

Hamilton County Task Force

Thursday, August 17, 2023

9:00–10:00 a.m.

Minutes



1. Welcome and Introductions

Elizabeth Wietmarschen, Cindy Molloy, Sadie Everett, Cate Fopma, Lauren Jones, Erica (CCA), Camilla McMahon, Jennifer Brown, April Carter

2. Spotlight Ideas

- Akron City Schools – career tracks
- CPS – Lisa Froelich (early transition planning) connect with Elizabeth W on a team to talk about program

3. Around the Region: Program Updates

- RAAC
 - RAAC Update
- Autism Connections
 - ASGC Event Calendar: <https://www.autismcincy.org/events/>
- KAA – hired an ED (mone?); looking for a replacement
 - Job info on website
 - Melodic Connections in Courtyard
 - Every day next week at lunch time (8/24-
- OCALI
 - Employment First website getting a makeover, more user friendly
 - Work should be done by end of October
 - Early Transition Planning (K-grade 5) – pilot program at CPS
- Erica – kicking off school year – started this week
 - Provide consultation to surrounding school districts
 - 56 students – up to 6 students per class, more younger kids waiting
- State Funding – Governor: update from Sadie
 - <https://governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/governor-dewine-announces-700-in-education-support-for-fall-term-for-ohioans-with-disabilities>
 - Students with disabilities eligible \$7,000/semester tuition + housing
 - Degree seeking or industry recognized certificate
 - Post-secondary students not included – TAP not eligible
 - Because they are not degree seeking

- OOD willing to provide job coaching – only used in summer as UC program provides during academic year
 - 8 programs impacted
 - 20 students in UC TAP program
 - Must be Ohio residents in Ohio program
- Heidt Center – started yesterday
 - 133 students
 - Opened 2 additional students – at capacity
 - 4 transition classrooms (1 more than last year)
 - Admissions visits for 2024-2025 school year in October
 - Special Olympics – flag football
 - Rockin at Riverfest
 - Transition Transaction sales – end of September
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4. Policy Updates

1. Proposed Increase to Social Security Income Limits

Federal Update: Proposed increase to SSI limits. Current limit for an individual is \$2,000 Proposed increase to \$10,000. Current limit for married couple is \$3,000, Proposed increase to \$20,000. *This bill has been sent to Committee in the US Senate and appears to be gaining Bipartisan support!*

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4102>

<https://www.brown.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/social-security-program-update>

- ##### 2. State Update
- OOD/Opportunities for Ohioans with a Disability has rolled put a new program / Form to be shared with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Communication Disability Verification Form (attached)

Any individual with a medically diagnosed communication disability, who drives or regularly has someone with a communication disability in their vehicle, can voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). The law enforcement officer can then be made aware that the driver or a person in the vehicle may have difficulty communicating and can approach the vehicle with awareness to reduce any potential misunderstandings or problems.

3. **Update to Appendix K Flexibilities: Parents as Paid Caregiver to Minor Children (Rule/Guidelines attached)**

Effective November 2023 DODD has proposed to make permanent the eligibility for parents or legally responsible family member to be a paid caregiver for a minor child.

- Parent must be employed by an agency (no independent providers)
- Limit to 40 hours per week
- Individual level of care must meet criteria of the Extraordinary Care Assessment Tool
- (Assessment tool, full guidelines and specifics attached)

4. **Ohio Shared Living and Respite**

- Under Appendix K, HPC could be provided during OSL.
- After November 11th, it cannot be HPC, but will have to be Residential Respite
- Rates will increase to match HPC
- HPC providers will automatically become Residential Respite certified

Details Here:

https://dodd.ohio.gov/about-us/Waiver_Redesign/Review+of+Appendix+K+Flexibilities#:~:text=To%20comply%20with%20federal%20government%20CMS%20regulations%2C%20we,specific%20purpose%20of%20providing%20temporary%20relief%20to%20caregivers.

As a related aside, I recently came across this resource on disability awareness from the American Bar Association -

<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/resources/celebrating-heritage-months/disability-pride-month/aba-wide-21-day-disability-equity-habit-building-challenge/>

5. **Training & Events**

Electronic pdfs can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/RAACflyers>

- [Children's Theatre 2023-2024 Season](#)
 - The SpongeBob Musical – October 14-23, 2023
 - Narnia the Musical – December 9-18, 2023
 - Cinderella – February 17-26, 2024
 - Finding Nemo Jr. – April 20-29, 2024

- [Cincinnati Art Museum](#)
 - Sensory Saturdays
- [iFly](#)
 - All Abilities Night
- [Ohio P2P Parent Support](#)
 - Are you interested in providing support to other families who have a loved one with a disability or special healthcare need? Please join us as we build this network. Find the flyer with more information on becoming a support parent here. Email questions or application to marion.cosgroverauch@cchmc.org
- [Ohio Special Education Response Team \(OSERT\)](#)
 - meeting 4th Wednesday of every month from 12:00–1:00 p.m.
- SALT Series and Resources
 - SALT Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SALTSouthwestOH>
 - SALT Livebinder: <https://bit.ly/SALTSWOH>
 - SALT Google Drive: <https://bit.ly/SALTTALKSGOOGLE>
 - SALT YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IRMRO59X4ISEQ7aiR3KrQ>
- DDBP Outreach Calendar
- Other

6. Next Task Force Meeting

- September 21, 2023 @ 9 a.m.
- Zoom info
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93141858216?pwd=ZFVUzVOeIBPK1lkckxpWlk0UjVadz09>
 - Meeting ID: 931 4185 8216
 - Passcode: HCRAAC