January/February 2020

I am hoping everyone’s new year and new decade is off to a good start. We here at the Clermont County Board of DD are looking forward to a good and productive year. In this new year, we will begin the process of completing our next three-year strategic plan that will be in place for 2021-2024. But before we get to that we have goals to accomplish this year. In 2020, we have a goal to transition individuals receiving Individual Budget services into Medicaid waiver services. We think, in the long run, this will afford these individuals more access to services and service providers. In this year, we will be completing the remainder of Waiting List assessments for those individuals who are on the transitional waiver waiting list. We are on track to complete all of these by the fall of this year. I had a chance to spend time at the Synergy Conference last fall with many of the self-advocates who have joined the “Turn up the Voices” group. I’m excited about the energy and momentum of that group. In 2020, we will be going for Sanctuary re-certification. Sanctuary is our trauma informed organizational model to help our staff have the tools in place to recognize the negative effects of trauma and chronic stress so they can be best for those they serve. We have some facility and IT system projects on the horizon for this year. One project that will be taking place in the summer at Wildey is to renovate the front entrance to make it more accessible and to create some more waiting area space. We also will be updating some of our IT systems to continue to address some of the always increasing cybersecurity threats that exist in our world today.

I look forward to seeing where this new year and decade takes us and as always please feel free to reach out to me at dottke@clermontdd.org or 513-732-4930 if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns about anything about our services to the Clermont County community.

As a reminder, be sure to check us out on our social media sites or visit our website at www.clermontdd.org.

Sincerely,

Dan Ottke
Superintendent
Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Giving Trees

This year, Clermont DD staff had the opportunity to purchase items for their Giving Trees for middle school students involved with Empower Youth. Staff purchased everything from sports balls and equipment to various games and project kits (like crafts, DIY slime, and makeup). Students from the Live Oaks Career X special needs class picked up all of the items and delivered them to the Empower Youth Ranch in Bethel, where additional volunteers from local companies and organizations wrapped them for the Winter Wonderland on December 14. Thanks to our staff and the Career X students, every child who attended that event received a brand new gift. The generosity made for warm hearts on cold winter nights!

We also purchased items for a seventeen-year-old boy from the Mercy Clermont Adopt a Kid program. In short, our holidays were made merry by the thoughts of these happy kiddos!
A Program for Adults & Families with Special Needs

DRUM CIRCLE

with Melodic Connections

Special after-hours event especially for adults and families with special needs. Melodic Connections will provide musical instruments so everyone can participate in a drum circle. We’ll have a short break halfway through the program. This is hands-on, educational fun for adults and families.

Saturday
Feb. 29
6 pm

ADULTS
Sign up now!
Claymont DD Visits the Reds Caravan

On January 16, 2020 a group from the Donald A. Collins and Wildey Adult Centers attended the Cincinnati Reds Caravan Tour event at the Boys and Girls Club of Clermont County. There were ten individuals and five staff from DAC that went to the event and had a great time.

Brittney Smith was chosen from the crowd to ask the players a question and her picture was in the Cincinnati Enquirer! She asked the players, “What do they do with the balls they use during batting practice?” She was happy to learn that they re-use them and she let them know that she has a game ball from a game she attended!

Kassy Eschmann, asked, “How long does it take to practice in between games?” Aristides Aquino, Right Fielder for the Reds, replied, “A long time; we are always getting ready for our next game.”

Players at this event included Lucas Simms, Aristides Aquino, Jose Garcia, and Eric Davis. They were accompanied by General Manager Nick Krall, newly-retired Sportscaster Marty Brennaman, and the Gapper. Several individuals got autographs from players and Marty. Marty agreed to a picture with our entire group.
100 Years of Service

On December 11, Clermont DD staff and friends gathered to celebrate four ladies who retired after having completed 100 years of service together! Superintendent Dan Ottke recognized the following employees for their contributions to Clermont DD:

**Vickie Osborne** - Vickie worked in the Adult Services program for 27 years. She was a Habilitation Technician who assisted adults to enjoy work opportunities and volunteering in the community. She was active in other areas of the agency as well and will be missed by everyone!

**Jay Williams** - Jay spent 15 years at the Principal of the Thomas A. Wildey School. She was very active in community groups that included the Regional Autism Awareness Committee and worked with local school districts to make sure students were getting the supports they needed.

**Kimberleigh Szaz** - Kimberleigh spanned a 33+year at Clermont DD as a teacher, an Early Intervention Specialist and finally as Director of Early Intervention that included supervising three separate programs within the Department. She lent her knowledge and expertise to many community groups and will now be sharing what she has learned with students at Xavier University where she has been a professor for quite a long time.

**Cindi Martin** (who could not attend the reception) – Cindi spent 25 years in the Adult Services Program. She enjoyed being a Habilitation Technician and working in areas such as Clerco, the Grissom Building, and the Wildey Center. She also served for many years as the President of the Clermont County Special Education Association.

Good luck, ladies, and enjoy this next chapter of your lives!
Self Advocacy Adults Group Gets A New Name

Clermont County Turn Up the Voices is now Turn Up Clermont. The tagline (created by Core Team Member Scott Baker) is still "turn it up." Scott likes to remind everyone to be enthusiastic, to be excited, and to "turn up" all parts of your life.

Join Turn Up Clermont for meetings that take place on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings are at 10:30 a.m. OR 5 p.m. Choose a time that fits your schedule and come to the Krenning Center (4247 Grissom Drive, Batavia, 45103). You are guaranteed to be inspired to do more for yourself and your community with Turn Up Clermont!

FREE Workouts at the YMCA!

Start the new year off right by joining us at the Clermont Family YMCA. Anyone enrolled at Clermont DD can work out at the gym for FREE on these days:

Mondays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. (starting January 16)

To sign up, contact Angie Stanton at astanton@clermontdd.org or (513) 732-4923.

Get in shape and meet new friends while having fun at the Y...we look forward to seeing you there!
Clermont DD Board Reorganizes for 2020

Clermont County Commissioner Claire Corcoran, administered the Oath of Office at the January 23 meeting of the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The Board uses its January meeting to reorganize by accepting nominations for officers and to determine the date, time, and location of future meetings. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the following members were elected as officers: Robert Grant, President; Kim Pellington, Vice President; and Emily Chesnut, Secretary. Additional Board members are Dr. Kim Brady, Michael Chapman, David Thamann, and Mary Jane West.

President Grant made appointments to four committees: Chapman, Thamann, and West will serve on the Ethics Committee; Grant, Brady, and Pellington will serve on the Finance Committee; Chesnut, Pellington, and West will serve on the Program Services Committee; Chapman, Grant, and Brady will serve on the Facilities Committee.

It was approved that 2020 Board meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Thomas A. Wildey Center in Owensville, with no meetings in July or November. The March meeting will be held on March 19, which is one week earlier due to a conflict.

For more information about upcoming Board meetings, contact ldavis@clermontdd.org or call (513) 732-4921.
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.

Closings and Delays

Whenever we experience inclement weather, these are the ways you can receive information about closings and delays. This includes offices, Adult Services and community activities. Please note: The Wildey School is always open unless every school district in Clermont County is closed. Students and families should watch for their local school district’s delays/closings.

To find out if there is a closing/delay at Clermont DD:

1. Use the ONE CALL alert system. Please give us your name and phone number, and we will add you to the call list. Email ldavis@clermontdd.org to be added.

2. Watch any TV news station in Cincinnati or visit their website for closings and delays.

3. Like us on Facebook, Twitter, or Linked In to check whether we are closed or on a delay.

4. Visit the Clermont DD Website. Closings/Delays will be posted in RED.

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