



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**Looking Back on What We  
Accomplished**

Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
Dan Ottke, Superintendent



513 - 732 - 7000 

[clermontdd.org](http://clermontdd.org) 

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Batavia, OH 45103 

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## Mission

To help those we serve expand capabilities and navigate the possibilities.

## Vision

We envision a culture comprised of inclusive communities where people with disabilities thrive and live a life on their own terms.

## Philosophy

Individuals and families served by the Clermont County Board of DD have the right of choice and flexibility regarding what, how and where services are provided. Individuals and families will be empowered to make decisions, become partners and work cooperatively with professionals, and exert control over the services provided to them.

**WE BELIEVE** that persons with developmental disabilities have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, be able to take reasonable risk and be protected from exploitation, abuse and degrading treatment.

**WE BELIEVE** that infants and toddlers learn best in their natural environments, doing things they enjoy and with people with whom they are familiar.

**WE BELIEVE** that educational services will honor the informed choice of the individual or individual's family in partnership with local school districts.

**WE BELIEVE** that adults with developmental disabilities have the right to make choices regarding their lifestyle, their working environment and their living arrangements.

**WE BELIEVE** in providing adequate information to make informed choices. We believe in the importance of ongoing life planning and supporting individuals and families through the many transitions of life.

**WE BELIEVE** that adults have the right to work in the community in accessible workplaces, with access to the supports necessary to be successful and the right to wages and benefits provided to other workers in the same setting. We believe individuals should be encouraged to seek employment first.

**WE BELIEVE** that persons with developmental disabilities have the right to have access to the supports and services they need to be participating members of their communities, including transportation, recreation, social outlets and friends, and regular interaction with peers who do not have disabilities.



# Executive Summary

Thank you for checking out our 2024 Annual Report.

We are excited to bring you the latest information about services, supports, and initiatives happening at the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

2024 was the first year of implementation of our 2024-2026 Three-Year Strategic Plan.

We have provided highlights in the pages of this report of the progress on the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.

A lot of progress has already been made in several different areas, but we know more work is needed in several others.

Due to some of the growing needs in many of the populations that we serve, we had to make the difficult decision to discontinue directly offering and providing job placement and job coaching services. These have been offered for many years for those seeking employment in our county. This was a very difficult decision due to the extremely professional and proficient staff that have worked for us and have provided these services. Throughout much of 2024, we met with our private sector providers and representatives from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to begin this transition. We also discontinued our Pre-Employment Transition Services, shifting those services to the private sector. While these were difficult decisions, it was necessary to use our financial resources to meet some of the growing needs we see in other areas of our

agency's services and supports. If you have any questions about employment for yourself or a family member, please contact our main number 513-732-7000 and ask to speak with our Employment Navigator. We continue to see growing numbers of young people with intensive needs. We know services and support needs will continue to grow with this population. We maintain a working relationship with local, regional, and state partners to maximize resources so we can do our best to support these young people and their families. This work will continue into 2025.

We understand that we have a big responsibility to those we serve and those with which we partner to continue to make strides and improvements. Please reach out to me at [dottke@clermontdd.org](mailto:dottke@clermontdd.org) with ideas or ways that we can continue to do just that.

We look forward to 2025 and appreciate you taking time to review the important work of this agency over the past year.

*D. Ottke*  
Superintendent





# CLERMONT COUNTY BOARD of Developmental Disabilities

## Strategic Plan 2024-2026 | Progress Report for 2024



### GOAL 1 PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

#### Objective 1 |

We are participating in county-wide discussions with community partners to address transportation needs.

#### Objective 2 |

We have doubled our access to affordable housing units through our partnerships with Metropolitan Housing Authority.

#### Objective 3 |

We are building relationships with private Community Employment providers and continue to work closely with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.



#### Objective 4 |

We are expanding our internal capacity for our respite program while collaborating with regional partners to increase capacity across counties.

#### Objective 5 |

We have formed strong cross-system partnerships to identify needs and share programming to support multi-system youth and their families, maximizing OhioRISE resources.

#### Objective 6 |

We continue to recruit and assist providers in completing the application process while exploring new data systems to connect families and individuals to providers.



### GOAL 2 COMMUNICATIONS: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

#### Objective 1 |

We continue executing our communication plan across mediums to share information and resources with individuals and the community at-large.

#### Objective 2 |

We continue to expand our current partnerships with community leaders, the chamber of commerce, and civic organizations to promote awareness of CCBDD programs and services.

#### Objective 3 |

We are restructuring our website to be more consumer-friendly to increase awareness and access to agency and community resources.



#### Objective 4 |

We currently use multiple social media platforms, websites, newsletters, and email list services to inform individuals about activities and events.

#### Objective 5 |

We have surveyed internal communication structures and preferences and are refining communication practices within the agency.

#### Objective 6 |

We hold an annual agency-wide In-Service, promoting cross-department activities and relationship building. We are developing a cross-training program as part of our succession planning to prepare roles for better understanding of interconnectivity and shared responsibilities.

#### Objective 7 |

We are reviewing and refining our outcome reporting methods through our Annual Report and community presentations.

- Completed

- In Progress



## GOAL 3 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

### Objective 1 |

We have revised our onboarding process for new staff, introduced our Trauma-Informed Care Team with new training materials from the State, and are exploring new supervisory training resources with an approved curriculum and implementation timeline.

### Objective 2 |

We have collected and shared the results of an agency-wide communication survey with staff and are developing an internal communication plan.

### Objective 3 |

We are committed to creating an environment of support and positivity for staff. To promote cross-department relationship building, we are hosting annual holiday gatherings, quarterly Trauma-Informed Care Lunch 'n Learns, and monthly Cupcake Days with the Investigations Team.

### Objective 4 |

We continue to engage staff to seek solution-focused practices aimed at supporting new staff while building rapport and enhancing the supervisory relationship. Human Resources conducts exit interviews to understand staff motivations and needs. Staffing has stabilized in the last six months.

### Objective 5 |

We are developing tools to foster discussions with staff regarding growth potential and leadership development.

### Objective 6 |

We have completely revised and applied the staff evaluation process throughout the agency.



## GOAL 4 TECHNOLOGY

### Objective 1 |

We have implemented a comprehensive technology infrastructure plan to address modernization and access.

### Objective 2 |

We have completed a comprehensive cybersecurity assessment and are implementing recommendations based on those results.



## GOAL 5 BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Objective 1 |

A schedule for systematic repair and preventative maintenance has been completed and implemented.

### Objective 2 |

We have implemented a new security system, BluePoint, to enhance and maximize physical security measures.



## GOAL 6 FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

### Objective 1 |

We continue to employ sound fiscal management practices and communicate them to our board, staff, and community. We seek grant funding for additional support and services.

### Objective 2 |

We have implemented agency-wide fiscal presentations to the Board and staff, to the community through our Annual Report, and to the State through required fiscal forecasting reporting.

### Objective 3 |

We are consulting with a specialized service to help with this work.





# Core Values & Our Board

## **Safe and Supportive Environment**

*for individuals we serve, families, visitors, staff, and the community.*

## **Understand**

*our mission, our values, our jobs, our mandates, and to ensure that others understand.*

## **Responsibility and Respect**

*for individuals we serve, each other, the community, to manage resources efficiently, and to provide access to efficient services and programs.*

## **Engage**

*with the individuals we serve, families, advocates, each other, and the community.*

## Clermont DD Board Members



Michael Chapman



Natalie Fiscus



Elizabeth Jensen



David Thamann



Eric Thompson



Mary Jane West



Jeff Weir

In 2024, meetings of the Clermont DD Board were held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, except July and November when no meetings were held. Officers were: Mary Jane West, President; Michael Chapman, Vice President; and David Thamann, Secretary. Members served on the following Committees that met at least once throughout the year:

### **Ethics Committee**

Michael Chapman  
David Thamann  
Mary Jane West

### **Facilities Committee**

Michael Chapman  
Natalie Fiscus  
Jeffery Weir

### **Finance Committee**

David Thamann  
Eric Thompson  
Jeffery Weir

### **Program Services Committee**

Natalie Fiscus  
Elizabeth Jensen  
Mary Jane West



# Our Administrative Team



Dan Ottke, Superintendent



David Sininger  
Director of  
Business Operations



Lori Watkins  
Director of  
Behavioral Health Services



Adrianne Keys  
Director of  
SSA/Waiver Services



Sharon Richmond  
Director of  
Community Support Services



Scott Brown  
Community Employment  
Program Coordinator



Megan Davidson  
Principal of the  
Wildey School



Arley Hammons  
Director of  
Early Childhood Services



Lisa Davis  
Director of  
Community Relations

# Good Fortune Awards

Each year, the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities hosts the Good Fortune Recognition Dinner to honor various people who do great things for the people and families we serve. In 2024, the event took place at Norlyn Manor in Batavia on October 3. There were over 175 guests who attended, and it was our "good fortune" to recognize them for the great services they delivered as providers, direct support professionals, self advocates, friends, volunteers, and staff.



## *2024 Award Recipients*

### *Provider of the Year*

Peggy Sulken, Independent Provider  
Sami Sunshine Center, Agency Provider

### *Self Advocate of the Year*

Lindsey Wright

### *Families Connected Advocacy Award*

Kellie Kiser and Clermont Family YMCA

### *Friends of DD Award*

The Madden Family

### *Employer of the Year*

Walmart Supercenter Milford

### *Community Leaders of the Year*

Congressman Brad Wenstrup  
Steve Leahy, Clermont County Sheriff

### *Triumph Staff Award*

Sandra Stanford, Wildey School Physical Therapist



# Business Operations

*The Business Operations Department provides several key functions to the agency: fiscal operations, information technology, risk management and safety, human resources, administrative quality and compliance, facilities management, and transportation management.*

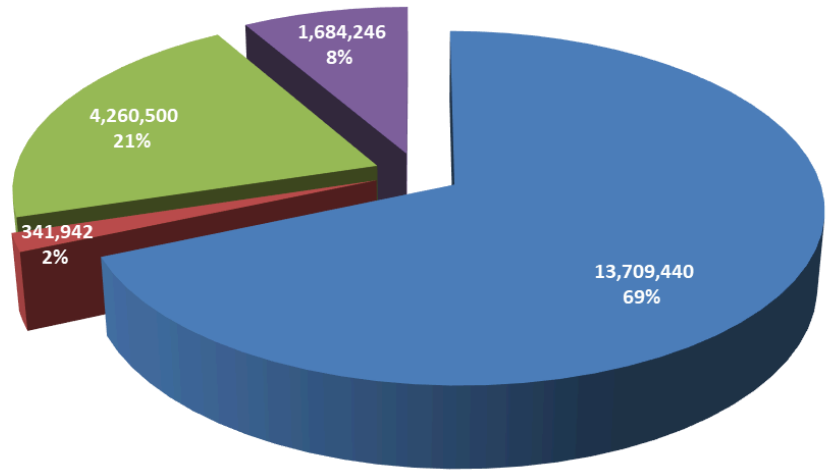
## 2024 Highlights:

- Lorry Nearon retired, ending 30+ years of service to Clermont DD. Over the years, Lorry worked in the Wildey School Program, Adult Services, and Facilities/Maintenance.
- Held Finance Committee meetings and Facilities Committee meetings with members of the Board for updates on our financial status, facility projects, maintenance needs, and current/future projects.
- Financial discussions with staff began in the third quarter of 2024, to update employees on our current financial situation, the financial forecast for the coming years, and information about levies.
- The Wildey School courtyard went through many improvements in 2024 thanks to various grants. This included blacktopping surfaces and new equipment additions.
- A security and safety audit was conducted for the entire Wildey Center in 2024. This audit identified areas needing attention to increase the safety and security of the interior and exterior of the building. Minor adjustments were made and work with the Clermont County Sheriff's Office has made the campus more secure for the future.
- The Facilities Supervisor worked with Community Support Services to purchase and retrofit a small trailer that is now a Mobile Changing Station that can be used at any festival or event in the Southwest Ohio area. This was purchased using ARPA grant funding.

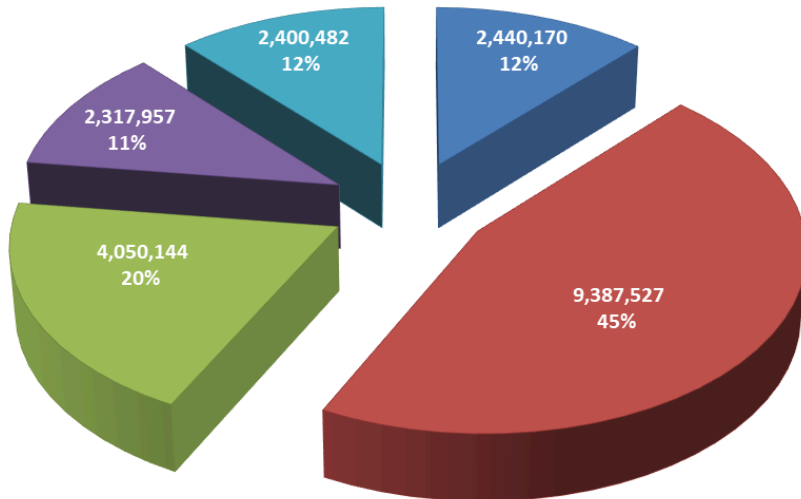


# Revenue & Expenses

**2024 Revenue**  
**\$19,996,128**



■ Local ■ Federal ■ State ■ Other



**2024 Expenses**  
**\$20,596,280**

■ Adult ■ Service & Support ■ Community Services ■ Early Intervention ■ School Age





# Community Employment Services

In 2024, we made the decision to close the Community Employment Services Department. After many years of assisting people with developmental disabilities to work on developing employment in the community, we ended on a high note! We continued to develop jobs in the community for the people we served. It was decided the Employment Navigator would stay on at Clermont DD, to assist those who are interested in obtaining community employment and to connect them with providers in the community such as Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

On December 3, we held a HUGE party for those currently employed, and for individuals who have retired but still receive services at Clermont DD. We also invited former staff to attend. The event was held at Crossroads East Side and at least 75 people enjoyed reminiscing throughout the evening. It was a perfect way to say goodbye!

## 2024 Highlights:

- There were 11 placements made in 2024.
- Job developments continued in 40+ businesses across the Greater Cincinnati area. This included Big Lots, Frisch's, Jungle Jim's, Kroger, Mercy Anderson Hospital, many factory positions, Meijer, Batavia Care Center, Beltera Racino, RJ Cinemas, to name a few.
- We implemented the last Summer Youth Work Exploration program for 13 students (ages 14-24). Worksite locations were Tractor Supply Milford and the Wildey Center.
- Scott Brown, Program Coordinator, and Pattie Doss, Administrative Assistant, officially retired December 31 after 50+ combined years at Clermont DD.



# Behavioral Health Services

The Behavioral Health Team held steady in 2024, processing a total of 111 individual referrals for Behavior Support, Mental Health, and CITE services, through direct service and support, consultation, grant funding, and referral processes. As is often the case, many of the individuals we serve have intense needs and received more than one service, resulting in 500+ service responses for more than 250 individuals.

## **Below is our 2024 service and utilization analysis:**

- Behavior Support: 167 individuals served.
- CITE Services: 54 referrals, 84 individuals served.
- Grant-Funded Programs for multi-system youth:
  - o Compassion Collaborative (SFY24): 50 total youth (Clermont-35 and Hamilton-15).
  - o Resilience Project (SFY24): 19 youth.
  - o Galperin Autism Consulting (CY24): 35 individuals (Clermont-21 and Hamilton-14).
- Mental Health supports: 32 individuals.
- GOT Respite: 9 individuals.
- Training and support groups, including SURE refreshers, Internet Safety, Trauma-Informed Care, Life Skills, Behavior Concepts, De-escalation/Crisis Response, and Resilience and Behavior Support Strategies:
  - o Initial SURE Training: 10 sessions - 40 new employees, partner agency staff and caregivers.
  - o Personal Protection Trainings: 3 sessions - 7 caregivers trained.
  - o SURE Refreshers: 4 sessions - SSA Departments, EI Department, Employment Services Department, BH Department, Investigations Department- 90 attendees.
  - o Basketball is Life (Life skills training): 18 sessions (18 different attendees) 201 total attendance (pictured below).
  - o A Swiftie Life (Peer connection and self-regulation): 5 individuals plus their staff, 7 total sessions).
  - o Clermont County CIT training: 1 session - 24 attendees.
  - o Wildey School PD training: 3 sessions - 31 attendees.
  - o 46 separate sessions, 398 attendees in total (NOT included in our unique number of individuals served).

Much of these efforts involved not only working with individuals, but supporting their families & providers, as well as cross-system collaborations with other agencies and programs such as Clermont County Children Services, Family & Children First Council, Hamilton County DDS, Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board, Child Focus, Inc., Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, Pressley Ridge, and SWOCOG. We have worked extremely hard to build and maintain relationships with our community partners.





## GRANT FUNDING

This year we continued our success in obtaining grant funding for services and support for Clermont County DD and collaborating agencies. On behalf of Clermont DD, the Behavioral Health Services Dept. applied, received, and managed \$396,271 in grant/subsidy funds for SFY/CYs 2024.

- Strong Families, Safe Communities (\$211,831/year) and the DODD KFT funds (\$99,840/year) for a bi-annual funding cycle through SFY25. We added Key Behavior to our team of providers for BCBA (behavior analyst) services.
- DODD Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) ARPA funds (\$84,600): mechanized access and distribution of HCBS/ARPA grant funding to 92+ plus individuals as well as cross-dept collaboration to purchase playground equipment, walking track enhancements and Mobile Changing Station. Once our final report is complete, we will provide a total breakdown of materials and activities purchased with these funds.

### Other successes of the year included:

- Prepared and supported the agency in our transition from Sanctuary and the Resilience Team to our Trauma-Informed Care 2025 Plan.
- Conducted agency-wide respite analysis to identify utilization and expenses.
- Strategic Planning – designed assessment tool and collected baseline data for agency Goals and Objectives; developed logic models to identify desired outcomes and action steps.
- Supported 2 University of Cincinnati social work interns for a total of 656 service hours at Clermont DD.



# Early Childhood Services

Early Intervention (EI) Services are provided by the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities for children under the age of three. This program follows rules from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and from Part C. of I.D.E.A. The overarching goal of Early Intervention is to increase a family's competence and confidence in helping their child to learn and grow.

The Early Childhood Program operated under or coordinated by Clermont DD in 2024 were:

- *Early Intervention Service Coordination – System of the coordination and implementation of services for children birth to three.*
- *Early Intervention Services- Specialized services for children under the age of three with developmental delay, disability, or diagnosed medical or physical condition.*
- *Early Intervention Hearing Services- Services for children birth to three identified with hearing loss and their families. In 2023, Hearing Services worked with twelve counties: Adams, Auglaize, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland, Van Wert and Warren.*

## 2024 Highlights:

- Ohio Department of Children and Youth is up and running.
- Received 530 program referrals.
- Completed 400 evaluations.
- No waitlist.
- 295 served as of 12/31/2024.
- Reached 100% target for compliance indicators.
- Continued a hybrid model of services.
- COS Training with our state consultant, Lindsey Jay.
- Staff submitted great success stories each month.
- Completed several outreach activities.
- We held our first EI Retreat.

The state-generated family survey results brought in an overwhelmingly-positive response from families served. Below are some comments made from the families who completed the survey:

*"Everyone we have worked with through Early Intervention has always believed in my daughter and her abilities. Even in the past when doctors were being negative, everyone at Early Intervention was so supportive and saw her potential. It made a huge difference for us during the time when we heard so much negativity. I can't emphasize enough how important that was for us and for her."*

*"Our therapist works so well with our son and has helped us understand better his needs and how to help him."*

*"I just really appreciate everything this organization does. My son doesn't like going to Dr appointments as he has so many of them, having one appointment at the comfort of our home and with such wonderful therapists is just amazing."*

*"Our provider is awesome. Our son loves her. Always patient. Never felt judged. She includes all other kids while still focused on our son. She's been a blessing."*





## Areas of Oversight:

- *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Ongoing Support and monitoring of all components of the Implementation of Part C Services. This includes IFSP outcomes, transition, and evaluation and assessment, per DODD requirements.*
- *Local Family and Children First Council: Monthly meetings and monthly reports submitted to the council so they can see the data that is being collected and the work that is being done in our program.*

## Our Staff

Arley Hammons- Director of Early Childhood Services/EISC Contract Manager  
Tiffany Regenstein- EISC Supervisor  
Angie Dunaway- El Clerk

Kiley Larios- Developmental Specialist/Hearing Specialist  
Robin Lowe- Developmental Specialist  
Katie Mills- Developmental Specialist  
Tracy Schaffer- Developmental Specialist

Kathy Herriott- Physical Therapist  
Leslie Long- Physical Therapist

Sharon Antunes- Speech Therapist  
Sharon Fowler- Speech Therapist  
Marla Kizer- Speech Therapist  
Layne Nyland- Speech Therapist

Heidi King- Occupational Therapist  
Lauren Kohler- Occupational Therapist



# Thomas A. Willey School

The Thomas A. Willey School is a public separate school through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Our school is located within the Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities facility.

The Thomas A. Willey School partners with local school districts in Clermont County and beyond to provide specially-designed instruction for students as Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams see fit. When an educational placement at Thomas A. Willey is deemed appropriate by the student's IEP team, the school district of residence is responsible for 100% of the cost to educate the student as well as providing specialized transportation.

This school program provides specially-designed instruction to students impacted with disabilities as young as kindergarten and all through a student's 22 year in some cases. Students are placed in classrooms based on age. Each classroom does not exceed a 60-month age range as required by ODE. All of our students participate in Ohio's Standards Extended and consist of learners in the lowest 1% in a district's public school system, allowing them to participate in the alternative state assessment based on criteria set by the state, and agreed upon by the IEP team.

## 2024 Highlights:

- Worked with LEAD Clermont members to make cards in February.
- Built a new sensory room with donated funds from the Madden Family (dedicated in June).
- Started PBIS curriculum (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) with Hallway and Cafeteria Lesson Plans.
- Enjoyed fun and exciting monthly activities planned by classrooms including a Snowball Dance, Glow Party, and VIP Party (each student invited two very important people to enjoy punch and refreshments).
- Restarted the Clermont County Sheriff's Office vs. Willey Comets Basketball Game on April 19.
- Students in the vocational class worked in a variety of community businesses including 513 Tacos, Fuego Mexicana Cantina, and Impacting Tomorrow.
- Held successful events for Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-11.
- Welcomed a new teacher, Sandra Kirschner, and a new Occupational Therapist, Stacey Dance, to the Willey faculty team.
- Four students graduated and entered a new chapter in their lives.





- Held retirement parties for two staff: Cindy, who was an assistant who worked in the kitchen and various other areas for many years, and Sharon who was employed by the Clermont County Educational Service Center.
- Scheduled Meet-Up Walks to help students stay engaged throughout the long summer months.
- Repaved the courtyard playground, landscape, and hung a sunshade so students could get out of the heat while enjoying the great outdoors.
- Held an Open House for the new school year on August 13 prior to the first day on August 15.
- Welcomed five new students for the 2024-25 school year.
- Congratulated Physical Therapist Sandra Stanford who received the 2024 Triumph Staff Award at the Good Fortune Dinner.
- Held an inclusive craft show in October; 40 vendors and 225 shoppers attended.
- Presented a successful Veterans Program with help from the Clermont Northeastern School District's ROTC program.



# Community Support Services

The Community Support Services Department has a community integration team of Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) who help support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by determining eligibility, facilitating assessments to determine service needs, and identifying available resources. Resources that are considered include Family Support Services, Private Insurance, Medicaid Cards, other public funds, personal assets, and natural supports. Efficient utilization of available resources is necessary to maximize the number of individuals who can be supported while balancing our fiscal accountability to taxpayers who make these services and supports possible. Another duty of the Community Support Services Department is to provide support and technical assistance to Agency and Independent Providers. The Provider Liaison engages providers and networks to provide support in the certification process, development of needed paperwork, compliance, billing, training, operations, and culture.

## 2024 Highlights:

- 475 people participated in the Initial Intake Process in 2024.
- 150 people were determined eligible for Clermont DD services.
- 156 people were eligible to go through the redetermination process.
- Created newsletters for independent and agency providers to share information and keep the lines of communication open.
- Reappointed to the Clermont County Housing Authority Committee by the Clermont County Commissioners.
- Participated in an all-professions job fair at Crossroads East Side to assist with finding direct support professionals for agency providers, as well as finding those who wish to work as independent providers.
- Received funds from the ARPA Grant to purchase a small trailer to create a mobile changing unit that can be borrowed by festivals and individuals in the Southwest Ohio region (pictured below).





- Held the second annual Red, White, and Bloom into Independence vendor and technology fair on July 17.
- Worked with other Clermont DD Departments to add additional resources to the Tech Room at Wildey. This moved to the Wildey School Wing in the summer to prepare a Smart Apartment for the Red, White, and Bloom event in July. Components were available all year long in the Provider Liaison's office.
- Planned activities for Direct Support Professionals Awareness Week in September.
- Laid a plaque in front of a tree that was previously planted in honor of former Coral Kern, a Community Support Services Administrative Assistant who passed away after a short illness.
- Began working with Council on Aging to address transportation challenges and Clermont County Metropolitan Housing Authority to address housing issues.
- We said goodbye to Director Sharon Richmond on December 31. Sharon spent 45+ years at Clermont DD and will be missed.
- We welcomed Elizabeth Moran as the new Director of Community Support Services, who will begin her new position on January 1, 2025. Elizabeth has been employed at Clermont DD for many years and stepped easily into the director role.
- With the closing of Community Employment Services, the Employment Navigator moved to the Community Support Services Department in 2025.



**CELEBRATING  
DIRECT SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS WEEK  
SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2025**



**THANK  
YOU**





# Service & Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration Department assists individuals and their families to choose services that will best meet their needs within a given budget. A Service and Support Administrator (SSA) is assigned to individuals receiving Medicaid waiver services to help coordinate their services. The SSA helps individuals and others close to them create a service plan based on their needs and goals. The service plan identifies each service the individual will receive along with the name of the service provider they have chosen. Services may include day services, community employment, residential supports, self advocacy, community activities, and transportation. The SSA can help the individual or family access information about service options and available service providers. SSAs are responsible for writing the plan, any updates to the plan, and getting the written plan to the individual, guardian or family and all service providers in a timely manner. The SSA maintains contact with the individual, family and providers throughout the year to ensure that services are delivered according to the plan. The plan may be changed or adjusted at any time and is reviewed at least annually.

## 2024 Highlights:

- There were 156 Waiting List Referrals completed throughout the year.
- SSAs were trained in many areas throughout the year including Quality Assurance, Brittco, UCEDD, waiver billing and PAWS.
- Welcomed a new SSA Supervisor, bringing the number of supervisors to three.
- Hired two SSA Assistants who will serve clerical roles and assist with monitoring when needed.
- Assisted people to move from Southwest Ohio Developmental Center, found providers for those who had been searching for a long time, and watched Shared Living take on a whole new life in our county.
- Obtained funding from the ARPA Grant to assist 22 individuals to make purchases that opened new worlds for them, including: a weekly pass for the Clermont County Fair, Reds Game tickets, B and B Riverboat Cruises, Iron Men Conference, Comicon Passes, as well as memberships to the Zoo, Cincinnati Nature Center, YMCA, Newport Aquarium, and Kings Island.
- The Medicaid Team played a key role in Waiver enrollments and with transfers for individuals moving into our county.





- Held a “staff crafting day” to make cards that were delivered to individuals living at developmental centers in Ohio as well as a local nursing facility.
- Met with several providers at the end of the year, to assist them to sign up to be a provider of services in Clermont County.
- The Medicaid Team ensured services were authorized for individuals and families, and assisted them to make sure Medicaid was maintained when there were concerns.
- A Thankful Brunch was created by Brittney Meguire, Medicaid Manager, and organized by many helpers from the SSA Department at Thanksgiving; food was prepared by managers and directors for staff to enjoy.
- Collected gifts at the holidays and prepared them for the individuals and families who received them.

### **A Few Thoughts From Satisfaction Surveys:**

- “Our SSA is doing a wonderful job. If I need her, she will get in touch with me and solve the situation.”
- “Happy to have good communication and getting things done in a great, timely manner.”
- “Thanks to SSA temporarily covering...all of CCDD services are wonderful.”
- “Our SSA has done a wonderful job at making sure [our daughter] is receiving the services she needs. We appreciate our SSA and the Board of DD!”
- “We appreciate [our SSA] assistance. He understands my daughter’s need very well!”
- “My waiver services allow me to live my life my way, and I am thankful for that.”





# Aktion Club

The Aktion Club of Clermont County, Ohio is a subgroup of the Kiwanis Club of the East Fork Region. The club is made up of self advocates who are truly making an impact in their community.

In 2024, they held monthly meetings that featured visitors from various organizations, they recruited new members, volunteered in the community, and held two fundraisers. It was a great year with a lot of fun and learning!

## 2024 Highlights:

- Held two fundraisers in 2024: one at Chipotle, raising \$350 and a flower fundraiser, which raised \$544.
- Participated in Abilities at Bat with the Cincinnati Reds and other disability nonprofits from the Cincinnati area.
- Celebrated Aktion Club Awareness Week March 4-9 by packing food packs for Lighthouse Youth Services in Cincinnati and working the Kiwanis/Park District Pancake Breakfast.
- Three advocates conducted Disability Awareness Training to 125+ Cub Scouts and their leaders at East Fork State Park on June 14. This included presentations from each self advocate during lunch and then disability-related activities to help the children understand what it was like to have a disability.
- Two individuals participated in Project STIR Training in Miamisburg, Ohio in June. STIR stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility and was presented by the Ohio Self Determination Association.
- New officers were elected at the July meeting: Ethan Stuempfle, President; Scott Baker, Vice President; Abby Minardi, Secretary; Maggie McManus, Treasurer.
- Two self advocates participated in Aktion Club's Leadership and Advocacy Day on July 20 in Dublin, Ohio.
- Lindsey Wright was awarded Self Advocate of the Year at the Good Fortune Dinner.
- Two individuals participated in the Synergy Conference in Sandusky October 2-4.
- President Ethan Stuempfle was asked to participate in a statewide Zoom meeting between Ohio Aktion Clubs and We Thrive Together to represent Clermont DD and self advocacy.
- Ryan Jewett participated in the Batavia Rotary Spaghetti Dinner Vendor Fair, selling his handcrafted wooden pens.
- Donated \$400 to be used to purchase presents from The Giving Tree at Clermont DD.
- Six self advocates shopped for The Giving Tree presents in December.
- Cleaned and restocked the Kiwanis Little Libraries at the Domestic Relations Court and New Richmond Laundromat.
- We thanked Amber Ramsey and Karley Holcombe for their contributions to our Aktion Club during our holiday party; both ladies were leaving the group but will still be welcome to stop by for a visit!



# Community Relations

*The Communications and Community Relations Department has four main areas that help tie the Clermont DD agency to the community. These areas are press/media relations, volunteer coordination, community activities, and fundraisers/events/awareness activities. Community Relations staff also serve as advisors for the Aktion Club self advocacy group.*

## **2024 Highlights:**

- Activities such as Open Bowling, Lunch and Dinner on the Road, Movies, and Dances continued to be well attended.
- Partnered with OSU to offer Healthy Cooking Classes throughout the year.
- Continued to participate in the Clermont County Safety Net Alliance.
- Helped build the new Ohio Safety Net Alliance.
- Many volunteers spent time with us this year including college students who interned with Behavioral Health Services, members of American Legions and Auxiliaries, and church members.
- Held a Safety Class for individuals to learn how to stay safe in the community, as well as make their home environment safe.
- Created a comprehensive calendar of events for DD Awareness Month in March.
- Submitted three ads to Southwest Ohio Parent Magazine to spotlight services.
- Participated in the Deaf Streetlight Expo in March, Total Wellbeing Event in May, and many IPM Food Pantry events to build awareness about DD services in the community.
- Ten individuals participated in Advocacy and Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse on March 12.
- Participated in a Full Functional Flood Exercise with the Clermont County Emergency Management Agency on April 18 as part of our disaster preparedness process.
- Respectfully accepted a \$2,200 check from the Loveland American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary at their All-American Picnic on May 22. This money is used to support our activity program which includes events that take place at the Loveland American Legion.
- Attended an outreach event at Monroe Woods Apartments on July 18 for the Clermont Metropolitan Housing Authority.
- Hosted two booths at the Clermont County Fair this year (paging booth and informational booth).
- Scheduled 35 individuals and providers/parents to cover shifts at the Clermont DD Info Booth at the Fair.
- Helped plan the "Day in the Ring" event on July 24 during the Clermont County Fair for 25 individuals to partner with a 4-H or FFA member to show their animal in the ring. This year's focus was on cows, goats, sheep, chickens, and rabbits.
- Attended the Thomaston Woods Apartment "Summer Blast" on July 24 to distribute resources and information about Clermont DD.





- Assisted the Aktion Club with events throughout the year including meetings, planning, and scheduling speakers.
- Participated in a back-to-school event at West Clermont on August 3.
- Hosted a booth at the Clermont Sheriff's National Night Out on August 3.
- Helped plan Direct Support Professionals Awareness Week activities in September.
- Supervised the Good Fortune Awards Dinner on October 3.
- Helped emcee the Safety Net Alliance Award event on September 10 at RJ Cinemas.
- Accepted commissioner proclamations for DD Awareness Month and National Disability Employment Awareness Month.
- Ten groups including several DD departments set up for the Haunted Drive-Thru on October 29; over 150 people attended.
- Attended the Child Focus Resource Fair on October 19.
- Attended the Williamsburg Music Boosters Trunk or Treat Vendor Fair on October 27.
- Attended Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center's Social Worker Resource Fair on November 13.
- Coordinated the Giving Tree, full of individuals and children who needed extra support during the holidays.
- Participated as active members of the Batavia Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club of the East Fork Region, Clermont County Community Services Board, Co-Chair of the Boy Scouts East Fork District, and a member of the Executive Committee for the Clermont County Safety Net Alliance.





# Community Partnerships

The Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to work with so many partners throughout the year. In 2024, the agencies below played a crucial role in the lives of the individuals served at Clermont DD.



**Department of  
Developmental  
Disabilities**



**Opportunities for  
Ohioans with  
Disabilities**



**CLERMONT  
COUNTY OHIO**  
CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES



**Clermont County  
MENTAL HEALTH  
& RECOVERY BOARD**



**Greater Cincinnati  
Behavioral  
Health Services**  
Our Work is Life Changing



**Early Childhood Coordinating Committee  
EC3  
Clermont County**

a subcommittee of Family & Children First Council



**PRESSLEY  
RIDGE**



**Rotary**  
Cincinnati Eastside Rotary Club



**Kiwanis**  
EAST FORK REGION

**Rotary**  
Club of Batavia, OH



# Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Service and Support/Waiver Administration**

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**Early Intervention Services**

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**Community Relations**

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**Business Operations**

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**Community Support Services**

Sharon Richmond, Director

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**School Age Services/Wilkey School**

Megan Davidson, Principal

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**Community Employment Services**

Scott Brown, Program Coordinator

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