



Protect Vocational Habilitation/ Adult Day Programs By Helping Them Re-Open

DAA is concerned that some of the Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD) requirements for re-opening Vocational Habilitation and Adult Day Programs are overly restrictive. The requirements make it difficult for some programs to resume operations and they severely reduce providers' capacity to serve individuals. DAA sent a letter to DODD Director Jeff Davis about our concerns. (Find letter on the DAA website.) Two examples of restrictive policies include:

1. The requirement that each small work group has a separate entrance/exit
2. The requirement that each small work group has a separate bathroom

DAA urges DODD to include Vocational Habilitation and Adult Day providers in discussions on the development of re-opening protocol. Providers are experts in the care of individuals with I/DD and understand the needs of their clients. **The safest way to resume services is to include these experts in re-opening planning.** Providers can offer solutions that enable them to protect health and safety and allow them to become operational.

We urge you to contact Director Jeff Davis. Let him know that your loved one depends upon Vocational Habilitation or Adult Day programming and that you are concerned that providers are having difficulty re-opening. Urge Director Davis to bring providers to the planning table to offer input and help develop policy that can re-open programs. You can contact Director Davis by completing the attached contact form at the following link:

dodd.ohio.gov Scroll to bottom left of page and click "Contact Us"

Please also contact your State Senator and State Representative and the State Senator and State Representative for the district in which your Vocational Habilitation or Adult Day provider operates. Tell them that your provider is having difficulty re-opening due to severely restrictive DODD policies. Urge senators/representatives to ask Director Davis to allow input from providers so that we can get these vital programs operating again. **Providers have not been able to operate for months, but they are still incurring business expenses. They need to be able to re-open if they are to stay in business.**

Find State Senator and State Representative contacts at the following links. Once the search provides your legislators' names, click on their names to go to their websites for email and phone contacts.

www.ohiosenate.gov Click on "Find Your Senator" in middle of page.

www.ohiohouse.gov See "Member Search" tool at bottom of page to find your State Rep.

We are told, "We are all in this together." DAA urges Director Davis to show that this is truly the case by inviting Vocational Habilitation and Adult Day providers to be part of the solution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact info@disabilityadvocacyalliance.org.