

FOURTH QUARTER 2021

WELCOME!

Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to collaborate with a number of local entities to improve health, safety, and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities within our community. We provide support for infants, children, and adults with developmental disabilities in Putnam County and offer a full range of services throughout all the stages of their lives.

NEWS & UPDATES

With fall weather under way, keep these safety tips in mind to enjoy a fun and safe season:

- *Get your flu shot: recommended if you're 6 months or older
- *Halloween safety:
 - *Costume safety: fire-resistant, reflective tape if out in the dark, nontoxic makeup use and remove before going to bed
 - *Have an adult accompany young children on candy routes
 - *If going without an adult: agree on an approved route; time to return home; stranger danger; only eat treats when they come back home
- *With shorter daytime, ensure driving safety during sunset and darkness
- *Check smoke alarms when changing clock times



Reference Link: [Fall Safety Tips](#)

With winter weather approaching, keep these safety tips in mind for snow and cold temperatures:

- *Drive safely on snow, sleet and ice covered roads
- *Winterize your home: check heating systems, prevent carbon monoxide
- *Prepare your vehicle: check radiator and antifreeze, check tire treads, keep gas tank full, and have a winter emergency kit
- *Prepare for emergencies: stock food, full charge on cell phone, weather forecast awareness for travel
- *Take precautions outdoors: dress appropriately, watch for icy patches, and treat frostbite immediately

Reference Links: [Winter Safety Tips](#), [Be Safe and Healthy in Winter](#), [Winter Weather](#)

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Our Mission

"To assist and support individual choices in social, emotional and economic growth by providing the highest quality services through a team approach."

Address:

124 Putnam Parkway
Ottawa, OH 45875

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00am – 4:00pm

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ARE IN NEED!

Do you know anyone who is looking for a meaningful and rewarding career? Consider telling them about becoming a Direct Support Professional (DSP) or Independent Provider! They are an essential link in improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Their primary purpose is to assist those who need support to lead independent lives and be a part of their local community.

[Check out these videos](#) to see how much it means to have this rewarding career.

Ready to become a DSP? Check out our [brochure](#) or [click here](#) to get started.

Ready to become an Independent Provider? Check out our [brochure](#) or [click here](#) to get started.

Create a bond.
Learn a skill.
Earn Money.

Free training.
Hands-on experience.
Make a difference.

Be a DSP

WHAT IS A DSP? WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT PROVIDER?

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Being a Direct Support Professional (DSP) is an exciting career option and there are many agency providers within Putnam County looking for high-quality workers. A primary purpose of the DSP is to assist those who need support to lead independent and quality lives and to participate fully in Putnam County's communities. You might know DSPs as home health aides, caretakers, or staff. No matter what you call this profession, it is absolutely critical in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a disability that began at birth or developed during childhood that typically lasts for an individual's entire life. Developmental disabilities can result in limitations in major life activities, causing a person to need special care, treatment, or services for an extended period of time. There is a wide range of developmental disabilities an individual can be diagnosed with; common developmental disabilities include intellectual impairments, autism, down syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

WHAT TYPE OF JOBS ARE THERE?

All DSPs help people live, learn, work and play in their communities. Here are some examples of different kinds of DSPs and what their responsibilities could look like.

Residential — Supporting individuals where they live

- Supporting individuals to live as independently as possible
- Helping to ensure individuals are healthy and safe at home
- Supporting individuals in their daily life activities such as cooking, cleaning, dressing, and bathing
- Assist individuals with money management, transportation, and finding and accessing community activities

Day support — Supporting individuals during the day

- Take individuals into the community for volunteer and recreational activities
- Teach independence skills and how to be safe in the community
- Assist individuals to try new things and be more involved in the activities and hobbies of their choice
- Support individuals in forming relationships with others in the community

Employment — Helping individuals find and keep a job

- Assisting individuals in identifying their talents, interests, goals, and abilities, and support them to find a job
- Work with local businesses to connect potential employers with potential employees with disabilities
- Provide on-site training and coaching to assist individuals at their jobs

SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT AGENCY PROVIDER (EMPLOYER)

So what happens when a person who needs care doesn't have a DSP? It doesn't go well, and the outcome can be tragic. We're seeing this firsthand, as there is currently a shortage of DSPs in Putnam County. Agency providers cannot hire enough employees to fill the positions, leaving people with substitute care or even worse – no care services at all.

There are many agency providers within Putnam County currently seeking qualified DSP candidates. Follow this link to compare providers and find the right fit for you: <https://putnamcountydd.com/resource/providers/>.

Take your time as you review their agency profiles. Compare agencies and find the right fit for you. Remember, you can send your contact information to multiple agencies that you might have interest in at the same time.



WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT PROVIDER?

An independent provider is a self-employed person who directly provides services to people with developmental disabilities. They are the backbone of the developmental disabilities system and integral to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Putnam County Board of Developmental Disabilities assists in the coordination of selecting a provider. With help from caregivers and family, they will interview and choose the provider that the individual wants.

Providers apply and obtain their certification with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Once certified, they become available on the local and statewide database. This database is shared with individuals who have developmental disabilities when they are in need of a provider.

AN INDEPENDENT PROVIDER IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

Independent Provider responsibilities may include:

- Performing a variety of tasks to support the individual they serve, such as;
 - Light housekeeping, laundry
 - Assisting with personal care, scheduled planner
 - Grocery shopping, meal planning
 - Assisting and transporting individuals to medical appointments
 - Assisting in access to community activities

Some benefits of being an Independent Provider may include:

- Improving an individual's quality of life by assisting them in living as independently as possible
- Assisting an individual in achieving their wants, needs and goals
- Knowing that your assistance in an individual's everyday life is a meaningful and rewarding experience for everyone involved

Once you become a certified Independent Provider, PCBDD:

- Can include your name on the list of people that offer Independent Provider services on our website.
- If you are selected by an individual for an interview for services, our Service and Support Administration will contact you to discuss responsibilities and requirements for that particular individual.

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

Although we do not directly employ DSPs or Independent Providers, there are many resources available for finding out more information, getting started on the path to becoming a DSP or Independent Provider, and finding employment once you become one. However, we are always here to assist in any way we can to help direct you to where you can find some answers! See the following links to lead you to more information.

- [DSP Brochure](#)
- [DSP Ohio Resource](#)
- [DSP Introduction and Videos](#)
- [Independent Provider Brochure](#)
- [Become an Independent Provider](#)
- [DODD Training Resources](#)



Be the Difference



Determine Your Career



Embrace the Experience

PEOPLE FIRST NEWS AND UPDATES

PEOPLE FIRST MEETING NEWS

Hello fellow advocates! We want to let you know of some important dates coming up.

At this time, our next big People First meeting is going to be held on October 21st, 2021. We have high hopes that we can have this meeting in person, however with all of the unknowns with COVID and the new variant we will have the zoom information included below in the event that we have to host this online. Please join us as we hope to have a speaker come in and talk with everyone as well!

If you would like to join our meeting the information is included below.

Date: October 21, 2021

Time: 5:00 PM

Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85802499140?pwd=eW1Oa2pHSHRtRkt6bk1HRXZ1NEY1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 0249 9140

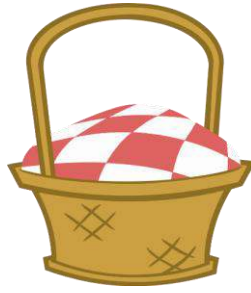
Meeting Password: 183777

PCBDD Event Calendar Link:

<https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/>



PEOPLE FIRST UPDATES



We would like to thank everyone who was able to come out to our Picnic on August 26! We had our first in-person meeting since before COVID and we had such a great turn out! Thank you to all of you who came and showed up. We had a wonderful time and hope you all did too! We are looking forward to hopefully begin doing more in-person meetings again.

At this time, we have our group of individuals who have expressed their interest in attending Synergy. We've been working hard on these arrangements and making sure everything is in place for those of you who want to attend. If you have any questions please reach out to Christine and we will keep you up to date as we continue through this process.



KNAP Sack will continue to be on the third Wednesday of each month.

It is located at the Putnam County Educational Service Center
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm (or until food is gone)

The following dates are the upcoming food distribution dates:
October 20, November 17, December 15



Please contact the People First Advisors Christine Leathem or Morgan McPheron for any questions you may have!

Christine Leathem

Morgan McPheron

Cell: 419-890-2455

Cell: 419-890-2119

Office: 419-523-0118

Office: 419-969-1014

cleathem@putnamdd.org

mmcpheron@putnamdd.org

QUARTERLY EVENTS

CHECK OUT THE EVENT CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES OR UPDATES TO SCHEDULED EVENTS HERE: [HTTPS://PUTNAMCOUNTYDD.COM/CALENDAR/](https://putnamcountydd.com/calendar/)

October 6-8: Synergy Conference

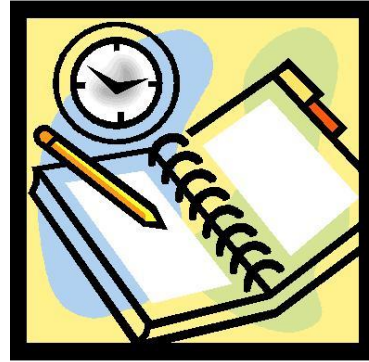
with People First

October 12: Board Meeting

October 21: People First Meeting

November 9: Board Meeting

December 16: People First Meeting



NATIONAL AWARENESS MONTH MENTIONS

October

- October 10: World Mental Health Day
- Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Depression Education and Awareness Month
- Crime Prevention Month



November

- November 7: Daylight Savings Ends -Fall back one hour
- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- Diabetes Awareness Month
- Epilepsy Awareness Month



December

- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 21: First Day of Winter
- Seasonal Depression Awareness Month
- Constipation Awareness Month



CONNECT WITH US:

Putnam County Board of DD

- 419-523-0122

Early Intervention

- 419-523-0124

SSA Manager

- 419-523-0115

MUI On-call phone

- 419-889-2980

WE BELIEVE IN

- Person Centered Planning ●
- Community Inclusion ●
 - Integrity ●
 - Excellence ●
- Good Life Practices ●
 - Collaboration ●

Visit our website for more information

<https://putnamcountydd.com/>