



NEWSLETTER

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



School Updates *by Rhoda Mast*

Summer Therapy Program

This summer, 23 students are registered to receive home therapy sessions made possible by dedicated therapists and funding through pandemic emergency funds. We are very thankful for this opportunity. Therapists are scheduling with families directly. These extended services include OT, PT, Speech/Language and music therapies. Though we cannot promise this service in future years, we are grateful to offer it at least this summer. It's exciting to imagine how this home school connection will impact families and students and strengthen the transition to a new year.

Early Farewells

This year, we found ourselves saying goodbye and farewell to three of our students who moved away from the area during the school year. Elaine and Jonathan Kauffman moved to Kentucky with their family this spring. Charlie Wilkins relocated to California soon after. We have many fond memories with these students and wish the best for them in their new communities. Charlie's parents recently told us he is doing well and adjusting to his new environment. We hope the same is true for Jonathan and Elaine.

Graduation

On Tuesday May 25, Holmes DD held their graduation festivities. After a few encouraging words about each of the 3 graduates and a certificate of program completion, the graduates were cheered by the remaining schoolmates and staff as they proceeded to load a school bus. The bus then drove by the Holmes County Dog Warden Office to be waved to by their staff PLUS their lights flashing on their vehicles. District One firehouse kicked it up another notch and had an ambulance and the ladder truck out for us. We completed the "parade" route through Millersburg and had a picnic celebration at the park.

Graduate Spotlight—Arlene Raber



Arlene is an excellent worker and ALMOST ALWAYS SMILES! She is a great giggler, too! She loves pizza & picked that food for the senior lunch. She loves parachute activities, music, and especially community outings. She plans to join her sister at Midwest Community Services after graduation.

Graduate Spotlight—Aaron Yoder

Aaron is an exciting guy that is always flashing a smile and a laugh in his “peeps” (eye glasses)! He loves watching the action and himself in the mirror. He plays his blowsa” (kazoo) and loves his books! His favorite job is doing errands, which really is the chance to socialize. He will be attending the Midwest Community Services program after graduation.



Graduate Spotlight—Bryan Crislip

Bryan is a very happy guy that loves to pack food items at Back Packs for others. His favorite job at school is to take the attendance slip to the office. He loves for music to be played at all times and playing the tambourine. He will attend Holmes DD day program after graduation.





Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader

Here we are, another school year is coming to a close! Well, the last 14 months will go down in our record books as one of the most challenging periods ever for Holmes DD. Much of what we counted on, expected, and hoped for, did not happen. Because of all of those “disappointments”, our relationships are not the same as they used to be. So now, we begin the challenge of coming back together....rebuilding our Holmes DD community.

A group of staff recently discussed what it means to come back together using a kaleidoscope as a metaphor. When you look into a kaleidoscope, you see many unique pieces that together form something beautiful. After the kaleidoscope is shaken, the pieces are still there, but when you look inside, it looks different. Beautiful in a different way. In my mind’s eye, when I think of Holmes DD, I see something beautiful....staff, families, individuals interacting and supporting each other. The pandemic shook us. That shake meant in-person services closed for a while. Individuals had to adjust to not seeing their friends, families missed their partner in caregiving, and staff had to find new ways to work. Everyone was impacted in some way. Sadly, we no longer received what we expected from each other. When this kind of thing happens, relationships suffer. As the COVID situation improves and we take a look in our kaleidoscope, we can still see staff, families, and individuals interacting but it looks a little different. But it is still beautiful! I look forward to rebuilding our beautiful community with you.





Summer Youth Opportunities

By Mimi Patterson

Summer Youth Work experiences provide students with a disability (ages 14-21) the opportunity to explore careers and gain on-the-job training. This summer, thirteen youth will be participating throughout Holmes County. I am so excited because this is the largest enrollment in Summer Youth programs since Holmes DD encouraged the restart of these program in 2018.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and local providers have worked hard to build relationships with local businesses to secure sites for youth to participate. Sites include Der Dutchman, Holmes County Dog Warden, Fire Ridge Golf Course, Save and Serve Thrift Shop, and the Village of Millersburg Parks and Recreation. Youth are assigned to work sites based on their interest and abilities, and safeguards are in place to promote health and safety. While working at the job sites, students receive support from a job coach and earn minimum wage. The program is offered for one to five weeks with a total of 20 hours per week.

Another great summer opportunity for youth with disabilities (ages 14-21) who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), is to participate in Pre-Employment Services. Pre-Employment Services are a group of services that focus on helping students explore career interests through the use of Job Exploration Counseling, Work-Based Learning, Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities, Workplace Readiness Training, and instruction in Self-Advocacy. This summer, each course has been extended from 8 hours to 10 hours per course.

If you are interested in learning more about these options, please contact me, Mimi Patterson, at the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I would love to see as many youth as possible participate in these programs over the summer.





Staffing News

by Curtis Goehring

This past Spring one of our SSA's, Julissa Coblentz, had an opportunity to embark in a new line of work that she was excited to pursue and in a field that she is passionate about. The very fortunate thing for us is that she is able to continue her role as an SSA for the Board, part-time.

To share her caseload, the Board hired a second part-time SSA in the person of Janice Shroyer. Janice comes to us with lots of case management experience, dating back to the 1990's when she was first hired as a case manager for us. She moved on and spent the bulk of her professional career as probation officer for the Holmes County Juvenile Court. The Holmes County Board of DD is excited that she is back working for us and looking forward to seeing her continue her career as a SSA and the contributions that she'll make for the families on her caseload.



This month we also received a resignation from Sherry Mackey, who has long served as the Production Manager for Lynn Hope Industries. Her last day of employment with us is May 26th. We appreciate very much Sherry's dedication and hard work to the long-term success and vitality of the program. Sherry achieved much during her tenure and is loved by the individuals she serves. She will be missed and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Important Dates

May 27	Last day of school for students
May 31	Memorial Day. Facility closed
July 1-2	Adult Program closed. Office open.
July 5	Independence Day Holiday. Facility closed.
August 16-17	All program in-service. Programs closed
August 19	First day of school
September 6	Labor Day. Facility closed.

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





HCAHC Update

By Kathleen Winkler

On a very rainy May 7th, a hearty group of volunteers gathered early in the morning to start cooking 8800 chicken quarters. By midmorning much of the chicken was “hitting the road” to Charm, Berlin, and Mt. Hope where another group of volunteers help distribute the orders. Orders were also picked-up at the Training Center bus garage.

In the afternoon, Lizzie Miller, drew the winning raffle tickets.

Winners were 1st prize – Martha Waver, 2nd prize – Firman and Ruth Miller, and 3rd prize – Dannie Ray Mast.

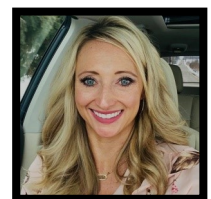
Katie Troyer sold the most tickets, followed by Martha Burkholder and Norman Stutzman.



Many generous cash donations were received from area businesses and community members. We also received donations from several out of town individuals who typically participate in Spring Festival.

Mark your calendars now to join us May 13th and 14th, 2022 when we can celebrate with a more traditional Spring Festival!

Alumni Spotlight—Lacy Iberis



Who would have guessed that it has been 9 years since Lacy Iberis graced the halls of Holmes DD? Lacy left in 2012 to begin working at Dover City Schools as a speech therapist which was significantly closer to her home in Canton South. Lacy continues to work for Dover, grades 2 – 5, and has her summers off to enjoy gardening. She also has her own business as a sales consultant for Rodan & Fields Skin Care. Her daughter, Iliana (Ilee), age 11, is now in middle school.

Lacy shared that she most misses the families! She enjoyed when she could go into the homes and build relationships with the entire family, not only with the child she was providing therapy. She added that the baked goods she would sometimes get are sorely missed too. We miss Lacy and continue to wish her the best!



Recycling lids into a bench



For several months the students at Holmes County Board of DD have been collecting plastic lids and caps. Throughout these months the students have been busy gathering, washing, sorting, counting, and weighing the lids/caps as they arrive. At the last weight check they have washed, sorted and weighed 257.5 pounds of plastic lids! **That is enough for our first eight foot bench!** Our first bench arrived on May 25th, just in time for the students to see their hard work pay off before they left for summer vacation! We now have a gray bench with black accents at the front entrance of the building—and your support made it happen. We appreciate all of the lids have been sent so far to help us reach our goal. Please continue to save your lids/caps for another bench. We are hopeful to add two more benches next school year.



Acceptable Caps:

Plastic Drinking Bottle Caps (paper liners are okay)
Medicine Caps & Bottles (remove label the best you can)
Milk Jug Caps, Laundry Detergent Caps
Hairspray Caps, Toothpaste Caps
Deodorant Caps, Spray Paint Caps
Flip Top Caps (Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)

Acceptable Lids:

Cottage Cheese Containers
Mayonnaise Jar Lids
Yogurt Lids
Coffee Cans Lids
Peanut Butter Jar Lids
Butter Tub Lids
Ice Cream Bucket Lids
Cool Whip Container Lids
Cream Cheese Container Lids



Not Acceptable:

ANY Caps containing Metal or Pumps

Food Containers

Drink Bottles

Lotion Pumps

Trigger Sprayers

Soap Pumps





El Update

By Renee Spencer

I recently attended a webinar called, ***Gossip Be Gone! The Vital Importance of a Positive Culture***. Although the webinar's focus was how staff conduct themselves in front of students, it certainly applies to all of us every time we are in the presence of children and worthy of sharing.

The premise of the topic is that children learn best in a positive culture; a culture that is predictable, loving, and caring. If an environment is chaotic, in conflict, or stressful, then stress-hormones like cortisol are released which diminishes the child's ability to learn. Gossip is a form of conflict and even very young children pick-up on the negativity that gossip brings to the environment -- even if they do not understand the topic or know the person(s).

The presenter went on to say that if we promote "do unto others as to yourself" or "love your neighbor" then we should not contradict ourselves by gossiping. In addition, adults are a model of behavior to children; we all know how easily children will imitate what they see or hear. Gossip is not a trait we want to pass on to our children. Although I know how negative gossip can be – how it can damage our relationship with others, I never thought of gossip in this light. It reminds me how important we present ourselves in the presence of children; even if they don't seem to be watching or listening.

The traditional track and field day was recreated into a week of field events for our students, designed to engage everyone with a large variety of options. It was a success story with a fun packed week and a grand finale of awards given to all students on Friday. Several adults from HAB and LHI also participated in selected events. A big shout of thanks to the staff who planned and made this memorable week happen.



thank
you!



Meet the staff... *Dawn Speegle*



Where do you live?

I live in Millersburg

Tell us about your family:

I am married Tim I have 6 Children: Tiffany 34, Brittany 31, Kallie 24, Nicholas 23, Katherine 20, Gillian 13. I also have 8 Grandchildren: Nayla, Lisandro, Eliana, Tegan, Stoney, Quinn, James, and Bear. They are my entire world along with my husband and father.

How long have you worked at HCBDD?

23 years.

What is your role at HCBDD ?

I am enjoying the position of Lead Vehicle Operator

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

Communication!

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

Raising 6 beautiful and well adjusted children

What is something you are looking forward to?

Vacationing this year at Holden Beach!

What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?

Well, fishing of course, camping and gardening, spending time with my grandchildren

What is your Favorite Book and/or Movie?

Heaven is for Real

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

I do not like new things, love old ways, and worn in.

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/Adult Services Director

Rhoda Mast, Principal

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.**