



Annual Report 2009



Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services



What Matters Most in 2009

A resounding November levy victory put the exclamation point on a year defined by the theme “What Matters Most.” The theme emerged from the agency’s six-year strategic planning process that launched various initiatives in 2009.

Though an intense and ultimately extremely successful levy campaign (passage was 67.5 percent of the vote!) consumed thought and energy, services to individuals with disabilities and their families thrived without interruption.

In the midst of the local levy process, another highly anticipated political process was making waves throughout the state. Advocates from every county rejoiced as state laws finally passed that took the offensive term “mental retardation” out of the names of county boards and state organizations.

The day after the levy’s passage in Hamilton County, hundreds of exuberant supporters watched from the ground as I (with welcome assistance from Duke Energy!) proudly removed the letters “MR” from our building sign at Support Center on Madison Road in East Walnut Hills. We all appreciated the expressions from advocates that day about how much it means to them to not have this term in our name.

Action steps to meet goals detailed in the strategic plan and move the agency to new heights of individual-driven service delivery and quality took significant shape.

“Vision 2014” – a cross-representational group of individuals, families, staff, providers, and interested community members who guide implementation of the strategic plan – drove oversight of action steps attached to the strategic plan.

Sub-committees put substance to the five themes of the plan:

- Getting Where I Want To Go
- Experiencing Respect and Participating in Community Life
- Planning for My Future
- Enjoying Positive Relationships
- Making A House My Home

A sixth area of focus in the strategic plan involves administrative efficiencies, called “Building and Supporting Our Infrastructure.”

Throughout 2009, groundwork was placed to support the five themes and the sixth area of focus so that the six-year strategic plan remains real and alive.

This intense focus on the strategic plan, its action steps, and ultimately What Matters Most will continue throughout 2010 and beyond.

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EVERYONE BELONGS
ABILITY **Respect** ACCEPTANCE
is the the new “R” word
PEOPLE FIRST

Cheryl



Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent

Getting Where I Want to Go

Members of Leaders in Action and the Advocacy Leadership Network (ALN) advocated for the taxi voucher program through ongoing involvement with the regional transportation initiative to expand transportation options for people with disabilities.

Their involvement led to advocacy opportunities in political decision-making processes related to Metro, the Hamilton County Commissioners, and City of Cincinnati, as well as other political subdivisions throughout the county.

One notable effort was ALN's strong objection to Metro's rate increases for Access service. Members testifying in public hearings resulted in the proposed rate hike being lowered.

ALN members were also successful in advocating with Metro management for lowered floors and windows on buses and modified scooter lockdowns.

Lowered floors and windows allow riders with disabilities to get on and off the bus more easily and to see outside, making it easier for them to not miss stops. This modification lessens confusion and helps avoid unscheduled stops and delays.

A transportation pilot in partnership with JVS using vans that are idle during the day is testing alternative transportation options in the Northeast Region.



Brittany

Experiencing Respect and Participating in Community Life

Individuals with disabilities showcased individual gifts and talents by various means of community participation, including throughout the levy campaign.

Five gentlemen graduated from a mentoring pilot project before the holidays. The project began last summer in cooperation with the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC.) The pilot was so successful that it will continue in 2010.

The Behavior Support Review Committee acted upon trends identified from unapproved behavior support incidents to more effectively support each individual according to his or her particular needs.

A series of trainings called "Journey to the North Star" for staff encouraged positive support. North Star Advantage is an ongoing collaborative that began several years ago to advance the agency and provider agencies in more positive approaches to behavior support.

One North-Star related accomplishment this year was the development of visual cues and work assignment boards with graphic calendars for select individuals in the agency's adult centers.

A curriculum called "My Life My Way My Choice" was shared in training sessions with the Academy of Direct Support Professionals. The curriculum teaches advocacy to individuals with communication challenges. Adult Services Director Peggy Kurz and Itinerant Support Team Coordinator Diane Ritter developed the curriculum a few years ago.

Advocacy Leadership Network members Linda Kunick and Diana Mairose were introduced on the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives as legislation removing the terms "mental retardation" from the names of state and county organizations passed.



Mark at work

Members of the Advocacy Leadership Network prepared and presented information on the levy campaign and a variety of other topics to professional, community, political, media and other groups. Advocates attached to several organizations gave more than 100 presentations during the campaign.

Last, but certainly not least, The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Team facilitated 59 community connections with individuals interested in using their gifts and talents in community volunteer settings.

Planning for My Future

Planning for an individual's future and transitions through the various stages of his or her life resulted in several proactive local and state efforts involving individuals, families, and staff.

The Ohio Association of Services for Children (OASC), with the active involvement of the agency's Children's Services Director Kim Hauck, was awarded a grant to enhance services in Early Intervention (EI).

The grant is for development of a trans-disciplinary model that involves the family, service coordinator, physical therapist, occupational therapist, developmental specialist and speech pathologist in role-sharing across discipline boundaries.

OASC wants to help train EI teams across the state so that services are consistent and of very high quality. Hamilton County is one of the pilot counties to implement the trans-disciplinary model.

Another pilot is in the works with surrounding counties called the "Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Project." Funding is provided by a grant from Ohio Department of Health to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The goal is to form specialized teams that include pediatricians and to train them in best practices in screening and referral of children with developmental issues. The official name of the project is "Concerned About Development Learning Collaborative" (CADLC).

To support students with disabilities in transitioning to adulthood, five students tested creation of "Life Books." The books are a tool for staff and others who will support the student in the future. Visionaries & Voices – the art studio for individuals with disabilities – led creation of the books and provided training for adult center activity directors about their use.

Graduates from Rost and Fairfax Schools created books, videos and other visual depictions of themselves to share with those who will be supporting them in the future.

Families interested in developing social networks around and planning for the future of a family member with disabilities formed a non-profit organization called "The Good Life Network" and trained with experts from Canada who developed the concept.



Transition Coordinator Kelle Crawford and Thomas

Making A House My Home

To support Individuals in living well in neighborhoods of their choosing and staying with their families longer, development of community-wide accessible housing options continued.

The agency partnered with Xavier University and other agencies in a pilot house design project in Norwood to test modifying homes to assist residents to remain in them as accessibility needs change.

An initiative called "Home Think Tank" formed community groups to create housing options in various neighborhoods.

The Think Tank hosted a learning session in which an individual who was connected with resources shared her experiences. This initiative also supported two individuals in relocating to areas of the city that they wished to live in.

To expand in-home supports and keep families together who choose to stay together, waivers (mostly in emergency situations) were acquired for 50 new individuals.

A pilot began for individual budgets to provide funds for creative supports that better meet an individual's housing needs.

Enjoying Positive Relationships

Many initiatives supported individuals in developing positive relationships among their communities, families, social circles, and staff.

A group related to the Home Think Tank held social gatherings of individuals who successfully moved into their own homes and connected to their neighborhoods to support individuals who need roommates in meeting potential matches.

A provider fair was held in June for individuals, families, and staff to learn about and meet providers.

The ABCD Team participated in the creation of a community resource book in Northside.

National sensory processing expert Laura Barker conducted a workshop for agency staff who work with children under age three. Play date experiences for families served by Early Intervention facilitated connections for peer support.

Grief support groups conducted by Fernside Center for individuals with disabilities were held at Franks and Kidd Adult Centers and Geier Apartments.

Participation by 24 individuals in research on the benefits of music in supporting positive behavior involved a series of music lessons in partnership with Colerain Senior Center.



Luke

Building and Supporting Our Infrastructure

Several business practice initiatives moved the agency toward improved cost-effectiveness and increases in service options and non-levy funding.

Data management equipment was moved to secure off-site locations to protect information and keep work going with electronic devices during widespread power outages. Electronic data storage, back-up and recovery capabilities were expanded.

Software upgrades were completed in the Human Resources, Payroll and Adult Services Departments to make data-tracking more efficient and timely.

Agency-wide use of Gatekeeper software for management of individual-related information began, and various waves of training for staff began.

Individual Budgets were expanded to 50 families with children who are served by Early Intervention.

The Business Services Department dealt with a less than needed tax levy amount in formulating the 2010 budget.



Michael working at Easter Seals/WRC

Individuals Served

Children's Services

Early Intervention (EI)	1569
EPAT	1131
Agency Operated Schools	250
Fairfax	106
Rost	99
Satellites	45
Itinerant Support Team	41
Transition	626
CITE (school based)	111
CITE (home based)	184
The Kelly O'Leary Center	55



Dustin at School



Developmental Specialist Diane Byrd conducting an evaluation

Community Services

Service Facilitation	5140
Supported Living	147
Family Resources	1188
I/O Waivers	1602
Level 1 Waivers	935
Martin Waivers	117
ICF/MR	106
Contracted Day Services	1862

Adult Services

Adult Centers	724
Beckman	197
Franks	172
Jackson	167
Kidd	188

Community Employment 363



Jill working out at Jackson Center

Note: Some individuals receive more than one service, and therefore could be counted more than once across service categories.

Fiscal Information

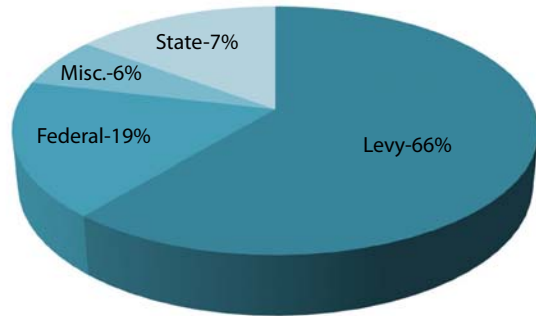
Wise use of taxpayer funds is taken seriously at Hamilton County DD Services.

Funds received from the tax levy are regularly monitored. State and federal officials review services for compliance in program and fiscal areas. The County Auditor, County Budget Department and County Commissioners oversee the budget process.

Individuals and families take part in quality reviews and satisfaction surveys. The strategic plan process involves many families, individuals, staff and providers who provide feedback about services for continuous improvement.

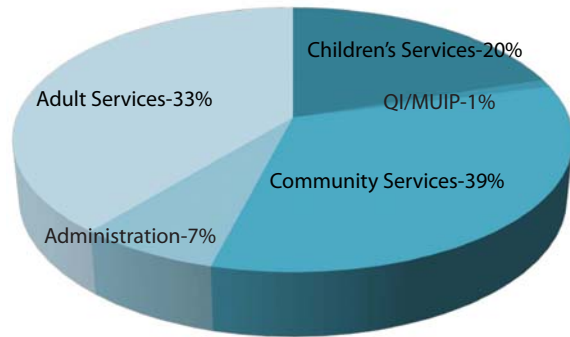
Revenue

Levy	\$69,328,576.18
Federal	\$20,478,035.49
State	\$7,832,501.95
Miscellaneous	\$5,907,636.75
Total	\$103,546,750.37

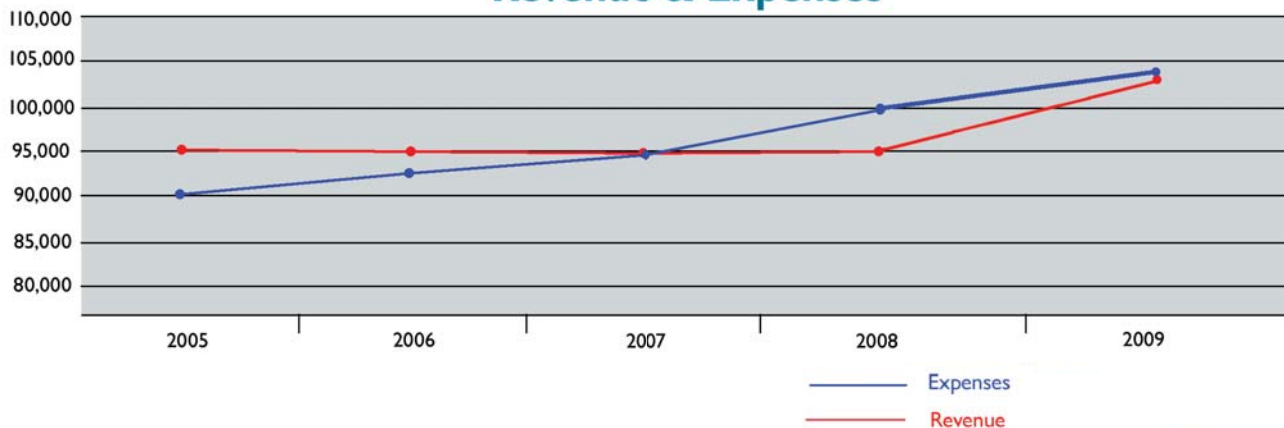


Expenses

Children's Services	\$20,942,598.80
Community Services	\$40,276,779.75
Adult Services	\$34,126,004.58
QI/MUIP	\$1,427,531.81
Admin and Contracts	\$6,856,488.75
Total	\$103,629,403.69



Revenue & Expenses



Difference in revenue and expenses is due to a planned carryover to sustain the agency throughout the five year levy cycle.

Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services

Support Center

1520 Madison Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Community Services

Intake (513)794-3300
1520 Madison Road, 45206

Service Facilitation
Northeast Resource Room (513)559-6773
Northwest Resource Room (513)559-6882
Central Resource Room (513)559-6806
Southeast Resource Room (513)559-6751
Southwest Resource Room (513)706-9278

Adult Services

General Assembly, Inc (513)541-2904
4210 Dane Street, 45233

Adult Centers
Elmer P. Beckman Center (513)742-1576
2600 Civic Center Drive, 45231
Robert W. Franks Center (513)598-2965
5884 Bridgetown Road, 45248
E. Roger Jackson Center (513)272-4326
5093 Kingsley Drive, 45227
Thomas H. Kidd Center (513)563-2500
9910 Reading Road, 45241

Children's Services

Schools
Bobbie B. Fairfax School (513)271-2313
4999 Kingsley Drive, 45227
Margaret B. Rost School (513)574-2372
5858 Bridgetown Road, 45246

Community Locations

Early Intervention
Central (513)729-0490
3220 Central Parkway, 45220
Fair Lane (513)561-0410
5355 Fair Lane, 45227
Kemper Heights (513)851-9270
924 Waycross Road, 45240
P.I.N.G. DDBP (513)561-0410
3333 Burnet Ave, MLC 4002, 45229
Rost School (513)574-2372
5858 Bridgetown Road, 45248
Rex Ralph (513)728-0490
1310 Adams Road, 45231

Satellite Classrooms
Amity Elementary (513)891-5995
4320 East Galbraith Road, 45326
Miamitown Elementary (513)353-1416
6578 State Route 128, 45051
Reading Hilltop Elementary (513)733-4322
2537 Boser Road, 45215
Deer Park High (513)891-0010
9351 Plainfield Road, 45236
Rees E. Price Primary (513)363-6000
1228 Considine Avenue, 45204



Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services
1520 Madison Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

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Greg Webb, Vice President
Robert L. Hall, Secretary
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Julie Holt
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Cheryl Phipps, Superintendent

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www.hamiltontdds.org