Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
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Peer-to-Peer Adoption Assistance Community Resource Information Series

Session 3: Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

Lisa Comes, Susan Jones, and Beth Popich

July 20, 2021

Agenda

- Introduction
- OACB DD Presentation
- Wrap Up

Introduction

- Facilitators
- Housekeeping
- Intro of Speakers

Disclaimer: These webinars will be recorded. To prevent any inadvertent disclosures of recipient information, specific case questions will not be addressed by facilitators during the live event.

Developmental Disabilities Services in Ohio….

Peer to Peer Adoption Training – ODJFS, July 20, 2021
Lisa Comes, Susan Jones , Beth Popich
Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

Welcome…

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Introduction…

- Ohio Association of County Boards…
- The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB) is a 501(c)6 non-profit organization that provides advocacy, communications, professional development, and technical assistance to all 88 of Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities. Founded in 1984, OACB has evolved along with the needs of its diverse membership. Today, we provide a host of services and supports to the 616 volunteer board members and thousands of career professionals in Ohio's DD service delivery system.
- Our Mission: *We help boards succeed through professional development, technical assistance, advocacy, and communication.*
- Our Vision: *We envision a strong, connected, inclusive Ohio where people have the opportunity to choose the life they want.*

Introductions

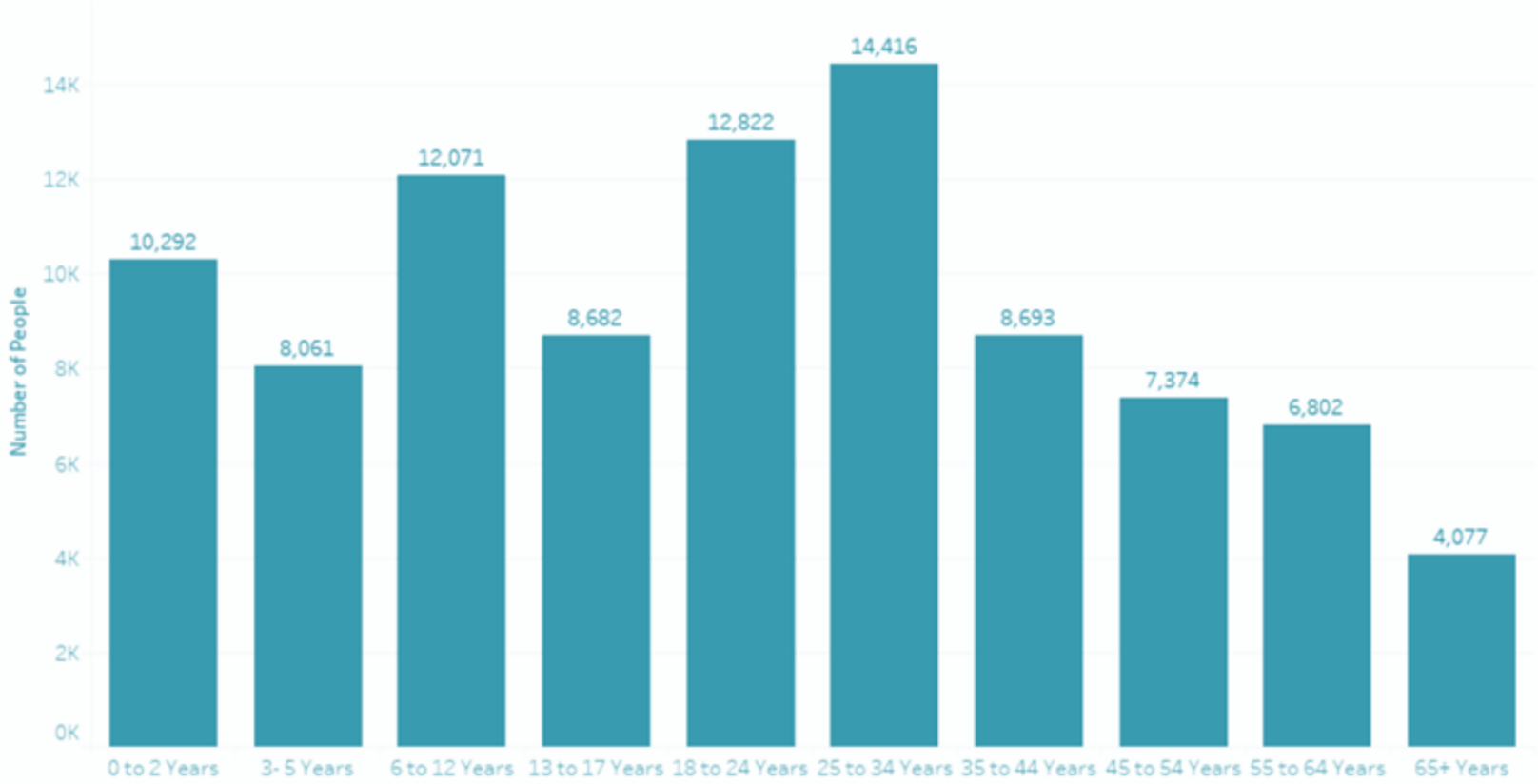
- **Susan Jones**, Children and Family Advisor for OACBDD sjones@oacbdd.org
- **Beth Popich**, Children and Family Advisor, OACBDD, bpopich@oacbdd.org
- **Lisa Comes**, Service and Support Administrator (SSA) Advisor for Ohio Association of County Boards: lcomes@oacbdd.org

What are county boards of DD?

- Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities are the local government agencies fund, oversee, and sometimes directly provide services and supports needed by people with developmental disabilities to live happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives. Each has a governing board composed of residents of the county in which the board has been established. Because they are county-based and locally-controlled, boards are able to meet the unique needs of the people who live in each county.
- County boards of DD were originally created in the Ohio Revised Code in 1967 when the state recognized that no other existing systems were able to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- County boards of DD have the ability to put tax levies on the county ballot (with permission from the county commissioners) and collect levy dollars to fund the operations of the agency and the services needed by people with disabilities.
- All 88 of Ohio's counties have a county board of DD to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their family members.

Ohio
Department of Developmental Disabilities

2018 Ages of People Served By DODD



Why would someone want services???

Service Age Categories for Children in the Developmental Disabilities System

Young children birth to age 3 and their families (adoptive or birth.)

HIO Early Intervention

Children and Youth 3-21

Young Adults and beyond- 21+

Young children birth to age 3 and their families.

Why would someone want services…

Central Intake and Referral In 2018, Bright Beginnings was selected by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to be the single point of entry for the Help Me Grow system of supports. As the Help Me Grow Central Intake and Referral contractor, Bright Beginnings and its regional partners connect pregnant women, caregivers with new babies, and families with young children with disabilities and delays throughout Ohio to the services and supports provided through Home Visiting and Early Intervention.

https://www.helpmegrow.org/Families.aspx

Young children birth to age 3 and their families

Why would someone want services…

Help Me Grow is a system of supports for pregnant women, caregivers with new babies, and families (foster, adoptive, or birth) with young children, and for children with developmental delays and disabilities.

- **Early Intervention works with families with children birth to age 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities** so that they have the best possible start in life. Early Intervention professionals work with you and your child to identify strengths and needs and address concerns as early as possible with services right where you live, play, and spend your day.

- **Home Visiting** supports pregnant women and new parents with the tools and information they need to give their children the best start in life. Support from a Home Visitor can improve pregnancy outcomes and help families prepare for a new baby. Even after the baby is born, Home Visiting can help families learn about feeding, sleep and how to keep their new baby safe and thriving.

Who Should Be Referred to Help Me Grow?

Every child age 0-3:

- With a substantiated abuse/neglect (CAPTA) case
- Affected by substance abuse or diagnosed with drug withdrawal symptoms
- Suspected developmental delays or disabilities
- With a family that could use parenting support and is interested in services

As well as:

- Children placed with relative/kinship caregivers
- Children in the reunification process, beginning overnight visits
- Children within a family assessed through the Alternative Response Pathway or Traditional Response Pathway even if they are not the alleged child victim
- Pregnant women involved in the Alternative Response Pathway or Traditional Response Pathway
- Pregnant teens in custody

NOTE: Foster parents are not eligible to receive home visiting services but children in foster homes can receive Early Intervention services.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities | Ohio Department of Health | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Key: System referral = incoming referral
Program referral = assignment to provider

REFERRAL FORM HEA 8021

Reason for Referral (at least one must be selected)

☐ Child is a victim of substantiated abuse and/or neglect assessed through the Traditional Response Pathway. *Results in program referral to EI and a system referral to HV.*
Is this child in protective custody? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Child was born affected by substance abuse or has been diagnosed with drug withdrawal symptoms by a physician resulting from prenatal exposure. Please see attached Physician or Hospital Report. *Results in program referral to EI and system referral to HV.*

- Does the PCSA have documentation from a qualified medical provider indicating a diagnosis of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)? ☐ Yes ☐ No Please include a copy if available.

☐ Child is in a family with a child abuse/neglect report assessed through the Alternative Response Pathway (no finding/substantiation) where services are **required**. *Results in program referral to EI and a system referral to HV.*

☐ Child is in a family with a child abuse/neglect report assessed through the Alternative Response Pathway (no finding/substantiation) where services are **recommended**. *Results in a system referral to HV.*

☐ Child is in a family with a child abuse/neglect report assessed through the Traditional Response Pathway but is not the alleged child victim; the PCSA has determined that ASQ and ASQ SE: Early Intervention screening would be beneficial. *Results in a system referral to EI.*

☐ None of the above circumstances applies, but the PCSA has determined that the caregiver may benefit from parenting education and home visiting support. *Results in a system referral to HV.*

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities | Ohio Department of Health | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Slide courtesy of Presentation: Help Me Grow Overview for Public Children Service Agencies, March 10, 2021

SUBMITTING A REFERRAL

Use the HEA8021 form in SACWIS ensuring all information is up to date and complete.

Click the link to email the HEA8021 form to:

hmgreferrals@helpmegrow.org

If using the PDF form for a pregnant teen in custody, email the HEA8021 form to hmgreferrals@helpmegrow.org

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities | Ohio Department of Health | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Slide courtesy of Presentation: Help Me Grow Overview for Public Children Service Agencies, March 10, 2021

Why would someone want services…

Young children birth to age 3 and their families.

Refer a family for Home Visiting or Early Intervention

Anyone can refer a family to Help Me Grow. There are several different ways to make a referral:

- Complete the **online referral form**
- **Call 1 (800) 755-GROW** to speak with an Intake Specialist
- Find **regional contact information**
- Email completed forms to **HMGReferrals@helpmegrow.org**
- **Print and fax** referral forms to (855) 318-3322 or (855) 418-3322

Outreach to Professionals and Families

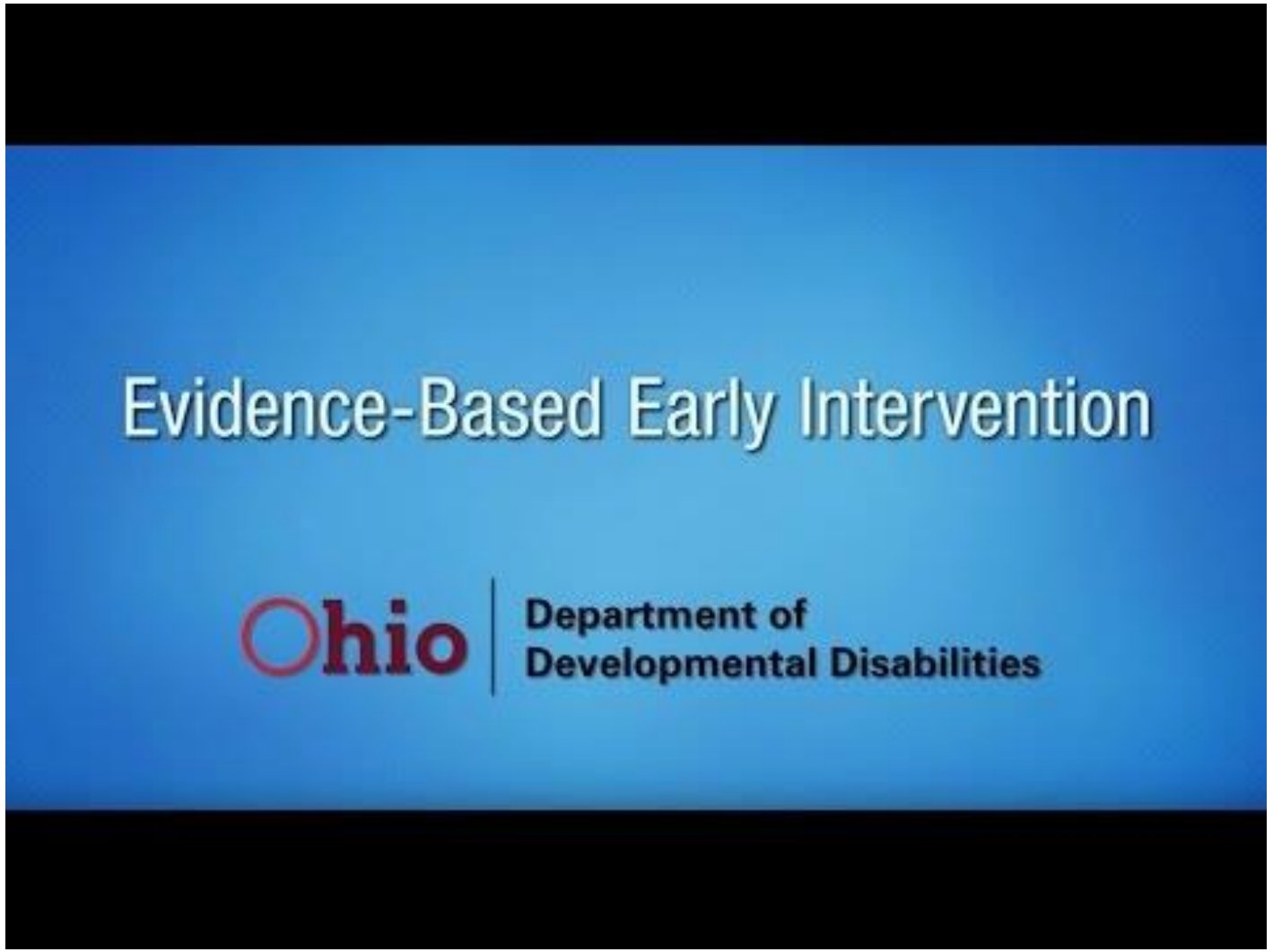
Bright Beginnings and its regional partners provide outreach to families and referral sources by attending local events, sharing information about service options, and presenting to professionals on the benefits of Home Visiting and Early Intervention. To request participation at a local event, marketing materials, and/or a presentation about Early Intervention, Home Visiting, or the Help Me Grow system of supports, email communications@helpmegrow.org.

What happens after a referral is made?

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities | Ohio Department of Health | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Slide courtesy of Presentation: Help Me Grow Overview for Public Children Service Agencies, March 10, 2021

What is Early Intervention in Ohio?



100% of County Boards of DD provide Early Intervention Services

then

...and now

Supporting Parents and Caregivers

How do I find my local contact?

Early Intervention County Contacts

If you have a concern about your child's development and want to make a referral to Early Intervention, please call 1-800-755-4769 or make an online referral.

To get more information about Early Intervention (EI) in your county, contact your contract manager or Family and Children First Council coordinator.

Select the county in the map to view the contacts and other community resources.

View County List

https://ohioearlyintervention.org/ei-county-contacts

What to Expect…

What will make it smoother…

Young children birth to age 3
and their families.

Anyone can refer a child to Early Intervention. All it takes is a simple phone call to 216.698.7500 or filling out a short form online.

What to Expect…

What will make it smoother…

Young children birth to age 3 and their families.

As of July 1, 2019, automatic eligibility for Early Intervention was expanded to include children diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and children with elevated blood lead levels

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

EI-eligible children receive services based on their developmental needs and family's priorities that are documented on the child's IFSP. A child who has a confirmed diagnosis of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is automatically eligible for EI in Ohio. More information.

Elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLL)

EI eligible children receive services based on their developmental needs and family's priorities that are documented on the child's IFSP. A child who has a confirmed elevated blood lead level (BLL) of five micrograms per deciliter or greater is automatically eligible for EI in Ohio. More information.

What to Expect…

What will make it smoother…

Young children birth to age 3 and their families.

Every Ohio Early Intervention Team has access to an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant through ODMHAS.

What to Expect…

What will make it smoother…

Young children birth to age 3 and their families.

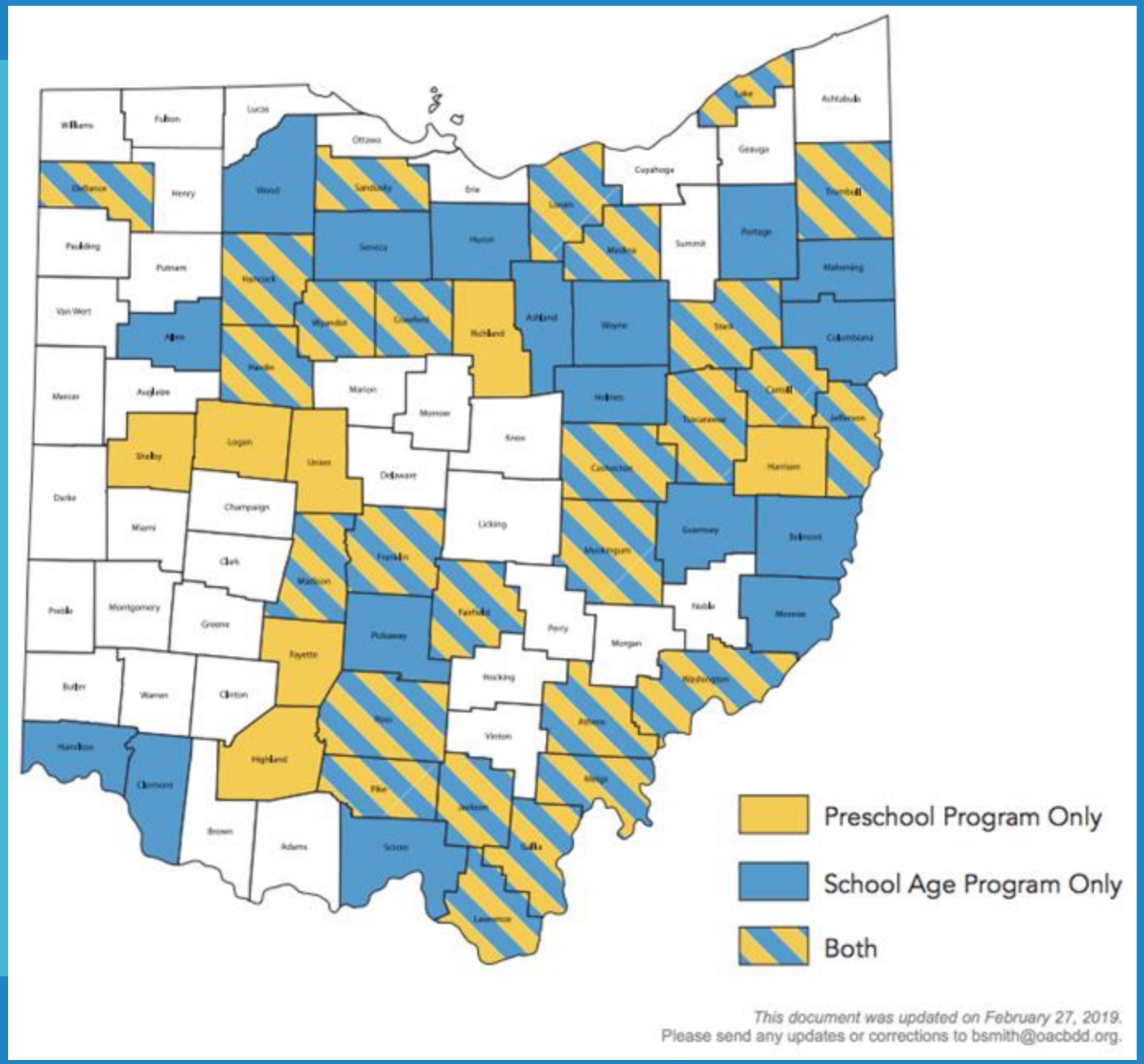
Great APP to know what should be expected in 'normal' development….
IOS: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cdcs-milestone-tracker/id1232718688
Android:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.cdc.ncbddd.actearly.milestones

Why would someone age 3-5 want services?

- 3-5 years old might receive a wide variety of services depending on many factors in the county –
  - Family support services – (for those people living with family)
  - Service Coordination
  - Information and Referral
  - *School programs (school age only)
  - *Behavior Support
  - And more…..

* variable by county

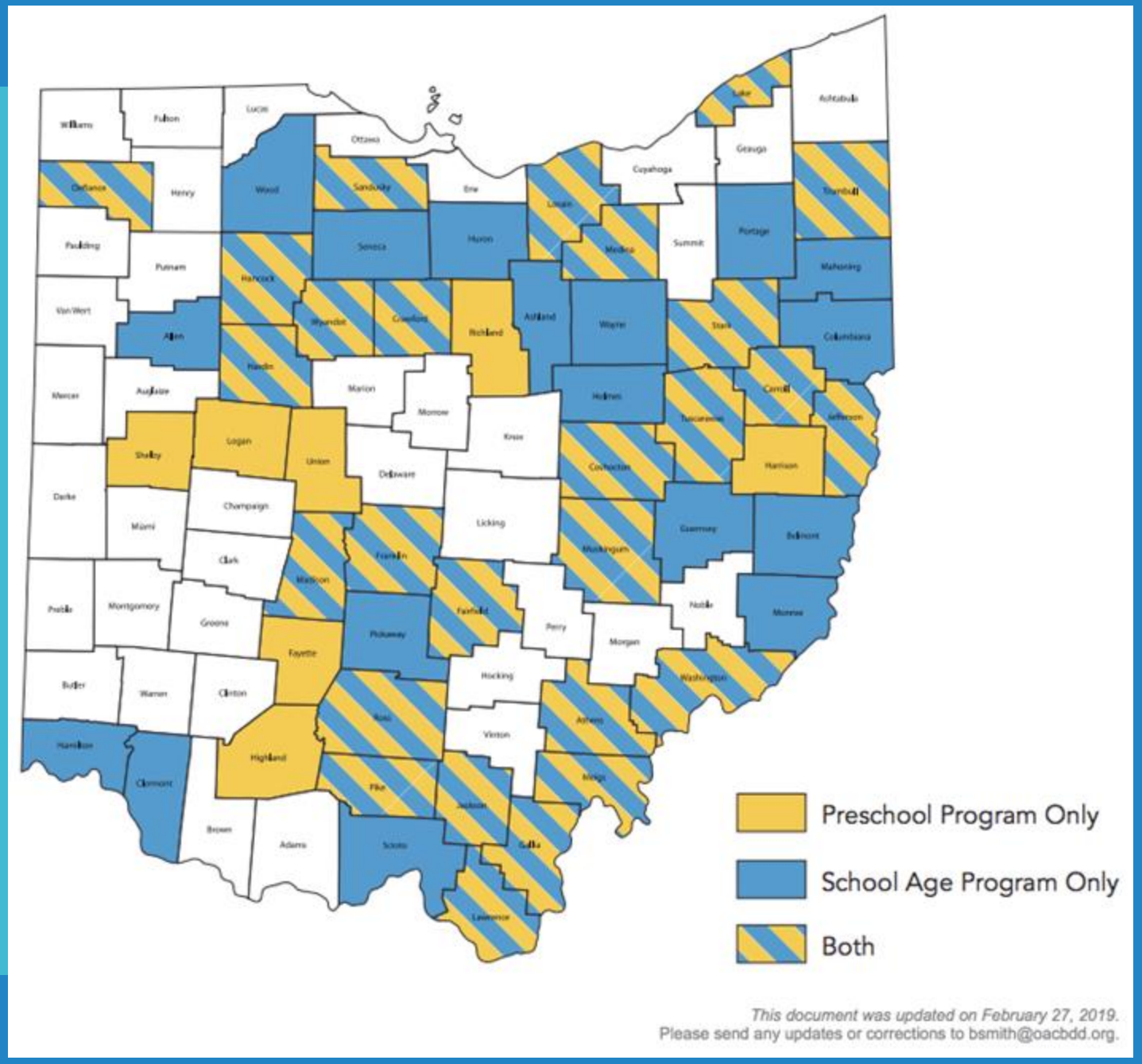
County Board PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL PROGRAMS



CBDD Preschool Special Education

2019: 34

1,570 students



CBDD Schools

2019: 43

1,970 Students

Who To Contact for someone 3 and older?

- **3 years and older –**

- For County Board of DD Services and Supports:
  - Contact the local CB Intake/Eligibility Department
  - Go to Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
    - https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/your-family/all-family-resources/4-find-your-county-board
  - Search _____County Board of Developmental Disabilities Call main phone number – ask for Eligibility/Intake Specialist

- For Educational Services, contact the school district of legal guardian residence.

What Will Make it a Smoother Process for 3-5 YEAR Old…

- Eligibility for 3-5 year old –
  - Documentation of delays or information from schools showing that a student is eligible for Special Education Pre-School – have this paperwork ready along with legal guardian ready to sign paperwork.

Why would someone age 6- 21 (school-age) want services?

- **6-21 years old** might receive a wide variety of services depending on many factors in the county –
  - Family support services – (for those people living with family)
  - Service Coordination
  - Information and Referral
  - Waitlist Assessment/Waiver Administration
  - *Behavior Support
  - *Self Advocacy Training
  - *Special Olympics
  - *Travel Training (in some counties)
  - *School programs (school age only)
  - And more…..

  - * variable by county

What Can I Expect in Eligibility Process for someone 6 and older

- Community Referrals regardless of eligibility outcome.
- An Eligibility Based Process Vs. Entitlement Program
- Eligibility is a 2 step process lasting 30-90 days once all necessary paperwork is completed.
  - 1st – Qualifying Diagnosis
  - 2nd – C/OEDI with 3 Substantial Functional Limitations
- Once determined ELIGIBLE – services are based on assessed need individually – not a 'menu' of options.
- Eligibility can occur no matter what status a child is in (foster care, adoptive care, in jail etc.)*
- Appeal Process if you disagree with a decision.
- An assessment and services based on each individuals unique abilities and needs. No two people are ever the same.

Eligibility Process while in Foster Care…

- When helping a foster child gain eligibility for DD Services
  - Follow the same process outlined earlier.
  - Guardian (parent, protective services etc.) will need to bring documentation of qualifying disability or be willing to sign releases to have county request needed information/collateral as well to sign that they are 'wanting' services. All DD Services are voluntary.
  - Once collateral is rec'd then C/OEDI interview should occur with the most consistent, current caregivers – this could be foster parents, adoptive parents teachers, mental health providers and/or bio parents if appropriate.
  - *CAVEAT – if child is in a unstable situation it may be difficult to assess their true capacities and weaknesses in the Substantial Functional Limitation areas. Depending on the situation it may be determined that waiting for the child to be in a more 'stable' environment may be more helpful in eligibility determination. When completing a C/OEDI assessment we always 'presume competency' if someone has not had the opportunity to be taught a skill.*

Eligibility Process for Age 6 and ABOVE… Step 1…

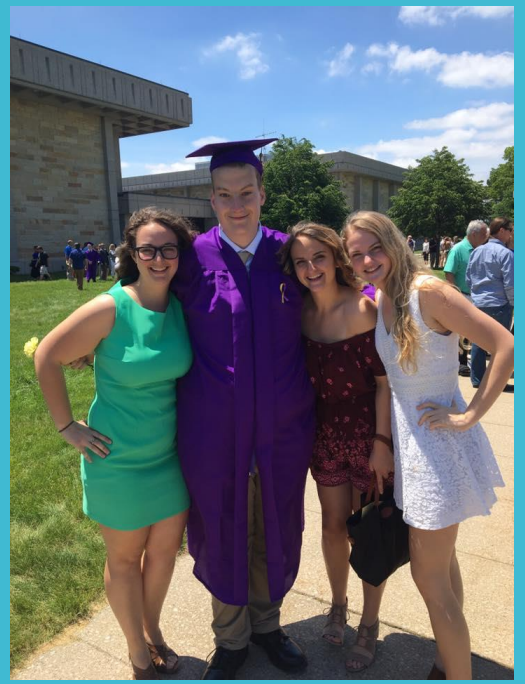
- **Eligibility - 6 Year Olds and Older –**
- **Step 1** – documentation by qualified clinician of a developmental disability diagnosed and manifested before age 22. i.e. Acceptable diagnoses made by a qualified professional* include, but are not limited to

- Aphasia or Dysphasia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Clubfoot, Cystic Fibrosis, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy or Seizure Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), Hemiparesis, Hemophilia, Huntington's, Hydrocephalus, Juvenile Arthritis, Lesh-Nyhan, Lung Disease, Intellectual Disability (specify level), Muscular Dystrophy, Nonverbal Learning Disability, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Prader-Willi, Rett's Syndrome, Severe Cardiac Conditions, Sickle Cell Anemia, Spina Bifida, Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke, Tourette's Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, Tuberous Sclerosis, Usher's Syndrome, or other degenerative or neurological conditions often associated with a developmental disability.
- *Qualified professional refers to refers to people who are specially trained and licensed by their respective state of residence and practice to examine patients, conduct or refer for diagnostic testing, diagnose health conditions, treat illnesses, diseases and conditions, and prescribe as applicable.

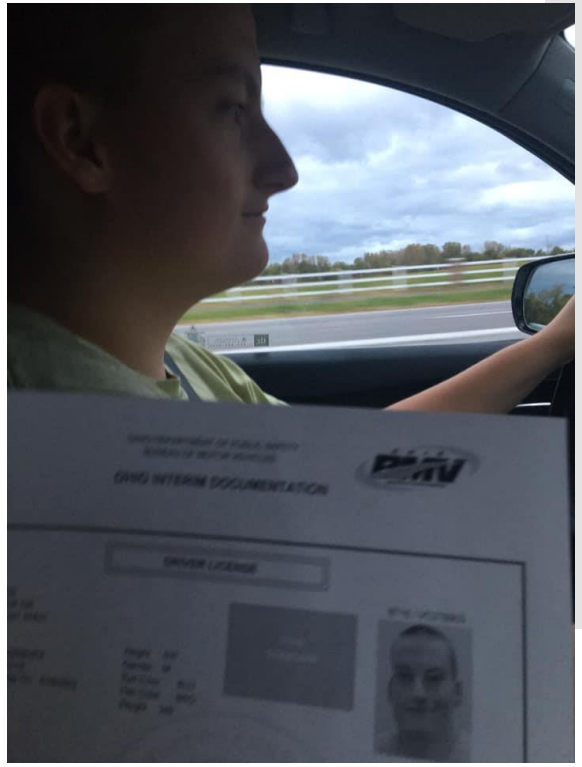
Eligibility 6 and above - Step 2…

- **Step 2…**
- Be ready to schedule an in person interview with person and primary caregiver/guardian (or more) for an assessment –
- Interview will consist of Children's/ Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument –
  - **Age 6 – 15… C/OEDI** - which looks at **Substantial Functional Limitations** in 6 life areas to determine if criteria is **met (3 Substantial Functional Limitation Areas**). (Mobility, Self Care, Communication, Learning, Self Direction and Capacity for Independent Learning)
  - **Age 16 and Above… OEDI** a 7th area is added - Economic Self Sufficiency and **3 SFL** Areas are Needed.

Why would an adult want services?



- **21(or graduation)-**
  - Family support services – (for those people living with family)
  - MUI - Reporting Abuse and Neglect
  - Service Coordination
  - Information and Referral
  - Waitlist Assessment/Waiver Administration
    - Employment Support
    - Personal Care and Residential Services
    - Adult Day Programs / Vocational Habilitation
    - Transportation assistance
    - Assistive Technology / Remote Support
    - Ohio shared Living
    - Accessibility with Home and Community
  - *Behavior Support
  - *Self Advocacy Training
  - *Special Olympics
  - *Travel Training (in some counties)
  - *Fans Network



Eligibility Helpful Hints…

- Be honest about the child or young adult's strengths, skills and their needs for support.
- Be patient – the eligibility process is not quick and it takes awhile.
- During the in person interview involve other people that know the child the best – i.e. parents/caregivers, teachers, mental health professionals, friends, siblings etc.
- Follow Up with Eligibility Specialist regularly to check progress
- Try to obtain eligibility closest to 6 and 16
- Be willing to come back through the process if child continues to struggle in functional skills – key times to look at eligibility are 6, 9, 12, 16 and 22.
- Follow Appeal Guidelines if you feel it is necessary.

Helpful Hints Once someone is determined ELIGIBLE…

- Have specific needs identified that child/family needs help with.
- Keep your mind open at exploring community resources that are referred to.
- Realize that County Board Services most often go throughout the lifespan and are usually most intense help from 0-3 and post graduation from school (adult life). Ohio Department of Education and families provide predominant and primary support from 3-21.
- Ask Questions – there is no DUMB Question…
- Read the website for your county – look at all the services they offer and ask about them? FSS, Service Coordination, Community Supports, Travel Training, FANS Network etc.?
- If you are denied a local county board service/program – ask for your appeal rights.
- If you are denied a Medicaid Service that your county administers – ask for your appeal rights.

Thank you for all you do in Ohio..

Wrap Up

Next Session:

Date: 8/11/21

Session Title: AA Peer-to-Peer FCFC Training Event

Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Contact Information:

Title IV-E Policy Developers:

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