



Board Talk

Fall
2013

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

What's New

Superintendent's Corner

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When I first became Superintendent in 2011, I was informed that our agency lacked name recognition. This became quite clear as I was introducing myself to people in the community. When telling someone I was from the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the usual response was one of bewilderment accompanied by blank stares. When I expounded with Brooks-Yates School, a smile would emerge from the person with the response, "Oh yes, Brooks-Yates." Today this response still plays out.

The name Brooks-Yates refers to Fannie Brooks and Mary May Yates who started the school in 1961. Fanny Brooks and Mary May Yates were pioneers who brought education and other services to people with disabilities. It was their efforts, along with efforts of others, who compelled state legislatures to create county boards of developmental disabilities in 1967. With very good reason, the name Brooks-Yates is widely known.

I recently had an opportunity to speak at a Sunrise Rotary meeting. I shared with them the many services and supports provided by PCBDD. Not to minimize the educational services at Brooks-Yates School, but it is only one part of the many services provided. As a county board, we provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers from birth until the age of three. For persons age three and throughout their lives we provide services that include health and respite, student to work transition, transportation, adult habilitation, community employment, residential services, and Service and Support Administration.

So what's in a name? Much! As we strive to empower individuals with disabilities to live, learn, work and participate



In the community, we will work to promote services in our name – **The Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities: "Reaching Beyond with a Lifetime of Support".**

- **Early Intervention and SSA staff enjoyed wonderful weather and turnout for the Slate Run Farm Fall Festival.** Several members of the department volunteered at this event in October to assist the over 2,000 attendees with craft activities, and raise awareness of PCBDD services.



-**In October, PCBDD launched a new and improved County Board website.** The new format is user friendly, and offers detailed descriptions of services available for enrollees. Updated features also include calendars, resource information, and a link to our latest newsletter.

-**As part of PCBDD's strategic plan goal to raise awareness of services,** Early Intervention and SSA staff participated in the Pickaway County Poverty Taskforce resource fair. This event offered community members a chance to ask questions and gather information about local resource agencies, and provided networking opportunities for the agencies represented.



Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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www.pickawaydd.org

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

www.dodd.ohio.gov

Find us on [Facebook](#) at:

Pickaway County Developmental Disabilities

Board Members

Jessica Mullins (President)
Cathy Leatherwood (Vice President)
Denise Kuhnheim (Secretary)
Greg Miller
Jeff Rawlins
Barry Burns
Gwen Wolford

Upcoming Events

Early Intervention Thanksgiving Feast

November 14th
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Brooks-Yates School

Special Olympics Basketball

Youth Open House
November 16th
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Brooks-Yates School

Special Olympics Basketball

Adult Open House
November 20th
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Brooks-Yates School

Breakfast with Santa

December 14th
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Brooks-Yates School

For more information on upcoming events, including Early Intervention playgroups, visit the PCBDD website.

PCBDD will close November
27th – 29th.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Looking Beyond

Troy Scott, owner of Circleville Pet Services, offers a unique product, and now employs a unique person to assist him. In addition to day care, boarding, grooming and obedience services for dogs, Troy trains specialty service dogs for people who have disabilities such as hearing loss, diabetes, PTSD or who are autistic. Troy says an important part of training a dog is understanding the perspective of the future owner, which is why he was extremely interested to work with Brooke Edwards. Brooke is a PCBDD enrollee, and is currently participating in the Bridges to Transition Program. This program helps find community employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Troy is currently training a service dog for a child with autism, and he says that Brooke's work has become a key piece to the training. Not only is Brooke a happy-go-lucky, enthusiastic employee, but she is able to assist with training dogs as someone who has a disability. According to Troy, Brooke offers something to the training process that no one else can.

Troy understands what it means to have a disability and want to find work. In his younger years he was in an accident that left him disabled. As someone who was highly motivated to work again, he linked himself with a program that helps people with disabilities find jobs. From this experience he was able to open his own successful business. He feels that people with disabilities often have strong work ethic and lots of patience. To potential employers, he emphasizes that there are critical benefits when participating in a disability employment program, such as job coaching, which allows training for employees who are excellent workers but may need some added assistance.



Employment Success!

If you walk into Treasure Isle in downtown Circleville on a Friday afternoon, you may run into the most enthusiastic salesman of Ohio State University gear ever. Will Harrison was placed at Treasure Isle as part of his Bridges to Transition summer internship experience, and when the summer was over, Will was disappointed to leave. Shortly after his internship concluded, Will sent a sincere letter to store owners Keith and Terry Dumm, thanking them for allowing him to work at their store (and asking if he could still have an employee discount). The Dumms were in need of an employee who shared an enthusiasm for the Buckeyes, was able to assist around the store, and who enjoyed interacting with shoppers. Because of his summer experience, the Dumms knew Will would be the perfect employee.

Keith and Terry describe Will as always positive and enthusiastic, with an energy level that is immeasurable. This is apparent to anyone who talks to Will about working at Treasure Isle. He immediately lights up with a huge smile, and eagerly shows off new merchandise.

When asked what they would share with other employers about the experience of working with employees with disabilities, Keith and Terry state the importance of not having preconceived ideas about whether or not someone can perform a job. When working with Will, they have found that being organized and having a plan for what to do each day is extremely helpful. It is also important to them that Will be allowed to have input or offer suggestions. And most importantly, they want Will to feel like he's part of the team. It's clear from watching Will work that he's enjoying every second of being part of the Treasure Isle crew.



To submit story ideas, news releases, or suggestions, please contact:

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