

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## At LCBDD we are ready for summer!

*Thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Kickoff!*



**Photos by Jennifer Kasson, LCBDD Administrative Specialist.**

On May 7, LCBDD and the Licking County Health Department came together to host a Summer Kickoff event at the Canal Market District.

The inspiration for this awesome event came after LCBDD was awarded grant funding from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. While brainstorming ways to promote Early Intervention (which LCBDD offers to help children from birth to 3 meet developmental milestones) it became clear that families of all ages were in need of resources and connection after years of pandemic isolation.

Combining LCBDD resources with funding from the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Maternal Child and Family Health, the Kickoff hosted more than 20 community organizations with free activities for kids, food trucks, raffles, a visit from Pete the Cat, giveaways, games and a petting zoo.



**More photos from the event can be found on page 4!**

### A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



Our recent Summer Kickoff was a great way to highlight the ways LCBDD supports young children. Our Early Intervention team supports children from birth to age 3 with a focus on helping them meet their milestones. Once they start school, eligible children begin receiving support from our Early Childhood (EC) department. EC service coordinators (SCs) focus on youngsters age 3-12, connecting their families with resources, camps, adaptive sports, therapeutic riding and more.

Developmental Specialist Diane Dodson also provides support to some eligible children age 3 to 6.

The EC team has been working hard to increase awareness of their important role. They recently launched IMPACT, a quarterly e-newsletter for families supported by EC. They can also be found spreading the word at more events around the county.

Be sure to say hello if you see them out and about and contact your SC if you are interested in receiving the newsletter!

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

## Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. May 18, June 15 and Aug. 17:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **Aug. 8-12:** Hartford Independent Fair. LCBDD will once again be under the grandstand! Keep an eye on our social media pages for more info! We are also hoping to be at several community parades over the summer! **Stay tuned!**

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### Guest Shout out:

"My name is Sandy Rich. I am a Special Olympics athlete and a person with autism. I want to tell you about a special boss I have that is compassionate and patient and filled with so much kindness in her heart. She is very good at the job she does as **a general manager at Burger King in Hebron.** I had an interview with her almost a year ago. We were done with the interview and she said I was hired! From that moment I knew I was at the right place. I've been learning things that no other

job would have given me the chance to learn –like cashing out people, taking orders, running the fryer and making sandwiches. It has really inspired me to want to improve myself and to work within the company to advance. I've had my ups and downs in life and she's been willing to work with me. I've been hurt a lot of times in my life and she has been a person that provided a listening ear

when I needed somebody to talk to. She took the time and patience because she cared about me and wanted me to do better in life. I would have never reached my goals if it wasn't for my boss. She has been there when nobody has and I just want to write this to thank her for all the amazing stuff she has done for me. I don't know what I would do without her, she's been truly a blessing in my life. I want her to know that I am so appreciative of what she does. She is truly one of a kind, she is definitely one in a



million.

If there is an award out there for an employer or general manager working with people with developmental disabilities I would nominate her in a heartbeat. I appreciate you and thank you for all the amazing work! Like you always told me, 'Keep up the good work and don't let the bad things bother you.' Thank you!"

– Written by Sandy Rich  
(Pictured left)

### To all the graduating seniors we support, as well as the 2021-2022 class of Project SEARCH graduates:

Congratulations and best of luck in the future!

– Anna Jeffries  
Public Information Officer

I work with several teams that represent several providers and they all work together to communicate and do what is best for the people we serve.



## Shout Outs!

Here are the two amazing teams:

- **Megan Martin from CSS and Colleen Lloyd and Deb Neighbarger from LICCO.**
- **Mindy Hammond and Hannah from Bloom and Colleen Lloyd from LICCO.**  
–Tiffany Rhoads  
Service Coordinator

### **To Joe McFee, RN, Licking Memorial Hospital Training Center Director:**

Thank you for assisting with the CPR and first aid training needs for our staff and providers. The system you have created is easy to navigate and a great resource for our community!

–Teresa Whipkey  
Provider Support Coordinator

### **More guest shoutouts:**

**Shout out to David McManus:**  
Because he helps people out and goes out of his way.

–Carl Gruber

In the midst of a DSP shortage LCBDD's **provider support team** has been nothing short of amazing. Not only are they willing to entertain our most off the wall, pie in the sky dreams, sometimes they even make

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Our Summer Kickoff event would not have been possible without the help of so many. We cannot possibly thank everyone but we want to make sure we express our gratitude to:

- LCBDD staff members including Beth Rutter, Brandi Body, Cheree Nelson, Courtney Ellis, Diane Dodson, Dianna Ray, Kristin Bashore, Laura Elliott, Annie Green, Tara Copley and Tiffany Tom. Thank you to Jennifer Kasson for being our event photographer and to Jennifer Spring for dressing up as Pete the Cat (and her family for helping her get around.) Thank you to the LCBDD Admin team, including Pam Swinehart, for helping with preparations.
- Licking County Health Department staff members Rachel Woods, Justin Unternaher, Kelli Hopkins, Bri Bretzfelder, Samantha Woolard and Margaret Riggs.
- Kicks Mix Bookstore and Diana Spain for their partnership.
- Poppy's Roadside Diner, Grilled Cheese Gangsters, Wicked Sisters Cakes and New Orleans Style Snow Balls for the delicious food.
- Bring the Farm to You for adorable animals and amazing games.
- The Canal Market District and the Licking County Historic Jail for our amazing venue.



them happen. Part of that is coordinating LCBDD staff to help ease the burden on providers. NRH is incredibly thankful for everyone that has stepped in and lent a hand.

**Chad Strohl** deserves his own "shout out" for going above and beyond! Thank you Chad! You have no idea the impact of your support!

–Meagan Withrow  
Associate Director, NRH



## Sharing the power of teamwork!

This March, our theme for DD Awareness Month was "Your team, working together," and we are grateful to Lilly Carnes, Edward Olson, Rhonda and Ronnie Hodges and Tina Sayatovich for sharing their stories for our TV commercial.



*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.