

THE BEACON



2040 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103
513-732-7000

Board Members

Robert Grant

President

Kim Pellington

Vice President

Emily Chesnut

Secretary

Dr. Kim Brady

Board Member

Michael Chapman

Board Member

David Thamann

Board Member

Mary Jane West

Board Member

November/December 2018

As we begin winding down 2018, we again want to thank the voters of Clermont County for supporting our five year operating renewal levy in May. Its passage assures that we can continue to address the needs of those we serve and responsibly avert long waiting lists for much needed services. We continue to see growing requests for intake and referral, and 2018 numbers continue to reflect that the needs for services continues to grow.

2018 came with some changes on our Board. We welcomed Dr. Kim Brady, Michael Chapman, David Thamann, and Mary Jane West. As one might imagine, there is a lot to learn in a short period of time, and I am very thankful to each of these new members for their dedication to that task. As always, we are also thankful to our other three Board members, Robert Grant, president of the Board and reappointed for a second term, Kim Pellington, vice president, and Emily Chesnut, Secretary.

In 2018 we have embarked on the "Fix the List" project which is a project to simplify the administration and distribution of Medicaid waivers in the State of Ohio. Simply put, the old waiting list operation did not work. The process needed altered for many reasons, but most importantly, to identify those who have a current (within twelve months) unmet needs and attempt to pair them with resources or alternative services as available. We also have partnered with some of our other contiguous counties to participate in some grant funded projects to address the needs of youth with intensive needs and to offer some of the individuals we serve and their families the opportunity to first hand try out some of the remote technology that is becoming more viable as an option for services, rather than having to have a physical staff person present in every circumstance.

2019 will bring about some changes in our system. After serving 12 years as the State Director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities, Director John Martin will be retiring and Governor elect Mike DeWine will be appointing a new State Director in the New Year. 2019 is also the year when a new State Biennial budget is proposed, so the work will begin right away at the State level. To see what initiatives we will continue to work on in our County, I encourage you to check out our Vision 2020 three year strategic plan. You can find that at our website, www.clermontdd.org.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season.

Sincerely,



Dan Ottke

Superintendent

Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Celebrating Clermont DD's Good Fortune

Each year, the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities celebrates volunteers, self advocates, employers, advocates, providers, and community leaders at our Good Fortune Recognition Dinner. This year, our event was held at Norlyn Manor on October 23.



Superintendent Dan Ottke welcomed everyone to the event, and introduced our Master of Ceremonies, UC Clermont Professor Greg Sojka. Greg charmed the audience with lots of fun anecdotes...he also said "hello" to his little granddaughter on Facebook Live!



We began the evening with Provider Recognition. Sharon Richmond thanked those in attendance for supporting people with disabilities in the community. Those in attendance were: Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Manny Staffing and Home Care Agency, Inc.; Angels 4 Life; ViaQuest; Ohio Valley Goodwill Services, Inc.; Visions Matter; Rebecca Boone; Ruth Myers; Beverly Addison and Joan Arthur.

For the first time, we recognized a Direct Support Professional from an agency as an outstanding DSP of the Year. TJ Molter works with an individual placed with Visions Matter for the past five years who has made an impact on her life...and she has made an impact on his.



Next, the Provider of the Year Award was presented, to Benchmark Human Services. Benchmark staff work with some of the people we serve who have severe trauma pasts. They have been successful in working with people who have very difficult emotional and behavioral challenges. They even brought young adults aging out of the Children's Protective Services program to Clermont County from Lawrence County (3 hour trip each way) for weekend visits in order to make their transition smoother. Many thanks to Benchmark!

Celebrating Clermont DD's Good Fortune cont'd

Self Advocates were honored for their work in learning to speak up for themselves this year. Those in attendance were (from left: Aaron Strait, Darren Long (advisor), Amber Atkerson, David Ringstaff, Angie Stanton (advisor) Ethan Stuempfle, and Austin Porter.



Austin Porter was presented the Self Advocate of the Year award by Ethan Stuempfle (the 2017 award winner). Austin has met with legislators this year, as well as participated in training in the Clermont DD Adult Services program, and works with Cincinnati Children's Hospital to encourage children with disabilities to train for 5K races. Way to go, Austin!



Rachel Perlstein presented the Advocate of the Year award to Rachel Sorg. Both Rachels work together with families in the Clermont County community. Ms. Sorg is the Wraparound Coordinator for Clermont Family and Children First. She and her team of facilitators treat all families involved with the Clermont County Wraparound System as the most important and deserving family in the county!



Employer recognition went to Jungle Jim's, for being a supportive employer in Clermont County during the 2018 year.



Celebrating Clermont DD's Good Fortune cont'd

Viaquest/Amazon was recognized as Business of the Year, for assisting individuals from Clermont DD's Community Employment Department to become employed at Amazon in Hebron, Kentucky.



The Business Partner of the Year award was presented to Matthew 25: Ministries. This summer, one of the employers with our Pre-Employment Summer Transition program cancelled our work crew at the last minute. It was a Friday, and the work crews were set to begin on Monday. Someone suggested we contact Matthew 25, and they welcomed our crew on Monday with open arms. Many thanks to them!

Volunteers come from many different walks of life. Teenagers, adults, college students, and board members. Those in attendance to receive recognition were: Paula Smith, Don Bock, Jeff Diesel, and members of the Mt. Carmel American Legion.

The Volunteers of the Year award was presented to the Loveland American Legion. They produce multiple activities throughout the year for teenagers and adults to enjoy.



Celebrating Clermont DD's Good Fortune cont'd

Each year, Clermont DD Staff are nominated for the Triumph Award to recognize those unsung heroes who go above and beyond to serve the children and adults (and their families) in our community. Those nominated were: Rebecca Baker, Community Employment Services; Britt Meguire, Business Operations; Debbie Donahue, Community Support Services SSA; Meg Kennedy, Community Support Services SSA; Tiffney Wunsch, Adult Services DAC; and Arley Hammons, Early Intervention Service Coordination Supervisor. Arley (center) was the winner and is pictured surrounded by well-deserving nominees!



Our Foster Parents of the Year could not be with us due to the flu! Courtney and Justin Treftz have fostered two children for some time. Both are siblings and they have experienced a lot of trauma in their young lives; however, the Treftz Family have opened their home to the sibs and, as of October, they are no longer foster children but PERMANENT members of the family!!! Congratulations to Courtney, Justin, and their new additions!

The Community Leader of the Year went to our Master of Ceremonies, Greg Sojka. Assisting Clermont DD with our Good Fortune Dinner each year is only one of the many things he does...he has been a member of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, is a CASA for Clermont Kids board member, and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Clermont County. He is also a member of the Cincinnati-Eastside Rotary, and a wonderful advocate for people with disabilities.

In short, it was a great night. It is our "good fortune" to work with so many wonderful people! Please enjoy additional pictures from our on our website or visit our Facebook Page for the archived Facebook Live video!



A Fond Farewell from Common Threads

The Common Threads Network is a collaboration between families and professionals in the disability field for those in the Southwestern Ohio region. On October 30, this group bid a fond farewell to Director John Martin, who will be retiring at the end of the 2018.

John Martin is the Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. During his tenure, he has been a driving force and an amazing supporter of individuals who have disabilities, their families, and the providers/agencies that lend support to them. Director Martin is the parent of an adult child with a developmental disability and knows firsthand what it is like for parents to advocate for all their children need in order to live life to its fullest.



At the October 30 event, superintendents, parents, and individuals from Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Montgomery, and Clermont Counties to offer him their thanks and best wishes on his retirement.

Among the various gifts he was presented, Director Martin received a clock on behalf of those in Clermont County. Common Threads members Elizabeth Moran and Sharon Richmond presented him with a journal and pen from the Common Threads Network, so he can get started on the next chapter of his life when the new year begins!



Our thanks to you, Director Martin, on a job well done!

National Disability Awareness Month

October is celebrated each year as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and this year, we were extremely busy with recognition events. First, Anna Throckmorton and her family accepted the Clermont County Commissioners' Proclamation. Anna works at Kroger Amelia, where she fulfills online orders for Click-List customers. She does a great job, and her smile is infectious!



National Disability Awareness Month cont'd

Next, our Business Advisory Council (BAC) presented their Employer of the Year Award during the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast event. Deimling/jeliho Plastics was the award recipient for their dedication to hiring people with disabilities to work in their factory. In 2018, Deimling has hired two full-time employees who have disabilities, one part-time employee, and continue to work with one long-term employee who has been employed there for



over 15 years. They have also welcomed individuals with disabilities to participate in community-based work assessments within their factory. Our thanks to them for being wonderful employers!!! Pictured are members of the BAC with representatives from Deimling/jeliho and the Clermont Chamber. From left are: Roger Moning, BAC; Michelle Dool, BAC; Scott Brown, BAC; Superintendent Dan Ottke, Clermont DD; Holly Donaldson, Deimling/jeliho; Zach Schmidt, Round Bottom Recycling and BAC; Lisa Walsh, Deimling/jeliho; Greg Wood, BAC; and Matt Van Sant, Clermont Chamber.

As mentioned in the Good Fortune Dinner article, Jungle Jim's International Market, Viaquest/Amazon, and Matthew 25: Ministries received Business of the Year Recognition at our annual recognition dinner. And we caught this image on Chase Bank ATM's around the county. We think our work is being noticed!



*“Find us on Cerkl,
Facebook, Twitter,
or Linked In for
instant updates
about our agency.”*



VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.CLERMONTDD.ORG

Support Group Meetings

Are you caring for an adult or child with a developmental disability? If so, we have a support group for you.

Our new Caregiver Support Group meets at the Wildey Center on the first Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m. Sometimes, the one who is there for everyone else need someone there for THEM. Let us be there for YOU!

Members of our Behavioral Health Team facilitate the group to provide an opportunity for caregivers to meet regularly, exchange ideas and information, and give/receive emotional support with others who have similar experiences. Registration is not required; however, please contact Melissa Lynch at Clermont DD if you have questions or will need supervision while you attend. Just email Melissa the week before, if you need supervision at mlynch@clermontdd.org.



The Caregiver Support Group meets monthly, 6-8 p.m. at the Wildey Center, 2040 US Highway 50, Batavia. Dates for 2019 are: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Please visit our website at www.clermontdd.org for information.

The mission of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote safe and supportive environments while understanding our responsibility to respect the choices and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and to empower them to be engaged in their community.