



FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

Retirement Recognition



Patti Thompson-Stapleton is retiring after serving for LCDD for 22 years. We thank Patti for her great service to our individuals. She will be missed by us all and we wish her the best. Please see the article on the right to learn how her retirement will affect housing.

Staff Birthdays

Ayrie Staley, March 6

Michael Picklesimer, March 21

Elizabeth Graybeal, March 28

Susan Murnahan, March 30

Tim Nunnery, March 30

CAO to take over housing under CHOICES

Community Action Organization has taken over all administrative responsibilities of CHOICES nonprofit housing organization, following the retirement of Patti Thompson-Stapleton from LCDD as the Residential Coordinator.

It is the intent of CHOICES to continue to work closely with LCDD and the Service and Support Administration department to ensure all individual's needs for housing are addressed.

CAO Housing Management will address issues regarding repairs, rent collection, rental agreements, inspections, and helping individuals contact proper help. CAO Housing Management can be contacted at 740-534-0375 or at their office at 305 N. 5th St. in Ironton.

Since January, CHOICES has been able to obtain seven new properties for a total value of over \$600,000. The homes are providing housing for nine individuals receiving services through LCDD. Eight of CHOICES' 24 residences will have some type of renovation done between January 2017 and June 2018 accessing around \$450,000. The renovations consist of handicap accessibility projects, roofing and structural work, installation of high impact drywall, widening doorways, new floorings and accessible

bathrooms.



"I would like to give a personal thank you to all the individuals who have served on the CHOICES board in my 23 years of service," says Thompson-Stapleton. "I am so proud to say that I worked with people at LCDD and proud of CHOICES nonprofit, I would also like to thank our current LCDD board members for their support to CHOICES. I trust that CAO will continue in the work that we have done for the past several years and that they will have a great working relationship with LCDD."





Superintendent's Corner

The last few months have been especially busy around the LCDD programs. We have accomplished many great things such as our new three year Strategic Plan, and updating our Mission, Vision and Values. More energy is being put towards making connections with our many stakeholders and providing more education about what we do. I want to thank EVERYONE - staff, individuals, families, the community, our collaborative partners - for such a great welcome and the enthusiastic atmosphere that's been developed around LCDD.

Looking ahead, we are very excited to be kicking off our March DD Awareness campaign. We look forward to coming together with the community to celebrate the accomplishments of the individuals served.

We hope you enjoy our new monthly edition of the *Focus Newsletter*, and we look forward to spending time with individuals and other stakeholders at our upcoming events.

- Julie Monroe, Superintendent

Fix the List

People with developmental disabilities and their families have repeatedly told us Ohio's waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers is overly complex and in need of simplification. The current waiting list confuses people with developmental disabilities and their families, misleads advocates, and hinders efforts by policymakers to direct resources to where they are needed most.

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, the organizations listed below have been collaborating for more than 15 months to modernize Ohio's failed Medicaid Waiver waiting list. We believe replacing the current system will greatly improve the way Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers operates.

There are roughly 49,000 people with developmental disabilities on Ohio's waiting list for HCBS waivers. However, that number is misleading. Many people on the list receive some type of services because county boards have a variety of ways to meet people's needs – a waiver is just one of them. Those who are eligible for county board services can have their needs met through local funds as well as other resources.

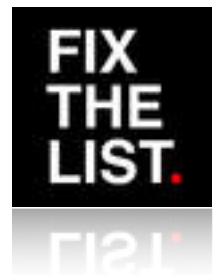
In addition, some people currently on the waiting list may not actually need the waiver they requested decades ago. An Ohio Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council study concluded that a large percentage of people with developmental disabilities and their families presently on the waiver waiting list expressed having no current, unmet need, but instead requested to be placed on the waiting list in anticipation of a long wait to receive waiver services.

To address these flaws, we are collaborating to develop a waiting list for HCBS waiver services that will identify people who have a current need for services and match those people to resources that will meet their unique assessed need(s). This will allow the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and local county boards of developmental disabilities to more effectively plan to meet current and future needs.

Through the efforts of this coalition and informed by the feedback of people with developmental disabilities and their families, we believe that a new approach to the way Ohio's HCBS waiver waiting list operates is needed.

It's time to **FIX THE LIST.**

Visit www.fixthelist.info to learn more



Calendar of EventsMarch 1

RISE - Assistive Technology Expo
 Balloon Launch at Open Door
 Dr. Seuss Day at Early Childhood Center

March 2

Dr. Seuss Day at Open Door School

March 12

ECC Advisory Board Meeting

March 13

LCDD Board Meeting

March 20

Open Door Staff vs. Jets Basketball

March 22

Open Door vs Verne Riffe Basketball

March 23

Open House at Open Door School

March 24

19th Annual Chili Fest and Craft Show

March 29

Easter Egg Hunt at Open Door

March 30

Spring Break Begins for Schools

LCDD Plans Events for DD Awareness Month

Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities is gearing up for the 2018 DD Awareness Month this March. The County Board will be hosting a number of public awareness events this year, encouraging the community to support and participate in DD Awareness month.

March is celebrated as DD Awareness Month to help the community realize the importance of the developmentally disabled as part of the community. The statewide theme for this year's activities encourages all of us to focus on community, with an emphasis on "unity."

The Chili Fest and Craft Show is part of the festivities scheduled this year and is scheduled for March 24 at Dawson Bryant High School. Registration for chili entries and booth registration for crafters are now being accepted from public participants.

Aside from the Chili Fest and Craft Show, LCDD will be visiting local schools to conduct the interactive presentation, "What's It Like to Have a Disability." The goal is to put people in the shoes of someone living with a disability.

"We conducted this activity last year with the schools in our county and we were very pleased with how well it was received," says Tim Nunnery, Director of Communications and Resource Development. "This really was a fun learning activity for those that participated and we're looking to expand it to organizations in our community to broaden our message."

LCDD is also planning to hold an assistive technology expo at Ohio University Southern Campus on March 1. The technology presented at the expo will give individuals with DD and families an opportunity to test and learn about technology-based services that can be funded through waivers. A representative from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is scheduled to speak, along with other service providers and advocates for DD.

Along with the Chili Fest & Craft Show, the presentations and the technology expo, other awareness events are also on the agenda. Those include:

- Balloon Launch on March 1, 10:00am at the Open Door School in Ironton
- Dr. Seuss Day on March 2 throughout the day at Open Door School and on March 1 at the Early Childhood Center
- Open Door School vs Verne Riffe Basketball game at the Conley Center at Ironton High School will be held on March 22 at 10:30am
- DD Food Drive and Eyeglasses collection at various locations in Lawrence County through March and April

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March 24, 2018
 11am - 2pm
 Dawson Bryant High School
 Help Support Developmental Disabilities Awareness

To register your organization for the cookoff, call 740-532-7401

Celebrate COMMUNITY

Growing Possibilities



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

Emergency Number
740-237-0447

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

Lowe's in South Point Donates Safety Buckets to LCDD

In the wake of the tragic events in Florida, Lowe's in South Point donated the contents for safety buckets to LCDD to keep in our programs at all times.

We'd like to thank Lowe's for the generosity and keeping the safety of our individuals at the forefront of their commitment to the DD programs.



Growing Possibilities
Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities

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