

# Clermont DD

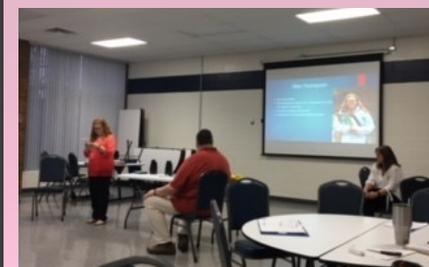
## 2018 Accessibility Plan



The Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities has an Accessibility Plan that outlines the work we have accomplished in the past as well as what lies ahead as we continue to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities served by our organization and in the community. This plan is reviewed regularly to document our progress in completing identified activities for barrier removal. The plan provides for the continual monitoring of the Board's accessibility needs/priorities, as well as its financial planning to implement barrier removal as new measures become achievable.

Many departments review the Accessibility Plan to ensure that people served are treated with respect and dignity, and that everyone's health and safety is at the forefront of our daily routines. Our Strategic Plan addresses several areas, while departments develop goals that are based on input received throughout the year. Physical environments and programs have been modified or changed, and individuals have been provided access to their community through a variety of opportunities.

Self Advocates from Clermont County Voices attended the March 8 DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Statehouse in Columbus. Those pictured met with Senator Joe Uecker (pictured) and aides from the offices of Representatives Doug Green and John Becker. The self advocates discussed accessibility options across Clermont County involving transportation, opportunities for employment, and building relationships through church and other social outlets. Also in March, this same team presented four training sessions for Adult Services staff.



# 2017 & 2018

## *Architectural*

Clermont DD continued the visitor procedure and policy across all areas of the agency. This was adopted in 2017 and required visitors to be escorted to their meetings and other destinations around the Wildey Center campus. This has been adopted at the Donald A. Collins Center as well and exhibits not only safety for the individuals served and good customer service for the visitor, but also gives the escort time to visit with the visitor. During this brief time, they can often discover areas of need from the visitor that may not be discussed if the visitor is left to maneuver throughout the building by him/herself.

In 2017, we developed an Accessibility Survey for visitors waiting to complete. This survey gave another way for visitors (families, individuals, and community members) to give feedback on building and service accessibility. While using this survey in 2018, our Community Integration program from the Adult Services Department found areas that are lacking in accessibility while on field trips. Several areas are outlined in this report; we hope to work with our Self Advocates about helping the community learn more about accessibility for all.

Where restrooms are concerned in the community, there are very few family restrooms that offers space for assistance. Although restrooms have accessible stalls, they are often lacking where spacing issues are concerned.

## *Environmental*

Clermont DD works hard to enhance its buildings and grounds, to ensure



accessibility for all. In 2017, new chairs were purchased for the Wildey School Cafeteria. This area is used by students and adults for cafeteria purposes, but is also scheduled for meetings and events by community members. The new chairs provide better stability for individuals served and community members alike, while allowing for comfort. (Estimated cost: \$3,000; Completion Date: January, 2017.)

In March, 2017, new interior and exterior signs were added to the Wildey Center, Donald A. Collins Center, and Krenning Building to aid in the direction of all visitors to appropriate areas. Although visitors are escorted to their meeting destinations, an emergency could arise at any time and require they move to another area (such as a tornado safe area or the nearest exit if there is a fire). (Estimated cost: \$3,000; Completion Date: March, 2017)

In an effort to make things more accessible for everyone, new toilet paper and paper towel dispensers were installed in all restrooms across the agency. This makes both features easier to operate for everyone.

(Estimated Cost: \$7,000; Completion Date: January, 2017).

In the community, our Accessibility Survey tells us that groups visiting local places for field trips usually have problems with no automatic doors in the facility, gravel parking lots that make it difficult for those with wheelchairs or walkers to move from vehicles to the activity site, and a lack in curb cuts/ramps into buildings.

## *Attitudinal*

The Clermont DD agency has a strong presence in the county, six-county Council of Government area, and across the state of Ohio. We strive to be part of as many things as possible, in order to break down attitudinal barriers that still exist in our society.

Community integration is a priority for the Adult Services program and with Community Activities. Both programs assist individuals to enjoy activities in the community that are well-rounded and integrated into settings where people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, etc. exist.

Clermont DD and the agencies served by the agency continue to look at barriers within the community in a number of ways. Members of our staff are either enrolled in or alumni of LEAD Clermont, which are premier leadership classes in our county. We also work closely with Connect Clermont, which is a non-profit board that is working to address common issues such as housing, transportation, and inter-agency awareness, all serious issues for individuals from Clermont DD as well as many other agencies in the county.

The Clermont County Safety Net Alliance was established in 2012 as a web portal to connect agencies to those who need services in our community. Clermont DD became an immediate member, listing our services within the portal for other agencies to find, should their clientele need our services. Over the years, Community Relations, Community Support Services, and Behavioral Health staff have served on several committees within the Alliance including: executive committee/membership/marketing, emergency needs, and housing.

Clermont DD celebrated 50 years of service in 2017. During the year, we held several community events that were well attended by those who care about the individuals and the services we provide. We participated in a week of service during July with others across the state of Ohio, held an Outdoor Park Celebration and Vendor Fair in August, and ended the year with our Good Fortune Dinner where we honored community members for their kindness and generosity to our agency and those served. \*\*See end of report for a complete list of community members who were recognized and the reasons they received their honors.



In 2017, we were nominated Matt Lisa of Red Robin Milford for the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Employer of the Year award. Mr. Lisa has been a consistent employer of people with disabilities for many years and was one of five employers recognized by the Governor's Council in 2017. His nomination included a video testimony on removing attitudinal barriers within his restaurant so help those with special needs transition into being just a typical part of his staff—just like everyone else employed at Red Robin Milford.

Clermont DD has been a member of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce for well over 20 years. Being a member assists the agency to be in tune with what is happening within the business community. Each year the Clermont Chamber allows us to present our Business Advisory Committee's "Employer of the Year Award" at their October Legislative event. (October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.) At the 2017 Chamber Legislative Breakfast, we honored AMC Cinema Dine-In 9 as Employer of the Year.

The Clermont DD Superintendent and Community Relations Director belong to the Eastside Rotary Club and Batavia Rotary Club respectively. Both are active members and assist other members to be aware of the importance of disability issues in our community. Rotary members

participate in Clermont DD fundraisers and support the agency during levy campaigns by providing sign locations, speaking engagements, etc.

Our work with the Sanctuary Collaborative has proved to offer additional ways for our agency to recognize attitudinal barriers. We were honored to receive our Accreditation in May, 2017 from the Sanctuary Institute in New York. This included a collaboration with Envision as well as St. Aloysius Orphanage over a three-year period of time. We are continuing with training, as new staff new staff and refreshing current staff on the importance of trauma-informed care. Our CORE Team (comprised of staff members from most agency departments makes themselves available twice per month, to assist staff through the SELF process (SELF= Safety, Emotions, Loss, and Future). In addition to staff training, several Sanctuary trainers from Clermont DD present information about a positive culture and trauma-informed care to various groups within our community. The Clermont YMCA needed training assistance for their staff. They not only wanted their staff to recognize the needs of children at summer camp who had disabilities, but their staff needed the sensitivity

training that comes with the Sanctuary Collaborative to learn that everyone has needs...everyone has suffered some type of trauma in their lives...and everyone needs positive place to receive services.

Our Accessibility Survey showed that people are very, very supportive of those in the community who have a disability. Our Community Integration Program rarely meets someone who is rude or unkind.

Our Business Advisory Council which is made up of staff from Community Employment Services Department and various business members from the Clermont County. In 2018, this group began work on a Disability Awareness Training Seminar for employers and their staff. The goal is to offer basic training that will help business employees learn sensitivity in a positive way.

All maintenance/custodial employees were certified in OSHA training in February. They received 10 and 30-hour trainings to become more aware of any hazards that could cause harm to anyone. This training also helped to develop an action plan to reduce hazards across the agency.

Environmental and structural improvements in 2017:

- Purchased new chairs for cafeteria that provide better stability and comfort.  
Estimated Cost: \$3,000  
Completion Date: January, 2017
- Added interior and exterior signs to the Wildey Center, Donald A. Collins Center, and Grissom Building to aid in the direction of all visitors to appropriate areas.  
Estimated Cost: \$3,000  
Completion Date: March, 2017
- Installed toilet paper and paper towel dispensers in all restrooms across the agency that are easier

to operate for everyone.  
Estimated Cost: \$7,000  
Completion Date: January, 2017

### ***Technology & Communication***

We continue to upgrade our technology by utilizing laptops, iPads, and Microsoft Surfaces to increase accessibility for students, individuals, and staff. We have continued our social media presence and have increased our Cerkl online newsletter membership by 100 subscribers. Those who subscribe remain very engaged.

The windows in the IT office were tinted at the Donald A. Collins Center, to improve the environment of the computer servers, as well as efficiency and effectiveness of the

### ***Financial***

The majority of our funding comes from local tax dollars. In 2018, we passed a .75 mill renewal levy in the May primary that will assist our agency to run smoothly for the next five years. We strive to continue to be good stewards of the public's money.

Fundraisers managed by our nonprofit board, Clermont DD Empowers Me, assist with funding our Gift of Time Respite Cooperative; in 2017, they donated \$10,000 for supplies and other materials needed for this program.

### ***Transportation***

Although our county is very urban in a few areas, many people served live in the eastern, more rural part of Clermont County. Our Superintendent works on addressing transportation needs through attending meetings with County Commissioners and other officials. The Connect Clermont group (which formed from the 2014 Agenda for the Future Project) lists transportation in the county as one of its seven most important themes. Clermont DD works with this group to ensure people with disabilities are

considered when making transportation decisions in the county.

At this time, we continue to offer transportation to doctor/therapy appointments for those who have no providers and no way to get there.

### ***Barriers to Employment***

The Community Employment Services Department works diligently with employers in the community to break through barriers that might still exist where people with disabilities are concerned. This department's Program Coordinator is part of the WORKing Together Committee, in collaboration with Hamilton, Butler, and Warren County DD programs. This group produced two videos in 2016; the first was designed specifically for employers to learn about hiring people with disabilities, and the second focused on convincing people with disabilities to take the chance, step out of their comfort zone, and think about employment in the community. These videos have been well received by individuals as well as community employers.

Community Employment also works with the Ohio Means Jobs/ Clermont County office and assists people to attend job fairs whenever they are offered.

Transportation remains an issue for those working in the community.

# 2016

- Upgrading all safety/life-saving equipment in the Wildey swimming pool area. Estimated Cost: \$600 Completion Date: June, 2016
- Replacing door handles to be ADA compliant at the Wildey Center. Estimated Cost: \$1,200 Completion Date: September, 2016
- Installing a key card security system and camera update at the Donald A. Collins Center. Estimated Cost: \$5,000 Completion Date: August, 2016



# 2017

At the beginning of 2017, we created an Accessibility Survey that asks questions about architectural, transportation, communication, and attitudinal barriers. This survey launched in March and will continued throughout 2017.

Structural improvements for 2017 include:

- Installation automatic door openers for the interior/back hallway double doors, SSA exterior entrance/exit double doors, and the Early Intervention exterior entrance/exit double doors. Estimated Cost: \$5,000 for each area Projected Completion Date: TBD
- Purchase of new chairs for the cafeteria at the Wildey Center that provide better stability and comfort. Estimated Cost: \$3,000 Projected Completion Date: January, 2017

- All maintenance/custodial employees certified in OSHA 10 and 30 hour training to become more aware of any hazards that could cause harm to any one and to develop an action plan to reduce hazards. Estimated Cost: \$0 Projected Completion Date: February, 2017
- Paving repair/resealing at the Wildey Center to provide a level surface to traverse. Estimated Cost: \$30,000 Projected Completion Date: September, 2017
- Installation interior/exterior signs at the Wildey Center, DAC, and Grissom Building to aid in the direction of visitors to the appropriate areas. Estimated Cost: \$3,000 Projected Completion Date: March, 2017
- Installation of toilet paper and towel dispensers that are easier to operate (Wildey, DAC, and Grissom Buildings). Estimated Costs: \$7,000 Projected Completion Date: January, 2017

- Repair the sidewalk at DAC. Estimated cost: \$2,500 Projected Completion Date: TBD



## 2017 ADA Accessibility Recommendation Timelines

BUILDING	AREAS OF COMPLIANCE	ESTIMATED COST	TARGETED DATE OF COMPLETION
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-Interior/back hallway double doors	\$5,000.00	
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-SSA exterior entrance/exit double doors	\$5,500.00	
Wildey	Install automatic door openers-EI exterior entrance/exit double doors	\$5,000.00	
Wildey	Purchase new chairs for cafeteria that provide better stability and comfort	\$3,000.00	January 2017
Wildey	All maintenance/custodial employees certified in OSHA 10 and 30 hour Training to become more aware of any hazards that could cause harm to any one and to develop an action plan to reduce hazards		February 2017
Wildey	Paving repair/resealing-provide a level surface to traverse	\$30,000.00	September 2017
Wildey, DAC, Grissom	Interior/exterior signs to aid in the direction of visitors to the appropriate areas	\$3,000.00	March 2017
Wildey, DAC, Grissom	Install toilet paper and towel dispensers that are easier to operate	\$7,000.00	January 2017
DAC	Sidewalk repair	\$2,500.00	