



Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

Celebrating the abilities of Ohio's 85,000 individuals with developmental disabilities

Freedoms Celebrated At Annual Festival

Often times, people forget how important freedoms – large and small – are.

On the Fourth of July, Americans remember the sacrifices people made to make and keep the *United States of America* free. Last year, the *Coshocton County Board of DD* started its own Freedom Festival to remember how important individual freedoms are. The annual event is held the Wednesday after Independence Day.



Everyone sang loudly when the Star Spangled Banner was played.

In many ways, the freedoms celebrated at the Coshocton festival mirrored the ones all Americans celebrated just a few days prior. Individuals celebrated the right to vote, the right to choose where they wanted to live and who they wanted to live with, and even what they ate for dinner.

Cheers from the crowd rang when people with developmental disabilities talked about what they valued in life. Simple choices, like when and what they would eat for dinner or watch on television, was the theme for the day, and were the freedoms everyone in the crowd could relate to.

Several hundred people filled the square where there were many activities and plenty of home cooked foods for people to enjoy.

Left: Horseback riding was one of the fun activities people had the opportunity to participate in.

The Freedom Festival was a strong educational opportunity for people throughout the region as two newspapers and a local radio station covered the event. The *Coshocton County Commissioners* attended the event, as well as State Senator Jimmy Stewart, who was the keynote speaker.

He received the hardest round of applause when he reminded the crowd of what they were able to accomplish just one year ago; taking the words “mental retardation” out of the names of *County Boards of DD*.



The *Coshocton County Board of Commissioners* helped sponsor the Freedom Festival. They are pictured, along with State Senator Jimmy Stewart, and members of the Freedom Festival committee. The festival committee planned every aspect of the second annual event.

Spotlight on Diane Roman Fusco

In an effort to better acquaint you with the volunteers who serve on the *OACB* Board of Trustees, we will profile a Trustee who is a *County Board of DD* Board Member each month. Profiled this month is Diane Roman Fusco of the *Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities* and Treasurer of the *OACB*.



Diane Roman Fusco

How long have you been a Cuyahoga County Board Member? 4 years

How long have you served as a trustee on the *OACB*? 2 years

My family: Was married for 25 years to Gary Fusco, who served in various management positions at the *Cuyahoga County Board of DD* before becoming Superintendent in Geauga County. Gary passed away unexpectedly in 2005. In August of this year, I will marry Mike Filarski, also widowed, and whom I've known professionally for many years. Gary and I didn't have children, so I am very close to my niece and two nephews. I also have two sisters, including a twin (we look nothing alike).

Occupation: Director of public relations for *Safeguard Properties*, the largest mortgage field services company in the United States, and based in Cuyahoga County. Safeguard inspects and maintains defaulted and foreclosed properties for banks, mortgage service companies and other financial institutions. It is an exciting business to be in at this point in our economy.

Education: M.S. Communications Management, *Syracuse University*; B.A. Business Administration, *Baldwin Wallace College*.

Proudest moment as a board member: Being invited to serve at all – what a privilege to work with so many committed people. Also, I was proud when the legislature removed “MR” from the names of state and county boards.

Three people (living or dead) you would like to have dinner with: Certainly, Gary, my Mom and my Dad, just to hold them and hear their voices again. Other than those, I would choose Mother Teresa, President Obama, and any one member of our Armed Forces serving in Afghanistan.

One thing I would like to accomplish: Two things come to mind: 1) To be more present to people. Almost everyone has a fascinating aspect, and I often regret missing the moment to discover it. 2) Travel to every continent of the world.

People would be surprised to know that: I can cook. I don't know why this should surprise

people, but it seems to.

My favorite thing to do is: Take really long walks in the park.

My favorite snack food is: Roasted unsalted almonds.

This irritates me: Rudeness, including my own.

Last book I read was: My book group is reading *Of Bees and Mist* by Erick Setiawan. The great thing about a discussion group is that you read books you wouldn't choose otherwise, and hear different perspectives. Our group is called “The Hottest Book Club”, or “The Hotties” – don't ask.

My favorite movie is: *The Wizard of Oz*. There's a good line in that movie for just about every circumstance in life.

OACB Annual Convention

The *OACB*'s 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION will be December 1-3 at the *Hilton at Easton*, 3900 Chagrin Drive, Columbus. This has been the location for many years, and continues to be a favorite among attendees because of the variety of dining and shopping venues.

More information will be coming as we get closer to that date, but we already are working on speakers. Last year's single day attendance record was established at almost 700 people, and we anticipate another strong conference in 2010.

Once again, Ann Neu will be the point person for the ANNUAL CONVENTION. She can be reached at 614-431-0616 or aneu@oacbdd.org.

Did You Know... (courtesy of Amy Rohling McGee, Executive Assistant for Health and Human Services, Office of Governor Ted Strickland)

At redetermination, no face-to-face interview is required, no application is required, and nothing needs to be signed. The one exception is that a signature will be needed if no one who previously signed an application remains in the household. Counties may choose to make contact with consumers by phone, by mail, by fax, or in person to collect the necessary information to make an eligibility determination. The consumer is still obligated to verify information at redetermination and when a case change affects eligibility.



Beth Johns dances as part of the school of jellyfish



Above, the Little Mermaid (Jennifer Mayberry) is showed surrounded by her princes, Luke Freeman and Jonathan Vallen.

Lots Of Talent Found ‘Under The Sea’

Contributed by Lisa Parramore,
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Approximately 40 children with developmental disabilities performed in the spring production of *The Little Mermaid*. This public performance was the result of a partnership between the *Canton Ballet* and the *Stark County Board of DD*.

In addition to the short production, other student groups performed to complete the school’s spring program entitled *Under the Sea*. The event was at the *Rebecca Stallman Southgate School* in Canton.

The *Canton Ballet* received an “It’s a Great Idea” project grant from *Arts in Stark* to fund the production. *School of Canton Ballet* faculty members Angelo Lemmo and Julie Mizer Grasse, under the supervision of Artistic and Executive Director Cassandra Crowley, choreographed, produced and directed the movement-based performance.

According to Grasse, the *School of Canton Ballet’s* early childhood specialist, Lemmo envisioned doing something called *Under the Sea*, but when he began to work with the students and saw that they could do something more involved, he decided upon *The Little Mermaid*.

Students with varying abilities performed. Several of the actors, including the star mermaid, Ariel, use wheelchairs. The prince and the king each used walkers to maneuver through the sea. Southgate teachers assisted the actors as needed during the performance.

This is the first time the *Canton Ballet* has joined with the *County Board of DD* on a project, but it hopes to continue working with individuals with developmental disabilities, said Jeanne Coen, *Canton Ballet* Marketing Director.

Advocacy Day Set For September 14

Advocates for people with developmental disabilities will be given a unique opportunity on September 14 as they will be able to participate in a Legislative Advocacy Day established just for them.

The event will be at 10:30 a.m. at the Statehouse Atrium in downtown Columbus, located at 1 Capitol Square. We expect this to be one of only two days that legislators are in session this fall, so carpooling to alleviate parking issues will be important.

The entire event has been organized

by Carmen Shelton, a self-advocate who lives in Franklin County. Ms. Shelton has traveled the state over the past year and half, explaining to people the importance of the Legislative Advocacy Day.

Ms. Shelton has organized the event as part of an *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC)* grant administered by The *Ohio State University’s Nisonger Center*. She would like to schedule legislative visits for people. Simply click on this link <http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration> and Ms. Shelton

will contact you about speaking with your legislators. The goal is to have at least three advocates from all 88 counties. At press time, more than 70 people were registered to attend and participate in the day’s activities.

The opening ceremonies are expected to last less than an hour. Four people will be speaking: Carolyn Knight, *ODDC* Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal, and Dean Fadel, President of *OACB* and *Franklin County Board of DD* Board Member.

Cruel Summer, High Risk Pools & Best Wishes

By Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director

For those of you who remember the music of the 1980s, a group called 'Bananarama' had a hit single called "Cruel Summer". Twenty-five years later, I have heard that song on the radio quite a bit as the mercury has been near or above 90 with lots of humidity to go along with it. What are you doing to



stay cool and/or make the most out of the summer? Going to a pool or lake at a state park? Taking your family to an amusement park or a baseball game after the sun goes down? Perhaps staying inside with the air conditioner on; spending time in a refinished basement where the temperature is always constant; or, going to a movie in the afternoon, then enjoying a cookout in the evening after things have cooled down a bit? No matter your response, the things we all enjoy doing in the summer are also typically things that people with developmental disabilities enjoy doing in the summer. For those of us involved in service planning, housing, recreation programs or direct service, we need to be sure to keep those we serve in mind during these hot summer months. Are we creating opportunities for people to go swimming or to the county fair? Do we pay attention to those who have bedrooms on the second floor of a home (i.e., heat rises); is there an air conditioner? Is there an ample supply of water so that

individuals get plenty to drink and stay hydrated? Our obligation to ensure health and safety remains in tact, but the ways we go about that shift as the seasons do. Just a few thoughts to consider, as the heat is on with no indication it is coming down soon.

The passage of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (PPACA), or National Health Care Reform, is arguably the most significant, if not most controversial, act of *Congress* to receive Presidential approval in generations. Almost immediately upon passage, talks began about revocation. Many so-called experts said PPACA would never be implemented. In the words of Mr. T (for those who saw *The A Team*), "pity the fool". On August 1, 2010, Ohio residents with pre-existing medical conditions who have in the past been turned down for health coverage can apply for the state's high-risk pool. The *State of Ohio* is set to receive approximately \$152M in federal money to run the high-risk pool until federally mandated insurance exchanges are in place in 2014. *Medical Mutual of Ohio* was chosen to run the high-risk pool. More information about the pool can be found at www.ohio-highriskpool.com. The implementation of this high-risk pool is an indication that the PPACA is moving forward. Will there be changes along the way? Probably. Is it likely that PPACA will be entirely revoked? Would you want to be the politician stating citizens are not entitled to health

care? While there are likely to be changes along the way, some level of health care reform is inevitable. In fact, it is underway. *OACB* is committed to ensuring our members have access to reliable information to make solid strategic planning decisions. For that reason, National Health Care Reform will be one of our two primary focus points (Self-Directed Waivers being the other) at the 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION to be held December 1-3 at the *Easton Hilton*. Dr. Ron Manderschied, Executive Director of *NACBHDD* and Professor at *Johns Hopkins University*, will deliver the keynote address on December 1st. In addition, there will be several breakout sessions that address various provisions of PPACA and implementation of health care reform. Further program details are forthcoming, but we hope you plan to join us at the 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION.

In closing, a big "thank-you" and "congratulations" to *Wayne CBDD* Superintendent John Tooley and *Fayette CBDD* Superintendent Steve Hilgeman. After more than a decade at the helm of their respective agencies, Mr. Tooley is retired at the end of July and Mr. Hilgeman is moving to a new profession at the end of August. Both of these fine gentlemen have served their agencies well and done their best to enhance the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. Well-done men and best wishes to you both!

Education, It's All of Our Jobs

By Linda Oda

OACB Director of Advocacy Services

I think as I get older, my tolerance level for any number of things is getting shorter. I don't wait on hold very well. If I set a time to meet someone, I want to meet then, not 15 minutes later.

As I become more personally involved with *County Boards of DD*, and more to the point, the people whom we serve, the lower my tolerance level is for ignorance and uneducated people. I have a tendency to always expect the best out of people, and when they do not meet that expectation, it can be very frustrating and just plain irritating.



Case in point. My family recently went on a short vacation to a water park in Ohio where I had the opportunity to have a 15-minute conversation with local public official. I was asking him about his local *County Board of DD*, and in his view, he was very supportive. In fact, he pointed out to me that he had previously served as a board member.

But that's not what I heard. I heard words like "those people." He complained several times about resources that should be spent for the good of the majority of people in the county, instead of such a small group of individuals. He argued that public schools shouldn't have to deal with "those people" – that they take up too much of the teacher's time and it's not like they can be taught anyways.

With my husband tightly squeezing my knee under the table, I politely thanked him for sharing his viewpoints, and wished him well.

While it hurt my ears to hear the words this man said, it also was a vivid reminder that our work clearly isn't done, and some might argue, has barely started. We have so much education that needs to be done in Ohio, and all of us have to play our part if we are going to accomplish this huge goal.

So many times, we spend an unbalanced amount of time on issues that involve money that we forget about the faces of the people that money is spent on. Many times we sit back and feel good about what we have achieved when we can get a legislative vote to go our way.

While we should revel in those victories, we need to always be cognizant of the fact that the true victories are not won by people in Columbus or Washington D.C. – it is won by the people who are consistently fighting to educate people in their communities about the abilities of people who have a developmental disability.

I think about people like Sadie Hunter with *People First*, who have poured their heart and soul into helping people like John G. reach their highest level of success. Or all the work the *Ohio Self-Determination Association* has done to give people with disabilities the information they need to fight their own battles.

There are administrators all over Ohio who have attended countless *Kiwanis* and *Rotary Club* meetings, helped with church socials and public school levies, donated money to political campaigns, and given educational talks at public meetings. Rick Marriott in Ross County specifically comes to mind. His list of achievements is as long as your arm, and includes every civic organization in Ross County. As a result, most people in Ross County know the services provided by the *Ross County Board of DD*, and have at least some level of knowledge about the abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

Certainly, the people at the forefront of this battle are the public relations specialists in Ohio, and we are blessed with many outstanding men and women in this field. The longer I work with *County Boards of DD* in Ohio, the more respect I gain for the people who are constantly looking for opportunities to educate the public about the abilities of people with disabilities. Truly, no one understands the battle we all need to face like those who are in the trenches, day in and day out.

While many of us are doing good things that forward the cause of people with developmental disabilities, each day we should ask ourselves "who have I educated?" and "who will I be able to reach tomorrow?" It starts with each of us.

Meet OACB Staff Member Lana Beddoes



Lana Beddoes is the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Many of you know Lana from the convention and conferences. Lana also is the administrative assistant for OASC. In an effort to give you the opportunity to get to know the OACB staff better, we thought we would share a little insight into their personal lives.

Family: I have been married to my husband Jared for 12 years, and we have two wonderful children, Kaleb, 9 and Reese, 5. My husband and I both grew up in Westerville and haven't moved far, living in Gahanna now. We feel very lucky to have both of our extended families close by and enjoy the time we spend together.

What I do when I'm not working: When I'm not working, I'm running around taking the kids to their activities. I hear it's only going to get worse, too. I wouldn't have it any other way. As long as I'm with the family, I'm happy just hanging out.

Favorite restaurant: Hmm, that's a tough one. I have no problem eating, so to pick a favorite is hard. I would have to say my favorite atmosphere for a restaurant is *The Spaghetti Warehouse* in Columbus.

Favorite song or musical group: Again, another difficult one to answer. Give me a country song and I'm a happy girl! The Zac Brown Band has been played a lot lately in the car.

Guilty pleasure: Zumba!! I picked it up last year while at my daughter's dance class and have been hooked ever since. What a fun workout! I need to just get myself there more often than twice a week. I might see some results if that happened!

My favorite moment of working with individuals with developmental disabilities: The Art/Craft Show that is held at our Annual Convention. I enjoy being able to interact with individuals from across the state and love seeing their many talents. The hard work and dedication that is put into their products and that sense of pride.....that is by far my favorite moment!

OPAC -DD Golf Outing

The Ohio Political Action Committee for DD's (OPAC) 18th annual golf outing will be held September 23 at the *Golf Club of Dublin*. This annual event's proceeds benefit the OPAC fund, which helps in the lobbying effort for the people with developmental disabilities in Ohio.

Currently, the OPAC is still looking for people willing to donate cash or door prizes. People interested in playing or helping at the event are encouraged to contact Ann Neu as soon as possible at 614-431-0616. Sponsorships for holes, drink cart, etc. are still needed.

This year's prizes include: Team Stroke Play, Team Scramble Champion, Woman's Team Champion, Longest Drive, Longest Putt, and Closest to the Pin. Groups can enter to play a 4-person Scramble, or a Handicap-Event where each participant plays their own ball start to finish. There is a putting contest that begins before the shotgun start.

Registration deadline is September 17th.



2010 Scramble champions: Jeff Noble, Jeff Allen, Ken Albert and John Pekar pictured with Dan Ohler.



2010 Team Event champions: Tom Pappas, Dave Royer Greg Finnerty and Paul Collingsworth pictured with Dan Ohler.

Compassionate Christian Agency Continues To Expand

The *OACB* recently began offering Affiliate Memberships to people and companies that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities. In an effort to better acquaint you with our Affiliate Members, we will be showcasing an Affiliate Member in each newsletter.

Every successful business has a niche or area of expertise or service they can hang their hat on. What sets *House of New Hope* in Licking County apart from many other providers is that it is a Christian-based agency that is proud of its levels of supports and services, as well as its promotion of self-reliance.

Found in 1992 as a non-profit Christian agency providing foster care treatment to children, *House of New Hope* was founded by Pastor Ed and Shirley Sharp. A decade later, the agency added waiver serves for children with developmental disabilities.

Just last year, mental health services were added. "While we have been serving the disabled community since our founding, we began serving adults with developmental disabilities in 2009," said Jeffrey R. Greene, Ph.D., PCC-S, FAPA, who is Executive Director of *House of New Hope*.

Located in St. Louisville, *House of New Hope* has expanded and has providers in Delaware, Miami, Medina, Clark, Perry, Union, and Knox counties, as well as Licking County.

As a provider, *House of New Hope* provides personal care, adult foster care, transporta-

tion, social work, and supportive living. As a certified mental health agency, they provide mental health assessment and out-patient counseling services to individuals with a dual diagnosis.

"We have a long and rich history of ensuring the safety and well-being of those we serve.



With our evolution into serving the disability community, we bring the same concern for safety; providing layers of oversight and crisis response by licensed social work and counseling professionals," Greene said.

"As a model for providing care and support for those we serve, *House of New Hope* intervenes in a manner that promotes respect, self-reliance, and self-determination; working in partnership with those receiving direct services, loved ones, and guardians," he added.

With more than 35 staff members, *House of New Hope* not only wants to help people with disabilities, they want to improve the lives of the families they serve by providing compassionate healing environments and individualized, community-integrated services.

"We pride ourselves in being advocates for those we serve and developing effective partnerships with the many stakeholders vested in their best interests. We strive to provide the type of support that ensures that those served feel respected, relevant and included in the activities and joys of living," Greene said.

House of New Hope is nationally Accredited by the *Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)*; Licensed by the *Ohio Department of Job and Family Services* and the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*; and certified by the *Ohio Department of Mental Health*.

Please contact Glenn McCleese, Director of Special Populations for information at (888) 200-1296.

Representative Goyal Noticed Nationally

The 2010 "Legislator of the Year" at the *OACB ANNUAL CONVENTION* recently was selected as one of the nation's top 40 community leaders by the New Leader's Council.

Jay Goyal of Mansfield, the 73rd District State Representative, was recognized by the *New Leader's Council*. The *New Leader's Council* is a national organization focusing on leadership development. Its 40 under 40 list recognizes the dedication and effort of leaders such as elected officials, inspiring community organizers and non-profit and policy leaders who use their resources to strengthen their neighborhoods and support their communities.

During his time in the state legislature, Goyal has fought for the establishment of a small business working capital loan program as well as the expansion and renewal of Ohio's Third Frontier Program, which provides vital support to Ohio's knowledge based economy.

Additionally, Goyal is a supporter of *County Boards of DD*, and participated in a Call2Action training at the *Richland County Board of DD*.

CMS, Stakeholder Meeting and Strengths of County Board of DD System

By Dustin McKee

OACB Policy Analyst

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to participate in a rare informal meeting that was held with the *Department of Job and Family Services (JFS)*, the *Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)*, and multiple stakeholders from Ohio's human services community.



Since *County Boards of DD* rarely have the opportunity to directly interact with *CMS*, I am providing a brief description here.

The meeting was well attended. Sitting around several small tables were representative from *ODJFS*, and a mixture of advocacy group stakeholders. There were a few names and faces you may recognize, including Tracy Plouck (Ohio's Medicaid Director), Maureen Corcoran (Assistant Deputy Director, *Office of Ohio Health Plans*), Patrick Stephan (Deputy Director of *Ohio Department of DD's* Medicaid Development and Administration Division) and Gary Tonks (Executive Director, *The ARC of Ohio*). There were also

representatives from *Ohio's Second Harvest Food Bank*, *AARP*, *Easter Seals*, *Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council*, and many other human services groups.

The Cafe session, which was one of two pilot meetings that *CMS* has set up to date, was held to discuss issues surrounding increasing Medicaid and Medicare enrollment, retention and access to medical care. *CMS* stated that they wanted to get more familiar with what stakeholders were experiencing, and plans to use the meetings to help them formulate ways to move forward in the context of the implementation of health care reform and pervasive state budget gaps.

During the meeting, my table discussed issues surrounding the pros and cons of continuous eligibility, ways to expand the "no wrong door" approach to Medicaid enrollment, and various other questions offered by *CMS*. There was a decent amount of dialogue about ways to bring down costs to ensure that the resources exist at the state level to increase access to Medicaid (and health care

in general) given the increase the insured population and dwindling state revenues.

One of the most notable things that happened during the meeting occurred when several individuals expressed interest in exploring ways to consolidate the operations of local government. At that point, I mentioned some innovations that have been implemented in the *County Board of DD* system. I explained that, by trying some things that system is already doing, our state could realize some efficiencies without threatening its ability to leverage local dollars for human services. Many of them were not aware of how some of our *County Board's of DD* utilize *COGs*, or how some are sharing the services of Superintendents and Business Managers in areas where it makes sense.

Thanks to all of you for the creative ways that you have found to efficiently provide quality services to people with developmental disabilities. We all have a system to be proud of, and it is easy to brag about - when the opportunity presents itself!

Across Ohio - News In A Nutshell

Adams CBDD's County Venture Productions Inc. is assisting *Riverview Productions* in Gallia County with the recycling of military cargo nets.

Allen CBDD's Marimor Industries Inc. concluded its fifth annual Marimor Idol contest on June 24 at the Ford Training Center, with 12 contestants earning their way into the finals. One month earlier, 76 people competed in the preliminary competition. The Marimor Idol will perform at the Allen County Fair in August.

Ashtabula CBDD is partnering with the *Ashtabula County Department of Health* to establish a Closed Pod Dispensing Site for the individuals served, their families and employees. In the event of a catastrophic public health emergency, preventative medication will be dispersed quickly.

Butler CBDD has a transitional employment enclave developed in Butler County to bridge a critical gap between school and work for young adults as they graduate from their home school districts. All of the individuals participating in the enclave are in the job search process and most are receiving support from a Supported Employment provider to help them navigate their way toward a job.

Carroll CBDD's Carroll Hills Industries has a new contract with *Seven Ranges*, packaging pliers for *Lowe's*. The Board used stimulus dollars to build a 24-foot by 30-foot pavilion for day habilitation services.

Clark CBDD has individuals who attend their Adult Day Services program, *Quest*, participating in the weekly Farmer's Market in Springfield. The market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays in the summer. They sell plants, dried herbs, crafts and produce.

Columbiana CBDD's EDI Workshops will soon be busy making candles. Individuals with developmental disabilities will be pouring and pack-

aging a line of scented candles that will be sold to the public, including fundraisers for schools and other organizations. Fundraising candles will be profitable for organizations to sell so look for a flyer coming soon. September is the goal for selling candles.

Crawford CBDD is proud to join other Crawford County area agencies to provide the program called Families-in-the-Park. The purpose of this program is to provide activities for children age toddler through 8 years, and their families, to assist in child development. This program is offered twice a week from through August 5th at two different parks in Crawford County. The theme for the sessions sponsored by *CCBDD* was "Wiggle, Wiggle, Wiggle". Children participated in activities including getting press-on bug tattoos; painting pictures by tipping trays and a marble wiggling through paint, traveling through an obstacle course; making a shaker to use like a tambourine while they wiggled to music; searching for creepy crawlers in shredded paper; bean bag toss; and making butterflies out of tissue paper.

Cuyaboga CBDD cooperated with many local agencies serving people with disabilities to sponsor a celebration in Cleveland on July 26, the 20-year anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event included the *East Cleveland Adult Activities Center's* Venture Crew, an Explorer troop made up of young men with and without disabilities, as color guard and St. Augustine's Deaf Choir. Advocate and musician Jeff Moyer performed the ADA Anthem via video. There was an afternoon conference at the downtown *Marriott* immediately following the public event. Dancing Wheels and the national champion Wheelchair Cavaliers performed. Moyer's performance is available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bw2e-acBKc>. He could not be at the event in person because he recently underwent surgery to donate a kidney.

Delaware CBDD's Special Olympics unified volleyball team won the gold medal/state championship in their division at the State Summer games. This is the second year that Delaware has had a unified volleyball team. Last year they won the bronze medal. Unified volleyball consists of three unified players and three athletes. On this year's team were Wally Berger, Rachel Berman, Nate Brown, Eric Brewer, Kyra Warren, Samantha Grim, Melanie Sonner, Matt Waldren, Tim Macko Andrea Temple, Jay Prater and Laurie Scholz. The team was coached by Tom Brown.



Emily and her dad Steve, enjoy playing baseball at a recent fun night. The Special Olympics of Delaware County played a fun game of baseball with The Delaware Cows, a Collegiate Baseball Club in Delaware, Ohio.

Erie CBDD named Lisa Guliano as its new Superintendent, replacing retiring Jerry Plassenthal. She will assume her new responsibilities August 9. The Board had a successful accreditation survey and was awarded a three-year certification.

Fairfield CBDD is proud to announce that the Lancaster Sensory Trail is on a blog post on the *National Rails To Trail Conservancy*. The link is <http://community.railsto-trails.org/blogs/trailblog/>

Fayette CBDD named Fred Williams as its new Superintendent, replacing Steve Hilgeman who is leaving to enter into a ministry.

Franklin CBDD says a little known fact about the Board is that Gary LeVox, lead singer of the Rascal Flatts was employed by the Board for 10 years. Gary and Jay DeMar-

cus are both from Columbus and are wonderful examples of celebrities who remember their roots and generously give back to the community.

Geauga CBDD announced a new effort to collaborate with the *West Geauga Local Schools* and the *Geauga County Educational Services Center* to turn the *Metzenbaum School* into an Early Childhood Center. *GCBDD* will continue to operate the Early Intervention Program and provide supports like Adaptive Physical Education, Music Therapy, and Swimming. *GCBDD* will be joined by the other organizations over the next year or two. As *West G* needs rooms for the pending all day kindergarten classes, they will move kindergarten classes to the *Metzenbaum* facility. The ESC will oversee the preschool and school age classes.

Greene CBDD recently held its annual golf outing to benefit *Homecroft Inc.*, the Board's housing division. George Postalakis, John Pekar, Dale Donovan, and Dave Kessler made up one of the dozens of teams that participated.

Guernsey CBDD notes that several employees at *Guernsey Industries* have been active in the past few weeks volunteering at the *Salvation Army*, packing more than 200 lunches daily for area children. They have enjoyed helping in the community and look forward to more opportunities.

Hamilton CBDD Services has won three national awards through the *National Association of Counties* for its work with the Vision 2014 Strategic Planning Group, the Co-Occurring Resource Group, and the Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

Henry CBDD, along with *Perry Corporation* and the *Henry County Commissioners*, presented a "Lunch and Learn" at *Oakwood Plaza*, the site of the Board's scanning operation, and many county offices. The event was attended by about 75 representatives from area businesses and industries. Presentations were made that highlighted the partnership between *Perry Corporation*, government and the *HCBDD* to accom-

plish a scanning solution for county government, and the community. There were games, prizes and giveaways, and a lunch was provided by *Perry Corporation*. Attendees were able to see demonstrations of software and hardware for document management, and visit Future View Document Management Solutions, the scanning site supported by the Board.

Hocking CBDD's Adult Services program has been working on a new program design to do a better job of engaging individuals who do not work or where work is not available. *The Employment Connection* (a COG formed by *Hocking* and *Perry CBDDs* for community employment efforts) has started their first summer work program. The SSA department is working with Barb Sapharas from the *Cuyahoga CBDD* to train SSAs, providers, and other stakeholders in the Essential Lifestyle Planning process. A special thanks to Barb and the *Cuyahoga CBDD* for helping with this project.

Huron CBDD is giving a "shout out" to David Straka for keeping the *Christie Lane Workshop* updated with weather, birthdays, and local events to attend. David says he enjoys doing the announcements because they are fun to do, and his favorite part is on Fridays when he announces new movies that will be in the theatres.

Jackson CBDD's J-Vac Adult Service Center has partnered with *Rio Valley Stables* in Rio Grande and *Shawnee State University* to provide horse therapy opportunities through day-hab. Also, a new day hab schedule has been implemented with various stations, including arts and crafts, life skills, library skills, etc. to meet the needs of the adults served. The group attended The Paints Baseball game in Chillicothe to support their Food Pantry collection project.

Jefferson CBDD recently completed the DODD accreditation process and was awarded a four-year accreditation. The *JCBDD* will be applying for the 5th year through the best practice process. *Jeffco Workshop*, the adult division of the *JCBDD*, recently completed a large order for

picnic tables and lawn furniture for the *City of Steubenville*. The picnic tables and lawn furniture are located in various locations throughout the city's two parks. The order of 40 pieces was the largest individual order ever completed by *Jeffco*.

Knox CBDD has been a partner in bringing Knox County the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* to promote literacy. This year alone, the program will enroll 300 area children for age-appropriate books to be mailed directly to their home until they turn 5 years old. The *KCBDD* also is participating in The Back Pack Give Away that provides thousands of area students from low income families with school supplies to get a good start to the school year.

Lake CBDD experienced much joy, laughter, and memorial times during "Building Bonds Day" when 120 volunteers from the *Western Reserve Junior Service League* and *Lubrizon Corporation* converged on the Deepwood Campus. They came together to generously donate their time, expertise, supplies and commitment to enrich the lives of individuals served by the *LCBDD*. Volunteers produced a carnival, hosted a picnic, painted various residential rooms, cleaned up a walking trail, landscaped around agency signs and gardens and cleaned windows.

Lawrence CBDD said good-bye and a big "thank you" to Nancy James, who is retiring after 18 years with the County Board. Nancy is retiring from her duties as secretary of the school age program.

Logan CBDD's Special Olympic organization and the community proudly supported Douglas J. (DJ) Casey and his teammates at the



D.J. Casey has proven himself to be a leader on and off the baseball field.

2010 US National Games at the *University of Nebraska* in July. Sixty-four Special Olympics Ohio athletes – on 10 teams – represented Ohio, where DJ is a member of the Team Ohio softball team. DJ was one of 3,000 athletes from all 50 states competing at the games. DJ returned to Bellefontaine with a first-place medal. DJ pitched in 7 of the 8 games for Team Ohio, and was the winning pitcher in Friday's final (15-1 win over Illinois) and fired a no-hitter against Iowa earlier in the tournament. Team Ohio went 8-0 during the tournament. DJ was honored earlier this year as January's Community Hero because of his excellent character and abilities as a leader both on and off the field. He was nominated by *Bellefontaine City Schools'* head football coach Jason Brown, and Superintendent Beth Harmon for his numerous hours of service to the Bellefontaine Chieftain athletic teams.

Madison CBDD is screaming loudly and proudly for Amy Burchett. The recent *Fairhaven Pre-School* graduate in Madison County was chosen to have her photo on a Velvet Ice Cream Birthday Cake Ice Cream



Amy Burchett on the Velvet Ice Cream Birthday Cake Ice Cream container.

container. Amy was nominated by Elaine Pierce of *Columbus' Nationwide Children's Hospital*. Amy was born about three months premature, and was in *Children's Hospital* for about three months.

Maboning CBDD's staff dogs Montana and Jack were featured in the *Youngstown Vindicator* as part of "Bring Your Dog to Work Day." The *Maboning CBDD's Centre @ Javit Court* facility regularly entertains animals



Jason enjoys a visit from Montana.

as part of a pet therapy program to bring smiles to the seniors and medically fragile enrollees. Program participants and staff also look forward to visits from Labrador Retrievers, Boone and Crockett, who have made regular visits to the Centre to provide tail wagging fun.

Medina CBDD's fifth annual Sundaes on Thursday Ice Cream Social was a huge success. More than 3,400 people joined the festivities and the site of chocolate, caramel and strawberry toppings dribbling down scoops of fresh vanilla ice cream (and topped off with rainbow sprinkles) proved to be the tasty theme of the evening. Each year the agency's administrators dish out thousands of bowls of free ice cream for the community. *Smith's Dairy* in Orville provided more than 100 gallons of ice cream for the festivities, while *Smucker's* provided the tasty toppings. Carnival games, face painting, balloon animals, a classic car show and music, provided by the *Clear Choice Barbershop Quartet*, were just a few of the amusements available for families.

Mercer CBDD recently was invited and held a Board meeting in the home of a couple of recipients of Martin Waivers, who are living in a home purchased with Capital Housing money. The Board's June meeting was held in Kyle Kremer's and Ted Thobe's home in Maria Stein. It was a wonderful experience for the Board.

Miami CBDD's Service and Support Administration teams are completing community service projects. One team of SSA's worked for a day at a *Habitat for Humanity* building project. Another team collected shoes to distribute to people in need as well as gathering items for a family enrolled in the Early Intervention program. A third team collected household items and gave them to an individual who was moving into their own apartment.

Montgomery CBDD's Mental Health Supports and Services Program, in partnership with the *Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board*, was awarded a 2010 *National Association of Counties* Achievement Award

in recognition of an effective and innovative program which contributes to and enhances county government in the United States.

Morgan CBDD continues to utilize the Level One waiver, and most adults are now enrolled. The *Greater Ohio Biking Association* stopped in Morgan County and spent the night at the fairgrounds. A few adult services individuals met with them and provided refreshments.

Morrow CBDD's Aktion Club recently participated in a putt-putt golf outing with the *Marion County Aktion Club*. There were 13 individuals from the *Morrow County Aktion Club* who played golf with six of the *Marion Aktion Club* members.

Muskingum CBDD's Muskingum Starlight Industries will soon open the *Starlight Café*. This restaurant venture is in conjunction with the local transit authority in the bus station in downtown Zanesville. The Café will not only serve Greyhound passengers during the day, but will also offer breakfast, lunch and an early dinner for downtown businesses. The café will provide employment and training for several employees of *MSI* and will also be provide retail space for other *MSI* products.

Ottawa CBDD hired a full time Senior & Wellness Coordinator to boost services to seniors and individuals wanting more social activities in their community. Michele Bailey, who has her bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, began with the Board in June. Michelle brings years of experience working in recreation with people with disabilities at *Camp Champ/Cheerful* in Strongsville.

Pike CBDD's employees joined workers from *Canal Industries* to start a lawn maintenance services. *State Farm Insurance* and *Little Caesars Pizza* are just a couple of businesses that contract for these services.



Businesses in Pike County have had the opportunity to employ individuals from the *Pike CBDD*. Workers are pictured with staff members.

Portage CBDD recently learned it had been awarded a \$26,000 grant from the *Ohio EPA* for the clean diesel school bus fund retrofit program. The grant money will be used to install pollution reduction equipment on 15 buses that will reduce significantly the amount of nitrous oxide and particulate matter released into the environment.

Preble CBDD, through its affiliation with *WestCon*, has approved a program called P.L.A.Y. Project. P.L.A.Y. is a community-based/regional autism training and early intervention program dedicated to empowering parents and professionals to implement intensive, developmental interventions for young children ages 0-5 with autism in the most effective and efficient way. According to John Martin, *DODD* Director, the project provides seed money to make available a service through the *COG* that is not currently available in individual counties.

Putnam CBDD's had several Special Olympic Athletes participate in the Torch Run prior to the June Summer Games. Wood County Special Olympics invited Putnam's athletes to run in this event as the Torch Run passed through Wood County. The athletes were also treated to lunch and a festive atmosphere enjoyed by all!

Richland CBDD hosted the 5th Annual Dress for Achievement Fashion Show at *Richland Newhope Industries Inc.* in Mansfield. There were about 20 models who posed for cameras and strutted down the catwalk. The event featured job appropriate outfits that individuals served by *Richland Newhope* could wear in preparation for community employment. Some casual outfits were also modeled along with more formal wear. All of the clothing was donated by *Newhope* staff and family members or friends of employees. Each individual got to keep the clothing he or she modeled. Additional clothing that was donated was given to low-income individuals at the workshop or in group homes who need clothes, but aren't necessarily looking for a community job.

Scioto CBDD is proud to announce that nine 9 athletes represented Scioto County at the Special Olympics Summer Games. Athletes sold audio CDs "The Inside Pitch" featuring Dodger Carl Erskine and Reds scout Gene Bennett reminiscing about Branch Rickey and baseball. Scioto also accepted two major donations totaling \$4,800 from the *Portsmouth Elks City Club* and the Southern Ohio Autism Project.

Seneca CBDD was awarded a five-year level of accreditation for achieving the four-year through the accreditation process, and the fifth year for promising practices.

Shelby CBDD announced that 35 individuals from its *People First* chapter recently participated in an evening of training called "Health, Safety & Sexuality Training for You and Me". The training focused on increased awareness and each person developed a personal safety plan. Several parents and providers were also in attendance. Thank you *People First of Ohio* for your assistance in providing this valuable training.

Summit CBDD won a Silver Telly advertising award for a recent TV PSA that promoted the *Gift Gallery* stores that sell products made by artisans with developmental disabilities. Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs. See the winning commercial online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLrhzSefAdg>

Tuscarawas CBDD is collaborating with *Union Hospital* and *Buckeye Career Center* to implement Project SEARCH at *Union Hospital* for the upcoming school year. Project SEARCH is a one year, high school transition program which provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business. *Union Hospital* is the first business in Tuscarawas County to host Project SEARCH students. The program graduated six students this year. Next year's class has grown to eight students. They are excited to be a part of this progressive initiative to

make such an impact in the lives of the students.

Union CBDD is getting ready to welcome a new preschool unit that serves children with autism. *Marysville Schools* is moving the classroom to the Harold Lewis Center. In addition to the direct benefits for preschoolers and teaching staff, the partnership will share resources, minimize duplication and increase efficiencies, creating a win-win for all involved. Read more on this collaborative endeavor at www.ucbdd.org.

Warren CBDD had individuals who attend the adult services day program assisting the countywide torch run, benefitting Special Olympics, by handing out water to the runners at numerous water stops throughout Warren County. The staff of adult services competed for the honor of top baker in the first annual cake bakeoff. The delicacies were enjoyed by everyone in the day program! Also, the Voices of Warren County choir held their spring concert and opened the county fair with a performance at the fairgrounds.

Wayne CBDD announces that David Ashley has been named Superintendent, replacing John Tooley, who retired after 36 years of service. David is only the fourth Superintendent of the Board, which has been in existence since 1955. Two years ago the Board included a Superintendent succession plan as part of their Annual Plan. This allowed the succeeding Superintendent to receive two years of orientation and training prior to taking the position. It allows for a great level of continuity and a period of time to learn the community expectations for the operation of the program.

Wood CBDD's bus drivers helped provide shuttle service for a fund raising event/concert to benefit those who were affected by the tornadoes in *Lake Township*. Four drivers were able to provide bus service with a number of school districts and agencies in NW Ohio. More than 6,000 people attended, and an estimated \$200,000 was raised.