



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Office of the Director

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

July 31, 2014



Kerstin Sjoberg-Witt
Disability Rights Ohio
50 West Broad St., 14th Fl.
Columbus OH 43215

Dear Ms. Sjoberg-Witt:


I am writing to respond to your letter of July 1, 2014 regarding the system for delivering services to citizens with developmental disabilities in Ohio. While we do not agree with many of your findings and conclusions, it is true that we share a similar vision for supporting individuals with disabilities. Directors McCarthy and Moody, and I would like to meet with you to discuss in detail the issues you raise as well as current DODD initiatives we are working on such as developmental center downsizing, intermediate care facilities conversion and downsizing, and Employment First.

Your invitation to meet dovetails nicely with other activities underway with stakeholders. I have convened a Strategic Planning Leadership Group which is composed of advocates and self-advocates and an equal number of county board and provider representatives. This group held its first meeting in November, 2013 and its final report is expected in December, 2014. One of the charges to this group is to set benchmarks for what the system should look like in ten years.

Patrick Stephan, Deputy Director of the Division of Medicaid Administration, is leading a second group, the Transition Plan Committee, to develop a plan to be submitted to CMS regarding implementation of the recent CMS rules. The results of the work of these groups will certainly inform our discussions. To that end, it might be helpful to focus our discussions at our first meeting on one of two major subjects: intermediate care facilities or day and employment services. Please let us know if you have a preference.

We look forward to our first meeting.

Sincerely,


John L. Martin
Director

Cc: Greg Moody, Director, Governor's Office of Health Transformation
John B. McCarthy, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
Kate Haller, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

JLM:KH:jb

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