

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Editor's note: Due to maternity leave, our winter and spring newsletters will be combined, and we'll be back with a fresh edition in the summer of 2023. In the meantime, please keep an eye on our LCBDD social media accounts for any agency news!



Animal Adventures, coming to the 2023 Hartford Fair!

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio State University Licking County 4-H Extension Office are excited to partner on a new project – the Animal Adventures program, coming to the Hartford Independent Fair in the summer of 2023.

What is Animal Adventures?

Animal Adventures is part of a statewide, 4-H initiative to connect young people with disabilities, who also have a love for animals, with opportunities to get involved with local 4-H programs. Through Animal Adventures, participants with disabilities will be paired with 4-H mentors

to learn about an animal of their choice. After a Meet and Greet, they will work together to exhibit or “show” the animal during a new show at the Hartford Fairgrounds, held at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6** at the B. Carr Pavilion. For the first year in Licking County, the Animal Adventures program will welcome youth, ages 8 to 18. Participants do not have to be supported by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities and may reside in any of the counties that are part of the Hartford Fair’s district.

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A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



In 2022, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities hit a new milestone – the 55th anniversary of the establishment of our agency. So as we started preparing to celebrate DD Awareness Month in March, we thought it would be fitting to highlight our agency’s long history in our county. I believe, that as we plan for the growth and evolution that’s coming to our county, it’s important to honor where we’ve been as we move forward. When I walk through the halls of the E.S. Weiant Center today, I always enjoy reflecting back on our past. When this building was first built, it housed the E. S. Weiant Starlight School. Some of the students in those early classrooms are still with us today and it’s an honor to continue to support them on their paths through life. Many things have changed – within our community and our agency – over the decades, but our commitment to the people with disabilities that we support, and their families, remains strong. We have the privilege of welcoming new families to

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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Feb. 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **10 a.m. March 1,** DD Awareness and Advocacy Day, you can register virtually. Follow <https://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness> for more information!
- **4 to 7 p.m. May 6,** Summer Kickoff, Canal Market District, 36 E. Canal St., Newark, Ohio.

LCBDD News

Our Summer Kickoff is back!

Our first Summer Kickoff was such a success that we are excited to bring it back in 2023! Mark your calendars for 4 to 7 p.m. on May 6.

We'll be at the Canal Market District with some great community partners, bringing you activities, games, a petting zoo, treats and a raffle. There will also be food trucks! Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Share your thoughts/concerns about the DSP workforce shortage with lawmakers!

LCBDD is supporting a statewide effort to raise awareness about the Direct

Support Professional workforce shortage and the impact it has had on people we support and their families – as well as people working in the DD field. If staffing shortages have impacted you or someone you care for, we ask that you visit <https://ohioddcrisis.com> and share your story.

It's a great way to make sure your voice is heard by lawmakers as they discuss future DSP wage increases.



Celebrate DD Awareness Month

March is DD Awareness Month, and LCBDD will be spotlighting people we support with billboards, radio ads and commercials.

We'll be donating the book "The Circles All Around Us" to second grade classrooms in Licking County and reaching out to local governments with requests for proclamations. Follow along on our LCBDD social media pages to check it out!

If you want to participate in DD Awareness Month at the state level, you can virtually attend the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, which will be held at the Ohio Statehouse. To sign up to attend virtually, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness> where additional information will be posted.

Thank you to Jolie and her family, Austin and Ryan and Marvin for helping us with our DD Awareness Month outreach!





Shout Outs!

I want to give a shout out to **Lisa Baker from Goodwill**, for hosting an amazing team building event (cookie baking) for the Provider and Transition Support teams. It was an amazing, fun day.

– Lisa Miller

Transition Specialist Manager

To April Thornton at CSS:

Thank you for being willing to work through challenging situations while being understanding.

–Abby Spear

Director of Service
Coordination

To Independent Providers

Alissa Miller and PJ Myers:

For their extra hard work covering hours when another staff wasn't available. Your devotedness to the person you serve is extraordinary and very much appreciated by the other team members!

Thank you to **Brittany Gray at CLE** for her continual efforts to advocate on others behalf, to ensure they are living their best lives.

–Karla Lust

Service Coordinator

To Julius Michael and his team from Empathy Care Supports:

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.

They deserve a shout out for all their hard work and support to a man they serve. They have been so great about trying to find creative solutions for him to build his independence.

Their patience and thoughtfulness do not go unnoticed.

Thank you Josh Young and

partners from ONI for all of your help and willingness to jump in and help two men when they needed some new arrangements. You have been delightful to work with!

Bre Gibson from ViaQuest

deserves a shout out for all her hard work, support and dedication to the wellbeing of the people in the house she manages. I appreciate her willingness to take initiative for them and how she advocates for them to live the lives they want to live. You rock!

Thank you Pam Holden from

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health for all her help checking in with a man we support and being a consistent support to him (and me!) while so many things in his life is changing. Your support and dedication to his wellbeing is greatly appreciated!

–Erin Hammonds

Service Coordinator

Faith with CSS has gone above and beyond to support a shared client and their family as they are going through a very difficult time. I appreciate

her communicating updates as well as helping this SC work out the needed details during a very difficult time for everyone involved.

–Tiffany Rhoads

Service Coordinantor

We are very grateful to the **Licking County Sheriff's Office** for presenting a safety training at our All Staff meeting in January. We also want to give a BIG shout out to the **Newark Moose Lodge #499** for donating a trauma treatment kit to our organization! This will certainly help us respond if we are ever faced with an emergency situation. Thank you!

– Ericka Haines

Training Coordinator

To Lorie Foster at LCAP:

She thoughtfully brought a new heating pad to an individual that was a better size for his back. He was so thankful and her act of kindness really meant a lot to him! Thanks!

–Jo Henthorne

Service Coordinator

To Alexia Rose and Melissa Owens from LCAP:

Thank you for being willing to participate in a really fun video project that highlighted both of our agencies!

To Erin Wheeler from C-TEC:

Thank you for being willing to create training materials and presenting to our staff.

–Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

Animal Adventures cont.

How can I participate?

Those interested must register through Licking County 4-H to participate in Animal Adventures, starting May 1.

Registration will include:

- Selecting your preferred animal species.
- Providing information about yourself so you can be matched with a mentor.
- Sharing a photo for our show program.

Once participants are matched with a mentor, they will be expected to participate in one Meet and Greet, as well as the Aug. 6 show. Meet and Greet dates will be:

- **Meet and Greet- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 8**
- **Meet and Greet- 6:30 to**



7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 18
Participants must attend ONE of the Meet and Greet sessions and plan to stay the entire time, so they can get to know their mentor. They can attend both if they'd like. Information will be communicated about their animal as well as how to prepare/dress for the fair show.

Feel free to invite family and friends to the show on Aug. 6 to cheer you on! Each participant will receive a t-shirt and an award, made possible through sponsorship by the Licking County Farm Bureau. There will also be professional photographs taken throughout the show, that will be available on the LCBDD social media pages.

If I liked Animal Adventures, can I join a 4-H club?

YES! There will be information about joining local clubs at the show. If you don't live in a place where you could participate in an animal project, don't worry! There are plenty of projects and activities for everyone's interests. 4-H has recently introduced a new program called Winning 4-H, to help people with disabilities communicate with their club leaders, so they know the best way to help them succeed.

Registration begins on May 1, 2023!

Keep an eye on the LCBDD website (lcountydd.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/LCountyDD) on May 1 for registration information.

Umstot cont.

Licking County and supporting young children as they start their journey.

As a person-centered agency, we are dedicated to supporting people throughout their life milestones, from birth through

their senior years and everything in between. But we are fortunate to have partners in this mission, from dedicated Providers and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to community organizations, committed to local families. I have no doubt that these partnerships, and the support of

our caring community, will carry us into the next 55 years.

As you'll hear me say frequently throughout the month of March, "Because of you, we can!"

Thank you Licking County!

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

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.