

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Licking County Children and Families First Council:

A valuable partner in supporting families

What is the Children and Families First Council?

Every county in Ohio has a local council (although in other counties they are referred to as Family and Children First Councils.) They all fall under the statewide agency, Ohio Families and Children First. In Licking County, they provide community support teaming to bring partners together to fill in the service gaps for families, particularly those whose children are at risk of being placed outside the home. The CFFC does this in several

ways:

Wrap-around services: Also known as “community support teaming” this process brings many different community partners together to support a family. These partners meet regularly with a family, set goals and work together to determine next steps. These services are typically provided for 6 to 9 months, but some families participate longer.

Funding: Local partners contribute money, known as “pooled funds” to support services such as therapies, respite, or therapeutic placements, when funding isn’t available through other means. Funding for these services also comes from the Ohio Family and Children First Council and the Ohio Department of

A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



During the pandemic, direct support professionals (DSPs) were lifelines for so many and often risked their own lives to keep people with disabilities safe and healthy.

As we move into this new phase of the pandemic, our heroes need our support more than ever.

Local provider agencies are facing the worst staffing crisis in recent memory. We ask our caring community to join us in being part of the solution. There are things you can do to help that can truly make a difference.

Talk about DSPs: Start conversations with people you know about the important roles DSPs play.

Make a referral: We all know caring people who would make great DSPs. Connect them with DSP Eligibility Specialist Brandi Body at 740-644-0344 or Brandi.Body@lcountydd.org.

If you have additional ideas, don’t hesitate to reach out. It is our hope that our caring community will help us spread the word about a significant need and a very worthy cause.

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



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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20** : LCBDD Board meeting will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **Noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 9-13**: LCBDD is planning to have a presence under the grandstand at the Hartford Fair. Keep an eye on our social media pages for details!
- **2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 19**: Come visit our booth at the Pataskala Street Fair, on South Main St. in Pataskala.
- **SAVE THE DATES: Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17 and Dec. 1, 15**: Our popular SNAP-Ed series, will be back on Zoom in the fall. Classes will be at 1 p.m. Email Anna Jeffries (anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org) to sign up or be on the look out for a flyer.

LCBDD News

Come see us at the Hartford Fair!

After a year off, LCBDD will return to the Hartford Fair! Come see us under the grandstand from noon to 6 p.m, Aug. 9 to 13. We hope to see lots of friendly faces.

LCBDD board meetings return to "in person."

Starting in August (after taking July off for training), the LCBDD Board of Directors will resume meeting in person at the E. S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio. These meetings are open to the public. Committee meetings begin at 4:45 p.m. and the regular board meeting begins at 5 p.m.

Welcome Cheree Nelson to Early Childhood!

After more than 23 years with LCBDD, Caley Norton celebrated her retirement on June 30. We wish Caley well on her future adventures and welcome Cheree Nelson as LCBDD's new Director of Early

Childhood.

A graduate of OU, Cheree was hired as a service coordinator at LCBDD in 2007. She spent the past five years as the Team Leader for the Transition Youth Service Coordination department. Congrats Cheree!



Dakota Arnott, a junior at Newark High School, is one of 54 Licking County students participating in the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Summer Youth Work Experience program this summer. Dakota got to experience working at Rural King.



Shout Outs!

To Hannah Fogle of CDS:

It is clear that she is extremely dedicated to the person she serves. She takes on more responsibility as a DSP than many of her peers in different careers. Hannah was advocating what was best for the person even though it would mean a difficult change to her schedule and more responsibility. She gave examples of how she thought outside of the box to keep the person safe. It is evident CDS has an incredible young woman on their staff and I know this individual is blessed to have a staff person who works so hard to advocate for their best interest.

–Amanda Kick
Service Coordinator

To Jodi Saunders from Interim:

She goes above and beyond every day to ensure that the people she assists get what they want and need. She persistently advocates for the people she serves to ensure that their voices are heard and they receive the best care possible.

–Danielle Yost
Service Coordinator

To Chris Trick from CSS:

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.

He has continued to provide excellent services while covering several different roles. He has great follow through when he says he will do something and always responds very quickly to the board and keeps us updated. His actions have shown that he is a very compassionate individual who truly cares for the people that he serves, and he has established amazing relationships with those he provides services to.

–Tacie Shannon
Service Coordinator

To Dei Dill with Basement Doctor and Amy Gartner with NDA:

For meeting and brainstorming ways to bring our agencies together!

To Stanley Frankart from OHC:

For meeting and advocating for his program.

To Tara Houdeshell with A Call to College:

For educating us about her program and working to find ways to collaborate.

To Lori Mye with OMJ:

For collaborating on a summer intern project. It means so much that you trust me with your students!

To Mat Dunham from NHS:

For loaning us some equipment to try.

–Brandi Body
DSP Eligibility Specialist

To Sarah Dennison from Bloom:

Sarah is the type of person

who gets things done. Where others may continue to talk about what needs accomplished, Sarah completes the task. She has a positive energy about her and never hesitates to step right in to any task. Sarah always follows through on her word and is extremely dependable, making everyone's workloads around her more enjoyable.

To Sunkela Johnson of CDS:

Sunkela has supported an individual on my caseload for three years. She has been fantastic! She has cared for this person and treats him like family. She provided "off the clock" care for him while on maternity leave because she sees her role as more than just a job. I really value what she does and the impact she has made in this person's life.

–Brenda Colley
Service Coordinator

To Tina S. from Bloom:

For working to help a couple in Pataskala get healthy and use technology.

To Megan M. from CSS:

For her great communication and getting things done for our folks.

–Tiffany Rhoads
Service Coordinator

To Angela Hughes, Kimberly McClain, Jordyn Hubert, Abby Butt and Alyssa Pittman:

Thank you for marching with us in the HOT Granville parade!

–Anna Jeffries
Public Information Officer

CFFC cont.

Medicaid.

Clinical Committees: The CFFC has a Clinical Committee for youth ages 8-21 and an Early Childhood Clinical Committee for youth ages 0-8. Members of the committees will consult with service providers, such as therapists, about a particular case. Council members then make suggestions or referrals for resources.

Who sits on the Children and Families First Council?

In Licking County, the CFFC has a dedicated staff of four. Several partners from the council contribute funds to support CFFC, including the Licking County juvenile court system, JFS, Mental Health and Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties, the Licking County Board of DD, United Way of Licking County, the County Commissioners and multiple public and private agencies who make voluntary membership contributions.

How can LCBDD families use it?

Anyone in Licking County can contact the Children and Families First Council to refer a child who is supported by multiple systems and is at risk

for out-of-home placement. LCBDD service coordinators not only refer families on their caseloads to the CFFC but they also participate in meetings, help link families to resources and provide crisis management. They are a consistent presence and continue to support the family even when the CFFC's services are no longer needed.

For more information about the Licking County Children and Families First Council, call (740) 670-8844. To make a referral, call 740-670-8916 or visit lcfamilies.org.

The Palur Family's Story:

Vicki and Larry Palur had no idea how to help their child, Charlie, after years of psychiatric hospitalizations and involvement with local law enforcement. In terms commonly used in the human services field, Charlie is considered a "multi-system youth." Diagnosed with autism as well as several mental illnesses that were all exacerbated when puberty hit, Charlie, 16, is supported by LCBDD, JFS, numerous mental health organizations and the juvenile justice system.

Their whole family needed more support and they didn't know where to turn. Then Vicki's friend suggested she call the Licking County Children and Families First Council (CFFC). She had never heard of them, but figured it was worth a try. The outcome was life changing, she said.

Working with the CFFC, Larry and Vicki had a support system, that met regularly, to brainstorm options.

"At one point we were up to 22 people, who were all working to help us with our kid," Larry said.

"It brings tears to my eyes," Vicki added. "There were times that someone would call us to check in and just see if we were ok."

There are no quick fixes. But for Larry and Vicki, knowing they aren't alone anymore has been huge.

"You know the old saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child,'" Larry said. "These folks were our village. They've gone above and beyond."

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.