

February 2023



NEWSLETTER

HOLMES COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities
supporting people in living meaningful lives

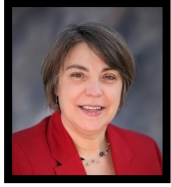


School Scoop ...By Jessica Martell

The winter months have been a weather rollercoaster with a few snow days and a few unseasonably warm days. The staff make the most of the days of being stuck inside by visiting other classrooms to share jokes and ask survey questions, gathering for science experiments with Mr Grant Blippi, enjoying gym and movement activities together, and experience LAB class with each other. When the warm days surprise us, the playground is the spot to be! Students and staff alike enjoyed those rays of sun and smiling faces of their peers!

Despite the weather rollercoaster we have faced over the last few weeks, the students continue to volunteer in the community 4-5 days a week. We are always looking for more ways to include our students in the community! If you have a volunteer opportunity to share with us, please call 330-674-8045 ext 307 or ask for Jessica Martell.





An update on adult service and transportation ... *By Marianne Mader*

Last year at this time, many adults attended day services at Holmes DD and were concerned about an upcoming 7/1/22 change.

Now that the dust has settled, Holmes DD adults are receiving day services and transportation from a few different providers.

32 adults attend GentleBrook's day program in Holmesville.

16 adults attend Midwest's day program in Millersburg.

12 adults attend Sacred Ground's day program in Berlin.

20 adults work and earn minimum wage at Lynn Hope Industries in Holmesville.

24 adults are transported to their day program and employment locations by Midwest.

32 adults are transported to their day program, employment and volunteer locations by Precious Angel transportation.

12 adults are transported by Sacred Grounds.

11 adults are transported to their day program or employment location by Holmes DD (ending in May).

Sometimes people ask what Holmes DD does for adults since we stopped providing adult services.

Day program and transportation services continue to be authorized and monitored by Holmes DD SSAs.

Holmes DD SSAs remain the individual/family's go-to-person regarding DD services, health and welfare concerns, employment, and government benefits.

Services, whether provided by Holmes DD or a partner organization, are possible because of Holmes DD tax levy funds.



A Mother's Club Update... *By Renee Spencer*

A heartfelt thank you to Ernie and Laura Kaufman for sharing at "Couples Night" on February 15th, 2023. Over 85 people heard Ernie and Laura share their experiences with their daughter Isabelle and the trials of numerous hospitalizations and medical equipment. This summer, the newsletter will have an article that will share more of their story.

Our next event is:

Helping Hands, Food, & Fellowship

March 29, 2023, 8:00 am – 2:30 @ HCBDD

A twist on DD Awareness Month; we will show appreciation to those who care for our loved ones.

There will be a small gift for you to take with you if your loved one does not come to Holmes DD. For GentleBrook and HCBDD staff who are at the facility, they will be invited for Brunch and dessert. In addition, we will make clothing protectors for classrooms plus a comforter and wall hanger to sell at the Spring Festival.

Please bring a dessert to share with each other and staff. RSVP: 330-674-8045.

Staff Updates... *by Curtis Goehring*



The Holmes County Board is pleased to announce that Gram Hay has joined us to work as an Services and Support Administrator (he started on February 9th, 2023). Gram is a long-life Holmes County Resident and son of former Principal Ron Hay. We are really excited to have him come on board and look forward to his contributions and advocacy for the individuals we serve.

In other personnel news, because of the number of new Early Intervention referrals that we are receiving on a monthly basis, the Board has had to expand its Early Intervention Department by adding a full-time position on the table of organization. Even more, we have been fortunate to be fill these position in-house. First, Monique Jacobs, who was hired this past summer to fill the role of Early Intervention Service Coordinator, transitioned to fill the newly added position of Early Childhood Specialist. Kimberly Weaver, our Front Desk Secretary/Receptionist, has agreed to move into the position vacated by Monique to become the Early Intervention Service Coordinator. Both these changes took place mid-February (although there is a phase-in period for Kimberly until we find her replacement). Monique and Kim have been great employees and will do very well in their new roles.



Holmes County Bucks Basketball

By Cindy Boals

The Holmes County Bucks basketball season has had some highs and lows. We've won a couple and lost a couple. Nonetheless, we have had a fun season and remain undefeated against the community teams we have faced.

The Bucks enjoyed playing in the Regional Tournament that was held at The College of Wooster. After a hard fought game resulting in a devastating loss, several players decided to remain in Wooster and enjoy lunch. It was a great team building opportunity with laughter and lots of pizza and breadsticks being eaten.

We would love to see you at a remaining game. All games are played at Holmesville Elementary unless stated otherwise.

Thurs. Feb. 23 BUCKS VS. HCBDD STAFF	6:00 PM
Tues. Feb. 28 BUCKS VS GRACE MENN. CHURCH	6:00 PM @ Hiland Middle School
Tues. March 2 BUCKS VS FIERCE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS	6:00 PM
Tues. March 7 BUCKS VS KILLBUCK SAVINGS BANK	6:00 PM

Be sure to join us for the SEASON FINALE game! The annual Bucks vs Community All-Stars game will be a night you don't want to miss!

TUES. March 21 BUCKS VS COMMUNITY ALL-STARs 7:00 PM @ WHHS





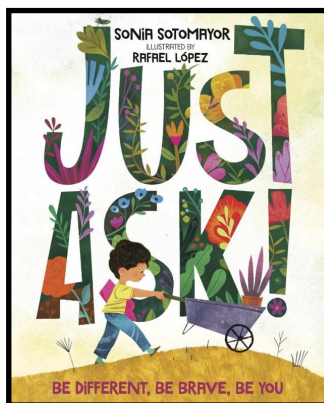
Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader

The State of Ohio is experiencing a crisis that impacts people with developmental disabilities. Individuals are not getting the support they need because service providers are unable to find and keep staff. Many individuals with DD receive services paid by Medicaid with the County Board of DD providing matching funds. Medicaid payment rates are determined by the State of Ohio and have not been raised for years. In fact, it is common for an employee to make \$12-13 an hour. Because of Medicaid rules, County Boards cannot supplement the rate. Here in Holmes County, we have a transportation provider who has tried for over a year to hire a driver. There are families in Holmes County who need help. Holmes DD is providing funding, but Medicaid's low wages do not bring workers to the table. There is an advocacy effort going on where individuals, their families, and organizations who support people with disabilities are sharing their concerns with policymakers in state government. To learn more and/or to share your story, go to www.ohioddcrisis.com.

If you or someone you know is interested in working with children or adults with developmental disabilities reach out to Mimi Patterson, SSA Supervisor or contact Midwest Community, REM Ohio, GentleBrook, Precious Angel Transportation, D.O.Y., Nick Amster, I Am Boundless, Sacred Ground, or RHDD.

Since 1987, the United States has recognized March as Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month. A variety of activities are planned here in Holmes County to celebrate DD Awareness month. Holmes DD is presenting each 2nd grade public classroom in the county with the book JUST ASK! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor. It is a story of children with differing abilities, sharing their strengths, and working together to build a community garden. Cindy Boals, along with 2 members of the Holmes County Advocacy group and Rachel Day, are attending the March 1st DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Statehouse in Columbus. Renee Spencer and I are visiting the Holmes County Commissioners on March 6 to provide an update on our services and witness the signing of the 2023 DD Awareness Month proclamation. Lastly, the Bucks Basketball team will bring the community together when they challenge the Community All-Stars on March 21 at West Holmes High School. I hope to see you there!





A Magical Night... *By Jessica Martell and Kim Miller*



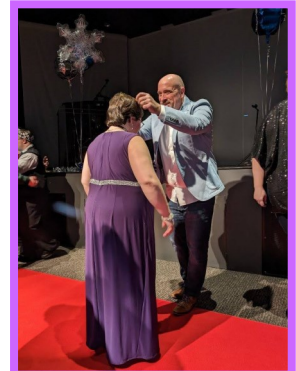
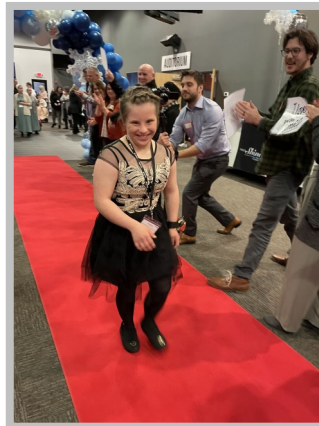
On February 10th at 6pm the doors at Grace Church in Berlin opened for 74 Honored Guests to enjoy Night to Shine. Night to Shine is a global event sponsored by The Tim Tebow Foundation that shines the spotlight on individuals with disabilities. Many sponsors and volunteers were needed to make the evening a success and the community came through in a big way. Almost 200 volunteers, including 74 “buddies” were on hand for the evening to make sure all 74 Honored Guests had the night of their lives. 36 sponsors provided financial donations, food and drinks, flowers, goodie bag items, hair styling, photography, and videography.

The Honored Guests started their evening by walking the red carpet, selecting a corsage or boutonniere, and playing games. They were able to move throughout the church to enjoy karaoke, limo ride, dancing, a meal, a photo booth with numerous props, hair styling, a professional photographer, a balloon artist, and name drawing artist. Of course the evening ended with a message from Tim Tebow and a crowning ceremony because no prom is complete without kings and queens! It was truly a magical experience for everyone involved.

While the Honored Guests enjoyed their amazing prom, approximately 50 parents/caretakers took part in the respite room. The respite room was offered for parents/caretakers to sit back and enjoy a meal and fellowship with each other while remaining on site with their Honored Guests.

Our sincerest THANK YOU to all of the committee members, volunteers, sponsors, parents/caretakers, honored guests! The night would not have been possible without all of you!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Night to Shine February 9, 2024!





El News ... *By Renee Spencer*

In the News Too Much?

Sometimes we hear things so often they lose their impact. Lead can be one of those topics. But the reason we hear about it frequently is that it is relatively common, and it is preventable. In Early Intervention, we periodically have children who have developmental delays because of high lead levels.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the impact of lead because one of the places our body likes to store lead is in the brain and the brain of a child is rapidly developing. Another reason adults and older siblings are less vulnerable to lead in the environment is because they are not putting non-food things in their mouth and as you know, very young children explore things by mouthing them.

We tend to know the common sources of lead: lead pipes, old homes, antique toys/cribs with lead paint. Interestingly, there are sources of lead that you may not have considered. Such as the glazing on pottery; particularly if it is storing food that is acidic -- the lead will leach into the food. Also cheap children's jewelry like plastic necklaces from other countries can contain lead paint and they easily chip. Finally, supplements can be another source. It is important to buy from reputable companies; those companies who voluntarily get their supplements tested for contaminants. Some herbals and supplements indicate third party testing on their label.

Although government regulation can be a headache, when it comes to lead in our environment, it has been very beneficial. Lead exposure has been reduced by 97% from 1990 to 2016.





Starting Thursday, February 23, Holmes DD's phone will be answered by a Holmes DD staff member 8:00 – 10:00 am and 2:00 – 4:30 pm.

From 10:00 am – 2:00 pm each day, Holmes DD's phone will be answered by the auto attendant.

If you are calling a staff member who has a direct dial number, please use that number so you can be connected directly to them.

All other staff can be reached by entering their extension or using the dial by name directory.



Dave's Safety Corner: Hot Water Heaters by Dave Crilow

Hot water heaters have multiple temperature settings. Here's what you need to know.

Temperature settings:

Low—80-90°

Hot (triangle symbol) - 120°

This is the most energy efficient and scald-safe temperature. This temperature will not kill bacteria or sanitize.

A—130°

This temperature is considered comfortable, somewhat energy efficient and scald-safe. This temperature will kill bacteria in 6-8 hours and will not allow bacteria growth.

B—140°

This temperature is considered very hot. It is ideal for sanitization and killing bacteria, but also has the potential to scald in less than 6 seconds.

This is the standard temperature setting on new hot water heaters.

C—150°

This extremely hot temperature is ideal for sanitization and killing bacteria, but will scald in less than 2 seconds.

Very Hot—160°

This is the hottest—hottest temperature setting on hot water heaters. This temperature is ideal for sanitization and killing bacteria, but will scald on contact.

Things to consider when setting hot water heater temperature.

- If you have young children or elderly people in your household, consider lowering the temperature to 120° to avoid a scalding risk.
- If you have a dishwasher that does not preheat water, consider raising water temperature to 140° to ensure there is no opportunity for bacteria to grow.
- If you're looking to save energy costs, each 10 degrees lower your water heater temperature saves about 3-5% on energy costs. Just don't go lower than 120°.
- 4 or more people in the household? Keep the temperature set to the high end of the ideal range (140°) to ensure there is plenty of hot water to meet the increased demand.

45th Annual HCAHC Spring Festival

The HCAHC Spring Festival Committee is busy planning the 45th annual Spring Festival for Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13.

Donations of quilts, hand-crafted items, and silent auction prizes are welcome! Activities on the schedule include a bake sale, volleyball tournament, live music, food, auctions, kids games, raffle, and more food!

This year's raffle includes 6 BIG TICKET items including a lawn mower, e-bike, Charm Merchants gift card, sewing machine, bus trip for 2 to Florida, and a mixer.

Encourage your friends and family to save the dates of May 12 and 13.

Spring Festival is the only fundraiser of HCAHC, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.



It really does take a community... *by Mimi Patterson*

This winter, our community pulled together to assist a friend in need. Recently, a call came into the SSA Department from a concerned friend of someone with several immediate needs. The individual we provided support to is a long-time resident of Holmes County who rarely reaches out for assistance from the Holmes DD. You might know him. His name is Timothy Thompson. He loves to ride his lawn mower around town and pick up any lawn mowing jobs he can along the way. He asked me to share this with you, as he is still open for business!

At first, we received a call from one of Timmy's friends. She contacted us to see if we could help Timmy find a ride each week to the grocery store. We were able to meet this need by connecting him with **Love Inc.** They are happy to take him to all his familiar stops in town.

As we worked with Timmy, he asked for help to remove an unwanted guest from his home. He said, "I just want my home back". To get this guest out, **Millersburg Police** said Timmy had to serve him an eviction notice. **Critchfield Law Office** took Timmy's case as pro bono, working with him to prepare an eviction notice and represent him at a hearing. A big thank you to Chad Yoder and Oliva Mirich for assisting with this case.

When visiting Tim, I noticed the skirting around his trailer had come away. Timmy couldn't repair it himself so Holmes DD reached out to the community via Facebook to see if anyone was willing to help with this project. Our post was shared by many of our followers. In a short time we received a response from Jordan Hartzler, from **Hartzlers Quality Housing**. Jordan sent Rich Burrier, a 25 plus year service tech to Timmy's home. Thank you Hartzlers Quality Housing for giving back to the community!

And one more agency in town has helped with purchasing new locks for Timmy's home and are arranging for his home to have a good house cleaning.

Good hearted people work for these agencies/businesses and came together to support Timmy. It has been rewarding for Timmy and all of the folks involved. He's very happy to have his house back, and says thank you to all who have helped him along the way. There is still a little work to be done, so if you are interested in helping out, feel free to reach out to the SSA Department and let us know how you can help.

Technology First...

Check out these apps from Good Karma. You can find them wherever you buy apps and learn more about them at www.goodkarmaapplications.com



FTVS HD: First Then Visual Schedule 

Most comprehensive scheduling app available



- *5 different viewing options
- *2 different types of timers
- *Ability to attach a **video clip** or a **choice board** to a step in a schedule
- *Share schedules via email
- *Print schedules via email
- *Over 10,000 **Smarty Symbols™** to use in the schedules
- ***Universal app** that works on all Apple devices (iOS 6 and over)



Scene Speak

Create custom
VISUAL SCENE DISPLAYS
and **SOCIAL STORIES**
for the iPad



Version 2.0

NEW update!



 **Visual Schedule Planner**



A customizable
Audio-Visual calendar
for individuals with Autism,
behavior or communication
disorders manage and
organize their day.

Meet the staff... Jamie Wright

Where do you live?

I live in Coshocton

Tell us about your family.

I am married with two beautiful step daughters, ages 7 and 4.

How long have you worked at HCBDD and what is your role?

I am an SSA and have worked at HCBDD for 5 months.

What do you think is the most important part of your job?

I want to ensure the health and safety of each individual while letting them know I am here to support them the best I can.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

I am proud of being a college athlete (softball) and graduating with my degree.

What is something you are looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to building relationships and trust with those I work with.

What are some of your hobbies/activities?

Anything to do with sports whether I am watching them or playing them, I enjoy making things with my cricut, and photography.

What is your favorite book and/or movie?

Coach Carter

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I have had 16 surgeries, including four hip surgeries.



Important Dates

March 21	Bucks vs All Star Game
March 22	HCBDD Board Meeting
March 24	Pizza Fundraiser Pick up
April 3-6	Spring Break, No School/transportation
April 7	Good Friday, HCBDD Closed

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Facebook.**



HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574

HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633

HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CONTACTS

Marianne Mader, Superintendent

Sheri L. Martin, Asst. Administrator

Jessica Martell, Education Director

Curtis Goehring, Business Manager

Mimi Patterson, Service & Support Administration Supervisor

Renee Spencer, Early Intervention Coordinator

Phone: 330-674-8045 Fax 330-674-5182

**The mission of the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities
is to support individuals in living meaningful lives.**