

RESEARCH REPORT

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County

Submitted to:

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Executive Summary

- **The DDRB is Interested in assessing the current needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in St. Charles so that it may update its strategic plan**
- **This quantitative research study aims to:**
 - Collecting pertinent information pertaining to the management problem and research objectives
 - Providing recommendations for further actions based on the research findings
- **Key Findings from the study are:**
 - About 30% of the sample indicated Autism Spectrum and/or Mental Retardation as their primary diagnosis
 - Under 18 skewed towards Autism Spectrum
 - Over 18 skewed towards Mental Retardation
 - The Overall Satisfaction level with services related to developmental disabilities averaged below a 4.0 (3.93) on a five-point scale, indicating room for improvement
 - Satisfaction is highest among individuals with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Down Syndrome
 - Satisfaction is lowest among those with Learning Disabilities and Head Injuries
 - Satisfaction is highest in St. Peters and Weldon Springs
 - Satisfaction is lowest in Lake St. Louis and St. Charles (South)
 - Satisfaction in St. Charles (North) is much higher than Satisfaction in St. Charles (South)
 - Service perceptions, usage, and needs vary depending on the age of the individual receiving services
 - Over one-third of the sample was below the age of 18
 - Those under 11 years of age averaged the lowest on overall satisfaction followed by those aged 11 to 18 years and less than 20% of individuals between the ages of 11 and 18 choose a five for overall satisfaction
 - Familiarity, likelihood to use, likelihood to recommend, and importance loaded on two to four underlying dimensions based on the strength of the factors
 - Likelihood to recommend loaded the strongest on two underlying dimensions. Dimensions are related to the age of the individual, with a youth dimension, an adult dimension, other measures indicated an older (over 35) dimension, as well dimensions that indicate more assistance vs. more independence
 - Individuals are most familiar with Case Management services and least familiar with Childcare services, service familiarity differs according to age
 - Individuals are most satisfied with Adult Day Program, Case Management, Residential/Group Home, and In Home Respite and least satisfied with Independent Living, Community Employment, Educational Advocacy, and Childcare
 - Services usage is expected to increase daily among
 - Residential/Group Home services
 - Transportation services
 - Independent Living services
 - Sheltered Workshop Employment services
 - Adult Day Program services
 - Adaptive Equipment services
 - Service usage is expected to increase weekly among
 - Community Employment
 - Therapy
 - Service usage is expected to increase monthly among
 - In Home Respite services
 - Service usage is expected to increase quarterly among
 - Facility/Center Based Respite services
 - Service usage is expected to increase yearly among
 - Childcare services
 - Educational Advocacy services
 - Case Management services

- **PRI Recommendations Include**
 - Segment service needs According to
 - Age (less than 18, 18 to 35, and over 35)
 - Youth orientated services include (less than 18):
 - Therapy
 - In Home Respite
 - Childcare
 - Adaptive Equipment
 - Educational Advocacy
 - Facility/Center Based Respite
 - Adult orientated services include
 - Sheltered Workshop Employment
 - Independent Living
 - Adult Day Program
 - Residential/Group Home
 - Community Employment
 - Services that span both service areas include
 - Transportation
 - Case Management
 - Future expected usage and performance
 - PRI recommends focusing on both the improvement of current transportation services as well as preparing to accommodate new users of Transportation services
 - Although future expected usage is very high, high relative importance indicates that increasing satisfaction with Transportation will increase satisfaction overall
 - Focus on accommodating future users of
 - Youth services
 - Therapy (moderate performance, low relative importance)
 - Adaptive Equipment (low relative importance, candidate for de-emphasis)
 - Adult services
 - Residential/Group Home (maintain performance)
 - Independent living (low performance, low relative importance)
 - Sheltered Workshop Employment (candidate for de-emphasis)
 - Adult Day Programs (maintain performance)
 - Focus on improving performance of
 - Youth services
 - Childcare (low performance, high relative importance)
 - Facility/Center Based Respite (low performance, low relative importance)
 - Educational Advocacy (low performance, high relative importance)
 - Adult services
 - Community Employment (low performance, low relative importance)
 - Case Management (high performance, high relative importance)
 - PRI recommends In Home respite as a potential candidate for de-emphasis
 - Prioritize improving service needs in the following regions
 - Lake St. Louis
 - St. Charles (South)
 - Wentzville
 - O'Fallon
 - Prioritize improving service needs among individuals less than 18 years old
 - Focus on smoothly transitioning from youth orientated services to adult orientated services with the aid of Case Management services
 - Prioritize improving service needs among individuals with Epilepsy, Autism, and Learning Disabilities
 - Prioritize improving communication with individuals with developmental disabilities
 - Many comments mentioned long waiting lists and a lack of communication from service providers
 - Many comments mentioned a lack of understanding when it comes to knowing exactly what services are and are not available to them
 - Prioritize providing information related to the following services
 - Youth services
 - Childcare
 - Therapy
 - Adaptive Equipment

- Educational Advocacy
 - In Home Respite
 - Comments indicate need for updated/accessible provider list/database
- Adult services
 - Community Employment
 - Individuals less than 18 years old also requested information for future reference
- Should the need arise, consider de-emphasizing services with above average satisfaction and low relative importance
 - In Home Respite
 - Adaptive Equipment
 - Sheltered Workshop Employment
- Further research recommendations include
 - Conducting focus groups with guardians of individuals less than 18 old
 - Attempt to determine what their current unmet needs are
 - Attempt to determine how to best transition individuals less than 18 years old into adult-oriented services without feeling like they have lost everything when they become adults
 - Conducting focus groups with guardians of individuals between the ages of 18 and 35
 - Attempt to determine what the biggest obstacles were when transitioning from youth-orientated services to adult-orientated services and what they perceive would have been (or still would/could be) the most effective way to overcome those obstacles