

August 2011, DODD Presentation of Goals

Introduction: DODD will focus its goal presentation on four areas that capture significant portions of our work. In doing so I will refer to the “System Overview” chart, and our “Priority and Goal sheet,” both of which are attached. The chart provides a visual overview of our system; with institutional services on the left, persons waiting for services on the right, and our major service delivery system – the waiver program – in the middle. We cannot work effectively without the significant assistance of the ODJFS Medicaid division and the Department of Health.

Area One: Continuing the transition from institutional to community services. We will continue a more than 40-years long project of moving folks from state-operated developmental centers into the community. The accompanying chart highlights that process. This task is complex as; it eliminates state jobs in areas of high unemployment, the individuals served in these centers have complex challenges, and, we continue to admit individuals while we reduce our census. Despite the complexity we continue this process, as people deserve to live in community settings, community services are more cost-effective, and a federal court decision requires us to move in this direction.

Area Two: Making the community system more efficient and responsive to consumer needs. As we struggle to meet the needs of the approximately 30,000 persons waiting for services, it is critical that our major service delivery system (the waiver system) operate efficiently. To accomplish this we are adding new cost-efficient services to our waiver, we are working with stakeholders to limit the increase in cost of existing waivers, and we are in the process of introducing a new waiver that will be more flexible than current waivers. This new waiver also will reduce the financial exposure of Ohio’s County Boards of Developmental Disabilities that will fund the waiver, and is specifically designed to meet the needs of the persons on waiting lists.

Area Three: Our third area of work is closely aligned with *Area Two* above, streamlining the administration of our service delivery system . We are working with a group of 18 counties to standardize business practices across their 18 county regions. This standardization is promoting greater sharing of services across county lines. The attached chart highlights the region where this work is taking place, and points out the significant sharing already underway. Over the past few months, interest in the sharing of services has increased dramatically.

Area Four: Our last area of concentration is critical to our ability to provide leadership to the field and be successful in accomplishing the goals above; the development of our technology infrastructure and applications. During the past two years we have undertaken an information technology system ‘server and desktop virtualization’ project to shift time and money from infrastructure to applications. Given the complexity of a choice-driven/ individual-driven waiver service delivery system, combined with the involvement of 88 County Boards and multiple state agencies, we will not be able to create simplicity and efficiency unless we employ IT applications that are common to all users. To that end, we are in the middle of implementing three major system consolidation/integration projects that have the potential to significantly reduce administration complexity and cost, while increasing accountability.