



Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Warren County

Dreams

FEBRUARY
2017

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 22:

S.A.L.T. (School to Adult Life Transition) Family Information Seminar, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

March 2:

Open House
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Business and Provider Fair
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

March 8:

DD Advocacy & Awareness Day, Columbus, OH

For more details, see inside this newsletter.

A Word from our Superintendent

Happy New Year! We accomplished a lot in 2016, and we are looking forward to another busy year. In February, we will have a two-day visit from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Accreditation Team. All 88 county boards are required to go through the accreditation process, and we are due for our review this year. We look forward to showing DODD all of the great things that are happening here in Warren County!

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month, and we will once again be holding two Open House sessions this year. They will be on March 2, 2017 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Banta Center, and another from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Young Center. Following the evening open house, we will hold a provider fair from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Young Center. Please feel free to stop by and check out our agency, the many providers with booths, and the amazing gift baskets we will be raffling.

In October, 2016, the WCBDD unfortunately lost a long time employee who was very instrumental in the development of our agency. Marsha Morsie passed away after working at the

WCBDD for over 36 years. At the Open House on March 2nd, a newly completed playground built for the Early Intervention division will be dedicated in Marsha's name. We are very pleased to be able to honor Marsha this way.



Megan K. Manuel,
Superintendent

2017 marks a significant milestone in our system—the 50 year anniversary of Senate Bill 169—the legislation that established county boards of developmental disabilities in Ohio. A statewide theme has been established to promote the value and support that county boards bring to people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the community. During this year, you will see the theme “Always There” throughout the state and here in Warren County. “Always There” reflects the continuity of support offered by county boards over the last half century, as well as the continued reliability of county boards in the present and future. The kickoff for this campaign will begin in March during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, so please stay tuned for more!



WCBDD Board member sworn in for new term

Michael Carroll, (left) with Megan Manuel (right) was recently sworn in for a new term on the WCBDD Board. Carroll serves as the President and CEO of Countryside YMCA in Lebanon, and brings a wealth of experience to his role on the board. “I am proud to be selected by the Warren County Commissioners to serve on this board,” he said.

DD Advocacy and Awareness Day to be celebrated March 8th in Columbus

DD Advocacy and Awareness Day is an annual event taking place at the Ohio Statehouse, which aims to educate and empower people with developmental disabilities, their families, and community members. The morning program features speeches from prominent advocates, state policymakers, and community leaders. The event is funded by a grant through the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

Pre-registration is required for attendance, and a limited number of tickets are available. Registration for the 2017 event is now open.

Members of the Voices Speaking Out self-advocacy group have attended this event for many years and are registered to attend it again this year.



Members of Voices Speaking Out pose for a photo at the 2016 DD Advocacy and Awareness Day event. From left to right are: (Back row;) Woody White, Keith Gabbard, Jr., Rachel Rice, Angie Smith, Andy Mitchell. (Front row) Stacy Whipp and Roy Burton.

School to Adult Life Transition seminar to be held February 22nd

A free information seminar for parents of teenage children who have developmental disabilities will be held on February 22nd from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road in Lebanon.

The seminar is part of a series titled, School to Adult Life Transition, or S.A.L.T., and is a funded pilot project of the Employment First Local Leaders Collaboration of Montgomery, Greene and Warren Counties, to raise expectations for community employment for youth and adults with developmental disabilities.

The series seeks to address needs and concerns that families may have regarding transition from school to adult life. The topic for the session on February 22nd is Understanding Waivers and Housing. Family members of people with disabilities, agency personnel and educators are welcome to attend and participate at any of the presentations. Parents are encouraged to bring their children ages 14 and older to participate in a Student/Young Adult session while parents attend the presentation. In the Student/Young Adult session, students will work on employment awareness, planning and preparation for the adult world, and self-advocacy.

The S.A.L.T. series sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. The 2017 Series dates and topics are:

- February 22nd—Understanding Waivers and Housing
- March 22nd—Guardianship, Wills and Special Needs Trusts
- April 26th—Understanding Benefits Analysis
- May 24—Employment/Employer Panel and Assistive Technology

For more information, contact Patti Shrom, Parent Resource Trainer at (513) 892-0596 or e-mail prtpattis@gmail.com.

All seminars will be videotaped and posted for viewing on the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities' website. To view the video go to www.warrencountydd.org/videos.



We have a limited supply of 2017 calendars still available. To have one mailed to you, contact

Angie Tapogna at (513) 228-6517 or angie.tapogna@warrencountydd.org.

Rachel Rice, celebrated 2016 as an award winning year

Rachel Rice receives services and supports from the WCBDD, and works part-time at three different jobs. “I’m involved in so much stuff, and I make it work. I make and follow a schedule, and I really like keeping busy,” she said.

Rachel works in Lebanon for three different employers—Care Go Transportation, Production Services Unlimited, Inc. and the Warren County Court of Common Pleas. She also sings in the Voices of Warren County Choir, which is an all-volunteer group of singers comprised of adults receiving services and supports from the WCBDD. The group holds choral practice every week and performs at area schools, festivals, retirement communities, and other venues. In addition to all this, Rachel is also an athlete and participates in Special Olympics, where she won a gold medal this year. She is a bocce player and won her medal at the Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games in Columbus in June.

At the beginning of 2016, Rachel was selected to be a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the UCEDD. The UCEDD is the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the CAC guides and helps the UCEDD to create and move towards its vision to help people with disabilities and their families have the lives they want. There are 35 members on the committee, and the group meets quarterly. Members are paid for their positions on the board.

In April, Rachel attended leadership training and graduated from the Project STIR program. STIR stands for Steps Towards Independence and Responsibility. The program is provided by the Ohio Self Determination Association through its Council of Ohio Leaders. The training is for people with a disability to learn tools to be a self-advocate, and to develop and

strengthen local advocacy groups by establishing structure and purpose.

In October, Megan Manuel, the Superintendent of the WCBDD, nominated Rachel for an ESDY award.

This award is given by the Ohio Self Determination Association at the annual Synergy

Conference, and it recognizes individuals with disabilities who have excelled in establishing where they want to live, with whom they want to live, and how their time will be occupied. The award also recognizes individuals who affirm the central role they have in leadership and change, and honors those who help educate and mentor others to take control of the important decisions in their lives.

Rachel recently starred in a video produced by the Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments (SWOCOG). The video is targeted to people with disabilities to encourage them to seek community employment. In the video, Rachel tells her own story of the ups and downs she’s encountered in finding, losing and keeping a numerous amount of jobs in the past two years. The video can be viewed on YouTube and is titled, “SWOCOG—You Can Do It: Finding and Keeping A Job.”

“I have never been this happy in my whole life. I went from being called a failure to proving to others that I’m not,” she said. Rachel Rice has proven to be quite the winner.



Rachel Rice, holding her ESDY award, is pictured here with WCBDD Superintendent Megan Manuel.



DDBP Family Advisory Council seeking new members

The Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

(DDBP) at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital is currently seeking members for its Family Advisory Council. The council actively supports children with developmental disabilities both directly and indirectly through various efforts such as fundraisers, disability awareness/support

projects and other aligned activities. The mission of the DDBP Family Advisory Council is to promote partnerships between families and professionals to enhance family-centered practices within DDBP. For more information or to obtain an application, contact Janet Seide at janet.seide@cchmc.org. The deadline to apply is February 17, 2017.



**Warren County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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**Our mission is to support people
with disabilities and their families to
achieve what is important to them.**

This newsletter was collated, folded and labeled by the enrolled individuals employed by Production Services Unlimited, Inc. (PSU). PSU is a non-profit business that provides work training and paid work experiences to adults enrolled in WCBDD programs.

www.warrencountydd.org

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Open Houses will celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold two Open Houses on March 2, 2017 to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The public is invited to attend to learn more about our agency's services and supports which we provide to people who have developmental disabilities.

The first Open House will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Milo H. Banta Center, located at 410 S. East Street. Warren County Commissioners will present a proclamation to Megan Manuel, WCBDD Superintendent, and a member of the WCBDD Self-Advocacy group, Voices Speaking Out. Light refreshments will be provided, and open tours will be offered. In addition, raffle tickets will be sold for gift baskets that will be awarded to winners later that night.

The second Open House will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road. The Warren County Probate Judge will present a proclamation to Megan Manuel and a member of the WCBDD Self-Advocacy group, Voices Speaking Out. At the conclusion of the Open House at 7:00 p.m., participants will gather in the

gymnasium for the Business and Provider Fair in which local businesses and service providers display their products and services. The Fair will run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., and the drawing for the gift basket raffles will be held at the end of the event. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales will benefit our FANS Network program, which supports people with disabilities.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and statewide, organizations devoted to serving people with disabilities are planning special events to raise public awareness of the many abilities people have, regardless of disability.

**In 2016, Warren
County
Commissioner
Dave Young
(center)
presented the
Developmental
Disabilities
Awareness
Month
proclamation to
Self-Advocate Annee Martin (left) and WCBDD
Superintendent Megan Manuel (right).**

