

“LIGHTING THE WAY TO BETTER
COMMUNICATION”



January/February
2015

Clermont County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

The Beacon

Clermont DD Board Reorganizes for 2015

Robert Proud, Clermont County Commissioner, administered the Oath of Office at the January 22 meeting of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The 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. After the swearing-in ceremony, the following members were elected as officers: Rex Parsons, President; Kim Pellington, Vice President; and Robert Grant, Secretary. Serving the Board are members Laurie Benintendi, Gregory Carson, Emily Chesnut, and Harry Snyder.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Parsons made committee appointments. Laurie Benintendi, Rex Parsons, and Harry Snyder will serve on the Ethics Committee; Robert Grant, Harry Snyder, and Rex Parsons – Finance Committee; Laurie Benintendi, Emily Chesnut, and Gregory Carson – Early Childhood; Kim Pellington, Rex Parsons, and Emily Chesnut – Adult Services; Kim Pellington, Laurie Benintendi, and Robert Grant – Residential. Emily Chesnut will serve as the Clermont DD Advocacy Chair for the Ohio Association of County Boards.

It was approved that 2015 board 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.

For more information about upcoming Board meetings, contact ldavis@clermontdd.org or call (513) 732-4921.



From the Superintendent

Dan Ottke

Happy 2015!

The New Year got off to a quick start with the release of the State of Ohio's Draft Plan to comply with New Federal Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Services Requirements. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have established new requirements that residential and day service settings must meet in the future in order to be eligible for reimbursement from Medicaid. The final rule requires the State of Ohio to submit a transition plan describing the actions that will be taken to ensure initial and ongoing compliance with the regulations. The new requirements focus on residential and day services being delivered in the most integrated setting and where the individual has access to receive services in the community to the same degree of access as anyone. The Ohio Department of DD has spent a number of months surveying providers around the State to determine how many providers feel they meet the intent of the new regulation and how many feel they do not. For those who feel they do not, the State is beginning to work with them to identify what it would take to bring their location into compliance, by when, and to identify what type of assistance would be needed. The Plan identifies working with these providers over 5 years to help them with residential transition. Ohio is asking for 10 years to allow for transition of its day service programs, recognizing that anything less would be detrimental to the individuals served.

In the month of January, I have held a number of public forums at local libraries to both introduce myself and answer questions or listen to feedback on how the Clermont County Board of DD can better communicate some of the things that are going on locally, at the State, and nationally. I have heard feedback about continuing to hold these types of library meetings on a monthly basis; to also have bimonthly family forums that touch on different topics that would be relevant to families and individuals. I have received feedback from the provider community to use technology to both videotape and/or podcast provider meetings and put them on our website. I am appreciative for these suggestions and we are looking into how to implement them to make it easier to stay connected. Please contact us with other suggestions as to how we can continue to most effectively communicate the things that are happening in our system.





ACTIVITY UPDATE

2/9	*Valentine Crafts	4:00-5:30 P.M.	\$2.00	Willey Cafeteria
2/11	Valentine's Day Dance	7:00-9:00	FREE	Faith Chapel Ministries Bethel
2/18 & 2/25	*Scrapbooking	4:00-5:30 P.M.	\$2.00	Willey Cafeteria
2/23	*Dinner on the Road	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$20.00	Mamas Grill Williamsburg

**If bad weather please call to see if activity is cancelled.
Angie Stanton 513-732-4923.**

The Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) is seeking new members to serve on the Human Rights Committee. There are specific requirements for membership on this committee. The current need is for 2 volunteers, who fit the category of: Individual receiving CCDD services or a parent/family member of an individual receiving services. The Human Rights Committee reviews, approves, rejects, monitors, and reauthorizes plans that include restrictive measures for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of individuals served by the county board. Committee members are required to participate in specific training to prepare for and maintain membership on this committee. These trainings will be scheduled at the convenience of the Human Rights Committee.

**Please contact Rachel Perlstein at 513-732-4883
(rperlstein@clermontdd.org) if you are interested in hearing more about
membership on the CCDD Human Rights Committee.**

Empowering Families Symposium: Advocating for Children with Special Needs

FRIDAY, MARCH 13th 2015

Registration 8:00-9:00 am

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

XAVIER UNIVERSITY CINTAS CENTER

Schiff Family Conference Center



Find Special Needs Resources

Access community resources, meet special education advocates and network with others who are facing similar challenges.

Attend Workshops and Resource Fair

The conference includes speakers, community agencies and companies specializing in:

- Medical Support
- Community Programs
- Disability Services
- Recreation
- Special Education
- Medical & Behavioral Supports
- Home Health
- Financial Planning
- Plus More!

Over 75 Vendors

Registration \$25

**Breakfast & Lunch
Included**

uceddLEND

Keynote Speaker

Gary Tonks

Executive Director Arc of Ohio



Register for Event at

<https://www.regonline.com/empoweringfamilies>

40th Anniversary of Children's Mental Health Awareness

Come Celebrate with Us!

On Saturday, May 9, Families Connected of Clermont County, FAST TRAC, and other community groups will facilitate *An Afternoon of Children's Mental Health Awareness/Music Fest*. This will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Union Township from 1-5 p.m. and is FREE!

The day will include a variety of music, including: a drumming session, activities for children, face painting, food, and an agency fair to provide information to families and the community.

Please mark your calendar and join us! And, if you are an agency who would like to set up a booth, contact Jean Houston at (513) 732-5034 or fasttrac.jh@hotmail.com.



(Pictured is Jean Houston from the Family and Youth Day in May, 2013.)

Transition Bootcamp

Booster Session: Health Care Transition

- When:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Where:** Medical Office Building (MOB), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC)
5th floor Conference Room 201/202
3430 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229
- Who:** Dr. Jason Woodward and Dr. Abigail Nye, CCHMC/UC; caregivers/young adults with disabilities who are transitioning or have transitioned to adult health care
- How:** Register online at <http://goo.gl/o4TSWJ> to make your free reservation.

Light refreshments will be served. Free parking is available in the adjacent visitor parking garage. Enter parking garage from Northern Avenue.

Please let us know **in advance** if you **need any accommodations**.

If you **attended Transition Bootcamp**, please bring your **resource binder**. For questions please contact Emily at emily.beltz@cchmc.org or 513-803-0653.



Fluency Friday

www.cahs.uc.edu/csd

An Intensive Treatment Program for Children/Teens Who Stutter

Fluency Friday is an intensive one-day workshop where students who stutter participate in individual and group therapy sessions, as well as participate and observe panel discussions. Participants come from the tri-state area and many return annually. Fluency Friday has received both state and national recognition.

The program was started by Diane Games, SLP in 2001 and has developed into a collaborative community effort with faculty from the University of Cincinnati, Hamilton County Educational Service Center, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Therapy is provided by graduate clinicians from the University of Cincinnati under the guidance of licensed speech-language pathologists. Throughout the day, parents attend presentations from local and national experts in the field of stuttering and have the opportunity to ask questions.



This powerful program provides individuals who stutter the opportunity to learn that they are not alone in their journey with stuttering and it gives them the chance to draw support from professionals, graduate students, their families, and especially their peers.

Date: February 20, 2015

Time: 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Location: Vineyard Community Church

11340 Century Circle East

Cincinnati, OH 45246

For more information or if you have questions please contact: Karen Rizzo, karen.rizzo@cchmc.org 513-636-3548 or Robert Reichhardt, robert.reichhardt@cchmc.org, 513-803-1176

******PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – WE ARE OPEN FOR 50 REGISTRANTS FOR FLUENCY FRIDAY 2015******

Sounds of the Season

Members of the Goshen High School Show Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Hansford, performed holiday favorites at Clermont DD on Friday, December 19.

Although it was the students' last day before their winter break, they were "on tour" throughout the Greater Cincinnati area to spread as much holiday cheer as they could. Their first performance was at the Goshen Elementary



School; then, it was on to Clermont DD before heading to Union Terminal for their final performance of the day. Several of the adults from the Donald Collins Center and the Wildey Program attended and were amazed at the wonderful performance that included classics as well as new holiday favorites.

Many thanks, Goshen Show Choir, for making our holidays sing!

Dates to Remember

February 16 – All programs closed for Presidents' Day

February 21 – Gift of Time Respite

February 26 – Clermont DD Board Meeting

February 28 – Gift of Time Respite

Board Members

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

Superintendent
Dan Ottke



Sharon Woodrow was honored by the Clermont DD Board at their December 11, 2014 meeting. The board expressed their sincere appreciation for all she had accomplished at Clermont DD during her tenure as Superintendent and wished her well in her retirement.

Pictured are Sharon (center) and, from left: Harry Snyder, Emily Chesnut, Laurie Benintendi, Bob Grant, Greg Carson, Rex Parsons, and incoming Superintendent Dan Ottke.



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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