

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

LCBDD receives three-year DODD accreditation

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities has received a three-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

This is the longest accreditation period the state can issue to a county board of developmental disabilities and acknowledges that the services and supports LCBDD provides are in substantial compliance with state standards.

Although accreditation reviews are typically done in person, both the DODD and LCBDD teams were able to adapt to a process that was compliant with COVID-19 safety guidance. Representatives were able to virtually review files and speak to people LCBDD supports via Zoom. "Although we would have liked to welcome the review team to our building, we are grateful that they spent so much time getting to know our agency virtually," said Jason Umstot, LCBDD's superintendent/CEO. "Even in a pandemic, they made the process safe and seamless for everyone involved."

Although the focus of the review was on the entirety of the past three years, LCBDD was able to share some of the



Working with Flicker-Lit Productions, LCBDD produced a video for our DODD accreditation. Check it out on Youtube (LickingCountyDD.)

ways they've re-calibrated to support people with disabilities and providers during the pandemic, Umstot said.

From dropping off activity bags on the porches of children receiving Early Intervention, coming up with creative ways to engage people receiving supports over Zoom, driving those with high-risk diagnoses to their vaccine appointments and being available for providers 24/7, LCBDD's staff members truly went above and beyond to make sure those high quality services and supports continued through 2020 and beyond, Umstot said.

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A message from our
Superintendent Jason Umstot



Our successful accreditation would not have been possible without the work of our dedicated staff members. I feel truly lucky to be the Superintendent of LCBDD.

I'd also like to express our appreciation for the DODD team who completed our review.

Even though it was virtual, they did a deep dive into our systems, which generated a lot of helpful feedback and information. They took the time to get to know our agency and truly listened to our staff members.

We certainly appreciated their willingness to reach out to ask questions and get additional information. It was clear that their approach was truly about helping our agency improve.

As we look back on the time they spent with us, although it was on Zoom, we are very thankful for their time and attention to detail. We are always looking for ways that we can improve and better support people with disabilities and their families.

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

Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. June 16 and Aug. 18:** LCBDD Board Meeting will be held in a hybrid format until further notice. Visit lcountydd.org/board-meetings for more details.
- **1 p.m. June 2, 16, 23 and July 7, 21:** SNAP-ED cooking and nutrition classes, held on ZOOM. These are offered in partnership with the Licking County Ohio State University Extension. They are free, but participants must register. Contact Public Information Officer Anna Jeffries at 740-322-6911 or email anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org.
- **10:45 a.m. July 5:** LCBDD is planning to have a presence in the Granville Fourth of July parade. Keep an eye on our social media pages for details!
- **Noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 8-14:** LCBDD is planning to have a presence at the Hartford Fair. Keep an eye on our social media pages for details!

LCBDD News- Covid-19 update

As we continue to transition through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is monitoring guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health and the Licking County Health Department as we implement procedures to continue operations while keeping people safe. We wanted to share this update with people we support, families and providers who will be interacting with our agency.

- On June 2, Ohio's public health orders were lifted. Members of the public are no longer required to wear a face covering in the building. If they would like to continue to wear a face covering, they certainly can do so and disposable masks will be available in the lobby.
- Starting June 2, LCBDD will provide people we support options for how they would like to meet. If a person would like to use Zoom or phone conferencing to meet, LCBDD will accommodate that request. If a person would like to meet in person, LCBDD will accommodate that request. Masks can be worn at the request of the person we support or their family. LCBDD staff members may also choose to wear a mask, based on their personal preference. During some visits and meetings, a hybrid format may be used – meaning some participants will attend in person and some will attend by phone or Zoom. If anyone in the family is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms leading up to the visit, we ask that they contact LCBDD to reschedule.
- Vaccination status of people we support, their family members and/or LCBDD staff members is not a factor in offering and providing in-home visits and services. We believe that health care choices are personal decisions, therefore we are not asking people we support or their families about their vaccination status nor are we sharing ours. Virtual services will remain available for people we support and their families if they are not comfortable having people in their homes.
- Additional information about COVID-19 procedures will be posted as needed on our website at: lcountydd.org/2021/02/18/covid-19-update-2/.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call 740-349- 6588 or speak to your service coordinator.



Shout Outs!

To Tyde Flowers, OOD and Greenleaf:

I am very excited to say that Tyde Flowers and OOD purchased a 3-wheel bike for our mutual client to ride his bike to work. Greenleaf also did a great job of finding him a job near his home, so he could ride his bike and not always depend on his family for transportation.

–Jaclyn Alexander
Transition Specialist

To Cami Blosser and Jessica Helscher at Midwest:

They are exceptional ladies, we have reached out to them on numerous occasions for information to help other providers!! They ALWAYS help us, they gladly give us the directions or information to pass on to other providers! These are two exceptional ladies that I can't thank enough!

–Wendy Wells
Waiver Coordinator/
Medicaid Services Manager

To Mary Dunlap at Goodwill:

Mary is so easy to work with and is always ready to answer questions and loves getting the summer programs together, which I know firsthand, is not an easy task.

–Denise Rose

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.

Transition Specialist

To Scott and Craig de Fasselle from Blitz:

Thank you for including so many Licking County stories in your recent book about DSPs.

To the Scheid family and Newark City Schools:

Thank you for making the creation of the Mike Scheid Award possible. Seeing this award presented to a young man at Project SEARCH graduation was incredibly moving.

To the students in Mrs. Giovannelli's class at Granville Intermediate:

Thank you for sharing your final projects with us, from your unit on disabilities. You did a great job!

To Scott Marks from OPRA and CSS:

Thank you for your collaboration in creating an impactful video featuring local DSPs and the people they support.

To Reece Thompson from Flicker-Lit:

Thank you for all your hard work in creating the video we featured in our accreditation entrance conference. It was amazing!

– Anna Jeffries
Public Information Officer

To Becky at CSS:

For getting together people we support and waivers so quickly for the OPRA video.

To Becky at CLE:

For being open to let us

shadow a DSP for the Day in the Life project.

To Andrea Kent at CLE:

Thank you for your bravery. Saying you have made a difference in the lives of the people you work with is an understatement.

To Newark Digital Academy:

For inviting us to your end of the year bash.

To Sheridan High School:

Thank you for allowing me to come and present. I am looking forward to our continued partnership.

To Lori Mye from Ohio Means Jobs:

Thank you for your willingness to collaborate on a summer internship project with local providers.

– Brandi Body
DSP Eligibility Specialist

A HUGE shout out to **Licking Memorial Hospital, Licking County Educational Service Center, Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities, Greenleaf Job Training Services, participating school districts and Midland Theatre** for making this year's Project SEARCH graduation amazingly memorable for the well-deserving graduates! Thank you **Center for Disability Services** for doing such a wonderful job of updating homes over the past few years. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

– Angie Finck
Director of Provider and
Transition Supports

LCBDD News

LCBDD board meeting update

After months of holding board meetings exclusively on Zoom, the Licking County Board of DD's board of directors will be meeting in a hybrid format for the foreseeable future. That means there will be an

in-person option and a Zoom option for those who want to attend meetings. If you want more information, or to attend virtually, please keep an eye on our website – lcountydd.org for info.

Summer events return!

LCBDD will transition into attending summer events, with guidance from our local health department. Our social media pages ([@lcountydd](https://twitter.com/lcountydd)) will be the best way to find out where we will be!

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"I can't express my gratitude enough to the professionals who work hard for our agency every day," he said. "2020 was difficult but we saw people come together and truly live the mission of our agency – to be there for people with disabilities and their families no matter what."

This dedication was echoed in the comments from the DODD review team.

"I have been a part of a number of accreditation reviews and met with various county board staff over the years, and I came away extremely impressed with Licking County's mission, teamwork, and approach with those you serve," one reviewer wrote. "Your receptiveness to our feedback and desire to help people live their best lives is inspiring!"



Congrats to the 2020-21 class of Project SEARCH graduates – Alex Cagney, Matt Gast, Natis Siegle, Cody VanValkenburg, Chrissy Emmenegger, Aidan Mullins, Gabriel Severe, Nicole Waters and Olivia Worstall. We wish you all the best.

Also, a big congratulations to Cody for being the first ever recipient of the Mike Scheid Award. He was recognized for his hard work in his internships and his cooperative attitude. He received a \$500 scholarship to purchase work clothes and bus tickets to support his career goals.

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.