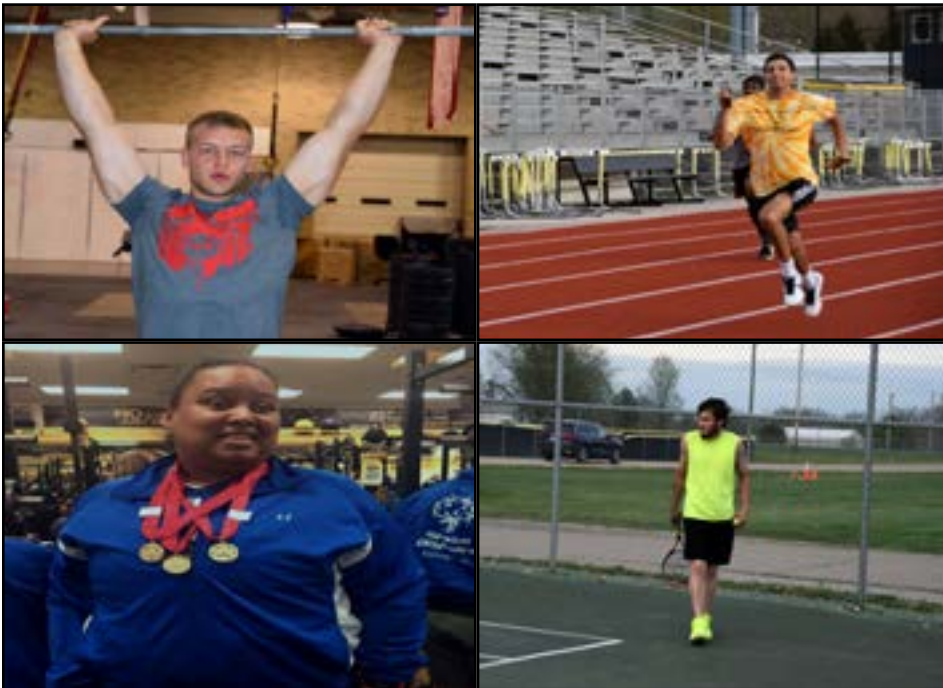


Momentum

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Congratulations Seattle athletes!

Licking County residents will be proud to know, our county was represented by four talented athletes at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington. Although by press time, the competition will have ended, LCBDD wanted to make sure you got the chance to get to know Garrett, Ian, Ali and Bryce!



Two athletes from the Licking County Special Olympics team and two from the West Licking Special Olympics team joined the rest of Team Ohio for six days of elite competition in Seattle, Washington. Held every four years, the USA games started in 2006. This year, more than 4,000 athletes from around the United States competed in 14 sports, cheered on by more than 70,000 spectators.

For all four local athletes, this was their first time competing

at such a high level.

Power lifting

Both members of Licking County Special Olympics, Ali Riddick and Garrett Ford took home gold medals in their divisions at the 2017 Ohio State games. They have been the top competitors at states for several years, said their coach John Wysocki.

When they found out they were bound for Seattle, Licking County Special

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A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



I recently attended the NASDDDS Mid-Year Conference, which offered sessions full of information from different states, regarding the vast amount of change and progress that has occurred in the DD system over the past years.

It is exciting to know that in many ways, Ohio is making significant progress.

One of the focal points of the conference was on the use of technology. Recently I was asked to speak at the signing of the executive order by Governor Kasich naming Ohio a "Technology First" State. This monumental event demonstrates that Ohio is committed to using non-traditional services that have been proven to increase opportunities, empower and create more independence for the people that we serve.

We continue to shift from requiring a person to adapt to a pre-determined support structure to offering an array of services that are flexible to meet each person's needs. We have moved away from a one-size-fits-all model to a very person-centered approach.

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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Aug. 15, Sept. 18, Oct. 17:** LCBDD Board Meeting, Suite B2 of the Newark Commerce Center, 195 Union Street, Newark, Ohio.
- **Aug. 4-11:** Hartford Independent Fair! Come visit our booth under the grandstand in the County Government area, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton, Ohio.

LCBDD News

Superintendent participates in announcement of Ohio's Technology First Initiative

From smart phones and tablets to Alexa and Google Assistant, technology has become a resource that many take for granted.

But for people with developmental disabilities, these advances can mean more independence and opportunities to connect.

For the past few years LCBDD has worked to connect the people it supports with assistive technology that can help meet their goals.

On May 24, LCBDD Superintendent Jason Umstot was able to share some of the ways technology has helped county residents, before Governor John Kasich signed an executive order, declaring Ohio a Technology First state.

Under the Technology First initiative, the state and county boards will work together to make sure technology is one of the first options offered during the service planning process, said John Martin, director of DODD.

Umstot cont.

This progress continues to ring true as we have experienced a growth in employment, an increase in services that are inclusive and not segregated, and a real focus on what is important to and for the person receiving the supports.

I also had the great opportunity to present at the OACB conference in May alongside County Commissioner Duane Flowers. The panel

Licking County has been a leader in informing families about technology and sharing examples of success, Martin said.

Technology can be used to meet a variety of needs, Umstot said.

Some people use devices to monitor their stoves or other appliances. Smart speakers can be used to control lights or offer reminders. Simple apps on phones and tablets can make a difference for those who need help with organization.

"It is not a one-size-fits-all approach so the technology being used is extremely customizable," Umstot said.

Technology First is not a "technology only" approach

demonstrated how good working relationships with our local leaders promote reciprocal growth and stronger communities.

In our county, we have great-working relationships, which help build on our progress.

When we all work together, outcomes and experiences will benefit from the flexibility and additional opportunities.

With great gratitude, I have



and no device will ever replace human interaction, Umstot said. But technology can help people receive direct care when they need it, without solely relying on others.

"We have seen changes where people become driven to manage their lives, instead of their lives being managed," he said. "It's exciting to be in a state that thinks outside of the box, providing valuable options Ohioans with developmental disabilities need and deserve."

so much appreciation for the LCBDD staff, the Licking County providers, our local leaders and the trust the people we support and their guardians have in us to always do our best.

Working together truly leads to better outcomes.

Contact Superintendent/CEO Jason L. Umstot by calling 740-349-6588 or email: Jason.Umstot@lcountydd.org.



To Pam Werner:

She remodeled her screened-in patio to create an accessible apartment for her son. This was a huge financial commitment. Kudos to Pam for taking on this project in the interest of her son's independence.

–Teresa Whipkey

Provider support coordinator

Dave Vaughn and others at Midwest Health Services:

Thank you for the genuine care, patience and understanding you have emphasized working with an individual we support. You've gone above and beyond. Your commitment to working with others is admirable and well respected. It has been a pleasure working with you, and it's a testament to showing how working together as a team can really make a difference! Much appreciated.

–Amanda Vozzella

Service coordinator

To Service Coordinator

Amanda Vozzella:

During a meeting, a provider shared their gratitude to her for always "offering solutions and helping us." This speaks to the type of giving, helpful person

We can't do our job without the support of the community! LCBDD staff members are using this space to express our gratitude to providers and members of the community who have gone above and beyond.

she is.

–Brandi Body

DSP eligibility specialist

To Service Coordinator

Brittany Park:

Thank you for your continued recognition of the staff at LICCO. The handwritten notes of appreciation you send are meaningful and sources of pride for the DSPs. I am incredibly grateful for your thoughtfulness.

–Angie Finck

Director of provider relations

To Marissa Vegeto from ComCare, Sarah Dichler from PALS, Diana Corbin, Dunaway Wilson, Christine Ellingsworth and Tara Smith from ViaQuest:

For assisting during an emergency and having a positive attitude.

–Abby Spear

Director of service coordination

To Paula Gostrue at the Gathering Place:

She is always on top of things but most importantly she is *real*, taking time to truly know her clients and forming a real lasting relationship with them. She is truly the "wizard behind the curtain."

To Debbie with the Fuse Network:

She has been a true direct support professional – not just doing things for her clients

because it's her job, but programming with her clients and prompting self-sufficient results. Deb works with her clients and over time the outcomes that they work on are truly met in a person centered way. In the end something is always learned. Deb is a true leader as she is willing to also be a learner.

–Brittany Park

Service coordinator

To Jessica Pike at CSS:

For going above and beyond to complete training beyond the requirements of her job. Jessica strives to be the best support she can be. She encourages others to aim high as well. Thanks Jessica!

–Teresa Whipkey

Provider support coordinator

To On the Go:

They have been doing a wonderful job! Michael recently started participating in their activities and he has had wonderful opportunities to go to car shows, concerts, sporting events and more. We've added extra days because he is having such a great time. The staff is very efficient and provides immediate communication.

They are very friendly, outgoing and positive.

–Marlene Spring and Michael Radabaugh

Front page cont.

Olympics helped raise funds to get them to the west coast.

Numerous civic organizations and local businesses donated and the team hosted a power lifting competition to raise additional funds.



Garrett Ford

In the months leading up to the Seattle games, Garrett worked to improve his technique – working out with Coach Wysocki and lifting at the Old School Gym. His goal was to lift 525 pounds in his dead lift and at least 315 pounds in his bench press.

“I want to set more records and get as big as I can,” he said.

As he prepared for the Games, Garrett, of Pataskala, kept busy at his job at Rural King, where he often uses his strength to load heavy items.

Ali Riddick

Ali Riddick began power lifting

at a free bi-monthly class at CrossFit Newark.

After bringing home medals in power lifting and bench press at the state Special Olympic games, Ali was surprised and excited to be chosen to represent Team Ohio in Seattle.

To prepare, she worked out once a week and attended CrossFit classes in Newark.

“My goal is to achieve a new personal best in the bench press and dead lift,” she said.

When she isn’t power lifting, Ali attends Columbus State Community College through the PALS

program where she’s majoring in sport and exercise science. She enjoys swimming, reading and watching movies.

Track

Ian Bussey

When he found out he had qualified to run in Seattle, Ian Bussey knew he had a challenge in front of him.

He began training daily to run the 200 meter dash and 100 meter dash and anchor the 4 by 100 relay.

Ian, of Newark, is a member of the West Licking Warriors Special Olympics team. When he’s not running, Ian works

at the Moo Moo Car Wash in Heath and is an avid storm chaser.

He’s taken more than 12 hours of storm spotter training and his vehicle is equipped with safety gear and a weather station to monitor storm conditions. He’s trained to alert the National Weather Service of what he’s seeing on the ground.

He dedicated his races to his support system.

“I’m not only doing it for me, but for my parents and my girlfriend,” he said.

Tennis

Bryce Hartley

About five years ago, Bryce Hartley decided he was ready to switch from track to a different sport and picked up a tennis racket.

Since then, the self-described “natural athlete” has only lost one match.

A member of the West Licking Warriors Special Olympics team, he was excited to bring his skills to Seattle.

“Just to win, that’s my goal,” he said.

When he’s not working on his tennis game, he works for the landscaping company Detail Dedicated and is preparing for his 2019 wedding.

Momentum is created and edited by LCBDD Public Information Officer Anna Jeffries.

If you have ideas for future publications, or would like to get on our mailing list and receive this electronically, contact Anna at 740-322-6911 or anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) has been proudly funding services and supporting people with developmental disabilities for more than 50 years.

LCBDD can be reached by calling 740-349-6588 or by visiting our website, lcountydd.org.

Follow us on social media using @LCOUNTYDD. If you are a family member of someone we support, don’t hesitate to visit our family support page by searching “LCOUNTYDD Families” on Facebook.