



# The Tea Glass

Hello Everyone and Merry Christmas!

You may remember that our last newsletter was titled "The Coffee Cup," I always said if I ever put one of these things out I would change the name because I am not a coffee fan! I am, however, an avid tea drinker! ☺

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed of FCBDD happenings. It is our goal to improve communication agency wide!

That being said- I want to say THANK YOU to all of you for your contributions and efforts that made our levy campaign a success! I hope that all of you have a wonderful Christmas week with your friends and families! Love, TB



## ADULT SERVICES:

**Special Olympics** – The Fayette County Dragons Unified Softball team traveled to Oregon, Ohio on September 15<sup>th</sup> to play in the Division 1 Unified State Softball Tournament against Hamilton County. The Dragons were 20-8 winners bringing home their 2<sup>nd</sup> State Championship.

**Self-Advocacy Group** – AGM (Self-Advocacy Group's name) will be attending Christmas lunch at the Willow on 12/14.

**Holiday Party** - The annual Fayette Progressive Industries Holiday Party for adults who attend the workshop will be held Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30pm.

In other news: Congratulations to Jenni Harris, Ria May, Lois Bowers and Tim Stewart who have all been hired effective January 1, 2013! Teresa Kinzer is retiring as of December 31, 2012- we wish you all the best and we will miss you greatly! Prayers to Susan Johns who is on medical leave!

## SSA DEPARTMENT:

The Service and Support Administration Division provides service coordination services to eligible persons age 3 and older and serve nearly 150 people. We have 5 Service and Support Administrators and a full time administrative assistant. We provide services such as, but not limited to, assessment, care planning, crisis intervention, referral and linkage, and monitoring services. Our Division is also responsible for Intake and Eligibility for ages 6 and older, with Tricia Enochs and Melissa Johnson as the eligibility specialists.

As stated in Ohio Revised Code, we are the Single Point of Accountability for people we are serving. This means that we are continuously receiving information on people, such as, medical, behavioral, environmental, benefits, insurance, interests etc., to have current assessments and Individual Service Plans to address needs, wants and life goals. Our planning includes the whole person and describes what they like/dislike, and areas that natural and paid supports are needed in their life.

A large percentage of the people we serve receive paid supports through Medicaid Waivers to assist them with daily living skills, promotion of independence, and community integration. We currently administer 3 Waivers: Level I (up to \$5,000 in services annually), Individual Options (based on needs), and the SELF (up to \$25,000 annually for children, up to \$40,000 annually for adults). Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will take over the case management of the Transitions Waiver from CareStar. For the Waivers, we determine eligibility,

annual redeterminations, assessments of needs, calculations of cost and payment authorizations for providers. We currently have 51 IO Waiver, 41 LVI Waiver recipients, with costs exceeding \$1.5 million dollars annually in services. Since 2001, through application for state Capital Assistance Funding, we have been able to purchase 10 homes, which are owned by the Fayette County Metropolitan Housing Authority. Of these homes, 8 are rented by peers with disabilities, 1 for a family with a child with a disability and the other is rented by a married couple.

Another service that is provided within the SSA Division is the evaluation for PreAdmission/Resident Reviews for Fayette County. As people within our community who has or may have a developmental disability are being admitted into Nursing Facilities (NF) or have been under the care of a NF, we are contacted to complete an evaluation to determine if this placement is appropriate. Melissa Johnson and Renee Guess are the county contacts.

In the SSA Division, we also oversee the health and safety system for Major Unusual Incidents and Unusual Incidents. This requires that we ensure that appropriate immediate actions are taken and effective prevention planning on each incident from all providers within the county. This happens through follow-up on incidents, addendums to ISPs, monitoring of UI logs, and quarterly/semi-annual/annual analysis. The county board contracts with the Southern Ohio Council of Governments for Investigative Agent services, which we share with Clinton and Highland counties. All MUIs are reported to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Wow- that was a lot to digest huh? As always if you have any questions at all, please ask!

Congratulations to Heather Hoppes on her recent wedding! ☺

## TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation has had a good start to the 2012 school year with few route changes. We are running three buses in the am, noon and the pm routes. We also run one am, noon and two pm van routes. We run the two van routes to help the individuals the have some physical problems with getting on and off the buses and to cover the cult-a-sack pick ups, the dead end streets, congested nursing home pick up and trailer parks. This school year we have contracted with FPI to employ one of our individuals to be a bus captain on one of our noon routes that transports 23 children and 20 of the passengers are students with a disability. We also have in the works to employ another bus captain for a pm route that has 23 passengers and 15 of them being children 1 individual that is one on one and 3 wheelchair passengers. These buses and vans travel approximately a total of 2,294 miles with 216 transports between them.

We are excited to report that Chris has returned to work effective December 4<sup>th</sup>! Chris will be working on updating her trainings and hopes to begin driving again in January. Thanks so much to Kelly Campbell for all the coverage while Chris has been out!

## BUSINESS OFFICE:

The Business Office at the Fayette Co. Bd. of DD has been very busy lately. As you all may know or not know, I am part of the shared services agreement with the Highland Co. Board of DD. Each week I work three days in Fayette and two days in Highland. I provide the roles of Business Manager and Medicaid Services Manager for both counties. This is a wonderful joint effort for both counties with substantial savings for both entities. The business office is responsible for many tasks including payroll, time and attendance, HR services, bill paying, budgeting, monitoring of certifications and all the day to day functions for the business.

It's been an exciting year so far this year. We have been able to purchase Gatekeeper and Caretracker for the SSA Department, Adult Services Department and Transportation. Thru these systems we have been able to increase our billable hours and services and eliminate some of the paper documentation. This has made the business more efficient enabling us to be more productive and focus more on services we provide for our individuals. With the addition of Gatekeeper we are also able to bill Transportation thru this software as well eliminating some of the manual paperwork. The Tap-It has been a great addition to the preschool program as well enabling our preschool children to use the computer and the resources available with this new equipment.

I have completed the Jan-June Quarterly report and was very pleased with the outcome, we are right on track. Preschool- This year we have officially gone from serving 8 students on an IEP

I have been also working on completing the 2013-2017 budgets to review a 5-yr plan as well use this document to decide what needs to be considered for the levy.

Fred and I attended a Lions Club meeting as well as the local Kiwanis Club where we both talked about our program and the good things we are doing at the Fayette Co. Board of DD. Sandy, Fred and I worked closely with Metropolitan Housing to apply for Capital Assistance funds from the Dept. of DD. Once paperwork was completed the Housing Authority was awarded funds to replace windows in two our residential homes.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD:

EI- Early Intervention has taken on a new look! We still serve children birth to 3 but we have recently redesigned our services to better meet the needs of our families and children. Trish Thibert is our part time home-based Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) and works with our young and medically fragile children. Our center services have been redesigned to reflect a more natural environment setting. We now only offer 3 center based sessions: Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Children come into the center once a week. Suzie Janasov and Chrissy Daniels go out to the homes and offer parent education and guidance. Suzie is also now certified in PLAY therapy- which is an evidence based system for working with children with autism. We must be licensed to participate as PLAY therapists. It is our goal to share our license with Highland County. We continuously evaluate our program and look for more ways to provide services to our children and their families.

and 4 typicals in each room to serving 8 and 8. This means that we are now an Early Childhood Center in addition to maintaining our Preschool Special Education status. Put simply- for the sake of Least Restrictive Environment- we now are no different than any other licensed preschool. Staff has been participating this year in Intentional Teaching. This is a method of increasing literacy and pre-reading skills to young children. We remain at capacity and I anticipate the need to request waivers from the Ohio Department of Education in the new year to accommodate more children. We recently had an ODE inspection and passed with flying colors!

The Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education will be combining in the near future. Guidelines are in place, new standards have been written for birth – third grade and Ohio is moving forward into this exciting new frontier! Our staff have been attending trainings, reviewing the new standards and are becoming prepared for this shift. This is important because as of 2018 we will only receive our state funding if we are in compliance with these new regulations.

As always we have had several calls from the school districts asking for our assistance with our kids. We are always happy to assist and provide guidance to the public school teachers so that our children continue to receive the services they need as they move into public school.

Please be thinking of Trish Thibert who has recently had surgery and will be off on medical leave until mid January.