

Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Interviews, Photos & Videos



When covering a story about the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities, all initial contact should be with the Public Relations Office (330-725-7751, ext 273). If they cannot answer all of your questions, they will direct you to a staff member who can.

Interview Requests

If you would like to request an in-person, on-camera, phone or radio interview with any MCBDD management, staff member, board member, or individual receiving services through MCBDD, please contact the Public Relations Office at **330-725-7751 ext. 273** or by email at pattih@mcbdd.org. Please provide as much information about your interview and media outlet as possible with your request. Many of the individuals we serve are more than happy to be interviewed and welcome the opportunity to talk with the media.

Photo & Video Requests

If you would like to shoot photographs or video for print or online broadcast purposes, please contact the Public Relations Office at **330-725-7751 ext. 273** or by email at pattih@mcbdd.org. Please provide as much information about your interview and media outlet as possible with your request. Many of our individuals have photo releases on record. *However, we ask that you double check with the Public Relations Office or other staff members to ensure that permission has been granted.*

10 Tips for Communicating with Persons with Disabilities

Adapted by Karen Meyer for United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc.

- I. When talking with a person with a disability, speak directly to that person rather than through a companion/sign language interpreter who is present.
- II. When introduced to a person with a disability, it is appropriate to offer to shake hands. People with limited hand use or who wear an artificial limb can usually shake hands. (Shaking hands with the left hand is an acceptable greeting.)
- III. When meeting a person with a visual impairment, always identify yourself and others who may be with you. When conversing in a group, remember to identify the person to whom you are speaking.
- IV. If you offer assistance, wait until the offer is accepted. Then listen to or ask for instructions.
- V. Treat adults as adults. Address people who have disabilities by their first names only when extending that same familiarity to all others present. (Never patronize people who use wheelchairs by patting them on the head or shoulder.)
- VI. Leaning or hanging on a person's wheelchair is similar to leaning or hanging on a person and is generally considered annoying. The chair is part of the personal body space of the person who uses it.
- VII. Listen attentively when you're talking with a person who has difficulty speaking. Be patient and wait for the person to finish, rather than correcting or speaking for the person. If necessary, ask short questions that require short answers, a nod, or a shake of the head. Never pretend to understand if you are having difficulty doing so. Instead, repeat what you have understood and allow the person to respond. The response will clue you in and guide your understanding.
- VIII. When speaking with a person in a wheelchair or a person who uses crutches, place yourself at eye level in front of the person to facilitate the conversation.
- IX. To get the attention of a person who is hearing-impaired, tap the person on the shoulder or wave your hand. Look directly at the person and speak clearly, slowly and expressively to establish if the person can read your lips. Not all people with a hearing impairment can lip-read. For those who do lip-read, be sensitive to their needs by placing yourself facing the light source and keeping hands, cigarettes and food away from your mouth when speaking.
- X. Relax. Don't be embarrassed if you happen to use accepted, common expressions that seem to relate to the person's disability, such as "see you later" or "did you hear about this?"