



FOCUS



Leading the Way | Achieving Excellence | Shaping the Future

Happy Retirement

Dan Dillon retired from his position of Custodian after serving Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities for over 11 years. Thank you, Dan and we wish the best in your retirement



Staff Birthdays

Falecia Collier, Oct. 4

Dylan Markins, Oct. 12

Tammy Lilly, Oct. 19

Terri Lewis, Oct. 19

Hollie Haney, Oct. 23

Mary Ferguson, Oct. 28

Laurie Eastham, Oct. 29

Ready to Hit the Road

Daniel M. recently received his driver's license from the Ohio BMV. Daniel says he now feels more independent, since he can now drive to and from his job at Lowe's. He's also excited to be able to pick up and take his girlfriends to different places.



Meet Colton

Colton is a former enrollee of the Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention and Preschool programs.

Colton was enrolled in the Early Intervention program after his parents were lead to Help Me Grow following his diagnosis of Down Syndrome after his birth. The therapies received through the program helped Colton to reach milestones at a quicker pace had he not had the services.

Following his final year in the preschool program, Colton was able to count to 10, recognize the alphabet, and able to self feed, along with strides in his socialization.

Colton was recently chosen as one of the New Faces of the Huntington Mall for modeling. He has fun with the modeling and loves having his picture taken.



Brianna Patrick Photography

Congratulations to Colton for all his successes. See Colton's video on our Facebook page.

DODD Announces New Budget Initiatives

On July 18, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 166, the state's operating budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, into law. The budget invests a historic \$370 million over the next two years to support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Governor DeWine introduced a bold budget recognizing that now is the time to invest in Ohio. The budget makes investments in many areas affecting Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, including creating opportunities for every child to succeed and supporting the workforce.

The budget for the next two years will do the following for Ohio's developmental disabilities system.

Investments in Workforce

Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), county boards of developmental disabilities, and the Ohio Legislature have heard and responded to the need for increased wages for direct support professionals (DSPs).

In this budget, county boards of developmental disabilities agreed to a first-of-its-kind partnership with DODD to jointly invest in higher rates for DSPs. This partnership and support of Governor DeWine and the legislature makes a historic investment in the DSP Homemaker/Personal Care rate. An investment of \$253 million will bring the DSP Homemaker/Personal Care average reimbursement rate to \$12.82 by January 1, 2020, and to \$13.23 by January 1, 2021. This is the largest investment in system history.

The budget also invests \$55.3 million to raise the on-site, on-call DSP reimbursement rate from \$6.09 to \$8.55.

Investments in Ohio Early Intervention

Governor DeWine recognizes that services and supports early in a child's life will give them the best opportunity to succeed. Children with high exposure to lead, who are diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome or who experience other developmental delays, benefit from Early Intervention (EI) services. An investment of \$24.4 million over the biennium doubles current EI funding to meet increased need for services.

Investments for Multi-System Youth

This budget, for the first time, will allow the system to build critically needed system capacity to serve multi-system youth residentially. Through intermediate care facility (ICF) franchise fees, this budget will generate approximately \$11 million annually to serve multi-system youth in ICFs. Budget language increases the franchise fee and creates a structured program for ICF providers to serve multi-system youth through an add-on rate. This initiative is a critical component in building a comprehensive system of services and supports for Ohio youth with complex needs, and it is reflective of the priorities established by Governor DeWine and legislature to address the needs of multi-system youth.

Investments in Transportation

This budget recognizes that the Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) system needs improvement to meet the transportation needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Investments of \$26.3 million will allow for a modernized NMT reimbursement system so people with developmental disabilities can get to work and around their communities.

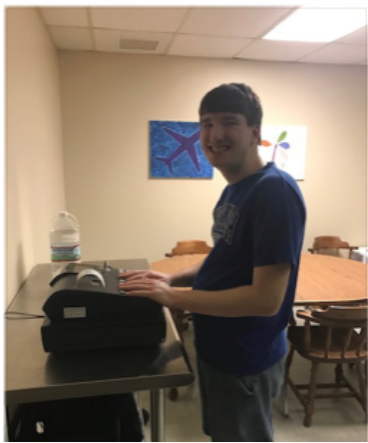
Additional Budget Provisions

- Adds language regarding county boards sharing information about the ICF option
- Permits DODD to immediately suspend a provider's certification when there is serious noncompliance or substantial risk to the health and safety of a person
- Requires each county board of developmental disabilities to submit to DODD a five-year projection of revenues and expenditures
- Continues the Employment First Task Force to ensure that employment for Ohioans with developmental disabilities remains a priority and is coordinated among state agencies
- Continues the Interagency Workgroup on Autism to ensure coordination among the state agencies that serve Ohioans with autism spectrum disorders and their families
- Maintains the ICF rate reimbursement formula currently in statute

The budget process is not done in isolation. Governor DeWine and all state agencies, both chambers of the legislature, local government partners, and many stakeholder groups put in a great amount of time to get to a finished budget.

With investments in place, the department will be listening to and working with stakeholders on how to implement these new initiatives and changes. DODD will continue to provide updated progress through the DODD website, newsletters, and social media as work groups make recommendations, as rules are filed, and as initiatives go live.

Jets Cafe - Open for Business



The Jet Cafe is open again for the 2019-2020 school year, taking orders and teaching students how to cook and prepare meals!

Every Friday, students in the vocational classroom at Open Door School open the daily living room, which houses a kitchen with cooking supplies. Students prepare lunches for those that placed an order earlier in the week.

Students spend time in advance visiting Bartram's grocery store purchasing supplies for the Friday lunch. Students then take the time on Friday morning learning new cooking techniques which helps with their daily living skills and prepares them for life after school.

The money from the orders goes to help stock the kitchen with food, as well as cooking utensils and equipment.



Easterseals Takes Care of Little Free Library

Calendar of Events

Sept. 30 -Oct. 4

Spirit Week at ODS

Oct. 8

LCDD Board Meeting

Oct. 10

Parent Teacher

Conference at ODS

Oct. 31

ODS Halloween Party

The attendees of Easterseals fill up a Little Free Library in the community on a regular basis. From time to time they even find some good reads for themselves when they visit the library.

Several say she's never seen a Little Free Library before and is delighted to take care of the hub.





LCDD Implements New Phone System

LCDD has implemented a new phone system that supports our campus buildings on Carlton Davidson Lane in Coal Grove. The Board office, SSA office, and Open Door School are all connected by one internet-based phone system. The system provides voice mail for all staff and includes an automated voice attendant. You still call the main number for each building as follows: Board office 740-532-7401; SSA office 740-532-0406; Open Door School 740-532-1234. The Early Childhood Center in South Point is still reached by calling 740-377-2356.

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

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

It is important to the LCDD Administration that phones are answered by an individual. However, during non-business hours, or if the phone lines are busy, an automated voice attendant will answer the call. The caller then has the opportunity to be routed to any of the LCDD buildings, to do a staff search of extension numbers, and to leave a voice message. It is very easy to select the option you desire as follows:

If you know the extension of the party you are trying to reach, you may enter it at any time;

To receive a Dial by Name directory, press 1;

For the SSA office, press 2;

For the Board office, press 3;

For the Open Door School, press 4;

For the Early Childhood Center in South Point, press 5;

For after-hours emergency, select 2 for the SSA office - call will be routed to on-call service center;

To repeat these options, press 9.

We feel that this new phone system provides a much improved method of being able to make contact with LCDD.



604 Carlton Davidson Ln., Coal Grove, OH 45638