

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO BETTER  
COMMUNICATION”



January/February  
2014

Clermont County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

# *The Beacon*

## **A New Year for the DD Board**

David Uible, President of the Clermont County Board of Commissioners, administered the Oath of Office at the January 23 meeting of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The Clermont DD Board uses its January meeting to reorganize by accepting nominations for officers and to determine the date, time, and location of future meetings. Board members submitted officer candidate ballots prior to the meeting and, after the swearing in ceremony, the following members were elected as officers: Harry Snyder, President; Laurie Benintendi, Vice President; and Kim Pellington, Secretary. Serving the Board are members Greg Carson, Robert Grant, Jennifer Mailloux, and Rex Parsons.

This was Mr. Parsons' first meeting. He replaced Sheila Madden whose term expired in December. Mrs. Madden served three consecutive terms as a volunteer Clermont DD Board member, for a total of twelve years on the DD board. She will be missed, but we are excited Mr. Parsons has expressed an interest in our program!

Mrs. Benintendi and Mr. Parsons were appointed to the Ethics Committee by Mr. Snyder and will serve on this committee throughout the year. It was approved that 2014 meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Thomas A. Wildey Center in Owensville. Exceptions to this will be announced as they arise.

Welcome to the Board, and thank you for your volunteer service to our agency!



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## From the Superintendent

Sharon Woodrow

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Well in keeping with what that groundhog predicted, we appear to have lots of winter left, haven't we? And, the snow and ice that we've seen already has been a little daunting.

Please accept our apology for our closings and delays, if you have someone who depends on a facility based program – either school or day program. We make every effort to be open, but the roads have to be a consideration – for both staff and individuals. Please be assured that we really “never close”. Our emergency numbers are always answered, staff have access to all their information and are on their computers and phones wherever they are, and we can be reached pretty easily. We'd love to know how the One Call system works for you; we've found it to be really a dependable method of communication. Our Television and Radio stations really try hard to get the information correct, but they are bombarded with calls and changes. It's really hard sometime to keep up – I would imagine. We do have to “change our minds” once in a while which I'm sure can be confusing when you need to make your plans. Let's all hope for Spring to come early!



Our first Provider Fair went very smoothly on February 1. It appears as if a lot of families got good information regarding day programs that are available which will meet their needs. If you or the person you support haven't had a chance to see what great opportunities there are for individuals who have a waiver, please contact your SSA soon. They'll be glad to help. We do plan to have another Provider Fair in early September.

Our “redesigned” Dancing with the Stars, called this year Clermont's got Talent, will be held at the Oasis Conference Center on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This expanded program will give more chances for our community “stars” to perform and showcase their many talents. Anyone can apply to be a part of this great evening, which is our largest fundraiser for Respite – a critical program that Clermont DD is able to offer. Are their people in your office who can sing and dance – play a musical instrument – juggle – perform magic tricks? Have you always wanted to perform in front of an audience – sing barbershop or opera – tap dance or perform in a group? Well we've got just the thing for you. And, we'd appreciate your support so much – as would the families who rely heavily on the opportunity to have some time away from their caregiving responsibilities. We're even including a ballroom dancing category so don't shy away because this year you were finally going to participate. We can have it all. Call Lisa Davis at 732-4921 for more information. We really appreciate your support. And, by the way, we still offer free dancing lessons and can have a voice and dance coach available to help if you need some brushing up.

Our Annual Action plan for 2014 is available now. It's on our website but if you'd like a hard copy please call our office and we'll mail one right to you. And, as always, we appreciate your input and questions.

Watch for those robins and daffodils; I'm sure there out there somewhere.



# ACTIVITY UPDATE

2/6	Valentine Crafts	5-6:30 p.m.	\$3	Willey Center Conference Room
2/12	Valentine Dance	7-9 p.m.	FREE	Faith Chapel Ministries Bethel
2/19	*Dinner on the Road	5-7 p.m.	\$20	Butterbees Beechmont
2/25	*Movies	TBA	\$5.25	Milford Cinemas
2/28	People In Action	12:30-2 p.m.	FREE	Grissom Building
<b>If bad weather please call to see if activity is cancelled. Angie Stanton 513-732-4923.</b>				

The CCDD activity group participated in a demonstration at Auntie Anne's pretzel's on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Eastgate Mall. It was interesting to learn how the first pretzels came about. The group consisted of Crista Crawford, Natalie Norris, David Kiefer, Gail Teague, Cathy Mooi, and Amy Jones.



## Random Act of Kindness Turns into Life Lesson

*As told by PRIME staff and Individuals*

This winter has turned into quite the cold one! PRIME wanted to find a way to give back to their community during this very cold time. They decided to do a Random Act of Kindness to try to help other people who may not have comforts we can easily take for granted. So, they prepared a gift to hand out randomly to unsuspecting people. They chose to use gloves stuffed with Hot Chocolate packets, chapstick, and peppermints. At first, they were going to go to the mall to greet visitors, however another idea came up. They all agreed to venture to James Saul's Homeless Shelter in Batavia to share their gloves. This experience presented both staff and individuals with the opportunity to discuss helpful social skills. We realized that it was helpful to engage in casual conversations when meeting new people. When the group arrived, there was an immediate nervous feeling that overwhelmed everyone. But as they started handing out the gloves, they learned a little more about those who are in a less fortunate situation. Some people were older, and some were kids. There were people there by themselves, and some were families. On the way back to Grissom, the group had deep discussions about the opportunities of life. A handful of people in PRIME informed us that they didn't know that people lived in homeless shelters, especially children. They are very interested in volunteering there again, to help bring a little warmth and sunshine to their days, like they did with the Random Act of Kindness. PRIME plans on volunteering at Saul's twice a month. We are excited to meet new people and connect with them in special ways.



## Are you looking for a doctor or a day provider?

You may want to check them out first on “Jason’s Connection”. Jason’s Connection is the new “Angie’s List” devoted to reviewing providers serving the Autism and DD world.

Jason’s Connection was founded in 2013 by the Harris Family, Jason’s Connection is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to connecting us to resources that serve our needs, enrich our lives and help us meet our goals.

Their mission is to create an online community that connects people experiencing disability and their family/caregivers to quality resources, support and each other.

Jason’s Connection is free, however, you will need to register. Once you are a member, you can also make your own recommendations.  
[www.jasonsconnection.org](http://www.jasonsconnection.org).



## Autism Training Opportunities

Would you like to get more training on understanding and working with an Adult with Autism? Like many parents and providers; getting to trainings is impossible. The Regional Autism Advisory Council has a training series online to provide training on your schedule. These modules will give you what you need to increase your understanding.

[www.sworaac.org](http://www.sworaac.org).

### Adult Services Training Modules

- Module 1: Autism Defined, Autism Prevalence and Primary Characteristics
- Module 2: Physical Characteristics of Autism
- Module 3: Cognition and Learning in Autism
- Module 4: Autism and Sensory Differences
- Module 5: Communication and Autism
- Module 6: Behavior Challenges and Autism
- Module 7: Understanding Behavior in Persons with Autism
- Module 8: Functional Behavior Assessment
- Module 9: Autism and Leisure Skills to Teach
- Module 9: Special Issues of Adolescence and Adulthood
- Module 10: Safety and Autism



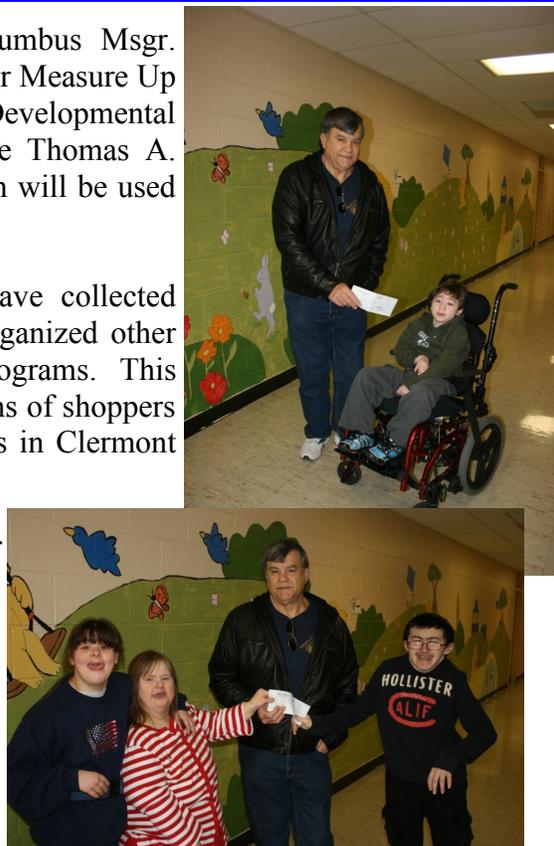
OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence) also has training modules. These modules are free; however OCALI will offer college credit through Ashland University.  
[www.autisminternetmodules.org](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org)

## Thank you, Knights of Columbus

Tom Craver from the Amelia Knights of Columbus Msgr. Gerdes Council #3123 presented a check from their Measure Up Grant to the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The check for \$1,022.80 is for the Thomas A. Wildey School and Adult Services Program which will be used to help fund programs.

For several years, the Knights of Columbus have collected money in public areas, sold raffle tickets, and organized other fundraising events for CCDD and its affiliated programs. This year's donations came primarily from the donations of shoppers at the Amelia Kroger and local Catholic churches in Clermont County.

The generosity of the Amelia Knights of Columbus goes above and beyond. Thank you, gentlemen, for all you do for Clermont DD!



Many thanks to the following agencies who attended our first Provider Fair on February 1! We appreciate their support in this endeavor, and the individuals who won door prizes (supplied by those marked with an \*) were very appreciative of their generosity. We also thank the Clermont DD Empowers Me Board, for donating a 32" TV as a door prize.

*AWS*  
*Courageous Care*  
*Healing Springs Med-Care\**  
*Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries\**  
*Pine Ridge-Pine Village\**  
*Precious Life Center\**

*REM Ohio*  
*Residential Concepts, Inc.\**  
*Stepping Stones\**  
*Sunny Spot East*  
*ViaQuest Day Services*  
*You First Supported Living\**





**Do you have what it takes? We think you do!!!**

**Clermont DD is now seeking acts for  
Clermont's Got Talent!**

**Showcase your talent by participating in this fun event to help raise money for Clermont DD's Gift of Time Respite Cooperative. All you have to do is:**

- \*Put together a talent act. (Can be individuals, duos, or groups and can include singing, dancing, magic, comedy, etc.)**
- \*Sell votes (4 for \$1) to help you win.**
- \*Perform on April 12 @ The Oasis country club.**

**For more information, contact Lisa Davis at (513) 732-4921  
or [ldavis@clermontdd.org](mailto:ldavis@clermontdd.org).**

Clermont County Board of DD  
2040 US Highway 50  
Batavia, OH 45103

**Board Members**

Harry Snyder - President  
Laurie Benintendi - Vice President  
Kim Pellington- Secretary  
Greg Carson  
Robert Grant  
Jennifer Mailloux  
Rex Parsons

**Superintendent**

Sharon Woodrow



Clermont DD visits expos and exhibitions in the Clermont County and Greater Cincinnati area whenever we are invited. If you attend an upcoming community event, look for us! Stop by our booth to pick up the latest information about our agency.

*Pictured is Elizabeth Moran at the SafetyNet Alliance Resource Fair on October 25. At this event, we distributed over 200 Resource Directories and spoke with families about Clermont DD services.*



**THE BEACON** is published monthly by the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Please direct any questions or send your press releases to: Lisa Davis, Community Relations Director Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities 2040 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103  
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