

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Summer 2022 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

In reviewing this newsletter, two themes seem to emerge, community and partnerships. In the featured articles, you will note one or both themes. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has been a steadfast partner for Ohio's County Boards of DD for decades. Recently, their ability to assist in the coordination of services for multi-system youth has been extremely beneficial to counties such as Fayette. We thank them for this.

Closer to home, community partners such Two Scoops and Capabilities, have given valuable training and or experience to several individuals being served. Working with several remote support providers such as Safe In Home and Total Home Care Solutions (THS), has landed FCBDD as one of the leaders in the state helping people use this technology.

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), The Make A Wish Foundation and the "friendship" connections with neighboring counties all provide enriched opportunities to enhance the lives of Fayette County residents.

Our partnership with Dr. Fitton of ABC Pediatrics, will prove to again highlight Fayette County as a leader in innovation with the upcoming Autism Diagnosis Education Project (ADEP).

As you read our summer edition, note our partnerships and true sense of community. It will make you proud to live in Fayette County!

Until next time,
Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

Preschool News

Fayette Progressive Preschool ended the year with a day filled with fun and activities. Thanks to everyone for a great year! Congratulations to the graduates! See you in the fall!



Ohio's Multi-System Youth Coalition

One crisis the DD system has faced in the past several years is how to support youth with dual diagnosis in need of stabilization. Fayette County is no different. We have had several children who have needed supports that we just didn't have here in our county. It leaves families stressed, frustrated and unable to meet the needs of their child.

Thankfully the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has heard the cries for help from the counties and have been tirelessly working on projects for Multi-System Youth (MSY).

A Fayette County resident has recently benefited from stabilization in a DODD home operated by ViaQuest. This support is funded through MSY grant dollars.

This Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) home has intense wrap around services from many partner agencies, leading to successful reunification with family.

Some of these services include a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) supports, various therapies, including speech, OT, and behavioral interventions as well as day to day supports from specially trained personnel.

The child and family have access to individual and family counseling services as well as medical testing to rule out health concerns.

Bi-weekly or weekly team meetings occur to discuss supports and services for the child and family and when the child is discharged and returns home, there is follow along with DODD and ViaQuest. FCBDD SSAs also play a part in providing information, assisting with transition planning, and advocating for services for the youth.

During a time when staffing is at an all-time low, FCBDD is very fortunate that this option has been made available with trained, supportive staff. We are anticipating great things from the youth who have been through the program and look forward to all the continued supports offered to this population.





Thank you, Two Scoops!

Sadie moved to Fayette County recently and expressed to her SSA that she wanted to gain work experience through volunteering. Through a person-centered team process, we discussed areas of interest to her and discussed the possibility of her volunteering at a café. Her SSA reached out to the owners of Two Scoops of Sugar, Jill and Joan, and they agreed to welcome her once a week to help out. Her SSA accompanied her at first, but now she is working independently with Jill and Joan's supervision. Sadie's SSA also did a travel assessment with Sadie, so that she could use public transportation. She now takes public transportation on her own. She is working with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities for job development. The skills she has obtained at Two Scoops and taking transportation will help prepare for her a job. On Sadie's birthday, Jill and Joan made her a cupcake. A big thank you for Two Scoops of Sugar for supporting the people we serve.

Thank you, Capabilities!

We want to give a big shout out to Bradley "JJ" Downs for getting his permit! This is a huge step in JJ meeting his outcome of having his license. JJ has been working closely with Capabilities and their driving program to assist him in his preparation for the permit test and his driving.

JJ loves cars and is excited to hopefully soon be able to drive one independently! Way to go, JJ!!



Early Intervention

In March, Rowyann graduated from the Early Intervention Program. Way to go Rowyann! You are moving ahead to great things!



The first three years of life are an extremely important time for the health and developmental of all children. Starting intervention services early may improve growth and also prevent or reduce the need for special help later. Rowyann benefited from the Early Intervention (EI) services offered. Our EI team provides developmental assessments to address concerns. They serve family and children births to three years of age who have a developmental delay or a diagnosed medical condition. FCBDD's EI team consists of a developmental specialist, a nurse, and speech, occupational and physical therapist. Vision and hearing services are also available. Children learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in comfortable environments. The family is the child's best teacher. FCBDD partners with families in everyday routines and give ideas and activities that can be used between visits. Support is provided within the child's natural environment, where they live, learn and play. Rowyann is a shining example of Early Intervention in action.

FCBDD EI services include:

- Service Coordination
- Standardized developmental evaluation and assessment in 5 areas
- Newborn Behavioral Observation
- Developmental Specialist
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Infant/child massage
- Infant Mental Health
- Playgroup
- The PLAY Project



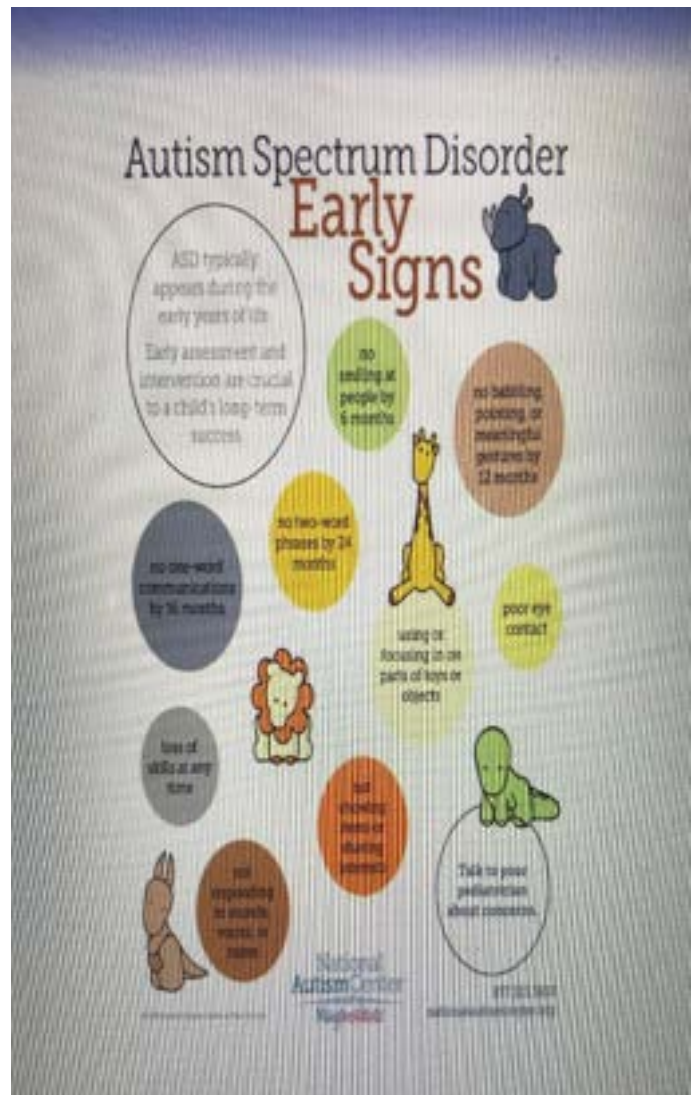
Coming Soon!!

Fayette County Board of DD will be initiating the county's first Autism Diagnosis Education Project (ADEP). This will be offered through collaboration with Dr. Fitton of ABC Pediatrics. FCBDD wishes to thank Dr. Fitton for her time, dedication, and enthusiasm in helping to make this project possible in Fayette County. Stay tuned for more detailed information.



Sylvia Call - Autism Program Coordinator and Developmental Specialist.

Sylvia is a veteran classroom teacher who moved into the field of autism services when her son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is a licensed PLAY Project Autism Therapist, and she has completed a Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder. She is excited to bring local diagnostic services to our area.



Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons held a friendship bowling tournament with Madison and Highland Counties. Each team was made up of 1 bowler from each program and they competed together. It was well received by all the athletes.

Track season is in full swing, and athletes competed in a track meet hosted by Clinton County at Blanchester High School. Track season will conclude in late June with the Dragons unified track invitational. The Dragons along with Miami Trace and Washington Court House athletes will compete with each other in events against other teams comprised of the same. This is a fun event and promotes inclusion and friendships.

Softball season will begin in July.

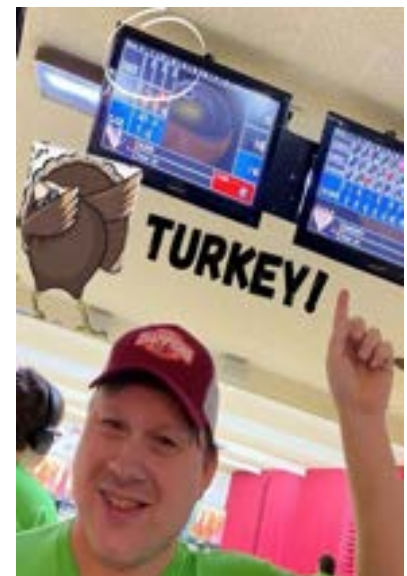


Fayette County Special Olympics provides year around sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Athletes are given opportunities to improve their physical fitness, show their talents and demonstrate courage.

More than 80 athletes are active in Fayette County's program. Athletes are eligible for most sports starting at the age of 8, with no upper age limit. Through the program, "Dragons" develop confidence and are empowered by their accomplishments. They are able to experience joy through participation and sharing of talents, skills and friendships with their families, other athletes, volunteers, and the community.



Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave
in the attempt.
- Special Olympics athlete oath



Fayette County Board of DD is ranked #1 in Remote Supports

A recent analysis of statewide data by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for the use of technology and remote support services, reveals that Fayette County ranks #1 in the state! This data was from a review of services being used since 2018, paid for by the Home and Community Based Waivers, with Fayette having 15% of the total Waiver enrollment authorized for these services. The SSA department has been providing information on technology solutions for several years, with people first using technology services in 2015. These supports increase people's independence, ensures medications are taken, skill building, task completion, and health and safety monitoring. They have also been a benefit for people who value personal space and time alone. The use of these supports has decreased the need for direct service professional (DSP) to be in a person's home, community, or employment, which has been significant with the current DSP workforce crisis.

What do these services look like? Just like any other service and support, they are determined through a thorough, person-centered assessment process, and can include items like sensors for doors, windows, and stoves, cameras for security and monitoring, iPads for communicating, medication dispensers, Alexa devices, GPS/communication wrist bands, and other technologies. The remote support service is a DSP that is monitoring and available to assist a person, but they are off site and will access emergency services or a back-up DSP for in-person response if needed.

While the Fayette County Board of DD has had the assessment of technology in their processes for years, on April 21, 2022, the Ohio Administrative Code, 5123-2-01: Technology First rule went into effect for county boards and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to follow, in accordance with the Ohio revised code Technology First Policy that went into effect on September 30, 2021. The rule directs county boards to have written policy that requires technology solutions be considered during the initial and ongoing person-centered assessment and planning process; and used to the greatest extent possible to support the outcomes in an individual service plan. County Boards are also required to have a plan on how to increase capacity for use of technology solutions and identify strategies for increasing knowledge and skills of staff related to assessing how technology may help meet needs or achieve outcomes and the use of technology solutions.

To share more information about technology and remote supports, the Fayette County Board had a Mobile Smart Home at the Community Health Fair on June 11th, with THS Remote Support Services provider assisting in educating people on how technology can be the solution to meet many needs that a person may have and assist in having an independent and quality life.



Make A Wish

Every kid dreams of a Disney vacation and on May 25-30th our very own Chance Russell had this dream become a reality from the Make A Wish Foundation.

Chance, his mom, grandmother and uncle were flown down to sunny Florida to stay at the Give the Kids the World Villa. This experience was like none other. Mickey, Cinderella, and several other Disney Characters made personal stops at the Villa to meet all the kids. They had rides, activities and a handicap accessible pool that Chance was able to get into in his wheelchair. He loved it! The week was spent with days at Sea World, Universal Studios and Magic Kingdom.

Chance's family said this trip was amazing and they were so thankful to have had the opportunity to go.

Thank you Make A Wish Foundation for choosing Chance for this once in a lifetime experience!



OACB Spring Conference Training

In May, Constance Buffy Enochs, Fayette County Board Member and Michael Richards, Highland County Board Member presented at the OACB Spring conference. They discussed being on the board while receiving services and the importance of their representation.



Fayette County



Board of Developmental Disabilities

Mission: To offer programs and coordinate available services so that people we serve may realize their dreams and actively contribute to their community.

Vision: To empower people to be the best version of themselves.

Values: Teamwork, Dedication, Respect, and Integrity

Services Available

Service and Support Administration (SSA)

SSA services connect persons with disabilities and their families to services provided by the Fayette County Board of DD and other agencies and services in the community. This is accomplished by obtaining and sharing information, making referrals, service planning and authorizing payment for services. SSA casemanagement services are offered to eligible children and adults starting at age 3.

Services Include:

- Assessment and Plan Development
- Coordination of Support Services
- Advocacy
- Community Connections
- Employment Navigation
- Transition Planning
- Monitoring of Services
- Crisis Intervention
- Housing

Early Intervention (EI)

Early Intervention (E.I.) works with children and their families to enhance the child's development through everyday learning opportunities and routines. EI includes services and supports to infants and toddlers' birth to 3 years who have a diagnosed medical condition or developmental delay. Your child and family will have access to a full EI team. This will include a service coordinator, developmental specialist, an occupational and physical therapist, a nurse, a speech, and language pathologist, also vision and hearing based upon unique need.

Community First

Community First is comprised of services including the Fayette Advocating Change Together (FACT) Advocacy Group and the Next Chapter Book Club. Our aim is to ensure that everyone has access to his/her community in the most inclusive manner possible. Our goal is to see everyone become contributing citizens in their community, through work and social recreation as they so choose. We help prepare youth as they transition from school to adult life with work experiences and job readiness training. We also empower adults to stand up and speak out for themselves.

Fayette Progressive Preschool

Fayette Progressive Preschool is home to an Ohio Department of Education licensed Special Needs/Inclusion Preschool Program. Typically developing peers and children with developmental delays on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) learn side by side.

Pre-academic skills taught at Fayette Progressive Preschool:

- *Expand creativity, exploration, and problem-solving strategies
- *Development of social skills
- *Strengthening of motor development and pre-academics taught through play
- *Teach being safe, respectful and to be a friend
- *Encourage art and music appreciation

Fayette County Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons support local athletes with disabilities to pursue physical fitness, involvement in athletic competition and creating friendships with others in the community. We partner with public school Special Olympics teams in the county to coordinate opportunities in many sports, including basketball, flag football, softball, track and field and bowling.