

Momentum

A quarterly publication of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Visit the NEW LCBDD Family Resource Center!

LCBDD is partnering with the Hartford Independent Fair, providing resources, family fun and an accessible restroom!

This summer, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is expanding its presence on the Fairgrounds.

The Board will still have a table with the other county agencies under the Grandstand, but visitors can also enjoy the new LCBDD Family Resource Center in the former dormitory, located between the Commerce and Arts and Crafts buildings.

The Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, and guests will have the opportunity to experience five days of different activities. Plans for the resource center began after the first successful Animal

Adventures show was held on the fairgrounds in 2023.

That success led to further conversations with Fair Secretary/Manager Rod Arter about ways LCBDD could be more involved with the fair, said Jason Umstot, LCBDD's Superintendent/CEO.

The dormitory was not being used and the Fair Board offered LCBDD the opportunity to lease the building for the next three years.

Early plans included the



- **Monday, Aug. 5: Assistive Technology Fair:** Join the Ohio Tech Ambassadors to learn more about technology options to help people live more independently.
- **Tuesday, Aug. 6: Meet the Providers!** Learn more about the dedicated caregivers who support people with disabilities in our community and find out about career opportunities.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 7: Ready for the Future:** Find out about local resources for teens and young adults as they prepare for life after high school and win some prizes!
- **Thursday, Aug. 8: Early Childhood Family Fun:** Bring the little ones for a day of games, fun and information for parents about local resources for families.
- **Friday, Aug. 9: Community Partner Day:** Meet some of the great community partners who bring services and supports to Licking County and score some fun giveaways.

renovation of the dormitory's bathrooms and shower area to create a space for a universal/adult changing table

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A message from our Superintendent Jason Umstot



As we continue to learn and develop ways to improve community access and engagement for people with developmental disabilities, we build off of a foundation that has been proven to improve outcomes so that everyone can thrive.

In the early days of our system, choices were limited and available opportunities needed to be more person-centered. It is hard to believe just how far we have come.

Today, the DD system creates an environment where people are encouraged to explore their interests and pursue the goals that are important to them.

Community engagement is a pivotal component of the services and support that people with DD receive. It fosters an environment that provides opportunities for people to explore their interests, show their talents and celebrate their accomplishments. Creating these opportunities requires an investment in programs that provide the necessary support and resources to ensure equitable access.

This summer, we are celebrating partnerships that enable people to be one with their community

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Upcoming events

- **4:45 to 6 p.m. Aug. 21, Sept. 17, Oct. 16:** LCBDD Board meetings will be held **IN PERSON** at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St. Newark.
- **6 p.m. Aug. 4:** Animal Adventures show: B Carr Arena at the Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton, Ohio.
- **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 5 to Aug. 9:** Hours for the LCBDD Family Resource Center at the Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton, Ohio.
- **Noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 5 to Aug. 9:** Hours for the LCBDD table under the Grandstand at the Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton, Ohio.
- **Noon on Aug. 17:** LCBDD will participate in the Pataskala Street Fair parade. For more information visit: <https://pataskalastreetfair.org/wp/street-fair/parade-information>.

Umstot cont.

and participate in events they are interested in.

- The Hartford Fair welcomed us to establish our very own LCBDD Family Resource Center at the fair, which will offer a variety of resources and activities. In 2025 we are planning to offer an accessible restroom with a universal/adult changing table and a sensory/calming room in that resource center.
- In addition, our partnership with Momentum Refresh has grown so that people who need a fully accessible restroom can attend special events without concern.
- For the second year, the Farm Bureau, Licking County

4-H, the Hartford Fair, and local volunteers have come together to make the 2024 Licking County Animal Adventures show a success – by allowing youth to show an animal at the fair and demonstrate their skills and talents.

- Through a partnership with Center for Disability Services we have created a Techsploration Hub, where people we support can tour and have hands-on experiences with assistive tech.

Our alliance with these great partners creates an environment where the impact of empowerment and access to opportunities ensures that every

person, regardless of ability, can be one with their community. Our commitment to the citizens of Licking County with developmental disabilities continues to grow as we bring in more inclusive programs and resources that strengthen our community. As we see and hear about these successes, we must remember that empowerment and opportunities bring a strength to defy expectations, inspire change, and create environments so every individual can thrive, be happy and accomplish their life goals through a variety of pathways to success.

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

Congratulations to the 18 exhibitors participating in the 2024 Animal Adventures show and thank you to the 21 4-H/FFA mentors for sharing their expertise, and animals with them! We are proud of all of you! You won't want to miss this year's show, at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4 at B Carr Arena at the Hartford Fairgrounds!





Shout Outs!

To the festival planning team at Velvet Ice Cream:

Thank you for your willingness to partner and bring the Momentum Refresh vehicle to the Utica Ice Cream festival. We were able to support 83 people who needed restroom accommodations.

To the Kiwanis Club of Newark:

Thank you for your willingness to partner and bring the Momentum Refresh vehicle to the Newark Strawberry Festival. We were able to support 152 people who needed restroom accommodations.

To the Kiwanis Club of Granville:

Thank you for hosting a great parade and thank you for your willingness to partner and bring the Momentum Refresh vehicle to the Granville Fireworks. We were able to support 57 people who needed restroom accommodations.

Thank you to **Licking County 4-H** for being an amazing partner and for all you do to make Animal Adventures a success.

To **the 4-H and FAA members who are our amazing Animal Adventures mentors**, thank

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.

you for participating and supporting all our exhibitors.

To the Licking County Farm Bureau:

Thank you for sponsoring the Animal Adventures show.

To Addie Foor and Lily Swearingen of A & L Photography:

Thank you for your beautiful work and your willingness to photograph our Animal Adventures show.

To Sarah Hinkelman, Site Manager of the Newark Earthworks and Flint Ridge Ancient Quarries and Nature Preserve:

Thank you for presenting to our staff and sharing great information.

–Anna Jeffries

Public Information Officer

I would like to do a 'Shout Out' to **Sunkela Johnson** for going above and beyond for the person she serves. She puts her heart and soul into the care she provides him, and her hard work and devotion does not go unnoticed.

– Stephanie Bryant
Service Coordinator

I would like to send a shout out to **Mary Dunlap at Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries**. I have seen her push through many barriers to help people served by LCBDD obtain employment. Recently a person served requested employment paperwork to be transcribed to braille. She reached out into the community to ask for help and

was able to get the paperwork transcribed for this person. She is continuing to support the person by ensuring that other reasonable accommodations are completed to assist with the person succeeding long term with their new employer.

–Danielle Yost

Service Coordinator

Shout out to **The Center for Disability Services** for their recent efforts to purchase homes for use by the people we serve. Also, congratulations to **Trina Woods** on her new role as Executive Director at the Licking County Coalition for Housing. We are excited to do great things together!

– Angie Finck

Chief Operations Officer

Shout out to **Suezanne at Metro** for her amazing help with gathering and sharing current information that allows us to stay on top of housing needs!

–Shanay Nye

Provider Support Coordinator

Huge shout out to our providers that nominated DSPs for our 2024 DSP Appreciation event – **Bloom, CDS, Chosen Home Care, CLE, CSS, Fuse, Goodwill, Greenleaf, LBF, NRH, PALS, Spark, TrueCare, Trustcare and ViaQuest**. We are excited to celebrate all the hard work, dedication and passion DSPs show every day!

–Hannah Tucker

Provider Workforce Support Specialist

Resource Center cont.

and a sensory room, which could both be used during the fair.

However, construction delays pushed that project, which is now planned to be completed for the 2025 Hartford Fair, Umstot said. Offering an accessible restroom with a universal/adult changing table at the 2024 fair was a priority for LCBDD, and fortunately there was a great alternative available.

The Momentum Refresh vehicle will be on the Fairgrounds (including during the 2024 Animal Adventures show) parked next to the Centerburg food stand.

Hours can be found in the box on this page.

Momentum Refresh is the first-ever universally designed mobile restroom resource in the U.S.

Their restroom vehicles, which are the size of a food truck,



Find the Momentum vehicle:

- 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4.
- 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5 - Friday, Aug. 9.
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

include a wheelchair lift, an adjustable changing table that can accommodate an adult, a ceiling hoist and an accessible toilet and sink.

Trained staff members stay with the vehicle at all times to provide information and clean the space between uses.

LCBDD used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to enter into a contract with Momentum Refresh, allowing the vehicle to be available at several major festivals and events around Licking County this summer.

The Board is sponsoring the vehicle’s rental fee for the entire fair, making it free and open to anyone who needs assistance with personal care, including people with disabilities, seniors and veterans.

“We know that when accessible restrooms aren’t available,



people often stay home. We hope that this new opportunity will allow people to attend the fair for the first time, or stay longer and enjoy all the Fairgrounds has to offer,” Umstot said. “The Hartford Fair Board has been a great partner and we are excited to continue working together to promote inclusion.”

The Board will use additional ARPA funds to complete the renovation and construction of the universal changing space and sensory room, which are expected to be available in 2025 to benefit fair guests of all ages and abilities.

“At LCBDD we believe that when community spaces are more accessible to the people we support, our entire community benefits,” Umstot said. “We are proud to be able to bring these resources to ‘The Biggest Little Fair in the World.’”

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.