

# An overview of policy initiatives influencing changes in Ohio's DD system



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y  
Board of Developmental Disabilities

# Policy Initiatives Influencing Change

## The Olmstead Decision (1999)

People with disabilities have the right to receive services in the community.

## Employment First (2012)

Community employment shall be a priority and the preferred outcome for working-age Ohioans with disabilities.

## CMS Rules (2014)

Conflict-free case management;  
Service settings must be “community based.”

CMS = Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



# The Olmstead Decision: Community Integration for Everyone

- The most important civil rights decision for people with disabilities.
- “Integration mandate” of the ADA requires public agencies to provide services “in the most integrated setting.”



I work full-time out in the community and volunteer for Meals-on-Wheels and at a local senior center. People ask where I am if I can't make it to the center. With the support of my co-workers and boss, I lost 100 pounds! I like to go on walks in my neighborhood and work out at the local gym.



# Employment First

Ohio's executive order that promotes employment as the *preferred and priority* option for working-age Ohioans with disabilities.

Employment First means that individuals with DD who are of working-age should be exploring a pathway to employment.

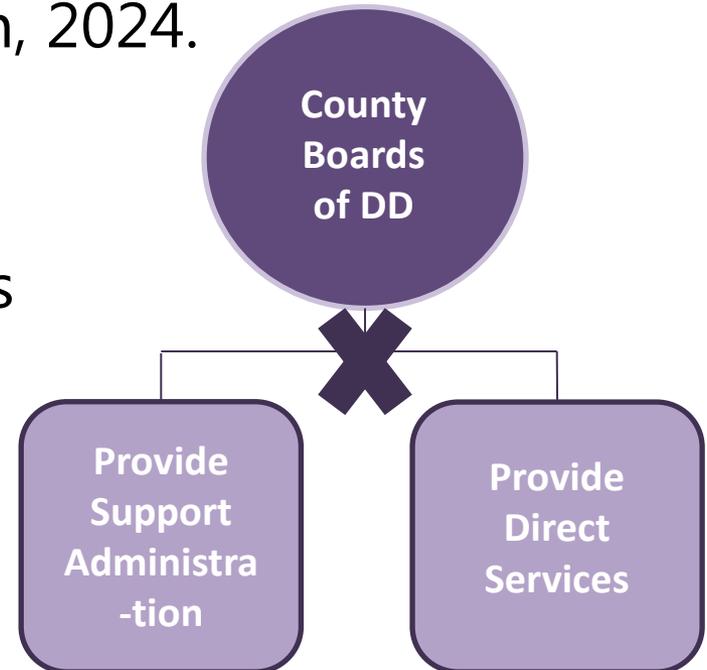
45 states have initiatives similar to OH's Employment First.



# CMS Rule:

## Conflict-Free Case Management

- County boards of DD cannot both *administer* and *provide* services; CMS views this as a conflict.
- June 2015, DoDD negotiated with CMS a 10-year transition for Ohio to come into compliance with this rule; Deadline: March, 2024.
- This Rule impacts:
  - Adult services
  - Employment services
  - Transportation



# CMS Rule:

## Home and Community-Based Services Settings

This Rule applies to residential and nonresidential settings, including workshops and day programs.

<b>What the rule means</b>	<b>What the rule DOES NOT mean</b>
People have greater opportunities to try new things.	Everybody is required to work in the community.
People are able to make informed choices about employment and activities in the community they may enjoy.	Individuals cannot spend time during the day with other people with developmental disabilities.
People may get a job in the community and/or participate in other community-based activities based on their interests and level of involvement.	When not working in the community, no other day program options will be available.
People who do not want to receive waiver services in disability-specific settings (like workshops, day programs or group homes) cannot be made to do so.	People are required to spend a specific amount of time in or participate in a certain number of community-based activities each day/week/month.

