

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Early Childhood: Supporting more families in new ways



**Lucy Conley, 3, began receiving Early Intervention shortly after turning 1. Diagnosed with congenital brain malformations, she has made huge strides and is now walking with a walker, talking and playing. Her mom, Susan, said having Early Childhood team members supporting Lucy in their Pataskala Home made a huge difference.**

**"We learned that just because we don't have the PT equipment Children's Hospital has, doesn't mean we can't work on things at home," she said. "Being able to support her in our home is what got us here."**

Over the past four years, LCBDD has seen steady growth. One driving factor in that increase has been the significant jump in referrals for Early Childhood services.

Locally, young children who are eligible receive Early Intervention (EI) until their third birthday and can continue to receive Early Childhood services until they turn 6. These evidence-based services are offered at no cost to families in their homes and communities

where children learn best.

Since 2016, the number of EI referrals has grown 33 percent and the number of eligible children who complete the process to receive those services has increased 10 percent.

For some families, their journey continues after Early Intervention with support from a developmental specialist until their child is 6. Their numbers have also increased 34 percent

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A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



Since 2007, the Licking County Sheriff's Office has been a member of Project Lifesaver International, offering this valuable service to county residents who need it.

Project Lifesaver monitors participating individuals who may at times wander away from supervision.

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities funds Project Lifesaver services for those with DD who are eligible for the program.

This service is especially valuable to parents of children who have a developmental disability who may be interested in exploring their surroundings, without understanding potential dangers.

If a participant gets lost, Project Lifesaver can help law enforcement and other public safety personnel to locate them quickly.

Not only has this program benefitted people we support, but also those

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## Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Feb. 19, March 18, April 15:** LCBDD Board Meeting, E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark, Ohio.
- **4 and 4:30 p.m. Feb. 27:** Online safety and avoiding scams. **1 and 1:30 p.m. March 24:** Beginning and Advanced eContent (Libby) These are FREE. Call 740-322-6911 to sign up. Held at the Newark Library, 101 W. Main St., Newark.
- **7 p.m. March 2:** Pataskala City Council meeting, 621 W. Broad St. Suite 1B, Pataskala.
- **6:30 p.m. March 3:** Johnstown Village Council meeting, 599 S. Main St., Johnstown.
- **10 a.m. March 4:** DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse. Event is at capacity but video options will be available at [ddohio.wordpress.com](http://ddohio.wordpress.com).
- **7 p.m. March 16:** Newark City Council meeting, 40 W. Main St., Newark.
- **7:30 p.m. March 16:** Heath City Council meeting, 1287 Hebron Road, Heath.

## LCBDD News

### DD Awareness Month events



As March approaches, county boards around the state are working to share success stories of people they support and highlight partnerships.

Licking County is no exception. Stay tuned for new billboards, radio ads and a new commercial, which will be aired on Spectrum channels and online.

We will also be donating a children’s book to every kindergarten classroom in Licking County and visiting local city council meetings to receive proclamations. Check

out the calendar above and join us!

The annual DD Awareness and Advocacy Day will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on March 4.

Licking County is always well represented at this event and advocates do a great job talking to legislators.

Although the event is at capacity, video options will be available. Keep checking [ddohio.wordpress.com](http://ddohio.wordpress.com) for updates.

### Library offers free tech classes



LCBDD and the Licking County Library are continuing to offer free technology classes to the community. Call Anna Jeffries at 740-322-6911 to sign up for

the following sessions at the downtown Newark branch:

- **Feb. 27**
  - 4 p.m. Online safety
  - 4:30 p.m. Avoiding scams
- **March 24**
  - 1 p.m. Beginning eContent (Libby)
  - 1:30 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced eContent (Libby)

### Congrats to Angie Finck!



If you pick up the recent edition of Licking County PROUD magazine, you’ll see our very own Director of Provider and Transition Supports, Angie Finck, recognized as the Licking County Chamber’s 2019 Employee of the Year. Congrats Angie!



## Shout Outs!

### **To Ashley Greene and Chris Wells from CSS:**

Thank you so much for all you have done to help a gentleman that we support live his dream. You truly understand the role of a DSP!

### **To Dickeys BBQ Pit and Donna Saalfield:**

Thank you for offering someone we support a chance to get hands-on experience in a job he is interested in.

### **To the Newark High School Wildcat Network:**

Thank you again for all you did to help create a video for Central Ohio Technical College. It turned out amazing! Thank you to **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** and the **Licking County Veterans' Service Commission** for also helping with the project.

### **To Licking County 4-H and its volunteers:**

Thank you for inviting us to Discover 4-H and welcoming us with open arms. We are looking forward to continuing to work together.

### **To Alyssa Pittman from CLE:**

Thank you for being willing to share your story with LCBDD and record a radio commercial about your experience.

*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 Trevor Mye from CSS:**

Thank you for being willing to share your story with LCBDD and be featured on a billboard.

### **To Deputy Karen Dunlap:**

Thank you for all you do to promote Project Lifesaver and thanks for being so accomodating with our billboard photo shoot.

### **To Granville Intermediate School:**

Thank you for reaching out to LCBDD and inviting us to come and speak to your fifth grade language arts students. Thank you for the kind thank you notes!

### **To Shawna Winterbotham, Natasha Grether, Cory Ryan and Zach Werner from PALS and Chandra Hottinger, Donald Boyd and Erin Daugherty from KICKS:**

Thank you for speaking to the fifth grade students at Granville Intermediate. You did an amazing job. Also thanks to Gary Lescalleet, Sarah Bolen, Diana Spain and Jordan Campbell for helping to coordinate the panels.

– Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

### **To Krista Paul from Green Leaf Job Training Services:**

Thank you for going the extra mile to make sure the people you coach are successful in their job. When things get tough, she is willing to put forth the extra effort

needed.

– Patricia Luning  
Service Coordinator

### **To Jami Cramer from CSS:**

Thank you for all the work you have put in to help a person on my caseload clean his apartment to pass inspection. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and it is greatly appreciated.

–Daryl Waterman  
Service Coordinator

### **To Living By Faith:**

Faith and her staff jumped right in on an emergency placement in October and have been so welcoming and caring to this person. There have been a lot of hurdles and adjustments and they have been very kind in helping the person and her aging mother adapt to this change, I can't thank them enough for going above and beyond.

–Megan Brush  
Service coordinator

### **To Jim Hoekstra:**

Thank you for the care you show in our community. You have been very open to taking on new renters and giving them a chance to be successful and independent.

### **To Regan Eveland of CDS:**

Regan has completed several courses in the Open Future Learning Resource, provided by the Licking County Board of DD. Way to go CDS and Regan!

–Teresa Whipkey  
Provider Support Coordinator



**Early childhood cont.**

over the past three years.

Although there are some aspects of this increase that have yet to be explained, population growth, a greater awareness of resources and an increase in the number of children who are exposed to drugs or are in foster care likely have contributed, said Caley Norton, LCBDD’s director of Early Childhood.

As caseloads continue to grow, LCBDD has worked hard to maintain its high standards of services, hiring new service coordinators and an additional developmental specialist to meet the demand.

“We are committed to providing outstanding services to young children because we know how important early interventions are,” said Jason Umstot, LCBDD superintendent.

“Our Early Childhood team is always busy but they really go above and beyond to support each child and their entire family.”

Starting in 2017, LCBDD has been assisting with the pilot of Project TREES, formally known as Tools and Resources for Engaging, Empowering and Supporting Families.

The project has inspired the Early Childhood team to focus on increasing parent participation to help them feel more connected to the process of supporting their child.

Parents are presented with a Save the Date card, listing the dates and times of Early Childhood team meetings. They have the option to attend a meeting in person, call in or video chat with the team about their child.

This is especially helpful for

families new to EI, as they help choose their primary service provider, Caley said.

After a year, parent participation has grown 18 percent.

In 2020, the team is focused on utilizing videos during team meetings to enhance their ability to coach parents and caregivers.

While parents are encouraged to attend in person or participate via phone, there are times when adding a video can really help the team understand a child’s development, because they can see it.

Using video allows the team to offer immediate suggestions, rather than caregivers having to wait until the next visit, Caley said.

“Our Early Childhood team is dedicated to using all our resources to make each family’s experience as effective and seamless as possible,” Jason said. “We want parents to be able to focus on their biggest priority – their child.”

**Did you know?** The Early Childhood team has a small adaptive equipment loan closet, so families can try items before purchasing. Contact your service coordinator or primary service provider for more info!

**Umstot cont.**

supported by the Licking County Aging Program.

We are grateful to Sheriff Randy Thorp and Deputy Karen Dunlap for their dedication to keeping vulnerable citizens of Licking County safe while at the same time provide parents and

caregivers with peace of mind should their loved one become lost.

Partnerships matter and we are so fortunate to be in such a caring county where leadership focuses on being proactive instead of reactive by participating in programs like Project Lifesaver.

**Information about Project Lifesaver can be found at [projectlifesaver.org](http://projectlifesaver.org) or by contacting Deputy Dunlap at the Licking County Sheriff’s Office.**

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