

July 2021



NEWSLETTER

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



Early Intervention Update

by Renee Spencer

Over the 14 years I have done home visits with families, parents were often apologetic, telling me something like, “Well, I haven’t done well, I didn’t get to work on the things we planned.” I always felt badly that parents felt disappointed in themselves. Just the fact that they love their child, include them in their family’s activities, play with them, and meet their needs -- they had done the most important, critical things for their child. They provided predictability, security, met their emotional needs and were responsive to them.

Let me explain. As educators and neurologists learn about the negative impacts of trauma, they have found that stress hormones are released when young children experience trauma, especially constant trauma, and these hormones affect how the child’s brain develops. For example, trauma causes the child’s brain to have fewer connections between nerves. This means there will be delays in how the child learns and reasons. These children also are less able to cope with what happens to them now and in the future. Trauma can be obvious things like physical abuse and neglect or it can be less obvious like the stress of homelessness or living in chaos with yelling and anger....anything that causes chronic stress for a child.

So the take away is this, even though you may not be able to accomplish all the things you would like to with your child, simply by responding to your child’s sounds or communications and including them in some way with what you are doing, you are helping your child’s brain develop! So, for example, if you are busy canning this summer, bring your young child in the kitchen with you. Tell them what you are doing in a fun way and periodically lean over and look in their eyes, give a rub on the back, or a hug. These “little” things release good hormones that boost their brain in amazing ways!



Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader

I can't tell you how many times I am asked what we do all summer because school is closed. The answer is... we work! It's true, our school is not in session over the summer but everything else is business as usual. Early Intervention staff are visiting homes working with parents and their infants/toddlers. SSAs are meeting with individuals and families coordinating services, handling crisis, and planning. Secretarial staff are using this "quiet" time to scan documents and upload them to our archival system. Adult service staff are working with adults in job training, advocacy, recreation activities and meeting identified goals/outcomes. Administrative staff are gearing up for the upcoming program year by preparing work agreements, planning in-service days, and updating policies. And, some of the things we can't do during the school year are stepped up because we have the space in which to work. New rooftop units are scheduled to be installed before school starts. Carpet is getting replaced. Everything in the classrooms is getting cleaned, carpets shampooed and vinyl floors stripped and waxed. Yep, no students in the building, but our work continues!

Speaking of work, our work is not always completed by Holmes DD staff. We work with a network of community organizations and providers. Individuals in Holmes County who have a Medicaid waiver receive services from an Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities certified waiver provider. I am happy to report that the number and types of providers has been increasing over the last few years. Currently there are 18 agency providers actively serving Holmes County residents. In addition to Holmes DD, there is Precious Angel Transportation, Midwest Innovations, Developing Options with You (DOY), RHDD, Nick Amster, Echoing Hills, Statewide Transportation, I Am Boundless, Motion Mobility, Mom's Meals, Able Group LLC, Alchera Inc., Alco Services, Altimate Care, Guardian Medical Monitoring, Wynn Reeth, Inc., and Starlight Enterprises, Inc. There are another 16 "independent" providers (one specific person who provides care) working with individuals in Holmes County. As a reminder, when someone uses their Medicaid waiver to "purchase" service, Holmes DD cost is reduced because instead of paying 100% of the cost, Holmes DD pays for roughly 40% of the services. The federal government pays the remaining 60%. Medicaid services really help Holmes DD stretch our local tax dollars.

Recently in Holmes County and across the state of Ohio, providers have struggled with having enough staff to meet needs. While our providers have had minor challenges, in nearby counties, staff did not come to work in a residential setting so the individuals had to relocate to a different home where staff were present. I'm sure you can imagine how upsetting this was to the individuals involved. So, what does this all mean? Well, there is concern that staff working directly with individuals don't get paid enough. This is true. The work they do is not easy, and people flipping burgers often get paid the same rate, if not more. The State of Ohio has budgeted money to increase the reimbursement rate of all waiver services over the next 2 years. How much of that money will get into the pockets of direct care staff is uncertain. Of note, the State's portion of the increase will eventually be passed onto local County Boards of DD. Staying tuned into these changes is important so we can ensure Holmes DD has the financial resources to meet current and future needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Even though we are busy, we would love to see you. Feel free to stop by to play on the playground, walk the trail, and shoot baskets! Stop inside the building to say hi! We've missed seeing you.

Hab Updates

by Miriam Miller



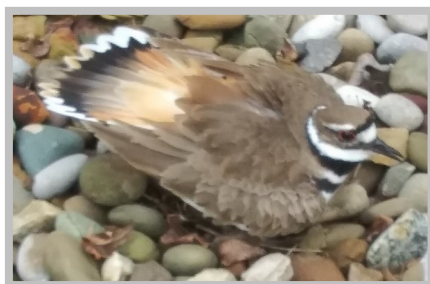
Adults in the Hab area have been staying busy these warm summer days!

Earlier in the summer, we picked our own strawberries from plants in the raised bed out on the patio (by the Adult Care rooms). And then enjoyed them as a snack.

During Spring and early summer we watched a pair of Killdeer in our front flower bed. They chose a nest site, laid and hatched 4 eggs. They weren't too excited about us being near them when we were entering and exiting the building.

Mornings have been great for walking, before it gets too hot. One day, the parachute was used as an activity, which was enjoyed. Some adults have been going to Harvest Thrift store to volunteer several hours each week. Also, they send projects back that we can do in-house with those choosing to stay at our facility.

June 30th the Hab area did a July 4th parade through the school. Then celebrated with root beer floats! Yummy! The Smartboard is used for documentaries every day and new things are discovered and learned. Too soon summer will be over.



Lynn Hope Industries Update

The adults at Lynn Hope Industries have enjoyed many things these last few weeks! Here's a look at some of their favorites.

Working in our raised garden. Because the garden is raised, anyone who wants to work in it, can!



We refilled all of our bird feeders. We were delighted to spot a beautiful Red Headed Woodpecker enjoying the home made Suet that the bird group made.



On June 14, the ribbon was cut officially opening the Aaron Kaufman Memorial Basketball Court. This outdoor facility was made possible through generous donations from the Jessica Kaufman family and HCAHC. The height of the basket is adjustable so it can be used by all. The Bucks basketball team can use it for practice and the hoop can be brought down as low as 5 feet so youngsters and those who use a wheelchair can experience success on this court. The court is easily accessible behind our main building. Thank you!

SSA Update

By Mimi Patterson



It's really true, what they say, "If you build it, they will come".

In January, Summit Housing approached Holmes DD to talk about helping us with the purchase of a home. Summit Housing is a nonprofit organization that manages many homes throughout the state. Their mission is to develop and maintain safe and appropriate housing in an integrated setting for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. They are highly skilled in the processes required to secure Community Capital Assistance funds from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). These are state funds set aside to purchase and renovate houses for people with developmental disabilities.

At the time Summit Housing approached Holmes DD, we did not have anyone specific who was looking for a new living situation. However, because of our interest in developing housing options specially equipped to meet our participants needs for accessibility, we knew we needed to take Summit Housing up on their offer.

It did not take long before Summit Housing was able to identify a beautiful home in Millersburg. Working as partners, Holmes DD and Summit Housing secured Community Capital Assistance funds from DODD to purchase and renovate this spacious home. On the main floor there are three bedrooms, two accessible bathrooms with roll in showers, a laundry area, and a very large kitchen and living area. On the lower level, there is another bedroom, bathroom, living area and summer kitchen. A sprinkler system was installed so those who cannot evacuate the home without support can safely live here. A ramp was built in the garage to provide an accessible entrance. All doorways were widened for improved wheelchair access. The flooring, roof, siding, furnace, and water heater were all replaced. Just recently, two adults have moved into the home. We anticipate another 1-2 adults will share this home with them in the near future. It is quite a dream come true!

In closing, I want to give a special thank you to Angela Miller, Service and Support Administrator, who has put in many hours working with the adults who moved in and their families, the residential provider selected by the adults, and Summit Housing, for making this a success.



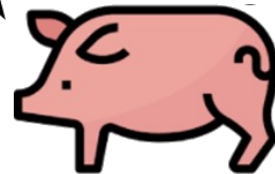
HCAHC & MOTHERS' CLUB

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

★ SEPTEMBER 7, TUESDAY ★



5:30 HCAHC Meeting



**6:30 Hog Roast, Carry-In
and Ice Cream**

7:15 Live Music



Invitation being sent with details.

Please call Martha at 330-674-8045 if you do not receive one by August 6 to help us manage our mailing list.



Please Note: There is no scheduled open house for school/Hab/LHI.

Important Dates

August 16-17	All program in-service. Programs closed.
August 18	Adult programs resume.
August 19	First day of school.
September 6	Labor Day. Facility closed.
September 7	Family Fun Night.
October 11	Columbus Day. Facility closed.
October 29	All program in-service. Programs closed.

Don't forget
to "LIKE"
us on
Facebook.

facebook 

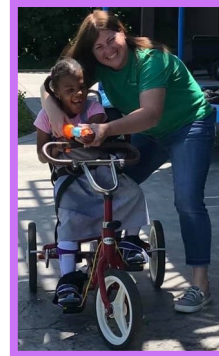


Summer Therapy Program Update

By Rhoda Mast

This summer, 22 students participated in the summer therapy program we offered to students and families through funds due to the pandemic. Our school therapists said it was helpful to see students in their home environments and talk with parents about ways to assist them at home. It was a chance to get to know both the student and families better. "This will help us develop even more meaningful goals for students." Another said, "Parents have been very accommodating and helpful." Several set goals for tasks they might do at home over the summer: helping with dishes, feeding animals, asking for help, asking for items and one student is even making his own pizza from start to finish.

We look forward to the school year where the learning and communication between home and school continues to strengthen the supports needed for students to practice meaningful activities to reach their goals.



Staffing News

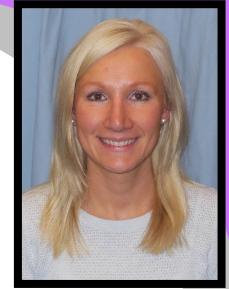
by Curtis Goehring



I'd like to announce the addition of two new staff that will be joining our team this Fall. First, Margaret Oliver has agreed to come on board to fill the "floating" teacher assistant position that was added to the table of organization for the upcoming school year. She is a recent graduate of West Holmes School District and is very excited to begin her professional career in our school program.

Additionally, Ray McCullough is coming on board to fill our Maintenance Assistant position. He comes to us from the East Holmes School District where he has spent the last 9 years as a bus mechanic. Ray has much experience in mechanical and facility operations (i.e., plumbing) so we are really happy that he has decided to join our team.

Meet the staff... *Katrin Wooldridge*



Where do you live?

I live in Wooster

Tell us about your family:

Married, we have 2 children, Vincent (4 years old) and Evelyn (1 ½ years old)

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

Almost 4 years (in October 2021), I am a Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

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

I think listening to people/their families and helping them is one of the most important parts. It is also very important to be sensitive to their needs and story, building relationships, working as a team, sharing resources and being there for them when they need me (or just to chat).

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

I am proud to work in the role of an SSA and to be part of a team to make a positive change in someone's life. There are many situations that come to mind – my proudest moments are the ones where we made the seemingly impossible possible.

What is something you are looking forward to?

Continuing to help people – finding out what is that they really want in life. Seeing them living happy lives in their communities. I feel honored to be in a position to have a positive influence in people's lives and listening to their hopes and dreams.

What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?

Spending time with family/friends and doing activities together, working out, swimming, hiking, listening to music, playing the piano, traveling, art, refinishing furniture, and camping .

What is your Favorite Book and/or Movie?

Kafka on the Shore, Haruki Murakami. Currently, I mostly read home remodeling/home organization books, arts and crafts books and healthy living books.

Favorite Movie: Disney movies, movies with Steve Carrell, Bridesmaids; TV shows: The Office, Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan.

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

I learned a lot of English while watching the TV show 'Seinfeld' in Germany, my home country. Also, I have never eaten a corn dog .



Don't forget! Ohio's Tax Free Holiday for back-to-school shopping is coming up soon! The holiday starts at 12:00 a.m. Friday, August 6, 2021, and ends at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 8, 2021.

During the holiday, the following items are exempt from sales and use tax:

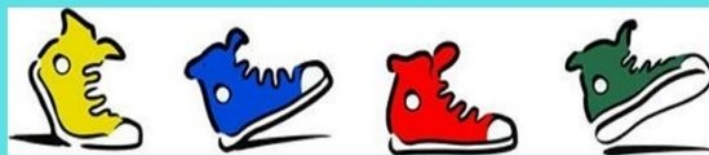
An item of clothing priced at \$75 or less;

An item of school supplies priced at \$20 or less; and

An item of school instructional material priced at \$20 or less.

Additional information about Ohio's Tax Free Holiday and FA-Q's can be found on the [Ohio Department of Taxations' Website](#).

SAVE THE DATE



WALK ACROSS HOLMES COUNTY TRAIL WALK

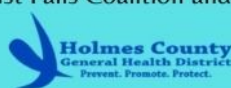
Monday, Sept. 20, 2021
9:30-11:30 am
Holmes Co. Training Center Trail

Come any time during
the 2-hour scheduled walk to help raise
Falls Prevention Awareness in the 60+ population

Questions? Contact Kerry at the Health District, 330-674-5035 EXT.251.



Sponsored by the Falls Prevention Program of the Holmes Co. General Health District, Standing Against Falls Coalition and the Holmes Co. Training Center.



HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

8001 TOWNSHIP ROAD 574

HOLMESVILLE, OHIO 44633

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