



# Board Talk

Winter  
2015

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

## What's New

### Superintendent's Corner

Very infrequently, legislation is passed that has a significant impact. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) is a game changer. Anyone can save money tax deferred for education or retirement, and now people with disabilities can save for future needs. ABLE allows people with disabilities to set aside money in a savings account that does not risk eligibility for Social Security or Medicaid benefits. In addition, similar to the 529 college saving accounts, interest earned in this savings account would be tax free. Money in an ABLE savings account can be used for qualified disability expenses. These expenses include education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology and personal support services, legal fees, and expenses for oversight and monitoring, funeral and burial expenses. There are limitations, the maximum contribution is \$14,000 annually. The savings account cannot exceed \$100,000 without risking eligibility for government benefits. Barring a few exceptions, funds placed in an account of a qualified ABLE program are excluded from a bankruptcy estate. The ABLE Act encourages and assists individuals and families in saving private funds to support individuals to maintain health, independence and quality of life. These savings accounts are not currently available in Ohio. As soon as ABLE savings accounts are rolled out in the state, we

will share the details. 2014 may have been a year that produced very few Federal legislations, but we can celebrate one bill that passed, Achieving a Better Life Experience Act.

-Mike Pelcic, Superintendent



**-Thanks to a great first year with five employees from PCBDD,** Scioto Downs Racino reached out to organize a second mini job fair for interested potential employees. The Racino is interested in hiring approximately six to seven new staff, and hope to fill these positions with people supported through the County Board. The job fair will be held February 4<sup>th</sup>, and allows people interested in working at the business to get an idea of job responsibilities and expectations.



**-Hands-on Learning Experiences at Brooks-Yates School (see above)**

Students at Brooks-Yates School get the benefits of hands-on learning experiences offered at school and in the community. The senior class connects with Person-Centered Services to participate in joint cooking lessons at BYS. The Education Service Center preschool students visited AHA museum in Lancaster for an opportunity to explore how things work through hands-on play. All classes have an opportunity to participate in weekly group fitness activities led by Jada Truex and her students in the sports medicine program at Pickaway Ross Career and Technology Center.

**-Westfall Schools, in partnership with PCBDD and the YMCA, is kicking off a new peer-advocacy program to decrease bullying, specifically for children who have developmental disabilities.** The program focuses on creating a support network of peers who become allies and friends. PCBDD is excited to offer funding for this endeavor, and hopes to reach other school districts with similar initiatives.

**-Early Intervention continues to offer community playgroups to individuals with disabilities, as well as typically developing children throughout Pickaway County.** Anyone interested should contact Laura Ramey at 740-477-3353 ext. 37.

## 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

### Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

www.dodd.ohio.gov

Find us on [Facebook](#) at:  
Pickaway County Developmental Disabilities

### Board Members

Jessica Mullins (President)  
Gwen Wolford (Vice President)  
Denise Kuhnheim (Secretary)  
Greg Miller  
Jeff Rawlins  
Matt Tootle  
Kristin Gardner

## Upcoming Events

### **March Madness Basketball Game**

March 19, 2015

Westfall v. Logan Elm 5:30 PM  
Circleville v. Teays Valley 7:00 PM  
Circleville High School

### **Special Olympics Bowling**

February 7, 2015

March 7, 2015

April 4, 2015

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Pickaway Lanes Bowling Alley  
1410 N. Court St. Circleville  
(RSVP [jdailey@pickawaydd.org](mailto:jdailey@pickawaydd.org))

### **PCBDD Board Meetings**

February 26, 2015 6:30 PM  
PCBDD Administrative Offices

March 26, 2015 6:30 PM  
PCBDD Administrative Offices

April 23, 2015 6:30 PM  
PCBDD Administrative Offices

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

## Self-Advocate Superstar

Travis Dresbach started his position as receptionist at PCBDD in November 2014, and has already expanded his responsibilities to become the new face of self-advocacy in Pickaway County. With a slew of new opportunities across the state for self-advocates to provide direct and meaningful contribution, Travis quickly became the perfect candidate to speak about his personal experiences, and about the needs of people with disabilities in Pickaway County. Travis has already attended several self-advocacy functions, including self-advocate regional meetings and a transportation Summit in Franklin County. In addition, he will begin attending PCBDD board meetings, and acting as an advocacy advisor to the SSA department. Travis has also agreed to participate in People First, Pickaway County's self-advocacy group, and assume the role of co-advisor.



## Winter Special Olympics

With winter comes a new season of basketball for the Hawks, Junior Hawks, and Special Skills basketball programs. In addition, Pickaway County SO is hosting bowling for athletes on the first Saturday of each month. We hope to see everyone at one of these upcoming events!

*Athlete Brodey Larrick takes a free throw, with his teammates by his side.*



### *JV Hawks*

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 7:00 PM

### *Hawks*

Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 PM

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 PM

Thursday, February 19, 6:45 PM

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT EMMETT  
CHAPEL CHURCH

318 Tarlton Rd. Circleville, OH

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

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[mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org](mailto:mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org)

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