

Manager of the Year



*Michele Myerholtz
Service and Support
Administration
Coordinator*



Upcoming Events

- May 2 - Special Olympics Area IX Meet at Clay High School
- May 19 - Lucas County Board of DD Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- May 25 - Memorial Day holiday; all Board facilities closed
- June 9 - Family & Advocate Forum with Deb Yenrick, 9:30 a.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- June 16 - Lucas County Board of DD Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- June 17 - Staff Inservice; adult facilities closed
- June 26-27 - Special Olympics State Summer Games

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
March-April 2015

Change is likely. Superintendent outlines what we can expect in a letter to families.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Change is coming in the traditional way we have delivered services for people with developmental disabilities, and the change is coming faster than we would wish. These changes are being mandated by several factors which include:

- The Governor's Employment First Initiative;
- A new Medicaid rule for funding segregated services; and
- The pending requirement that a provider of direct services cannot also

be a provider of case management.

When I accepted the position of Superintendent, I made a promise to keep you informed and up-to-date. In addition to regular correspondence, please monitor our website and smartphone application.

Unfortunately, I do not have all the answers to specific questions about what will happen and when, but here, at this time, is what I can share with you:

The changes that are being mandated by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require that we separate

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Second annual action-packed tournament draws 16 teams to Goalball



Some of the players are blind, some are not. Everyone, though, wears a blindfold to ensure an even playing field. It's Goalball, where participants try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponent's goal.

The second annual tournament, played at Tam-O-Shanter, was sponsored by the Lucas County Board of DD and the Sight Center of Greater Toledo. Sixteen teams competed.

Sponsors for the event included Metal Forming Coining, Seaway Marketplace, Stanley, Long Horn Steakhouse, Silk Screen, Athlete's Foot, Glendale Garden Café, Manhattan Beauty Supply, Hi Level Fashion, Longhorn Steakhouse, Gold Ribbon Trophies, Silk Screen Shop, Family Food, Road House, Golden Corral, Joseph Beverages, Charming Wig, and Eyeglass World.

Staff Persons of the Month

Tom Sniadecki is an excellent ambassador for our organization. He supports community integration and assists community volunteer groups to understand the importance of giving to your community.

Tom also has a great connection with Lott Employees, which allows individuals to trust him, calm when around him, and grow from him.



He empowers Lott Employees to successfully try new experiences and complete work tasks while pointing out the positives until people enjoy themselves. It is clear that workers in his area are productive and they feel valued for the work they do.

Jackie Diebert has a good rapport with individuals. Individuals can feel comfortable in approaching her with any needs or concerns. If someone has a problem – she is compassionate and helps them find a solution.



The Lott employees describe Jackie as a veritable wonder woman who can

do every job in the facility and chooses to work with the Lott employees. She has a huge heart and genuinely cares about people.

She works hard to procure jobs for individuals in her area. She supports them to be successful throughout their day. She also motivates individuals to continuously demonstrate their dedication to the job and customers.

Congratulations to our Staff Members of the Month.

On t-shirts, television, radio and the web the message to business owners is “Think Lott!”



Producing the new television spots for Lott Industries was a lot of fun! They feature Job Procurement Specialist Becky McCreery magically appearing to suggest that local business owners “think Lott” when they need help with packaging, light assembly, sorting and document destruction.

Becky is also featured as the official Lott spokesperson on the redesigned website pages and in a new radio commercial.

The Red carpet is rolled out for the stars of the first CommUNITY Film Festival



A scene from the many faces of John Ross Comes



A scene from Amazing Abby



A scene from My Wish starring Bethany Wissler

Seventeen amateur videos were submitted in the first CommUNITY Film Festival focusing on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. The event, sponsored by the Lucas County Board of DD, the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Toledo, and Camp Courageous and the Arc.

The focus of the competition was to inspire audiences, promote inclusion, and celebrate the everyday lives of people with disabilities.

Donors included Frank Ayres and Barbara Trimmer, Kurt Nielsen Photography, Plate 21, and Inventive Incentives. All the videos can be viewed online at the website www.communityfilmfest.org

Special Recognition Awards presented for achievement, hard work, and service

When you think of Miss **Sandy Brooks**, characteristics that come to mind are: dedicated and conscientious, a hard worker, a “terrific smile,” easy going, personable, and a good sense of humor. She’s quite a bowler, too!



Simply said, Sandy’s gifts are far reaching beyond her love of work and to help others. These days, Sandy spends several afternoons a week setting-up, serving and cleaning at a free hot lunch program for needy neighbors and parishioners at St. Lucas Church off of Broadway. She graciously connects with people (and they with her).

Diana Rowe has a long history of employment at various sites where she has done production work. Diana also worked at McDonald’s for several years and then returned to Lott Telegraph until it closed. Diana, still on the job at age 79, currently works at Lott Industries on Hill Avenue.



Diana demonstrates a positive work ethic. She prides herself as being a hard-worker, adapts to change, and is willing to attempt any task presented. Diana is affectionately referred to as “mother” by her coworkers because of her caring and sensitive nature.

Update wins prestigious award from Ohio Public Images



At the annual Awareness Awards competition sponsored by Ohio Public Images, the Update newsletter won an Award of Merit. The awards were presented at the spring conference of Superintendents of County Boards of DD.

Lucas County Board of DD publishes its Annual Report

With this Annual Report, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities wants to recognize the ongoing support from Lucas County voters to ensure that people with development disabilities have the same opportunities and life experiences as everyone else. More than five-thousand individuals received services and support from the Board in 2014.

A statement from the Board this past year reinforced a commitment to 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.

In reflecting back on 2014, we find several noteworthy activities reinforcing that concept and our partnerships with the community:

- The Board maintained its commitment to Governor Kasich’s Employment First Initiative - to open options for individuals to be employed in the community. But,

Lott Industries will remain a valuable alternative for those who might not be able to secure, or want to secure, jobs in the community.

- A new hydrostripping process developed by Lott Industries and the City of Toledo will rehabilitate signage. This environmentally-friendly process is expected to reduce costs to the city by 25 percent.
- More and more the artists of the Shared Lives Studio are being recognized as noteworthy members of the local art scene with their artwork on display at the Toledo Zoo, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, and WinterFest.
- Self-advocacy was evident when Tyler Wiley convinced the Toledo Board of Education to allow individuals with developmental disabilities free access to sporting events.
- The Board joined the County

Commissioners, the sheriff, TARTA and other agencies on a special task force to fight human trafficking.

- The Ohio Department of DD surveyed the operations of the Lucas County Board and found the Board had achieved substantial compliance... and became fully accredited. In a letter to Board President Mark Frye, DODD Director John Martin wrote, “The Board members and staff are to be commended for the efforts necessary to achieve this status.”
- The Board provided a \$14 million match to draw down \$38 million in federal dollars to fund supports and services in the community, not only by the Board but also by more than 300 licensed Medicaid service providers, thus allowing more individuals to be served.

For more information about the Lucas County Board of DD please visit our website at www.lucasdd.org

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



Get our new mobile app



Take key information from the Lucas County Board of DD with you wherever you go. The app is available free from Apple Apps and from Google Play. The mobile app is 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.

Letter from Superintendent Yenrick outlines the changes to be expected

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ourselves from adult day habilitation, supported employment, work floor production, and non-medical transportation services. We are going to have to complete this transition within the next five years.

What does this mean in the most simple-to-understand language? The Lucas County Board of DD will no longer operate Lott Industries, the community employment program, or a transportation fleet. These services must be operated independent of the board, either as private entities, or assumed by an existing provider.

Again, let me stress, these are not our decisions, but decisions being imposed by CMS upon all of Ohio's county boards of dd. What we can do is to make sure that we plan for the changes in an orderly

fashion that result in services and programs that are designed in the best interests of the individuals we serve.

For the time being, you will not notice any major changes in our service delivery. But, behind the scenes we will be putting our efforts into making sure that we maintain a full range of services that ensure people-centered planning, choice, and quality.

This is a job we cannot do alone. I welcome your input and comments. That's one of the reasons I will hold informational forums in which not only will I be able to bring you current, but hopefully we can also spend time sharing thoughts and ideas. I also encourage you to subscribe to our *Friday Update* free e-mail newsletter.

Deb Yenrick, Superintendent

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