

Clermont DD

2017 Accessibility Plan



Pictured above are

Gail Troxell (center), a self advocate accompanied by Sharon Richmond (left) and Elizabeth Moran. All three presented information during DD Awareness Month to the Clermont Chamber Foundation's LEAD Clermont Class.

Gail presented about the challenges she faces each day in searching for a job, having an accessible place to live, and her work with a local provider to assist her with daily life.

Gail also serves as a member of the People In Action self-advocacy group (pictured below).

The Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities has an Accessibility Plan that outlines the work we have accomplished in the past as well as what lies ahead as we continue to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities served by our organization and in the community. This plan is reviewed regularly to document our progress in completing identified activities for barrier removal. The plan provides for the continual monitoring of the Board's accessibility needs/priorities, as well as its financial planning to implement barrier removal as new measures become achievable.

Many departments review the Accessibility Plan to ensure that people served are treated with respect and dignity, and that everyone's health and safety is at the forefront of our daily routines. Our Strategic Plan addresses several areas, while departments develop goals that are based on input received throughout the year. Physical environments and programs have been modified or changed, and individuals have been provided access to their community through a variety of opportunities.



2016

In 2016, Clermont DD wrote a new visitor procedure policy for its facilities. The Wildey Center is a very large campus and although visitors signed in at the main office, they would be left to find their meeting location on their own which caused a lot of milling and strolling through the hallways. Our new procedure requires the visitor to be escorted to the appropriate room, either by administrative support staff or the person who called the meeting. Not only does this ensure another step in overall facility security but is also good customer service for the visitor, making them feel at ease and welcome.

Community

Clermont DD and the individuals served by the agency continue to look at barriers within the community in a number of ways. Members of our staff still serve on the Clermont Agenda for the Future project work teams, which have been combined into a 501c3 board called #ConnectClermont. This board addresses important issues such as housing, transportation, and inter-agency awareness which are all serious issues for individuals from Clermont DD as well as many other agencies in the county.

The Clermont County Safety Net Alliance was established in 2012 as a web portal to connect agencies to those who need services in our community. Clermont DD became an immediate member, listing our services within the portal for other agencies to find, should their clientele need our services. Over the years, Community Relations and Community Support Services staff have served on several committees within the Alliance including: membership/marketing, emergency needs, and housing. Currently, the Community Relations Director serves on the Executive Board and the Membership Committee; the



Community Support Services Director, Community Integration Manager, and Help Me Grow Coordinator serve on the Emergency Needs Committee; and we hope to expand our staff into other committees as we continue to serve individuals with a wide variety of needs.

Overcoming Attitudes

Clermont DD has been a member of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce for well over 20 years. Being a member assists the agency to be in tune with what is happening within the business community. Each year the Clermont Chamber allows us to present our Business Advisory Committee's "Employer of the Year Award" at their October Legislative event. Because October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Chamber Event Committee schedules a speaker that someone has a connection to Clermont DD.

The Clermont DD Superintendent and Community Relations Director belong to the Eastside Rotary Club and Batavia Rotary Club respectively. Both are active members and assist other members to be aware of the importance of disability awareness in our community. Rotary members participate in Clermont DD fundraisers and support us during levy campaigns by providing sign locations, speaking engagements, etc.

LEAD Clermont is a Clermont Chamber Foundation program, designed to train leaders throughout the county. LEAD is a year-long program, with monthly classes held in various county

locations, helping inspire leaders to "lead" their agencies within the county. To date, Clermont DD has had six administrators and managers go through this class. In early 2015, DD graduates of the LEAD class were asked to help create a cultural diversity day. LEAD DAY AT WILDEY

Our work with the Sanctuary Collaborative has proved to offer additional ways for our agency to recognize attitudinal barriers where trauma is concerned. We are preparing for our accreditation certification in the Spring of 2017.

Environmental and structural improvements in 2016 included:

- Replacing the cafeteria patio and sidewalk at the Wildey Center, removing any cracks, tree roots, and other dangerous walking barriers. Estimated Cost: \$9500
Completion Date: July, 2016
- Installing a concrete ramp at the SSA/CSS staff entrance at Wildey. Estimated Cost: \$500
Completion Date: July, 2016
- Installing a ceiling-mounted Arjo lift inside the Wildey Boys locker room, to assist with changing needs when students are using the swimming pool. Estimated Cost: \$9,000, paid for by a grant from the Hatton Foundation. Completion Date: November, 2016

Technology & Communication

We continue to upgrade our technology by utilizing laptops, iPads, and Microsoft Surfaces to increase accessibility for students, individuals, and staff. We have a very strong social media presence and with our new online newsletter through the Cerkl.com platform, we are able to reach more people in a broader way. Cerkl began in 2016, and membership continues to stay engaged and grow as time progresses.

Financial

The majority of our funding comes from local tax dollars. In 2016, we were fortunate to pass a replacement levy that offers new money to serve people on waiting lists and in other programs. Fundraisers managed by our nonprofit board, Clermont DD Empowers Me, included the Lip Sync Battle, Catfishing Tournament, and Golf Outing. These assisted with sustaining our Gift of Time Respite Cooperative so that could receive the breaks they so desperately need.

Transportation

Although our county is very urban in a few areas, many people served live in the eastern, more rural part of Clermont County. Our Superintendent works on addressing transportation needs through attending meetings with County Commissioners and other officials. The Connect Clermont group (which formed from the 2014 Agenda for the Future Project) lists transportation in the county as one of its seven most important themes. Clermont DD works with this group to ensure people with disabilities are considered when making transportation decisions in the county.

At this time, we continue to offer transportation to doctor/therapy appointments for those who have no providers and no way to get there.

Barriers to Employment

The Community Employment Services Department works diligently with employers in the community to break through barriers that might still exist where people with disabilities are concerned. This department's Program Coordinator is part of the WORKing Together Committee, in collaboration with Hamilton, Butler, and Warren County DD programs. This group produced two videos in 2016; the first was designed specifically for employers to learn about hiring people with disabilities, and the second focused on convincing people with disabilities to take the chance, step out of their comfort zone, and think about employment in the community. These videos have been well received by individuals as well as community employers.



2016

- Upgrading all safety/life-saving equipment in the Wildey swimming pool area. Estimated Cost: \$600 Completion Date: June, 2016
- Replacing door handles to be ADA compliant at the Wildey Center. Estimated Cost: \$1,200 Completion Date: September, 2016
- Installing a key card security system and camera update at the Donald A. Collins Center. Estimated Cost: \$5,000 Completion Date: August, 2016



2017

At the beginning of 2017, we created an Accessibility Survey that asks questions about architectural, transportation, communication, and attitudinal barriers. This survey launched in March and will continued throughout 2017.

Structural improvements for 2017 include:

- Installation automatic door openers for the interior/back hallway double doors, SSA exterior entrance/exit double doors, and the Early Intervention exterior entrance/exit double doors. Estimated Cost: \$5,000 for each area Projected Completion Date: TBD
- Purchase of new chairs for the cafeteria at the Wildey Center that provide better stability and comfort. Estimated Cost: \$3,000 Projected Completion Date: January, 2017

- All maintenance/custodial employees certified in OSHA 10 and 30 hour training to become more aware of any hazards that could cause harm to any one and to develop an action plan to reduce hazards. Estimated Cost: \$0 Projected Completion Date: February, 2017
- Paving repair/resealing at the Wildey Center to provide a level surface to traverse. Estimated Cost: \$30,000 Projected Completion Date: September, 2017
- Installation interior/exterior signs at the Wildey Center, DAC, and Grissom Building to aid in the direction of visitors to the appropriate areas. Estimated Cost: \$3,000 Projected Completion Date: March, 2017
- Installation of toilet paper and towel dispensers that are easier to operate (Wildey, DAC, and Grissom Buildings). Estimated Costs: \$7,000 Projected Completion Date: January, 2017

- Repair the sidewalk at DAC. Estimated cost: \$2,500 Projected Completion Date: TBD



2017 ADA Accessibility Recommendation Timelines

BUILDING	AREAS OF COMPLIANCE	ESTIMATED COST	TARGETED DATE OF COMPLETION
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-Interior/back hallway double doors	\$5,000.00	
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-SSA exterior entrance/exit double doors	\$5,500.00	
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-EI exterior entrance/exit double doors	\$5,000.00	
Wildey	Purchase new chairs for cafeteria that provide better stability and comfort	\$3,000.00	January 2017
Wildey	All maintenance/custodial employees certified in OSHA 10 and 30 hour Training to become more aware of any hazards that could cause harm to any one and to develop an action plan to reduce hazards		February 2017
Wildey	Paving repair/resealing-provide a level surface to traverse	\$30,000.00	September 2017
Wildey, DAC, Grissom	Interior/exterior signs to aid in the direction of visitors to the appropriate areas	\$3,000.00	March 2017
Wildey, DAC, Grissom	Install toilet paper and towel dispensers that are easier to operate	\$7,000.00	January 2017
DAC	Sidewalk repair	\$2,500.00	