

September 2022



NEWSLETTER

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



SSA Update ... *By Mimi Patterson*

Holmes DD, like all County Boards of DD in Ohio, had to stop providing adult day program services and transportation due to a Medicaid mandate. This was a big change over the summer and it impacted some adults who receive services from Holmes DD. People still have questions about why it happened and what it really means for their loved one.

Just recently I was on the phone with a mother who asked, “will my adult daughter who attends a new adult day services program still have an SSA?” I responded “well of course! What makes you ask?” The mother said, “since my daughter no longer attends Holmes DD’s adult service program, I just thought my daughter would no longer receive any Holmes DD services.” I responded, “as long as your daughter is enrolled in services funded and/or coordinated by Holmes DD, she will have an SSA.” This conversation put this mother’s mind to rest as she had anticipated even greater changes in her daughter’s life.

I want to use this newsletter to share important information. Holmes DD is required to provide Service and Support Administration (Case Management) to anyone over age 3 who is eligible for Holmes DD services and wishes the support of an SSA. SSAs are here to listen, address your concerns, and provide you with resources and support. Holmes DD SSAs write Individual Service Plans which authorize services so providers like, GentleBrook, Midwest Community and Precious Angels get paid. Holmes DD SSAs also authorize services for those folks receiving care in the homes so providers like, R.H.D.D., D.O.Y and State Wide Transportation get paid. Most importantly, Holmes DD continues to be responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of all individuals with developmental disabilities living in Holmes County.

If you are a parent, guardian, brother, or sister of someone served by Holmes DD and you have questions about the services your loved one is receiving, please reach out to the SSA Department anytime.



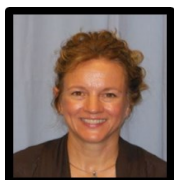
Welcome back students!

By Jessica Martell

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start. The school staff and students returned to the classrooms with smiles, renewed energy, and an eagerness to grow. This school year, the staff are excited to provide more community outings, job skill training, engaging academic lessons, and increased social engagements.

On the first, second, and third Tuesdays of the month our students will be attending LAB CLASS in the morning. This is a class designed for the therapists to provide extra group sensory and fine/gross motor opportunities. There are hands on experiences with fun music motivating activities. Throughout the year we will be using "The Mouse....." series to design our lessons.

The staff are excited to see where this school year takes us!



Early Intervention Update

by Renee Spencer

One of the largest changes to ever happen in Holmes County's Early Intervention program took place in July. Holmes DD became responsible for the service coordination portion of Early Intervention. The EI team is extremely excited to have the entire program housed in one agency.

For almost 20 years, service coordination was housed at the Health District because the State of Ohio felt it was necessary to separate service coordination and developmental services/therapies. Over time, changes to EI programming resulted in eliminating the need to house service coordination in another agency. As a result, many counties have brought service coordination and developmental services together at their County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Holmes County is now the 51st county in Ohio to make this change.

The benefits of all EI services housed by one agency are many! Time saved through efficiency is particularly valuable because the developmental specialists and therapists can spend more time providing services. Money is also saved because less time is spent administratively. But one of the biggest benefits is that families will receive EI services with fewer initial visits and less paperwork while only engaging with one agency.

We were very fortunate to be able to hire the person who was Service Coordinator at the Health District, Monique Jacobs. Not only is she key to a smooth transition, but Holmes DD now has this wonderful person with outstanding character as an employee!

Items available for families



Green swing:

Outdoor swing,
would need new
ropes.



Blue swing:

Size small indoor/
outdoor with buckles
for a 2-7 year old 100
pound weight limit



Blue Stroller:

Has no footrests,
standard seat belt, back
sits upright only.



Blue Bath chair:

Columbia Bath seat. Has
seat belt around the
waist, no extra support.
On wheels

Please contact Peggy or Bernice at 330-674-8045 if you would like more information on the items available.



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"For the last two years of his life "Buddy" was like a best friend to him. The first thing he did when he got in from day program was to go and talk to Buddy. He used Buddy for appointment reminders, prompts to help with his misplacing of necessary items (cash/ID etc.). Buddy read books to him, played music from his childhood that he was unable to track down (50's era), played games with him and told him the weather. Any time he had a question he would ask buddy. He connected with Buddy as if he were a living friend. The communication between care.coach staff must have been excellent because the continuity was tremendous and simulated a singular personality that he was able to connect with."

-Area Director, Individual
Supports

Provide increased independence and self-care!

We offer 24/7 self-care coaching, executive function support, companionship, and an integrated video visit platform. We aim to support individuals to live **safely** and **independently** in the community for as long as possible.

.....



Benefits include:



24x7 Companionship

- Virtual, non-judgmental friend that is available any time of day.
- Artificial Intelligence + Human-operated companion avatar.



Leisure, Socialization & Entertainment

- Information, news, music, audio books & more!
- Games, exercise, prayers, meditation, and relaxation.



Video Visit Platform

- Provider-initiated Video Visit app available for family members, providers staff or Service Coordinators.
- Group calling available.



Daily Reminders & Coaching

- Customized reminders & assistance with goals, ADL's & self-care routines.
 - Health coaching programs
 - Staff/family receive phone and email alerts.
-



Interested in an overview, training or demo for your staff?

Contact:

Brian Connery
brian@care.coach
978-971-2711



Use this QR code
to register



PLAYGROUP

Who: Any Child 16 months-3 years old

Where: HC Board of DD, 8001 TR 574, Holmesville

When: Fridays 10:00am-11:00am

September 16th Pumpkin Play

October 14th Leaf Launching

November 4th Turkey Time

Sponsored by Holmes County Early Intervention, Holmes County Board of DD

Serving children birth through age 2 with developmental delays.

Call Early Intervention with questions 330-674-8045

An update from Griffin



At Sacred Ground we have enjoyed gardening and making salsa with what we have picked. Next, we canned mild and spicy batches and enjoyed having them as an appetizer before lunch. Lately, we also visited the cuckoo clock in Sugar Creek along with a few local museums. We have really enjoyed being active in the community as well as utilizing the gym and commercial kitchen at Grace Church throughout the week.





Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader

I am often asked, “what do you do in the summer since school is closed?” Let me tell you, we do a LOT over the summer. And this summer, more than any other summer, we had a lot going on. First and foremost, many adults who had received adult day services from Holmes DD transitioned to GentleBrook, a new provider to Holmes County. Even though we were expecting a change like this for years, it still felt a little unsettling. To provide a proper send-off, a commemorative event was held in late June where we remembered the staff, adults, and memories made over the 50 plus years that Holmes DD/Training Center provided adult services (see the photos below). More than 100 people attended to show support and thank the retiring staff members. GentleBrook began adult services in July and have developed positive relationships with the individuals served. They already have a waiting list of adults wishing to attend!

Another big change over the summer came when Holmes DD was awarded a grant to provide Early Intervention (EI) Service Coordination. As Renee mentions in her article, this change will help us streamline services and communication for EI families. There is an added benefit in that now that all EI staff work for Holmes DD, we will have improved communication and planning as well.

On Monday, August 15, all staff gathered to receive required annual training. In addition, years of service awards were distributed to staff members meeting milestones. Staff recognized with 5 years of service were Mimi Patterson, Peggy Gore, Sarah Miller, Sherry Maynard, and Katrin Wooldridge. Jenna Braun was recognized with 10 years of service. David Crilow, Tennille Cline, Jessica Martell, Kim Tish and Forrest Messner have met the milestone of 15 years of service. Mike Grassbaugh, Amy Baker, Heather Gribble, Dawn Speegle and Curtis Goehring have provided Holmes DD with 25 years of service. Lastly, Sheri Martin was recognized with 30 years of service. Our long time staff members provide vital history and organizational knowledge for the rest of our staff members.

Every County Board of Developmental Disabilities is reviewed on a regular basis by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). It has been 3 years since we have been reviewed. On September 6 and 7, reviewers from DODD were in Holmes County to make sure our services are person-centered and our staff are following all the rules. Reviewers closely examined SSA, EI and personnel files. The reviewers were impressed with the quality of our work and our staff and awarded us another three year accreditation! Kudos to all of the staff who consistently provide quality services.





Dave's Safety Corner—Fire Extinguishers

by Dave Crilow

Fire extinguishers are classified into classes based on what type of fire they will extinguish. The following three classes are the common household fire extinguisher classes.

Class A—Flames are caused by wood, cloth, or paper.

Class B—Flames are caused by liquids and gases.

Class C—Flames are caused by energized electrical sources.

Less common fire extinguishers are for class D and class K.

Class D—Metal fires involving magnesium, sodium, potassium, and sodium potassium alloys.

Class K—Kitchen fires—flames involving grease, cooking fat, and oils.

When using a fire extinguisher, use the PASS method to quickly and efficiently extinguish the flames.

P—Pull the pin

A—Aim at the base of the fire

S—Squeeze handle

S—Sweep side to side

School Bus Safety Reminder



A few safety reminders are the buses hit the road again.

- Do not pass a school bus that has red alternating flashing lights on. This is the signal that the bus is stopped to load or unload children. Traffic should not move until the bus resumes motion or the driver signals traffic to proceed.
- When a bus has alternating flashing amber (yellow) lights on, it is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Be ready to stop and watch for children in the roadway.
- If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has fewer than four lanes, all traffic proceeding in either direction must stop.
- You must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.



Staff Changes

by Curtis Goehring

This summer brought many changes to our organization. And though change can be promising and exciting, it is not without its challenges. Unfortunately one of those challenges is having to say goodbye to a wonderful group of staff that represented many years of service in our adult program. These staff dedicated their careers to making the lives of the adults they served at Lynn Hope Industries and at the Habilitation Program better and with passion. Sherri Messner worked as an adult service worker for over 40 years, which is a great accomplishment. Also working in our adult program for more than 30 years was Kathleen Winkler and Miriam Miller, followed closely by Joe Hershberger-Kirk (27 years), Bonnie Swartzentruber (26 years), Barb Arnold (25 years) and Karen Mullen (24 years). All these hardworking and caring individuals spent their careers helping to make the Holmes County Board of DD the place that it is today, and were able to retire at the end of June 2022. We wish them all a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

The Board also had to say goodbye to two staff of the adult program that had worked in our program for a long time but not long enough to retire. Jennifer Kyte (24 years) and Teresa Gingerich (18 years) were dedicated staff that loved working with our adults. Though they will be missed, we know that they will be successful in their next professional endeavor and wish them well and much success.

Moving on, our adult program wasn't the only program to see change. The school side had retirements and related changes as well. Margaret Allision retired after 32 years of working with us as a teacher's assistant. The Board very much appreciates all the time, effort, and energy that she put forth to make a difference in each child's life that she worked with.

Also stepping down is Lynn Allison after many years as an occupational therapist. Lynn spent a career working with children with disabilities as an occupational therapist in both public schools and county board programs and her passion for what she does is second to none. We certainly appreciate all the expertise and knowledge that she brought to our organization and are the better for it. Lynn enjoys traveling so we hope she gets to travel much in her retirement and wish her a much deserved healthy and happy retirement.

Erin Barnhouse, speech and language pathologist, stepped down at the end of the last school year to take a job closer to her home. And although she was only with us for a couple of years, she made a lasting impact in our school program. Her ability to work with our students was wonderful and her passion was evident. She will be missed but we wish her well going forward in her role as a SLP in a public school system.

And last but not least (in the school program), Margaret Oliver (teacher assistant) also stepped down at the end of the school year last Spring to further her education. Margaret came to us right out of high school and was a quick learner. Though she was only with us for one year she did very well in the classroom as a teacher aide and we know she will be successful in her next professional endeavor.

Staff Changes Continued

Moving on, the summer of change didn't bring an end to the personnel changes. This fall has also seen its fair share of changes. Several staff are moving on in their professional or personal journeys, highlighted by Stacy Hancock (SSA), who is retiring after 31 years of service with the Holmes County Board of DD. Stacy has built a lifetime of relationships with her co-workers and the individuals (and families) on her caseload and will be greatly missed. She loved helping people and was passionate in seeing that the individuals and families that she served had all that they needed to live successfully in their home and/or community. We wish her and her family all the best as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Along with Stacy, we also said goodbye to SSA's Janice Shroyer, Angela Miller and Julissa Coblentz. Angela was able to find employment with the Board of DD in the county in which she resides and Julissa is actually leaving to reside in another state. Janice is moving on to work at another county agency. We are grateful for the work that they did and the lasting impact that they made on our organization. The Board wishes them all the best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Rounding out the changes this Summer/Fall, vehicle operator Luann Yoakem also departed at the end of the last school year for sunny Florida, where she will be working as a public school bus driver. She was a good driver for us and we know that she be the same down there (and shouldn't have snow to worry about). And finally, Jane Hall retired after many years in public service, the last seven with us. We hope that she a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

On the other side, the Board also welcomed two new staff that we are excited to have on board. Monique Jacobs started her employment with us in July and she was hired as our Early Intervention Services Coordinator. This position was made possible by a grant awarded to the Board. We are very fortunate to welcome Monique as she has many years of experience and expertise in this role and look forward to her contributions going forward for many years to come.

And last but not least, we are very pleased to welcome Catherine Chew to our team as a Vehicle Operator. Catherine worked formerly as a Direct-Services Provider and we look forward to her using her skills and knowledge that she acquired in that role with her new role with us. We are very happy that she has come on board with us.

Keeping your information safe!

Holmes DD has a duty to protect the private information of individuals we support. One way we are keeping your information safe is by using email encryption. Email communication sent by Holmes DD staff that includes protected health or individually identifiable information will be encrypted. When you receive an email from us that has been encrypted it will include instructions on how to open the email. This [link](#) explains how to open encrypted files we will be sending. If you are not able to open the file, please contact the sender and they can walk you through the process.

Meet the staff... *Monique Jacobs*

Where do you live?

I live in Fresno, Ohio.

Tell us about your family.

I am married to Randy. We have a daughter, Kaila, who is married to Travis. We have 2 grandsons, Isaiah and Jameson.

How long have you worked at HCBDD?

I have been at HCBDD for 2 months now.

What is your role at HCBDD?

I am the Early Intervention Service Coordinator.

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

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

Mentoring youth that have grown into incredible adults.

What is something you are looking forward to?

Family time during the holidays.

What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?

Photography

What is your favorite movie?

Any Hallmark Christmas movie

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

I have spoiled goats that come to the door for cookies and treats.



Advocacy update ...By Cindy Boals

Holmes County residents, 18 years of age or older, wishing to speak up for themselves and learn about their rights and responsibilities are invited to attend monthly Advocacy meetings.

September 29, 2:30 pm in the LHI cafeteria, the Holmes County Sheriff's Department will talk to us about community safety and how to safely interact with local law enforcement.

October 26, 3:00 pm, location to be determined. Tennille Cline, HCBDD Nurse, will talk to us about how to stay healthy during the upcoming cold and flu season.

For more information, contact Cindy Boals, (330) 674-8045 x 264 or cboals@holmesdd.org



HCAHC Update

At the August HCAHC Trustee meeting, changes were approved that go into effect in September. The hourly rate for respite care has increased to \$15/hour; \$20/hour if working with two individuals with disabilities at the same time. The maximum allowable for respite that can be funded by HCAHC is \$2500/yr if there is one person with a disability in the family; \$3500/yr if there are two individuals with disabilities in the family. The mileage reimbursement rate has increased to \$1.25/mile.

Agencies serving people with developmental disabilities can now request grant funding from HCAHC for things like specialized equipment and program expenses. Individuals and families of people with developmental disabilities can also request grant funding for camperships, emergency respite, therapy, and adaptive equipment.

HCAHC continues donations in 2022-23 to New Leaf Clinic, Caring Hands, OCCF, Holmes DD Levy Campaign, Holmes County Special Olympics, Special Needs Library, and Share-a-Christmas.

The annual membership fee has increased to \$20. Soon, membership applications will be sent to last year's members. If you would like to become a member or submit a grant application, please call (330) 674-8045 and ask for Callie.



Important Dates

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| October 10 | Columbus Day. HCBDD Programs Closed,
GentleBrook in regular session |
| October 28 | No School— Inservice Day,
GentleBrook in regular session |
| November 11 | Veterans Day. HCBDD Programs Closed,
GentleBrook in regular session. |

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to "LIKE"
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Facebook.**



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.**