

2023

Annual  
Report

# Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Mission Statement

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

## Vision Statement

To empower people to be the best version of themselves.

## Values

Teamwork,  
Dedication, Respect  
and Integrity



Fayette County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities



The Caryl Center  
1330 Robinson Road  
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160  
Phone: (740) 335-7453  
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The Starting Gate  
Fayette Progressive Preschool  
1351 Leesburg Avenue  
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Facebook: [fayettecountydd](https://www.facebook.com/fayettecountydd)  
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## From the Desk of Superintendent Debra Buccilla



Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report. It seems 2023 was the year helping us to reach a sense of normalcy after the dark times of the previous few years. Back to normal and then some, was evident throughout the year. Our staff and those being served navigated growth and new beginnings. You will see highlights of this throughout our report.

I was recently reading a Childrens' book titled, "What Does It Mean To Be An American?" I especially liked the part which said, "Being an American means having the right to become your best self, and the obligation to help others do so." This is exactly what we do at the Fayette County Board of DD.

This report captures our quest to help those we serve learn new skills, be introduced to new opportunities and to become the best versions of themselves. Case in point, read the article about Technology Supports and Little Miss Ivy and you will see this quest in action!

This is my last Annual Report before I retire in a few weeks. I have felt honored to be a part of this great team helping others navigate new beginnings and striving to be the best version of themselves.

With Gratitude,

Deb Buccilla

# Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department provided active case management services to 120 people, along with serving others in the community with information, referral services, and necessary follow-up. We provided intake and eligibility services and support from our Certified Trauma Informed Care Trainer and Lead Employment and Community Connections Coordinator.

We had another successful year with the Safe Families and Strong Communities Grant (DODD, MHADS) with the Pickaway County Board of DD. Cheryl Binegar and Kelly Shiltz provided the coordination of this grant, which focuses on families with children and young adults with a developmental disability or mental health needs who are in crisis or at-risk of family separation. More than \$70,000 went into our community for multiple projects and services that included suicide coalition and prevention, Rose Avenue Community Center, community Trauma Responsive Care training, and general funds for in-home sustainability with the Fayette County Family and Children First Council. The Fayette County Board and Pickaway County Board will continue collaboration in addressing community needs in 2024.

In 2023, we continued to expand services and supports through technology. With the focus on independence and community involvement, SSAs coordinated remote support services and assistive technology for several people to provide a passive support that meet needs and does not require a Direct Support Professional (DSP) to be with them. This has assisted people with living in their home, working at a job, using public transportation and community involvement. With technology in constant change, and the rule requirement that we must help people explore technology options for supports, the SSAs worked closely with Tim Stewart, our new Innovations Tech staff, to have the most updated information to consider. We also attended the Ohio State University Nisonger Center TechSummit that included various speakers, vendors and customers of products and services, to bring more ideas back to Fayette County.

As SSAs worked with people through a person-centered approach, many exciting accomplishments were made this year. Keep reading to see some of the highlights.



Like many young adults, Rosie moved from her family home to her own home, where she lives with another woman. While moving into your first place on your own can happen with mixed emotions, for Rosie, who has autism, this change needed to happen in a unique way. In planning for this move, Rosie's aunt, who is her guardian, worked closely with her SSA Cheryl Binegar, to make sure what was important to and for Rosie was in place. This included living with a person that she had a good relationship with and a familiar provider, IHS Services, who understands how to support her sensory needs, daily living tasks, and to do fun activities. Rosie and her support team continue to work together to make sure that she is happy, and her needs are always met.



Casey was struggling to find activities she liked and was hesitant to go places outside of her home. Casey worked with her SSA, Tricia Enochs, to help her realize that she loves dogs, music, laughing and being around people. Through the person-centered process, Casey decided to go to Friends of Leroy Brown Adult Day Programming where she could do all the things she loves! Casey is a happier person because she is doing activities she enjoys and has many new friends!



# Employment Success



Through a person-centered team process, which means that services are tailored for each individual, Matthew expressed interest in finding a job working in a fast-food restaurant. Matthew gained skills needed for employment through Project Connect with Goodwill. Matthew was then 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!



Also, through a person-centered team process, Clarence is a part time associate working at YUSA Corporation. Clarence utilizes public transportation to get to and from work. Clarence loves his job and especially loves the people he is working with. His co-workers say he is a "super guy to work with, so positive, and kindhearted! We just love him."



# Technology Supports



Since Olivia added technology to her home, she has had more independence in her life. Olivia can call a remote support DSP at any time for assistance through her two-way talk and video device when she needs support. Olivia also uses technology to open and close her door through a remote control. She has an app on her phone to lock and unlock her door. This technology allows Olivia to have more freedom in her home.

Because Shawn used technology and a remote support DSP as a way of helping him in his home, he was able to gain skills and independence to now live in his home with only a DSP dropping in occasionally to help with a few tasks. Way to go Shawn!



In August 2023, the SSA Department, along with the Innovative Tech staff attend the TechSummit sponsored by The Ohio State University Nisonger Center. The SSA team learned about new remote supports and technology that can be used in homes to provide more independence to the individuals we serve. They are pictured here with AngelSense rep Katalin Daigle.

Robin has been enjoying a new sense of independence since purchasing her AngelSense watch. Robin likes to take walks in her neighborhood without her Frontier Community Services DSP needing to go with her. Her watch has given her the ability to do that with the added safety feature of the GPS and her being able to call her DSP from her watch if she needs assistance. Robin loves her watch and is excited to show it off to others every chance she gets!!!





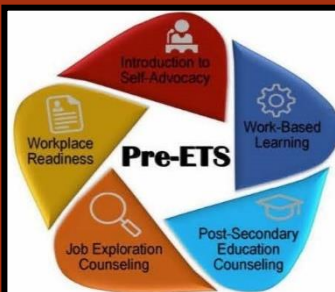
During 2023, Fayette County had four students from Washington Court House Schools enrolled in the Pre-Employment transition Program (Pre-ETS), with one student being employed in the community. Students will participate in the Summer Youth Program in collaboration with Highland County Board of DD. The Pre-ETS program is open to students ages 14-22 while enrolled in education. Students must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 through their local school district and must receive services with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Referrals are made by the local school district or directly through the Community First Department at FCDD. Most students receive Pre-ETS services during their school day at school.



The Fayette County Dragons had a busy and successful year. There were 65 athletes who participated in track, softball, flag football, basketball, and bowling. The Dragons football team was crowned Division 1 State Champions for the fifth straight year. The basketball team finished in second place in Division 5 at the state tournament. The Dragons won the Bus Derby at the Fayette County Fair for the third straight win!

Dragon's athlete Joe Sousa won the softball skills state tournament in September.

The Dragons were grateful for the donation from Jeffersonville Masonic Lodge #468 and the Jeffersonville Order of Eastern Star #300 which was used to purchase new uniforms and equipment.





## Fayette Progressive Preschool



Carter began as a very friendly affectionate boy who enjoyed adult connections and solitary play. He had some interest in books and puzzles that were Mickey themed, but little to no interest in group activities, circle time, and any type of hands-on activity was met with absolute refusal. Boy, Carter has really grown over the year! He has begun showing an interest in his peers. He now loves all things alphabet and numbers and can identify all upper- and lower-case letters and numbers 1-20 consistently, even when out of order. He attempts most of our small group activities. Last year he wouldn't hold a writing utensil, this year he will do hand over hand and attempt writing lines on his own. He has explored shaving cream, paint, and playdoh. Although hesitant at first, he attempts the different activities. With support, he follows the rules and routines that include washing his hands and hanging up his coat and backpack. We are so proud of Carter and can't wait to see how he continues to grow!

Carter is one of 74 students enrolled at Fayette Progressive Preschool for the 2023-2024 school year. Fayette Progressive Preschool is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed special needs inclusion preschool program that seeks to nurture the growth of all students in embracing and serving exceptionalities, developing a spectrum of skills, and encouraging the development of a lifelong love of learning. In 2023, we served 43 students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for development in academics, social interaction, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Shared experiences between these students and our 31 typically developing pals allow for simultaneous learning and friendship building for all members of our school community.



# Early Intervention



Meet Little Miss Ivy S. She is part of the Fayette County Early Intervention (EI) Program as a 1-year-old. She is working on crawling and learning new sounds and words to express herself during our twice monthly visits at her home. She and her mom work hard on playing and practicing her skills to help her achieve her goals. Ivy joined EI in May of 2023. She was born on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at only 24 weeks gestation. Being 3 months early had many challenges and Ivy was not breathing when she was born and only weighed 1 pound 8 ounces. She was life flighted from Adena to St Ann's in Columbus and had multiple complications. She had a stage 4 brain hemorrhage, multiple surgeries for her heart and eyes and was on a ventilator.

She spent 141 days in the NICU. Her mom Shyann was with her every step of the way and continues to take her to all her therapies and appointments at Nationwide Childrens. Today Ivy is able to enjoy eating, playing and sitting up on her own without any oxygen or tubes. She is a joy to work with and continues to amaze us with her new skills and continual smiles and progress!

Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family served in EI has a team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, and the family. The team works in your home or other places you and your family spend time to develop a coordinated plan called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). You and your team will work through your IFSP plan to use your existing supports and resources—and build upon them—to learn to enhance your child's learning and development. Fayette County Early Intervention provided services to 135 families in 2023. This is over 600 visits to children and families in homes and through virtual visits. Early Intervention graduated 37 kids from the EI program as they turned three. Early Intervention works with children and their families to enhance the child's development through every day learning opportunities and routines. EI serves and supports infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years of age. The EI team consists of Service Coordinators, Autism Coordinator, Nursing, Developmental Specialists, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapist. We also celebrated a year and a half of being an autism diagnostic center with our partner ABC pediatrics. In 2023, 16 children completed the evaluation protocol with 9 currently in the process.



# *Operations*

Operations staff made several improvements to the Starting Gate Building and the Caryl Center in 2023.

- **At the Starting Gate building:**
  - Sixteen HVAC units were installed.
  - Three light poles were changed over to LED lighting.
  - Landscaping improvements were made around the building.
  - Several areas were painted, and new flooring was installed in five areas.
  - New access gate was installed to allow for an easier exit during emergencies.
  - New safety protocol was put into place.
  - New AEDs were purchased and installed.
  - First Responders meeting was held with local first responders, including the sheriff, local police and fire departments and EMA.
  - New fire system was installed.
  - A 2021 Minitour bus was purchased, and a 2010 Thomas bus was sold.
  - Transportation of students has increased 20% from the previous school year.
  - All four FCBDD CDL drivers were recertified for the next 6 years.
  
- **At the Caryl Center**
  - One 20-ton HVAC unit was installed.
  - Five light poles were changed over to LED lighting.
  - Landscaping improvements were around the building, including drainage flow from the downspouts.
  - New safety protocol was put into place.
  - New AEDs were purchased and installed.
  - New fire system was installed.

# *Nursing Services*

During 2023, the Nursing Department stayed in touch with staff and providers, answering questions and giving guidance.

Medication Administration training is required to administer medications, perform health related activities and administration of insulin or G-tube feeding. Twelve Fayette staff received the 2-hour recertification training in 2023.

First aid/CPR training was completed by twenty-four Fayette staff.

Fourteen Fayette Progressive Preschool staff participated in Communicable Disease training certification.

Medication Administration Quality Assurance Reviews (MAQA) were completed within six homes in Fayette County.



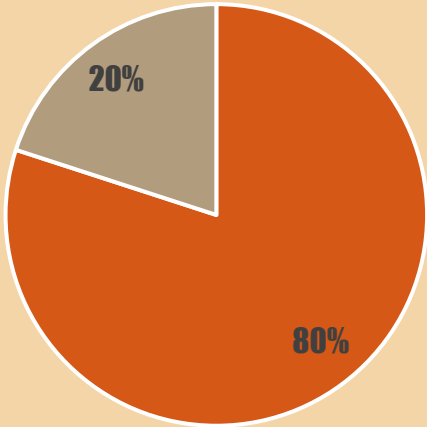
# 2023 Statement of Activities

## Revenues

**\$4,126,255**

### Local and Federal/State

- \*1.75 mill Tax Levy
- \*1.5 mill Tax Levy
- \*.75 mill Tax Levy
- \*Grants
- \*ODE Funding
- \*Medicaid Administrative Claiming
- \*Title XX
- \*Waiver Reconciliation
- \*Targeted Case Management



■ Levies   ■ Federal/State

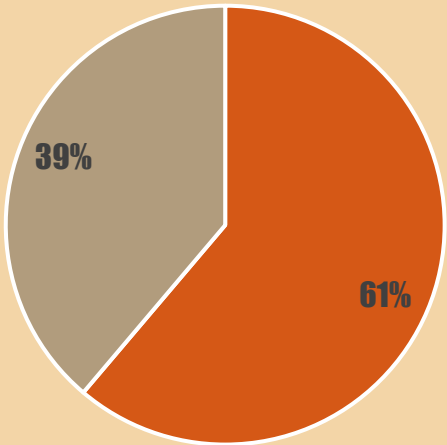
## Expenditures

### Supports and Services

- \*Residential
- \*Employment
- \*Early Intervention
- \*Preschool
- \*Service and Support Administration
- \*Adult Day
- \*Transportation
- \*Family Support
- \*Nursing Support
- \*Provider Support
- \*Medicaid Coordination
- \*Employment Coordination
- \*Home Purchases
- \*Quality Assurance
- \*Community Outreach
- \*Home Repairs

### Administrative Support

- \*Facility Maintenance
- \*Supplies
- \*Overhead
- \*Personnel
- \*Utilities
- \*Equipment
- \*General Expenses



■ Supports and Services   ■ Administrative Support

**2023 Board Members**

**David Sanders, President**

**Nicholas Miller, Vice President**

**Ben Snodgrass, Secretary**

**Mark Heiny**

**Mitchell Kirby**

**Constance Buffy Enochs**

**Betty Hoppes**

**2023 Administrative Staff**

**Debra Buccilla, Superintendent**

**Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant**

**Bret Malone, Assistant Superintendent**

**Lori Moore, Business Director**

**Renee Guess, Service and Support Director**

**Elizabeth Brennfleck, Human Resource Director**

**Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director**

**Jan Cobb, Nurse**

**Chad Blakeley, Community First Specialist/Special Olympics Coordinator**

**Clint Wharton, Operations Manager**

**Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent**

**Brady Scott, IT Manager**



**Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

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**Fayette Progressive Preschool**

1351 Leesburg Ave. Washington Court House, Ohio 43160 740-335-1391 FAX: 740-333-3546

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