

## Meet Alex Corwin!

### LCBDD's new Superintendent/CEO brings years of DD experience

Alex Corwin will begin his new role – as Superintendent/CEO of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities – on Oct. 27. But his experience in the DD field started when he was a child.

His mother worked as a home healthcare aide, caring for a woman with multiple amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Getting to know her as a grandmother-figure, while also seeing the progression of her disease, shaped his perspective. More lessons came when his mother began working at a sheltered workshop in Williams County, as well as providing in-home respite. Alex would spend his summer break at the workshop, getting to know the people who received services. Over the years, they became more than people who worked with his mom or spent time at his house. They

were friends who shared his interests – a football fan, an amazing artist, two ladies who always joked with him and ‘gave him a hard time.’ Those authentic relationships stayed with him.

“I saw the wonderful talents and the value and the passion that people with disabilities had,” he said.

At Bowling Green State University, Alex continued his journey, working as a residential aide at an Intermediate Care Facility, where he took people swimming, to baseball games and other fun community events.

As his career path continued to unfold – helping students explore careers during high school, running an adult day service, working as a service coordinator and supervisor at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and working for the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) – a central belief guided his work.

“If we don’t limit (people with disabilities) from a service or planning perspective and really just support them, they

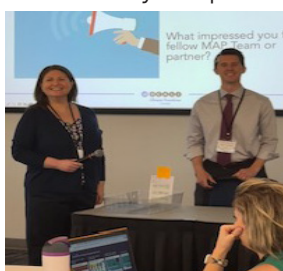


can accomplish anything,” he said. Over time, Alex developed an interest in working with young people – and their families – during their transition from school to adult life. At ODEW, he oversaw a partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), helping them focus on younger students and incorporate transition planning into school settings.

It was very fulfilling to see two different agencies agree on a shared narrative and work together to work toward the same goal, he said. His work supporting students in their journeys continued in his role as program director for OCAL’s Lifespan Transitions Center. Not only was he able to support the creation of training and modules but he strengthened relationships with a variety of state agencies, including county boards, OOD, ODEW and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

“I’ve had this really great journey of

**Continued on page 4**



## SAVE THE DATE

**4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2**

**Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

**116 N. 22nd St. in Newark**

**Join us for a community open house to meet our new Superintendent/CEO Alex Corwin. Light refreshments will be provided!**

## Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Nov. 12, Dec. 17, Jan. 21:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark.
- **4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2:** Community Open House for LCBDD's new Superintendent at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark.
- **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 12:** LCBDD will be closed for our annual Staff Development Day inservice.

## First Family Fall Festival was a success!

Thank you to everyone who attended our first ever Family Fall Festival at Freedom Park in Pataskala on Sept. 20! We hope everyone had a great time! Enjoy the photos below from the event and check out our Facebook page to see more!



### Congratulations DSP Award winners!

We would like to congratulate all the nominees recognized on Sept. 18 at our annual Provider Recognition event! We presented 10 outstanding providers with awards and celebrated the difference that our local providers make for the people we support –all with a swashbuckling pirate theme!

Congratulations to our award winners:

- **Horizon Award:** Lori Cartt from CSS Licking County and Rachella Jewell from PALS Chrysalis Health
- **Constellation Award:** Brittany Gray from Community Living Experiences, Inc. and Jennifer Cox from CSS
- **Soar Award:** April Sunkle from Center for Disability Services and Malia Withrow from NRH
- **Momentum Award:** Eddie Malcolm from Licking/Knox Goodwill and Kristy Gossett from The FUSE Network (LICCO)
- **Lunar Award:** Independent Providers John Stamper and Thomas Jardiah





## Shout Outs!

Shout out to **Empathy Care Services** for their assistance getting two people out to tour some local ADS centers after they expressed interest in meeting new people.

I would also like to give a shout out to **Independent Provider Lew Mitchell** for his assistance with helping someone completely rearrange his apartment so that he could pass his inspections to comply with fire codes. Lew helped him redecorate in a new way that he loved!

—Kennedy Wood  
Service Coordinator

**Independent HPC provider Robin Lane** is amazing! She assisted a person with getting some much needed home repairs that will enable them to continue living safely in their home. She's been a fierce advocate for another 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.*

dealing with multiple medical issues and has facilitated positive communication with the nursing company and medical providers. You rock, Robin!

—Jo Henthorne  
Service Coordinator Mentor

Shout out to the community partners and vendors who attended our Family Fall Festival in Pataskala! **Better Together Playnasium, Momentum Refresh, Y on the Fly, Pataskala Library, Licking Heights Pathfinders Preschool, Behavioral Healthcare Partners' mobile unit, the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio, Slater Family Farms, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Learning 4 Life Farm, Licking Memorial Health Systems, Face Painter Jennifer Thorn, Licking County Sheriff's Office and Stella the therapy dog, West Licking Joint Fire District, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Grilled Cheese Gangsters, Queen's Table, and Manden Ice Cream.**

Shout out to **Learning 4 Life Farm** for inviting us to attend their fall festival on the farm!

Shout out to the **Johnstown PTO** for inviting us to attend the Homecoming Festival at Chambers Stadium!

—Leann Shafer  
Community Outreach Coordinator

To **Peace United Methodist Church's Helping Hands** ministry for donating a hooyer lift for our accessible restroom at the Hartford Independent Fair. To **Ellinger Plumbing** for their wonderful assistance when we ran into plumbing issues at the fair. To **Lily Swearingen of LS Photography**, thank you for your amazing photography and your generosity.

To **LCSO Deputies Connor Shook and Brad May and the team at Ashcraft Machine and Supply** for helping with some awesome success stories of people we support.

To **Katie Richardson of Johnstown**, for making sure that a package that was incorrectly delivered made it back to the LCBDD office!

—Anna Jeffries  
Public Information Officer



**We would like to thank Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent Wendy Gorrell for being our Interim Superintendent during our recent leadership transition. Her leadership and the time she has spent supporting our county has been much appreciated!**

# Momentum Refresh is BACK!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and make plans knowing that there will be a fully accessible restroom – with a universal changing table with a hoist, and accessible toilet and sink – that will be available for anyone who wants to attend! Please help us share this far and wide, because we know that accessible restrooms makes a huge difference that goes far beyond the DD community. When events are more inclusive, our entire community benefits! Event information will also be posted on our website:

[lcountydd.org/momentum](http://lcountydd.org/momentum).

- **Pataskala Hometown Festival**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Oct. 19 at Foundation Park, 10255 McIntosh Road, Pataskala
- **Licking County Courthouse Lighting**, 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 28 on the Licking County Courthouse Square in Downtown Newark.
- **Olde Town Holiday Cookie Walk and Christmas Parade**, 3 to 6 p.m. Dec. 6, Main Street in Pataskala



## Alex Corwin cont.

watching people pursue their talents and be community members to the fullest extent and I know that can be accomplished for the people that county boards serve," he said.

In November of 2023, one of the trainings he facilitated led Alex to Licking County for the first time – to present on the importance of collaboration during transition.

"I was overwhelmingly impressed by the quality and knowledge of their (staff) and the structure of their departments," he said. "I walked away thinking, 'They are already doing great things.'"

That positive experience stayed with him and left him hoping for more opportunities to work together. When he found out there was an opening for a Superintendent/CEO, he was excited to apply.

"I was drawn to the overall high quality of work and commitment that the staff shows," he said. "They are putting people first and being creative in how they try to provide services and supports."

Alex said he's looking forward to getting to know community partners as well as people who receive services. **LCBDD will host a community open house, from 4:30 to 6:30**

**p.m. on Dec. 2 at the E.S. Weiant Center, to give them an opportunity to say hello.**

He's also hoping to attend community events and host listening sessions to find out what's important to families and community leaders. He's hoping some of his statewide experience can further enhance LCBDD's mission.

"I'd love to be able to add to the already great work that's happening and continue to make Licking County a place where people and families with disabilities feel really comfortable and confident living and receive support in a positive way."

*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 to receive this electronically, contact Anna at **740-322-6911** or [anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org](mailto: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](http://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.**