

Cuyahoga DD 2023-2025 Strategic Plan Now Online

The Cuyahoga DD 2023-2025 Strategic Plan is like a roadmap we follow to do our best as a board. The plan was approved by the Cuyahoga DD Board on January 26.

Contributors to the three-year plan include Cuyahoga DD staff and Board members, people and families we serve, professional providers, and community members. This resulted in a truly collaborative process.

“We appreciate everyone’s contributions to helping us develop a plan to effectively deliver high-quality services and supports to the people and families we serve,” said Kelly Petty, Superintendent and CEO.

The four strategic goals guiding Cuyahoga DD’s work for the next three years are one word each.

Goal one is “**Serve**: Support people with the highest quality services in integrated settings.”

Goal two is “**Communicate**: Effectively communicate to individuals, families, and county residents so they understand the value of Cuyahoga DD.”

Goal three is “**Lead**: Develop innovative ways to fulfill our mission and serve individuals with developmental disabilities.”

Goal four is “**Engage**: Build a strong, proactive internal culture of employee engagement.”

Each goal has objectives that state how we plan to achieve the goal.

Visit our Cuyahoga DD 2023-2025 Strategic Plan online at <https://cuyahogabdd.org/about-us/publications/>.





CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities
1275 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44114-1129



Q2 Cuyahoga DD Board Meetings

April 27
May 25
June 22

Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Agenda and meeting information can be found on our website: www.CuyahogaBDD.org

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

Cuyahoga DD is off to a great start for 2023! We are working toward the goals we developed for our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan (more details can be found in this edition of News, Views & Notes and on our website). Our work will focus on four key themes: *serve, communicate, lead, and engage*.

I am pleased to share that Cuyahoga DD recently achieved a three-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). This is the best result a county board can receive. DODD visited us in early March and learned about the many exciting new programs we developed since the last accreditation cycle in 2020, including our Intensive Support Teams and our TryTech Apartments.

Finally, as this is my final News, Views & Notes before I retire at the end of this month, I would like to say thank you. Working with you – the people and families we support at Cuyahoga DD – has significantly impacted my life. I am so grateful for the time I spent working with you to make Cuyahoga County a better, more inclusive place for people with developmental disabilities.

The future is bright at Cuyahoga DD and in Cuyahoga County. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Superintendent & CEO.



Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO

Marcus Funds Skating Lessons with Family Supports Program Dollars

It's not too late to sign up for the Family Supports Program, which can fund activities, camps, and respite care for certain people who receive services from Cuyahoga DD.

In February 2023, Family Supports Program participant Marcus T. became the first figure skater to compete in the Adaptive group at the Ohio Figure Skating High School Championship at Thornton Park in Shaker Heights. He skated that competition with the West Side Blades high-school team. In the weeks following, Marcus skated at the Cleveland Monsters halftime show with his Brooklyn Blades on Ice Performance Ensemble.

In March, Marcus passed his first USFSA Adaptive skating test. Then, at the Skating for Skills Competition, the Performance Ensemble received a silver medal for their number.

Marcus started competing in 2017, but just recently learned of the adaptive events and test opportunities.

Marcus is practicing now for:

April 28-29, 2023: Brooklyn Ice Show (Brooklyn OH Rec Center)
May 19-21, 2023: North Olmsted Ice Show (North Olmsted, OH Rec Center)
June 26-30, 2023: Theatre on Ice National Championship (Fraser, Michigan)

Marcus and his family are thankful for everyone who helped him on his skating journey, including his team coaches and directors and private coach, and his grandparents for driving him and his family to practices.

Marcus's Learn to Skate classes are paid for by the taxpayer-funded Cuyahoga DD Family Supports Program. It's not too late to apply for Family Supports Program funding: call Cuyahoga DD today for more information.

Lending Libraries Help People Achieve Their Goals

Cuyahoga DD has two lending libraries: a technology library and one with items that support activities of daily living. People who are eligible for Cuyahoga DD may borrow equipment for a short period of time, either to address a short-term need or for while they wait for their similar purchased equipment to arrive. Some recent library additions help to promote self-calming and regulation through soothing visual input.

Ask the Cuyahoga DD staff member who supports you if one of these items could help you at home.

Bubble Tubes: Available in tabletop, floor and wall-mounted models, each bubble tube provides multisensory feedback to stimulate the visual and tactile systems to help create a sense of calm and relaxation. It enables focus and the development of attention.

Lighted Touch Tiles: These Tap-Tap LED Lights change color when manipulated and can help the user refocus and make patterns.

Weighted Toys: A weighted bulldog puppy has joined our full-size weighted bulldog and vibrating ladybug. The new weighted puppy weighs two pounds and is helpful for building muscle tone, strength, and calm.

Smart Plug: New smart plugs integrate with Alexa and Google Home devices to help with tasks like turning lights on and off.

Standing Floor Lantern: This lovely, tall tower changes colors with a soft glow for calming visual input.

Tabletop Projector: With eight soothing sounds to help with relaxation, the tabletop projector creates a calming visual atmosphere for any space, including the bedroom, to promote self-calming and help with sleep.



Cuyahoga DD Partners with Floreo on Meta Grant

As one of Floreo's first customers, Cuyahoga DD was asked to partner on their research grant from Meta (parent company of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger, and Meta Quest) to learn about how virtual reality (VR) is used by educators. They hope to improve VR's usefulness and experience as a teaching tool for both teachers and learners.

"For the study, each participating Cuyahoga DD Behavior Curriculum Intervention Specialist (BCIS) selects one person on their caseload. They use Floreo modules specifically tailored to that person's individual goals. For example, an impulsive child might work specifically with the modules designed to address impulsivity," said Kelly Rainey, Special Instruction Manager.

During a typical session, an individual wears the Oculus headset and the BCIS staff are the coach. The coach uses an iPad synched to the Oculus headset to watch the tracking module, coach in real time, and gauge effectiveness simultaneously with the individual. Researchers can also review the sessions in the Floreo portal. After collecting session data and interpreting results, interviewers meet with the BCIS staff to discuss the success of each session and lessons learned.

At the beginning and end of Cuyahoga DD's portion of the study (January – June 30, 2023), interviewers will ask in-home Floreo practitioners if and how the module is effective for the learner. From July – December, they will ask similar questions to in-school Floreo practitioners. Project results and reports are expected in early 2024. Cuyahoga DD will be identified as a partner in the study.

Because Cuyahoga DD received ten Oculus sets for participation in the study, and an additional 10 sets to trial, the original Floreo sets as well as 10 Oculus sets will be available in the Lending Library to selected families starting this month. Please contact Alisa Jones, IST administrator, for details at jones.alisa@cuyahogabdd.org.