

Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities

The Community Connection

A publication that recognizes the importance and potential of all people

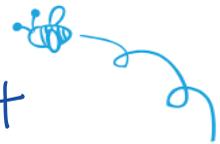


BUTTERFLY MEMORIAL GARDEN IN BLOOM

A highlight of 2022 has been opening the Butterfly Memorial Garden, which is located behind the All Ability Playground. We held a dedication ceremony in May, with more than 80 people in attendance. We read off the names on each butterfly, which include friends, family and community members. We also released live butterflies. The garden is open to the community, and it has paths that connect to Ottawa Metro Park. Please come visit anytime; you may even find some names you know. We will be adding butterflies to the garden every year, and we will hold an event to dedicate the new ones. If you'd like to purchase a butterfly to be added to the garden, complete the Butterfly Order Form at acbdd.org/resource-center/.



A note from the Superintendent



We are right in the middle of summer, and it has been a busy one. I want to highlight a few things happening around here and in our field. First, we will be finishing up a renovation project at 2550 Ada Road, converting old storage areas into new offices for Service & Support Associates (SSAs). We are pretty excited about how we were able to repurpose different rooms to give the SSAs adequate space, along with adding another conference room and an entry area at the back of the building. We now have 25 SSAs (and I just heard we are on the sixth maternity leave for the year!) As SSAs begin the important work of converting 615 Individual Service Plans to the new Ohio ISP by December 2023, the new space will serve them well. They should move in August 17, which is just in time for the Allen County ESC school and preschool staff to return and prepare their classrooms. That building will be hopping come August 26. If you work with an SSA, be sure to ask for a tour.



ACBDD staff with Director Kim Hauck (middle) and Lyndsay Nash (bottom right) from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Recently, there was big news in the Medicaid waiver world. (Waivers are the funding stream for many people to receive home, day and transportation services). On July 13, federal permission was granted for Ohio County Boards of DD to fund a payment to providers to help with the workforce crisis, through incentive payments for direct support professionals. County Boards will use local dollars to provide a 6.5% supplemental payment to providers each quarter, so they can give incentives to their staff who work in group homes, jobsites, adult activity centers and transportation. This was a unique and creative way to invest in important services for many of the people we serve. Exceptional statewide collaboration was needed to make this a reality - and it was accomplished fast! We see firsthand the struggles people are having to find and keep providers. We also know this hits families very hard. We continue to work on ideas that will help during this time of workforce shortages.

On July 20, we were very grateful to have a visit from Director Kim Hauck and Lyndsay Nash of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). In her first year, Director Hauck is making a visit to every county board in Ohio. Allen County is about halfway through her goal. It was a pleasure to showcase the success of our services; we were also glad to introduce her to self-advocates James Gephart and Nathan Miller, who spoke about their services and any concerns. The timing of the visit was perfect, as Director Hauck was able to participate in our monthly provider meeting, with 9 providers attending via Zoom. Then she joined us for a cookout hosted by our Good Life team. We are very appreciative of the visit and the collaboration with DODD to provide the best services possible.

In closing, I'd like to invite you to attend any of the events found on the next page. We have all kinds of activities happening every month, and these are just a few. If you'd like to start receiving our monthly activity calendar, please email Tammy at tdejong@acbddd.org. We'd love to have you!

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Schnipke
Superintendent
tschnipke@acbddd.org

A sneak peek of the renovation in progress!
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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Every month, we recognize a person who has a job in the community and is excelling at it. So far in 2022, our Employees of the Month have been: Greg at Red Lobster, David at Kewpee, Tiffany at Buckeye Coating Technology, Paul at Ohio Northern University, Troy at Chief Supermarkets, and Patty at McDonald's. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your hard work!



EMPLOYMENT STATS

- ◇ As of July 2022, we boast 148 people with developmental disabilities working in the community.
- ◇ Four people are over the age of 70, working because they enjoy it.
- ◇ 14 people are employed by Mercy Health St. Rita's.
- ◇ One person has worked at Chief Supermarkets for 31 years. (See his photo above!)
- ◇ 7 people have been employed in the same job for between 15 and 26 years.
- ◇ 56 people with developmental disabilities are currently looking for a job. If you have one for them, call Melodie at 419-221-1385, ext. 2869.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/10: How to Train Your Dragon @ Regal Cinemas
11:30 a.m. Cost - \$2
- 8/11 & 8/18: STRYKO Boxing @ Anytime Fitness
10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Cost - \$1
- 8/19: Lima Senior Football Game
7:00 p.m. Cost - \$6
- 8/22: Allen County Fair
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Cost - \$8
- 8/23: Paint & Sip @ Faurot Park, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Register with Tammy: 567-371-1823
- 8/25: Caregiver Connection Support Group
@ 2550 Ada Rd. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

THE FACES OF ACBDD, PART IIII



Adam Layton is our Behavior Support Consultant, who celebrated his one-year anniversary in April. Adam's favorite part of his job is working with teachers and students to find success in the classroom. He's visited 12 National Parks/Monuments and hopes to add more in 2022.



Lisa Kirk is an Accounting Specialist and a self-proclaimed "numbers geek." She's worked at ACBDD for almost 24 years. She started volunteering at Camp Robin Rogers and for Marimor at age 13. She got involved because of her younger sister, an "angel in disguise," who was born with 21 birth defects.



Angie Harbaum has been a Service & Support Associate for 2 years. She enjoys the relationships she's formed with the people we serve. Angie and her husband are in the process of restoring a old home in St. Marys, doing almost all of the work themselves.

FISCAL FACT



In her letter, Theresa shared that county boards will use local dollars to provide supplemental payments to providers. In Allen County, we will pay an estimated \$78,000 per quarter for incentives to help keep direct support professionals.



2500 Ada Road
Lima, Ohio 45801

“Supporting people through strong partnerships and high quality services.”

CONNECT WITH US:

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

www.acbdd.org



Members of the Allen County Board:

Thomas Fleming, President	Linda Lehman
Bob McPheron, Vice Pres.	Ty Butterfield
Phyllis Montrose, Secretary	Chad King
Christina Hood	



IT'S PLAYTIME!

The next PLAYTIME is on Friday, September 23, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Lima Public Library. PLAYTIME is a free, monthly event for children in Allen County, ages 0-5, and their families. It's a time for children to socialize and learn together, with a different topic of enrichment each month.

PLAYTIME is hosted by our Early Intervention team; no registration is needed. If you have any questions, call Rachael Staley at 419-221-1385, ext. 1017.