

Winter, 2017



Momentum

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Looking back, moving forward

LCBDD is celebrating 50 years in 2017

On Oct. 25, 1967, Ohio Governor James Rhodes picked up a pen and signed Amended Senate Bill 169 – legislation that not only created county boards of developmental disabilities in the state of Ohio, but allowed them to acquire funding and provide programming to residents with disabilities.

Three days earlier, on Oct. 22, 1967, Licking County celebrated another milestone in the DD field – the dedication of its new school building, the E.S. Weiant Center.

It's been nearly 50 years since those two historic events, which forever changed the way the Licking County community supported people with developmental disabilities. Over the last five decades, the

DD system has evolved significantly, causing numerous changes in the field.

Throughout the year 2017, the



The first Licking County Council for Retarded Children was founded in 1952 and included officers Eleanor Weiant, Katie Carter, Elizabeth Irwin and Cecil Johnson. *Source: LCBDD archives*

Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) will honor our past, reflect on changes that have been made and look to the future. We invite our community members to take

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A message from our
Superintendent Jason Umstot



It is such an honor to be celebrating the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities' 50th year of serving the citizens of our great county. Looking through our archives, we have certainly made a lot of progress.

As with any agency, there are always a few key people who worked diligently to build the foundation. For us, we owe our gratitude to Eleanor Weiant and Katie Carter.

Pioneers that were years ahead of their time, they had a clear vision and a strong mission.

I recently reviewed a presentation by Eleanor Weiant, a parent and a panel of Licking County teachers from 1960. All 11 pages featured words like "inclusion," "acceptance," "community," "education," "meaningful activities that have a real purpose," "experiences," "equality" and "always be proud." These words prompted the

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Upcoming events

- **March 1:** Applications for Project SEARCH are due. For more information, go to lcesc.org/ProjectSEARCHLickingMemorialHealthSystems.aspx.
- **4:45 to 6 p.m. March 15:** LCBDD Board Meeting, E.S. Weiant Center main conference room, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark, Ohio
- **4:45 to 6 p.m. April 19:** LCBDD Board Meeting, E.S. Weiant Center main conference room, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark, Ohio

LCBDD News

Early Intervention: New Name, Same Services

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) has been serving children and their families in various ways throughout its 50 year history.

known as "Early Intervention," sometimes shortened to "EI."

Help Me Grow is now being used specifically to describe the Ohio Department of Health's home visiting program.

We want you to know that

will remain the same.

For more information on these or any of the services provided to children through LCBDD please visit:

lcountydd.org/parentsupport.

OACB celebrates 50th anniversary statewide

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities is planning a yearlong campaign

**ALWAYS
THERE**
50 YEARS OHIO COUNTY BOARDS OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

that will celebrate the history and future of Ohio's county boards by sharing stories from around the state. Check out alwaysthereforohio.org for updates throughout the year.



Our dedicated Early Childhood team will continue to proudly provide consistent Early Intervention services to our county's youngest residents.

Services for the youngest of these children – from birth until they turn 3 – have been called a variety of names over time.

In the past, you may have heard these services referred to as "Help Me Grow." Those services, provided by LCBDD, will now simply be

although there is a new name, the services LCBDD provides



www.lcountydd.org



Shout Outs!

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Learn more at LCOUNTYDD.ORG

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.

To provider, Michael Hammond, LPN:

Thank you for helping a young man that we supported, who recently passed away, have the best quality of health and life! Michael was way more than a provider. He loved and cared for that young man and made him a part of his family.

–Sarah Quinn,
Service coordinator

To CSS, Comcare, ViaQuest, Midwest Health Services and GreanLeaf Job Training Sevices:

Thank you for being the first group of providers to sign up for email alerts for our new electronic Request for Provider

posting process!

–Ericka Haines
Administrative specialist

To Midwest Health Services:

Thank you for your willingness to assist with an emergency situation over the holidays!

–Kristen Morris
Adult team leader

Spotlight: Meet Kyle!

Kyle Gossett knows that when many people look at him, they only see his wheelchair.

He's hoping to change that, not only for himself but for others with disabilities.

"I feel like they just look at the chair and don't look at the person inside the chair," he said. "They automatically assume things. I want them to focus on me, not my physical disability."

Kyle, 22, is determined to make sure his voice is heard – and he's working on writing a book about his life with cerebral palsy. Although the project, titled "Kyle's Walk" is in the beginning stages, he is hoping it can be published one day.

"I want to maybe open people's eyes up a little bit," he

said.

A 2013 graduate of Newark High School, Kyle moved to Licking County when he was 12.

Since then, he's received support from the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"They've helped me with more things than I can count," he said. "I've got their number on speed dial."

He recently took a big step and moved out of his mother's home. He now lives



Kyle Gossett, 22, is writing a book about his experience living with cerebral palsy.

with a roommate and his service dog, Ramsey, in Heath.

To read an excerpt from Kyle's book as well as other success stories of the people supported by LCBDD, go to our website: Lcountydd.org.

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this journey with us as we dig into our archives to tell our story.

More than a decade before county boards were created, parents in Licking County were taking steps to support children with disabilities. They were led by Katie Carter, a county resident who wanted to ensure her son and other local children had more opportunities.

In 1952, the Licking County Council for Retarded Children was incorporated under the leadership of President Eleanor S. Weiant. One of their goals was to make sure children could learn and grow, without having to leave their homes and live in state institutions.

That year, the Starlight School was opened with one teacher and 12 students. Over the years, the school grew larger, with opportunities for more children and a community job training program.

The council transitioned to an advisory role and administrators took over the daily operations.

With the passage of the 169



Eleanor Weiant helps break ground on the E.S. Weiant Center in Aug. 1966.

Source: LCBDD archives

legislation, every county in Ohio was required to establish a board of developmental disabilities.

Umstot cont.

greater community to turn these concepts into action. I'm certain that both Mrs. Weiant and Mrs. Carter would be proud of the accomplishments that have been made over the years.

Heraditus said it best when he said, "The only thing constant is change." I've always accepted change as a way to improve our processes and beliefs. The field of DD services is no different. In the last 50 years, we've seen so much change,

Under the law, they were tasked to, "protect the rights of individuals and ensure the safe and equitable provision of services to eligible individuals and their families."

Things might look different then they did in 1967, but at LCBDD, our goal of supporting people remains the same.

Follow along with us as we celebrate this exciting anniversary by going to

lcountydd.org/

50th anniversary. There you'll find a more detailed look at our history over the last five decades.

yielding positive outcomes in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

I hope you enjoy this first installment of our newly named newsletter, which we call *Momentum*. This title describes the drive behind our actions, the dedication of our providers and the skills of the direct care workers. Thank you for your generous support over the past 50 years.

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

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 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.