

Cultivating the relationship between the County Board and the Provider

Bob Nicholson

Director of Community Services, Coshocton
County Board of MRDD

Marge Donley

Director of Special Population Services, Health
Services of Coshocton

- ◆ Started back in 2003 by initiating bi-monthly County Board/Provider Meetings
- ◆ Send out agenda in advance to allow review and input from providers
- ◆ Invite COG and ODMRDD representatives
Very effective!!!

- ◆ Initially met with each provider at their offices to listen and collaborate
- ◆ Open Dialogue and partnership on MVV
- ◆ Offer the CB as a technical assistance guide – Not the SSA

- ◆ In 2004 CCBMRDD offered an annual Provider Fair. Invited current waiver enrollees as well as those on the waiting lists
- ◆ In 2007 providers expressed a desire to network and be involved in learning opportunities.
- ◆ In 2007, in conjunction with the Provider Fair, CCBMRDD provided a meal for the providers along with presentations by the superintendent and behavior specialist
- ◆ This practice continues along with opportunities for training and collaboration

- ◆ In 2006 CCBMRDD desired to offer more choice to individuals due to Martin waivers and increase in LV1's
- ◆ Health Services Inc. expressed deep interest in HCBS
- ◆ CCBMRDD assisted Health Services step by step with the application process including documentation, billing, MUI, behavior support, skill development, and rights of Ohioans with disabilities training

- ◆ Health Services sits on team that developed Best Practice Standards for Coshocton County along with local ICF/MR and another agency provider
- ◆ Health Services partnered with the County Board of MRDD by endorsing the program during the levy campaign
- ◆ Health Services has now become an SL and Environmental Modifications provider

As a result of this collaborative relationship with Health Services and the other agency providers, the following has been accomplished:

- ◆ All budgets are developed with the provider at the table. The SSC, working with the ODMRDD approved costs tool, work side by side with the provider on developing the residential and adult day budget
- ◆ Utilization reviews are conducted quarterly with CCBMRDD and the providers
- ◆ SSA Director meets quarterly with program coordinators to discuss goals and progress within ISP

Other opportunities that have developed:

- ◆ Agency providers representatives have served on Levy Committee
- ◆ Agency provider heads serve on various consortiums developed by the CCBMRDD, i.e. County Wide Transportation; MUI Review Committee,
- ◆ Developed positive communication links. Open and frank communication has resulted in SSC's and providers being proactive thus benefiting families and individuals

Ethical reminders:

SSC's are routinely reminded to keep their relationship with the providers professional

- ◆ No one buys each other's meals – ever!
- ◆ No gifts ever accepted from a provider
- ◆ Remember CB's have statutory authority to enforce an ISP. That needs to be fully understood between CB and providers
- ◆ Don't ever talk about another provider to another provider
- ◆ ALWAYS offer all available providers in our county to the individual. No singling out!! FCOP is serious business!