A Word from our Superintendent

Self-advocacy allows people with disabilities to speak out for themselves. By doing these things, the quality of life for people with disabilities is vastly improved.

Our work here at the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities focuses on possibilities and opportunities for people with disabilities.

We belong to the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) which believes that individuals with disabilities should have the freedom to plan their own lives and to pursue the things that are important to them with the support of independent planning and support coordination.

We also belong to PAR—which is Professionals Advocates Resources. In October, PAR and OSDA will host the Synergy Conference, which we are excited to attend with individuals to whom we provide services.

The conference brings together all stakeholders, and provides informative training sessions. It is rewarding to work with other professionals whose goals are the same as ours—to support people with disabilities and their families to achieve what is important to them.

If you are someone with a developmental disability or care for someone with a developmental disability, you may be interested in attending the Synergy Conference. Go to www.synergyohio.org for more information.

Family Fun Day to be held Saturday, September 20th in Springboro

This free event is open to the public and offers rides and games for children of all ages and all abilities. Families appreciate the layout of the event which encloses all the rides within a fenced area for safety. There will be a variety of inflatable slides and bounce houses, face painting, games, arts and crafts, horse drawn carriage rides, a small animal petting zoo, a photo booth, and food and refreshments.

The Miracle League Field is located at 1605 S. Main Street in Springboro. We hope you will join us!
Production Services Unlimited, Inc. (PSU) has participated in the Kroger Community Rewards program for one year, and in that time, earned $263.18 from the 19 households that had signed up for the program.

Now that the year is over, participants are required to re-enroll in the program. Payments are made on a quarterly basis, and for the period from May 1 to July 31, 2014, just 5 households were participating, earning PSU a total of $78.04. We hope you will sign up or re-enroll to participate in this program by linking your Kroger Plus Card to Kroger’s Community Rewards.

If you have a Kroger Plus Card and would like to help PSU earn money from this program, you will need to create an on-line account. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and select PSU to receive donations from your purchases by entering the number assigned to PSU, which is 83797. It’s that easy! Then, you just shop, and PSU earns money based on a percentage of your qualifying purchases. If you’ve been a past participant of the program, you do not need to create a new on-line account, you just need to re-enroll in the program.

The Kroger Community Rewards program is separate from Kroger’s Fuel Points program, and participation in one does not divert from the other. Shoppers will continue to earn fuel points from their purchases while PSU earns monetary donations.

Please tell your family and friends - they can participate too. Thank you for your support!

Employment Conference to be held September 15—16, 2014

The Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments, with the support of the University of Cincinnati-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities will host, on September 15th and 16th, “Working Together: Changing Employment Experiences for People with Disabilities.”

“Working Together is a conference that will bring together families, providers, county board staff, and people with disabilities to learn from national and state leaders in expanding employment options for people with disabilities,” said Shirley Riggs, Executive Director of the Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments.

The Working Together conference will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio, and is open to anyone interested in increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The conference builds on the growing momentum of employing individuals with developmental disabilities, and also aligns with Ohio’s Employment First Initiative, which is the executive order Governor Kasich signed in March 2012.

Keynote speakers for the conference include professionals from Ohio, Kentucky, Vermont, and Minnesota. Sessions will focus on three tracks; Individual and Family Engagement, Organizational and Systems Change, and Best Employment Practices.


To register for the conference, go to www.swocog.org or call Shirley Riggs at (513) 559-4413 for more information.
State awards Strong Families, Safe Communities Grants

Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties, in collaboration with Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Clinton County Board of Disabilities are the recent recipients of over $240,000 from the State of Ohio’s Strong Families, Safe Communities initiative. The grant will provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at risk due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

Pictured from left to right are: Kyle Lewis, Superintendent of Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Patti Ahting, Associate Director of Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties; Tracy Plouck, Director of Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Megan Manuel, Superintendent of Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and Brent Lawyer, Executive Director of Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties.

Family Information Series begins September 24th in Warren County

A new, free information series for parents of teenage children who have developmental disabilities will be held in Warren County beginning September 24th. The series is titled, School to Adult Life Transition, or S.A.L.T., and is a funded pilot project of Employment First, Ohio’s Initiative to raise expectations for community employment for youth and adults with developmental disabilities.

The series will address needs and concerns that families may have regarding transition from school to adult life. Seven sessions are scheduled, with the first one beginning on Wednesday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m. The topic for the first session is Employment First. In addition to family members, agency personnel and educators are welcome to attend and participate.

The S.A.L.T. series will be held at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road, Lebanon, OH. All sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.

Series dates and topics include:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 24, 2014</td>
<td>Employment First</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22, 2014</td>
<td>Why Do You Need DD?</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28, 2015</td>
<td>Navigating Social Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25, 2015</td>
<td>How does employment impact Social Security benefits and benefit analysis</td>
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<td>March 25, 2015</td>
<td>Guardianship</td>
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<td>April 22, 2015</td>
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<td>May 27, 2015</td>
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For more information, contact Carolyn Greathouse, Parent Resource Trainer at (937) 371-2051 or e-mail prtceg@sbcglobal.net.

Free training seminar offered on Medicaid Waiver Billing

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities will host two, free, upcoming training seminars for certified care givers who provide support to people with developmental disabilities. The training will cover Medicaid Waiver Billing and will be offered to independent providers and agency providers. Attendees will learn how to submit claims for services they deliver. The courses will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

Each course is three hours in length and will be led by Kevin Bracken, Claims Representative with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. For independent providers, the course will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon. For agency providers, the course will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

The training courses will be held at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road, Lebanon, Ohio. Registration is free, and to reserve your seat, contact Tara Amburgy at (513) 806-3804 or e-mail Tara.Amburgy@warrencountydd.org.
What is ALS?

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a rapidly progressive, invariable fatal neurological disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. It is sometimes called Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Nerve cells located in the brain, brainstem, and spinal cord are motor neurons. They serve as vital communication links between the nervous system and the voluntary muscles of the body. ALS is characterized by muscle spasticity, rapidly progressive weakness due to muscle atrophy, and difficulty in speaking, swallowing, and breathing. ALS is the most common of the five motor neuron diseases. In the United States, more than 5,600 people are diagnosed every year with ALS. Most commonly, ALS strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70. ALS is not contagious.

ALS is a difficult disease to diagnose, as there is no single test or procedure that ultimately confirms it. Through clinical examinations and a series of diagnostic tests that rule out other diseases which mimic ALS, the diagnosis of ALS is then established.

Life expectancy of an ALS patient averages about two to five years from the time of diagnosis. Though, the disease is variable and many people live with quality for five years or more. More than half of all patients live more than three years after diagnosis.

Riluzole is a drug that was approved by the FDA in 1995, and is used in the treatment of those with ALS. The drug slows the progress of ALS, and allows the patient more time in the higher functioning states when their function is less affected by ALS.