



Ohio Association of Adult Services

73 E. Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite B-1
Worthington, OH 43085
Phone 614-431-0616
Fax 614-431-6457
www.oaas.org

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Director Martin
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Re: Provider Considerations on Integrated Day Services

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to provide comment on the significant impact the changes taking place in our system will have on how our membership provides direct care services.

An area of great concern to our membership agencies is the interaction at the local level with OOD. We especially appreciate your interest in this issue. In order to be accurate and comprehensive, it is necessary for us to further explore these issues with our membership and submit our feedback in the near future.

While the philosophy of a better life for the people we serve through inclusion and integration in the community cannot be argued, for those who of us are called on to develop and implement the vision, success depends on the smallest components.

As you can imagine, whether privatized or still under the auspices of the County Board, the topic of nearly every discussion among top management of services for adults is the issue of day services, including wraparound supports, being provided in an integrated setting.

In addition to the evident issue of the funding, following is a list of considerations for integrated day services, not necessarily barriers, just matters that will need to be given some thought and attention:

Personal Services, Medical Needs, Challenging Behaviors

- Delegated Nursing – for example, current rules do not allow for insulin injections in the existing day service environment
- Personal services such as the use of a lift, changing adult briefs, oral hygiene after meals, frequency and duration of restroom time
- Food modification preparation – ground, textured, chopped, etc.
- Safety zones for people who have behavioral challenges
- Routine-oriented people – it seems community-based services could easily lack the structure desired/ needed by some people
- Inclement weather – impact on people who are delicate and/or use wheelchairs
- Impact on wages if person is underemployed in the community vs. work center income

Transportation

- Transport vehicles – in rural communities where public transportation is limited or not available, for every one hundred people served, the program must acquire and maintain approximately 33 vehicles to be on the road everyday – costs include fuel, parking lot (home base/office), maintenance, safety equipment, insurance

- Assessment and inventory of available, accessible, and appropriate resources in the community conducted
- Impact on Transportation agencies – to include transitioning from large busses to smaller vans, or reduction of services due to providers transporting individuals daily

Personnel

- Management of mobilized workforce – Providers of homemaker/personal care understand and execute the remote staff situation, however, this will be a significant transportation for some directors of services for adults whose staff are typically centralized. Documentation management – timecards, service doc, communication, quality of service assurance – as well as the cost of administrative office locations will need to be addressed
- Safety protocol & policies – for example, well-written off-site emergency, transportation, and vehicle usage procedures

Business Community

- Impact on the business community who rely on outsourcing to work centers due to space and financial considerations
- Impact on CRP contracts – both assembly and enclave (ODOT, etc.)

Again, on behalf of the OAAS membership, we thank you for allowing us to identify some of the details of the services we provide that may cause trepidation. We look forward to more discussion on the journey toward community-based day services.

Best Regards,

Board of Trustees
Ohio Association of Adult Services

Mission Statement:

To be the voice of adult services in Ohio; to provide support and leadership and to promote quality services that are responsive to the needs and choices of individuals served.