



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5123-4-02 Service and support administration.

Effective: [March 30, 2023](#)

(A) Purpose

This rule defines the responsibilities of a county board of developmental disabilities for service and support administration and establishes a process for individuals who receive service and support administration to have an identified service and support administrator who is the primary point of coordination.

(B) Definitions

For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Alternative services" has the same meaning as in rule 5123-9-04 of the Administrative Code.
- (2) "Assessment" means the individualized process of gathering comprehensive information concerning the individual's preferences, desired outcomes, needs, interests, abilities, health status, and other available supports.
- (3) "Budget for services" means the projected cost of implementing the individual service plan regardless of funding source.
- (4) "County board" means a county board of developmental disabilities.
- (5) "Department" means the Ohio department of developmental disabilities.
- (6) "Home and community-based services waiver" means a medicaid waiver administered by the department in accordance with section 5166.21 of the Revised Code.
- (7) "Individual" means a person with a developmental disability.



(8) "Individual service plan" means the written description of services, supports, and activities to be provided to an individual.

(9) "Intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities" has the same meaning as in section 5124.01 of the Revised Code.

(10) "Natural supports" means the personal associations and relationships typically developed in the community that enhance the quality of life for individuals. Natural supports may include family members, friends, neighbors, and others in the community or organizations that serve the general public who provide voluntary support to help an individual achieve agreed upon outcomes through the individual service plan development.

(11) "Ohio individual service plan" means the web-based information technology platform created and maintained by the department used to carry out the person-centered process for assessing and planning with Ohioans with developmental disabilities and includes an information technology platform maintained by a county board or an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities to manage, store, and electronically exchange information with the department's web-based information technology platform.

(12) "Person-centered planning" means an ongoing process directed by an individual and others chosen by the individual to identify the individual's unique strengths, interests, abilities, preferences, resources, and desired outcomes as they relate to the individual's support needs.

(13) "Primary point of coordination" means the identified service and support administrator who is responsible to an individual for the effective development, implementation, and coordination of the individual service plan.

(14) "Service and support administration" means the duties performed by a service and support administrator pursuant to section 5126.15 of the Revised Code.

(15) "Service and support administrator" means a person, regardless of title, employed by or under contract with a county board to perform the functions of service and support administration and who



holds the appropriate certification in accordance with rule 5123:2-5-02 of the Administrative Code.

(16) "Team" means the group of persons chosen by the individual with the core responsibility to support the individual in directing development of the individual service plan. The team includes the individual's guardian or adult whom the individual has identified, as applicable, the service and support administrator, direct support professionals, providers, licensed or certified professionals, and any other persons chosen by the individual to help the individual consider possibilities and make decisions.

(C) Decision-making responsibility

(1) Each individual, including an individual who has been adjudicated incompetent pursuant to Chapter 2111. of the Revised Code, has the right to participate in decisions that affect the individual's life and to have what is important to the individual and what is important for the individual supported.

(2) An individual for whom a guardian has not been appointed shall make decisions regarding receipt of a service or support or participation in a program provided for or funded under Chapter 5123., 5124., or 5126. of the Revised Code. The individual may obtain support and guidance from another person; doing so does not affect the right of the individual to make decisions.

(3) An individual for whom a guardian has not been appointed may, in accordance with section 5126.043 of the Revised Code, authorize an adult (who may be referred to as a "chosen representative") to make a decision described in paragraph (C)(2) of this rule on behalf of the individual as long as the adult does not have a financial interest in the decision. The authorization will be made in writing.

(4) When a guardian has been appointed for an individual, the guardian shall make a decision described in paragraph (C)(2) of this rule on behalf of the individual within the scope of the guardian's authority. This paragraph will not be construed to compel appointment of a guardian.

(5) An adult or guardian who makes a decision pursuant to paragraph (C)(3) or (C)(4) of this rule shall make a decision that is in the best interest of the individual on whose behalf the decision is



made and that is consistent with what is important to the individual, what is important for the individual, and the individual's desired outcomes.

(D) Provision of service and support administration

(1) A county board shall provide service and support administration to:

(a) An individual, regardless of age or eligibility for county board services, who is applying for or enrolled in a home and community-based services waiver;

(b) An individual three years of age or older who is eligible for county board services and requests, or a person on the individual's behalf requests pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule, service and support administration; and

(c) An individual residing in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities who requests, or a person on the individual's behalf requests pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule, assistance to move from the facility to a community setting.

(2) A county board shall provide service and support administration in accordance with the requirements of section 5126.15 of the Revised Code.

(3) An individual who is eligible for service and support administration in accordance with paragraph (D)(1) of this rule and requests, or a person on the individual's behalf requests pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule, service and support administration shall receive service and support administration and shall not be placed on a waiting list for service and support administration.

(E) Determination of eligibility for county board services

Service and support administrators shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the department, determine individuals' eligibility for county board services. A county board may assign responsibility for eligibility determination to a service and support administrator who does not perform other service and support administration functions; in such a case, results of the eligibility determination will be shared with the service and support administrator who is the primary point of



coordination for the individual in order to ensure coordination of services and supports. Results of the eligibility determination will be shared in a timely manner with the individual and the individual's guardian, and/or the adult whom the individual has identified, as applicable.

(F) Primary point of coordination

(1) A county board shall identify a service and support administrator for each individual receiving service and support administration who will be the primary point of coordination for the individual. An individual shall be given the opportunity to request a different service and support administrator from the county board.

(2) With the active participation of the individual and members of the team, the service and support administrator shall perform the following duties:

(a) Initially, and at least every twelve months thereafter, coordinate assessment of the individual.

(i) The assessment will take into consideration:

(a) What is important to the individual to promote satisfaction and achievement of desired outcomes;

(b) What is important for the individual to maintain health and welfare;

(c) Known and likely risks;

(d) The individual's place on the path to community employment; and

(e) The individual's skills and abilities.

(ii) The assessment will identify supports that promote the individual's:

(a) Communication (expressing oneself and understanding others);

(b) Advocacy and engagement (valued roles and making choices; responsibility and leadership);



- (c) Safety and security (safety and emergency skills; behavioral well-being; emotional well-being; supervision considerations);
 - (d) Social and spirituality (personal networks, activities, and faith; friends and relationships);
 - (e) Daily life and employment (school and education; employment; finance);
 - (f) Community living (life at home; getting around); and
 - (g) Healthy living (medical and dental care; nutrition; wellness).
- (b) Using person-centered planning, develop, review, and revise the individual service plan and ensure that the individual service plan:
- (i) Reflects results of the assessment.
 - (ii) Includes services and supports that:
 - (a) Ensure health and welfare;
 - (b) Assist the individual to engage in meaningful and productive activities;
 - (c) Support community connections and networking with persons or groups including persons with disabilities and others;
 - (d) Assist the individual to improve self-advocacy skills and increase the individual's opportunities to participate in advocacy activities, to the extent desired by the individual;
 - (e) Ensure achievement of outcomes that are important to the individual and outcomes that are important for the individual and address the balance of and any conflicts between what is important to the individual and what is important for the individual;



- (f) Address identified risks and include supports to prevent or minimize risks;
- (iii) Integrates all sources of services and supports, including natural supports and alternative services, available to meet the individual's needs and desired outcomes;
- (iv) Reflects services and supports that are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care;
and
- (v) Is updated throughout the year.
- (c) Establish a recommendation for and obtain approval of the budget for services based on the individual's assessed needs and preferred ways of meeting those needs.
- (d) Through objective facilitation, assist the individual in choosing providers by:
 - (i) Ensuring that the individual is given the opportunity to select providers from all willing and qualified providers in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations including rule 5123-9-11 of the Administrative Code; and
 - (ii) Assisting the individual as necessary to work with providers to resolve concerns involving a provider or direct support professionals who are assigned to work with the individual.
- (e) Secure commitments from providers to support the individual in achievement of the individual's desired outcomes.
- (f) Verify by signature and date that prior to implementation each individual service plan:
 - (i) Indicates the provider, frequency, and funding source for each service and support; and
 - (ii) Specifies which provider will deliver each service or support across all settings.
- (g) Establish and maintain contact with providers as frequently as necessary to ensure that each provider is trained on the individual service plan and has a clear understanding of the expectations



and desired outcomes of the supports being provided.

(h) Establish and maintain contact with natural supports as frequently as necessary to ensure that natural supports are available and meeting desired outcomes as indicated in the individual service plan.

(i) Facilitate effective communication and coordination among the individual and members of the team by ensuring that the individual and each member of the team has a copy of the current individual service plan unless otherwise directed by the individual, the individual's guardian, or the adult whom the individual has identified, as applicable. The individual and the individual's providers shall receive a copy of the individual service plan at least fifteen calendar days in advance of implementation unless extenuating circumstances make fifteen-day advance copy impractical and with agreement by the individual and the individual's providers.

(i) A member of the team who becomes aware that revisions to the individual service plan are indicated shall notify the service and support administrator.

(ii) A member of the team may disagree with any provision in the individual service plan at any time. All dissenting opinions will be specifically noted in writing and attached to the individual service plan.

(j) Provide ongoing individual service plan coordination to ensure services and supports are provided in accordance with the individual service plan and to the benefit and satisfaction of the individual.

Ongoing individual service plan coordination will:

(i) Occur with the active participation of the individual and members of the team;

(ii) Focus on achievement of the desired outcomes of the individual;

(iii) Balance what is important to the individual and what is important for the individual;

(iv) Examine service satisfaction (i.e., what is working for the individual and what is not working);
and



- (v) Use the individual service plan as the fundamental tool to ensure the health and welfare of the individual.
- (k) Review and revise the individual service plan at least every twelve months and more frequently under the following circumstances:
- (i) At the request of the individual or a member of the team, in which case revisions to the individual service plan will occur within thirty calendar days of the request;
 - (ii) Whenever the individual's assessed needs, situation, circumstances, or status changes;
 - (iii) If the individual chooses a new provider or type of service or support;
 - (iv) As a result of reviews conducted in accordance with paragraph (F)(2)(q) of this rule;
 - (v) Identified trends and patterns of unusual incidents or major unusual incidents; and
 - (vi) When services are reduced, denied, or terminated by the department or the Ohio department of medicaid.
- (l) Take the following actions with regard to medicaid services:
- (i) Explain to the individual, in conjunction with the process of recommending eligibility and/or assisting the individual in making application for enrollment in a home and community-based services waiver or any other medicaid service, and in accordance with rules adopted by the department:
 - (a) Alternative services available to the individual;
 - (b) The individual's due process and appeal rights; and
 - (c) The individual's right to choose any qualified and willing provider.



- (ii) Explain to the individual, at the time the individual is being recommended for enrollment in a home and community-based services waiver:
- (a) Choice of enrollment in a home and community-based services waiver as an alternative to residing in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and
 - (b) Services and supports funded by a home and community-based services waiver.
- (iii) Provide an individual with written notification and explanation of the individual's right to a medicaid state hearing if the individual service plan process results in a recommendation for the approval, reduction, denial, or termination of services funded by a home and community-based services waiver. Notice will be provided in accordance with section 5101.35 of the Revised Code.
- (iv) Make a recommendation to the department, in accordance with rule 5123-8-01 of the Administrative Code, as to whether the individual meets the criteria for a developmental disabilities level of care.
- (v) Explain to an individual whose individual service plan includes services funded by a home and community-based services waiver or other medicaid services that the services are subject to approval by the department and the Ohio department of medicaid. If the department or the Ohio department of medicaid approves, reduces, denies, or terminates services funded by a home and community-based services waiver or other medicaid services included in an individual service plan, the service and support administrator shall communicate with the individual about this action.
- (m) Provide an individual with written notification and explanation of the individual's right to use the administrative resolution of complaint process set forth in rule 5123-4-04 of the Administrative Code if the individual service plan process results in the reduction, denial, or termination of a service other than a service funded by a home and community-based services waiver or targeted case management services. Such written notice and explanation will also be provided to an individual if the individual service plan process results in an approved service that the individual does not want to receive, but is necessary to ensure the individual's health, safety, and welfare. Notice will be provided in accordance with rule 5123-4-04 of the Administrative Code.



- (n) Advise members of the team of their right to file a complaint in accordance with rule 5123-4-04 of the Administrative Code.
- (o) Retain responsibility for all decision-making regarding service and support administration functions and the communication of any such decisions to the individual.
- (p) Take actions necessary to remediate any immediate concerns regarding the individual's health and welfare.
- (q) Implement a continuous review process to ensure that individual service plans are developed and implemented in accordance with this rule.
 - (i) The continuous review process will be tailored to the individual and based on information provided by the individual and the team.
 - (ii) The scope, type, and frequency of reviews will be specified in the individual service plan and include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Face-to-face visits, occurring at a time and place convenient for the individual, at least annually or more frequently as needed by the individual; and
 - (b) Contact via phone, email, or other appropriate means as needed.
 - (iii) The frequency of reviews may be increased when:
 - (a) The individual has intensive behavioral support or medical needs;
 - (b) The individual has an interruption of services of more than thirty calendar days;
 - (c) The individual encounters a crisis or multiple less serious but destabilizing events within a three-month period;



- (d) The individual has transitioned from an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities to a community setting within the past twelve months;
- (e) The individual has transitioned to a new provider of homemaker/personal care or participant-directed homemaker/personal care within the past twelve months;
- (f) The individual receives services from a provider that has been notified of the department's intent to suspend or revoke the provider's certification or license; or
- (g) Requested by the individual, the individual's guardian, or the adult whom the individual has identified, as applicable.
- (iv) The service and support administrator shall share results of reviews in a timely manner with the individual, the individual's guardian, and/or the adult whom the individual has identified, as applicable, and the individual's providers, as appropriate.
- (v) If the continuous review process indicates areas of non-compliance with standards for providers of services funded by a home and community-based services waiver, the county board shall conduct a provider compliance review in accordance with rule 5123-2-04 of the Administrative Code.

(G) Emergency response system

The county board shall, in coordination with the provision of service and support administration, make an on-call emergency response system available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week to provide immediate response to an unanticipated event that requires an immediate change in an individual's existing situation and/or individual service plan to ensure health and safety. Persons who are available for the on-call emergency response system shall:

- (1) Provide emergency response directly or through immediate linkage with the service and support administrator who is the primary point of coordination for the individual or with the primary provider;
- (2) Be trained and have the skills to identify the problem, determine what immediate response is



needed to alleviate the emergency and ensure health and welfare, and identify and contact persons to take the needed action;

(3) Notify the providers and the service and support administrator who is the primary point of coordination for the individual to ensure adequate follow-up;

(4) Notify the county board's investigative agent as determined necessary by the nature of the emergency; and

(5) Document the emergency in accordance with county board procedures.

(H) Records

(1) Paper or electronic records will be maintained for individuals receiving service and support administration and include, at a minimum:

(a) Identifying data;

(b) Information identifying guardianship, other adult whom the individual has identified, trusteeship, or protectorship;

(c) Date of request for services from the county board;

(d) Evidence of eligibility for county board services;

(e) Assessment information relevant for services and the individual service plan process for supports and services;

(f) Current individual service plan;

(g) Current budget for services;

(h) Documentation that the individual exercised freedom of choice in the provider selection process;



- (i) Documentation of unusual incidents;
 - (j) Major unusual incident investigation summary reports;
 - (k) The name of the service and support administrator;
 - (l) Emergency information;
 - (m) Personal financial information, when appropriate;
 - (n) Release of information and consent forms;
 - (o) Case notes which include coordination of services and supports and continuous review process activities; and
 - (p) Documentation that the individual was afforded due process in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule, including but not limited to, appropriate prior notice of any action to deny, reduce, or terminate services and an opportunity for a hearing.
- (2) When the county board uses electronic record keeping and electronic signatures, the county board shall establish policies and procedures for verifying and maintaining such records.
- (I) Due process
- Due process will be afforded to each individual receiving service and support administration pursuant to section 5101.35 of the Revised Code for services funded by a home and community-based services waiver and targeted case management services or pursuant to rule 5123-4-04 of the Administrative Code for services other than services funded by a home and community-based services waiver and targeted case management services.
- (J) Department monitoring and technical assistance



The department will monitor compliance with this rule by county boards. Technical assistance, as determined necessary by the department, will be provided upon request and through regional and statewide trainings.

(K) Ohio department of medicaid monitoring of targeted case management services

The Ohio department of medicaid retains final authority to monitor the provision of targeted case management services in accordance with rule 5160-48-01 of the Administrative Code.

(L) Transition to Ohio individual service plan

The use of Ohio individual service plan to capture assessments and individual service plans by June 30, 2024 is required only for individuals enrolled in home and community-based services waivers.