

Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board

Sean's Scoop!



Local Voices, Lasting Impact: Staying Engaged in Northeast Missouri

As we prepare for our 5th Annual Legislative Coffee Chat at the end of September, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what makes Northeast Missouri communities work. Much of that strength comes from local agencies and organizations that quietly provide services we depend on every day. Our schools educate the next generation, law enforcement and first responders keep our communities safe, health departments protect public health, libraries provide access to information and resources, and the Ambulance District provides critical emergency medical services when our neighbors need them most. Alongside these are special districts and community organizations providing everything from infrastructure and economic development to services for seniors and people with disabilities. Each has a different mission, but together they create the network of services that makes Northeast Missouri a strong place to live, work, raise a family, and belong.

That is also why opportunities like our Legislative Coffee Chat matter. Decisions made in Jefferson City can have significant consequences for local communities, particularly in rural Missouri, where resources and alternatives are often more limited. It is important that legislators and candidates understand not only the challenges facing our region, but also the value local agencies already provide and the partnerships we have built to address those challenges. At the same time, engagement works both ways. We need to understand what is happening at the Capitol, ask questions, listen to different perspectives, and stay informed about legislation and budget decisions that may affect our communities. Bringing legislators, candidates, local leaders, agencies, families, and citizens together creates an opportunity for meaningful conversation before decisions are made. Good public policy begins with good information, strong relationships, and continued engagement.

For Adair County SB40, that conversation includes helping others understand the value of investing in people with developmental disabilities. We currently support approximately 450 individuals and their families across Northeast Missouri, helping connect people to employment, transportation, residential supports, life skills, community participation, and other resources that promote greater independence and quality of life. Our work also extends beyond individual services through community education, partnerships, advocacy, and events such as our Community Engagement Conference and Spotlight Awards that promote inclusion and recognize the abilities and contributions of people throughout our region. These services strengthen families, support local providers and jobs, bring economic value to our region through the leveraging of state and federal dollars with the services we help bring in that and assist individuals remain active members of their own communities rather than relying on more

restrictive and costly alternatives. Ultimately, staying engaged with our elected leaders is about more than legislation. It is about making sure the experiences, needs, successes, and values of Northeast Missouri are understood when decisions affecting our future are made.

Got Suggestions?

At Adair County SB40, we believe that listening is one of the most important ways we can continue to grow and improve. To help us better understand the needs of the people and families we serve, we have recently added a community suggestion box at our Community Learning Center at 1107 Country Club Drive and recently launched an online version through our Facebook page, which will be re-posted frequently. Whether you have an idea for a new program, feedback on existing services, suggestions for community partnerships, or ways we can better support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, we want to hear from you. Your feedback helps guide our efforts as we continue working to be a trusted resource and valued partner throughout Northeast Missouri.

Need Services?

Individuals with developmental disabilities may qualify for Targeted Case Management and other services. Our Service Coordinators help individuals identify needs, connect to resources, coordinate services, and monitor progress toward their goals.

To learn more, visit www.sb40life.org, call 660-665-9400, or scan the Intake Referral QR Code included with this article to get started.

