



FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

New Board Meeting Times

The LCDD board meeting times are being moved!

Effective April 9th, the LCDD board meetings will be at 6pm and continue to be held at the main Board Office, unless otherwise specified. Board meetings will be on the second Tuesday of every month, with no board meeting held in July. The May meeting will be rescheduled due to Open Door graduation.

More info about our meetings can be found at our website at www.lawrencedd.org

Staff Birthdays

Deborah Cox, April 2

Dorothy Bloebaum, April 5

Holly Gibbs, April 8

Jeff Townsend, April 21

Annette Payne, April 24

Caitlin Anderson, April 29

DD Awareness Month A Success in Lawrence County

Lawrence County DD held several exciting, fun and successful events for Developmental Disabilities Awareness month this March - many of which received overwhelmingly positive feedback from individuals, families, staff and the community.

DD Awareness month kicked off with our annual balloon launch at Open Door School. We followed it up with Dr. Seuss Day at the school in which we had several readers visit the students.

We held our annual basketball game between the Open Door Jets and the Verne Riffe Cardinals of Scioto County at Ironton High School. Person Centered Services also held their basketball games at IHS as well, with several community agencies and businesses participating to challenge the Warriors.

We also held our 20th Annual Chili Fest and Craft Show at Dawson Bryant High School. The milestone event continued the trend of growing again this year, as we once again had an attendance over 700, along with 26 crafters and vendors and 25 chili cookers.

We want to thank our commissioners, volunteers, families, participants and everyone who helped make DD Awareness month a massive success in Lawrence County. See you next year!





Superintendent's Corner

Director Jeff Davis recently provided testimony in support of the two-year state budget, HB 166. Budget initiatives are aimed at addressing several issues the DD system is facing. Among those include investing in the direct service workforce by making increases to Medicaid reimbursement rates. This funding would come from a partnership between DODD and County Boards of DD. Also, expanding eligibility for Early Intervention services and increasing funding to serve children with lead exposure and those born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Funding to expand community transportation and serving youth with complex needs are also included.

Next steps include gathering input from stakeholder organizations, and amendments will be accepted to the budget bill until the second week of April. The bill should be ready to move onto the Ohio Senate in early May. More information on the two-year state budget process and status on any legislation can be found at <https://www.legislative.ohio.gov>.

On a local level, Lawrence County DD has begun renovations on the former TSI Building in preparation for the Open Door School to relocate there this summer. We are very excited to see progress being made, and are also pleased to see that Person Centered Services (PCS) who currently operates a day program in the building, are making great progress on their new location on 2nd Street in Ironton (the former Bob Linn's building).

We are very pleased to announce that three new Board members have been appointed to serve by the Lawrence County Commissioners. They include LoRena Cahal, Joel Utsinger, and Mike Gore. They will be sworn in at the next Board meeting and more information will be sent next month about their backgrounds.

March DD Awareness month was great, and we appreciate all of the participation in our 20th Annual Chili Fest! It was a packed house and we enjoyed having the opportunity to interact with the community.

Be sure to check out our website at www.lawrencedd.org, for up-to-date information including Board notes and meeting minutes, as well as a new agency calendar.

Thanks for reading and I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter!

- Julie Monroe, Superintendent

Donations Coming in for Open Door School Renovation and Relocation

Mike Patterson (right) in the Lawrence County Clerk of Courts office was able to make a generous donation to the renovation and relocation of Open Door School. The donation will help with supplies needed to convert the former workshop into classrooms, build a new kitchen as well as assist with new playground equipment.



Other generous donors for the cause include Marathon and the Child Welfare Club. From LCDD, our staff, students, people we serve and families, we thank those in the community for their support!



On April 1, 2019, Sarah Mease and Mia Dishman attended a PLAY Project training in Zanesville, Ohio. PLAY Project provides supports for parents in developing a joyous relationship with their children with autism spectrum disorders in a way that will help each child reach his/her full potential. Richard Solomon MD is the Founder of The PLAY Project autism early intervention program. In the training, Dr. Diana Holderman provides attendees with information about using PLAY in classroom in order to promote development to children with autism spectrum disorders. Using PLAY, children can improve their development by having better interactions, better functional development, and less autism symptomatology. PLAY project focuses on social interaction, leading to learning readiness, values of fun, playfulness, and joy in learning. For more information about PLAY Project you can visit the website www.playproject.org.

Helping to Clean Up Lawrence County

With several projects throughout the area focusing on beautifying Lawrence County, including Project First Impressions and clean up week taking place in Ironton in May, attendees at Easterseals helped to chip in as well.

Participants visited Burlington Park and helped pick up litter and trash left behind by careless visitors.

Participants then sat down and enjoyed a picnic in the freshly cleaned park.

Hopefully they can set an example for others in our area and help to make Lawrence County more pleasant to the eyes. Let's all do our part and take care of what is ours: Lawrence County.



Photos by Cheryl McNeal

SAVE THE DATE

TECHSUMMIT 2.0

A program of the Ohio Technology Project

June 21, 2019
8:30AM - 4:00PM
Crowne Plaza
Columbus North - Worthington
6500 Doubletree Ave., Columbus, OH 43220

Hear from families
Sample technology to help support people with developmental disabilities
Hear from experts about technology and technology services

Register Here: Nisonger.osu.edu/TECHSUMMIT



Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
NISONGER CENTER



Contact Us!

Main Board Office
740-532-7401

Early Childhood Center
740-377-2356

Open Door School
740-532-1234

Service and Support Administration
740-532-0406

www.lawrencedd.org

To receive the newsletter electronically, email us at info@lawrencedd.org

The Barker Farm Visits Open Door School

The Barker Farm came to visit Open Door School on March 22. A variety of animals caring, including a wallaby, a cavy, a llama, 3 different types of goats (including a fainting goat!), a miniature cow, a camel, a brown bunny, a tortoise, a porcupine and a monkey. Each student was given a cup of carrots and feed to give to the animals.

The day was cold and windy with drizzly rain, so Kate, Tony, and Terry Barker brought their monkey and porcupine inside so the students were warm and dry. Open Door School was filled with smiles and laughter that afternoon!



Calendar of Events

April 8-11

Week of the Young Child at ECC

Monday - RHHS Band

Tuesday - Foods of different culture

Wednesday - Transportation Day

Thursday - Super Abilities Day w/
Batman

April 9

LCDD Board Meeting

April 12

Open Door Prom

April 16

Open Door Spelling Bee

April 18

Fishing Day at Lake Vesuvius

April 22-26

Spring Break, No school

April 30

Open Door Science Fair