

Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
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Ohio Department of Developmental
Disabilities
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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

August 28, 2014 6:30 PM
September 25, 2014 6:30 PM
PCBDD Administration Offices
200 E. High Street Circleville

Brooks-Yates School Open House

August 3, 2014
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Brooks-Yates School

People First Spaghetti Dinner

September 12, 2014
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Brooks-Yates School

Special Olympics Golf Outing

September 14, 2014
Registration begins 12:00 PM
Pickaway Country Club

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

PCBDD as Local Leaders

During the summer of 2013, Pickaway and Fayette Counties were selected to participate as a Local Leaders team by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This opportunity allowed the counties to engage in an intensive strategic planning process to identify Employment First needs on a local level. The team used the results of this process to formulate goals for addressing deficient components of the local Employment First process, and in the end created a catalogue of ten objectives to tackle over the next two years. These goals centered on a theme of increasing professional development for all people involved in or touched by the Employment First process. For more details on the actions and objectives of the Local Leaders group, please visit the County Board's website to read the team's Interagency Agreement.

Special congratulations and best wishes to Superintendent Mike Pelcic and Susan McTyiere, who were married on June 10th.

HIGH STREET OFFICES OPEN HOUSE

As renovations to the High Street administration building come to a close, PCBDD is excited to announce an open house for the community. Join us for a first look at the new office space, and to learn about the process and purpose of the construction. PCBDD staff will be on hand to offer tours and answer questions. The open house will be held September 10th, 2014 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you!



Amy Miller, Service and Support Administrator
amiller@pickawaydd.org



Board Talk

Summer
2014

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

What's New

BYS Strategic Planning

When Fannie Brooks and Mary May Yates founded Brooks-Yates School in the early 60s, children with developmental disabilities did not have access to education. As with all aspects of services for people with disabilities, educational services have evolved over the years. Today, nine out of ten students are served within their home school district. Enrollment at Brooks-Yates School continues to decline with as few as 11 students. To address the changing needs to those we serve, PCBDD assembled a group of stakeholders for the strategic planning of Brooks-Yates School. Considering declining enrollment and the need to educate children in the least restrictive environment, it is time to redefine our role to best serve all children of Pickaway County who have developmental disabilities. By planning now, we are able to determine our own trajectory, rather than allowing outside forces to dictate our direction.

The strategic planning committee met a number of times to deal with a host of difficult issues, and focused on assessing the opportunities and strengths of the Brooks-Yates School. PCBDD looks forward to presenting a plan early this fall for public comment. While changing the face of educational

services through PCBDD is a daunting task, it is also extremely exciting. Look for more information regarding the support for all children served by the Board in the near future.

-Mike Pelcic,
Superintendent



-On June 7th, Pickaway County Special Olympics held an All-Sports Banquet to recognize all participants in the 2013-2014 athletic year. All athletes who participated in Unified Softball, Individual Skills Softball, Basketball, Youth Team Basketball, Individual Skills Basketball, and Track were honored at this event and presented with an award for their outstanding effort. It was a time of celebration and camaraderie among the different teams involved in this program.



-The Family Advisory Council is now connecting families in a new way. FAC has operated a listserv for families of people with developmental disabilities, giving people a chance to find support and ask questions in a comfortable and casual environment. Family Chat is now expanding to Facebook with the hope that families can connect more frequently and easily. Family Advisory Council is a support group for families of children with developmental disabilities.

-PCBDD is hosting an Employment First Awards Banquet in August to recognize the efforts of people with developmental disabilities and their employers to secure community employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. The event is organized by the PCBDD Business Advisory Committee, which consists of local businesses who are involved in furthering Employment First efforts. Awards will honor both employees and employers.

Bridges to Transition

Summer Youth Program

OHIO CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

Students Michael Edwards, Max Noltemeyer, Lacey Fausnaugh, Clayton Gragg, and Damian Cambell are hard at work for the summer at Ohio Christian University. While the weather is nice, the five participants are completing grounds maintenance, with an emphasis on painting a series of storage sheds. When it rains, students head inside to hone clerical skills, including learning how to shred documents. Ohio Christian University is a new partner for the Summer Youth program, and due to their size, are able to offer a diverse range of learning opportunities for participants. Pictured below, student Michael Edwards shows off his new roller skills. Michael says he's enjoying his job, but the best part of working is getting paid!



What is Bridges to Transition?

Bridges to Transition is a grant funded by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency. The goal of the Bridges program is to expand career exploration and employment options for transition youth with developmental disabilities. The Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities has fourteen students enrolled in the Bridges to Transition Summer Youth Program, which allows students to receive paid internships at local businesses for a period of four weeks, at no cost to the business. PCBDD students are currently placed at three different locations within Pickaway County, and are learning a variety of skills and gaining excellent workplace training to prepare them for employment in the future.

Alpaca Green, LLC

At Alpaca Green, five students are learning all about the care and maintenance of running an alpaca farm. Participants Chase Smith and Jordan Olivares (pictured below) are working closely with a mentor from the farm to lead other participants Kiera Brooks, Austin Campbell and Seth Clark in completing farm work such as feeding and watering the alpacas, and clearing land for the expanding farm. The entire team is also learning about the importance of working together, and is developing a strong and positive work ethic.



A&R Alpaca Farm

On the A&R Alpaca Farm, students Alex Wright, Ryan Dodd, Josh Caudill and Zech McDaniels are also learning about the care and maintenance that goes into raising alpacas. Other tasks including herding, general farm maintenance, and land-clearing to create additional



acreage for a growing herd of alpacas. In addition, this crew is learning about the product yielded from raising alpacas –the alpaca fleece, which is made into yarn and used in a variety of ways. A&R Alpaca actually has a store on-site where items made of alpaca fleece are for sale. The group, mostly consisting of first-time Bridges participants, is gaining an excellent set of work-related skills including time management, team building, and development of a strong work ethic.

Bridges Career Exploration

Student Garrett Mink is spending his summer participating in a different Bridges path referred to as "Career Exploration". As part of the curriculum he is learning basic skills and information needed for the work place including what to wear, communication in the workplace, interviewing skills, eye contact/handshakes, sample application, writing thank you notes etc. Garrett's experience begins August 27th.

Defining Community Employment

For people on the path to community employment, certain terms and services are discussed which can potentially be confusing. Here are some definitions provided by Ohio Employment First .

- **"Community Employment"** means a regular job where people with and without developmental disabilities work alongside each other, performing the same job, and earning at least minimum wage.
- **"Prevocational Services"** teaches the skills needed to get a job in the community. This may take place in the community or at a sheltered workshop. These services are not meant to go on forever, but are short-term to prepare for moving into a community job.
- **"Supported Employment"** are services that help determine what job each person would like, or identifies needed training.
- **"Provider"** means the person or agency with whom each person chooses to work. SSAs can help find appropriate providers.
- **"Benefits Analysis"** is a service that can help people understand the changes that might happen to benefits as a result of having a job in the community.

Does the Bridges to Employment program work? Ask these people who found jobs:

- Bill Day: *Grove City Walmart*
- Sara Wilkins: *Savings Bank, Tim Horton's*
- Brooke Edwards: *Circleville Pet Services*
- Will Harrison: *Treasure Isle*
- Tyler Mayle: *Scioto Downs Racino*
- Kirstin Beck: *Scioto Downs Racino*
- Jason Pherigo: *El Palomar*