

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Summer 2023 Newsletter

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Welcome to our 2023 Summer Newsletter. At the time of this publication, we are in the middle of the Fayette County Fair. It never ceases to amaze me the wonderful volunteerism seen throughout this event. From the 4 H Clubs, the delicious food stands, and the sponsored events, this doesn't happen without the community support and yes, hard work.

Throughout our newsletter, you will see other examples of partnerships which demonstrate hard work. Employment, housing, health awareness activities and stimulating young minds are just a few of the many areas that Fayette DD relies on volunteer partners to take services to the next level. When called upon, the citizens of Fayette County always respond. Maybe it is just a natural gesture, a value passed down in families or a simple appreciation of helping your neighbor. When I was working our fair booth the other day, a Mom and 2 teenage daughters stopped by. The Mom told me how much she appreciates what the Board of DD does and how proud she was that we were in her county. Just maybe listening to their Mom, these young girls will be a part of the next generation who make Fayette County the great place that it is.

I too, am proud of the work that FCBDD does and forever grateful for our partners throughout this county.

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

Preschool News

Fayette Progressive Preschool wrapped up an awesome year in May, celebrating with a carnival themed Family Fun Day and graduation ceremonies. Families participated in carnival style games, face-painting, dancing, and more on the last day of school! Kindergarten-bound students then welcomed the start of a new chapter the following day in two separate graduation ceremonies at Southside Christian Church.

We are very excited for the start of a new school year! We will be welcoming new students and staff into our FPP family and cannot wait to see what the new year will bring. School will be starting on Monday, August 21st. We still have openings for students with individual educational plans (IEP). Eligible families can apply online for potential enrollment!



LEARNING
IS
FUN



Employment and Housing News



Through a person-centered team process, Matthew expressed interest in finding a job working in a fast-food restaurant. Matthew gained skills needed through Project Connect with Goodwill. Matthew was referred to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) where he worked with Fayette Progressive Industries for job development. Matthew was hired by Taco Bell where he helps unload the food truck, completes janitorial work and does food prep. Matthew utilizes public transportation to get to and from work. Matthew loves his job at Taco Bell and really enjoys the people he works with. Great job Matthew!



On June 1, 2023, four women moved into a brand-new home on Grace Street. The home was built by Fayette Metropolitan Housing, who serves as the landlord for the home. The home is beautiful! Not only is it aesthetically pleasing, it is equipped with some amazing safety features such as a fire suppression system and a generator. It has been a great transition for the four women, and they love their brand-new home. Congratulations, ladies!



FCBDD Participates in Local Health Fair



The 31st Fayette County Health Fair, held on June 10th at the Grace Community Church, was a beautiful sunny day! It was well attended by staff and families alike. Several staff, including Early Intervention and Preschool staff provided a wealth of information, developmental screenings on request, tattoos, prizes and an obstacle course. It is always fun to see current families that we work with as well as families that we have had the pleasure to know over the years. Seeing how kids have grown and getting updates is always a joy! Our very own Chad Blakeley, Community First Specialist was part of the fund-raising effort for the Fayette County Food Pantry by taking a turn in the dunk tank! The health fair offered other fun events and delicious food finishing the morning with the Columbus Zoo!



Autism Diagnosis Education Project (ADEP) reaches a milestone!

Autism diagnosis can be a jungle, but we're here to make the trek through the woods with you!

The ADEP (Autism Diagnostic Education Project) Program is celebrating its first full year of serving the communities of Fayette and Highland Counties. To date, 56 children have been referred to this program. We have been able to provide a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder for 29 children of those who have gone through the rigorous testing protocol. The ADEP Program is overseen by OCALI, and it is a program that operates across 55 of Ohio's counties.

We are proud to celebrate the enormous success of this program as we look back on the past year. Sylvia Call, Autism Services Coordinator for both Fayette County Board of Disabilities and Highland County Board of Disabilities, has taken the lead on this initiative. She completes the DSM-V Parent Interviews with our families as well as the ADOS Autism Evaluations for each child who goes through the ADEP Program, and she also attends the diagnostic visit with our Medical Partner, Dr. Lenora Fitton of ABC Pediatrics.

Sylvia presented on the ADEP Program at the OACB Conference held in Columbus, Ohio this past March, and she has also been asked to present on how she runs her ADEP Program for the Ohio Early Intervention Seminar in the fall of 2023. Sylvia and Dr. Fitton are the heart and soul of this program, and the two of them are passionate about the work they do and the advocacy they show for these children and their families. We love that having these two dedicated, knowledgeable professionals ensures that the families who go through our ADEP Program are provided with the very highest levels of support and care as they navigate through the forest of the autism diagnosis process and find themselves walking along a well-worn path with a couple of wonderful friends by their side.



Special Olympics

The Dragons Unified Track invitational was held June 17th. With this event, one Dragon athlete and one partner from a local high school or middle school competed together against another pair of the same. There were twelve athletes from Washington Court House City Schools, one from Miami Trace and two from Zane Trace. Numerous students from the Washington Court House soccer team helped with the event. Thanks to all for making this a great inclusive event!



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



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.



On July 15th, a charity softball game was played between the Dragons and the Folemc Gatekeepers. All proceeds from the event went to Dragons. Many were involved in this event, and we are grateful for the community support.

Thanks!
for your
Support!!



Do you have great ideas to share with your peers?

Would you like to use your voice to advocate for yourself?

Why not join the F.A.C.T advocacy group and speak up for what you want!

Become a part of the Fayette Advocating Change Together (F.A.C.T) advocacy group. Attend the monthly meetings and share your thoughts, ideas, wants and needs with the group. Enjoy fun events to promote advocacy awareness in the community. If you receive services from the county board and want to speak up for yourself and issues concerning people with disabilities, this is the group for you! We are actively searching for new advocates to join!

Meetings are held at the Caryl Center (FCBDD Administrative Office) at 1330 Robinson Road, Washington Court House, Ohio once a month from 6-7 pm. Lights snacks will be provided.

Tuesday August 1st, 2023

Tuesday September 5th, 2023

Monday October 2nd, 2023

Wednesday November 1st, 2023

Monday December 4th, 2023

For more information, contact Chad Blakeley at 740-606-9431.



**STAND UP
SPEAK OUT**

**FAYETTE
ADVOCATING
CHANGE
TOGETHER**

Assistant Superintendent Earns Ohio School Boards Association STAR Award

Bret Malone, Assistant Superintendent of the Fayette and Highland County Boards of DD has many years of service in the public school system. The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) recognized Bret as a STAR (Service, Training, Aptitude and Recognition) Award recipient of the 2023 OSBA Training Award. His commitment towards public education and his role as a school board member were celebrated at the Southwest Region Spring Conference held on March 9, 2023. In 2023, only 29 of the over 3,400 members of the board members received the honor.



Bret is a valued part of the team in both Fayette and Highland County. Under his role as Assistant Superintendent, Bret serves as both the Education Director and Operations Director, overseeing the operations of the Fayette Progressive Preschool and the Hills and Dales Preschool.



Congratulations goes to Bret for his continued commitment to the education of our children. This recognition is well deserved!



Thank you

Many thanks to our community partners who continue to support our mission. Your generosity is felt among the individuals and students served as well as the staff.

