



FIRST QUARTER 2022

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

Welcome to a new year! We've had some new faces appear here at the office, and would like to introduce you to our new team members!

Please welcome Constance Letso, SSA, as a new member of the Service & Support Administration team! Constance is ready to continue providing excellent service to the individuals in Putnam County.

Please also welcome Kelly von der Embse, Developmental Specialist, as a new member of the Early Intervention team! With Laurie's and the department's tips and experience, Kelly is here to hit the ground running and continue to provide excellent service to children with developmental delays in Putnam County.

Welcome aboard Constance and Kelly! We're excited to have you at PCBDD!

After providing over 20 years of service and care to individuals in Putnam County, Mimi Knueven, SSA, has decided to retire. Also retiring after providing over 30 years of service and care to children in Putnam County, Laurie Siefker, Developmental Specialist, has decided to retire.

Both the time, effort, care, knowledge, and experience from these two talented team members will be greatly missed. Well wishes to both Mimi and Laurie on their new adventures and thank you both for your contributions to the community!

Mimi, Laurie, words cannot express our gratitude for your many years of service!

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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:

Mon. – Fri. 8am – 4pm

www.putnamcountydd.com

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

OUR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AT A GLANCE

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF DD

How do we support eligible individuals?

See the snapshot of services and supports that the Putnam County Board DD is involved in to assist individuals with developmental disabilities live the best quality of life possible. We also have this table of information available to view, share and download on our website at this link: [Asset Map of Services](#)

Services Available to Eligible Individuals

Early Intervention (Birth to Age 3)

- Service Coordination
- Special Instructions
- Vision & Hearing
- OT/PT/Speech Therapies
- PLAY Project

Service & Support Administration (Ages 3 and older)

- Intake & Eligibility
- Information, Referral & Linkage
- Assessment & Planning
- Service Monitoring
- Support Across Multiple Service Systems
- Ex: Medicaid, Social Security, etc.

Self-Advocacy (Ages 18 and older)

- People First

Financial Resources

Local Funding

Medicaid Waivers

Family Support Services (FSS)

Safety & Security Grant (SSG)

Services Supported by Financial Resources

Self-Advocacy

Adult Day Services

Community Employment

Residential Services

Transportation

WHAT IS THE AGE RANGE OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS?

The Putnam County Board of DD supports eligible individuals throughout their entire lifespan: from birth through childhood, adulthood and elderly. The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) has put together a Life Map booklet as a quick reference guide of supports received by an individual with developmental disabilities throughout their life that you can view by clicking this link: [OACB Life Map](#)



DSP WORKFORCE CRISIS

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) LETTER



You may be aware that Ohio's Developmental Disability system has been struggling with a Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing crisis for several years. As you can imagine, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the workforce to an even greater extent, sometimes leaving individuals with no supports and very little notice. Our system does not operate in the manner individuals services and their families need, expect, and deserve, without adequate staffing levels of available DSPs.

Locally, we work hard to maintain a close relationship with our providers in order to understand their needs and identify ways the Putnam County Board of DD may be able to help. We have found that most Putnam County providers are not necessarily at a critical level of staff, but they are finding it difficult to recruit and retain new staff.

Providers and the Putnam County Board of DD have employed multiple strategies to temporarily overcome challenges. However, we could use your help in combating the workforce shortage and assist our local providers.

The health and safety of the people we support is our number one priority. We will continue to seek and implement solutions to address the DSP Workforce shortage that is affecting all of us. We invite you to reach out to your SSA with questions, concerns, or possible solutions.

We have shared a letter to individuals supported by Putnam County Board of DD and their families, with a statewide letter enclosed, that go into further detail regarding the DSP workforce crisis. This letter is available on our website to view, share, print or download by clicking on this link: [DSP Crisis Letter](#)

THERE ARE FURTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

We are asking for your patience, as it will take time and planning to work out of this crisis.

We are asking for your support by talking to your SSA about how this crisis could impact you.

We are asking for your partnership by working with your Putnam County Board of DD and providers during the planning process to have creative solutions to meet your needs.

- The OACB has put together a guide that you can view by clicking this link: [Working Together Guide](#)

The Putnam County Board of DD looks forward to working closely with providers, individuals they serve and their families, to ensure a bright future for all people with developmental disabilities and their families in Ohio.

If you have any questions or need assistance in contacting your SSA, you can visit the [Staff Directory](#) page of our website, or call the office at 419-523-0122 for guidance.



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 scheduled to be held on February 24, 2022.

If you would like to join the meeting, check out the information below or contact a People First Advisor representative.

Date: February 24, 2022

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Putnam County ESC
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH

PCBDD Event Calendar Link:

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

KNAP SACK SCHEDULE

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

Location: Putnam County ESC
124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, OH

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm (or until food is gone)

Upcoming food distribution dates:

January 19, February 16, March 16



QUESTIONS? WE CAN HELP!

Christine Leathem: Advisor

Cell: 419-890-2455

Office: 419-523-0118

cleathem@putnamdd.org

Morgan McPheron: Advisor

Cell: 419-890-2119

Office: 419-969-1014

mmcpheron@putnamdd.org

Or visit us at www.putnamcountydd.com

PEOPLE FIRST UPDATES

SYNERGY CONFERENCE

This year we had a great group of individuals who were able to attend Synergy. Due to COVID, it was only a two-day event this year and we are in high hopes that next year it will return to three days!

One of the speakers that everyone really enjoyed seeing and listening to was Christopher Milo as he spoke and encouraged everyone to "Be the Change".

The other speaker everyone enjoyed was hearing Twitchy' talk as he is living proof that anyone who overcomes overwhelming circumstance tends to develop extraordinary approaches to everyday challenges.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

People First Christmas Party was held on 12/16/21 from 5-7pm at the ESC. Advocates, Direct Support Professionals, and family members gather together for food, fun, and a gift exchange.

People First also donated \$300.00 to Knap Sack (Keeping Nutrition Available Program) as their Christmas Giving Back Program. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



DATES & DETAILS

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/)

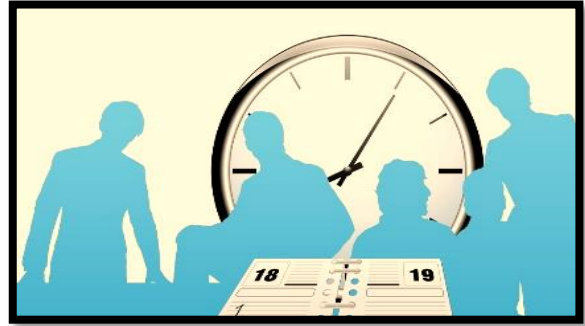
January 11: Board Meeting

February 8: Board Meeting

February 24: People First Meeting

March 8: Board Meeting

**Please note that these dates are tentative and subject to change.*



SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS

Happy New Year! Do you have any new resolutions to tackle? Here are some tips for helping you to stick to your goals and make them more attainable.

- Make sure your resolution is smart
 - Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timely
- Keep it simple
- Make a plan
- Avoid your past mistakes
- Take baby steps
- Build a support network
- Stay motivated
- Cut yourself some slack
- Reward yourself
- Track your progress



For more information, visit this link: [NEW YEAR GOALS TIPS](#)

CONNECT WITH US!

Contact us to learn more about our services or to be connected with the right organization for your needs. If you need more information about the services we provide or are interested in learning if your family is eligible, please contact us today.

Superintendent Michael Boaz mboaz@putnamdd.org
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Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Website: www.putnamcountydd.com



PUTNAM COUNTY
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES