

**Ron Smith,
Transportation Manager
Resigns**



Ron Smith, who has been the Manager of Transportation Services for the Board since 2009, has resigned to assume the position of Transportation Director for the Springfield Local Schools. We wish Ron well in his future endeavors.



Upcoming Events

- October 12 - Staff Inservice; Board adult facilities closed
- October 13 - Public Hearing on the 2016 Action Plan, 9:30 a.m. at 1154 Larc Lane
- October 15 - People First, 6:00, Ability Center
- October 16 - Dinner-Dance, Halloween Bash at Premier Banquet
- October 20 - Monthly Board of DD Meeting, 5:30, 1154 Larc Lane
- November 9-12 - Regional Transition Expo
- November 26-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
July-August-September 2015



The first experience for the new competitive dance and cheer team was at Patrick Henry High School. (from left) Jennifer Houser, coach Katie Nault, coach Samantha Boback, Kelly Wagner, and DeAndre McBride.

Labor unions show their generosity in gift to Lucas County Special Olympics



A big tip of the hat and thank-you to local labor unions, who presented a \$10,000 donation to Lucas County Special Olympics at the recent Labor Fest picnic.

Shop Shared Lives Studio online!



Access to the Shared Lives Studio is limited for the next few months because of the Hensville redevelopment project along North St. Clair. But, you can still browse the gallery and do holiday shopping by going online to the new Shared Lives website SharedLivesStudio.org.

Using the secured procedures of PayPal, you may purchase items online using either a credit card or PayPal account.

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

Ohio Supreme Court requires training for guardians

New rules regarding guardianship from the Ohio Supreme Court require an initial six hours of training. The training will cover such topics as how to be a more effective guardian and the responsibilities of a guardian. The training must be completed within six months of appointment for new or inexperienced guardians. Continuing guardians will have until June 1, 2016. Live training sessions have been scheduled and online courses will soon be available. Please direct questions to Judicial College staff at 614-387-9445.

CMS has approved the state's request for a 10-year extension

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has accepted the state's request to extend until 2024 compliance on requirements regarding Conflict Free Case Management. While county boards of dd will not be permitted to provide waiver services to new enrollees, unless there are no other options, county boards will be permitted to continue to provide waiver services to existing enrollees until 2024.

The Lucas County Board of DD provides direct services to approximately 2,000 adults. Superintendent Deb Yenrick believes it will take until 2024 to ensure a quality provider network is in place and all individuals are transitioned to providers in the private sector.

Governor Kasich signs ABLE legislation

Ohio Gov. John Kasich signed into law a bill that will allow people with developmental disabilities to save for the future without losing public benefits.

The Ohio Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act allows for the creation of special tax-advantaged savings accounts for people with qualifying disabilities. Money stored in these accounts does not count toward a person's asset limit, allowing people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing their eligibility for assistance programs on which they rely.

CommUNITY Film Fest will be February 28



Now is the time to begin planning your video entry for the second annual CommUNITY Film Festival. Your video should focus on how YOU contribute to your community, inspire others, and promote inclusion. This might be through your family, school, work, neighborhood, faith community or wherever you belong. Workshops are planned soon to help you create your video. For more information visit www.CommunityFilmFest.org

Human trafficking is an issue we cannot ignore

What makes the Toledo area attractive to business, its easy access to transportation, also makes the area one of the country's key centers for human trafficking recruitment. It is an issue that cannot be ignored and why the Lucas County Board of DD is becoming active with the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

"Human trafficking is modern day slavery," says Toledo State Representative Teresa Fedor, who has championed legislation to increase penalties for those who are involved in trafficking.

It's estimated more than 1,000 Ohio children each year are forced or coerced into the sex trade or labor against their will. And, while there are few studies on the impact of human trafficking on persons with developmental disabilities, the Ohio Department of DD has listed specific risk factors:

- Communication skill deficits
- Inability to detect who is safe
- Diminished ability to protect oneself
- Social powerlessness

If you suspect a person with a developmental disability is being trafficked contact the Board of DD. If you suspect immediate danger, call the police.

Anna Khouri becomes the newest Board of DD member



Lucas County Probate Judge Jack Puffenberger administers the Oath of Office to the newest member of the Lucas County Board of DD, Anna Khouri. She is the mother of two children on the autism spectrum, a former member of the Ohio Autism Task Force, and has a Child Advocate Certificate from the University of Toledo.

Nathan Kanavel demonstrates a strong desire to work

The Board is pleased to recognize Nathan Kanavel with a Special Recognition Award for August 2015. Since 2008, Nathan has worked on various enclaves including Groundskeeping, Rehn, and Calphalon. In early 2015, the Calphalon crew was downsized after automated equipment was brought in. Nathan maintained a goal to seek community employment.



Expressing a desire to work at Meijer, he took the initiative to put in an application. He followed up for many months, and was finally called in for a series of interviews. In May, 2015 Nathan landed a job at Meijer's in Oregon as a Utility Worker/Cart Collector. The store managers were very happy with his performance and recognized he had experience unloading trucks. Nathan was then given the opportunity to unload trucks, sort, and stack pallets of merchandise. Management was very pleased with his work stating they wish they could have more hard workers just like him.

Ryan Davis takes pride in a job well done



The Board is pleased to recognize Ryan Davis with the Special Recognition Award for September 2015. Ryan works at the Hill Adult Services Center and earlier this year began cleaning the Community Supports Department area. The Community Supports Department staff members nominated Ryan for the great work he does in their area.

Ryan performs a number of work tasks daily which he initiated on his own, such as cleaning window sills, vacuuming floors, cleaning out the refrigerator and keeping the foyer very inviting for our guests. He also

takes care of the copier and printer areas to ensure they are cleaned and maintained. He has an excellent work attitude and takes pride in a job well done.

Ryan is always smiling and pleasant. Congratulations Ryan and thank you for all of your hard work! We truly appreciate your efforts. The Board is pleased to recognize Ryan with the September 2015 Special Recognition Award.

Public Hearing scheduled on 2016 Action Plan



A public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, on the Board's proposed Action Plan for 2016. The public hearing will be held at the Administration Building, 1154 Larc Lane, Toledo, OH 43614.

The Action Plan will identify priorities and goals for the coming year to include steps in the system transformation mandated by rule changes from Medicaid. The new Action Plan will identify a revised Mission Statement and set of Core Values.

The system transformation, which will see the Board of DD migrate away from providing direct services, is based on four factors:

1. Governor John Kasich's Employment First Initiative requiring every person served to be on the path of community employment;
2. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule eliminating funding for segregated services;
3. The CMS requirement that a provider of services cannot also be a provider of case management; and
4. Legal rulings that require services to be provided in community settings instead of segregated settings.

Families, persons served, providers and advocates are encouraged to join Superintendent Deb Yenrick for this public hearing. This hearing will take the place of the regularly scheduled Family & Advocate Forum.

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Office of Public Information
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, OH 43614

[http:// www.lucasdd.org](http://www.lucasdd.org)
419-380-4000

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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.

Tom Zachrich and Liz Lubinski selected Staff Persons of the Month

In the Maintenance area Tom is very good at planning out his priorities for the day, making sure that jobs are completed and supplies delivered in a timely manner, often ending his day away from his home base.



Tom is also very involved in other aspects of the program. He single-handedly took care of the traveling art display from the Cultural Competence Committee. Special Olympics also benefits from Tom's hard work. He has made taking care of the ball field his own personal challenge. He grades it, installs the bases each year, and sprays weed killer as well as any professional groundskeeper in the major leagues.

Tom has proven himself time and again to be a dedicated employee.

Liz has held several positions with the Board since starting as a Hab Tech Substitute. She has been a Teacher Assistant, Hab Tech, and Workshop Specialist. Her most recent position, as a Vocational Trainer, sent her to One Government Center to supervise a crew.



Liz's positive attitude and energetic personality have encouraged those she works with to try harder and do their best on a daily basis. Liz takes the time to get to know the individuals that she works with so she is equipped to train based on learning styles and motivation.

Liz exemplifies the Board's mission and philosophy of creating choice, opportunities and inspiring possibilities.