

The Friday Update



Get the most timely information regarding activities, programs and services in Lucas County for persons with developmental disabilities with the Board's free weekly e-mail newsletter, the Friday Update.

To subscribe send an e-mail to LMitchell@lucasdd.org

Upcoming Events

- December 24-January 1 - Holiday Break, all Board facilities closed.
- January 15 - People First meeting at the Ability Center
- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; all Board facilities closed
- January 20 - Board of DD Annual Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Sullivan Center
- January 31 - Special Olympics Polar Plunge - Thirsty Pony in Sandusky
- February 4-5 - Special Olympics State Winter Games
- February 10 - Family & Advocate Forum with Superintendent Deb Yenrick - 9:30 a.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- February 16 - Presidents' Day; all Board facilities closed
- February 17 - Board of DD monthly meeting - 1154 Larc Lane

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
November-December 2014

EAAC maintains focus on self-advocacy and giving back to the community



During their annual luncheon with the Superintendent and the Leadership Team, the officers of the Lott Industries Employee Advocate and Advisory Councils (EAAC) recapped their many activities, including self-advocacy, donations to worthy causes such as foodbanks, volunteering, and skill development.

Signature snowflakes for WinterFest created at Shared Lives Studio and seen all over town!

Lytina Hills is flanked by Walleye players Jared Coreau (left) and Justin Mercier at the Shared Lives Studio as they paint hockey sticks. The sticks were used to create signature snowflakes for WinterFest. They will be auctioned off during the week's festivities with the proceeds returning to Shared Lives.



Board issues statement supporting Person-Centered Planning and *choice*

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) recognizes that recent discussions about potential changes in how services to people with developmental disabilities could change have resulted in numerous questions and, without a doubt, some worry. At this time LCBDD does not know all the answers to your questions, but we hope that this position statement, assures you that the Lucas County Board is committed to maintaining the services and programs on which you rely for stability and security.

Several years ago, the Board of DD adopted a list of Core Values. Among these values is the belief that the individuals it serves have a right to shape their own futures. That means they should have choice – choice in where they live, work, and socialize. That means, LCBDD recognizes an individual's wants and needs even if the individual chooses a less integrated environment.

LCBDD also believes in the importance of families. That means families should be involved in the decisions affecting the

Lucas County Board of DD receives full state accreditation

In a letter to Board President Mark Frye, the Director of the Ohio Department of DD, John Martin, affirmed the Board had met the requirements to be accredited.

“You and your staff are to be commended for your efforts in achieving this status,” he wrote.

“Your efforts are acknowledged as being in substantial compliance with state accreditation standards.”

Earlier this year, a team of surveyors from the Department of DD performed a comprehensive review of all areas of Board operations.

services and supports received by their loved ones.

Since Ohio county boards of developmental disabilities serve everyone, regardless of how complex their needs, the above-mentioned concepts are extremely important. Though much of the recent discussion is well meaning, it appears to be a cookie-cutter to service approach which is not practical in its application.

The discussion is being driven by four issues:

- The Olmstead Decision – which decreed that services should be delivered in the most integrated setting;
- Recent forceful action by the Department of Justice to uphold Olmstead;
- A new rule from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services that defines how home and community based services funds may be spent; and
- The Governor's Employment First Initiative that puts an emphasis on community-based employment.

After a review, Disability Rights Ohio concluded that Ohio fosters a segregated system. At least as services are provided in Lucas County, LCBDD does not agree.

While some individuals continue to be served in a more sheltered environment, LCBDD has been integrally involved in helping individuals move into their own homes and apartments in neighborhoods throughout the county, helped with the transition of school-age children into the public schools, and developed partnerships that have resulted in increased possibilities for recreation, social participation, volunteerism, and worship.

For decades LCBDD has worked to in-

crease options for community-based employment. LCBDD is presently the lead agency in the multi-agency Employment First Initiative Collaboration. Competitive community-based employment for everyone is a noteworthy goal, but community-based employment should not be the only option. A more sheltered environment, which remains one choice from Lott Industries, offers a valuable alternative for those who might not be able to secure, or want to secure, jobs in the community. For those who are currently employed by Lott Industries and wish to remain there, the Lucas County Board of DD believes you should have that right. The Board is working with Lott Industries to strengthen it and its viability into the future.

There is no doubt that LCBDD must prepare for the time when the Department of Justice visits Ohio. LCBDD must ensure that service delivery models - ours as well as those in the public sector - are the best they can be. But the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities will insist that individuals it serves continue to have choice and continue to receive the full array of options now present.

Can LCBDD do a better job? Of course, and we will. Are there more opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities in the community? There are, and LCBDD must, and will, continue to identify them. A major emphasis for us, as the leading advocates for the persons we serve, is to break down those attitudinal barriers that often prevent someone with a disability full access to employment, housing, and social activities.

LCBDD has been evolving its service delivery system for years. Some may not recall it, but it has not been that many years since sheltered employment and institutional living were the only options. Change has, and will, continue to happen. LCBDD's commitment to you is that any change will be well-planned, will be in the best interest of the people we serve, and will include *choice*.

Board presents Special Recognition to family in Early Intervention



The Lucas County Board of DD presented its monthly Special Recognition Award to the family of Amy and Jaimie Russell. Daughter Allison was born prematurely and enrolled in the Early Intervention Program. Allison's parents showed total commitment to her during a long period of medical concerns. Her sisters also helped, loving the interaction with their younger sibling.

Allison is now crawling and learning to use sign language. Her success is a reflection of her parents dedication to their family and working diligently with doctors, service providers and the Infant-Toddler Early Intervention Program to meet Allison's needs.

Lott Industries employees at Holland Road express their gratitude



Lott Industries employees at the Holland Road production facility recently hosted an appreciation breakfast for representatives of several area businesses that contract with Lott. Pictured above, receiving a photo showing the gratitude of the workers, are representatives from the local Pepsi bottling plant.

Shared Lives Studio artist has work on display at the Toledo Zoo



The Executive Director of the Toledo Zoo knows great art when he sees it. Jeff Sailer purchased Marc Arnett's paintings of the Zoo.

Rob Snow to be the keynote speaker at Annual Meeting

Rob Snow, parent of a child with Down syndrome, uses his talent as a stand-up comic to present an inspiring and motivational presentation based on his personal experiences. Rob will be the keynote speaker this year at the Board's Annual Meeting, January 20, at the Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside Blvd.



The meeting will begin with a social time at 6:00 p.m. At the meeting, the Board will present its annual Community Partner Awards, its Staff Person of the Year, the Self-Advocate of the Year, and the recipient of the Spirit Award.

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The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Service.



Board recognizes Staff Persons of the Month

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Take key information from the Lucas County Board of DD with you wherever you go. The app is available from the Apple Apps Store and from Google Play. The mobile app will be another way the Board will use to get timely information to its staff and the families we serve, such as closings and transportation delays because of inclement weather.



Jamie Olszewski is the Business Analyst, but her title does not begin to describe the wide variety of tasks she completes that support the work done at the Board. Jamie is a marvel at making information in our computer systems usable and meaningful.



Janine Harden has been a dedicated Department Secretary in Early Intervention since 2002. She is known as hardworking, reliable and trustworthy. She leads by example and her noteworthy organizational talents continually benefit the program.



Kelly Watson, a Recreation Specialist working with Special Olympics, has brought with her new energy and excitement. Her efforts have increased support for Special Olympics with the City of Toledo, the YMCA, and many local businesses.