

2024 ANNUAL PLAN



**BELMONT-HARRISON-NOBLE
COUNTY BOARDS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

coordinate, fund and provide supports for more than 800 residents with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Supports include early intervention for babies and toddlers; preschool and school-age supports; transition planning; adult day services, skill development and employment supports; respite; and transportation to and from home, work and other locations. We also fund residential care in the community based on a person’s individual needs.

The majority of our funding comes via tax levies approved by voters in those three counties along with state and federal dollars.

Each County Board is governed by a seven-member, volunteer Board of Directors whose members are appointed by the county commissioners and probate court judges. Meetings are held each month, excluding July and December when the boards do not meet.

BELMONT COUNTY BOARD

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Robert Quirk, President | Joel Braido |
| John Rataiczak, Vice-President | Barbara Pomaranski |
| Shawn McKeen, Secretary | Barbara Schramm |

www.bcbdd.org

The Belmont County Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

HARRISON COUNTY BOARD

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sara Taggart, President | Julianna Dulkoski |
| Chuck George, Vice-President | Carolyn Kibble |
| Mary Carter, Secretary | David Ossman |
| David Koch | |

www.hcbdd.org

The Harrison County Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m.

NOBLE COUNTY BOARD

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Drew West, President | Tracy Jackson |
| Catherine LaFollette, Vice-President | Dennis Riddle |
| Angela Crock, Secretary | Judy Weisend |

www.ncbdd.org

The Noble County Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

OUR VISION

People are valued for who they are and what they bring to the community.

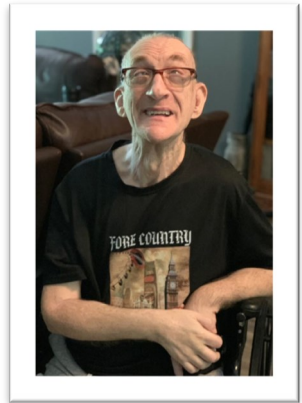
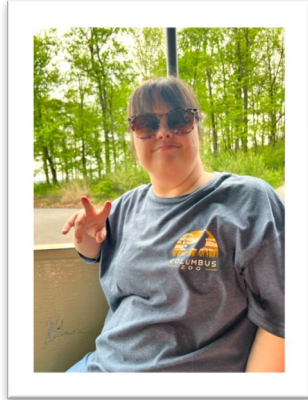
Executive Summary

Dear Friend:

In March of each year, we publish an annual plan that outlines our goals for the coming months and the progress we've made. This year is no different, with one exception: a new Superintendent leads the BHN Alliance in 2024. In any other organization, this might cause unease, but not so for us as we ensured a continuation of our philosophy and positive culture with the naming of Gloria Llewellyn as the new CEO/Superintendent. Gloria brought decades of experience and a passion for the people we serve to us when she joined our team seven years ago, and we are excited for the future under her leadership.

Transition is a good word to describe 2023. We transitioned to the new OhioISP, improving the planning process so our SSAs can spend more time with people and less on paperwork. We saw improved communication and processes in the transition from early intervention to preschool and preschool to kindergarten for the toddlers and families we know and love.

Teenagers are successfully transitioning from high school to competitive wage jobs via Employment Navigation. We saw more at-risk youth transition from personal challenges to self-confidence via *Tomorrow's Youth Project*, a successful collaboration with our partners that provides in-home behavioral and respite support to families. The use of assistive technology like smart and electronic devices and remote supports helped the adults we serve gain more independence in 2023. Our



investment in technology also meant better speed at which we perform our work so we can spend more time developing relationships.

Supporting 800 children & adults today and for a lifetime

The Belmont CBDD building is a hub of activity as people of all abilities come together in our pool, on the playground, and in our sensory and wiggle rooms. That is why we transitioned to fully automatic doors and handwashing stations in our restrooms. These modifications were absolutely necessary to improve services. They also reflect our values.

It is important to understand that the people we support are at the center of all we do. From building renovations to modernized processes, our focus is always on how what we do positively impacts people with developmental differences and our team, the people who are passionate about serving them.

Today we are providing a lifetime of supports for 800 children and adults across Belmont, Harrison, and Noble counties. We are leaning into some ambitious goals for 2024, and we couldn't be more excited about what the future holds.

It is important to note that we are able to do all of these things and more because of steady support from our partners and the public. Because of you, people are realizing their dreams and ambitions and achieving more than ever before as they live, learn, work, volunteer, and stand alongside us all in the community.

President Bob Quirk – Belmont County Board

President Sara Taggart – Harrison County Board

President Drew West – Noble County Board



2023 Progress Reports

EARLY INTERVENTION

- 100% compliance on 45-day timeline review in Belmont County
- 100% compliance for timely receipt of service compliance review in Harrison County
- Two EI staff awarded DODD Developmental Specialist certifications and were training in the Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) system™
- Using ARPA funding, invested in remote scoring tools to give families more timely access to eligibility results.
- EI Director participated in state-level rule revision work groups and serves as co-chair of the EI Committee of the Ohio Association for Services for Children & Families
- Awarded service coordination grant in Noble County; Early Intervention now provides service coordination and service delivery in Belmont, Harrison, and Noble counties.



HARRISON COUNTY PRESCHOOL

- Upgraded classroom technology by acquiring SmartBoard
- Upgraded all classrooms with new paint, cabinets and flooring
- Updated the gym with paint, sound panels, sensory tiles, and digital displays
- Updated the lunchroom with new paint and decorative retro stripe, new tables and chairs, and sound panels
- Attained and retained preschool teachers
- Two veteran preschool team members retired

FINANCE

- Transitioned to Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) for Specialized Services across Belmont, Harrison, and Noble counties
- Transitioned to ONI for Housing for Belmont, Harrison, and Noble.
- Housing Coordinator position created and filled to provide for oversight of daily operations
- Harrison Finance Coordinator assumed Belmont County Finance Coordinator responsibilities
- BHN Alliance Human Resources Coordinator assumed payroll responsibilities for Harrison County

2023 Progress Reports



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- Implemented the Non-Waiver ISP in Oct 2023
- Grant funding received in 2023
 - DODD Keeping Families Together: SFY 24- \$139,200 and SFY25- \$139,200
 - DODD Planned Respite and In Home Supports Grant: SFY24 \$375,000
 - Strong Families Safe Communities: SFY24 \$165,000
 - Alternative Residence Two Board: \$100,000 (this was spent from Jan 23- April 23)
- Youth respite program name changed to *Tomorrow's Youth Project*
- Trauma-Informed Care trainings provided to Belmont & Noble independent providers, new BHN Alliance hires, and *Tomorrow's Youth Project* therapeutic mentors

SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

- Implemented OhioISP for all people enrolled on waiver and served by SSA
- Implemented Non-Waiver ISP to meet new rule guidelines for people receiving SSA, Employment Navigation, and Community Supports. Consistent format for all people receiving local funds and enables them to seamlessly transfer between supports
- Providers now invoicing the SSA Department through Brittco
- Majority of SSA forms now transitioned to Brittco software, making all information accessible in one location

QUALITY SUPPORTS DEPARTMENT

- Organized and presented annual training to 37 Independent Providers to successfully meet their annual training requirements
- Assisted 7 people in becoming newly certified Independent Providers; offered information and guidance to over 20 additional people
- Completed 62 internal quality assurance reviews, identifying issues and assisting in improving the quality of supports provided
- Completed 13 Compliance Reviews of Independent Providers and offered technical assistance and guidance to improve conformance with Ohio Administrative Code
- Streamlined the Human Rights Committee process by digitizing all documents and forms in Brittco
- Updated Brittco to link each Independent Provider to their DODD profile
- Screened hundreds of Unusual Incidents and UI Logs for health, safety and welfare concerns
- Filed 184 Major Unusual Incident Investigations with the Ohio Department of Development Disabilities to protect people supported

2023 Progress Reports



COMMUNICATIONS and IT

- Aided and supported advocacy groups, non-profits, and private providers in their activities/efforts including creation of media products, grant application reviews, etc.
- Supported all BHN Alliance departments in content creation, messaging, promotion of special events, etc.
- Provided reviews of grant applications and external communications to ensure the fidelity of our messaging across all platforms and audiences
- Led collaborative effort to rename multi-system youth supports to *Tomorrow's Youth Project*.
- Represented BCBDD on the Belmont County Exceptional Student Awards planning group.
- Launched internal Communications Exchange known as CECIL
- Upgraded Wi-Fi to improve connectivity in Belmont, gaining insight into the network from one central location (Extreme IQ web service)
- Upgraded laptops for Service & Support Administrators to better accommodate the new OhioISP
- Formed a Resource Committee (SSA, CS, EI) and created a Resource Library using SharePoint on CECIL.
- Began cleaning up configuration of our computer networks and added an Extreme 48-port switch

TRANSPORTATION & MAINTENANCE

- Improved accessibility in lobby restrooms at Belmont County Board
- Replaced all shop lights at Belco Works, Inc. (115)
- Painted Belmont CBDD bus garage and roof
- Sealed and painted outdoor track for Special Olympics and other events
- Inventoried and disposed of unusable items at Belmont CBDD bus garage

Statebound Special Olympians



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

EARLY INTERVENTION

Supports provided to eligible babies and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families from birth to age three.

BELMONT 250

HARRISON 46

NOBLE 49

SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

SSAs link adults ages 22 and older to what they need and want, including residential supports, vocational training, employment, adult day supports and transportation. SSAs ensure the health, safety, and well-being of people served and operate a 24/7/365 emergency response system.

BELMONT 279

BELMONT EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATION 57

HARRISON 50

HARRISON EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATION 5

NOBLE 40

NOBLE EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATION 5

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

This family-centered model helps youth ages 3 to 18 acquire the skills they need to interact appropriately with others. A variety of in-home supports and respite are offered to families of children with intensive needs via *Tomorrow's Youth Project*.

BELMONT 104

HARRISON 23

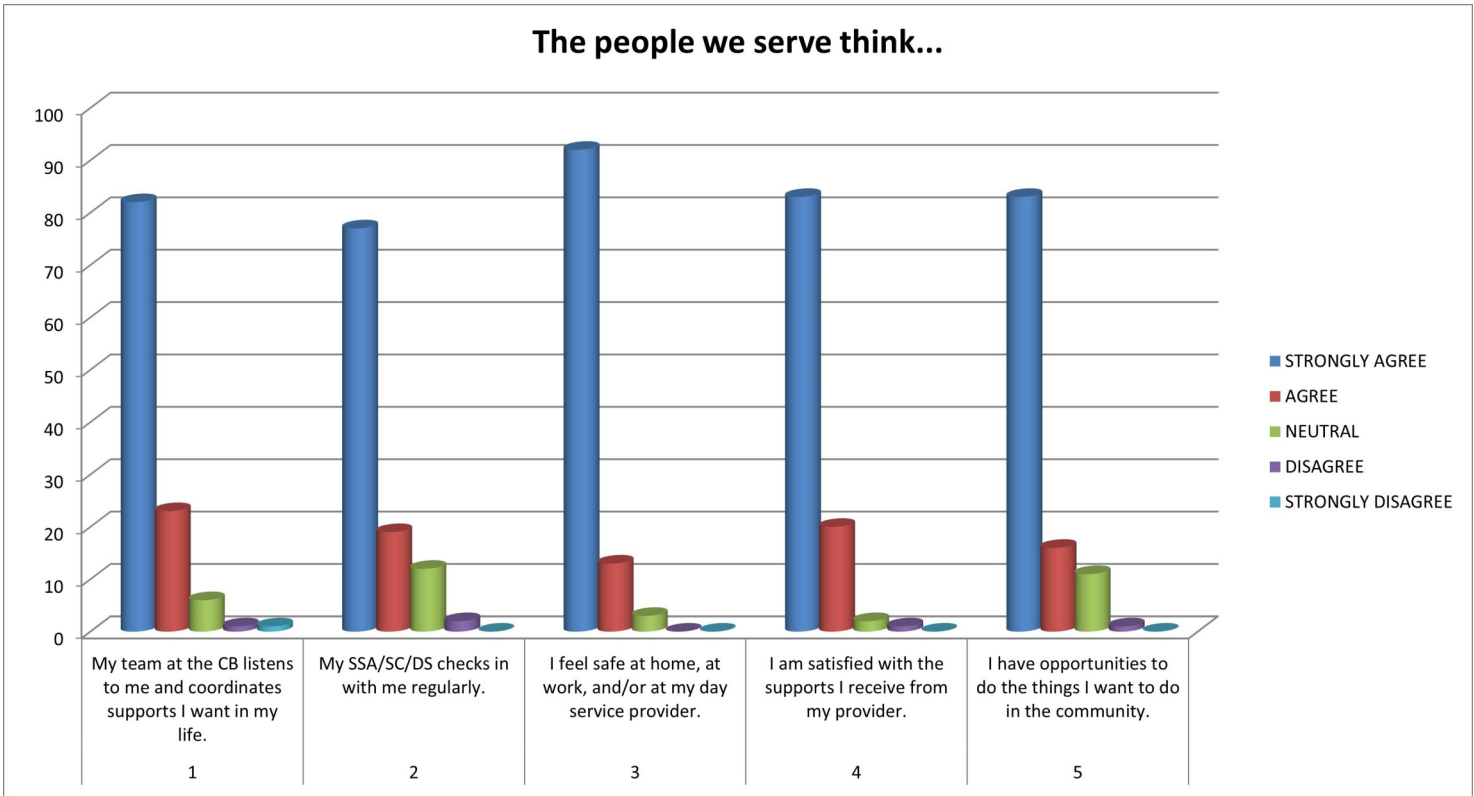
NOBLE 12

Tomorrow's Youth Project

98 youth served across BHN Alliance



2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“

I am thankful my son is able to have weekly visits at the pool, wiggle room and sensory room. It allows us to bond together and meet the welcoming staff on site.

B has come such a long way and we have you guys to largely thank for that!

The team who helped me was very friendly and did a great job providing my family with support and resources.

I've had nothing short of positive experiences with everyone on W's EI team. Excellent communication and a genuine care and affection integrated into his regular therapies.

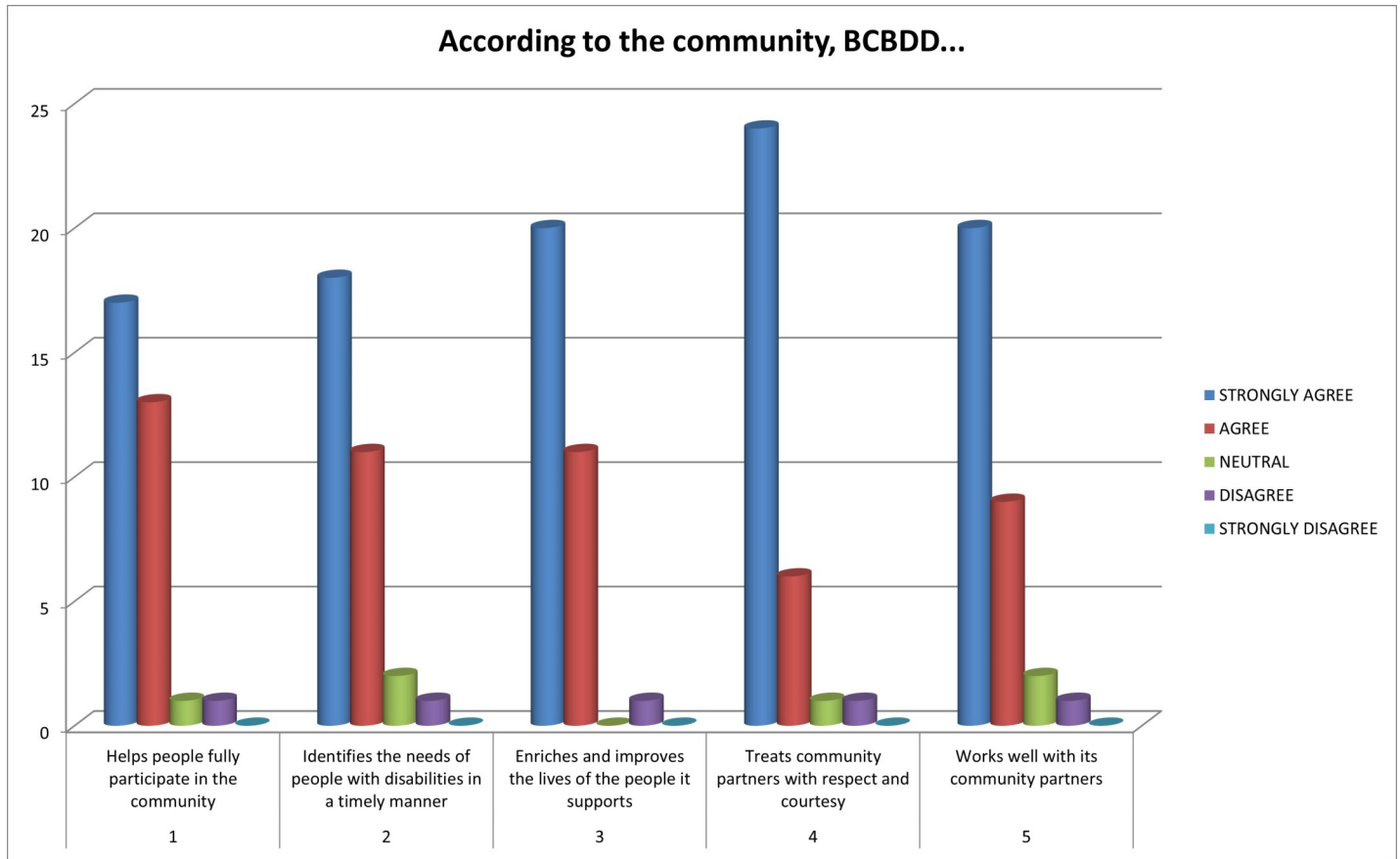
I am grateful for the help and support from BCBDD! Thank you!

I have been given excellent advice and suggestions on how to help (my grandson) grow.

”



2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“

BCBDD cares about people and it shows.

BCBDD cares very much about our students with disabilities. Our district’s partnership is invaluable!

The staff are amazing and dedicated to their roles. You make a big difference in the lives of many!

BCBDD is an amazing partner to every agency they are involved with!

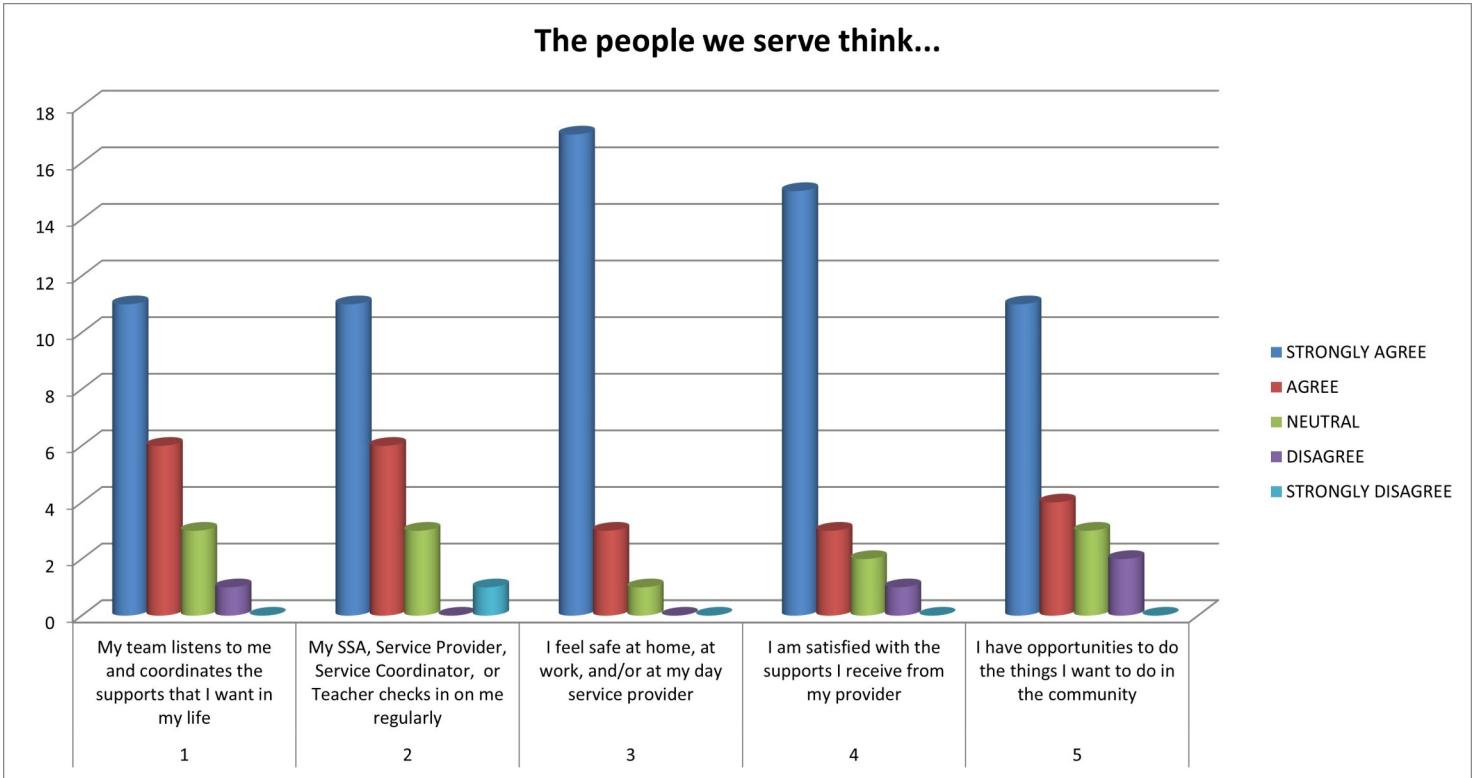
Great leadership with respectful and friendly workers.

The kindness, care, and comfort that the staff allows for those they serve is amazing.

The Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities has a strong leadership team and guiding principles and this translates into the caring, compassionate manner in which they treat their clients.

”

2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“ *Your team is very caring, kind and understanding. Thank you for all the help.*

You're doing a great job as far as we know. Keep it up!

I like working at PALS.

New SSA checks in much more regularly than our old one.

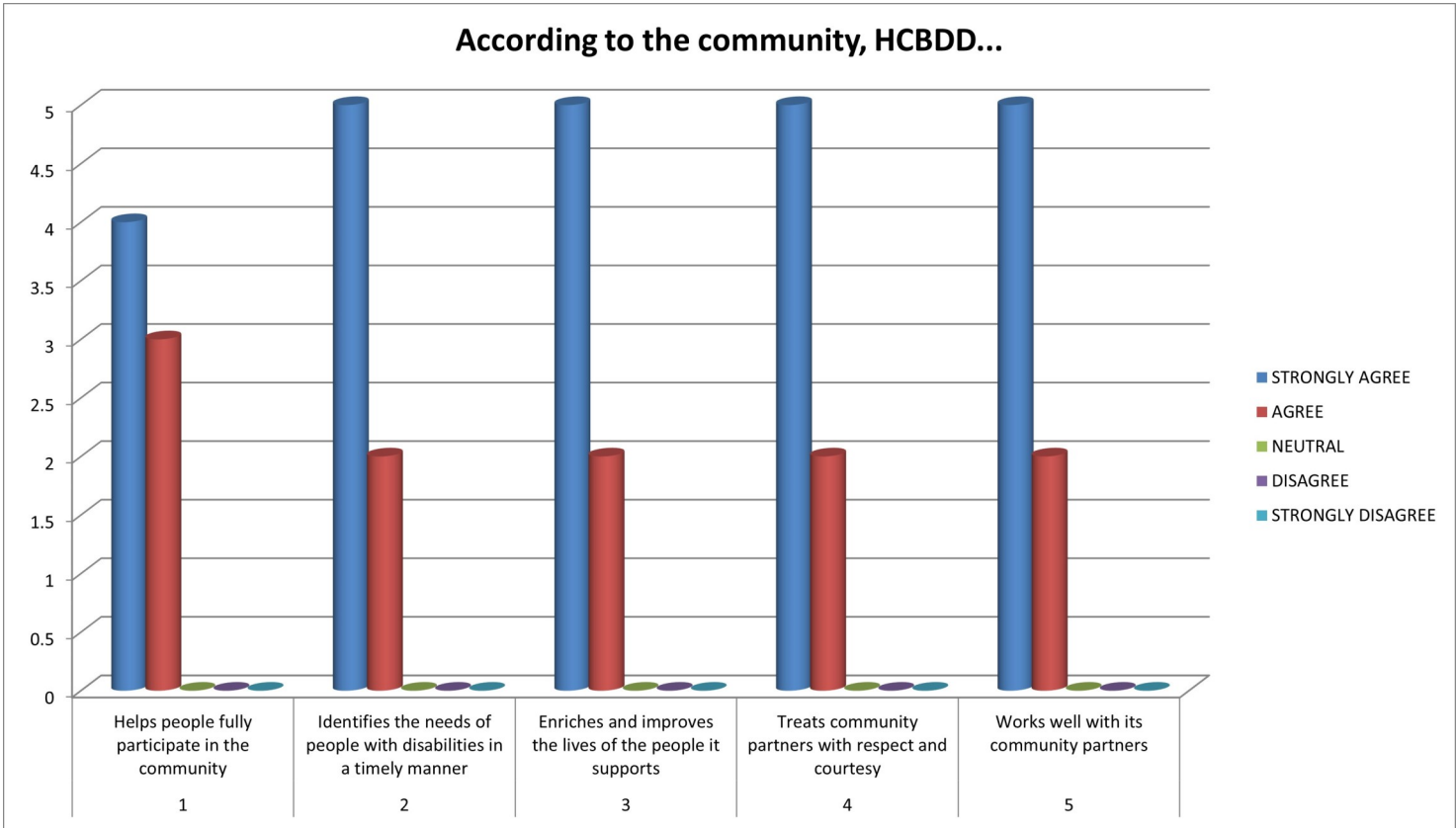
A great service for my granddaughter. Best program ever!

Received services for both my kids and forever grateful.

”



2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“ *Enjoy everything about the HCBDD.*

Works well with community.

HCBDD Preschool is excellent.

The Board has always worked well with us on any issues that we may encounter.

You guys are the best!

”

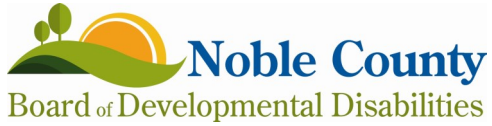


EMERGENCY ON-CALL NUMBER

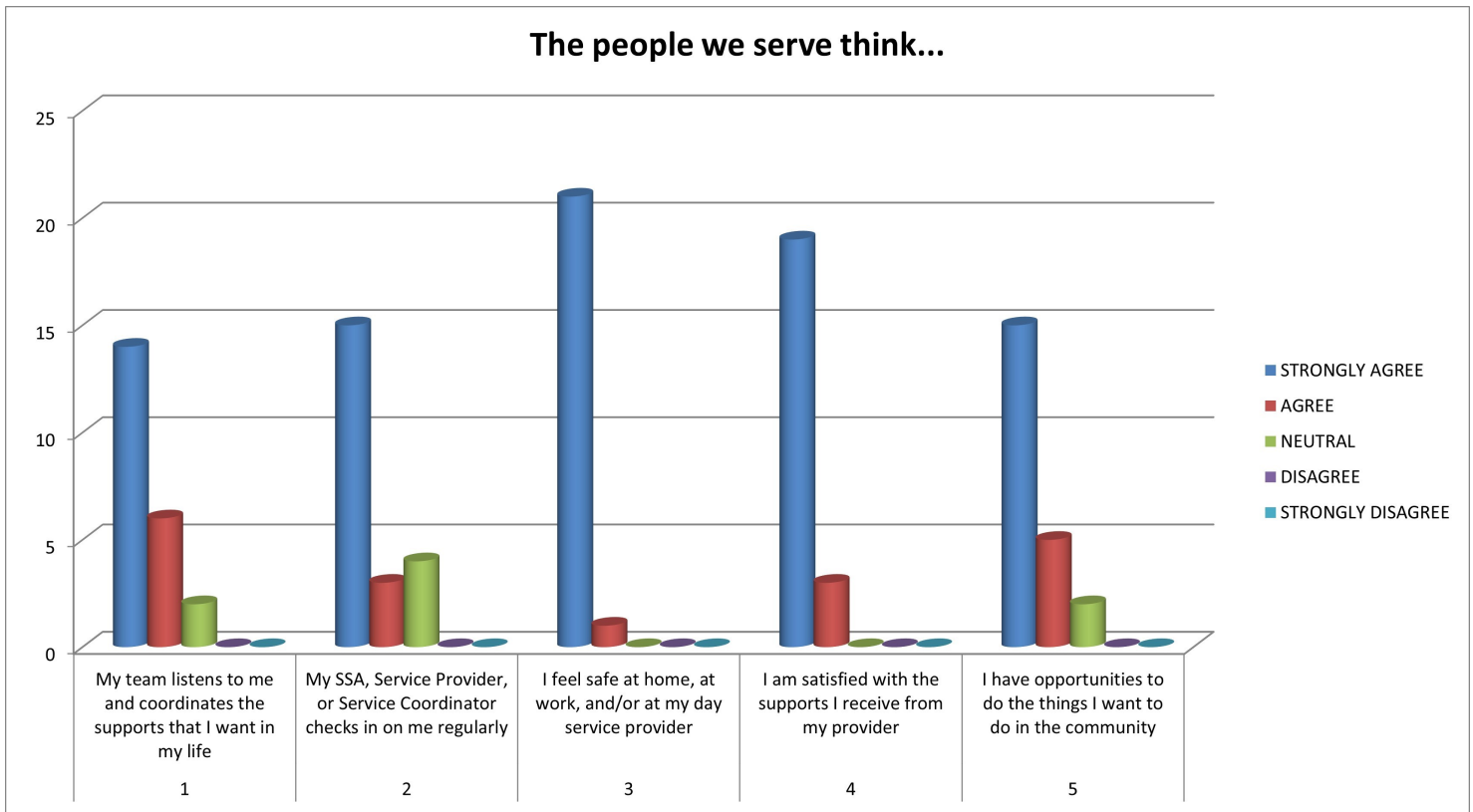


740-310-2255

Assistance is provided 24 hours per day/7 days per week for emergencies involving people with developmental disabilities.



2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“

We've appreciated the kindness and caring from staff.

We have had nothing short of great experiences with our son's team. They truly care for his developmental progress and him in general. Very thankful for the services provided.

We appreciate all you do!

The therapist that comes to our home is very good about referring questions we have to our service coordinator. We usually get a call the same day or next day!

We appreciate everything you do for our family.

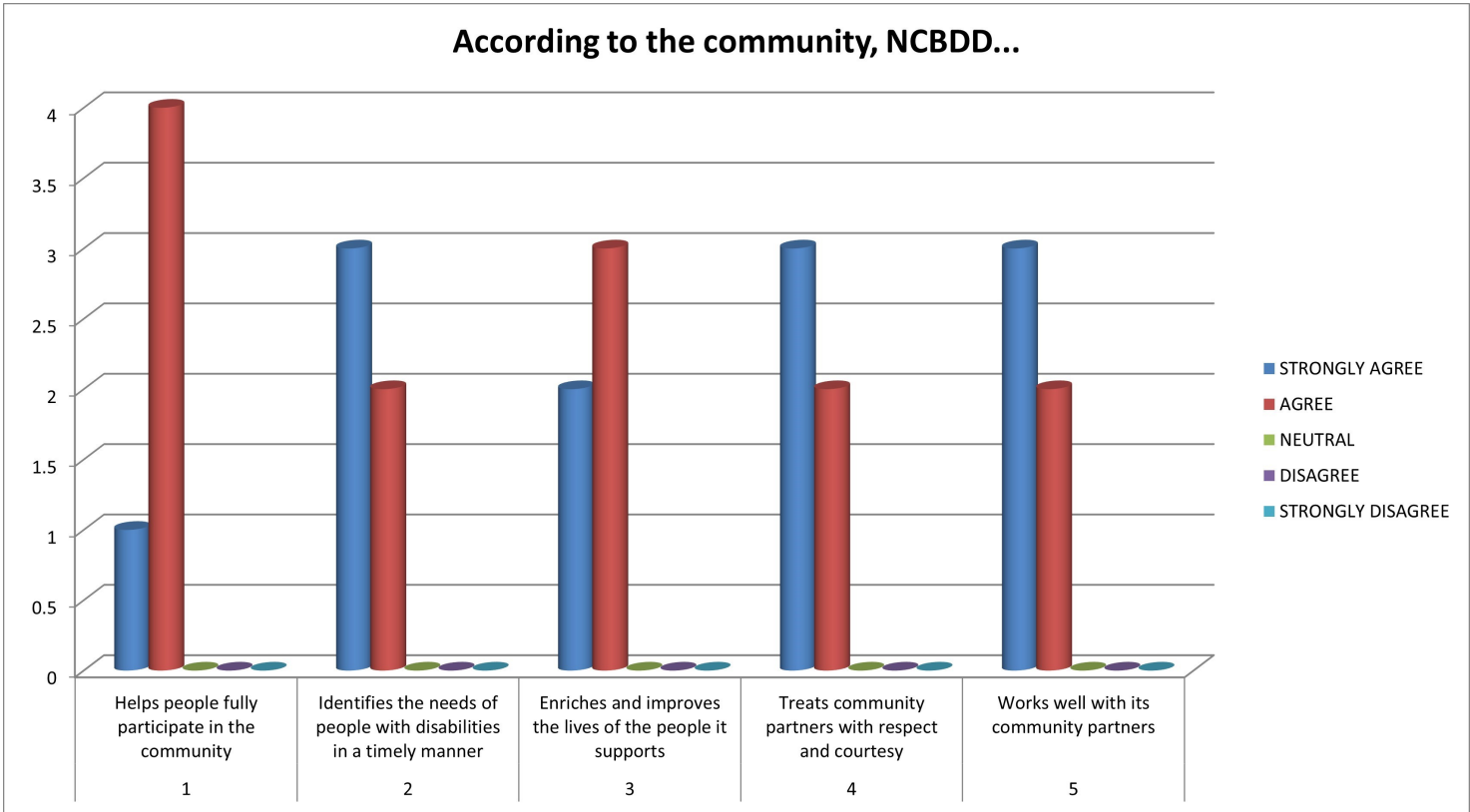
Cannot say enough good things about this great program.

Thank you for all you have and will do.

”



2023 SURVEY RESULTS



“

Keep up the good work.

Thanks for everything.

Noble DD is a great partner and advocate for people with disabilities.

Nothing at this time. Thanks!

”





2024 GOALS

EARLY INTERVENTION

- ◆ Implement an updated statewide IFSP and newly revised rules – due to be released 7/1/24
- ◆ Explore streamlining the EI intake/45day, eligibility to enrollment process. We will examine the feasibility of reducing required visits by 25 percent.
- ◆ Develop and implement a simplified child assessment tool that aligns with new rule revisions and supports, streamlining the intake process.
- ◆ Continue to expand and build upon the knowledge and resources for Developmental Specialists. Each of the new Developmental Specialists will explore areas of specialty and work with the Early Intervention Supervisor to identify training opportunities to support specialization.

HARRISON COUNTY PRESCHOOL

- ◆ Increase parent/guardian role in education, e.g. hosting literacy nights or other education/learning based activities
- ◆ Become a more integrated preschool program starting in 2024-25 SY with a 50:50 ratio
- ◆ Continue to increase our knowledge and abilities in working with students with challenging behavioral needs
- ◆ Continue to work with local districts to aid in future planning and smooth transitioning by clearly communicating our county's needs in serving preschool age children

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- ◆ Continue to work on implementing different processes for consistency and improved teaming between Community Supports, Employment Navigation, and SSA. This is to include transition of youth turning 18, parent as paid caregivers, etc.
- ◆ Create Sensory Space at the *Tomorrow's Youth Project* home with funding received through the Keeping Families Together grant
- ◆ Partnership with Kendall Behavioral Solutions to implement Sibshop groups (Sibling Support Project) using Keeping Families Together grant funding



2024 GOALS

SERVICE & SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

- Implement a consistent Wait List Assessment process with SSA and CS.
- Develop a process for requests of Parents as Paid Caregivers of Minor Children.
- Continued communication with CS and EN regarding supports/rules of SSA and how to better assist people receiving services and their families as they transition from youth to adult.
- SSA Supervisor to participate in MAP meetings – collaboration of OCALI, OOD, Schools, and County Boards on best ways to support transition age youth
- Noble County Board to collaborate with 4-H and other agencies to promote peer buddies so people with developmental differences can show animals at the Noble County Fair

QUALITY SUPPORTS DEPARTMENT

- Provide additional training throughout the year to providers for professional enhancement and development beyond required certification trainings to build their knowledge and understanding of rules and requirements
- Provide incentives through the Continuous Improvement Process to encourage providers to offer feedback to the county board on board services, increase community activities for people supported, participate in county board offered trainings, attend trainings offered by agencies throughout the state

COMMUNICATIONS and IT

- Diversify communication delivery in an effort to improve response to annual surveys.
- Collaborate with Quality Supports to create one survey that complies with Rule and meets needs
- Create a digital version of *Allies* magazine, published quarterly
- Create and distribute internal communication vehicle (From Gloria's Notepad).
- Explore use of AI to create and optimize content in internal and external communications.
- Continue to upgrade Wi-Fi in Harrison and Noble using Extreme and ensure ability to monitor from offsite
- Change from Comcast internet to Horizon to reduce costs and increase network durability
- Upgrade Noble's internet from Frontier to Spectrum, increasing network speed and reducing costs
- Launch the Resource Library across BHN Alliance
- Decommission the last remaining servers to reduce our on-premises footprint and reduce costs
- Replace remaining older laptops with upgraded computers
- Begin upgrading some of the older switches from Cisco to Extreme
- Create *Tech Tuesday*, a Beta test of an individualized training program based on user need



OUR VALUES

We value people and the choices they make for their lives.

We value the human spirit and the potential that lies within each person.

We value supports that help people live, learn, love and have a life of their choosing.

We value relationships that develop from common bonds and interests.

We value Self-Determination and its dream about life that goes beyond basic needs.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

SUPERINTENDENT GLORIA LLEWELLYN
740-695-0407, Ext. 315

DIRECTOR OF QUALITY SUPPORTS
ANGELA DUNN
740-695-0407 Ext. 346

BUSINESS MANAGER
LORI BALVIN
740-695-0407 Ext. 339

DIRECTOR OF EARLY INTERVENTION
HOLLY WEATHERSON
740-695-0407 Ext. 345

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SUPPORTS
AMANDA THARP
740-695-7433 Ext. 356

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE AND SUPPORT
AMBER CROSS
740-695-7433 Ext. 308

HARRISON PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
BRITTANY WOOD
740-942-2158 Ext. 203

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE
DALTON VAN CUREN (Belmont)
740-695-7420 Ext. 3

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
PAMELA McCORT
740-695-0407 Ext. 335

Encouraging, Supporting, and Respecting People on their Journey through Life

2024 Annual Plan Board Approved

Belmont - March 14, 2024

Harrison - March 20, 2024

Noble - March 13, 2024