

**Blount St. Clair 310 Board**

**THREE YEAR PLAN FOR SERVICES  
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES  
RESIDING IN BLOUNT AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES**

**For the Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028**

Submitted by the Administration and Board of Directors of  
Blount St. Clair 310 Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey" or "Jeffrey [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

Board President Date: 10/3/23

## **INDEX**

- SECTION I:** **Introduction**
- SECTION II:** **Mission**
- SECTION III:** **Vision Statement**
- SECTION IV:** **Goals**
- SECTION V:** **Service Philosophy**
- SECTION VI:** **Assumptions**
- SECTION VII:** **Description of Services and Population Services Served**
- SECTION VIII:** **Description of the Planning Process, Methodology Monitoring, Unmet Needs and Funding Sources**
- SECTION IX:** **Waiting List Assessment**
- SECTION X:** **Projected Service Base and Costs**

## **THREE YEAR PLAN – Blount St. Clair 310 Board Fiscal Years 2026-2028**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Blount St. Clair 310 Board Inc. is a public non-profit agency which was established in 1993 to serve individuals residing in Blount County. The organization was created under Act 310 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. This Act gives the Board authority to plan and coordinate services to support persons with intellectual disabilities.

On July 31, 2010, Blount St. Clair 310 Board began providing Support Coordination services to individuals with intellectual disabilities in St. Clair County when the 310 Board for that county dissolved.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of Blount St. Clair 310 Board to ensure that quality supports, and services are available and accessible to people with intellectual disabilities throughout their lifespan.

These services will be family and consumer driven, proactive, and creative in their response to individual needs and desires. Community-based support will be designed to provide a wide array of service options tailored to address individual and family needs, promote natural support networks and family unity, and increase each individual's social capital. Blount St. Clair 310 Board is committed to informing and supporting people with disabilities and their families to know and exercise their rights in all aspects of their lives. Input regarding Blount St. Clair 310 Board vision and mission will be solicited from the persons served and their families by the Support Coordinators during the annual discussion of choice and satisfaction with services.

The primary role of Blount St. Clair 310 Board will be the provision of Support Coordination services to eligible individuals residing in Blount and St. Clair Counties. Blount St. Clair 310 Board will be fiscally responsible in the use of the resources provided to carry out this mission.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

To act as the single point of entry in Blount and St. Clair counties and assist individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in navigating a service delivery system designed to provide a wide array of service options tailored to promote a life of dignity and respect, opportunity, and community inclusion for all people.

## **AGENCY GOALS**

- ◆ Blount St. Clair 310 Board will serve as the Single Point of Entry coordinating agency for Blount and St. Clair Counties. This includes gathering intake information and submission to DMH for eligibility determination for placement on the statewide waiting list for waiver services.
- ◆ Blount St. Clair 310 Board will coordinate desired and needed services for as many eligible individuals on the statewide waiting list as authorized by the Department of Mental Health. Eligibility criterion is set by the Department of Mental Health.
- ◆ Blount St. Clair 310 Board support coordinators will monitor services provided and update waiting list criticality as individual/family needs change.
- ◆ Satisfaction surveys will be sent to all individuals/families receiving services to determine satisfaction with services as well as to assess future service needs.
- ◆ Face-to-face Individual experience assessments will likewise be completed with the person served and those that know the person best to assess future wants, needs, and satisfaction with current services.
- ◆ Blount St. Clair 310 Board support coordinators will assess interest in employment and make referrals to ADRS for assessment, training and employment placement.

## **SERVICE PHILOSOPHY**

1. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are recognized as persons with basic human needs, aspirations, desires, and feelings. They are citizens of our community who have all the rights, privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities afforded to all.
2. Family units, both traditional and non-traditional, are frequently the most important resource and support individuals with intellectual disabilities.
3. Informed choices expressed by consumers and their families/advocates, as well as their rights, values, and needs, are the driving force in the development and provision of services.
4. Services must show sensitivity to individuals and families with diverse characteristics.
5. Informed choices made by consumers and their families/advocates, as well as their rights, values, and needs, are of primary concern in the development and operations of services.

## **ASSUMPTIONS**

In the development of this Three-Year Plan, 2026–2028, the following issues were considered:

1. Funding currently received from the Alabama Department of Mental Health will at best be maintained at current levels or increase.
2. Alabama Medicaid's Intellectual Disabilities Living-at-Home Waiver, Home Community Based Waiver, and Self-Directed Waiver will continue to be available to fund residential habilitation, day habilitation, supported employment, personal care, specialty medical supplies, behavioral and other Medicaid waiver eligible supports.
3. The Plan is an evolving document, which is subject to periodic revision based on new information regarding individuals served and availability of funds.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND POPULATION SERVED**

Blount St. Clair 310 Board serves Blount County with an estimated population 2025 population is 60,416 with a growth rate of 0.5% in the past year according to the most recent United States Census data. Blount County average per capital income is \$42,663. Household income levels show a median of \$61,096. The poverty rate stands at 14.1%. St. Clair County with an estimated population of 98,367 in 2025, with a growth rate of 1.49% in the past year. Between 2023 and 2024, the population grew from 92,903 to 95,552. The county has seen consistent growth since 2010, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, with the targeted population being persons with intellectual disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria for such services. St. Clair County Average per capital income is \$49,522. Household income levels show a median of \$78,993. The poverty rate stands at 11.2%. Blount and St. Clair Counties are both considered rural counties. In those cases where individuals and/or family members are not eligible for existing ADMH services, efforts will be made to provide an appropriate referral. Specific areas of service are:

- ◆ Provides a single-entry point into all services provided to people with intellectual disabilities. Assists family in arranging assessments for eligibility determination.
- ◆ Support Coordination / support coordinators provide services to targeted groups of individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities. Such services include needs assessment, case planning, service arrangement, social support, reassessment and follow-up, and monitoring.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Blount County requested input into the planning process through letter and personal contact from eligible individuals, family members or guardians, as well as from various agencies and school systems. Planning activities focus on the fiscal rather than calendar year: October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Input into the planning process involves, but is not limited to, the following:

Satisfaction Surveys are sent to individuals/families receiving services to determine satisfaction with services as well as to assess future service needs. In addition, a face-to-face Individual assessments are conducted by single point coordinator to a sample of persons waiting for services to determine types and timelines of need

## **METHODOLOGY**

The method and/or sources of data used in this plan consist of consumer satisfaction surveys, public forums, ADMH 's data collected/submitted to the National Core Indicators Project, DMH Statewide Waiting List and data kept by the single point of entry and case managers. During the annual pre-planning meeting for each person served, Case Managers/ Support Coordinator's spend one-on-one time with each person on their caseload gathering information about their desired personal outcomes for the coming year and thereafter. Support Coordinator's advocate with and on behalf of the people we serve as well as their families.

## **MONITORING**

The plan is monitored through the continued use of consumer and family satisfaction surveys, Support Coordination face-to-face monitoring visits with individuals in the places they receive services and their family home. The Board of Directors receives and reviews monthly reports regarding services delivered and acts as needed. This Plan will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by the Board of Directors annually or as dictated by resources and local needs.

## **UNMET NEEDS**

The greatest areas of unmet need in Blount and St. Clair Counties are (1) Choice of Provider, (2) employment opportunities – job assessment/training/placement/follow-up, (3) day services - traditional day habilitation, vocational training, or non-traditional supports; (3) residential habilitation services; (4) respite services, (5) public transportation and (6) in-home supports.

## **CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING RESOURCES**

Blount St. Clair 310 Board currently receives funding from DMH and Medicaid targeted Support Coordination services. Considering the current economic climate, the agency anticipates level funding or potential reductions from those sources. Blount County has three Support Coordinator, which will contribute to Maintain the current level of quality services provided.

## **WAITING LIST ASSESSMENT**

Currently, Blount County receives referrals from the Alabama Department of Mental Health Call Center and gathers documentation as proof of eligibility (IQ below 72, deficits in adaptive behavior occurring prior to age 18) for the statewide waiting list for services funded by the Alabama Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers. Individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or families in need of services are advised to contact the DMH 1-800-Call Center where initial intake information is taken and then forwarded to Blount St. Clair 310 Board for eligibility and criticality assessment as the Single Point of Entry for Blount and St. Clair Counties.

Besides aging out of educational services, individuals may also need adult services because of changes in the family situation, moving into the geographic area, or health of aging parents. Currently there is approximately 44 individuals on the waiting list for Blount/ St Clair.

The following table illustrates projected needs for various services based on data obtained from actual waiting lists.

## **PROJECTED SERVICE BASE AND COSTS** **FY 2026-2028**

**Narrative:** The current service base of all providers within Blount St. Clair County should continue to grow based on historical data. The projections contained within this segment of the plan are based on existing waiting list individuals' desires as well as community service provider capabilities, as well as those of Blount St County, in meeting the needs of the residents of Blount St. Clair County. Whereas a considerable increase in federal and state money is needed to support these projections, it is felt that they are feasible. It will become the responsibility of consumers, family members, advocates, professionals, legislators, and current and future Administrations to ensure that no one with an intellectual disability in Alabama is left without services.

In addition to providing support coordination, the agency employs a full-time **Intake Coordinator (IC)** dedicated to ensuring individuals are placed on the DMH Statewide

Waiting List, as appropriate. The IC also provides ongoing assistance through information, referrals, and local resources for individuals awaiting services, as well as for those who may not qualify for DMH DD Division services. In addition, the IC collaborates with state and local agencies to develop, maintain, and improve services in Blount, St. Clair County, and assists in crisis situations as needed.

This agency, at the direction of DMH, ceased all subcontracts to provide conflict-free support coordination services for individuals who receive Medicaid Waiver services. This has severely limited this agency's ability to fund its operations. Enhanced support coordination rates due to Covid funding have been used to increase pay scales and award bonuses to promote retention of quality staff. If these increased rates are not maintained this agency will be severely impacted due to the current high cost of living.

**SUPPORT COORDINATION:** Within Blount, St. Clair County, approximately 81 individuals receive funded targeted case management at the end of FY25 through this agency.

Fiscal Year	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28
# CM Funded	81	81	81
Total Agency Cost	\$370,679	\$389,212	\$408,673
Increase			
Rate Paid	\$56	\$58	\$62
Estimate CM revenue	\$364,998	\$383,247	\$402,409
Projected Loss	<b>-\$5681</b>	<b>-\$5965</b>	<b>-\$6264</b>

This agency has gone from a high of 103 individuals on legacy waivers to the current number of 81 in roughly 5 years. This is a direct result of deaths during Covid, day habilitation programs closed and individuals not being pulled from the waiting list, if Legacy Waiver slots are not given to Blount St Clair County residents will seriously impact this agency's ability to stay financially solvent and provide quality care to Blount St. Clair County. Expenses and responsibilities have only increased for support coordination in the last 3 years. If this continues, losing Legacy Waivers recipients will be negatively impacted to the extent that it may not be able to provide support coordination services in the future.

