

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



2016

2016 was another busy year for the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Our biggest achievement was completing the transition from being a direct provider of services, in compliance with state and federal mandates.

In 2014, the federal government's Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) announced that it is a conflict of interest for Medicaid-funded programs to be operated by the same agency that determines an individual's service plan. We are very pleased to announce that the GCBDD is now in compliance with this "conflict-free" case management, well ahead of the 2024 deadline. The Board will continue to act as a case manager to ensure that all individuals continue to receive the services and supports they need to live, learn and earn in the community.

We have partnered with many private providers and organizations during this time of transition. The GCBDD had more than 90 individuals working in the community in 2016, at businesses including Sajar Plastics and Hamlet Village. We began working with Our Lady of the Wayside to provide transportation services to individuals in Geauga County. The Board also helped Maple Leaf Community Residences, Inc. acquire its twenty-third home in Geauga County.

The Board also continued to expand its community partners in 2016. We have more than six community organizations that use our facilities as a community center to meet and come together for group activities. Additionally, the Board supported a handicap-accessible fishing dock at the Walter Best Wildlife Preserve in Chardon, which is open for anyone to use.

We give a special thanks to the estate of Loretta Mae Holmes for the gift of \$116,000, which was added to the Metzenbaum Foundation Endowment in 2016. The foundation provides grants that individuals can use to help fund the purchase of extraordinary medical and dental expenses, respite care, therapies, educational and recreational programs and accessibility-related equipment and home modifications. The Board is grateful to Loretta and her estate for this generous donation.

We enter 2017 with more partnerships than ever and many goals for our future. As always, our dedication is to the individuals we serve and helping them get the support they need to live, learn and earn in the community.

With Warm Regards,

Don Rice

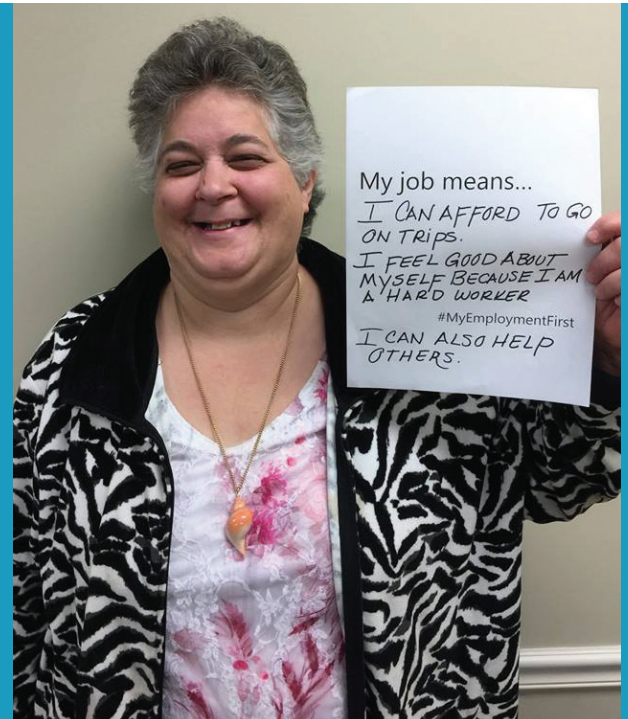
Superintendent Don Rice

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

The Employment First program currently has 110 individuals employed in community jobs. We are continuing to expand our business partnerships and have individuals working for several local businesses, including Briar Hill, Burton Health Care, Cafe Michaels, Chagrin Cinemas, Corky and Lenny's, Drug Mart of Chesterland, Endura Plastics, Fieldstone Farm, Fila-Mint Inc., Giant Eagle of Chardon, Giant Eagle of Chesterland, Giant Eagle of Middlefield, HF Group, Habitat for Humanity, Hamlet Village, Heinen's of Chardon, KFC of Middlefield, Kinetico, Kuhnle Trucking, Mangia! Mangia!, McDonalds of Chardon, Natural Essentials Inc., P.T. Millworks, Panera Bread of Bainbridge, Panera Bread of Lyndhurst, Pet Supplies Plus of Chardon, Piece Unique, Pizza Hut of Chesterland, Pizza Hut of Middlefield, Restore, Sajar Plastic, Stride Tool, LLC, The Weils, UH Geauga Medical Center, Walmart of Chardon and Walmart of Middlefield.

During 2017, Employment First continued to work to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities for gainful employment. Highlights from the year include:

- *A continued commitment to the collaboration with the Geauga County Education Service Center (ESC) to work with youth transitioning into adulthood. This ensures a smooth transition from school-aged services to adult services, while discussing provider options to assist in community employment.*
- *Continued collaboration with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), in accordance with the Employment First Initiative.*
- *A survey of parents of transitional youth to determine their needs and expectations for their child's future. The results of this survey will be compiled and used to create future services and programming.*



Additionally, on February 10, 2017, Employment First held the first meeting of the Geauga County Transitional Youth Employment Team. The team was created as a local extension of the Employment Navigation project from the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), which is a collaborative initiative to help build capacity and a network of support for individuals with developmental disabilities working toward their employment goals.

The GCBDD has created a group of local leaders that will work as an inter-agency group to better outline common goals and priorities to guide practices and collaborative work for transitional youth. So far, team members include the GCBDD, OOD, Ohio Transition Support Partnership/OTSP staff, Geauga County ESC and State Support Team 4.









Through 2017 and into 2018, Employment First will continue to expand its partnerships and opportunities for community employment. As always, the program will continue its collaboration with Service Support Administrators (SSAs) and individuals' support teams to explore where that individual is on their path to community employment, focusing on the services and supports needed to help them accomplish their goals.

HELP ME GROW/EARLY INTERVENTION



During March, which was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we held the third annual Night to Shine event to honor the children in our programs. It was very well attended and very successful in allowing the children to showcase what it is that makes them unique.

Help Me Grow/Early Intervention outreach touches a variety of local entities, including:

-  Amish Well Child Clinic and Amish Birthing Center
-  Chagrin Falls Community Center Community Event
-  Heather Hill Health Fair
-  University Hospitals and Safety Day
-  DDC Clinic
-  General Health Clinic
-  Local Pediatricians
-  Facebook Page

Outreach is a critical piece of the Early Intervention/Help Me Grow programs. Families are able to connect with each other, sharing the services they received at no cost through our programs. This program will remain a priority, allowing us to continue to connect families and ensure that children with developmental disabilities are receiving the services and supports they need prior to transitioning to early childhood services.

COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

As we move through the transitions, updating families and individuals on opportunities for support remains a top priority.

There continues to be an increase in certified independent and agency providers who can care and support individuals in Geauga County. We have been working closely with the local school districts to identify children who may be eligible for DD services, allowing us to start services sooner to assist with the transition from school-age to adult services.

In 2017, we will continue to increase our efforts in providing integrated community opportunities for individuals who are eligible for our services.



TRANSPORTATION

Through the end of 2016 and into 2017, the Transportation Department has been focused on building partnerships. As of June 30, 2016, we successfully transitioned out of acting as the direct provider of transportation services. We partnered with several private providers and are working to ensure that every individual in need of transportation can receive it.

Our Lady of the Wayside is currently transporting over 50 individuals to community employment locations in and around Geauga County. Services for Independent Living, Inc. is also providing transportation services for individuals to and from community employment locations. At this time, the Board is also working with three other private natural supports to provide transportation to other locations.

INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY (ICF)

Going into 2017, we approached ICF with a fresh and renewed perspective, focusing efforts on inclusion and increasing outings within our community. We are proud to say that we have offered several major events for individuals and our community such as the carnival, respite movie nights and a community garage sale, where proceeds helped to provide more opportunities for individuals in the ICF program. As we continue to offer these events and expand our reach, we look forward to helping individuals live, learn and earn in our community.

The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) currently serves 24 individuals ranging in age from 24-72. The goal of our program is

to provide needed care to the individuals we serve, as well as opportunities to allow for self-determination, independence, community inclusion and improved quality of life.



RECREATION



The recreation opportunities made available through the Metzenbaum Center offer individuals with developmental disabilities the chance to pursue their recreational interests, from Special Olympics sports to dance lessons.

Among the programs offered this past year were golf, softball, soccer, volleyball, swimming, basketball, track and field, bowling and roller skating. Teams participate in local, sectional, regional and state tournaments, competing against other similar teams;

the basketball teams went to the state competition!

Community integration is a primary focus for the recreation program, and we have accomplished a lot of integration through the Aktion Club. An Aktion Club is a community service group for individuals living with disabilities. The “K” in Aktion stands for the Kiwanis, our sponsoring organization. The Aktion Club provides adult citizens an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership, serve their community and demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities. This year, we will be adding educational clinics to our Aktion meetings.

Swimming in the Metzenbaum pool is offered to individuals served by the Metzenbaum Center, as well as those served by local private providers. Pool usage is also provided for senior citizen water aerobics classes from the West Geauga Senior Center.

A big part of recreation is the music therapy program, with Movin’ with Music offered to children who are 18 months to three years old and Preschool Music to all preschoolers served by the Geauga Educational Services Center.

We also schedule a variety of dances for special occasions and day and overnight field trips to local attractions, including Recreation Unlimited, Punderson Camp and Fieldstone Farms for horseback riding.

Our main goal remains to provide a variety of recreational opportunities while continuing to increase community integration among our programs.





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