

Brown County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Updated 03/19/2025

Vision Statement

To help children and adults with developmental disabilities reach their full potential through services and supports and to improve community acceptance so others will see with their hearts, not their eyes.

Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life for all individuals by fostering independence, building strong community partnerships, and encouraging true integration.

The Brown County Board of DD shall plan and set priorities based on available resources and in accordance with OAC 5123:2102, ORC sections 5126.04 and 51236.054, and all other applicable requirements. The board sets priorities through the annual budgeting and strategic planning processes. The board maintains both a four-year strategic and a five-year financial plan. These plans are reviewed annually by the board and its committees and may be subject to revisions based on changing circumstances.

The strategic plan and the annual progress reports will be made readily available to individuals and families who receive services, employees of the county board, citizens of the county, and any other interested persons.

The board will prepare annual strategic plan progress reports in September of each year.

The board will hold a hearing each October to accept feedback from the public regarding the strategic plan and progress reports. Notice of the hearing will be advertised in the local newspaper and on the Board's website.

The strategic plan and progress reports will be accessible on site in the administrative offices and online at www.browncbdd.org

Currently, there are no waiting lists for services. In accordance with 5126.054, the board plans enrollment of new individuals in home and community based services in accordance with DODD procedures, waiting list, local policies, and when sufficient resources are available to support services. Case management services are provided as referrals are received, at which point service needs are assessed and annual costs are projected. The board commits to paying the required non-federal share of Medicaid services under ORC 5126.059 and 5126.0510. This non-federal share is funded by utilizing subsidies and local levy dollars and is incorporated into the annual and long term budgets.

INTEGRATION

Goal

Expand community based engagement efforts to safely integrate all people into our community

Action

- Work with providers to ensure that services are community-based, person-centered, and meaningful, and provided in the most integrated setting and appropriate to needs.
- Strengthen relationships with law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges to increase understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities who are living in our communities
- Ensure that the Advocacy and Integration Coordinator position is implemented
- Provide adequate resources to the Advocacy and Integration Coordinator and develop a plan to promote advocacy, for and by the people served, through person-centered planning, activities, and community connections
- Ensure that a quality, well-run Special Olympics is provided
- Explore ways to involve people in established community organizations such as the Senior Center, faith-based organizations, etc.
- Identify additional volunteer opportunities
- Educate individuals on opportunities to become independent travelers and drivers

EMPLOYMENT

Goal

Educate individuals on employment opportunities and support them on their path employment

Action

- Ensure that the dedicated Employment First Coordinator position is implemented
- Increase the number of adults who are engaged in competitive integrated employment in the community from 13 to 30.
- Work with providers to expand the quality and effectiveness of employment training
- Allocate additional resources for employment-related services and develop a plan to efficiently utilize the funds.
- Coordinate employment recognition and incentives to recruit and retain a pool of community employers
- Work with interested individuals to expand entrepreneurship opportunities
- Explore ways to increase transportation opportunities to help individuals get to and from work, particularly during non-traditional work hours

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Goal

Work with educational entities to expand opportunities for individuals

Action

- Strengthen relationships with educational entities to determine areas that need to be improved.
- Develop a plan to increase child find activities so that quality Early Intervention services are available and accessible to all eligible children prior to enrolling in school-age services
- Consult with educational entities to ensure philosophies and practices promote further education or employment as the preferred outcomes for all
- Support the school districts to ensure student work experiences are arranged and available
- Work with school districts and providers to develop a summer program that provides enrichment opportunities and enhances employment skills.
- Develop and implement self-advocacy initiatives in each of the school districts
- Expand transition planning and work experience opportunities at the middle school level

PROVIDER SERVICES AND RELATIONS

Goal

Ensure availability of a pool of certified providers that offer choice and quality services.

Action

- Explore other County Boards' provider recognition programs to determine which foster quality outcomes
- Develop additional ways to recognize and incentivize providers in meaningful ways
- Survey providers to determine on-going supports needed from the County Board
- Increase participation in provider meetings and trainings
- Ensure quality training of SSA staff to help them better support providers
- Recruit additional HPC and SELF providers
- Establish a procedure to ensure each newly certified provider understands the individual service plan, their responsibilities, and have county board contact information.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Goal

Explore and plan for future residential needs

Action

- Administer a survey to determine future residential needs
- Work with community partners (JFS, Mental Health, Juvenile Court, and Providers) to explore ways to provide stabilization services within the county
- Ensure an adequate number of housing vacancies are maintained for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Develop an equitable method to provide rent subsidies to those individuals who meet the criteria.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Goal

Ensure that business practices increase awareness, foster financial stability, and provide opportunities that help to fulfill our mission

Action

- Develop and present a financial plan to the community that efficiently and effectively utilizes levy funds.
- Provide ongoing and consistent message as to financial need and value of services provided by planning and setting priorities based on available resources to meet the needs of children and adults residing in the county who are people with Developmental Disabilities.
- Develop plan to rebrand the agency that clearly defines our new role.
- Improve our website so that it is user friendly, visually appealing, and provides essential information.
- Follow up on all surveys that receive less than satisfactory results and continue to improve agency survey, seeking ways to receive feedback to identify perceived gaps in services from as many constituents as possible.
- Develop process so that Superintendent and applicable management staff are introduced to every individual as part of the eligibility process.
- Present to a variety of community groups on a quarterly basis.
- Develop strategies that foster positive relationship with community partners including Commissioners, Judges, Prosecutor, Auditor, Treasurer, and other community leaders.
- Ensure that the Board and Management Team work together to implement strategies that lead to a positive work culture.
- Ensure that there are no eligible individuals in the county who are waiting for services.