

Ted Strickland, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

April 29, 2009

It is with a feeling of accomplishment that I share with you this Futures Progress Report, following the work outlined for us in March 2008 by the MRDD Futures Committee, and tracking the progress that has been made during the past year in implementing the Committee's 31 recommendations.

Certain themes recur as I review where we have been, and look forward to where we are going. Using the MRDD Futures Committee recommendations as a blueprint -- a compass -- if you will, guiding the ODMRDD toward continuous system improvement, we see that the Futures recommendations have challenged us to:

- Creatively re-think how we oversee the provision of services to more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families;
- Actively listen to and engage the MRDD community to explore new and better ways to effectively and efficiently meet their needs; and,
- Carefully identify resources that can be targeted to manage both long-term and emerging issues, in light of pressing budget constraints.

With this in mind, in early 2009 I traveled the state, representing the ODMRDD as a participant in a series of community 'budget conversations'. Partnering with other key agencies in the MRDD community, ODMRDD was pleased to see that the conversations fostered an exchange of information and ideas among nearly 500 stakeholders. It was invigorating to see the interest shown by participants in this process, and we have shared the resulting input on our website at www.mrdd.ohio.gov. The 'budget conversations' have helped us to prioritize what matters most to Ohioans who need MRDD services.

The Futures recommendations also have guided our efforts in examining best practices, and gathering and analyzing data to make better-informed decisions affecting both staff and people served in the community. One example is the implementation of the National Core Indicators, allowing us to more effectively measure our performance and learn from others. We are carefully identifying resources that can help us to better serve Ohioans with disabilities.

And, while it is sometimes difficult to track concrete progress in areas such as streamlining a complex process or procedure, there are many elements in this Progress Report that show we are headed in the right direction:

- Shaving days off the response time to a question from a service provider translates into improved working relationships;
- Streamlining documentation needed to provide services to an individual in an emergency situation equals an assurance that a person's health and safety needs may be met; and,
- Implementing a standard, competency-based curriculum for all staff having direct contact with people served, is empowering for all involved.

These steps toward an improved system will make a difference to thousands of Ohioans with developmental disabilities every day. We will continue to strive to fulfill the promise of improvement, as recommended by the MRDD Futures Committee a year ago. I invite you to continue to follow the department's progress at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/odmrdd.htm>, and contact us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



John L. Martin
Director

- Looking Toward the Future -



MRDD Futures Progress Report One Year Later – April 2009

Following up on the MRDD Futures Committee Final Report submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on March 28, 2008

Faces of the Futures 2008-2009



**Ted Strickland, Governor
John L. Martin, Chairperson**

1. ***Expand implementation of self-determination principles for waiver and non-waiver services. Conduct a pilot that promotes self-directed services, such as person-centered planning, individual budgeting, use of a fiscal intermediary/management service, and an independent service broker. Assess how to implement self-determination principles for Home and Community-Based Services waivers. Evaluate how to implement self-determination principles for non-waiver services.***
 - ODMRDD and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services are implementing a new flexible support waiver (i.e., the New Futures Waiver) to support children with intensive needs living in the family home. Funding has been identified for 100 slots. The waiver includes use of independent service brokers and fiscal management services. A concept paper describing the proposed waiver was shared with stakeholders and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Feedback is being reviewed. ODMRDD engaged The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center to provide technical assistance.
 - ODMRDD and county boards are developing a model for regional planning and partnerships, including an approach that fosters meaningful engagement of individuals and families, for implementation through the "county collaborative," an exploration and demonstration project involving county boards in mid-eastern Ohio.
 - ODMRDD developed and disseminated materials that support the Positive Culture Initiative. More than 1200 people have participated in related training statewide. ODMRDD worked with other state agencies to develop a uniform policy on the use of physical restraints.

2. ***Develop standards of practice around assessments and service planning that support self-directed planning, self-determination, and person-centered thinking skills. Outcomes should be family-friendly, consistent in practice, and streamlined using "best practice."***
 - ODMRDD is developing the online Individual Service Plan (ISP) as part of the Individual Data System, in conjunction with the Cost Projection Tool. ODMRDD plans to pilot-test the online ISP in early 2010.
 - County boards participating in the county collaborative project have identified screening, assessment, and development of the ISP as priorities and are identifying best practices.
 - ODMRDD engaged The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center to identify assessment tools and strategies targeted for children with intensive behavioral needs, to inform the eligibility determination process for the New Futures Waiver.

3. ***Create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Collaborate with private and public entities to enhance employment options. Maximize incentives such as Medicaid Buy-In, tax credits, and wage options for employees and employers. Find ways to make community employment a priority and improve school-to-work transition.***
 - ODMRDD developed a regional school-to-work transition model for young adults and selected two school districts, Claymont in Tuscarawas County and Huber Heights in Montgomery County, to participate. Work with the districts began in April 2009.
 - ODMRDD secured funds through a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant which will be used to train service providers to engage employers and to develop a Medicaid Buy-In tool kit. Funds also will be used for benefits counseling and asset development. ODMRDD plans to award mini-grants to support projects that improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
 - ODMRDD is working with the Governor's Office and other agencies to expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Initial work has focused on comprehensive data collection.
 - ODMRDD and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission are identifying ways that federal *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* funds can be used to improve employment outcomes for mutually-eligible individuals.

4. ***Examine training issues, complexity of processes, and measured uniformity pertaining to service and support administration (SSA) functions, with attention to: assessments, Individual Service Plans (ISPs), service authorization, and provider selection; the SSA role at county boards of MRDD, including requiring face-to-face contact, credentialing, and personal representation; and timely ISP development and payment authorization, which could include collaboration between county staff and providers.***
 - ODMRDD is developing the online ISP as part of the enhanced Individual Data System, in conjunction with the Cost Projection Tool. ODMRDD plans to pilot-test the online ISP in early 2010.
 - County boards participating in the county collaborative project have identified screening, assessment, and development of the ISP as priorities.
 - ODMRDD has begun to conduct web-based seminars as a cost-effective method for training and disseminating information to a statewide audience.
 - ODMRDD filed a new administrative rule to time-limit provider certification. The rule, which creates a mechanism for removing from the roster "providers" who have never provided services, lays the foundation for improving the provider search website.
 - ODMRDD worked collaboratively to address several issues in its budget for fiscal years 2010-2011, including an amendment that requires county boards to include a summary page with each ISP, agreed to by the county board, provider, and the individual receiving services, that clearly outlines the amount, duration, and scope of services to be provided.

5. ***Adopt the National Core Indicators (NCI) as a basis for measuring the performance of and improving Ohio's MRDD service delivery system.***
 - ODMRDD adopted the NCI and engaged the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research to conduct 3,400 individual and family surveys by July 2009. One council of governments and two county boards are participating as separate entities with 400 additional surveys to be conducted in each.

6. ***Explore development of a single standardized review tool which would apply to every type of provider as core qualifications. Consider additional standards based on the type of service delivered (e.g., supported employment or residential facility).***
 - ODMRDD developed a quality framework, which includes a single standardized review tool, for state accreditation, licensure, and provider compliance which meets the federal requirements, focuses on outcomes, and promotes best practices. ODMRDD shared the concept with stakeholders and plans to field-test the framework in June 2009. Results of reviews conducted using the new framework will be compared with results of reviews conducted using existing protocols to gauge the effectiveness of the new framework.

7. ***Immediately initiate actions to make "individual satisfaction" a more significant part of the quality review process.***
 - ODMRDD implemented the *Participant Experience Survey* to measure the satisfaction of individuals receiving services.

8. ***Review licensure processes for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR) to determine whether duplication exists with Ohio Department of Health Medicaid reviews, and to the extent duplication exists, eliminate it.***
 - ODMRDD reviewed licensure processes and Ohio Department of Health certification of ICFMR and plans to tailor review protocols to eliminate overlap.

- 9. *Adjust the mode and frequency of monitoring activities of Home and Community-Based Services waiver providers and licensed providers (other than Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded) so that newly certified/licensed providers receive an on-site review within one year; desk reviews and self-audits are established for providers who are performing well; new and lower-performing providers are monitored more frequently than established, higher-performing providers; and best practices are promoted throughout the system.***
- ODMRDD developed a quality framework, which includes a single standardized review tool, for state accreditation, licensure, and provider compliance which meets the federal requirements, focuses on outcomes, and promotes best practices. ODMRDD shared the concept with stakeholders and plans to field-test the framework in June 2009. Results of reviews conducted using the new framework will be compared with results of reviews conducted using existing protocols to gauge the effectiveness of the new framework.
 - The approved Individual Options Waiver renewal indicates that newly certified/licensed providers of Homemaker/Personal Care, Transportation, Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, and Supported Employment services will receive an on-site review within one year of initiating a claim for service delivery.
- 10. *Ensure that people who provide the same service are subject to the same requirements, based on the service being provided rather than the type of entity providing the service.***
- In November 2008, ODMRDD filed an administrative rule for provider certification that sets forth core provider qualifications. The rule is currently in "To Be Refiled" status while additional stakeholder concerns are considered.
 - The Executive Medicaid Management Administration is leading efforts among Medicaid agencies to streamline and unify services and provider qualifications across Home and Community-Based Services waivers.
- 11. *Establish initial requirements for all Home and Community-Based Services waiver providers that include basic standards needed prior to becoming certified. Verify that requirements are met during the certification process as opposed to applicants simply attesting to having met the requirements, and include a face-to-face interview. Review independent providers between six and 12 months of initial provision of services.***
- In November 2008, ODMRDD filed an administrative rule for provider certification that sets forth core provider qualifications. The rule is currently in "To Be Refiled" status while additional stakeholder concerns are considered.
 - ODMRDD developed a quality framework, which includes a single standardized review tool, for state accreditation, licensure, and provider compliance which meets the federal requirements, focuses on outcomes, and promotes best practices. ODMRDD shared the concept with stakeholders and plans to field-test the framework in June 2009. Results of reviews conducted using the new framework will be compared with results of reviews conducted using existing protocols to gauge the effectiveness of the new framework.
 - The approved Individual Options Waiver renewal indicates that newly certified/licensed providers of Homemaker/Personal Care, Transportation, Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, and Supported Employment services will receive an on-site review within one year of initiating a claim for service delivery.

- 12. Implement existing statutes that time-limit certification for new Home and Community-Based Services waiver providers and develop processes to terminate certification of providers who have not billed for 12 consecutive months.**
- In November 2008, ODMRDD filed an administrative rule for provider certification that implements time-limited certification and application fees. The rule is currently in "To Be Refiled" status while additional stakeholder concerns are considered.
- 13. Consider accepting accreditation from national accrediting bodies in lieu of state accreditation of boards and certification of providers.**
- ODMRDD is working with constituents to examine how national accreditation fits into the quality framework for state accreditation, licensure, and provider compliance which meets federal requirements, focuses on outcomes, and promotes best practices. ODMRDD is gathering information from states that require or formally encourage providers to hold national accreditation.
- 14. Redevelop the ODMRDD provider search website to assist individuals and families in identifying and selecting providers. Ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date. Include (as applicable) the most recent version of the provider's/ county board's compliance review, licensure survey report, accreditation review, Ohio Department of Health survey, annual major unusual incident review, and any related plans of correction. Include a search tool filter to identify providers willing to serve additional individuals.**
- ODMRDD conducted an analysis of the existing provider search website and incorporated several short-term refinements.
 - ODMRDD filed a new administrative rule to time-limit provider certification. The rule, which creates a mechanism for removing from the roster "providers" who have not provided services, lays the foundation for making the provider search website useful to individuals and families seeking qualified and willing providers. ODMRDD will begin work on the provider search website once the rule has been implemented.
- 15. Develop resources in a variety of formats (e.g., informational pamphlets, checklists, online modules, and video conferences) to assist individuals and families in selecting, training, and monitoring providers.**
- ODMRDD created Family Chat, a discussion listserv for individuals and families to share experiences and information.
 - ODMRDD added new sections and useful links related to services for children and youth and Autism Spectrum Disorders to its website.
 - ODMRDD is tracking questions submitted by families to identify trends and patterns which will drive the development of new resources and materials.
 - ODMRDD expanded use of videoconferencing and web-based training to disseminate information and extend opportunities for participation to a broader audience.

16. Work collaboratively to develop and implement a plan to increase wages, benefits, training, supervisory support, recruitment, and retention of quality direct support staff.

- The Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) program developed several curriculum additions and is collaborating with the Ohio Center on Autism and Low Incidence to develop training regarding autism and behavioral supports.
- ODMRDD worked collaboratively to address several issues in its budget for fiscal years 2010-2011, including an amendment that specifies that recommendations for modifying the payment rates for providers of Home and Community-Based Services waiver services may include recommendations for modifying the method's components that reflect wages, benefits, training, and supervision of persons providing direct care.

17. Explore implementation of a competency-based curriculum for all providers/staff having direct contact with individuals receiving services.

- ODMRDD is working with the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) to develop outcome measures for the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) program.
- ODMRDD and the Ohio Departments of Aging, Commerce, Development, Health, Insurance, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, and the Board of Regents, are reviewing the PATHS curriculum.
- ODMRDD is working with OADSP to make competency-based training for direct care workers available statewide.
- ODMRDD, OADSP, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and Owens Community College are developing a statewide curriculum that culminates in an Associate's degree for direct service workers.

18. Facilitate creation of an organized, system-wide network of providers of services or programs for populations with significant challenges. Conduct regional meetings to develop partnerships, cross-system collaboration, and community planning. Develop and disseminate training and support for providers, caregivers, and others. Plan for those with MRDD who are not eligible for county board services. Identify providers and fill-in gaps.

- ODMRDD and county boards are developing a model for regional planning and partnerships for implementation through the county collaborative project. County boards participating in the project will inventory resources to identify gaps in services and opportunities for improvement, efficiencies, and collaboration.
- ODMRDD engaged "conveners" throughout the state who are establishing local networks of resources for communities to support individuals with significant challenges.
- ODMRDD analyzed waiver expenditures by county; the analysis will be used to inform discussion about high-cost waivers.
- The Governmental Research Center is conducting an analysis of Medicaid claims and eligibility data which will identify the existing clinical service delivery patterns for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, co-occurring mental disorders, and other developmental disabilities.

19. Increase emphasis on providing age-appropriate services for the population of persons with MRDD who are over 55 years of age. Identify the population and create an action plan to meet needs. Identify or create regional solutions and model services or programs. Assure reimbursement systems support integrated community-based services.

- ODMRDD implemented administrative rule 5123:2-9-20 to permit providers certified by the Ohio Department of Aging to provide Adult Day Support services to individuals on the Individual Options and Level One waivers.
- ODMRDD has identified the population of individuals over 55 years of age.

20. Increase emphasis on providing support for caregivers living with and caring for individuals with MRDD. Help parents meet their own needs and assure that their child's needs can be met now and in the future. Assist parents in transition from primary caregivers and support planning for the future. Cooperate with other systems for caregiver support in the home. Work with other state agencies to reduce complexity of support systems. Develop a system for more flexible, reliable, and consistent respite care.

- ODMRDD created Family Chat, a discussion listserv for individuals and families to share experiences and information.
- ODMRDD collaborates with The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center to support adult siblings of individuals with MRDD.
- ODMRDD is exploring potential amendments to the Individual Options Waiver that would incorporate a daily reimbursement rate for individuals attending camp and offer more flexible respite options.
- The New Futures Waiver incorporates participant-directed flexible supports.

21. Work collaboratively with other agencies to address the service needs for children from birth through age five. Collaborate with other agencies through Child Find to improve identification and referral for Early Intervention (EI) services. Collaborate with other agencies to fund intensive, habilitative EI services. Build on current collaboration for services. Cooperate with other agencies and schools to develop a plan for children ages three through five.

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are leading a major push to increase physician screening of children, using standardized assessment tools. ODMRDD helped identify screening needs and barriers to/mechanisms for referral to existing systems for further evaluation and services when developmental concerns are identified.
- ODH, the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, ODMRDD, and others are conducting the Autism Diagnosis Education pilot project in five counties. The project's goal is to engage families, child care providers, educators, health care professionals, and community leaders to promote early identification of autism using standardized methods and facilitate timely diagnosis and referral.
- A statewide Help Me Grow initiative is promoting state-sponsored outreach to increase public awareness and ensure consistent information is available to connect children with needed services.

21. (continued)

- ODMRDD has taken the lead in researching Part C of the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act*, including regulatory language and intent, national research on evidence-based EI practices, specialized services, and Medicaid funding requirements. ODMRDD presented related training at various venues.
- ODMRDD is working with the Help Me Grow Advisory Council to plan for a major shift in the way EI is viewed and provided to focus on integrated, functional interventions that support the family and promote child development through everyday activities and environments. The efforts address sustainability by targeting limited resources to those who are most in need and will benefit most.
- The Governor's Office and other state agencies are exploring how Medicaid may be used for EI services.
- The Help Me Grow Advisory Funding Committee is providing recommendations to ODH in evaluating the cost of providing EI services in Ohio.
- ODMRDD is collaborating with state and local partners to address the number of children transitioning from EI services to preschool. Reconsidering the eligibility criteria for Help Me Grow may address the situation.
- ODMRDD partners with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to promote the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) Initiative—to establish efficiency in resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address FASD. In December 2008, ODMRDD arranged for The Ohio State University's Center of Learning Excellence to conduct training for staff working with individuals with FASD in developmental centers. In January 2009, ODMRDD arranged a videoconference for administrators and staff of county boards of MRDD; 30 sites participated.

22. Address the need for specialized services for individuals with very challenging behaviors. Provide training, resources, and ongoing support for care providers, including behavior management and working with other systems. Reduce medication management alone as a strategy for behavior control. Increase the number of specialized behavior therapists and develop clinical support teams. Create community crisis or back-up services, including crisis intervention, respite, and long-term residential treatment in regional collaboration.

- ODMRDD and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services are implementing a new flexible support waiver (i.e., the New Futures Waiver) to support children with intensive behavioral needs living in the family home. Funding has been identified for 100 slots. A concept paper describing the proposed waiver was shared with stakeholders and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Feedback is being reviewed. ODMRDD engaged The Ohio State University's Nisonger Center to provide technical assistance.
- ODMRDD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health have agreed to jointly fund a position responsible for coordinating, organizing, and leading efforts to serve individuals with dual diagnosis.
- ODMRDD developed and disseminated materials that support care providers and promote the Behavior Support Advisory Council's Positive Culture Initiative. Over 1200 people have participated in training conducted at venues throughout the state.
- ODMRDD collected data from county boards regarding aversive behavior plans and use of time out and restraint during the months of October 2008 to March 2009. Data are being analyzed. The Behavior Support Advisory Council will use the analysis to establish statewide recommendations and goals.
- ODMRDD joined the Ohio Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, and Youth Services to examine the use of prone restraints. Governor Strickland accepted the group's recommendations and instructed departments to adopt policies that incorporate safeguards.

23. Address the need for crisis stabilization for individuals across age ranges, including those with dual diagnosis. Create regional capacity to assess and facilitate community-based or developmental center emergency placements that are safe for all residents. Assure discharge planning for transition after inpatient or facility treatment. Collaborate with other agencies, especially the Ohio Department of Mental Health, to expand access to services for the dually-diagnosed. Change developmental center admission criteria to allow services for all persons eligible for county board services.

- ODMRDD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health have agreed to jointly fund a position responsible for coordinating, organizing, and leading efforts to serve individuals with dual diagnosis.
- Each ODMRDD developmental center established a crisis stabilization program through which individuals are admitted on a short-term basis to receive the support they need to return to a community setting.
- County boards participating in the county collaborative project have identified expansion of regional capacity for crisis response and emergency management as a priority.
- ODMRDD assisted the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to define the scope of a project to assess individual characteristics, levels of care, and long-term care needs and services among individuals residing in Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR) and individuals enrolled on the Individual Options, Level One, and Transitions MRDD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. ODJFS engaged a contractor to perform this work, which is scheduled for completion in early 2010. Data will be used to determine if Ohio is making the best use of its ICFMR and HCBS waiver capacity.

24. Address the need for increased access to and the number of providers of medical and dental services with expertise working with individuals with MRDD across the lifespan. Use community and regional planning to develop strategies to increase access to medical professionals. Increase access to services using multiple strategies including mobile services, delegated nursing, and dental and medical service extenders. Create and expand training for medical professionals to work with persons with MRDD.

- A model for regional planning and partnerships is being developed and will be implemented through the county collaborative project. County boards participating in the project will be inventorying resources for the purpose of identifying gaps in needed services and opportunities for improvement, efficiencies, and collaboration.
- The Arc of Ohio and ODMRDD promoted regional public hearings conducted by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) during February and March 2009, regarding oral health and access to dental care. ODMRDD pledged to support ODH's efforts to increase access and quality of care.
- In collaboration with the Ohio Departments of Aging, Commerce, Development, Health, Insurance, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and the Board of Regents, ODMRDD is working to address health care and workforce development issues, including the following topics: increasing the number of doctors and dentists that accept Medicaid, increasing and improving the healthcare workforce, and increasing opportunities for employment of individuals with developmental disabilities in the medical and dental fields.
- ODMRDD is looking at how to extend community access to medical and dental capabilities at developmental centers.

25. Create data-driven analytical processes that align dollars toward adequate and sustainable funding for services and inform ODMRDD's policy decisions.

- In collaboration with system stakeholders, and using data, ODMRDD developed the biennial budget strategy for fiscal years 2010-2011, including identification of necessary revisions to the Ohio Revised Code.
- ODMRDD and county boards worked together to develop the Individual Data System, a person-centered data portal that will become the single point of entry for accessing individual records to create, review, monitor, and/or update information about individuals served. The system consolidates the former Individual Information Form application and will incorporate the Acuity Assessment Instrument, Waiting List, Preadmission Screening/Resident Review, and Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile applications. This user-friendly system will house all individuals' data in one place and expedite data entry and reporting. System testing is underway with system "go live" planned for late summer 2009.
- Ohio's implementation of the National Core Indicators (see Recommendation 5) will enable Ohio to collect, analyze, and benchmark data with other states.
- ODMRDD's Decision Support Team, which serves as a clearing house for data collection and analysis, conducted numerous analyses used to inform decision-making regarding costs by service setting size, Individual Options Waiver costs by county, the impact of changes in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, factors included in hourly rates for services, and local/state per capita funding levels by county. Team members are currently reviewing and analyzing suggestions submitted at the five regional Budget Conversations conducted in January 2009.
- ODMRDD is enhancing its information infrastructure to improve data collection and analysis capabilities and to develop better financial performance indicators, tools, and reports.

26. Identify additional state and federal funds to support Early Intervention services and analyze tax policies related to alcohol and liquor sales to consider whether the level of tax is commensurate with the social impact and need for disability-related services.

- In collaboration with system stakeholders, ODMRDD developed the biennial budget strategy for fiscal years 2010-2011, including identification of necessary revisions to the Ohio Revised Code.
- ODMRDD is working with the Executive Medicaid Management Administration, Ohio Family and Children First, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Early Childhood Cabinet to address financing/service delivery issues.

27. In cooperation with the Governor's Office and Ohio's Congressional representatives, aggressively pursue federal funding programs and prevent federal policy changes that negatively impact people with disabilities.

- ODMRDD submitted a list of federal priorities to the Governor's Office that included: passage of an economic stimulus act; preservation and expansion of funding for programs that serve people with developmental disabilities; simplification of Medicaid regulations and elimination of provisions that serve as disincentives for service providers to adequately train staff; legislation that addresses the housing and transportation needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities; tax incentives and other supports for those who care for family members with disabilities in their own homes; support for services for individuals with challenging behaviors; and removal of barriers related to service definitions and funding streams.
- ODMRDD, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and county boards are pursuing strategies to leverage more federal funds. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an additional 2400 Level One Waiver slots and enrollment on the Individual Options Waiver increased by more than 1100 between July 2008 and March 2009.
- ODMRDD is partnering with ODJFS to improve children's access to the Transitions MRDD Waiver.
- ODMRDD and ODJFS are developing a strategy to utilize funds through the federal *Money Follows the Person* program to assist individuals on the Individual Options Waiver transitioning to community settings.
- ODMRDD and ODJFS are pursuing approval by CMS for a new Random Moment Time Study method to claim reimbursement for Medicaid administrative activities. ODMRDD hopes to launch this program in fall 2009 and will encourage all county boards and councils of governments to participate in bringing more federal funding into the system.
- In support of a statewide initiative to promote access to grant opportunities, ODMRDD is developing a segment on grants for its website.

28. Develop a comprehensive state housing plan to address any needed improvements to current and future housing options to ensure the health and safety of individuals choosing to live in the community.

- The Technical Alliance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC) completed its review of Ohio's housing resources. TAC's recommendations will be shared with the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in May 2009. Some recommendations address management of capital funds in the MRDD system. ODMRDD will analyze the housing survey results and collaborate with the Disability Housing Network to develop an action plan.
- In February 2009, ODMRDD amended the Community Assistance Funds program rule (5123:1-1-03) and related processes to expand opportunities for acquisition of housing.
- ODMRDD conducted two informational sessions regarding the Community Assistance Funds program in January and February 2009.

29. Develop a long-term, zero-sum funding approach that addresses financial sustainability and predictability through risk-sharing mechanisms, as well as protects individuals' access to services. Develop a draft proposal for possible consideration in the fiscal years 2010-2011 operating budget deliberations. More importantly, determine viable strategies to manage waiver reimbursement transition costs in fiscal year 2009, including realignment of existing system resources.

- In collaboration with system stakeholders, ODMRDD developed the biennial budget strategy for fiscal years 2010-2011, including identification of necessary revisions to the Ohio Revised Code. Throughout the budget process, stakeholders have worked together to present a consistent message that ensures legislators and the public understand the significance of Ohio's MRDD service delivery system to individuals with disabilities, families, and Ohio's workforce.
- ODMRDD, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and county boards are pursuing strategies to leverage more federal funds. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved an additional 2400 Level One Waiver slots and enrollment on the Individual Options Waiver increased by more than 1100 between July 2008 and March 2009.
- The budget includes a franchise fee on ODMRDD-operated developmental centers that enables ODMRDD to draw down additional federal funds beginning in fiscal year 2012.
- With the goal of increasing efficiency while protecting access to services, ODMRDD is exploring potential amendments to the Individual Options Waiver that would permit remote monitoring of individuals being served, create a new adult family care service, and incorporate a daily reimbursement rate for individuals attending camp.
- The Executive Medicaid Management Administration is examining a statewide approach to provider reimbursement.
- Data indicate that the MRDD system has contained the rate of growth in Individual Options Waiver costs.

30. Ensure that the impact of losing the tangible property tax on county boards of MRDD and other essential community services is addressed in the next biennial budget process.

- In collaboration with system stakeholders, ODMRDD developed the biennial budget strategy for fiscal years 2010-2011, including identification of necessary revisions to the Ohio Revised Code. Throughout the budget process, stakeholders have worked together to present a consistent message that ensures legislators and the public understand the significance of Ohio's MRDD service delivery system to individuals with disabilities, families, and Ohio's workforce.
- ODMRDD shared data regarding the impact with legislators, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Governor's Office. This issue was highlighted at the five regional Budget Conversations conducted in January 2009 and in Director Martin's budget testimony before the General Assembly.

31. Overhaul the waiting list statute to accommodate the needs of individuals and families with attention to: assessment requirement, identification and clarification of priority categories, reduction of the variety of waiting lists, and consideration of statewide versus county waiting lists for high-cost waivers (i.e., over \$100,000).

- ODMRDD outlined a statewide strategy to revise and better manage waiting lists. A stakeholder group is refining the strategy.
- ODMRDD began producing a quarterly report of waiting list data and continues to work with county boards to "clean" the data.
- ODMRDD analyzed waiver expenditures by county; the analysis will be used to inform discussion about high-cost waivers.
- County boards participating in the county collaborative project are mapping business practices, including waiting list management, for the purpose of identifying opportunities for improvement, efficiencies, and collaboration.