care they need in order to work or to look for work. The credit is also available to families that must pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who is incapable of caring for himself or herself. Families must file a federal tax return ~ either 1040 and attach Form 2441 or with 1040A, families use Schedule 2.

**Catholic Charities
Disability Services
Diocese of Cleveland
1027 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**



April & May 2002 ~ Happy Spring!!

**Join us for our
Monthly Dances!**

*Enjoy friends, dancing,
snacks, prizes and great music!*

7:30-10:00 p.m. / \$3.00 for dancers

OLA/St. Joseph Center

2346 West 14th St.,
Cleveland

Friday, April 12th

Friday, May 10th

Friday, June 14th

Rose-Mary Center

19350 Euclid Ave., Euclid

Friday, April 26th

Friday, May 24th

Friday, June 28th

Weekend Retreats!!!

*Call NOW to register for the
April Retreat ~ April 19, 20 & 21st*

Call after April 22nd for the...

May Retreat ~ May 17, 18 & 19th

*Register early! There are limited spaces & they fill up quickly!
Retreats are held at the beautiful St. Joseph Christian Life Center
Located along Lake Erie, 18485 Lake Shore Blvd.*

Call (216) 696-6525 ext. 2700 to register

The fee for the Retreat is now \$90.00

Please continue to register by calling the above number and continue to send
your checks to:

Disability Services, 1027 Superior Ave. Cleveland, OH 44114

Remaining 2002 Retreat Dates!!!!

Sept. 27-29; Oct. 25-27; Nov. 15-17; Dec. 20-22

No Retreats during June, July or August

Camp Happiness ~ June 17 - July 26

Rainbow Camp ~ June 24 - July 26

RoseMary Center ~ June 17 - July 26

Call for a camper registration and attend one of our many day camp sites throughout Greater Cleveland.

Camp Agape ~ June 30 - July 26

Call if you are over 18 and would like to attend one of four 1-week sessions of resident camp!

**Summer camp is just around
the corner!**

Call now for information

For campers

or for staff!

216-696-6525 x2700

**Are you interested in working for
Camp Happiness or Camp Agape?**

- Staff are needed Monday thru Friday, 9:30 - 3:00 at our 4 day camp sites - in Lakewood, Parma, Wickliffe and Cleveland (west side)
- Staff are needed for 4 weeks overnight (Sunday thru Thursday - Weekends Off!!!) at our resident camp site - on the east side of Cleveland

Catholic Charities, Disability Services ~ (216) 696-6525, ext. 2700 Fax (216) 861-9795 Ohio Relay Number - 711

Dennis C. McNulty, Director dcmcnulty@dioceseofcleveland.org; Pam Delly, Principal, OLA/St. Joseph Center olasstjoe@dioceseofcleveland.org; Molly Worthington, Director Social/Recreation Svcs. maworthington@dioceseofcleveland.org; Marilyn Scott, Program Coordinator mjscott@dioceseofcleveland.org; Flexible Community Response - Bob Hurdle, Director (440) 843-5526 rhurdle@dioceseofcleveland.org; Joe Ungarsky, Director, Support Services (216) 631-3499 x2146 jungarsky@dioceseofcleveland.org; Supported Employment, Lake & Geauga Co. - Pat Price, Employment & Training Coordinator (440) 946-7264 paprice@dioceseofcleveland.org; Lorain Family Center - Jim Gepperth, Director (440) 244-9915 w8thst@dioceseofcleveland.org

Disability Ministries ~ 2486 West 14th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 781-5530 Voice/TTY

Fr. Joseph McNulty, Director; Sr. Corita Ambro, CSJ, Program Director staugch@erielink.com