



# FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

## LCDD

by the numbers

**81**

Early Intervention

**46**

Open Door Students

**334**

SSA Services

## Open Door School Students Return for 2021-2022 School



August 18th 8:30 a.m. students and staff at Open Door School were excited to get the new year started, see friendly faces, reunite friendships and most importantly learn new things. Teachers had been preparing for weeks as students wondered what the new year would be like.

## ADVOCACY



The ARC of Ohio

The Arc of Ohio is a human rights organization that provides advocacy for individuals and families with developmental disabilities.

The Arc accomplishes this through various ways:

- Gather families together for support groups where we provide training, education, and encouragement through sharing resources
- Walk beside families and help them navigate through the DODD system, ISP and IEP meetings, appeal process, and more
- Participate in state committees to help develop state rules and resources that impact families with developmental disabilities
- Testify (and help families testify) at the statehouse to provide a strong voice from all regions of Ohio

There is The Arc of the United States in Washington, D.C. that provides advocacy on the federal level. From there, every state has their own Arc that works on the state level. The Arc of Ohio is divided up into 6 regions. Our state office is in Columbus, and Lawrence County falls into the Southeast Region, whose office is in Athens.

The Arc of Ohio is the voice of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends with disabilities, and those who work with them. The Arc is a grassroots organization which advocates for human rights, personal dignity and community participation of individuals with developmental disabilities through legislative and social action, information and education, local chapter supports and family involvement. The Arc of Ohio links over 10,000 Ohioans to current public policy issues, state and county resources, and community with other individuals and families with disabilities.

## STABLE ACCOUNT ENHANCES FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Through STABLE Account - Ohio's ABLE program - the Treasurer's office plays a key role in the effort to enhance financial independence for people living with disabilities. Account holders can save up to \$15,000 per year without jeopardizing federal assistance programs. For more information, visit our website at [www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a great summer! I have several updates to share including the Ohio's biennium budget, new website links, COVID-19 resources, and a request for participation in the Lawrence County DD annual stakeholder survey.

Ohio's biennium budget for fiscal years 2022-2023, was signed by Governor DeWine on June 30, 2021. Included was a rate increase for all Medicaid waiver services. The Ohio Department of DD will be providing a 4% rate increase on 1/1/22. The increase is just one approach to strengthen the provider network in Ohio. Some areas of the state have experienced critical shortages in the provider workforce. It is pivotal that willing and qualified providers – whether agencies or independent providers – are available to meet the various needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Lawrence County DD is committed to working with providers to address workforce issues.

We are working on updating our website. Two new links have been added as required by the Ohio Department of DD. The links direct individuals and families to resources that discuss a residential option called Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF's). ICF's are funded by Medicaid and provide residential services in a larger setting than a traditional community residence. Lawrence County has one ICF provider, ResCare, located in Chesapeake, and there are others across the state. Please see our website at [www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org) for more information.

COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue to be held by the Lawrence County Health Department throughout the county. In addition to providing information about vaccination clinics on our website, and through other sources, we will provide information on COVID-19 boosters as soon as we have the information. As far as we know right now, County Boards will not be coordinating booster shots as was done with the vaccinations. However, we will assure we have the most up-to-date information about booster shot availability when possible.

It is important to us that those receiving services, local providers, and community partners feel supported by our agency. Included in this newsletter is our annual survey on the final page. We would really appreciate your input.

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to contact our Board office at 740-532-7401 with any comments or questions about this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Julie Monroe,  
Superintendent



## Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER

8th - ODS Parent/Teacher Conferences  
11th - All Programs closed in observance of Columbus Day  
12th - Board Meeting - Open Door School 6:00 pm

### NOVEMBER

2nd - Open Door School closed for staff inservice  
9th - Board Meeting - Open Door School 6:00 pm  
11th - All Programs closed in observance of Veterans Day.  
24th - 26th School closed - Thanksgiving Break  
25th & 26th All programs closed - Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER

14th - Board Meeting - Open Door School 6:00 pm  
20th - Jan 2nd - Open Door School closed for Christmas Break  
23rd, 24th, 31st - All programs closed

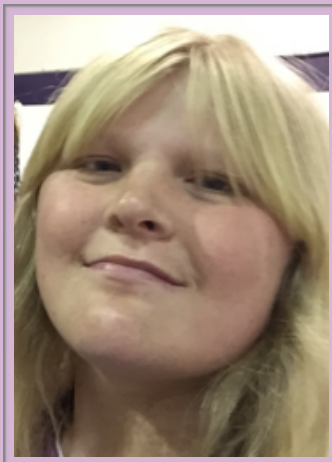
### JANUARY

3rd - All programs OPENED  
11th - Board Meeting at Open Door School 6:00 pm  
17th - All programs closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

## Stay Connected to the DD Community in Ohio

You and your family can stay up to date on many topics and issues across the state and close to home. You can also communicate with other individuals and families sharing the same concerns. Go to <https://dodd.ohio.gov>, Supporting You and Your Family, Click on Connecting Families to DODD and Family Resources.

## Service Recipient SPOTLIGHT



Alexis "Lexi" Kingery

### ***What town do you live in?***

Proctorville, Ohio

### ***What services do you receive from LCDD?***

SSA and HPC services at home

### ***What do you like to do for fun in your free time?***

She loves being outside, sitting in the sun, playing on her tablet and phone.

### ***What is your dream vacation?***

She'd love to go anywhere warm with her parents and sisters on vacation.

### ***What is your favorite way to spend your weekend?***

Most weekends, she spends time with her family hanging around the house and going on long drives.

## LCDD Board Recognitions

At the August 2021 board meeting, the board recognized Sue Vanderhoof for her retirement on May 31, 2020. Sue became an employee of Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities June 26, 2000 as an Early Childhood Program Manager and later became the Early Childhood Director. We appreciate the hard work and devotion she showed as an employee and her devotion to bettering the lives of children with developmental disabilities.



We miss Sue and wish her the very best.

Also at the August 2021 board meeting, the board recognized the late LoRena Cahal who served as a board member for Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities with many of her family in attendance. LoRena worked as a passionate supporter of the programs and services operated by Lawrence County DD as a board member but first and foremost as a parent. Mrs. Cahal worked tirelessly to support other parents and advocates for all individuals with developmental disabilities in Lawrence County.



## Lawrence County Student Is A National Champ

Kendall, from Fairland School District, and her team went 28-0 in basketball this season.

Kendall then went on to Alabama, Auburn and Illinois for basketball camp.

Congratulations to Kendall!



### **Contact Us!**

Main Board Office: 740-532-7401  
SSA department and emergency contact: 740-532-0406  
Open Door School: 740-532-1234  
Early Intervention: 740-377-2356

[www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)

604 Carlton Davidson Ln., Coal Grove, OH 45638

**Growing Possibilities**  
Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities

**We Want to Hear From YOU**

Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities (LCDD) needs your input! The input will be used to help us improve our services and customer experience with our agency. Please complete and return to LCDD by

**Friday, November 12, 2021**

Who is completing this survey?

- ☐ Individual receiving services
- ☐ Parent/Guardian/family member of individual receiving services
- ☐ Service provider (independent or agency)
- ☐ Collaborative agency
- ☐ Member of business community
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ Other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

If you or a family member receive services from LCDD, please check the ones received:

- ☐ Help Me Grow Early Intervention
- ☐ Open Door School
- ☐ Service and Support Administration (SSA)

1. LCDD provides quality services \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
2. LCDD manages resources and funding effectively and efficiently \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
3. LCDD ensures health and safety \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
4. Leadership is supportive and helpful \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
5. Employees are dedicated and responsive \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
6. Access to services is user friendly \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
7. LCDD communicates well with stakeholders \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
8. LCDD focuses on the individual's wants and needs \_\_ Yes \_\_ No
9. LCDD cooperates well with providers and community organizations \_\_ Yes \_\_ No

What are our:

Strengths

Weaknesses

Threats for LCDD

Opportunities for LCDD

Additional Comments