

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**Spring
2021
Newsletter**

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Greetings from all of us at FCBDD!

Welcome to the FCBDD Spring Newsletter...yes, I said spring, but this week's weather has been more like fall!

This has not stopped us from trying to participate throughout the community in any way we can. From the Dragons getting to slowly move back to some in person sports, the preschoolers being able to enjoy several special events and our Early Intervention Graduates moving on, FCBDD staff have been busy! We are excited and encouraged about these activities as it has been a very long year. I know I speak for most people when I say, getting out and moving throughout our community is welcomed and much needed.

Helping to make this possible has been our own Fayette County Public Health which has led the way in assuring COVID-19 vaccinations were and still are available for our community. We cannot express enough gratitude to them for helping all of us have access to this valuable tool in the fight against this deadly pandemic. Thank you to Leigh Cannon and staff for your dedication to our community.

Until next time,
Deb Buccilla, Superintendent



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fayette County Public Health

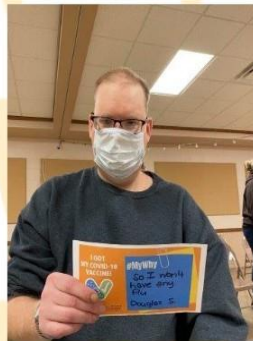
FCBDD hosts COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Fayette County Board of DD extends a sincere thanks to the Fayette County Public Health Department for holding vaccine clinics for those we serve and the staff that provide services to them.

The nurses and EMTs that assisted in the clinics did an exceptional job with our individuals and the clinics ran in a well-organized and efficient way. We are appreciative of the time and efforts you gave to complete the vaccine process and the partnership we have together to ensure the health and welfare of those we serve and those that provide care to them. Thanks to the Fayette County Ag Society/Faith Cottrill-Marine for allowing us to use the fairground building to host the clinics.

64% of the individuals served opted for the vaccine. 97% of individuals that live in congregate settings were vaccinated.

Special thanks to the FCBDD staff that helped with the clinics, including our Nurse and SSA staff that helped with scheduling, transportation and registration, and the Operations staff that helped with parking, transportation, and snow removal as needed. We appreciate the providers and families that brought the individuals to the clinics to ensure they had the opportunity to receive their vaccines.



PIG•COLLAGE

ATTENTION: Direct Support Professionals Needed!



The Direct Support Professional or DSP, is a key part of a person's team. Through their training and dedication, they assist people in achieving life goals and simply making someone's day meaningful. This can be helping with in-home needs or getting around town or providing employment training and job placement. This support can be for a child or an adult. The role of the Fayette County Board of DD is to assist persons served, families, and guardians with selecting a provider of services, whether this is an agency or independent provider, and facilitating a team process that ensures a person-centered focus.

If you or anyone you know are looking for work in this field, you can visit our website for informational links to DSP requirements or give us a call to learn more.



Ohio Individual Service Plan

Built on the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) core belief that all people have the right to live, love, work, play, and pursue their life aspirations, the Ohio ISP places the needs of the person receiving services in the center of the planning process. The person leads the planning process by making choices, setting goals, and deciding how they want to live their life. The Ohio ISP format is the same no matter where you are in Ohio. People moving throughout the state will have the same plan format and experience the same planning process no matter what county they live in or what provider(s) they choose while maintaining the individuality of the plan content for each person.

In fact, when a person moves to a new county or facility, their Ohio ISP moves with them. Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) and Qualified Intellectual Disability Professionals (QIDPs) can continue using the person's established plan, and the new team will not have to start the Ohio ISP from scratch.

SSAs, QIDPs, and providers can collaborate easier, even from across counties, because everyone is working from the same template. SSAs and QIDPs will receive standardized training to ensure statewide consistency in planning and assessment.

With a consistent plan for all Ohioans with developmental disabilities, providers, even if they offer multiple services or operate in multiple counties, will have a single plan to learn. No matter where they work or what services they provide, direct support professionals (DSPs) will know exactly where to find the information they need about the people they serve and the supports they are providing.

An online platform will be available to teams throughout Ohio to access the assessments and plans for the people they support. For more information, visit DODD website at dodd.ohio.gov.



Inclusive Employer

Toolkit



With the increase of job openings within our community, this has been an active time for people with developmental disabilities getting jobs and showing off their talents and abilities. Those as young as 16 have been hired in positions in landscaping, restaurant, factory, retail and many more. While some choose to seek out jobs on their own, some people request employment assistance from their SSA and/or the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). With the recent launch of the OOD Inclusive Employer Toolkit, businesses can get information on how they can be an employer of employees with disabilities and the many benefits that come with this relationship. If you have a business and are in need of employees, please read on for more information.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities ([OOD](#)) has announced the launch of the [Inclusive Employer Toolkit](#), designed to help employers recruit, hire, and retain employees with disabilities and foster an inclusive workplace.

Recruitment and retention are challenges for many businesses. Individuals with disabilities represent a talent pool that is often hidden and underutilized. The Inclusive Employer Toolkit, which can be used in its entirety or by section, is a guide to creating an inclusive workplace and accessing this hidden pool of talent.

"Ohioans with disabilities make excellent employees because of their loyalty and drive to be successful," said Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "Creating an inclusive work environment and leveraging this untapped talent pool gives companies a competitive edge, and the new OOD Employer Toolkit can help give businesses the tools they need to get started."

"We're inviting Ohio employers to use the Toolkit and engage with our Business Relations team to understand better how to meet your business goals by hiring candidates with disabilities," said Kevin Miller, OOD Director.

The Toolkit includes four main topics:

1. Building the Business Case – benefitting from hiring people with disabilities
2. Inclusive Workplace – making the workplace inclusive of everyone
3. Recruiting, Hiring, and Supporting Employees – getting access to a greater pool of talent
4. Workplace Accommodations – making small changes can make a big difference

The Inclusive Employer Toolkit was created by the OOD Business Relations team, which works throughout the state to raise awareness of OOD and its mission with Employer Partners to promote and support the hiring of individuals with disabilities. The Toolkit curates the best practices, tips, resources, and webinars that have benefitted OOD Employer Partners. Use of the Toolkit is free and open to all, and a [demonstration video](#) is available on the website.

[OOD](#) is the state agency responsible for empowering Ohioans with disabilities through employment, disability determinations, and independence. OOD's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation serves eligible individuals with physical, mental, intellectual, and sensory disabilities, beginning at age 14, through direct, personalized services geared toward finding and retaining meaningful work. Over the last year, since March 2020, OOD has placed a total of 5,284 Ohioans with disabilities into jobs in health care, warehouse and logistics, customer service, food preparation, retail, manufacturing, and more.

If you are an employer and would like more information about what was shared here, please visit: [Inclusive Employer Toolkit | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities](#)



Fayette County Dragons Back in Action!!

In 2020, COVID-19 put a halt to all Special Olympic activities. Permission to start Special Olympic activities on April 4th was given by Special Olympics of Ohio. To do this, Special Olympics Guidelines must be followed.

Starting April 4th, Phase 2 of the Return to Play for Special Olympics Ohio began.

Phase 2 guidelines, which we will strictly follow, are as follows:

*NO more than 35 people total at practice -including, coaches, volunteers, etc.

*Teams are permitted to compete against ONE other organization/team.

* Masks must be worn AT ALL TIMES when not actively participating in practice/competition. This includes spectators as well.

* NO MORE THAN 1 spectators/parents/caregivers permitted to attend practice/competition- NO OTHER SPECTATORS PERMITTED

* Practice can return to FULL INTENSITY. NO other in-person gatherings of 35 or more people permitted.

At each practice or event, health screenings and temperature checks must be completed, and this will include athletes and all spectators. The goal is to keep everyone safe and still be able to participate in sports.

The first sport that Fayette County Dragons is offering is track. All athletes' contact information will be updated with packets being mailed to participants. It is a slow start, but it is a start, and the Fayette County Dragons are so excited to see everyone and get back to doing what they love. If you would like more information, please text (or call) 740-606-9431. Good luck to all athletes!



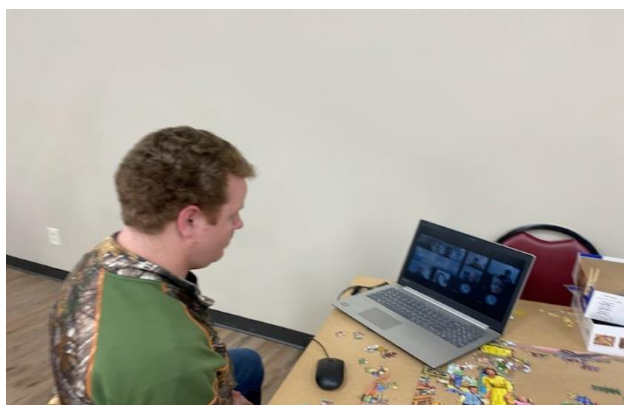
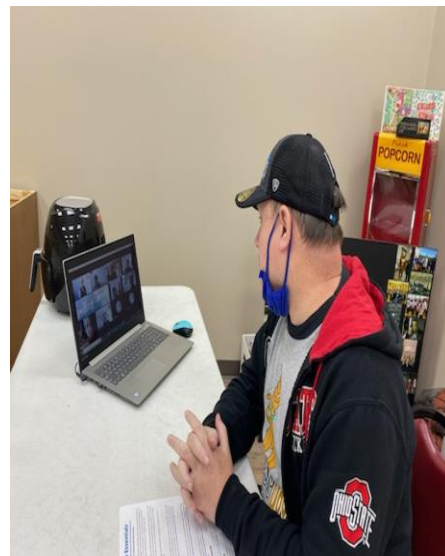
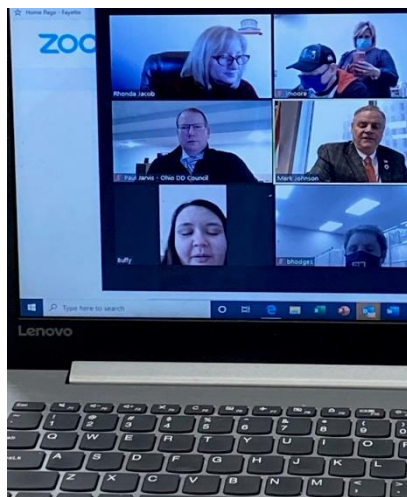
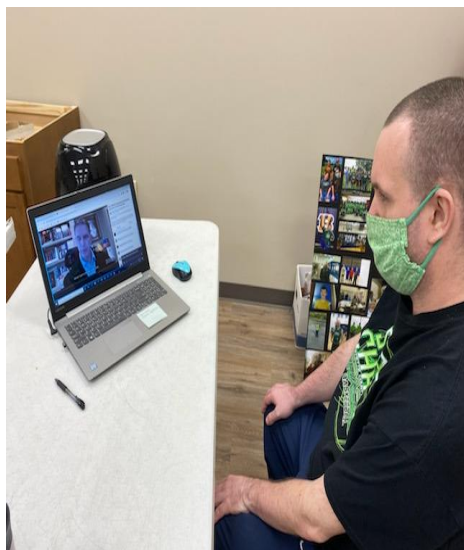
Special Olympics

Advocates attended the 2021 Developmental Disability Advocacy and Awareness Day on March 2nd.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference was held virtually. The theme this year was SUPPORT THE ESSENTIALS.

Although this day was a little different than normal, (advocates typically gather at the State House and meet with fellow constituents from all over the state, and with their legislatures, in person), attendees still had the opportunity to hear from Governor Dewine and different speakers on topics like, Technical Essentials, presented by ambassadors from 5 different regions all over the state. They shared their experiences with technology and what was important to their daily lives. Dr. Ayer talked to the advocates about health, advocacy and health equity.

In the afternoon, the advocates had the opportunity to meet with their legislatures virtually. Representative Mark Johnson and Senator Bob Peterson spoke with constituents from their districts. The first thing that our advocates did was thank those in charge for making people with disabilities in Fayette County and around the state a priority for the COVID-19 vaccine. The discussions continued covering topics like COVID and our return to normal, masks, social distancing and staying safe in Ohio. Transportation in rural areas is a topic that is always discussed with the legislatures, and of special concern this year with the COVID pandemic. Some shared that their staff is essential to them and how the turnover in direct care is still a concern. The meetings were shortened due to being held virtually, but both Senator Peterson and Representative Johnson graciously offered more time in the future to sit down and discuss the concerns of their constituents.



*Fayette Progressive Preschool staff passed the Ohio Department of Education inspection with flying colors on March 17th. Congratulations to all staff members on their hard work and dedication going above and beyond the rules and regulations.

*The kindergarten field trip was on April 29th for our Washington City School's soon to be kindergarteners. Due to this, that day was a virtual learning day for the kids so the visit to Cherry Hill could occur.

*On May 5th, barnyard animals visited the school instead of us going to the zoo. The animals came to us from Dreams to Reality farm, which provides equine therapy for those who are interested.

*The kids are doing well earning lizards and are working toward earning a schoolwide sundae party! Only 17 more lizards to go.

*The virtual family activity night video was posted on April 15th at https://youtu.be/E10ajMOr_10. Preschool Staff created videos demonstrating activities and reading books related to their topic for families.

Reminder!!! Fayette Progressive Preschool is still accepting applications for next school year! Slots are filling up fast, so get your applications in soon for review! If you would like to pick up an application, our office is open from 8:30am-3:30pm or give us a call at 740-335-1391.



Early Intervention Graduates!!

