

## Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities  
200 East High Street  
Circleville, Ohio 43113  
Phone: (740) 477-3353  
Fax: (740) 477-6772  
[www.pickawaydd.org](http://www.pickawaydd.org)

Ohio Department of Developmental  
Disabilities  
[www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://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)  
Matt Tootle  
Greg Miller  
Jeff Rawlins  
Gwen Wolford

## Upcoming Events

**Upcoming PCBDD Board Meetings**  
December 11, 2014 6:30 PM  
Pickaway Country Club  
1399 Stoussville Pike, Circleville

**PCBDD Provider Fair**  
November 6, 2014  
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM  
Brooks-Yates School

**Early Intervention Thanksgiving  
Feast**  
November 20, 2014  
PCBDD Administration Offices

**Special Olympics Basketball  
Try-Outs**  
November 10, 2014  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Contact Jen Dailey

([jdailey@pickawaydd.com](mailto:jdailey@pickawaydd.com)) for details

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

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

Marie Wilbanks, SSA Director  
[mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org](mailto:mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org)

Amy Miller, Service and Support Administrator  
[amiller@pickawaydd.org](mailto:amiller@pickawaydd.org)

## People First Spaghetti Dinner



If you wanted a heaping plate of delicious pasta, the People First Spaghetti Dinner, held September 12<sup>th</sup>, was the place to be. Pickaway County People First, a self-advocacy group for people with developmental disabilities, teamed up with Person-Centered Services, Inc. (PCS) to hold the fundraiser. It was a perfect partnership! PCS made great food in the kitchen, and People First members served and visited with guests. The group raised approximately \$600 from the

event, and this money will be used to pay for members to attend the annual People First Conference. The fundraiser was the inaugural event for newly elected People First advisor Bryston Lee, who recently joined the SSA team. Bryston is excited to begin new projects with People First members!



*Special congratulations to  
the Pickaway County  
Special Olympics Hawks  
team who won the softball  
state championship!*



# Board Talk

Fall  
2014

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

## What's New

### Superintendent's Corner

"You are in a race between obsolescence and retirement." These words were spoken to my college class by Dr. Dominic Parisi over 25 years ago. He went on to explain that, in failing to continue your education, you lose your race and become obsolete before retiring. Those words by Dr. Parisi have resonated in my mind over the years. To keep your knowledge current is a formidable challenge. The best practices of delivering services 30 years ago now seem archaic, and our best practices today will become archaic tomorrow. The increase of knowledge is growing exponentially, forcing a lifetime of continuing education.

One of the Board's initiatives this year is to help direct support professionals gain new knowledge. Through the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals the Board hosted two basic certification courses. The course of study requires thirty hours of classroom instruction and participants earn a Basic Certification. The courses include ethics, supporting health and safety, providing care with dignity, and principles of positive culture initiative. Over twenty direct support professionals attended the training. When I talk with the participants they are enthusiastic about their new knowledge. They found the information useful and enjoyed the training. They left more confident to provide valuable services to people.

Next year we will continue hosting the training. We are



excited to play a part in advancing the quality of services in Pickaway County. My vision is for all direct support professionals to complete advanced training. For the professionals who attend the training, they are on their way to winning the race. And the benefits of "winning" are passed along to the people we serve!

**-Pickaway County Special Olympics organized another extremely successful Golf Scramble in September.** The weather was perfect for the 23 teams in participation, including several groups with Special Olympics athletes. All totaled, \$7,386.33 was raised for Pickaway County Special Olympics, and this included a generous donation from Circleville High School Class of 1960 and Pinehurst Alumni and Friends. *Pictured below: Superintendent Mike Pelcic and Special Olympian Shane Arledge.*



**- October is an exciting time of the year for Circleville and the students at Brooks-Yates School.** Each year, the Circleville Pumpkin Show officials make a special effort to provide an opportunity for our students to experience and explore the show in their own way. For many of the students, the crowds and activity that come with the Pumpkin Show can be overwhelming. With this in mind, the organizers allow our students to visit the pumpkin show on Tuesday. This visit includes riding a carnival ride, playing games, and touching all the different types of pumpkins. Dynamic Mention also stops by the school each year and allows our students to hear and play the drums with a grand finale parade of their own.



PCBDD

# Business Awards Night

PCBDD's Business Awards Night, held on August 14th at the Circleville Knights of Columbus Hall, was a valued opportunity to celebrate the achievements of everyone involved in the Employment First process. The event was organized by PCBDD's Business Advisory Team, and honored people currently receiving employment services, people already employed within the community, and all the vendors and employers who provide the supports that make such opportunities possible. Excitement about Employment First is contagious, and turnout was fantastic. Over 120 people came out to have dinner and recognize the exemplary work of both employees and employers. The diverse backgrounds of attendees underlined that Employment First is a goal only attainable with team effort. Successful employment for people with developmental disabilities requires dedication and hard work from Board members, Board staff, vendors, employers, and employees. As Master of Ceremony's Elizabeth Fansler quoted at the end of the evening, "Everything is awesome when you're part of a team".



Above: Brooke Edwards, Patrick Kilbane, Troy Scott and Mike Pelcic during the Employment First Award for Circleville Pet Services.

Interested in reading more Employment First success stories? See our Employment Services page under the Service and Support Administration tab on our website.

## Award Recipients

*\*Dedication Awards: Rick Eby, Steven Palkowski, Robbie Perkins (Health Care Logistics)*

*\*Determination Award: Michael Groleau (Scioto Downs Racino)*

*\*Rising Star Award: Tyler Mayle (Scioto Downs Racino)*

*\*Never Give Up Award: Matthew Betts (Walmart)*

*\*Leap of Faith Award: Brooke Edwards (Circleville Pet Services)*

*\*Employment First Awards:  
Scioto Downs Racino  
Health Care Logistics  
Circleville Pet Services*



Left: Steven Palkowski, Patrick Kilbane, Robbie Perkins, and Mike Pelcic, during the Dedication Award presentation  
Above: Kirsten Beck, Lindsay Scase, Paige Gibson, John Walker, Kim Greenwald, Patrick Kilbane, Tyler Mayle, Mike Pelcic, and Michael Groleau, during the acceptance of the Employment First Award for Scioto Downs

## Bridges: From an Educator's Perspective

Jaymi Brufeld is new to her position as Special Education Director for Teays Valley Schools, but she has worked in the field of special education for over 15 years. She has taught students in a variety of settings, with varying degrees of disability, and is excited about the Board's participation in the Bridges to Transition program. From Jaymi's perspective, there is always a group of kids who struggle in the traditional academic setting. Often these are the students who most need a sense of confidence, belonging, and hope. Bridges to Transition is capable of providing just this opportunity, and Jaymi can point to a very specific example of how the program helped a Teays Valley student.

Chase Smith began attending Teays Valley High School this year, and is also enrolled in PCBDD services. During the 2013-2014 school year, Teays Valley educators admittedly struggled to meet his needs. Chase was significantly aggressive, and eventually was removed from the classroom setting and sent to Buckeye Ranch Cross Creek School, which is a program for children with mental health problems that keep them out of a less restrictive setting. Even within this stricter environment, Chase struggled. However, his team with PCBDD enrolled him in the Summer Youth Bridges Program, and he was placed at an alpaca farm for summer employment. Chase spent the summer learning about alpacas and the work that goes into running a farm. He greatly enjoyed the job, and became a leader among his peers. He was an extremely dependable employee who took great pride in the quality of his labor.

Jaymi reports that Chase is a different child after returning from his summer experience. His success gave him a much-needed boost of self-confidence, and helped everyone around him see his positive skills. Where he once seemed angry and defensive, he is now smiling and happy. His transition into high school is proceeding smoothly, and he is excited about attending. Because Chase discovered that he liked to help look out for others, he became a buddy for another person with special needs on his transportation route. His teachers are amazed at the difference in his personality. Jaymi admits that school can quickly become a negative experience for someone who struggles with academics. Bridges opened a door for Chase to find success, and this experience is resonating well beyond his summer work program.