



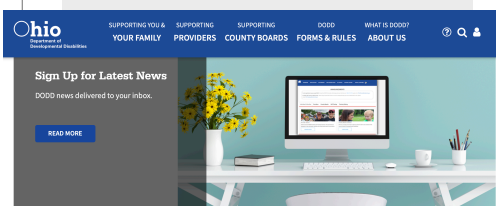
FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

Resources for Individuals with DD

Resources are available both at the county level and at the state level for developmental disabilities programs in Ohio. LCDD has compiled a list of resource at our website at www.lawrencedd.org. DODD continues to add new updates and guidelines for county boards, providers, and families. Information from DODD can be found at dodd.ohio.gov



Staff Birthdays

Deborah Cox, April 2

Dorothy Bloebaum, April 5

Holly Gibbs, April 8

Jeff Townsend, April 21

Annette Payne, April 24

Lawrence County DD Offering Services Remotely During Stay At Home Order

Despite the challenges during the current COVID-19 pandemic, Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities is using every technological resource available to ensure needs, health and safety of people with developmental disabilities are being met.

In mid-March, Lawrence County DD (LCDD) ordered staff to begin working remotely, including the temporary closure of Open Door School, the service and support offices, and the early intervention offices. However, programs are still being made functional thanks to technology available in today's world.

The LCDD administration meets at a minimum of three times per week to discuss plans for how to continuously provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Governor DeWine ordered schools to be closed on March 16 and extended the order through May 1 this week. On March 21, the governor ordered adult day services with more than 10 people per location to close.

While orders from the Ohio Department of Health allow for services to be provided at any Human Services Operations, social distancing orders have affected home visits for the early intervention and service and support departments who regularly visit with families to ensure plans are being met, along with other health and human services being offered to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

In order to provide the services offered by LCDD, the agency has set up several remote programs for the DD population across all age ranges.

The Early Intervention (EI) program, which works with families of children birth to three that have been diagnosed with a delay or developmental disability, is using phones, tablets, laptops and desktops to conference call with families via video in order to coach through children's developments. Early intervention providers encourage families to choose a platform they are most familiar with and EI service coordinators provide additional coaching on how to use technology, if needed. The use of this technology allows the specialists to provide the same services following the same timelines and with the same frequency and duration.

Several of the teachers at Open Door School have created virtual classrooms online and through social media so that students can continue to learn classroom instructions at home. Teachers create live Facebook videos of activities, post educational resources, and interactive learning activities. Related services such as physical education and speech, physical and occupational therapies are also offered remotely through the internet and social media as well from LCDD. In addition, teachers are contacting families to check on education plans, well being and food supplies to offer assistance as well.

The service and support administration (SSA) has divided up into resource teams during this time to better serve individuals and providers. The provider coordination team checks in regularly with providers of services around the county, responds to their needs and shares information from the state department of DD. The provider billing team answers any billing questions in regards to services for people with DD for which need to be paid. The resource team monitors and coordinates resources and supplies for people throughout the county, and the monitoring and support team checks in regularly with individuals to assess health and welfare, ensuring services are being filled as a result of day habilitation programs closing or being limited. The SSA department as a whole meets virtually through video conferencing to ensure all services are being met.

Contact information for all departments is located on page 4 of the Focus. 1 Continue staying safe and practice social distancing.



Superintendent's Corner

Greetings,

These are challenging times in our community, but we want everyone to know that LCDD remains fully engaged in supporting people with developmental disabilities in Lawrence County.

The LCDD is working hard to ensure that individuals and families

continue to receive the assistance and support they need to remain healthy and safe during the COVID-19 crisis. We are working closely with our local Emergency Management Agency and Health Department to ensure equipment and services are available if needed. We are also maintaining basic supplies that providers and families may have difficulty obtaining and distributing as needed. All of our programs are actively utilizing technology to provide services, monitor health and safety, and assure essential business operations are completed. While the majority of services are provided remotely, we are going out when necessary to make deliveries and monitor safety when needed. All precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of our staff and anyone they come into contact with.

LCDD is staying informed of all guidance issued by the Ohio Department of DD, and Ohio Association of County Boards to ensure the swift implementation of new directives and best practice measures for our field. Please connect with us on our FB page and our website at www.lawrencedd.org to keep up with helpful tips and important information. If you or someone you know with a developmental disability is in need of something, or are experiencing social and emotional issues, please contact us at 740-532-7401 or 740-532-0406.

We look forward to being together again. Until then, please know that our commitment to those we serve and their well-being remains our top priority. Please stay safe!

Regards,

Julie Monroe, Superintendent

LCDD Utilizes Technology to Continue**Serving during COVID-19 Pandemic**

During 2018 and 2019, the Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities implemented a plan to improve our technology utilization and infrastructure. This initiative was developed as part of our Strategic Plan. The Technology component of that Strategic Plan outlined six goals: Develop a secure and efficient system for all electronic correspondence; Develop a user-friendly, informational website; Establish electronic connectivity among buildings; Provide ability for staff to remotely connect to server resources and applications; Explore a more modern and efficient telecommunications system; and Provide an electronic document management system.

Over the 2 year period, each of the goals has been met. LCDD moved our server and email communications platform into "the cloud" utilizing a Managed IT platform with GO Concepts, a Lebanon, Ohio based company that provides services solely to organizations within the developmental disabilities community. A virtual private network (VPN) was built that connects each of the LCDD buildings with GO Concepts providing secure communications of electronic data including email, document management, remote desktop and applications management, and telecommunications.

The LCDD website was rebuilt from scratch providing a platform for us to share information with the Lawrence County community. There is a wealth of information provided on the site including our core values and mission, resources for service providers, information related to advocacy, information about our programs, COVID-19 resources, and information for the voters of Lawrence County. Our website is a window for the community at large to know what we do and how we do it.











The LCDD campus network infrastructure was upgraded by implementing a fiber internet service and installing a local fiber connection between the two buildings on the campus. This infrastructure upgrade has allowed for the implementation of an IP-based telephone system that provides a seamless system between each of the LCDD programs. This system also supports the use of video conferencing in a secure environment.

The result of these investments is the ability for LCDD to be completely functional while working from our homes during this COVID-19 pandemic. The LCDD staff have moved their office technology (laptops and phones) to their homes, and continue to provide services to people with developmental disabilities of Lawrence County in the same fashion as they would if they were physically at their offices.

LCDD is fortunate that we can practice social distancing while still serving those that need us. **We're all #InThisTogetherOhio!**

COVID-19, Cold and Flu

How can you tell the difference?

	SYMPTOMS	CORONAVIRUS COVID-19	COLD	FLU
	Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common
	Cough	Common	Common	Common
	Sneezing	—	Common	Sometimes
	Fever	Common	—	Common
	Body aches	Sometimes	Mild	Common
	Tiredness	Sometimes	Mild	Common
	Headache	—	—	Common
	Runny/stuffy nose	—	Common	Sometimes
	Nausea	—	—	Sometimes
	Shortness of breath	In severe cases	—	—

Adapted from the Cleveland Clinic. Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

On April 7th, the LCDD early intervention team participated in a webinar provided by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in conjunction with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low-Incidence (OCALI).

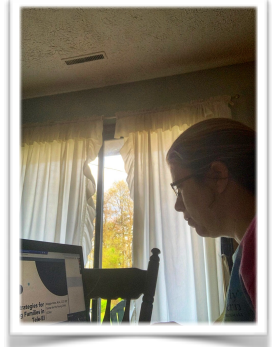
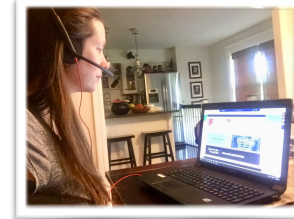
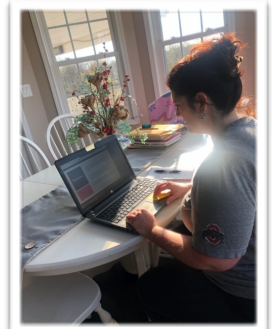
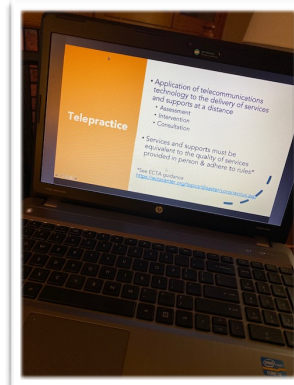
The purpose of the webinar was to share information for engaging families in the full scope of EI practices using technology instead of face-to-face home visits.

Since our home visits were suspended in March, the early intervention team has been learning everything we can about maximizing the use of technology. Some of the activities we are doing using audio and video conferencing are: evaluating and assessing child and family needs, monitoring progress on child and family outcomes, modeling strategies that families can incorporate into their daily routines, and sharing information in weekly team meetings.”

We know these are stressful times for our families, and we want to make sure our use of technology does not add to their already high stress-levels. Just as our face-to-face practices are individualized to meet the needs of the family, our use of technology also considers each family’s current circumstances. We know that certain types of technology may not be comfortable for everyone.

During this health crisis, it is the intent of the LCDD early intervention team to provide the same quality services our families expect.

Stay safe and stay inside!



Do You Need Supplies?

Every agency and department in Lawrence County plays a role at times like these.

LCDD is the agency charged with ensuring the health and safety for individuals with DD.

If you or your family need supplies, please contact us and we can see to it that we help families in the Lawrence County community.

Want to make a donation? We have a barrel located outside our board office in Coal Grove for drop offs.



604 Carlton Davidson Ln.
Coal Grove, OH 45638

Contact Us!

Though facilities remain closed, most DD staff can still be reached at their normal phone numbers and extensions during the stay-at-home order.

The main number for LCDD is 740-532-7401; the SSA department and emergency contact is at 740-532-0406; Open Door School is at 740-532-1234; and Early Intervention and childhood services can be reached at 740-377-2356.

www.lawrencedd.org

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