

# FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

## Staff News

### New Role at LCDD

Susan Price recently accepted the position of a Service Coordinator in the Early Intervention program Susan comes from the SSA department and has spent over 10 years with LCDD in various roles!



## Staff Birthdays

Jamie Delawder, Dec. 3

Andrea Caldwell, Dec. 8

Elizabeth Russell, Dec. 10

Monica Robinson, Dec. 13

Donna Childers, Dec. 26

## A Teacher's Call of Duty:

### Winning the Combat of Complex Behaviors

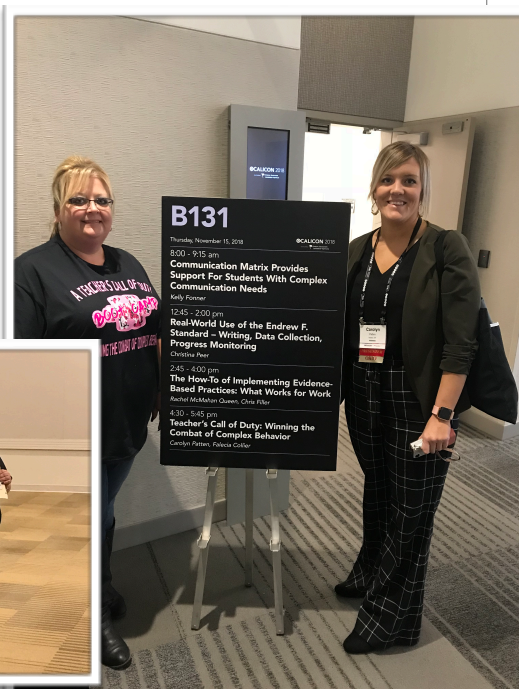
On November 15, 2018 two of the Open Door School teachers - Falecia Collier and Cassie Patten - presented the training, A Teacher's Call of Duty: A Winning Combat of Complex Behaviors, in Columbus, Ohio at the OCALIcon conference.

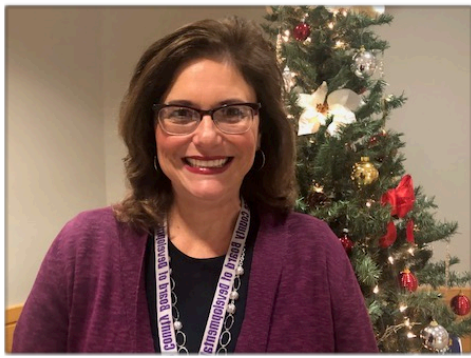
OCALIcon, held once a year in Columbus, is attended by representatives from all 50 states and several countries throughout the world that attend and present on Autism and special education areas from early intervention through adulthood. Mrs. Collier and Mrs. Patten presented on dealing with challenging behaviors using our PBIS (positive behavior intervention strategies) Team. Our PBIS Team has been working with our students and teachers to provide a range of strategies and interventions to be used in the classroom and at home with those students who need these particular interventions.

If you are interested in learning more about their presentation or how our PBIS Team works please do not hesitate to give us call at Open Door School, 740-532-1234.

If you see Mrs. Collier or Mrs. Patten give them a shout out for a job well done.

*Submitted by Kendra G. Heim, Principal*





## Superintendent's Corner

Greetings everyone!

As the year winds down we would like to express our heart-felt gratitude for all of the hard work our staff members complete every day for those we serve. A lot was accomplished in 2018 to move our programs forward and we anticipate much more to come in 2019. We are also deeply appreciative of all of the community support we continue to receive and new partnerships formed. We believe communities are better when everyone feels they belong, and the citizens of Lawrence County have always been open to supporting individuals we serve.

Our annual Strategic Plan Progress Report will be shared on our website this month that outlines specific accomplishments and progress on our goals. We are especially proud that we received a three year accreditation award - the maximum given - from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and were able to negotiate a win/win for both us and Lawrence County by the sale of one of our properties to be used as the new Lawrence County EMA Center. The proceeds from that sale will fund, in large part, the renovations needed to relocate our school program to the former Tri-State Industries Building in August of 2019.

Also included in this edition of the *Focus* is an overview of our general fund revenue, expenses and cash balances over the past decade, as well as an overview of our 2019 budgets. It is hoped that this information provides insight into how our resources are distributed, as we strive for transparency in all we do. It is also important for us to demonstrate good stewardship of the resources we have been entrusted with.

The Lawrence County DD family wishes everyone a joyous and safe holiday season!

## Important Information about LCDD's Financial Future

The Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities at its regular meeting on November 13, 2019 approved the following budgets for 2019:

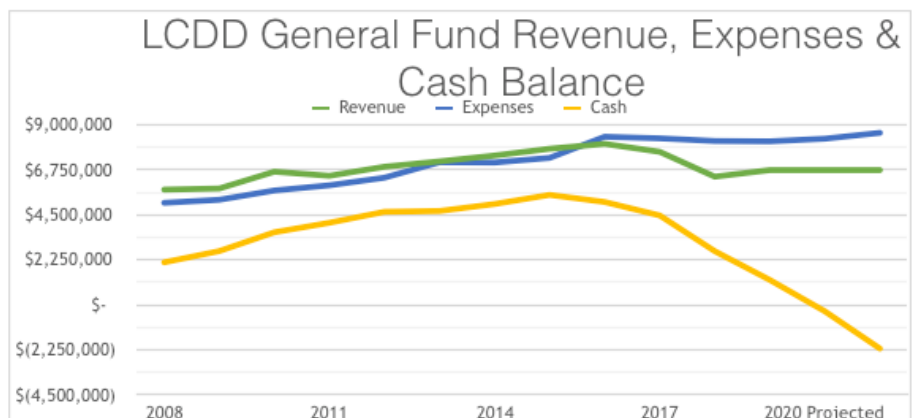
Family Support: \$65,000  
Capital Projects: \$700,000  
General Fund: \$8,187,044

LCDD receives approximately \$29,000 per year from the Ohio Department of DD (DODD) to provide family support services to eligible families living in Lawrence County. The state funded program provides reimbursement for approved services to an individual with DD or the family of an individual with DD who desires to remain in and be supported in the family home.

The capital projects fund will be used for the renovation of the 606 Carlton Davidson Lane property in Coal Grove to prepare it for moving the Open Door School to this location. Only \$200,000 was used from the general fund to support the renovation. The remaining funds for this project came from the sale of the annex property to Lawrence County and DD funds that were invested at the Southern Ohio Council of Governments.

The board finance committee reviewed the long term projections of the general fund and had lengthy discussions regarding the changing fiscal environment of Ohio DD. The below chart depicts the revenues and expenditures since replacing the continuing levy in 2007. **Due to many factors and changes in the DD systems, which we will explain in the coming months, expenses began exceeding revenues in 2016. As the deficit continues, the reserve amount in the DD general fund will become depleted by 2020.**

LCDD began making budgetary changes at the end of 2017 to improve efficiency and address the deficit without cutting services to individuals and families. We will continue looking at all options and keep you informed of future plans.



## **DODD Offering Series to Manage Family Stressors**

The Family Engagement Series is designed to unlock your strength, build a foundation, and learn skills and strategies to manage family stressors. These hands-on sessions will teach you practical ways to manage pressure, patience, and learn creative ways to modify your existing methods of coping and caring for those you love.

The Family Engagement Series will be an opportunity for families to get personal and work together to solve common — and uncommon — family stressors. Moderators will work with each group's real-life obstacles to find solutions that work for your entire family. Your presence is important because we cannot have these conversations without you.

When registering for the Family Engagement Series you must commit to attending four (4) sessions. Please select one session (AM or PM) from each day (Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4). More than one family member is welcome to attend the series, but they should be registered and committed to attending the same sessions.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southeast-ohio-family-engagement-series-tickets-51561595119>

If you have any questions about the series or the registration process, please contact Steve Beha at [steven.beha@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:steven.beha@dodd.ohio.gov) or [614-446-4085](tel:614-446-4085).

## **Calendar of Events**

### December 4

Bell Choir at Harbor Health/  
County Courthouse

### December 6

Bell Choir at PCS/ECC  
LCDD Staff Appreciation Dinner

### December 11

LCDD Board Meeting

### December 12-13

Santa @ the ECC

### December 18

Open Door Christmas Program  
Party with the Buccaneers @ ODS

### December 21-January 3

Winter break (Preschool/ODS  
closed)

Focus - December

## **ODS Students Participate in Festival of Trees**

The second grade classes in the local school districts was asked by the Chamber of Commerce to decorate Christmas trees for their annual festival of the trees. Primary 1 at Open Door School participated in this event. The student's voted and decided to decorate a Mickey Mouse tree, with the help of the classroom teacher and aides. The students made Mickey Mouse ornaments and a Mickey Mouse tree topper. The tree was displayed at the festival of the trees on November 15-18 at the South Point Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Yeomans, Primary 1 class won first place in the elementary school division.



## **Easterseals Participate in Special Olympics**

Attendees of Easterseals played in the the Lawrence County Special Olympics volleyball tournament. Throughout the tournament, players leaned about teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship and working towards goals. They also enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones!



## **Thank You to Mrs. Monica!**

We would like to give a special "thank you" to Monica Robinson for her employment with Lawrence County DD. For over 26 years, Monica has worked at Open Door School as an Instructional Aide and has been such a bright spot in students' lives, as well as among the staff! We wish Monica the absolute best in her future! We'll miss Monica in the classroom and hope to see her visit us soon!







## Christmas Tree Competition at the SSA Office

The SSA department held a friendly, festive competition to ingest some holiday spirit around LCDD. The department broke into four teams to create and decorate a Christmas tree to be judged by attendees of Person Centered Services. Voters ultimately voted for the "Snowman" tree as the winner. The trees will be up throughout the holiday season, so feel free to stop by and let us know which one is your favorite!

### 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](http://www.lawrencedd.org)**

To receive the newsletter electronically, email us at [info@lawrencedd.org](mailto:info@lawrencedd.org)



**Growing Possibilities**  
Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities

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