

## RESOLUTION #1

### WHEREAS

**WHEREAS**, the **Champaign County Board for Care and Treatment of Persons with a Developmental Disability** is a unit of government established by referendum under 50 Illinois Compiled Statutes 835; and

**WHEREAS**, this unit is referred to as the **Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board** (hereinafter, “CCDDDB”) and is entrusted with responsibilities for evaluating and funding a system of services available to those Champaign County residents who have Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD); and

**WHEREAS**, the CCDDDB maintains an Intergovernmental Agreement with the **Champaign County Mental Health Board** (hereinafter, “CCMHB”), which has similar responsibilities to residents who have I/DD; and

**WHEREAS**, in fulfillment of their missions and statutory obligations, the CCDDDB and the CCMHB have a strong interest in state and federal funding and regulatory systems and the operating environment in general, to understand opportunities for improvement and to advocate on behalf of people who have I/DD; and

**WHEREAS**, the CCDDDB understands the current state and federal I/DD system is fraught with problems and has not lived up to the promises of the Olmstead decision, deinstitutionalization, and a true community-based support and service system. During 2025, we find adequate reform of Illinois community-based services will require structural changes and enduring collaboration with people with I/DD while those federal programs on which people rely and on which local systems are built continue to encounter unprecedented new threats.

**Now THEREFORE**, the **CCDDDB** resolves to:

- Recognize that Autism<sup>1</sup>, intellectual disability, and developmental disability are natural parts of the human experience.
- Recognize that Autistic people and people with intellectual and/or developmental disability have a right to exist as they are as humans.
- Recognize that Autistic people and people with intellectual and/or developmental disability and other disabilities or differences are valued and celebrated diverse members of our community and the human family.
- Work with Autistic people and people with intellectual and/or developmental disability to create and sustain community-based services and supports that they want and need.
- Actively seek and use input from people with disabilities in policy that directly affects them and support their right to do so.
- Improve physical and digital accessibility of this community so that all residents are welcomed, included, and informed.

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<sup>1</sup> In solidarity with the disability community, we use both identity first and person first language.

- Work to educate the public on the rights of Autistic people and people with intellectual and/or developmental disability in our community and across the state and nation.
- Recommit to achieving a community-based system of care which meets the needs and advances the aspirations of Champaign County Autistic residents and/or residents with intellectual and/or developmental disability.
- Urge our government partners, the Champaign County Mental Health Board and the Champaign County Board, to commit to achieving:
  - a robust community-based system of care and
  - an accessible, inclusive community based on input from people with disabilities and other lived experiences.
- Urge other units of government operating within Champaign County, such as the Mass Transit District, Public Health District, Board of Health, Park Districts, School Districts, Cities, Villages, and Townships, to commit to:
  - improving access, accessibility, and inclusion for all
  - seeking and using input from people with disabilities and other lived experiences.
- Urge State of Illinois' agencies and elected officials, as they redesign formal system of care, to commit to:
  - improving access, accessibility, and inclusion for all
  - seeking and using input from people with disabilities and other lived experiences
  - properly funding and supporting community-based services that meet the tenets of the Olmstead decision.
- Urge the federal government to commit to:
  - improving access, accessibility, and inclusion for all
  - seeking and using input from people with disabilities and other lived experiences
  - acknowledging the unique role of Direct Support Professionals and the value of Home and Community Based Services and taking steps to protect these critical elements of the country's system of care.

**SUBMITTED BY:**



**Lynn Canfield, Executive Director**

**APPROVED BY:**



**Vicki Niswander, Board President**

This *RESOLUTION* is approved the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025  
by **the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDDB)** in  
Champaign County, Illinois.

**References**

- Autistic Self Advocacy Network. (2012, March 2). Identity-First Language. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/about-asan/identity-first-language/>
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network. (2021, June 25). What We Believe. <https://autisticadvocacy.org/about-asan/what-we-believe/>
- Rogers, M., & Roberts, S. (2023, February 23). *The Power of Language: Person First v. Identity First Language*. Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center. <https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/the-power-of-language/>









# CCDDB Policy Resolution ENGLISH

Final Audit Report

2025-11-19

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