

September
2021



Thank you for your support...

The week of August 9 through the 14th was Holmes County Fair week and we had a fair booth and our theme was "Thank You For Your Support!". We wanted to let the community to know how much we appreciate their support passing our levies. As a many of you know we rely greatly on the income that comes from the levies.

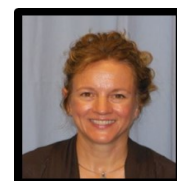
Cindy Boals took Holly and Blake on Tuesday to sit in the fair booth; then on Friday Blake, Toni, and Hope went along with Blake's parents Todd and Rachel Day. Board of DD staff manned the booth at the other times.



Can you identify two people in the pictures displayed in the fair booth? If you are the first person to call Renee with the correct names, you will receive a purple mum!

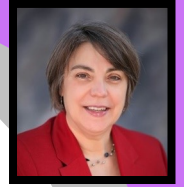
Call 330-674-8045, extension 203!

Renee Spencer



Superintendent's Message

by Marianne Mader



Early in the summer, the Holmes DD Board members approved our Strategic Plan which will be in place through mid 2024. Many of you have probably seen bits and pieces of our plan. Those wishing to see the entire plan can find it on our website, www.holmesdd.org, under the RESOURCES tab. If you would like a copy of the plan and do not have access to the internet, simply call and we will mail you a paper copy.

The foundation of our plan is built upon our core values of Caring, Always learning, Respecting choices, Working together, Listening to others, Providing opportunities, and Following through on our word. We have identified some broad strategic goals which we will meet through a variety of initiatives over the next 3 years. Our staff members are excited about what is coming in our future. I hope you are too! Rather than write several paragraphs about the plan, I have attached slides that showcase the direction of our current and future work.

MISSION

- MISSION: Supporting people in living meaningful lives

VISION

- VISION: A community where everyone belongs.

VALUES

- VALUES: Caring
Always Learning
Respecting Choices
Following through on our word
- Working together
Listening to others
Providing Opportunities

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Workforce Development
- Increase Program Options
- Strengthen Relationships
- Organizational Sustainability

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

- Expand Technology
- Employee Development
- Foster Person-Centered/Good Life Culture.
- Increase Employee Engagement



INTERNAL PROCESSES: PROGRAMMING OPTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

- Increase Community Employment
- Expand services for 3-5 year olds
- Housing/Respite Growth
- Privatization
- Effective Communication



ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: PROMOTE AWARENESS AND FUNDING

- Effectively Manage Medicaid Waivers
- Pursue additional revenue streams
- Increase Community Awareness

Vote  FOR

**Holmes County
Training Center**
(Developmental Disabilities)

Paid for by the Holmes County Training Center Levy Committee, Rhonda Mast Treasurer

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS: LISTENING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Self advocacy expansion
- Community Integration/Participation
- Provider Recruitment and support
- Increase opportunities for feedback



Advocacy Update

The LHI Advocates have had some fun new experiences this summer. We got to learn ways to stay safe on the Internet thanks to Darian and Gabe, two Interns from OSU Extension Office. One tip from the training that stood out to all of us is that if there are missing spaces in an information page it is probably not true and is a scam. The scam could cause a virus on your tablet, phone, or computer. So never just click on anything until you check to make sure it is safe. Also, if you don't know the person, don't friend them on your social media. Advocates from Midwest Community joined us so they could learn too.

Some of our Advocates volunteered to sit in the Holmes County Fair Booth. Toni did a great job trying to get people to come and hear more about our School and LHI.

This past week we had our second joint Advocacy meeting with Midwest Community Advocates. We are all enjoying the chance to get to know each other better, work on ideas for community volunteering and how best to work together.

We are all looking forward to meeting once a month when it is safe to do so.

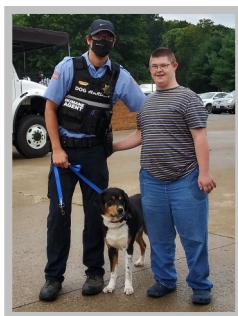


On Wednesday, September 1st, HCBDD had our 2nd annual Harvest Festival. This year's Harvest Festival was held during the day and EVERYONE in Preschool, School, HAB and LHI was able to participate. All the students, adult participants and staff had a great time. There were many different activities throughout the day, and everyone rotated around with their groups. There was music, wagon rides, games, Make It Take It craft and "Action Vehicles". Then to end the day, AirBear Helicopter landed in the field by LHI & School. That was the perfect way to end the day! We would like to say "Thank You" to the following for coming out to make this day extra special...

- AirBear Helicopter (Akron Children's Hospital)
- Prairie Township Fire Department
- Holmes County Dog Pound

- District 1 Fire Department
- Millersburg Police Department
- Holmes Wayne Electric

Thank you!



Communication Opportunity!

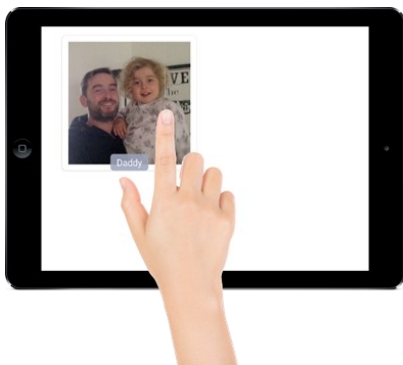
TippyTalk App

How it works

The app allows a person with a verbal disability to communicate by translating customized pictures into personalized text messages, which are then sent to a family member or caregiver's phone or tablet. You can also reinforce language development by recording your voice over each picture ensuring that the person living with the disability will recognize and understand the message. The enhanced AAC platform is breaking down communication barriers by allowing the user to connect instantly with whomever they choose at anytime, anywhere.

This allows the person who is non-verbal to communicate and express a desire, want, need or feeling.

1: The user chooses a person



2: The user chooses a category



3: The user chooses an item



4: Message received



www.tippy-talk.com



Ready, Set, Grow...*By Rhoda Mast*



It was great to see our students return to school and they appeared to be excited about being back, too. Big smiles and sounds of excitement filled the hallways and rooms. We returned to school with renewed energy to make this year successful for every student. Our goal is to keep our doors open by following safety guidelines. Thank you for your support of the work we do each and every day.

This past summer, our therapists came to many of your homes, extending services as you requested. One parent said it was wonderful for her daughter to meet the therapists prior to attending school here as a kindergartner. Others mentioned how helpful it was to see what the therapists do so they can try those things at home, too. One parent shared that she wasn't aware their child could do certain things till she saw her do it for the therapist. She was thrilled with the ideas therapists demonstrated. Therapists shared how much they learned from the parents and seeing the child in their home environment. We believe these connections added to the smooth transition back to school this fall.

We welcome two new teacher assistants to our classrooms. Allyson Crider joins the Transition classroom, while Margaret Oliver assists in the Primary classroom. Our school is a place where all of us are learning and growing together.



Staff Recognition

by Curtis Goehring

Staff with 20 years of service:

Janet Crilow, Mary Beth Zuercher



Staff with 5 years of service: Wendy Crist, Jane Hall



Staff with 30 years of service: Mike Deyo, Stacy Hancock, Kathleen Winkler



Staff with 10 years of service: Grant Fox



Staff with 15 years of service: Bernice Shepler



Staff with 40 years of service: Sherri Messner





Building Improvements

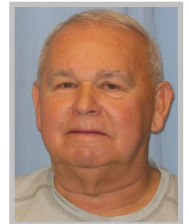
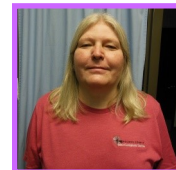
By Dave Crilow

The summer months provide the perfect opportunity for building improvement. Lightbulbs were upgraded to LED, carpet was replaced in the hallway of the ECC building, and 3 of our rooftop air conditioner units were replaced. Perhaps the biggest project this summer was the linking of the water wells of our facility with the Sheriff's office and the County Home to a large water tank east of our building that serves all of three facilities. Holmes DD will have ample water supply and access to water even when the power is out! Thank you to the Holmes County Commissioners for including us in this project.



Staffing News

by Curtis Goehring



In August we had departures of two staff that have been with us for a number of years. Katja Rottman was an aide in one of our classrooms and has accepted a similar position with a local school district. She was a valuable team member and was willing to take on tough projects. Katja was loved by her students and peers and will be missed. We wish her all the best as she transitions to the public school system.

In August we also had the resignation of Ed Weltmer, a beloved bus driver by all that knew him. Ed's humor brought much laughter and joy to the folks he served and worked with, and was matched only by his compassion and care for the students and individuals on his route. He definitely left some big shoes to fill.

With these departures we welcome two new staff. Allyson Crider will be joining us in early September to fill the Teacher Assistant position. Allyson has a very good pedigree having had a number of relatives, including her mother, having worked at the Training Center. She comes to us with a lot of familiarity and history about our program.

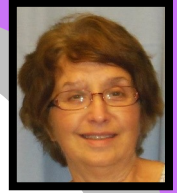
We also want to welcome Heather Wagers, who is our newest bus driver. Heather is a former Lynn Hope Industries employee who has done a really good job as a substitute bus driver for us over the past year or so. We are excited to have her on board with us full-time now.





HCAHC Membership Reminder

By Kathleen Winkler



The Holmes County Association for Handicapped Citizens (HCAHC) is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization whose purpose is to raise and distribute funds to improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities eligible for Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities services and their families. HCAHC's Annual Spring Festival raises funds that support Holmes County Special Olympics, provide equipment for classrooms at Holmes DD, grants to teachers, Mothers' Club events, donations to OCCF and New Leaf, and directly benefit members through respite and transportation reimbursement.

To join, please contact Jane Hall, (330) 674-8045 x 201, for an application form. Membership dues are \$8.00 per year or \$100.00 for a "Life" membership, payable to HCAHC.

Your one-year membership is good for the period September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.



Lynn Hope Picnic

by Sheri Martin

The Annual Lynn Hope Picnic was held on August 12th. After the cancellation of last years picnic because of the pandemic we wanted to make sure we were able to have one this year even if it had to be scaled back. The menu for the day was barbecued chicken sandwiches, baked beans, chips, cookies, ice cream and lemonade. This was all prepared and provided for by our staff from Lynn Hope Industries and the Holmes County Board.

For entertainment, Terry Logsdon was the DJ again by popular demand. He had the individuals and staff up and dancing to their favorite music. And there is never a picnic without water being involved! Most had brought an extra set of clothes to change into before going home. The targets of most of the water was the newest staff and they eagerly joined in since it was one of the hottest days of the year!

Meet the staff... *Ray McCullough*



Where do you live?

I live in Sugarcreek

Tell us about your family:

I have been married to Miranda for 15 years. We have three children, James (almost 12), Abe (10), and Mara (8)

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

I have worked at HCBDD for 1 month. I am a maintenance assistant.

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

Keeping the facility running smoothly so services are provided to the individuals.

What is an accomplishment you are proud of?

Raising three great kids!

What is something you are looking forward to?

Having three weeks of vacation!

What are some of your Hobbies/Activities?

Disc golf, biking with my family, working on projects.

What is your Favorite Book and/or Movie?

Movie— Bourne series. Book—Bible and Left Behind Series

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

Hmm... to be determined...

Important Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| October 11 | Columbus Day. Facility closed. |
| October 29 | All program in-service. Programs closed. |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day. Facility closed. |
| November 24 | School Thanksgiving Break. Adult services open. |
| November 25, 26 | Thanksgiving Holiday. Facility closed. |

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



SSA Update

By Mimi Patterson



SSA team L-R: Mimi Patterson, Angela Miller, Stacy Hancock, Julissa Coblenz, Katrin Wooldridge, Mary Beth Zuercher, Janice Shroyer

If you have not heard, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) spent the last several months working with stakeholders resulting in a significant change to the Individual Service Plan (ISP) used throughout Ohio. According to DODD, “the OhioISP places the needs of the person receiving services in the center of the planning process. The person leads the planning process by making choices, setting goals, and deciding how they want to live their life”. All county boards will be using the new OhioISP by December of 2023. Besides being person-centered, the OhioISP will allow the person to move to another county in Ohio and take their plan with them. Previously, every county had their own ISP and when someone moved, their old ISP would need to be revised to fit the new county’s ISP format.

On July 15th, the Service and Support Administration Department along with representatives from the DODD, Primary Solutions, and Mid East Ohio Regional Council, met as a workgroup for our first full look into the new OhioISP.

I think Holmes DD SSAs have done a really good job in the past with adding important details into Individual Service Plans and getting to know the people we serve. But soon, we are going to have to DIG A LITTLE DEEPER. The SSA is going to ask a lot of questions including some things we have never had the opportunity to ask at a team meeting. Some of the new topics are Advocacy and Engagement, Emotional Well-being, Social, and Spirituality.

The SSAs and I have a lot to learn before implementing the OhioISP and we haven’t officially decided when we will begin using it. However, moving forward from this date, we are planning to meet every month as a team to review and discuss the new topics so we are more comfortable discussing them. If you would like to learn more about the new Ohio Individual Service Plan, you can click [here](#) or reach out to our SSA Department and we will be happy to assist with your questions or concerns.

September 2021

Health and Welfare Alert



Fall Prevention

#20-9-21

Direct support professionals (DSPs) are uniquely positioned to actively assess a person with disabilities' risks for falling and to support them to get assistance and teach them prevention strategies.

Common Fall Risk Factors:

Home hazards; weather and outdoor conditions; lower body weakness; chronic health conditions such as seizures, depression, diabetes, obesity, and COPD; use of multiple medications; reduced vision; disability; poorly fitting shoes and clothes; adaptive equipment that is not functioning properly; nutrition; lack of physical activity and a fear of falling.

Impact of Seizures on Falling:

Many of the people we serve have a seizure disorder, which may place them at a higher risk of falling. Seizures can happen with little warning causing the person to fall directly to the floor, from a seated position to the floor, or fall into a fixed structure. It is important to make sure the person's environment is as safe as possible for them.

Medical Considerations:

Medications can also contribute to falling because medications like sedatives and anti-depressants can reduce a person's alertness. Some medications can affect balance or cause a drop in blood pressure while a person is standing.

People on medications with "blood thinner" effects (like aspirin, Plavix, Motrin, Advil, Coumadin, Eliquis, etc.) are at increased risk for bleeding when they fall. Unseen bleeding inside the head can be fatal.

You can help prevent falls and even deaths by paying attention to the "Three H's". Home, Health, and Habits.



Home: Look at each room in the person's home and learn how to recognize and remove hazards that could create a trip hazard. Check out lighting to make sure it is sufficient and pay attention to steps.

Health: Support the person in making healthy choices and have ongoing conversations with their health care professionals like doctors and pharmacists to reduce the risk of falling. Consider physical therapy and core strengthening.

Habits: Bodies change as we age, and so should the ways we do certain everyday tasks. Promote a healthy lifestyle.

Fast Facts:

- Falls were the second leading cause of accidental deaths for Ohioans with developmental disabilities in 2020.
- Nearly 50 people getting supports have died as a result of falls, in the last five years alone.
- On average 50 percent of all significant injuries, MUIs for the last decade were due to a person falling. These injuries could result in broken bones, surgery, and hospitalizations.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury among Ohioans aged 65 and older.
- In 2019, falls among older Ohioans led to 1,490 deaths, 18,856 hospitalizations, and 75,091 emergency department visits.
- A fall can lead to depression, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence.



Health and Welfare Alert Fall Prevention #20-9-21

MUI Fall Examples:

- A 60-year-old man fell, hitting the door frame. He later passed away following a brain bleed.
- While walking in a parking lot, a 49-year-old woman lost her balance and fell forward, hitting her head. She suffered a broken nose and required stitches.
- A 25-year-old woman was sitting on the front porch in her wheelchair. Her chair was not secured, and she tipped over fracturing her elbow.

What to do if someone falls or loses their balance?

- Complete a medical assessment, making sure to note any injury and loss of range of motion.
- Follow your first aid training and make sure the person gets immediate medical care if needed.
- Remember, if someone is on a medication with a blood thinner effect, they need to be closely monitored.
- Just because a person didn't fall completely to the ground, doesn't mean they may not have injured themselves, including hitting their head.

Head Injuries:

- Monitor the person closely in the 24 hours following a head injury.
- Every two-hour check for level of alertness; lethargy (sleepiness, ability to arouse); confusion; vomiting; and unequal pupils.
- Signs and symptoms of brain injury that may continue for weeks or months after a head injury should be immediately reported to the individual's physician and include headache, difficulty sleeping, feeling dizzy, and behavior or psychological changes.



Steady U Ohio is a statewide collaborative falls prevention initiative supported by government and state business partners to ensure that every county, community, and Ohioan knows how to prevent falls.



Strategies for Fall Prevention:

- You can take simple steps to make sure people are safe in their homes. It starts with planning and providing the right supports (bathing equipment, supervision, etc.).

Talking to a Health Care Provider:

- Medications: request a review of medications the person takes and discuss risks?
- Vision loss: Does the person need a vision check?
- Hearing loss: Should a hearing check be completed?
- Discuss if the person has fallen, or nearly fallen (i.e., slipped or tripped).
- Share if the person has experienced problems with walking or balance; felt dizzy or lightheaded, or fainted.
- What types of physical activity would be appropriate? Specific exercises?
- Is a home assessment needed?
- Would physical therapy be appropriate?
- Is the person afraid of falling?
- What assistive devices would be appropriate?
- Demonstrations on how to use devices.
- Are there resources or classes that could help reduce falling?
- Discuss if the person is rushing to get to the bathroom, causing risks.

HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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