

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

A Spooktacular day of fall fun!



LCBDD was excited to partner with the West Licking County Family YMCA on their Spooktacular Fall Festival on Oct. 14! The families who attended had a great time!

Guest Column: Thankful for tech? I am!

To celebrate National Assistive Technology Awareness Month



in November, we have invited Amanda Brehm, LCBDD's Remote

Supports/ Assistive Tech Specialty Service Coordinator, to share some thoughts:

Writing this column after Halloween made me think about the power of technology in an interesting way.

Many of us who went out trick-or-treating this season were carrying a magic device in our pocket.

We don't often think about our

smart phones that way, because they are an essential part of life for most of us. But just a few decades ago, the things these devices can do would've seemed like magic. From ordering groceries, controlling our thermostat and our lights or giving us the opportunity to video chat with anyone, around the world, with the push of a button – our phones are one of many technological advances that have opened the world to all people, including those with disabilities.

These devices don't just make all our lives easier. For the people with disabilities we support, they make the impossible, possible.

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A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



It's hard to believe that 2023 is almost over and we are already preparing for a busy but productive 2024. This year, LCBDD welcomed new staff members and celebrated employees who took on new leadership roles. We continued to prepare for growth as we learned more about the changes we will experience in our evolving county.

We were able to explore new partnerships and strengthen existing ones – providing meaningful services and supports to people with disabilities, their families, local providers and direct support professionals (DSPs.) None of this would have been possible without the support of our caring community. The statement I frequently share continues to ring true, "Because of you, we can!" As we go into a new year, I'm excited to see our agency continue to explore innovative ways of fulfilling our mission. We have a lot to be proud of and I am grateful to observe and hear about the positive outcomes people we serve are achieving in their lives. I wish you a safe, happy holiday season and an excellent 2024!

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

Upcoming events

- **1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 18:** Understanding Credit, Budgeting and Account Information, downtown Newark branch of the Licking County Library, 101 W. Main St., Newark.
- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Nov. 15 and Dec. 20:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark, Ohio.
- **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 8:** LCBDD Staff Development Day. Our administrative building will be **closed**.

LCBDD News

Free financial literacy class offered Nov. 18

The Licking County Library and Park National Bank are partnering to offer a free program for adults with disabilities who want to improve their financial independence. Topics such as credit and budgeting, checking and savings accounts will be discussed. The class is from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the downtown Newark library, 101 W. Main Street, Newark. Registration is not needed.

Licking County Transit adds new fixed route



Licking County Transit has launched a second fixed route along 21st St. This route includes stops such as OSU Newark/COTC, the Licking County Health Department, Walmart and

Kroger. These open up major opportunities to increase independence.

For the rest of 2023, this fixed route— and the route that travels along Main Street — is FREE to all riders. Visit our website for more information: <https://lcountydd.org/2023/07/13/know-how-to-go/>.

LCBDD now has universal changing table

We are proud to share that the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities now has an accessible changing space, available to

the public during our normal business hours. You can find out more about our table, and other tables around the state, and across the USA, at: <https://www.changingspacescampaign.com/ohio>.



We wanted to give a shout out to Marvin Saunders, Les Garvin and Cliff Sesser. Some of you may remember that they worked together at the Gathering Place of Licking County to build a model engine! Well they are at it again and some of there creations include this owl clock and a Lego model of the White House! Great job!



Shout Outs!

To Southwest Licking and Licking Heights schools, the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio (BCCO) and LEADS Head Start: Thank you for coming together to organize a Get School Ready event for families in the Bhutanese-Nepali community. A huge shout out to **Mani Biswa** from the BCCO for being an amazing translator the night of the event. Thank you to **Durga Acharya and Farhat Advanced Interpreting** for providing interpreting services for our videos.

Thank you to the following organizations that had info tables at the event:

- Friends of the Licking County Library/ Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Pataskala Public Library
- Licking County Health Department.



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.

Thank you to **Deputy Karen Dunlap** from the LCSO for talking about Project Lifesaver. Lastly thank you to **the staff members who presented** on topics such as safety, feeding and child development.

To the **West Licking County Family YMCA**: Thank you for inviting us to participate in the 2023 Spooktacular Fall Festival! We appreciate all the volunteers, including LCBDD staff members, who came together to make the event possible.

A special thanks to the **Licking County Health Department** for bringing an awesome activity!

To **the Licking County Library**: Thank you for bringing the mobile library to our building for a visit!

To **Melissa Owens from Licking County Aging Partners**: Thanks for meeting with us about assistive tech and future partnerships.

Thank you to **Licking Memorial Health Systems** for donating magnets to help us inform people we support about the new Licking County Transit routes.

Thank you to the **Dawes Arboretum** for going above and beyond to plan a special experience for a girl we support who loves nature.

Thank you to the **Trinity Episcopal Church Women's Group** for their



generous donation to our Early Intervention program. We were able to purchase over 100 children's books, which will be shared with families receiving EI services. We would also like to thank **Kicks Mix Bookstore** for helping us order the books!

—Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

I wanted to give a shout out to **Brittany Gray** for doing a great job during some difficult times for a person we support and his roommates. Thank you for all you do!

—Silvia Murrey

Service Coordinator Mentor

I would like to recognize **Sylvia Friel** with Children and Family First Council as a wonderful community partner. She is pleasant to work with and extremely organized and talented.

—Cheree Nelson

Director of Early Childhood

Robin Bliss is a Shared Living provider. A person she supports was in a nursing home for several months and she visited him every day, which helped keep his spirits

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Tech column cont.

This November, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is talking about assistive technology using the hashtag #ThankfulForTech.

For me it seems very fitting because there's so many exciting things to be grateful for when it comes to assistive tech in Ohio.

I'm thankful that the recently passed state budget included funding for regional tech hubs, which will help people with disabilities get more information about what's out there and more access to technical support.

I'm thankful that the Ohio Tech Ambassadors and WeThrive-

Together are partnering for the next two years and am looking forward to seeing the number of Tech Ambassadors and Tech Advocates grow in our state. I am grateful that LCBDD has some exciting projects starting in 2024 that will give people new opportunities to get more comfortable using tech. Imagine how your Thanksgiving plans could be even easier with the incorporation of technology? Cooking with safe cooktops, smart appliances and reminders and timers that can be activated by your voice – followed by video chats with friends and family over dessert?

That's just one scenario but the

possibilities are truly endless! **Want to get started?** Let your Service Coordinator know you are interested in looking at ways that tech can help meet your needs. I can help provide suggestions and connect you with resources, including lending libraries. There are also technology providers and specialized physical, occupational and speech therapists who could help you figure out what tech is the right fit for you. By this time next year, you might be feeling #ThankfulForTech too!

Contact Amanda Brehm by calling 740-349-6588 or send her an email at: Amanda.Brehm@lcountydd.org.

Shout outs cont.

up. She modified her home to make it easier for him to get around and took additional training to provide for his increased medical needs. She has been a positive force in his life for many years and a strong advocate for him. She deserves to be recognized for all that she's done.

–Louise Williams
Service Coordinator

To CDS and Viaquest for assisting during an emergency. Words can't express how

much we appreciate them.

–Abby Spear
Chief Administrative Officer

Heritage Community Care deserves a shout out! DSP **Victor Musewe** has gone above and beyond.

–Kim Waldren
Service Coordinator

Marilyn Curtis has been my son Takoda's respite provider for a little over a year. She comes two times a week and spoils him with McDonalds' Happy Meals. He looks forward to this along with spending time

together playing Wii, doing crossword puzzles and chilling in the recliners watching a good show or movie. We love Marilyn! She is like an extra family member/grandma for Koda!

–Jennifer Darr
Service Coordinator

To Bloom, CDS, CLE, CSS, Fuse, Gathering Place, Goodwill, LCAP, NRH, OpenDoor, PALS, Spark and ViaQuest. Thank you for meeting with me and sharing feedback.

–Hannah Rebb, Provider
Workforce Support Specialist

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.