



TRANSFORMING OHIO FOR JOBS + GROWTH

2016 MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW

TRANSFORMING OHIO'S DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SYSTEM

Giving More Individuals Opportunities to Live and Work in Their Communities

Since taking office, Governor John R. Kasich has transformed Ohio's developmental disabilities system by giving more individuals the opportunity to live and work in their communities. His most recent budget made a historic investment in Ohioans with developmental disabilities, allocating nearly \$300 million in new funds. Gov. Kasich is proceeding with new reforms, strengthening the infrastructure needed to continue this historic transformation of Ohio's developmental disabilities system.

Modernizing Health Care Administration: In a home care setting, the caretaker typically has a long-term relationship with an individual; a sense of comfortability is maintained over time. And yet, these same caretakers aren't allowed to administer basic health care products. By increasing the types of medications and health care-related activities that can be administered by a direct care staff member, individuals' needs can be met in a more timely manner. The list of medications that can be administered will be updated to reflect new medications and new practices, as well as the ongoing experience of both supervisory nurses and direct care staff. These medications include inhalers, some forms of insulin, epinephrine, and over-the-counter topical treatments such as sunscreen and insect repellent. The health care-related activities include CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machines, percussion vests and compression hosiery. These medications and tasks do not require medical licenses to administer, and are fully within the capabilities of caretakers.

Improving Continuity of Service to Ensure Young Ohioans Thrive: Bureaucracy should never get in the way of the quality care our children with developmental disabilities deserve. Currently, early intervention services provided to children from birth to age three with developmental delays are administered by two separate state agencies – the Department of Health and the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). As these children grow older, they should expect and receive seamless delivery of new services. By aligning this program within a single agency -- DODD-- children in need of additional services as they grow older will experience a smooth transition of care. While the delivery of services for those children in early intervention will not change, those children who need ongoing support will have a clearer continuum of service throughout their lifetime.

BOTTOM LINE: Today more than ever, Ohioans with developmental disabilities want the opportunity to live and work in their communities. These initiatives will support the continued transformation of Ohio's developmental disabilities by ensuring continuity of care as children grow older, and making it easier for caretakers to tend to individuals' medical needs.

