



Let's Talk...

The Newsletter of the Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities

MY PROVIDER - MY CHOICE - THREE STORIES

ACBDD Members:

- Christine Tharp - President
- Jerry Simon - Vice President
- David Stimpert - Secretary
- Laura Corbett
- Todd Geren
- Tonya Louis
- Martha Pendleton

David Ashley - Superintendent

D-R Services



Bryan Vura

Bryan Vura has been working at ***D-R Services*** for over 15 years. He enjoys the many friends that he has made there. While a typical day might find Bryan doing a variety of jobs, his favorite is working in the shredding area. "I like it a lot!" says Bryan, "It is fun and keeps me busy!" For these reasons Bryan has chosen to stay at ***D-R Services***. He also enjoys seeing his friends at various evening activities. When Bryan is not at work he enjoys his favorite TV shows and driving his golf cart.

X-Excel



Kandy Primeau

Kandy Primeau is always a busy lady. She is involved in Special Olympics and currently serves as president of the Ashland County Aktion Club. Kandy made the choice to attend the ***X-Excel*** day program three years ago and she really enjoys it. "The people are really nice here!" says Kandy.

Volunteering and outings are Kandy's favorite activities at ***X-Excel***. Kandy also loves to socialize and says that "I always enjoy talking with my friends at work."

The Link



Amanda Dickson

Amanda Dickson splits her week with two days at ***The Link*** and three days of custodial job training at D-R Services. Amanda has attended ***The Link*** since it opened. She enjoys the arts and crafts there the most. "I like making crafts for the different holidays." says Amanda. She also enjoys the community outings and the events held at ***The Link***.

Amanda likes to knit when at home and also enjoys spending time with her cat and dogs.

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Voters Approve ACBDD Levy Renewal

Dale-Roy Ren 1.5m		
Number of Precincts	39	
Precincts Reporting	39	100.00%
Total Votes		
	18,275	
For the tax levy	12,770	69.88%
Against the tax levy	5,505	30.12%

Last November the voters of Ashland County approved the ACBDD's 5 year, 1.5 mill renewal levy with a 69.9% positive response. "We are extremely thankful for the tremendous support of the citi-

zens of Ashland County." said David Ashley, ACBDD Superintendent. "The board has worked diligently to continue to provide needed services while being good stewards of available resources."

Aktion Club moves to new location to serve more Adults



The Aktion Club has been an active civic organization for adults with developmental disabilities here in Ashland County since 2009.

Sponsored by the Ashland Kiwanis Club, the mission of the Aktion Club is to provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills, and to serve their

communities. In its early years, the local Aktion Club meetings were held at D-R Services, as it was the primary day program location for adults at that time.

This past year however, the Aktion Club has begun meeting at the Ashland Public Library and inviting adults from throughout the county to participate. This new location has al-

lowed more adults with disabilities the opportunity to attend the meetings. The enthusiasm about the purpose of the club has grown as well.

With a new slate of officers for 2019, the Aktion Club is looking forward to continuing to expand its impact on the Ashland community while providing individuals with developmental disabilities a greater voice.

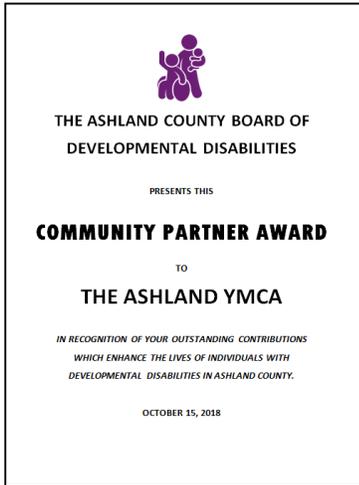
Upcoming Calendar

- Feb 18** Presidents' Day ACBDD Closed
- Feb 19** Sweetheart Dance - Kroc Center 6:00 - 7:30
- Feb 25** ACBDD Board Meeting 6:30
- Mar 5** Dale-Roy School Early Release 1:00
- Mar 14** Dale-Roy School Talent Show - Gymnasium 10:00
- Mar 18** ACBDD Board Meeting 6:30





ACBDD Community Partner Award



Supt. David Ashley, YMCA CEO Molly Riley, ACBDD Vice-Pres. Jerry Simon

At its October meeting, the ACBDD presented the next Ashland County Board of DD Community Partner Award to the **Ashland YMCA**.

The purpose of the Community Partner Award is to recognize people or organizations that make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Ashland County. These

partnerships support and enhance our mission to promote opportunities for individuals and their families to live, learn, work, and play in the communities of Ashland County.

The “Y” has been a valuable resource for students and adults with developmental disabilities. From activities such as swimming and exer-

cise to instructional classes and for facilities that support our Special Olympics teams, the “Y” has been a willing and gracious host. In addition, the “Y” has not only provided work training opportunities for our individuals but has provided employment as well.

Accepting the award was the CEO of the Ashland YMCA, Molly Riley.

ACBDD Financial Facts

“Due to the reorganization of the Ashland County Board of DD transitioning out of direct day service delivery to adults as required by the Federal government, we were able to realize the first balanced budget since 2010 for calendar year 2018. “

-Kim Eichler
Director of Business Operations/HR

The Ashland County Board of DD
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“The Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) supports and partners with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to explore and choose opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in the communities of Ashland County.”

By the way...

Former Ohio Department of DD Director Wishes Disabilities Field Goodbye



John Martin

Incoming Governor DeWine has chosen Jeff Davis to be the new Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

It has been my privilege to serve with all of you over the past 12 years. I started at a time when there was much discord in the field, and I appreciated that I was given the opportunity and support to work at eliminating that discord. Because of that, together we got through the recession without cutting rates or services — a standard we have been able to maintain through the ups and downs of these past 12 years. Together, we have worked through changes from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, litigation, decreases and increases in budgets, the closing of two developmental centers, Employment First, privatization, new waivers including exit and diversion waivers, and the SELF Waiver, an increase in provider rates, a new reimbursement system for intermediate care facilities, a new system for managing the waiting list, and an increase in the use of technology. The result of all this work is that as of today, 3,000 more people with disabilities are working, 1,000 fewer people are living in developmental centers, 1,000 fewer people are living in private ICFs, 24,000 more people are on waivers, and Ohio leads the nation in the use of technology. Many of the changes we experienced during the past 12 years have not been easy, yet as a field we have pulled together and worked together rather than fracturing and working against each other. While certainly some of you have disagreed with my approach or positions the department has taken, you have always been kind to me in your disagreements. Through this all, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by a staff who are smart, hardworking, dedicated, and care deeply about the work we do. Without them, little would have been accomplished. As you prepare for a new director, I would ask you to be honest in your opinions and kind in your disagreements. While harsh words and lashing out are natural responses for some of us, that approach never solves problems. Stay focused on making Ohio a great place for people with disabilities to live, play, and work. There is much to do and many improvements yet to make. We are a field that has problems, for example, the workforce crisis, that will not be solved but can be improved. Work hard, enjoy your work, practice kindness, and blessings to each of you as you continue to play an integral part in our system that so many depend upon.

John Martin