

Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities *The Community Connection*

A publication by the Allen County Board of DD that recognizes the importance and potential of all people

Spring 2018



March is known as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. At the Allen County Board of DD, we wanted to Celebrate CommUNITY. It truly takes a unified commUNITY to serve people with developmental disabilities so they have opportunities and needed support in living the best life they choose. We appreciate our many partnerships in Lima / Allen County that make these opportunities possible. In turn, we wanted to honor our commUNITY who gives of their time, talent and resources to help us with our mission. We believe that UNITY and community integration means that all people, regardless of ability, do not just live in the community but are living, learning, working and playing as a member of their community.

In celebration, we hosted our annual Partnership Luncheon with an awards ceremony, attended DD Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse, offered an Open House to the community, and served others through random acts of kindness. It was a great month!



PAYING IT FORWARD: A SUPER WAY TO HONOR A REAL SMALL TOWN SUPERHERO

Earlier this year, the Weaver family suffered something that no family should have to face - the loss of a child. Despite their grief, they wanted to honor their son's legacy in a way that would benefit the special needs community. Since losing their sweet boy, the Weavers no longer needed a wheelchair accessible van. The Allen County Board was blessed to find and introduce the Weavers to a young man in need of an accessible van which would enable his entire family to go places and do things together. Proceeds from the sale of the van were donated to the Allen County Board's fund for a new All Abilities Playground in memory of Owen, our real small town superhero.

If you would like to donate to the All Abilities Playground fund, please contact the Allen County Board of DD or join the community fundraising events coming this summer:

On Saturday, July 14th the 2nd Annual Fallen Heroes Poker Run will start at the Allen County Board, in front of Marimor School, in Owen's honor. Registration starts at 11:00 am, and the first bike will leave at noon. Single riders, bikes with passengers, and vehicles are welcome to join. There will also be a Mom-to-Mom sale from 8 am - noon. Find more information on Facebook at: Fallen Heroes Poker Run.

Husky Lima Refinery will host a golf outing on Saturday, July 21st at Hidden Creek Golf Club and Colonial Golfers Club. Please stay tuned for more information.

A Note from the Superintendent



months to come.

The past few months have been very busy and successful at the Board of DD, as we wrapped up our 2018 Accreditation Review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities on April 11-12, 2018. The highest award that can be obtained is a three-year Accreditation. As of this writing, we are awaiting the final letter; however, we only received two citations and were told to anticipate the three-year award. Preparing for this review can be a grueling, anxiety-ridden time for our staff. This review was even more so, as many of our staff had never been through a review, or at least not in their current role. I am very proud of all the hard work that was accomplished during this time. I know the recommendations from the Accreditation team will influence our work for weeks and

As we move through 2018, one of the biggest changes to hit our system will be the “Fix the List” process. By now, I hope all the individuals and families waiting on waiver services have received a letter and postcard announcing this campaign and asking you to educate yourself about the changes coming to Ohio’s Medicaid waiver waiting list after September 1, 2018. You are encouraged to visit the website www.fixthelist.info to learn more and to see a copy of the draft rule, OAC 5123-9-04.

The “Fix the List” coalition is the culmination of more than 18 months of collaborative work to modernize the waiting list. Replacing the current system will greatly improve the way Ohio’s waiting list for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers operates. The Coalition includes: individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, advocates in the field of DD, Arc of Ohio, and organizations representing guardians, county boards, and providers of waiver services.

Although the proposed effective date of the new rule is September 1, it will take up to two years for the system to completely change as this will impact roughly 49,000 people statewide. In Allen County we will be assessing nearly 500 individuals under this new system. Each individual will be assessed using a uniform statewide Waiting List Assessment Tool, ensuring consistency from county to county.

We have formed a workgroup in Allen County to implement the new requirements. One thing we know is that our Service and Support Associates (SSA) will have a different type of conversation with people with developmental disabilities and their families to discuss their needs and identify ways of meeting them, which may include a waiver or another means to meet the need. The waiting list will prioritize those individuals with the most needs to receive services and supports. The new rule also requires that we identify how many people we plan to enroll in each type of HCBS waiver.

This new waiting list system should allow us to more effectively plan to meet current and future needs of people with developmental disabilities as well as their families. We do not have all the details figured out at this point, and expect lots of work this year around our policy, procedures, and process for handling this change; however, we are confident we can work through each step for those we serve. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call your assigned SSA. If you do not have an SSA, call our agency at 419-221-1385 and ask to speak to someone about Fix the List.

We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Theresa Schnipke, Superintendent
Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**FIX
THE
LIST**

If you are interested in more information about Fix The List, please check out the Coalition’s website at FixTheList.info

Way to go, Mrs. Blass!

We are pleased to introduce Barbara Blass as our Director of Education and Early Intervention. She has been with the County Board for 23 years as a teacher, Summer Program Director, HMG Project Director and Early Childhood Coordinator. Mrs. Blass moved into her current position in January of 2018.



Early Intervention

Did you know that EI staff will complete the ADOS - the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - for any child under 3 years old in Allen County?

If you have any concerns about your child and would like an assessment, please contact Rachael Staley, Early Childhood Supervisor, to schedule an appointment. (419) 221-1262 ext. 1017

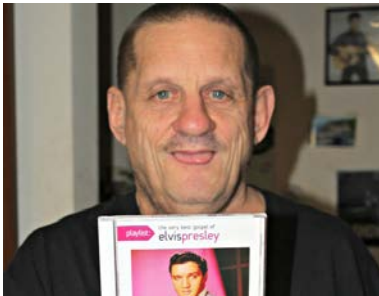


Science + You:
A Great Mixture!!

2018 Marimor School Science Fair



Brothers David and Larry Downard have always dreamed of visiting Graceland. With support from their team, they achieved this lifelong goal in January of 2018 with a Search Beyond vacation. From their first airplane ride, touring Sun Studios, experiencing the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, visiting the King's birthplace in Mississippi for birthday cake, to finally seeing Graceland, David and Larry had a ball.



Congratulations, Hannah!

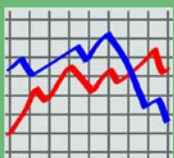
Marimor School is proud to celebrate Hannah, class of 2018!

ACBDD FISCAL FACTS

Eligible services provided to individuals with a developmental disability are funded in one of two ways. Services are either funded 100% by local tax dollars or by Medicaid waiver dollars, which is a combination of federal funding and local funding. The County Board authorizes the services, which are provided by private providers, and pays the local funding portion.

Federal Medicaid waivers pay for approximately 60% of an individual's daily services and local tax dollars make up the remaining 40% (referred to as a waiver match). In 2017, the Allen County Board of DD paid waiver match totaling \$2,158,023 for approximately 450 individuals.

In 2017, services were provided to forty-seven (47) individuals that were funded 100% by local tax dollars, totaling \$272,718.





**Allen County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

**2500 Ada Road
Lima, Ohio 45801**

“Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in Allen County by strengthening partnerships and providing high quality services.”

Connect With Us:

- Allen County Board of DD..... 419-221-1385
- Marimor School..... 419-221-1262
- Early Intervention..... 419-221-1262
- Reporting Abuse, Neglect or Theft.....419-221-1385
- TTY.....419-221-3393
- After Hours Emergency / On-Call SSA.....419-302-8825

www.acbdd.org



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- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
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our news and views



Like us on
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Join us for Family P.L.A.Y.T.I.M.E Summer Events

Parents Learning About Young Toddlers and Infants with other Mothers (and Fathers) and Educators

Friday June 15th: 10-11:30 am Fire Station Tour at Lima Fire Dept, Central Station, 433 S. Main St. Lima

Friday June 22nd: 10-11:30 am Reptile Program at Ottawa Metro Park, Wyandot Shelter, 2632 Ada Rd. Lima

Friday July 6th: 10-11:30 am Splash Pad at Lima Stadium Park, 100 Calumet Ave. Lima

Friday July 20th: 10-11:30 am Allen County Children’s Garden, 620 W. Market St. Lima

Friday August 10th: 10-11:30 am Safety City, 700 S. Collett St. Lima

Friday August 24th: To be announced

Summer PLAYTIME events are free and for kids birth to age 5 with their entire family! All events are weather permitting except the Fire Dept.