

**Becky Culp,
Transportation
Supervisor, Retires**



Known for her strong work ethic and high standards, Rebecca Culp has made the Board's management team stronger. Becky, who has been with Board since 1990 and has been a Transportation Supervisor since 2004, is retiring. Becky was first employed as a Workshop Specialist moving to the Transportation Department in 1993. Congrats on your retirement, Becky, and enjoy your new home in Florida!



Upcoming Events

- December 8 - Family & Advocate Forum with Superintendent Deb Yenrick, 9:30 a.m., 1154 Larc Lane
- December 10 - People First, 6:00, NODC
- December 15 - Monthly Board of DD Meeting, 5:30 p.m., 1154 Larc Lane
- December 25-January 1 - Winter Holiday, Facilities Closed
- January 8 - Winter Wonderland Dance, 6:00, Premiere, 4480 Heatherdowns

Update

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities
October-November-December 2015

It's All About Fashion



Athletes were in style at a recent fashion show fundraiser for Special Olympics at the Bay View Yacht Club. (from left) Cheryl Friess (parent), Ashley Friess, Michelle Olender, Kelly Wagner, Amy Wyatt, Sarah Powers, and Becca Simmons.

Walleye players join the artists at Shared Lives in holiday tree fundraiser



Kelly Brown works alongside members of the Toledo Walleye in the Shared Lives Studio creating holiday trees that will be sold at Walleye games to benefit the studio. This is the second year team members have worked with studio artists in a holiday fundraiser.

Board revises its Mission Statement and list of Core Values

Contained within the Board's 2016 Action Plan are revisions to the Board's Mission Statement and Core Values. The new statements were drafted to more closely reflect the systemic changes that affect all Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities.

The Mission of the Board: Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potentials.

LIFE is capitalized in the Mission Statement because it represents an acronym:

Living LIFE- I desire to live my life in the same manner as you. This means having the opportunity to choose my home, my relationships, my hobbies, my career, and my beliefs.

Inclusion- I am included, accepted, and able to participate in ALL things throughout my community.

Freedom of choice- My voice is heard in decisions that affect me. My opinion matters.

Everyone has worth- I have talents and abilities that I want to share. I deserve the chance to contribute to the betterment of my community.

Ron Volk takes Oath of Office as the newest Board member



Lucas County Probate Judge Jack Puffenberger administers the Oath of Office to Ron Volk, who will fill the unexpired term on the Lucas County Board of DD that occurred when John O'Neil resigned. Mr. O'Neil has assumed a position on the Lott Industries Board of Trustees. Mr. Volk is a former Chair of the Lott Industries Board and presently serves as the Chair of the Toledo-Lucas County Commission on Disabilities.

How to receive timely notifications and alerts

There are several methods available to receive notifications and alerts from the Board of DD.



- Download our free app for your smartphone from the App Store or Google Play. Remember to say "yes" when asked if you wish to receive *push* notifications.

- If you wish to receive text messages to your cell phone, send to 40404 this text message *follow*

LucasDDAlert

- Like us on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/LucasCountyDD
- We will also continue to use our automated phone call systems to alert individuals using our Transportation services if there is a transportation delay or if facilities are closed.
- We will ask the news media to continue to post notices about delays and closings.
- As always the most current information will also be on our website at www.lucasdd.org

Registration open for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge



The annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics in northwest Ohio will be January 30 at the Thirsty Pony in Sandusky. As part of the Polar Plunge experience, participants obtain monetary pledges and then agree to jump or slowly crawl into the frigid water of the pool. Another way to participate is "Too Chicken to Plunge."

Registration information is available online at sooh.org or by calling Special Olympics Ohio at 614-239-7050.

Special Recognition

Early Intervention family finds support by networking through social media



Parker Barto is a happy, smart and fun-loving 2 year old. She loves music, exploring her environment and playing with her older brother Tyler. Parker has been receiving Early Intervention services since May, 2014. Parker's vision is impaired and it is unclear at this time what she is able to see.

Parker's parents, Erika and Charles, both work full-time and Erika attends school in the evenings. As busy as their schedules are, they always make an effort to both attend medical appointments as well as family events in the community. The family has done a great job networking with other families over Facebook and within the community.

Erika and Charles are strong advocates for Parker's care and learning. It took a great deal of work on their part to find just the right daycare for Parker.

While they are still left with many questions in regards to what the future will hold for Parker, they continue to remain optimistic. They have taught her left and right so that they can give her verbal directions to empower her independence. They are eager to learn Braille so that they can help her learn when the time comes.

Erika and Charles are working diligently with doctors, service providers and Early Intervention Services to meet Parker's needs. The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to present the Special Recognition Award for October, 2015 to the Barto Family.

Advocate Councils present their annual reports



Presenting the annual Holland EAAC report (from left) Kevin Stechschulte, Patty Zawierucha, advisor Sandy Coucher, and Theresa Shiple

Each year the Employee Advocate and Advisory Councils (EAAC) summarize their activities at an annual luncheon attended by the Board's Leadership Team. They review their self-advocacy efforts, community activities, charity work, and actions that help provide better work places. The Councils were first organized within each of the Board facilities in 1991.

Preparation for systemic change is outlined in 2016 Action Plan



The 2016 Action Plan for the Board recognizes that change is coming in the traditional way Ohio county boards of developmental disabilities have delivered services, and there can be no denying that the change is coming faster than many would wish. These changes are being mandated by several factors which include:

- The Olmstead Decision – which decreed that services should be delivered in the most integrated setting;
- The ruling identifying that the role of service provider is a conflict of interest if performed by the same entity also providing case management;
- A new rule from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services requiring services are delivered in community settings; and
- The Governor's Employment First Initiative that puts an emphasis on community-based employment.

The Action Plan outlines the steps that must be taken to prepare for the systemic changes that must occur while at the same time fulfilling our responsibilities to people served. The Board is also committed to the promise we made to the voting public to be fiscally prudent.

You may download the 2016 Action Plan from the Board of DD website www.lucasdd.org or obtain a copy by calling the Office of Public Information at 419-380-4048.

Office of Public Information
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, OH 43614

<http://www.lucasdd.org>
419-380-4000

Deb Yenrick, Superintendent

Board Members
Mark R. Frye, President
Eric F. Henzler, Vice-President
Jeanne Brockmyer, Recording Secretary
Anna Khouri
Ron Volk
Linnie B. Willis
Ray Wood



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



Board's Annual Meeting will be January 25

Again this year, the Annual Meeting for the Lucas County Board of DD will be held at the Sullivan Center, 2049 Parkside in Toledo on Monday, January 25.

The tradition will continue of honoring several *Community Partners* who have made exceptional efforts to help further the Board's Mission to ensure that persons with developmental disabilities can reach their full potentials.

The Board will also present its annual *Spirit Award* for lifelong service on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities and name a *Self-Advocate of the Year*.

The keynote speaker will be Toledo City Councilmember Sandy Spang. The meeting will begin with at 6:00 p.m.

Board honors Staff Persons of the Month

The Board honored Lauren VanTress, the Staff Person of the Month for October, 2015. She has been an Early Intervention Developmental Specialist since November, 2010.



Her positive spirit brightens the day for many families and for staff. She has a genuine passion for her work and a playfulness in her interactions with children that naturally places families at ease.

Lauren is positive, supportive and encouraging with families. She approaches families in a way that fosters learning and teamwork, and they appreciate her ability to share excellent intervention ideas in such a friendly and caring manner. Lauren is always willing to assist others and does not hesitate to take on additional responsibilities when needed.

The Board is pleased to recognize Bridget Verrengia as the Staff Person of the Month for September. Bridget has been working as a Behavior Specialist at the Board since November 2004. She brought her prior experience working with the autism community to the behavior unit and has been an invaluable resource to individuals, families, providers, and staff across the Board.



Bridget goes above and beyond for the individuals she serves. She is often working early in the morning or late at night to accommodate schedules and be present when difficult situations arise. Bridget thinks outside of the box and comes up with creative ways to support and encourage the individuals she serves.