



# FOCUS



## Open Door Student Honored and Remembered

In December the River Cities Buccaneers donated benches in Memory of Tanner Black to his parents and to Open Door School. Tanner Black, age 11, a resident of the Proctorville area and student at Open Door School passed away on September 29, 2021, leaving an impression on those that were around him.

*"Tanner was a pure joy to work with. Not a day went by that he didn't make me laugh"*

- Jennifer Crum, Tanner's Teacher

*"Although Tanner couldn't communicate with words, he had his ways of telling you what he wanted to say, the impact he made on our lives will last forever"*

- Sandy Ireland, Tanner's Teacher's

Tanner was such a precious soul and is sadly missed by the staff and students. We will think of him each time we pass the bench or take a minute to stop and sit. We cannot thank the River Cities Buccaneers enough for this donation.



From left to right: Michael Payne with River Cities Buccaneers, Tanner's parents Tony and Heather Black.

# Superintendent's Message



Greetings,

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season!

The Lawrence County DD completed the first year of its three-year Strategic Plan in 2021. The Strategic Plan Progress Report for 2021 is complete and available for review on our website. Our first order of business in 2022 is focusing on increasing awareness about the Lawrence County DD. We will take every opportunity to promote the achievements of individuals we serve and the providers who support them. We will also share information about various services we provide, how to access them, and how we are funded. Our newsletter, the *Focus*, will be a monthly publication.

The Lawrence County DD looks forward to making new connections in 2022, as well as strengthening the ones we already have. Please feel free to contact me with questions, or to learn more about our agency. We are always willing to share more about what we do.

Thanks for reading!

Julie Monroe

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

11th - January Board Meeting - 6:00pm  
17th - Programs Closed - MLK, Jr. Day

### FEBRUARY

8th - February Board Meeting  
21st - Programs Closed - Presidents 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.

## Lawrence County DD

# PROVIDER MEETINGS

## For 2022

Thursday, 1/27/22 – 3:30 – 4:30

Thursday, 4/28/22 – 3:30 – 4:30

Thursday, 6/9/22 (Luncheon) – 11:30 – 1:00

With Peter Moore, President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)

Thursday, 9/29/22 – 3:30 – 4:30

Location: Open Door School

606 Carlton Davidson Lane, Coal Grove, Ohio





# Service SPOTLIGHT

## Intake – Where It All Begins

The Lawrence County DD has worked to make the intake and eligibility process as user friendly as possible. We have staff dedicated to assisting those seeking information about what the agency provides, and how eligibility is determined.

All requests for services start with our intake staff. You can be connected to an intake staff member by contacting us at 740-532-0406, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Additionally, our intake staff, listed below, may be contacted directly at the following numbers:

### For Early Intervention (ages 0 to 3)



**Brian Hayton**  
Service Coordinator  
740-307-8660



**Susan Price**  
Service Coordinator  
740-307-5893

### For All Other Services (ages 3 & older)



**Brynn Murnahan**  
SSA Assistant  
740-302-2475

# LCDD Board Recognitions

Lou Pyles was recognized by the Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities (DD) Board at the December 14, 2021 meeting for 12 years of service as a volunteer Board member. Mrs. Pyles served three consecutive four year terms, the maximum allowed for DD Board members.

Mrs. Pyles was appointed to the Lawrence County DD Board by the Lawrence County Commissioners on December 17, 2009. Previously, she served on the former Tri-State Industries Board for 8 years.

Mrs. Pyles was an outstanding advocate for the programs and services of the Lawrence County DD and will be greatly missed. She was a committed Board member who took the job seriously. A replacement for the seat vacated by Mrs. Pyles will be announced soon.



*From left to right: Debra Jones, Lou Pyles, Julie Monroe*

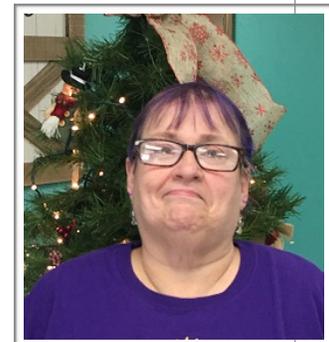
# Living Independently

Thanks to Remote Support service delivery, part of Ohio’s Technology First Initiative, Dorothy Martin is able to live independently. When Dorothy’s mother could no longer act as a caregiver in the home, Lawrence County DD SSA, Sarah Akers, helped Dorothy and her guardian find other options.

Remote Support uses two-way communication in real time, like Skype or FaceTime, so a person can talk with their direct service provider, even when the provider is not in their home. The service also includes supports like sensors that can call for help if a person has fallen, or cameras that show who is at the door. All Medicaid waivers cover the cost and maintenance of equipment used for Remote Support service delivery.

This support has given Dorothy the confidence she needs to live independently. In addition to Remote Support services, she also has in-home service providers to help develop skills such as cooking and keeping her house tidy. Dorothy also has a job at Arby’s where she enjoys meeting new people and being part of a team.

Remote Support services, and other technology-based services, can make a huge difference in the lives of people developmental disabilities. For more information, visit the Lawrence County DD website.



*Dorothy Martin*

## Winter Weather **Information**



Any school closings or delays for Open Door School will be announced on WSAZ Channel 3 News, the Lawrence County DD FB page, the Open Door Booster FB page, and the website at [www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org), and all families will receive a call or text from our automated message system. If your contact information is not up-to-date, please contact ODS.

All other Lawrence County DD programs will operate on a regular schedule unless it is determined by the Lawrence County Sherriff's office that road travel is unsafe. Additionally, home visits and meetings may be cancelled or changed on a case-by-case basis. We will be sure to keep everyone notified of any changes or cancellations.



### **Contact Us!**

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

[www.lawrencedd.org](http://www.lawrencedd.org)  
604 Carlton Davidson Ln., Coal Grove, OH 45638