

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities



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Annual Report 2021

From the Desk of Superintendent

Debra Buccilla



We are happy to share with you our 2021 Annual Report. As with the rest of the world, we saw some highs and some lows. Speaking of lows, who thought we would still be dealing with a global pandemic at the writing of this report! But the highs...well, just look! Buffy, Doug, JJ, and Kelly have been living life to the fullest. The Dragons ended the football season as Division 1 champions and Liam and Henry are off to a good start. The Fayette County Board of DD served over 340 individuals and families; employed approximately 50 staff and worked with numerous community partners to provide a comprehensive approach of services and supports. With a budget of approximately \$3,500,000 and led by an involved Board , we believe those being served experienced the best we could offer.

Another highlight for the year was the dedication of the administrative building to Caryl Wagner Bookman who served on the Board and as a volunteer for many years. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to host an open house in celebration, however the significance of the gesture was felt none the less.

As we were happy to see 2021 end, we can only hope that 2022 offers up ample opportunity to all those being served, their families and our community partners.

Stay safe, stay healthy,

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

Service and Support Administration

In 2021, Buffy has been very active as an advocate and leader. Buffy will be appointed as a Fayette County Board of DD Board Member in 2022. She is the first person to be appointed who receives board services. She has years of experience with People First, advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. In recent years, she has served on the Fayette County Board of DD Human Rights Committee, which ensure people are receiving supports in the least restrictive manner through a person-centered process. Buffy is a board member for the Ohio Self Determination Association, a regional representative with People First and has been to the state house several times for DD awareness and recently spoke on the direct support professional crisis. Buffy has attended and participated in the Synergy conference for several years. Buffy is supported with SSA services.



Also in 2021, Doug advocated to become the manager of the Fayette County Special Olympics basketball team this past year. Through the support of SSA services, he requested a meeting with the Special Olympic Coordinator to discuss becoming the manager. Through this position, he has gained confidence and has expanded his social skills. The team has embraced Doug and encouraged him to participate in team activities. Doug continues to grow and learn new skills through his work as the manager of the team. Doug is supported through SSA services and receives supports from a local provider. He attends day habilitation and work opportunities through local providers as well.





JJ graduated from Pioneer School this past year. He enjoyed being named Prom King, playing on the basketball team and was featured in the Ross County Gazette due to his extreme growth socially and academically. Once he transitioned from the structure of the school routine, he insisted on pursuing his dream of having a drivers license. He is working with Capabilities weekly on driving readiness and they are impressed by his ability to catch on and how well he drives. JJ also works at Old Navy and was recently awarded the Associate of the month due to his great customer service and willingness to see work that needs done without being told to do it. JJ is also focused on his physical health. Being diagnosed with diabetes at a young age put restriction on his health. He has been working out weekly with a personal trainer at Court House Fitness and has lost 38 pounds! Due to his tenacity, JJ's health has improved, and his future is bright! JJ has many goals he is focusing on and with the support of his SSA services and his family, there is no doubt he will reach each goal.

With assistance from her SSA and providers, Kelly was able to obtain a new job with Fayette Transportation this past year. This opportunity led her to disenroll from her waiver, which was a funding source to assist her with reaching her employment goals. She also disenrolled from county board SSA services, as she no longer needed the services. This is a huge celebration for Kelly, and we wish her the best.

Kelly was able to achieve her goals from her SSA supports and coordination with employment with local providers, that prepared her for this wonderful employment opportunity.



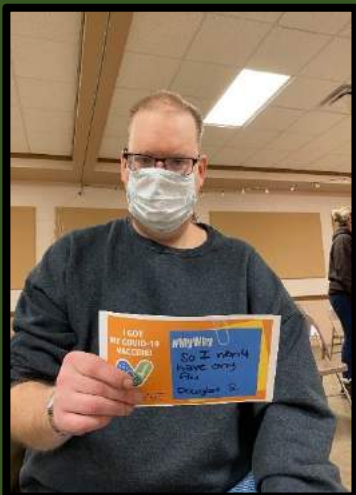
The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department provided service coordination to 130 people in 2021 and several others through intake and community support for information and referral services. We continued our commitment of ensuring that people age 3 through adulthood receive services which enhance the quality of their lives while promoting person-centered choices. This work was accomplished through services provided including assessment, person-centered planning, referrals, payment authorization, linkage, and monitoring. Buffy, Doug, JJ, and Kelly are success stories of coordinated services through the work of the SSA department.

The SSA and Good Life and Trauma Informed Care instructor provided training to Washington City Schools to teach ways to support students in crisis and on-going supports.

The SSA department completed the Family Outreach and Communication Grant which developed family engagement tools to assist SSAs in having effective conversations that help families realize and lead in the possibilities for their child in their future planning, that included, independent living, employment, and community involvement

The Safe Families and Safe Communities Grant was renewed and secured DODD funding to assist community partners with training in Trauma Responsive care, funding for suicide prevention efforts, after school programs and in home sustainability.

The SSA department assisted alongside the Fayette County Public Health to provide COVID-19 vaccine clinics for individuals, providers, family members and community members. Clinics were held at the Mahan building at the fairgrounds and some Public Health nurses traveled to individual's homes to administer vaccines.



F.A.C.T. Advocacy Group

The Fayette Advocating Change Together (F.A.C.T.) had eleven advocates participate in activities this past year. While limited to ensure the safety of the advocates, the group participated in the annual Developmental Disability Advocacy and Awareness Day virtually.



The advocacy group participated in the Community Christmas Parade in Washington Court House. The group received donations to decorate the parade float and enjoyed taking part in the parade and getting the word out in the community about their advocacy efforts.



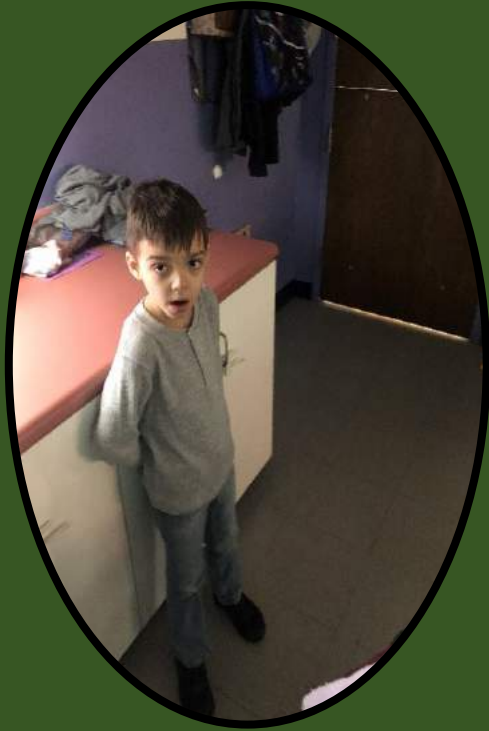


Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons had a busy year, despite the limited activities due to caution for safety and welfare of the athletes. There were 35 athletes who participated in track, softball, flag football, basketball, and bowling. The Dragons football team was crowned Division 1 State Champions. The team was recognized by State Senator Bob Peterson for this accomplishment. The team traveled to the senate to accept the resolution and was given a tour of the statehouse. The Dragons also participated in the bus demo derby at the county fair in July. Athletes, along with advocates, painted the bus in preparation for the competition. The Dragons bus won the demo derby and received a monetary award.



Fayette Progressive Preschool



Liam started attending preschool in October of 2019. Liam had a hard transition, as do many preschoolers. Through hard work of his teacher, he began to slowly participate more in activities. When classes went virtual, like many students, Liam had a readjustment period when he returned for his second year. He slowly became comfortable and by the end of the year was participating in large and small group activities. At the beginning of his third and final preschool year, he was participating in group activities. He knew all of his numbers, letters, could count past 20 and knew shapes and colors. Through the work of the Fayette Progressive Preschool, Liam is ready to move on to kindergarten after this school year. Preschool staff are excited for Liam to move forward and continue to grow.

Liam is one of 73 students enrolled in Fayette Progressive Preschool for the 2021-2022 school year. Fayette Progressive Preschool is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed special needs/inclusion preschool program, which helps both children with and without special needs learn from each other, develop social skills, and create friendships. There are 36 students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which may include supports such as occupational, physical, behavioral and speech therapy.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 21 students graduated from Fayette Progressive Preschool.

Transportation was provided to requesting students and family. During the first half of the 2021-2022 school year, 26 students utilized school transportation. Thirteen students rode the preschool buses for the last half of the 2020-2021 school year.



Early Intervention



Henry received Early Intervention Services, with an emphasis on speech therapy. Henry's mom expressed her appreciation for the EI services. She, in part, shared "EI has helped Henry a tremendous amount and us as parents to communicate with each other when he only had a small amount of words in his vocabulary. His understanding of language has grown so much in a short amount of time. Henry now has a good understanding when given simple commands or when asked questions. Thank you for making learning fun with Henry, giving us the tools/ideas to work with him after therapy sessions and most importantly he has gained so much confidence since his journey started."

Early Intervention provided service coordination for 102 families in 2021. Of that, 74 families received direct services from the EI team. The services provided were through virtual and home visiting methods. Early Intervention had several young ones successfully "graduate" from the EI program in 2021. Early Intervention works with children and their families to enhance the child's development through everyday learning opportunities and routines. EI serves and supports infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years of age. The EI team consists of Service Coordinators, Developmental Specialists, Occupational and Speech Therapists and a contracted Physical Therapist.



*In December 2021, Fayette County Board of DD was awarded a three-year accreditation (highest level possible) from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This was based on a review of services and supports provided, which showcased the work and dedication of staff who ensure all rules and requirements were met.

*During 2021, Fayette County Board of DD supported providers with personal protective equipment, COVID vaccine clinics and rapid tests, as well as support as needed covering direct care services to those we serve. The county board nurse provided training to providers and county board staff throughout the year. Nine people completed the 14-hour Medication Administration Certification class and nine people completed the 2-hour recertification class. Four providers completed the initial 4 hours insulin course. Eighteen participated in American Heart Association First Aid and CPR class. The board nurse also did skills checks for several providers who took online first aid/CPR courses, which required hands-on certification checks.

*To ensure individuals receive medications as prescribed, Medication Administration Quality Assurance (MAQA) reviews were completed by the board nurse. Individuals living in their own home require this review. six reviews were completed in 2021.



The Board of Fayette County Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) including Larry Mayer, President; David Sanders, Vice President, Mark Heiny, Secretary, and Board members, Cody Kirkpatrick, Ben Snodgrass, Mitchell Kirby, and Nic Miller pays tribute to Caryl Wagner Bookman by naming the administrative office building in her honor. The inscription on the plaque reads:

Caryl was born in 1947 to Martha and James Wagner of Washington Court House. Caryl and her sister, Patricia were the proud siblings to their younger brother Tommy who was born with developmental disabilities. From Tommy's early years, both Caryl and Patricia knew he had special needs and their quest began to support their parents in assisting Tommy. Both Caryl and Patricia went into the field of education in part because, their desire to help all children began at home.

Caryl started her career as an educator and spent her teaching career working in Fayette County. Along with her teaching and family responsibilities, Caryl still found the time to volunteer for causes important to her. The Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) was a lucky recipient of her time.

Over several decades, Caryl volunteered for special events, assisted in the preschool and served on the Board of the Fayette County DD. Caryl was a strong advocate for the Fayette County Dragons and was especially fond of the Chameleons of the Fayette Progressive Preschool program.

Caryl and her husband Roger "Bookie" were often seen at annual Dragon games and fundraisers, served on the levy committee to assure sustainable funding for programs and were always available with a helping hand.

Cody Kirkpatrick who initiated the tribute, said, "Caryl was a wonderful person and very deserving of this honor". The FCBDD is better today because of Caryl's influence and all of us greatly miss her since her passing in 2019.

2021 Board Members

Larry Mayer, President

David Sanders, Vice President

Mark Heiny, Secretary

Mitchell Kirby

Cody Kirkpatrick

Nicholas Miller

Ben Snodgrass

2021 Administrative Staff

Debra Buccilla, Superintendent

Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

Lori Moore, Business Director

Larry Gray, Operations Director

Elizabeth Brennfleck, Human Resource Director

Renee Guess, Service and Support Director

Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director

Bret Malone, Education Director

Jan Cobb, Nurse

Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent

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