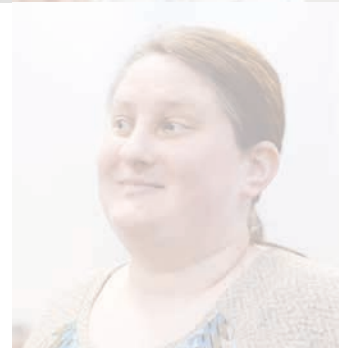


# ANNUAL REPORT



GROWING POSSIBILITIES  
IN LAWRENCE COUNTY OHIO





## DEAR STAKEHOLDERS,



Julie Monroe

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 Annual Report to the Community. We take pride in providing services to over 600 individuals with developmental disabilities in Lawrence County. Our programs include services to young children and families from birth to 3 through Early Intervention, students throughout the county in grades K-12 at Open Door School, and Service & Support Administration (SSA) that serves people from age three through the life span. SSA's provide a variety of services that help individuals receive the supports they need to live safe and self-directed lives in the community.

One of the most important tasks for 2023 was completing the agency's new three-year strategic plan. The agency hosted several focus groups for all stakeholders, including staff members. We were very pleased with the final product that identified five major areas: Self-Advocacy, Navigating Services, Community Access, Organizational Culture, and Community Awareness & Education. We feel confident that our strategic goals are a direct result of the input we received.

We made significant updates to our buildings. We installed a new intercom system that improves efficiency and communication between buildings, as well as other safety-related upgrades. We also underwent a branding refresh to improve our agency's logo, and made plans to streamline its use so we would be more recognizable. The Open Door School program received grant funding to open a sensory room in the school, and a

calm-down room was added to help students self-regulate when needed.

We also invested in a few new positions to better serve the increasing number of individuals seeking services, and to provide more support and training opportunities to employees as they navigate our complex system. Progress was made on reducing the number of individuals on the Medicaid waiver waiting list, while also meeting the needs of those in crisis situations requiring immediate assistance. Medicaid waivers provide local and federal funding to individuals so they can live, work, and participate in the community. Waiver funds pay for a variety of services, including services from providers to receive assistance with home tasks, shopping, transportation, assistive technology and many other services. LCDD is dependent on local tax dollars to fund the waiver system.

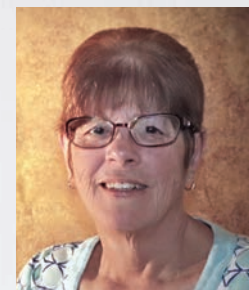
Moving forward, we will continue to work towards increasing opportunities for those we serve to be connected to the community. Communities are better when everyone is included, and we will work to make that a reality. We invite everyone to visit our website at [www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org), and our FB page at Lawrence County DD.

Sincerely,

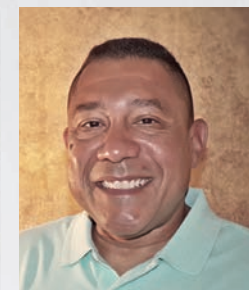
*Julie Monroe*

**Julie Monroe**  
Superintendent

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Debra Jones - President



Mike Gore - Vice President



Steve Thompson - Recording Secretary



Amanda Carte



Sara Marks



Brandon Smith



Tanner Huff







**VALUES** Communication • Accountability • Safety  
Integrity • Compassion

**MISSION** To promote advocacy, inclusion and personal growth

**VISION** People of all abilities feel included in our community



Photo: Julie Brammer & Jayce Brammer, Chesapeake

## 2023 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### NEW THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

- Five major focus areas were identified: Self-Advocacy, Navigating Services, Community Access, Organizational Culture, and Community Awareness & Education.

### BUILDING UPGRADES

- New intercom system installed to improve efficient communication throughout buildings
- Safety improvements

### BRAND REFRESH

- Improved our agency's logo, and streamlined its use to be more recognizable.

### GRANT FUNDING

- Open Door School received grant funding for sensory room and clam-down room to help students self-regulate

### CREATION OF NEW POSITIONS

- New positions were created to better serve the increasing number of individuals seeking services, and to provide more support and training opportunities to employees as they navigate our complex system.

### MEDICAID WAIVER WAITING LIST REDUCTION

- Progress was made in reducing the number of individuals waiting for Medicaid waivers which provide local and federal funding to individuals so they can live, work, and participate in the community. Waiver funds pay for a variety of services, including services from providers to receive assistance with home tasks, shopping, transportation, assistive technology and many other services. LCDD is dependent on local tax dollars to fund the waiver system.



Photo: Crystal Music, Coal Grove



# PEOPLE SERVED BY PROGRAM

## Service and Support Administration (SSA) - 2023

Total served: 385

## Early Intervention -2023

Total served: 172

## Open Door School - 2023

Total served: 68

**Total Served: \*593**

*\*This number is after removing 32 individuals who receive both Open Door School and SSA services - counting them only once for the total number served.*

# WAIVER ADMINISTRATION

## Total waivers 2023

Individual Options Waiver: 158

Level One Waiver: 102

SELF Waiver: 4

Total: 264

## New Waivers 2023 (these are included in total waivers above)

Individual Options Waiver: 13

Level One Waiver: 13

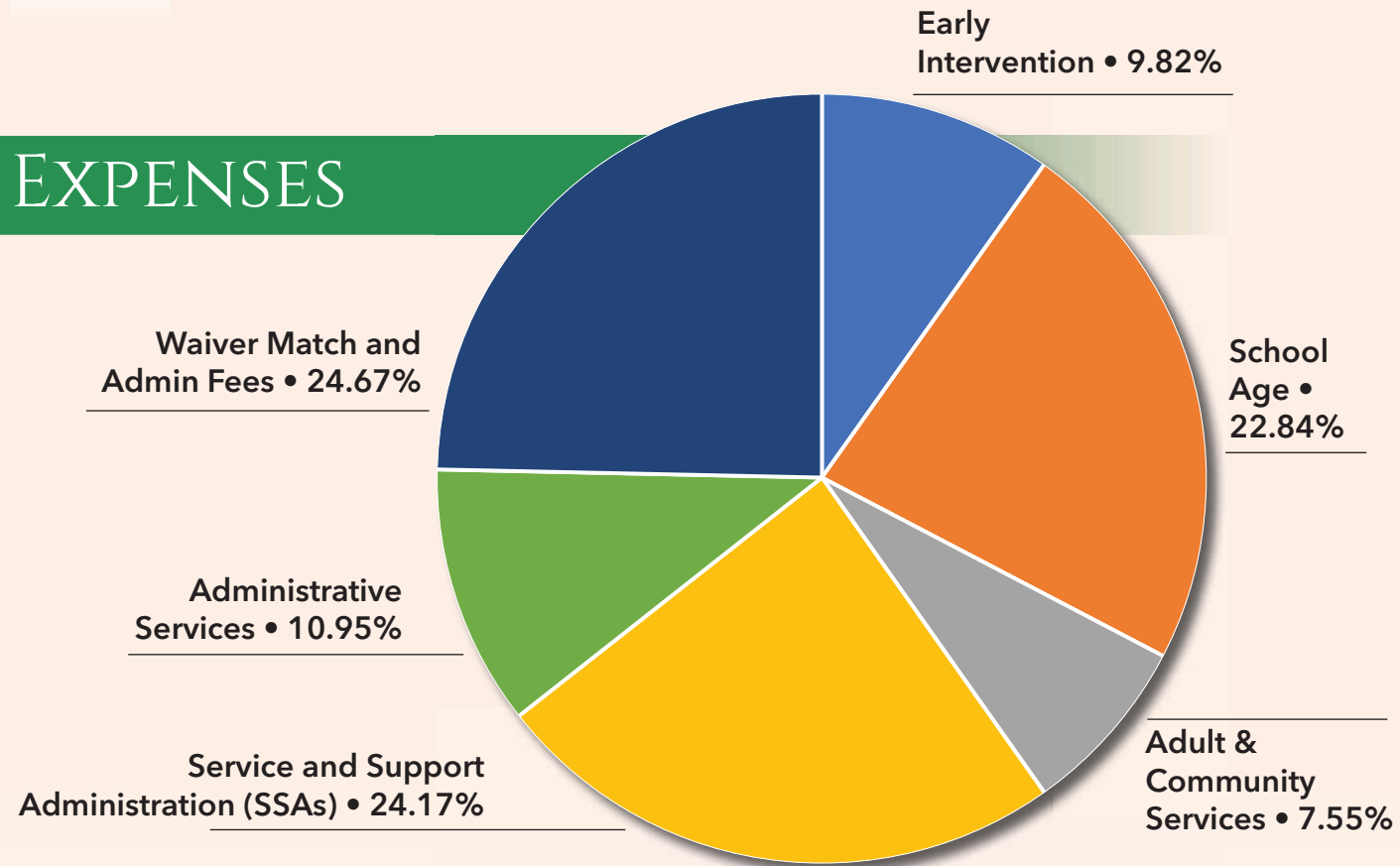
SELF Waiver: 0

Total New Waivers in 2023: 26

### WHAT IS A MEDICAL WAIVER?

A Medicaid Waiver is funding source that enables individuals with developmental disabilities to receive services in their home and community. Services may include help with shopping, personal hygiene, medication administration, transportation, assistive technology, home modifications, and participation in Adult Day services.

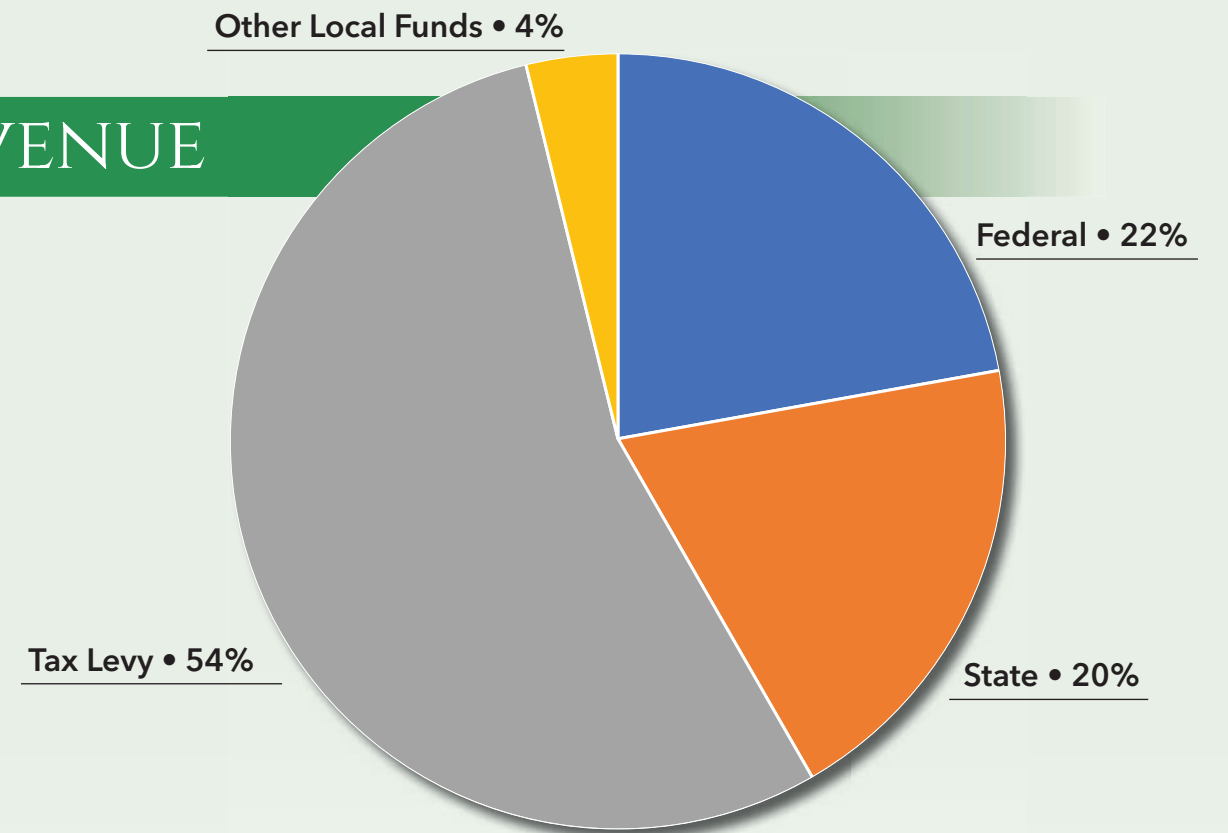
## EXPENSES



### General Expenses

Early Intervention	\$628,969	9.82%
School Age	\$1,462,375	22.84%
Adult & Community Services	\$483,135	7.55%
Service and Support Administration	\$1,547,536	24.17%
Administrative Services	\$700,941	10.95%
Waiver Match and Admin Fees	\$1,578,803	24.66%
	<b>\$6,401,759</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## REVENUE



### Revenue

Federal	\$1,451,270	22%
State	\$1,278,318	20%
Tax Levy	\$3,564,131	54%
Other Local Funds (Wavier Match Refund, Etc)	\$251,292	4%
	<b>\$6,545,011</b>	<b>100%</b>

# SPOTLIGHT

## Meet **Will Sowards** – Service and Support Recipient



Will Sowards is a familiar face at the South Point Foodfair in Lawrence County, OH. He began his job in 2009, and since then, he has worked various jobs at the store from carry out to stocker. Whether it's collecting trash, keeping the parking lot tidy or assisting the elderly while shopping, his devotion to his job and customers is motivated by his love for people. Wherever there is a need for assistance, Will is there ready to help with a smile and an encouraging word.

Jill Adams, SSA, Service and Support Administrator for Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities, helps to coordinate services for individuals in need by connecting them to job opportunities in the community. "Will is very inspiring. Everyone who knows Will lights up when they talk about him," said Adams.

Having faced adversity in the past, Will can look back at his experiences and reflect on something positive to support and encourage others. When asked how he keeps such a positive attitude, Will said, "I don't want to live my life with a bad attitude. You just have to get up and keep going." "I love that about him," said Jill. "Will's philosophy in life is, 'if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything!'" We share this philosophy with Will, and that's why Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities is proud to partner with individuals like him to provide much-needed resources in education, health care and opportunities for employment.

## Meet **The Johnson Twins** – Early Intervention Recipients



Early Intervention services at LCDD provides services to individuals when a delay or disability is evident. The Johnson twins, Jamin and Josiah, became part of Brian Hayton's, Developmental Specialist's case load when they returned to their mother's custody. Jamin and Josiah were not communicating well and their pediatrician referred them to Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention for assistance.

Brian explains how Early Intervention helps with coaching and modeling to assist families and caregivers as the most important teachers in their children's lives. "We come along as a supplemental aide to assist," says Brian. "When I first met the boys they were not using words. Now they are using words, naming shapes and colors and mom has done a wonderful job at home talking to them, reading to them, singing to them and making sure she's communicating with them on a daily basis. You can really see it coming out in everything they do."

Mom, Randi, has been successful in rehab, she has obtained her degree and now is a rehab counselor. "Being in the field and seeing people come in where I started out, it's actually very fulfilling. It reminds me of where I was, ... and where I don't want to go back to," says Randi. Early Intervention coming in with their suggestions and helpful tips played a part in where her kids are now.

## Meet **Ava & Friends** – Open Door School Students



**This copy for placement only. Will write story to fill space.** Early Intervention services at LCDD provides services to individuals when a delay or disability is evident. The Johnson twins, Jamin and Josiah, became part of Brian Hayton's, Developmental Specialist's case load when they returned to their mother's custody. Jamin and Josiah were not communicating well and their pediatrician referred them to Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention for assistance.

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*Thank You*

FOR READING OUR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Photo: ?????? ??????? ????????