

May 2022



NEWSLETTER

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



SSA Update ... *By Mimi Patterson*

The Service and Support Department is working on a new ISP for all individuals served.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has selected Holmes County to be the first county in Ohio to work in the new computerized Ohio Individual Service Plan data system.

In late April, our SSA staff received initial training from DODD. We began working in the system right away with the support of the DODD staff. We found the computer system we were so afraid of trying, was extremely user friendly! DODD offered our department scheduled times to use as follow up to address any issues and concerns we might have. We have all been impressed with DODD's responsiveness and helpfulness. Starting in August, all plans will now be completed in Salesforce.

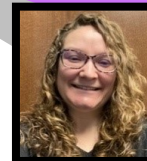
So far, it's been a positive experience – the SSAs find that it's very easy to go through the assessment process, answer the questions, and navigate through the tabs. One SSA reported to me that the new system is fun and addictive to work in. They really like that it is focusing on people's strengths and abilities.

Some changes families will see is their SSA may be asking questions they haven't in the past due to the new assessment. Also the ISP will be able to be signed digitally and viewed online.

As we transition into this new format, please reach out if you should have any questions. Your SSA will be ready to assist you!

Another school year comes to an end...

By Merri Pycraft and Jessica Martell



April and May have been busy months for the students and staff. In May we held our field week events. The students and staff enjoyed the events throughout the week, but Friday afternoon water fun was definitely the highlight of the week.

Of course the school year ends with GRADUATION! What a great event! We had a fun time riding in the bus around Holmes County beeping our horn and clapping to start our celebration. The parade route had us waving at our Dog Pound friends where throughout the year, we volunteer to walk and play with their dogs. The Fire Station always takes good care of us and invites us to check out their trucks and even a few poses are allowed. We surprised a few old friends at Midwest and ended our tour at Village Motors where we were greeted with signs and hugs. We ended the day with a CLAP OUT for the Graduates.

A big THANK YOU to ALL our parents that joined us and those that support us day in and day out. Life is an adventure and we are so glad we have you to share it with!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to the start of the next school year on August 18th.

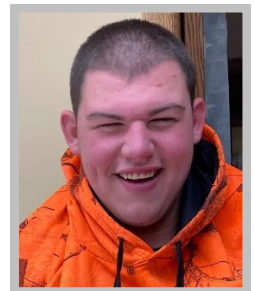


Congratulations 2022 Graduates



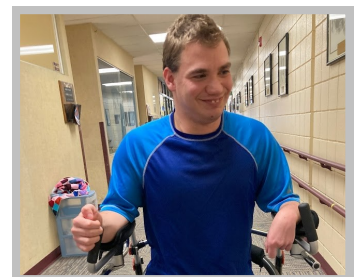
Sarah Miller is the daughter of Michael and Fannie Miller and the sister of Amanda who attends school with her. She enjoys listening to music at home and at school. Sarah's favorite color is pink. You can often find her relaxing in her favorite recliner at home. Sarah spends her time outside if the weather is nice. She especially likes sitting around the campfire with her

Jarett Palmer loves music, fishing, camping, and being with his family. He is a hardworking young man who is often referred to as the muscle behind the job. He has the best smile and the BIGGEST heart!



Jenna Raber is the class cooking taste tester! She loves to help in the kitchen and that brings her the biggest smile (besides sneaking something). She keeps us hopping, loves to ride the bike, & sunbathe on the playground.

Ryker Allison has the best classroom attitude! He has a great sense of humor and beaming smile! He loves music and playing the keyboard. He wears FuN shirts and has an infectious laugh!



Jolene Burkholder is a busy woman—always on the go! She loves food, swinging, and MUSIC! She is always excited to be at school and has a great smile.



Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader

First announced 6 years ago, a major change is now in full swing. Because of Medicaid regulations, Holmes DD can no longer be a provider of adult day services and adult transportation. To ensure vital services continue, Holmes DD asked providers from the area if they were interested in coming into our facility to provide services. Three providers were interested and the Selection Committee, that included parents of adults in the adult day program, selected GentleBrook. GentleBrook, currently operating in Hartville and West Lafayette, is diligently working to ensure there are sufficient, trained staff to work with adult participants starting on July 5.

I want families to realize that Holmes DD was happy to continue providing services. We love seeing the adults each day. Through our relationships with the adult participants we have met and got to know your families. Warm relationships have been built over the years. In recognition of the many lives touched by Holmes DD's adult program, a commemorative event is being held on Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 pm. This event will call attention to the special place the adult program has in our hearts. We will reminisce as we look at pictures of individuals and staff members involved throughout the years. We would love to see you on June 28th. If you are interested, look for an invitation coming to your house or refer to the invitation in this newsletter.

With GentleBrook, there will be 3 adult day services providers in Holmes County. Midwest Community Services in Millersburg provides adult day services for 22 Holmes County residents with developmental disabilities. Newly opened Sacred Ground in Berlin is growing and supports 5 individuals with developmental disabilities. GentleBrook will become Holmes County's largest provider of adult services with nearly 50 individuals. Midwest Community, Sacred Ground, and GentleBrook are certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This means they abide by rules regarding reporting abuse and neglect, screening their employees with criminal background checks, providing orientation training and annual staff training, and safely handling challenging behavioral and medical issues.

Some people ask...well, if Holmes DD is not providing adult services, what are they doing for adults? Holmes DD maintains important roles serving adults. Holmes DD investigates incidents of abuse and neglect, develops an Individual Service Plan for each person served, coordinates needed services, and ensures required services are provided. Holmes DD also provides funding that allows each adult to attend their chosen certified day program.

Holmes DD staff are committed to focusing on our core values of CARING, RESPECTING CHOICES, WORKING TOGETHER, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES, ALWAYS LEARNING, LISTENING TO OTHERS, and FOLLOWING THROUGH ON OUR WORD as we support adult participants and their families with this change.

Please join us!

In commemorating the adult program. A time of reflecting on the accomplishment and the impact the program has had on the lives of many individuals, families, and staff.

Date: June 28th, 2022

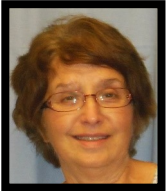
Time: 6:30pm -8:00 pm

Where: Holmes County Board of
Developmental Disabilities Pavilion

"Dessert Bar and Ice Cream will be served"

**Please RSVP to Callie Selders 330-674-8045
by June 20th, 2022**





2022 HCAHC Spring Festival *By Kathleen Winkler*

After a two year absence, due to Covid, Mother Nature blessed us with perfect weather for the 44th Spring Festival.

Forty teams (30 girls and 10 boys) competed in the volleyball tournament this year on Friday evening. The musical entertainment included Awakened, John Schmid, and County Line. Homemade chili, sausage and chicken sandwiches, and fry pies were some of the available food options.

Saturday's events included the silent auction, the furniture/craft auction, the special auction, the quilt auction, and games for the kids. As always there was a lot of wonderful food available between the all you can eat breakfast, chicken BBQ dinners, homemade pretzel, and ice cream.

Preliminary totals show that over \$160,00.00 was grossed for the day!

This event would not be possible without the generous donations of so many in our community and the hundreds of volunteer hours. Thank you to all who contributed.



Important Dates

May 30	Memorial Day Holiday. Facility closed.
June 20	Juneteenth Holiday. Facility closed.
June 28	Holmes DD Adult Service Commemorative event
June 30	Last day for Holmes DD Adult Services
July 4	Independence Day. Facility closed.
Aug 15-17	School Inservice Days
Aug 18	First Day of School

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





Dave's Safety Corner—Tornado Safety

by Dave Crilow

'Tornado Season' in accordance with the Ohio Fire Code is the period from April 1st to July 31st.

How do you prepare for a tornado?

1. Make a list of responsibilities and actions. Every family member should know who and what they're responsible for in the event of an emergency, whether it's the family pet or another family member.
2. Prior to holding your first drill, have a family meeting in which you identify your shelter area. If you have a basement, that's your best choice for a shelter. If you don't, identify an interior room or hallway without windows that will become your go-to area in the event of severe weather.
3. Schedule your first drill, time the drill, (should last 2-3 minutes) mix it up, assess your drills, don't get complacent.
4. Create a tornado emergency kit. Your tornado emergency kit could include bottled water, medication, flashlights, battery powered radio, batteries, blanket and pillows, canned and non-perishable food and a can opener, pet food, first aid kit and antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer.

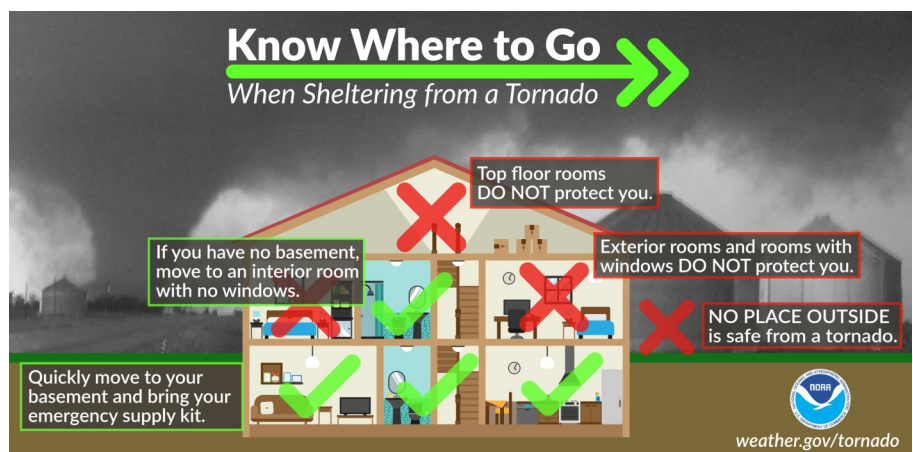
Prevention and practice before the storm. Have family plan in place, based on the kind of dwelling you live in and the safety tips you know where you can take shelter in seconds. Practice a family drill yearly (once a year).

What should I do if my house is under a tornado threat?

1. Go to one of shelters, or nearby permanent structure using your tornado evacuation plan.
2. Your evacuation plan could include staying with someone who is in a sturdy permanent structure, if a tornado threat is forecast.
3. Let everyone know that if they hear a storm siren or a warning from the media, that means a strong storm (tornado) has been seen or spotted on radar.

Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes, and it best not to play the low odds that yours will make it.

Remember a watch is condition are favorable to a strong storm. A warning which means a storm or tornado is imminent, and immediate shelter must be taken.





By Ric Brown



GentleBrook would like to thank the Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities, individuals participating in the HCBDD adult day programs, guardians and families, and other Holmes County stakeholders for the opportunity to become a provider of adult day services (ADS) for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Holmes County. GentleBrook will assume providing ADS services to many individuals previously receiving service from the county board and/or in the Holmes County area. The first day of services for individuals will be July 5, 2022.

To help to begin to understand a little more about us, GentleBrook, LLC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) social purpose enterprise certified and licensed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Health. Our mission statement is: "All life is a sacred gift and most fulfilled in community with others". Our vision is: "to connect people and community". Gentlebrook serves people in a variety of ways and through diverse programs and services, including our services to people with I/DD. In this capacity, GentleBrook owns adult day facilities in Stark and Coshocton counties. We currently have approximately 300 full and/or part time employees agency-wide with 211 of these employees serving approximately 190 people with developmental disabilities eighteen years and older. We are proud to serve individuals from Coshocton, Portage, Stark and Summit counties, and now Holmes County as well!

We are excited to become a part of the Holmes County community bringing meaningful, functional, enlightening, healthy and safe experiences into the lives of people with I/DD in a person-centered way. GentleBrook sees Holmes County as a community blessed with plentiful resources, positive relationships and rich in culture and opportunity that will allow us to engage individuals in programs and services of their choice and within a program and/or community setting (community-integration) as resources and opportunities exist. GentleBrook brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, professionalism and well-trained staff to Holmes County on many levels.

As we transition into this new endeavor, we believe transparency, communication and understanding are paramount to the success of this transition for everyone involved. We look forward to creating new relationships and working together for many years to come, and we encourage you to learn more about GentleBrook by connecting to our website at www.gentlebrook.org and to our general Facebook page, GentleBrook, or, please feel free to direct any questions or matters of clarification regarding services to Ric Brown, VP of I/DD Services and Corporate Compliance for GentleBrook. Ric may be contacted by phone at 330.600.9843, or by email at rbrown@gentlebrook.org



Staff Changes

by Curtis Goehring

The Board is pleased to announce that Cindy Boals, who has worked with Holmes DD for over thirty years as an Adult Services Worker, will be transitioning over to become the Community Employment and Advocacy Worker effective July 1st. This is a new position for the Board whose primary responsibility is assisting persons with DD to seek, obtain, and maintain community employment and learn to advocate for themselves and each other. The Board is excited to have the opportunity to have someone with so much experience, including in advocacy, fulfill this role.



Serving as principal since 2011, Rhoda Mast will soon be walking through the door and into a new chapter of retirement, while Jessica Martell will be entering as the new Educational Director beginning this fall. For the past two years, Rhoda has served as mentor to Jessica, who served as full-time school secretary while attending graduate school. Jessica completed her master's degree in educational leadership and will finalize her administrative licensure in August, just in time to bring in the new school year.

Rhoda shared a few insights about the qualities Jessica brings to her new role. "Jessica's passion to help every student and staff reach their potential shines through as she interacts and dares to dream about possibilities. Her previous teaching experience gives her insights and ideas to guide and support the staff. It has been a pleasure walking this journey with her the past two years. I am confident she will keep the students and our community at the core of decisions."

Jessica shared her gratitude to Rhoda and excitement for the next chapter of her life. "I have been truly blessed to have Rhoda as a mentor over these last two years. She has been an amazing advocate for the staff and students over her years at Holmes DD. I am incredibly thankful to have had this opportunity to work closely with Rhoda. She has left some mighty big shoes to fill, that's for sure. I am excited to bring my own personal and professional experience to the position in August."

We wish both Rhoda and Jessica many blessings in their new roles.



Meet the staff... *Deb Vodika*



Where do you live?

I live in Smithville.

Tell us about your family.

I have 3 children, and 5 grandchildren. Andrea, my oldest, is a Physician Assistant at a Family Practice in Medina. Rob is an Information Technologist at Prentke Romick in Wooster and Trey is in the US Army presently stationed in Alabama.

How long have you worked at HCBDD?

I have been at HCBDD since 2015.

What is your role at HCBDD?

I am the Administrative Assistant/Personnel. Some of my responsibilities are onboarding new employees, coordinating benefits, processing accounts payable, tracking employee certifications, assisting with payroll and I am the transportation secretary.

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

Accuracy and organization. There is a lot of paperwork that passes through my desk!

What is something you are looking forward to?

Retirement—it is right around the corner!

What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?

I love spending time with my grandchildren and gardening.



Lynn Hope Industries Update ... *By Sheri Martin*

Lynn Hope Industries is working on a plan to be an employment option for individuals with disabilities. In order to do this, Lynn Hope needs to pay minimum wage to its employees and also employ individuals from the community that do not have disabilities. Lynn Hope currently operates on a certificate from the Department of Labor that has allowed us for many years to pay a piece rate to employees with disabilities. This practice is seriously frowned upon, and the goal is to have these certificates abolished in the near future at the federal level. Since the beginning of 2022, we have been communicating with our vendors to see if we could lock in contracts with them based on employees making minimum wage. We currently have one solid contract and are working on the second. In order to make this work, we have had to work with the employees that have the highest production rates on these specific jobs. There are now nine employees at Lynn Hope that are making minimum wage for at least four hours a day when they attend. If we get the other contract locked in, that will allow us to employ another five to seven individuals. At this point, we have not hired anyone outside of Lynn Hope. We first need to see if it is feasible in the long term.

Lynn Hope will continue working with individuals with disabilities and giving them opportunities to advance in their employment goals.

Technology First

Many Ohioans with developmental disabilities encounter obstacles in daily tasks and activities as well as accessing education and jobs. Devices that engage in two-way communication or provide step-by-step assistance can help people overcome these barriers and help them live the lives they want. For example, many new technologies can help someone feel more secure in their home, provide instruction on how to prepare an evening meal, or help to access public transportation. With these advancements, more Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have the opportunity to experience a life more fully integrated into their community.

Under Ohio's Technology First initiative, DODD will work with county boards of developmental disabilities to ensure technology is considered as part of all service and support plans for people with disabilities. Remote Support must be considered as the first option when authorizing services for a person with disabilities before authorizing on-site Homemaker/Personal Care staff. Technology First, created through a 2018 executive order, is not a technology-only policy but aims to help people learn more about how to use technology to improve their quality of life and how they can experience more independence and personal freedom.



Marci uses Assistive Technology in her home in Franklin County.

Supportive Technology

DODD's supportive technology-based services include Assistive Technology and Remote Support. Something is considered Assistive Technology if it helps provide personalized support for daily tasks, such as a cellphone application that reminds someone to stay on task at their job, or appliances with automatic shut-off features.

Remote Support uses two-way communication in real time, just like Skype or FaceTime, so a person can communicate with their providers when they need them. This allows for a person to be more independent in their home without a provider being on site.

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.**