



PERRY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

www.PerryDD.org

David C. Couch, Superintendent

Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities Emergency Preparedness Plan: Coronavirus (COVID-19) *Updated Communication for Plans of Action*

April 13, 2020

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Amy Acton recently signed an Amended Stay-At-Home Order that remains in effect through May 1, 2020. The order directed people to stay at home unless engaged in essential work or activity. The functions and operations of the Perry County Board of Developmental Disabilities are essential and PCBDD staff continue to work remotely with very few reporting physically to PCBDD facilities. PCBDD has plans in place to comply with the order, exercise social distancing, and connect virtually with people and families to continue to carry out services and supports.

To ensure we are taking reasonable steps to protect the people we support, their families, and our employees, these protocols and procedures will remain in effect until further notice.

We encourage you to take precautions and continue to monitor the situation as new information is released. For more information about COVID-19 please access online resources by visiting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or www.odh.ohio.gov.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please feel free to connect with me directly at 740-684-0624 or by email at d.couch@perrydd.org. Our staff directory and contact information can be found by accessing our website at www.PerryDD.org. To report someone with a disability being abused or neglected, please call 740-605-7746.

Stay well,

David C. Couch
Superintendent

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AGENCY UPDATES

Information on what we are doing and how to get help during the COVID-19 pandemic:

As of 4/6/2020:

Operations:

PCBDD has implemented an emergency operations plan. At this time, staff continue to work remotely from home with regular supervisor check-ins conducted by video chat. Most staff have work cell phones and are readily available by phone and email during active working hours, just as they would be if they were working in the office. Staff may report to the building to pick up supplies. There is at least one staff working in each building during normal business hours, but not more than three. These staff are asked to take their temperature prior to entering the building and are asked to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer once they have entered the building and before leaving for the day. Please visit www.PerryDD.org to access our staff directory. PCBDD Board members are kept up to date about any impacts or changes in our operations.

Services and Supports:

All April events, training, and meetings were postponed or cancelled. We continue to consider what meetings can be held virtually or by phone. We are looking forward to May events, but no decisions have been finalized yet. All out-of-county staff travel has been suspended. We are currently not scheduling events at our Community Connections Center.

We continue to communicate regularly with local providers about their needs and what immediate areas of care may be necessary and vital for the people they are directly supporting.

All PCBDD staff continue to work on the Strategic Plan and focus efforts on initiatives such as: community employment, waitlist, provider supports, non-traditional funding options, Baldrige, leadership, and expanding technology.

COVID-19 Education and Support:

Resources and information are available to the community on our Website and Facebook page and to staff on an internal shared drive. Department Directors are updated about daily briefings from the Perry County Health Department and Governor Mike DeWine. The Perry County Health Department and the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD have been instrumental in providing the necessary education and resources. Department Directors meet twice weekly to discuss growing concerns and rapidly changing responses and impacts as the virus evolves.

Staff at PCBDD are doing their part to flatten the curve by adhering to the following guidance and directives from local, state, and federal officials:

- We are physically and socially distant from others.
- We regularly sanitize and disinfect work and common areas.
- We encourage everyone to appropriately and regularly wash their hands.
- We have hand sanitizing stations in our lobby areas and set up throughout our buildings.
- We support people who wish to stay home when it's not essential for them to be out.
- We recommend for staff not to work if they have even the slightest onset of illness or symptom.
- We hope to inspire others to do their part to flatten the curve.