

**ONLY A INFORMATIONAL UPDATE FOR**  
**2017 STATE PLAN AMENDMENT**

Project Name: Strengthening the Voices of Direct Support Professionals

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**HISTORY**

Approved by Community Living on : 3/2/17

Approved by Full Council on : 3/3/17

Effective Date : 3/31/17

Rationale:

In 2015, OADSP partnered with Interhab, a provider association in Kansas to become the first “franchise” of the OADSP DSPATHS credentialing program. Interhab has exclusive rights to market and license the DSPATHS credentialing program in Kansas to providers of specialized services. During the establishment of this relationship, OADSP learned that Interhab had built an online Learning Management System (LMS) that supported an on-demand digital learning library. Interhab expressed that they were interested in partnering with OADSP to offer DSPATHS courses on this platform. OADSP and Interhab have worked together during 2015 to draft a project budget and timeline, whereby both entities would equally contribute resources to make this vision a reality.

On March 4, 2016 Council approved a \$10,000.00 increase for this project to begin developing online format for training. The first phase was the transitioning of their current DSPATHS modules into a format that is compatible with online learning software. It was estimated that the first phase of this endeavor would take two curriculum developers a combined 300 hours to complete, costing an estimated \$10,000. The first phase is completed.

The second phase of this activity is to ensure that the online version of the DPSATHS credentialing program can be accessed remotely via a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, and all other mobile devices, greatly increasing access to advanced training both within, and outside, of Ohio.

At the November 3, 2016 Grant Review the Panel recommended the following:

- *You may want to consider mobile ready training for folks who do not have a computer but may have a smart phone.*

Thanks in large part to early commitments of reduced rates and/or donated studio space/time, and other in-kind donations, OADSP and Interhab are able to present a budget that is less than 10% of the commercial rate to produce these online video modules.

**It is estimated that the total out of pocket expenses to produce twenty (three-hour) video modules will be \$80,000.** OADSP and ***Interhab would split this cost***, recording half of the modules in Kansas and half of the modules in Ohio. The first five modules will be recorded jointly in Kansas with instructors from both states. This will help ensure consistency as the project moves forward with recordings and editing being done in two separate locations (Ohio and Kansas). OADSP is asking the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to support

**OADSP's portion (\$40,000), in order to move forward with this partnership and begin production.**

Modification:

Increase allocation by \$40,000.00 to implement phase two of creating online training for DSPs across the state.

Federal Funds: \$40,000.00

Match Funds: 13,333.33  
53,333.33

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**REVISION/UPDATE ( NO NEW MONEY)**

**Update: November 3, 2017**

Approved by Full Council on :  
Effective Date : Immediately

On March 27, 2017 OADSP executive director, Bethany Toledo, along with four contractors traveled to Kansas to begin recording modules and establish a detailed business plan for the online partnership between Interhab and OADSP. Deedra Olney and Vanessa Lee are two seasoned instructors and recorded the first four modules of the DSPaths credentialing program while in Kansas. Amber Wallace traveled to Kansas as the project manager, and Andrea McKay as the video engineer that would be learning Interhab's system and replicating the process in Ohio. The week was productive in terms of recording modules; however, it quickly became apparent that, while Interhab had a nice platform for hosting the modules, their video equipment was outdated, and their technical abilities were limited. OADSP's video engineer had far more experience, and completed a majority of the video recording and editing during the week. Additionally, as the week progressed, **OADSP's executive director became increasingly concerned with what she learned about the Kansas department of DD and a contract they had with Interhab to provide free online access to Direct Course to all providers in the state of Kansas. When this question was brought to the attention of Interhab's legal counsel, they did not believe there was an issue, but agreed to look into it.** Interhab cancelled the final strategic planning meeting that was to take place before the Ohio Team left Kansas. The reason given was that the Interhab staff needed to be present at their statehouse as they were going through a difficult budget process. It was agreed that a conference call would be set up during April to finalize the plan.

**During April, Interhab issued an apology email that explained they did in fact uncover a conflict of interest due to the contract between the Kansas Department of DD, Interhab, and Direct Course. They relinquished all ownership of the recorded modules to OADSP, and offered their apologies.** At this time, OADSP suspended work on recording modules while they researched various learning management systems and explored alternative ideas for partnerships to allow the project to continue. **Over the summer, Bethany Toledo explored several options, including building a customized Learning Management System, and held several meetings with potential partners. During August, three solid partners emerged:**

**Creative Foundation Media Team, Mount Vernon Ohio** – This media team is made up of people with and without disabilities. Their main role will be to assist with the process of recording and editing modules. Additionally, they will make appearances on video to talk about topics related to the DSPaths curriculum that are of importance to them.

**Kenyon College, Mt. Vernon, Ohio** – The director of the Kenyon Film Department has granted OADSP access to their new studio in downtown Mt. Vernon, including the use of their state of the art equipment and software. OADSP will be required to pay a film student to act as a liaison; they will be present when OADSP is using the studio and equipment. Other potential roles include internship work to create animations and other added creative elements.

**Open Future Learning** – Open Future Learning is an international online training company that specializes in training for the field of Developmental Disabilities. The DSPaths modules will be hosted on the OFL site through a special access point, only available through OADSP’s ProfessionalTrainingMatters.org website. OADSP will receive a commission for each OFL membership sold. Bethany Toledo met with Open Future Learning’s CEO during October, and a formal agreement was entered into. OADSP will not be required to pay OFL for hosting courses. Instead, OADSP will become the sole vendor of Open Future Learning in the United States. A reciprocal commission for the sale of Open Future Learning memberships has been established.

**Timeline:** OADSP has established a new timeline for this project that is outlined below. In terms of the budget, OADSP is committed to completing as much of the project as possible within the current DD Council project funds. As Interhab was to provide half of the funding for this project, we are working hard to stretch every dollar even further; thus far, about \$6,000 of council funds have been expended. OADSP will be submitting a request for a 3-month extension for this project, allowing us to work through March, 2017 to get the first 60 hours of the DSPaths Credentialing program online. Once the first 60 hours are online, OADSP will explore funding options to add the second half of the DSPaths credentialing program to the Open Future Learning platform.

OADSP has been given an administrator level access to the Open Future Learning Platform that allows the modules be built on the platform itself. This makes the process relatively simple, and greatly reduces the potential for technical issues. Modules will be compatible with mobile devices and tablets.

**November, 2017** – Record and edit first set of 5 modules

**December, 2017** – Record and edit second set of 5 modules, begin beta-testing of first set of 5 modules

**January, 2018** – Record and edit third set of 5 modules, begin beta-testing of second set of 5 modules

**February, 2018** – Record and edit fourth set of 5 modules, begin beta testing of third set of 5 modules

**March** – Begin beta-testing of fourth set of 5 modules, finalize editing and incorporating feedback from beta-testing.

**April:** LAUNCH the online training portal in partnership with Open Future Learning

**May:** Devise a plan to add the second half of the DSPaths credentialing program (CAP) to the Open Future Learning Platform.