

OHIO SPEAKS PROJECT

STORIES OF STRUGGLE AND HOPE



WHAT IS THE OHIO SPEAKS PROJECT?

Ohio Speaks is a collaborative project to collect and highlight stories that illustrate the impact of programs that support Ohio's most vulnerable children, families, seniors and people with disabilities. Advocates for Ohio's Future and a number of coalition partners want to hear from service providers, community leaders, and people who are struggling to make ends meet to **put a human face on budget cuts**. Ohio Speaks will also reach out to Ohioans for **stories that highlight ways that public programs have built shared prosperity**. The stories will be used to educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value of human needs programs.

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE OHIO SPEAKS PROJECT?

We welcome short video clips or written statements from anyone who can speak to the **benefit and success of state and federal programs**, including program participants, social service providers, and community, faith, or business leaders. We ask that you speak or write about the value of any program that is made possible by public funding (state and national), policy changes to programs such as SNAP (Food Assistance/food stamps) and other nutrition assistance benefits, subsidized job programs, child care, Help Me Grow, Head Start, the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, job training, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, homelessness prevention efforts, etc.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR STORY SUBMISSION?

With each submission, Advocates for Ohio's Future and coalition members ask that the following information be captured: *Note—please keep your story to 300 words or less or a video that is less than 2 minutes*

- **Who:** Who you are—i.e. parent, student, business owner, provider, job seeker, community leader, etc.
- **Where:** What city and county do you live in within Ohio?
- **What:** What are the programs that you value—i.e. SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Care, etc.
- **How:** Specific examples of how the program has helped, such as:
 - In my county/state, the TANF Emergency Fund created 26,000 jobs. Because of the program, I was able to hire...
 - After receiving the earned income tax credit, I was able to...
 - If it were not for the child care assistance I received, I would not have been able to keep my job...
- **Why:** Why are these programs important to you and your community? How would cuts to these programs affect you and your community?

[Click here for more story submission tips!](#)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH SUBMITTED STORIES?

Selected stories will be featured online and put into an interactive, county-by-county map of Ohio. These stories will be paired with data illustrating the value of human needs programs.

Advocates for Ohio's Future and our partner organizations will also use these stories to **educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value and impact of vital human needs programs**. The stories will give a voice to vulnerable Ohioans.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Join a webinar about the Ohio Speaks project and how to get involved on Wednesday, November 16, 3-4:00 pm. If you can't make it but are interested in volunteering or getting more involved with Ohio Speaks, please contact Will Petrik at wpetrik@advocatesforohio.org or 614-602-2464.

Register Today for the Webinar on Wednesday, November 16, 3-4:00 pm.
<http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EA52D982804B>

MUI Rule Recommendations

Program Director's Meeting

November 10, 2011

Recommendation #1

- In cases of abuse, neglect, and misappropriation when either local law enforcement or children's protective services is conducting an investigation, county board's responsibilities would include:
 - Providing information and cooperating with the investigating agency upon request;
 - Entering initial information into the ITS and providing investigation updates and outcomes;
 - Developing and ensuring implementation of prevention plans.

Recommendation #2

- All MUIs occurring to individuals living in ICFs/DD would be investigated by the ICF/DD.
 - Responsible for prevention planning and implementation.
 - Currently have responsibility for conducting investigations by Medicaid rules with oversight by the Department of Health and DoDD.
 - ICFs/DD would be given access to enter initial MUI reports and investigation reports directly into ITS thereby allowing the necessary oversight by DoDD.
 - The role of the county board in this process needs further discussion by stakeholders and DoDD.

Recommendation #3

- Revise many of the existing definitions in rule including:
 - risk,
 - verbal abuse,
 - missing individual,
 - known injury,
 - unapproved behavior supports,
 - unscheduled hospitalizations, and
 - peer to peer acts.
- We believe language clarification is critical in providing the field better guidance in many circumstances, especially when law enforcement should be contacted.

Recommendation #4

- Revise the process of using the Protocol/Appendix A and B.
 - Appendix A
 - used as general guidance for law enforcement and
 - CSB to perform their investigations with assistance from county boards and providers.
 - Appendix B
 - set of best practice guidelines for all other protocol cases.
 - An Appendix C would be created (replacing the current Appendix B)
 - used for all non-protocol cases
 - We believe that not all MLUs are “equal” and that some deserve formal investigation while others need to be “reviewed and/or verified for health and safety”. By prioritizing based on the level of risk, we can focus our efforts better and achieve greater efficiencies.

Recommendation #5

- To maximize better analysis of MUI trends by all involved, we recommend providers be given direct access to COGNOS reports to permit them to enter data directly into the system.
- We believe this will increase efficiencies within the system, as providers would no longer be required to “go through” the county board with this data.

Recommendation #6

- Redefine “unusual incidents” to include new language regarding “potential risk of harm”.
 - Provides more appropriate guidance to the field consistent with the intent of the rule.
 - Limit the actual scope of what is reported and thus preserving the integrity of the data truly deserving of review.
 - Clarify in rule the role of the SSA in this process including inclusion of prevention plans in the ISP.

Recommendation #7

- Change the current requirements in rule regarding DODD investigations
 - Current process is fragmented and redundant
 - Causes continued concern over possible conflict of interest in the event that a county board staff is involved as the PPL.
- We propose a change that would allow DODD to “own” their own investigations in their entirety.
 - Will reduce inefficiencies and maximize the integrity of the entire process.
 - Appropriate County Board SSA personnel would provide the prevention plans necessary to close investigations.

Direct Service Worker Interview Group Details

The mission of the "Ohio Long Term Care Direct Service Workforce project" is to create uniform standards, tests and certificates for those who work in various long term care fields (e.g. home health, developmental disabilities, behavioral health and nursing home). The Ohio's Long-Term Direct Service Workforce Project was initiated to support the goals of the Ohio's Money Follows the Person initiative. Please refer to <http://grc.osu.edu/projects/long-termcareworkforceinitiative/index.cfm> for additional details and progress being made about this exciting workforce development project.

We are ready to embark on the next important phase of the project: convening workers to determine core competencies and skill sets of employees in the developmental disabilities field. In order to successfully accomplish this task, the Government Resource Center is seeking the input of direct service workers. We are looking for employees from DD direct service workers who would be interested in participating in "employee committees." Specifically, the committee meeting for DD direct care workers will be held November 29 and 30 in Columbus, Ohio at the Center for Training and Employment (CETE) at the Ohio State University. Employees will be paid a daily stipend and be provided with lunch and overnight accommodations if needed. We are looking for approximately 12 employees from agencies with the following characteristics:

1. Workers, not supervisors
 - a. Experts in their job
 - b. Three or more years experience in their job
 - c. Full-time
2. Employer Representativeness
 - a. Small, medium, large size
 - b. Type: public, private
3. Geographic representation
 - a. Rural, urban
 - b. North, East, South, West
4. General Qualities: communicator, team member, committed, unbiased

Contact information of interested employees can be emailed to Barry Jamieson (barry.jamieson@osumc.edu) by Thursday November 3. Someone from Ohio State will then be following up with the prospective employee committee participants.

POLICY WORKGROUP

GOAL: Future of ICF/MR Program

Vision

Role in DD system

Policy/Regulation changes

Participants will include DODD & JFS Leadership,
Association Leadership, County Board Superintendents,
Provider Board Members or other Leadership positions

IAF Workgroup

GOAL: Make recommendations to
Policy Group on changes needed to
IAF

- Evaluate IAF tool
- RAC System
- Case-mix scores
- Use in rate methodology?

Participants will be association staff,
members or consultants, as well as
DODD & JFS staff, and should have an
intimate knowledge of the IAF. An
understanding of the IAF's impact on
facility rates is also recommended.

Reimbursement Workgroup

GOAL: Make recommendations to
Policy Group on changes to
reimbursement methodology

- Ensure sufficient direct care wages
- Capital costs – enable safe
environments and promote optimal
setting size
- Incentives for high quality care
- Financial sustainability

Participants will be association staff,
members or consultants, as well as
DODD & JFS staff, and should have an
intimate knowledge of the current
reimbursement formula.