

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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INDEPENDENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

POLICY

Independent service providers are Medicaid waiver service providers that are not an agency and do not have any employees. They are one person chosen as a provider of service. Independent providers have to be certified through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to deliver waiver-funded services.

Independent service providers can be used to deliver a variety of different waiver services and have the same service documentation requirements as an agency provider. Independent providers are a part of the free choice of provider process and are an option for any service they are willing, able, and certified to perform.

Independent providers are not employees of any agency, including a county board of developmental disabilities. They are not a government employee.

Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) shall assist persons seeking a provider through the free choice of provider process to select a provider of their choosing that is willing, able, and appropriately certified to deliver the services they seek. This may include an independent provider.

SSAs shall ensure that Individual Service Planning teams are aware that no independent provider should deliver services for more than forty hours per week, unless another provider cannot be found. If another provider cannot be found, then the Independent Provider can serve up to sixty hours per week. This amount of service is reasonable for one person to deliver safely and assure quality care.

If an emergency arises and an independent provider needs to temporarily deliver services more than sixty hours per week, this requires supervisor approval and should only be temporary. The SSA shall work with the team to develop a service plan so that individuals receive services to assure their health and welfare.

If an individual is in need of locally funded services, and prefers to work with an independent provider, that independent provider shall be a Limited Liability Company (LLC) prior to service delivery approval.

Historical Resolution Information		Reviewer(s):
Date	Resolution Number	Director of SSA
3/27/18	03-18-18	
4/27/21	04-16-21	
2/27/24	02-16-24	

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PROCEDURE

Independent providers shall be used as a service provider option through the free choice of provider process, just as any other able, willing, and appropriately certified agency provider.

1. The Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities is committed to working collaboratively with individuals and independent providers, to the extent available, to reduce the need for overtime. The SSA shall ensure Individual Service Planning teams are aware that no independent provider should deliver services to someone more than forty hours per week, unless another provider cannot be found. If another provider cannot be found, then the Independent Provider can serve up to sixty hours per week. This amount of service is reasonable for one person to deliver safely and assure quality care. If an emergency arises and an independent provider needs to temporarily deliver services more than sixty hours per week, this requires supervisor approval and should only be temporary. The SSA shall work with the team to develop a service plan so that individuals receive services to assure their health and welfare.
2. SSAs shall ensure that if an independent provider is chosen to deliver a waiver funded service that services are reasonably able to be performed by one person and that the provider has a backup plan should they be unable to deliver services temporarily. The backup plan should be known by the team and able to be implemented quickly if needed so as to assure the individuals health and welfare.
3. Any services funded through local county board funds delivered by an independent provider will only be approved if said independent provider is a Limited Liability Company (LLC).