



# Navigating Supports and Services: A Guide for Ohio Youth with Disabilities & Their Families

Presenter: Ellis Cliff  
ecliff@disabilityrightsohio.org



[www.disabilityrightsohio.org](http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org)

# Disability Rights Ohio

- Non-profit corporation whose mission is to advocate for an equitable Ohio for people with disabilities
- Ohio's designated Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program for people with disabilities
- Directed by people with lived disability experiences

# Eligibility for Our Services

- People with disabilities
- No income requirement
- Clients are not charged for services
- Contact our Intake Department to request help by calling, or applying online:
  - 614-466-7264, option 2
  - 800-282-9181, option 2
  - [disabilityrightsohio.org/intake-form](https://disabilityrightsohio.org/intake-form)

# What We Do

- Annual goals and objectives identify issues we work on
- Systemic and individual advocacy
- Fiscal Year 2024 goals and objectives include improving access and quality services for youth with disabilities

# Today's Topic

We will be talking today about what services and supports could be available for children with the following needs:

- Developmental Disabilities
- Behavioral Health (through OhioRISE)
- Mental Health

I will provide a broad overview of services, eligibility requirements and how to connect to each resource.

# Developmental Disabilities

A “developmental disability” is a severe, chronic disability that is characterized by all of the following:

- Mental and/or physical impairment not caused solely by mental illness
- Manifests before age 22
- Likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in developmental delays or **substantial functional limitations** in major life activities
  - Age-dependent
- Care, treatment, or services are needed for extended time

# What are Qualifying Developmental Disabilities?

Acceptable diagnoses made by a qualified professional could include, but are not limited to:

- Aids
- Amputation
- Aphasia or Dysphasia
- Autism
- ADHD
- Cancer
- Cerebral Palsy
- Circulatory Conditions
- Clubfoot
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)
- Hemiparesis
- Hemophilia
- Huntington's
- Hydrocephalus
- Juvenile Arthritis
- Learning Disability
- Lesh-Nyhan
- Lung Disease,
- Developmental Disability (specify level)
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Osteogenesis Imperfecta
- Prader-Willi
- Rett's Syndrome
- Severe Cardiac Conditions
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Speech/Language Disorders
- Spina Bifida
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Stroke
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Traumatic Brain Injury occurring before age 22
- Tuberous Sclerosis
- Usher's Syndrome

# Developmental Delays and Substantial Functional Limitations

- Ages 0-6: focus is on developmental delays
- Ages 6+: need substantial functional limitations in at least 3 of the following 7 areas of functioning:
  - Mobility
  - Self Care
  - Self Direction
  - Capacity for Independent Living
  - Economic Self Sufficiency (for age 16 and up)
  - Learning
  - Receptive and expressive language



# DD Service System

Overseen on state and county levels

- **State:** Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)

DODD's website identifies its mission as:

- Offering support across the lifespan of people with developmental disabilities
  - Overseeing a statewide system of supportive services that focus on ensuring health and safety, supporting access to community participation, and increasing opportunities for meaningful employment.
- **County:** County boards of dd

# County Boards of DD

- Each Ohio county has a designated county board of developmental disabilities
- County boards provide:
  - Assessments
  - Service planning and coordination
  - Oversight and assistance to service providers

# Examples of Services County Boards of DD Can Coordinate

- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Community & Residential Respite
- Remote Supports
- Transportation
- Specialized Medical Equipment & Supplies
- Assistive Technology
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Community Transition

# Next Steps:

## Contact Your Local County Board

Individuals with developmental disabilities needing services and supports should apply to the county board in the county where they live

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/county-boards/all-county-boards-resources/4-find-your-county-board>

# Behavioral Health Services: OhioRISE

- OhioRISE is a relatively new state program that provides in-home and community-based services for youth who require significant behavioral health supports.
- OhioRISE may be beneficial for youth who:
  - Have multiple needs that result from behavioral health challenges
  - Have multisystem needs, or are at risk for deeper system involvement, or
  - Are at risk of out-of-home placement or are returning to their families from out-of-home placement

# What Does OhioRISE cover?

- Intensive and Moderate Care Coordination
- Improved Intensive Home-Based Treatment
- Behavioral Health Respite
- Primary Flex Funds (up to \$1,500 per year)
- Mobile Response and Stabilization Services
  - More on MRSS later

# OhioRISE Eligibility Requirements

- Age 0-20
- Eligible for Ohio Medicaid
  - Either managed care or fee-for-service
- Require significant behavioral health treatment needs
  - Measured using the Ohio Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.

# OhioRISE HCBS Medicaid Waiver

- Additional eligibility requirements
  - Intended for youth with the greatest needs
- Home and community-based services, including
  - Out-of-home respite
  - Transitional services and supports
  - Secondary flex funds
  - Mental health and substance abuse disorder care
    - Managed care program
  - Physical health services and pharmacy coverage
    - Managed care and fee-for-service programs



# How does a child or youth enroll in OhioRISE?

- Most children and youth will be enrolled if they are found eligible through the completion of a CANS assessment
- If a CANS assessment indicates a child or youth is eligible for OhioRISE, their enrollment is **mandatory**. A parent can request a disenrollment for Just Cause if they do not want the child to be enrolled.
- A CANS assessment can be scheduled with a certified CANS assessor.

# Next Steps:

## Schedule a CANS assessment

The following organizations can be contacted for more information on scheduling a CANS assessment:

- Medicaid Consumer Hotline:
  - 1-800-324-8680 (TTY: 711)
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio:
  - 1-833-711-0773
- A child or youth's managed care organization, if they are enrolled in managed care,
- A Care Management Entity in your community
- A behavioral health provider

# Mental Health Services

## State and County

- **State:** Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)
- **County:** Commonly referred to as ADAMH or ADAMHS boards

## Mental health services have been

- Historically underfunded
- Often hard to access for youth with “Serious and persistent mental illness” labels

# County ADAMH Boards

- All 88 counties are covered, but some boards are multi-county in scope
- Plan, evaluate and fund mental health and addiction services locally
- Find yours:

<https://www.oacbha.org/mappage.php>

# Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Resources

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources.

- Call 988
- Chat with someone at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)

# Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS)

MRSS is a rapid mobile response and stabilization services available in some counties

- Intended for people under 21 who are **experiencing significant behavioral or emotional distress**
- Assistance can be received within 60 minutes
  - Available 24/7
- Eligibility for up to 42 days of intensive, in-home services and connection to ongoing supports
- Services at home, school, local ED, other community location
- Interventions designed to maintain existing living arrangements and to stabilize behavioral needs.

# What Counts as a MRSS Crisis?

Any family-defined crisis

Non-exhaustive list includes:

- Escalating emotional or behavioral issues
- Addiction and substance abuse
- School truancy
- Parent/child or caregiver/child conflict
- Mental health issues
- Physical and emotional trauma
- Running away from home
- Suicidal ideation

# Next Steps: Mental Health

- Contact OhioMHAS
- Contact county ADAMH board
- Call 988
- Contact MRSS



# Additional Mental Health Resources

## General Resources

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>
- National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI): <https://www.nami.org/Home>
- Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis: <https://mha.ohio.gov/get-help/treatment-services/get-help-early>

## For LGBTQIA youth

- The Trevor Project: [www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/](http://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/)
- TransOhio Care Connect Warm Line: 866-708-6446 (call or text)

# Questions?

Contact info:

**Ellis Cliff** | Staff Attorney

[ecliff@disabilityrightsohio.org](mailto:ecliff@disabilityrightsohio.org)

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