

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure the availability of supports to eligible citizens with developmental disabilities gaining inclusion in their community. Further, to assist individuals and their families in achieving a life that they establish for themselves.

OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF DD

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER —
WINTER 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 68 people with developmental disabilities receive Individual Options waiver services from OCBDD
- 21 people with developmental disabilities receive Level One waiver services from OCBDD
- 11 people with developmental disabilities receive Supported Living services from OCBDD

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New Board Members Installed

DR. JAMIE IMLAY was installed November 17th as a board member of the Ottawa County DD Board by LuAnn Monak, Business Administrator/Notary Public.

Dr. Imlay earned a Master of Education and Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Toledo and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Heidelberg College. She has also been certified as a Peace Officer in the State of Ohio.

She is presently employed as a Special Education Consultant for students with disabilities and as an Ohio Improvement Process Regional Facilitator for schools and districts in school improvement. She has worked extensively with preschool, school-age children and adults who have Autism and other challenging behaviors.

"Dr. Imlay's extensive educational background along with her experience will prove to be an enormous asset to the Ottawa County Board of DD. We

are very fortunate to have her knowledge and enthusiasm available to all of us here in Ottawa County," commented Board President, Jennifer Zelms.



Dr Imlay (left) & Julie Wittman (right)

JULIE WITTMAN is a native of Port Clinton and has worked for the Ottawa County Health Department for 18 years. She has a son and twin daughters; one daughter has Down Syndrome. Through her daughter she has gained knowledge of the Early Intervention program along with some

knowledge of other services provided through the Board of Developmental Disabilities. She is an active member of the Port Clinton Mother of Twins Club, the PC Bowling Parents' Club, the PC Music Boosters and assists the PC Braves Pee Wee football. Julie was installed January 25th as the newest board member of the Ottawa County DD Board by LuAnn Monak.

Board President Jennifer Zelms stated, "Julie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Ottawa County Board of DD. With her work experience she will be able to bring insight to the Board along with the activities she's involved with as a parent."

"We are very fortunate to have two new board members with such a broad range of experience to offer our program and we look forward to working with them both," added Superintendent Melinda Slusser.

Board Reorganizes

On December 7, 2009 the Ottawa County Board of DD approved the 2010 slate of officers.

BOARD OFFICERS from January 1-January 31, 2010 are:

President Jennifer Zelms

Vice-President Terry Fejes

Recording Secretary Linda Sorg

Other Board Members of the Ottawa County Board of DD include:

Rick Comings, Kevin Peters, Dr. Jamie Imlay and Julie Wittman.



Spotlight on...



TOM ALLEN proudly turned 40 this year!

Tom Allen—living the life he chooses for himself. In 2009, Tom celebrated his 40th birthday with many friends and family members at his favorite place to go dancing, Nick’s Roadhouse. If you ask him, Tom will tell you that his favorite things to do involve getting out of his apartment and socializing. He loves to play softball, which he did for the

first time this summer. Tom played for the Erie County Bucks; Special Olympics team. The team played in the state tournament, even though Tom was unable to join them. He also enjoys league bowling, which he does most of the year, one or more times a week. This is also Tom’s first year participating in Special Olympics bowling, a Friday night activity that takes place

in Sandusky. In his spare time, Tom likes to play basketball in the OCBDD Wellness program, go camping with family and friends, dance at Nick’s on Saturday nights, attend local football games (and an occasional Ohio State Buckeyes game), and go to Next Chapter Book Club once a week.

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“I’m not sure what my children enjoyed more... the company, the cookies or the Christmas ornaments. They are still wondering where Santa parked his sleigh!”

Leslie Hartman

Fun was had by all at the December 5th Holiday Party for families receiving Early Intervention services. Early Intervention serves children with a developmental delay who are 0-3 years of age and their family.

Our jovial Santa intently listened while little ones shared their wish lists and were then treated to a yummy candy cane.

Children from six families colored, embellished a Christmas

Early Intervention

Holiday Party

tree with stickers, created their own decoration to take home, played with a wide variety of toys in the play room, ate and drank festive goodies and even heard a story from our Superintendent Melinda Slusser (aka Elf)

Everyone entered a drawing for a collection of Christmas books and four lucky children won!

If you would like to learn more about Early Intervention, please contact Margaret Szabo, E.I. Coordinator at 567-262-3141.



OCDD Board News

- The Board meets monthly on the third Monday at 5:00pm at the OCBDD building. Meetings are open to the public.
- Three employees opted to participate in the Early Retirement Incentive Plan.
- All board members participated in required annual training in October.
- The Board approved the 2010 Program Calendar & Table of Organization. Both can be viewed on our website (www.ocbdd.org) or by requesting a copy at 419-898-0400
- A pandemic response plan was approved that facilitates cooperation between RVI, River-view Healthcare Campus, the Ottawa County Health Department and the Board of DD.
- The Board entered into an agreement with the Huron County Board of DD to develop a “Bridges to Transition Project” for youth 14-22 who receive Board services.

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DD Awareness Month

During ‘Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month,’ we encourage people to learn more about the 300 people in this community who have disabilities. For example, when you see a child who uses a wheelchair—see the child, not the disability. And when you see a man with a developmental disability working at your local supermarket, see the man, not his disability.



(Spotlight On...Continued from Page 2)

Tom says he is happiest when he is with family and friends.

In between all the community activities, Tom relaxes at home watching movies, soap operas, professional wrestling, and emailing people with sports and weather updates. Tom also works at Kroger grocery, where he is a valued employee for 20 years. Tom takes great pride in working hard and doing well at his job. While he’s not overly fond of gathering up and bringing in the shopping carts from the parking lot, he likes to be a fast bagger and please the cashiers and customers. Tom is very proud of his positive attitude, which he maintains both at work and at home and in the community.

Tom’s favorite time of the year is Fall, mostly because it’s football season. It is also the time of year for baseball playoffs and the beginning of basketball season. He loves to say, “Go Bucks!” but is a bit less enthusiastic about another of his favorite football teams, the Browns.

If he could go anywhere in the world, Tom would revisit Las Vegas, where he went on vacation last year. (He wouldn’t say why he enjoyed Vegas so much, because that had to stay in Vegas). Of places he’s never been, Tom says he would like to go to Hawaii some day, to check out the ladies.



TOM in Vegas!

2010

GOALS

1. The Ottawa County Board of DD will increase transition options for youth as they prepare to transition out of school.

- Interface with all public schools (Benton-Carroll-Salem, Danbury, Genoa, Woodmore, Port Clinton, Put-In-Bay, North Point ESC) and educate about RSC Pathways Project, as well as, Board of DD support for school-to-work transition

- Implement youth camp in 5-week sessions, 2 times
- Successfully serve minimally 8 youth in this program

2. The Senior/Wellness Program options will be expanded to serve a broader number of eligible adults.

- Current program options will be reviewed
- Eligibility and referral process for Senior/Wellness Program will be evaluated

- Input from persons served will be sought to determine type of activities

3. The Board's Health/Nursing Services will be fully consultative rather than direct service.

- Nursing/Health Service training will be offered at a competitive fee structure
- Nursing technical assistance will be available to persons served and families

4. The Board will develop a policy and position statement regarding serving people with autism and their families.

- Demographics of persons eligible will be reviewed to see the scope and numbers
- A policy and position statement will be developed that is sensitive to the unique needs of this population

*Questions? Comments?
Please contact Superintendent Melinda Slusser at 567-262-3104 or msslusser@ocbdd.org*



Ottawa County Board of DD
235 N Toussaint South Rd
Oak Harbor OH 43449

Upcoming Events

Regular Board Meeting

January 25: 5:00pm
At OCBDD Building
The public is welcome

Movie Night

February 11
At OCBDD Board Room
Potluck before movie

Bowling

February 21
At Oak Harbor Bowling Alley

Regular Board Meeting

February 22: 5:00pm
At OCBDD Building
The public is welcome

Regular Board Meeting

March 15: 5:00pm
At OCBDD Building
The public is welcome



We want to keep you informed!

If you have an email address & would like to receive this newsletter electronically (saving the agency's paper resources), send your address to bbeck@ocbdd.org. This newsletter and other information about the OCBDD can be accessed at: www.ocbdd.org

If you have an idea for the newsletter, please contact Bobbi Beck at bbeck@ocbdd.org or 567-262-3100.