



HAMILTON COUNTY
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
SERVICES

Advocacy Support

Making sure people with disabilities have a voice

Advocacy means people with disabilities have the services, supports and relationships to lead the lives they want. Everyone can be an advocate for themselves. We all have a responsibility to share our thoughts and opinions. Advocacy also means:

- People say what they want in their own lives. At times this can be difficult because other people may have different ideas about what is right for the person with a disability. This self-advocacy requires a great deal of trust.
- Decisions made in the service system are guided by input and leadership of people who receive services. This ensures the decisions benefit people served.
- People with disabilities have roles as leaders in our communities. Their skills and knowledge help as they represent themselves and others in ways that impact the community at large.



People with disabilities often are overlooked because of barriers with communication, or because some might think people with disabilities can't make decisions. However, people with disabilities can bring new perspectives because of the unique circumstances they face. Everyone has a contribution to make, and we are all stronger by including everyone in our communities and our relationships.

What can family and friends do?

Family and friends are a great support for people with disabilities. Getting reassurance everyone is working together will help people with disabilities feel like they're not alone. Family and friends can also help with communication if the person does not use verbal language. If you know a person, don't be afraid to say what he or she would want!

What can professionals do?

Professionals can adhere to these concepts in all aspects of their work. They can directly support people with disabilities and help that person speak out in ways that suit him or her. Professionals also play an important role in building trust with families and friends, which gives an individual more freedom to take risks. When people feel they have the support they need, they can attain their dreams!

To learn more or get involved, contact Advocacy Support Director John Romer, (513) 559-6720 or John.Romer@hamiltondds.org

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