

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Join us online!

We are excited to share information about new FREE classes available on Zoom!

Are you looking for ways to learn more about assistive tech? Does your New Year's resolution involve learning more about money management? Are you focused on stepping up your advocacy game? Or just looking for ways to connect with others? No matter what your goal is, LCBDD is excited to connect you with some opportunities to participate in FREE online classes to learn new skills. Since they are on Zoom, you can participate from the comfort of your home – or really anywhere.

Licking County Library "Ask a Techspert"

In honor of DD Awareness Month, the Licking County Library will be hosting a series of eight classes that will help you learn to use some of the helpful features on your phone, keep yourself safe online and check out free materials from the library on your device. These classes will be held at 11 a.m. every Tuesday, March 1- 22 and April 5-26. To access the registration links go to <https://lcountydd.org/2022/02/04/onlineclasses/>. If you need help registering, email anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org or call 740-322-6911.



LICKING
COUNTY
LIBRARY



WE THRIVE TOGETHER
Start With Hello!

We Thrive Together classes

LCBDD is once again partnering with We Thrive Together to make sure people we support, their family members and providers can access all their resources. We

know they host fun game nights and social activities through Zoom. But they also offer a variety of Zoom classes focused on topics such as health and wellness, financial literacy, technology and work readiness. These classes can be taken in real time (find them at <https://wethrivetogether.org/classes>.) All the classes are recorded, so after they are done they will be uploaded to We Thrive Together's searchable video library (type keywords into the search bar at <https://wethrivetogether.org/education/video-gallery>.) To sign up or ask questions, call (866) 584-5640 or email: Alyssa@WeThriveTogether.org.

A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



Every year as we prepare for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month at LCBDD, we choose a theme that fits with our goals for the year.

This year, we decided to focus on partnerships – and use the tagline, *"Your team, working together."*

I can't think of a better way to highlight the strength of the work that we do than to celebrate the collaboration we have with our partners.

We are fortunate to have a great team of LCBDD staff members who go above and beyond every day for the people we support.

Our departments work together to form supportive teams that surround people and their families to address their needs, both current and future.

This compliments the expertise each person brings to the table as they work together to move the best plan forward. But collaborating isn't just

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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. March 16, April 20 and May 18:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **10 a.m. March 2:** DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse. The event will be held as a hybrid of virtual and in-person. For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness>.
- **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 15:** Check out the SOCOG Mobile Smart Home and enjoy some local food trucks at the LCBDD office, 116 N. 22nd St. in Newark.

LCBDD News

So many ways to celebrate DD Awareness Month!

March is DD Awareness Month and this year's event at the Ohio Statehouse will be offered virtually and in-person. Registration is required, so go to <https://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness> to register. Locally, LCBDD will premiere a new TV commercial as well as radio ads and billboards featuring some familiar faces. Once again we will be donating a children's book

to first grade and special education classrooms in Licking County and are looking to expand our outreach to local middle and high schools. You can follow along with all our plans on our social media channels throughout the month of March.

Enjoy lunch and learn about assistive technology.

Thanks to the Southern Ohio Council Of Governments (SOCOG), people supported

by LCBDD and their families will have the opportunity to explore a Mobile Smart Home and find out more about remote supports and assistive tech! Mark your calendars for April 15 and plan to get lunch at a local food truck while you learn!

For more information about the Mobile Smart Home, check out: <http://socog.org/resources/remote-supports.html>.

Congratulations to our DSP award winners!

We were thrilled to recognize 10 amazing Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during our December recognition event. Congrats to:

- Derrick Snider, Viaquest
- Chris Trick, CSS
- Jeannette Bush, Fuse Network
- Elizabeth Myers, formerly of ARC Industries
- Meagan Withrow, NRH
- Shella Miller, CDS
- Ann Sousa, SPARK
- Hannah Fogle, CDS
- Alissa Miller, Independent
- Christa Ware, Independent



Shout Outs!

To Jamie Steele of Ohio Valley Residential Services:

Thank you for speaking to our staff during our Staff Development Day. It was very motivating.

To Corey Stroud of Licking Heights Local Schools:

For meeting with our team members to talk about your district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

To Penny Sitler of Mental Health America of Licking County:

For presenting a great training!

To the fifth grade students and teachers of Granville Intermediate School:

Thank you for inviting us to speak to your students about LCBDD and the DD system. Your questions are always excellent and your interest and engagement is so appreciated.

—Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

To Newark Digital Academy:

For being willing to brainstorm projects with us.

—Brandi Body

DSP Eligibility Specialist
Manager

To the amazing company who contributed to LCBDD's Angel Tree:

Thank you for going above and

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 Licking Memorial Health Systems:

At our December Staff Development Day, LCBDD presented Licking Memorial Health Systems with our 2021 Community Partner of the Year award. LCBDD is very grateful for the dedication the health system has shown to the Project SEARCH program during the COVID-19 pandemic.



beyond on each and every gift. It was such a joy to watch each person open their gift or to hear from them how much their gift meant to them. You not only made their Christmas, you made this Service Coordinator's as well with your generosity for those who wouldn't have had a Christmas without you.

To Marilyn Curtis, an independent provider:

Thank you for your hard work, your willingness to jump in when needed and for thinking outside the box to find additional ways to help the person you serve!

To Mary Loudermilk, an independent Shared Living

provider:

Thank you for all your hard work supporting a person throughout the years, especially during his recent illness.

To Dana Shawler, an independent money management provider:

Thank you for all your hard work, patience and follow up to sort out a difficult situation with a person's finances.

—Karla Lust

Service Coordinator

To Becky West and CSS:

For helping out with an emergency situation.

—Kristen Morris

Adult Team Lead
Asst. Director of SC

Congratulations to our Superintendent/CEO!

On December 2, our Superintendent/CEO Jason Umstot was presented with the Betty Macintosh Award by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. This award is presented annually to a person, "whose career has reflected long-term dedication to moving (Ohio's DD) system forward in line with the needs and desires of Ohioans with developmental disabilities." Congratulations Jason on this great honor! **Photo credit: OACB**



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something that we value internally.

Our agency simply wouldn't be able to do the important work we do without our many partners in the greater community.

We work with more than 40 agencies and over 100 independent providers every day, who provide the hands-on, direct care that people we support need.

These providers, and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work for them, are essential parts of our team.

There are too many amazing organizations to list here, but

our community partners – such as county school districts, human services agencies, local businesses and state and local governments entities – make us stronger and more efficient. We are so grateful to live in a county that values teamwork.

Lastly, I want to recognize our Licking County citizens. By supporting our agency, the people we serve, our staff members and our community partners, you are part of our team.

Thank you Licking County! We are proud to be, your team, working together.

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

Looking for a way to thank a great Direct Support Professional (DSP), provider agency, independent provider or community partner?

Email your "Shout Out" to Anna Jeffries at anna.jeffries@lcountydd.org or give her a call at 740-322-6911 to share your positive experience.

Your message could appear in the next edition of "Momentum!"

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.