



ROCK COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DIABILITIES BOARD

SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board is the county Department responsible to provide services to Rock County residents who are developmentally disabled or who have sustained a traumatic brain injury. Wisconsin State Statute – 51.437 authorizes the establishment and operation of the Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board.

What Are Developmental Disabilities

Developmental Disability is a term used to describe a group of handicapping conditions. These conditions constitute a substantial handicap, typically occurring prior to the age of 18 years, and are considered a lifelong circumstance. Other terms for developmental disability may include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, uncontrollable epilepsy and some types of autism.

Mental Retardation

Mental retardation refers to substantial limitation in present functioning. Sub-average intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with related limitation(s) in the following adaptive skill areas characterizes mental retardation:

- **Capacity for Independent Functioning-** Ability to live without extraordinary assistance. Ability to prepare a meal, manage money, clean house, etc. with assistive devices if able to use such items.
- **Self Care-**Ability to meet basic bodily needs: dressing, eating, toileting.
- **Receptive & Expressive Communication-**Ability to understand others and fully express oneself in own language (including sign language)-with adaptive devices if able to use such items.
- **Learning-**Ability to apply reasoning and problem solving, learn new skills, apply to new situations, and adapt to change.
- **Mobility-**Movement of own body from place to place, with adaptive aids if uses them. Includes transfers and walking or using a wheelchair. Does not include vehicle transportation.
- **Self-direction-** Ability to make decisions that match one's own values and desires.

Page two

Other terms that may be used when referencing the above adaptive skill areas are: caring for oneself, social skills, leisure activity, communication, functional academics, home living, utilization of community resources, health and safety awareness, recognizing hazards within the environment, self care skills, judgment/insight.

Mental retardation refers to substantial limitations in present functioning; defined as a fundamental difficulty in learning and performing certain daily living skills. There is also associated substantial limitation in conceptual, practical, and social intelligence.

Sub-average intellectual functioning is loosely defines as an IQ score of 75 or below. Intelligence Quotient (IQ) is NOT the sole factor in considering an individual's developmental disability status.

Intellectual limitations are observed/occur at the same time as adaptive skill limitations. Functional limitations must be present in at least two of the above noted adaptive skill areas.

Many people with mental retardation have difficulty in their ability to learn, process information, and independently care for themselves.

Differences Between Mental Retardation and Mental Illness

- Mental retardation refers to below average abilities to learn and process information.
- Mental illness refers to a person's thought process, moods and emotions.
- Mental retardation typically occurs at birth and/or before person reaches adulthood. (Age 18)
- Mental illness may occur at any time in a person's lifetime.
- Mental retardation refers to below average intellectual functioning.
- Mental illness has nothing to do with functional intelligence.
- Mental retardation is life long and not subject to a cure.
- Mental illness may be temporary, cyclical; and/or managed through therapeutic intervention and medication.
- Services typically required by people with mental retardation usually focus on training, education, skill acquisition, and services provided by licensed medical doctors, vocational trainers, educators, and residential support specialists.
- Services typically required by people with mental illness include treatment and medical/psychological therapy provided by psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists and experts in the field of medication therapy.

Methods Utilized to Determine Developmental Disability Status

Compilation of referral information; including recent psychological evaluation, including written diagnosis from Licensed Medical Doctor, psych-social history, residential history (if applicable) school records-IEP, and any other information pertaining to the individual's functional capabilities.

Additional resources may be diagnostic evaluations completed by the Waisman Center, Central Center, or affiliated medical/therapeutic reports, which specify the diagnosis and the MOST presenting needs of the individual consumer.

Typically, an IQ of 70 or below is regarded as a contributing circumstance. As stated previously, IQ is one aspect reviewed when considering a primary diagnosis.

Social/environmental history (institutionalization) is considered as well.

The most significant issue considered when determining eligibility for service needs is a clear understanding of the individual consumer's diagnosis, their functional capacity, and their most presenting need. This is followed closely by assessing which agency/department is most technically skilled and most likely to meet identified needs.

Service Description

Services provided by the DD Board are completely voluntary; no consumer is forced to participate in services. The exception to this guideline is those instances where services are "court ordered" on behalf of an individual. These circumstances are rare, likely necessitated due to protective service status.

Services provided by the Developmental Disabilities Board are contracted through individual community agencies. Each agency contracted through the DD Board must meet licensing certification standards, Federal Waiver standards, and must comply with the DD Board's Provider Certification standards.

Referral FOR DD Board Services

The following guidelines are provided regarding the referral by the Rock County Human Services Department (Child Protective Services, Long Term Support, Juvenile Justice, etc.) to Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Completion (in full) of Initial Referral Form generated by RCHSD accompanied by:
 - Copy of most recent (**within 3 years**) Psychological Evaluation
 - Copy of most recent IEP from School District of Record
 - A signed Release of Information allowing the School District of Record's representative to communicate with designated DD Board Staff.
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IF THE ORIGINAL REFERRAL IS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS, IT WILL BE RETURNED

Additional information that may be helpful in determining eligibility and subsequent "open for services" may include: Psych-Social History, Residential History; particularly if the individual has been in an institutional setting for any period of time. Status regarding benefits (SSI, SSDI) and Medical Assistance.

Response:

Upon receipt of the above documents, the DD Board will review all information, make follow-up calls and make a determination regarding eligibility for services. A written response will be provided to designated HSD staff member within 15 days after receipt of referral.

Rock County, Wisconsin



Developmental Disabilities Board
P.O. Box 1867
Janesville, WI 53547-1867
Phone 608/757-5050
Fax 608/758-8482

ROCK COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD

SERVICE REFERRAL FORM

Name of individual : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Referring School/Agency (if applicable): _____

D.O.B. ___ / ___ / ___

Soc. Sec. # _____

Sex: M F (circle one)

DIAGNOSIS: Verification is Necessary To Determine Eligibility for DD Board Services

MR/CD: ___ **Epilepsy:** ___ **Autism:** ___ **Cerebral Palsy:** ___ **Brain Injury:** ___

Other _____

Comments: (Provide additional information regarding diagnosed disability): _____

Legal Guardian (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Referral Form Completed by: _____

Date of Completion: _____

**Return completed form to: Rock County DD Board
C/O Jennifer Anselmi
PO Box 1867
Janesville, WI 53547**