

# THE EXCELLENCE NETWORK

FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP  
TO DRIVE AGENCY EXCELLENCE IN  
LICKING COUNTY



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## Meeting Minutes 6/18/21 (IN-PERSON meeting!)

- **Old Business/Updates**

- **Reminder re: communicating service changes to teams!!!** Please remember to tell the team when people's needs change and you're providing more services. If you don't, you probably can't get paid for the additional services!

- **New Business**

- **Collaborating with Licking Co. Dept. of Jobs & Family Service:** Krista Dodd joins us to answer questions and discuss how to work best with DJFS staff.
  - Information packets distributed
    - Contents reviewed
    - Includes information about applying for Medicaid, food, and cash assistance
      - [www.benefitsohio.gov](http://www.benefitsohio.gov)
      - Paper application
      - Phone application (AKA – shared services line)
        - Gets application submitted faster
    - Q: Who should documents be directed to on fax or email?
      - A: Uploaded in the person's case file, so be sure to include name, SSN, or case number to ensure gets to the right case worker for the correct client
        - Individuals are not assigned a specific caseworker, so documents are put into a generic client bank and served as staff are available
          - \*Long-term care (waivers) are a separate client bank with 3 specific caseworkers assigned
            - For anything pertaining to a person on a waiver, correspondence should be directed to:
              - Email: [Licking-LTC@ifs.ohio.gov](mailto:Licking-LTC@ifs.ohio.gov)
              - Phone: 740-670-8849, 740-670-8787, 740-670-8751
              - Do not use shared services line
          - Krista Dodd supervisor- long-term care unit



- LCBDD considering offering CB staff to take individuals to appointments
- LCBDD considering helping with childcare for DSPs
- LCBDD will pay for the DSPs to take the 60hr training to qualify for rate add-on
- LCBDD contribute to Program Coordinator position for provider agencies
- Insurance cost-sharing?
  - LC Chamber Insurance?

- **Miscellaneous**

- **Who wants to host the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting?**

**Next Mtg.**  
**Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00**  
**Location TBD!**

**DODD Updated COVID-19 Guidance and Best Practices 6/2/21**

**Ohio Department of Health Orders Rescinded**

On June 2, 2021, the [Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation Services order](#) expired and [the ICF/IID order was rescinded on April 27, 2021](#). Replacement orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are not anticipated regarding Adult Day Support (ADS), Vocational Habilitation (VH) services, or Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF) settings. Though these and other ODH orders have expired, the general public should continue to follow the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Best Practice and Guidance**

While there will no longer be any state-issued health orders in place, below is a summary of current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and CDC guidance that may apply to residential or non-residential services. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) strongly encourages providers to use the guidance documents to establish the best practices to support people in various service delivery environments. The CDC continues to recommend facial coverings for any person who is not fully vaccinated, meaning two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

**Direct Support Professionals**

[According to the CDC](#), direct support professionals (DSPs) are in the same general risk category as health care personnel. DSPs are essential for the health and well-being of the people they support. Because of this, DSPs are exempt from CDC's [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) and should follow the [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel guidance](#) which includes wearing facial coverings while working.

**Other Residential Settings**

The CDC recommends that DSPs working in a person's own home, apartment, small group homes, and smaller licensed waiver facilities should continue to use facial coverings. Providers of these services can mandate their employees wear facial coverings and people receiving services can request to be supported by someone who wears a facial covering and/or is vaccinated. People with disabilities [wrote these tips for working with support staff](#)

including wearing facial coverings. The person making the request should understand that they may need to find another provider if they are unwilling or unable to fulfill their request.

### **Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, and Adult Day Programs**

As of June 2, 2021, there will no longer be group size limitations or cohort requirements in ADS or VH settings. Providers **may choose** to keep some or all the practices included in the previous order in place at their discretion. DSPs working in ADS, VH, and adult day program settings should continue to follow CDC [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel guidance](#). The provider assurance process ended on June 2, 2021, and the [Risk/Benefit Discussion Guide](#) is no longer required but will continue to be available to help guide conversations if needed. The adult day service flexibilities, including ADS restart and STEP flexibilities and codes, will remain on the DODD website for reference until identified end dates.

### **Transportation**

DODD transportation providers are encouraged to follow the [Ohio Public Transit Association COVID 19 Guidance for Ohio Public Transit and Human Service Transportation Agencies](#) and CDC [guidance on rideshares/carpooling](#).

### **General Questions about Vaccinations**

Providers can inquire about a person or employee's vaccination status. However, DODD continues to encourage providers not to mandate or refuse to provide services for people who are not vaccinated.