Joint Needs Assessment Results- Abridged Report

September 15, 2015
In spring 2015, the Commonwealth Council for Developmental Disabilities, Kentucky Protection and Advocacy, and the Human Development Institute (HDI), (University of Kentucky) developed a needs assessment to identify areas of high need for people with disabilities in Kentucky in an effort to assist the above agencies in planning purposes. The survey asked demographic information. Respondents were asked to rate ten areas of life needs on a Likert scale. The survey included open-ended questions to gather information on specific issues that individuals faced within a particular area of need. Among 519 total respondents who completed the category, 74 (14%) individuals had a Developmental Disability/Intellectual Disability (DD/ID), 164 (32%) were family members of an individual with a DD/ID, 249 (48%) were service providers, 32 (6%) were of a nonspecific category (“Other”), as depicted in Table 1. Please note: among the respondents, several survey items had multiple responses. The majority of respondents were white, non-Hispanic and females between 40-59 years of age (53%). The majority of respondents (21 or more responses) resided in Daviess, Fayette, Jefferson, and Kenton counties (Figure 1).

Table 1: 2015 Respondent Demographics—Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual with a developmental disability</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family member of an individual with a developmental disability</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service provider</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: 2015 Respondent Demographics—Region
In 2015, respondents rated transportation (48%), employment (46%), housing (44%), community supports (43%), education and early / intervention (41%), and childcare (41%) as very high areas of need greater than 40% (Table 7).

**Table 7: 2015 Areas of Need**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Need (n=496)</th>
<th>Very High %</th>
<th>High %</th>
<th>Moderate %</th>
<th>Low &amp; Very Low %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Advocacy</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Early / Intervention</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Supports</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents with DD/ID rated the areas very similar to other categories. They rated health care and health & wellness slightly higher than other categories of respondents as noted in Table 8.

**Table 8: 2015 Areas of Need—Overall Means**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Need (n=496)</th>
<th>Overall Mean</th>
<th>Overall Mean (People with DD/ID)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Advocacy</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Early / Intervention</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthcare</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.02</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.16</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>4.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Supports</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next few pages graphically depict the themes and sub-themes for the three areas of very high need identified by survey participants--transportation, employment, and housing. In addition, the visuals include health care needs and wellness because these two life areas were rated as a high need by individuals with DD/ID.
ISSUES OF TRANSPORTATION

- Limited Accessible Seating
- Safety & Comfort
- Expensive Private Cabs
- Driver Education
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- High Modification Costs
- Waiting in Inclement Weather
- Long Wait Times
- Missed Appointments
- Unemployment
- Few Options for Non-Medical Visits
- Late Pick Ups & Drop Offs
- Availability
- Dependency
- Stress on Caregiver Employment
- Loss of Independence
- Limited Employment Choices
- Limited Participation in Recreational & Community Activities
Limited Opportunities

- More Businesses and Community Support
- Uninformed Workplace Environments
- Lack of Openness with Employers
- Ineffective Supported Employee Agencies Where People Reside

Issues of Employment

- Inefficient Systems
- Need for Good Supported Employment Programs
- Lack of Trained Employment Specialists
- Inefficiencies in Vocational Rehabilitation
- Providers Are Reluctant to Promote Employment
- Misconceptions about Benefits
- Disinformation about Impact of Wages on Benefits
- Failure of Medicaid to Address the Supported Employment
ISSUES OF HOUSING

Accessibility
- Need for More Housing with Universal Design
- Limited HUD Money for Grab Bars, Ramps, Etc.
- Lack of Knowledge about Resources and Lack of Vision
- Limited Access to Lower Level Apartments
- Long Wait List
- Caregivers Provides Housing for Child with DD/ID
- Need Access to Housing with Adequate Support

Unsuitable Alternatives
- Substandard Alternatives Either No Option/Afraid to Report
- Low Income Housing Apartments Limit Transportation for Families
- Low Cost Housing Tends to be in High Crime Areas
- Modifying Housing to ADA Specifications is Expensive
- Difficulty Finding Accessible Housing/Rental Units
- Rare to Find Houses Already ADA Accessible
- Modifications Necessary for ID to Maneuver in Own Home

Financial Considerations
- Need for More Housing

Support
- Substandard Alternatives Either No Option/Afraid to Report
- Low Income Housing Apartments Limit Transportation for Families
- Low Cost Housing Tends to be in High Crime Areas
- Modifying Housing to ADA Specifications is Expensive
- Difficulty Finding Accessible Housing/Rental Units
- Rare to Find Houses Already ADA Accessible
- Modifications Necessary for ID to Maneuver in Own Home

Need More Accessibility and Education on Importance of Health and Wellness

Need for More Awareness & Training

Increased Knowledge of Nutrition Needed

Not Enough Medical Professionals Are Trained to Work with Disabilities

Not Sufficiently Emphasized

Too Few Services Focus on Health and Wellness

More Money/Time Should Be Spent on Educating and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Accessibility to Resources

More Access to Services/Programs That Promote Healthy Lifestyles

Resources Are Not Available or Need Changes

Investments in Health and Wellness Initiatives Are Positive