



Warren County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Warren County

Dreams

OCTOBER
2015

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 15:

Supportive
Families &
Allies Group
meeting
10:00 a.m.

November 14:

Holiday Bazaar
9:00 a.m. to
3:00 p.m.

November 20:

Voices of
Warren County
Choir Concert
6:30 p.m.

All events listed
above will be
held at the
Warren C.
Young Center,
located at 801
Drake Road in
Lebanon, OH.

For more
details, see
inside this
newsletter.

A Word from our Superintendent

“Change is the only constant in life.” This seems to ring just as true now as when it was said by the Greek philosopher Heraclitus many years ago. There are many changes facing the developmental disabilities system right now. The biggest change currently facing us is the federal government’s decision that it is a conflict of interest for county boards of developmental disabilities to be both a provider and funder/planner of services. Our agency is currently working on future planning regarding how we will be addressing that conflict. There will be much more to come on this in the near future.

The state budget that was finalized at the end of June addressed some funding needs for our system. One of the major initiatives included was the funding of 3,000 waivers by the state. These waivers will be distributed to county boards in an effort to bring down waiting list numbers and to give individuals who currently live in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) or who are considering moving into an ICF, the opportunity to live in the community with a waiver instead. A work group which included stakeholders from across the state was formed, and they developed a formula to distribute these waivers to the counties. Under this formula, Warren County will receive 23 state-funded waivers. 11 of them will be Individual Options (IO) waivers, and 12 of them will be SELF waivers.

In July of this year, the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) reached its 25th year! The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities, similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex and national origin. The ADA also assures equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications. We are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this act!

We also learned recently of the signing of the ABLE Act into law here in Ohio. The Ohio Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) allows for the creation of special tax-advantaged savings accounts for people with disabilities. This allows them to save money without jeopardizing their eligibility for assistance programs on which they rely. We are very pleased that Ohio supported this act and thank all of the people who were influential in getting this passed, including Senator Shannon Jones (R–Springboro) who was one of the legislative sponsors.

Finally, we are revamping our website www.warrencountydd.org, and the new one will be up and running soon. Please stay tuned, take a look in a few weeks, and let us know what you think!



Megan K. Manuel,
Superintendent

Supportive Families & Allies Group meeting to be held October 15th

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Supportive Families & Allies Group will meet on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road in Lebanon. The meeting will feature a presentation by a guest speaker who will provide State updates on system changes within the developmental disabilities field.

The Supportive Families & Allies Group is a support group which meets once a month to provide understanding and support to families of children who have developmental disabilities. The group is open to families and guardians who are caregivers to individuals receiving services from the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"The group provides members the ability to connect

with others who are walking the same path of providing care for someone with a disability. Belonging to the group minimizes feelings of isolation, and helps families cope with the challenges of caring for a loved one with a disability," said Angie Smith, Community Outreach and Event Coordinator for WCBDD, who staffs the group and plans their meetings.

The group hosts quarterly social events as well as quarterly informational meetings in which speakers are brought in to give presentations. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month, at alternating times and in various locations within the community. New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Angie Smith at (513) 806-3808 or Angie.Smith@warrencountydd.org.

Family Support Orientation to be held November 4th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities will host a Family Support Orientation on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Milo H. Banta Center, located at 410 S. East Street in Lebanon. This free orientation will provide information to families who are already enrolled in the program to learn more about the benefits available and how to complete required paperwork. It is also open to families wanting to learn how to enroll in the program.

The Family Support Program assists eligible families by providing them with financial assistance on approved services. These services are ones that meet special needs of their family member who has the disability, and assists that person towards self-sufficiency.

The Family Support Program is only open to families whose eligible family member is not enrolled on a Level One Waiver, Individual Options Waiver, SELF Waiver, or a Transitions Developmental Disabilities Waiver.

"The Family Support Program helps families in many ways," said Katrina Steele, Family Support Coordinator for WCBDD. "It offers financial assistance with respite, daycare, agency care, camps, and therapy, as well as help with home modifications, disposable items, special diets and some adaptive equipment."

Families must register in advance. The deadline to register is October 28th. Childcare will not be provided. For more information, or to register, contact Katrina Steele at (513) 228-6401 Extension 6553 or Katrina.Steele@warrencountydd.org.

Voices of Warren County Concert to be held November 20th

The Voices of Warren County will perform their Fall Concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 20th at the Warren C. Young Center.

The Voices of Warren County is an all volunteer group of singers comprised of individuals receiving services and supports from the Warren County

Board of Developmental Disabilities. The choir performs at area schools, festivals and retirement communities. The concert is free and open to the public.



Kings Island employs youth with disabilities

For the past 20 years, the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities has partnered with Kings Island in their summer hiring program of seasonal park employees. This year in June, six teenagers with disabilities became Kings Island employees. For 10 weeks, until the middle of August, they worked every Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The program employs youth between the ages of 16 to 20 in stock crew positions in the Coney game area. Their responsibilities include working each day before the park opens to the public, to keep all the basketball tarps loaded with plush, re-stock the plush at all the games, and inflate all the basketballs. They perform their work with a great deal of independence and make all of the decisions about the display design and the daily stocking of

inventory. Their jobs require them to do a lot of walking, physical labor, and contend with high heat, but each year crews finish the season with perfect attendance records.

Megan Manuel, WCBDD Superintendent, said, "We are so pleased with this successful partnership, and proud of the great job these youth perform each year in these roles. Many of the students return year after year."



Matthew Smead and Angela Inzerello enjoyed their summer jobs, working at Kings Island.

School to Adult Life Transition seminar to be held October 28th

A free information seminar for parents of teenage children who have developmental disabilities will be held on October 28th 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 October 28th is Overview of Developmental Disabilities Services. 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. Series dates and topics include:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| October 28, 2015: | Overview of Developmental Disabilities Services |
| January 27, 2016: | Guardianship, Wills, Special Needs Trusts |
| February 24, 2016: | Leisure and Recreation Night |
| March 23, 2016: | How does employment impact Social Security benefits and benefits analysis? |
| April 27, 2016: | Parent Panel |
| May 25, 2016: | Organize Your Transition |

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

Holiday Bazaar to be held November 14th, vendor booths available

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold their 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar to benefit individuals with disabilities on November 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Warren C. Young Center.

We are currently seeking artists, vendors, and small business owners to participate. The cost to have a table

or booth is \$20. Our Holiday Bazaar is very popular with shoppers, and continues to grow each year in attendance. All proceeds benefit individuals with disabilities

To participate, contact Angie Smith at (513) 806-3808 or e-mail Angie.Smith@warrencountydd.org.



**Warren County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

107 OREGONIA ROAD
LEBANON, OH 45036

Phone: (513) 228-6400
Fax: (513) 932-1927

**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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Free seminar for parents to be held: Understanding Sexual Development in Children/Adolescents

The Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold a free seminar for parents of children with disabilities on Tuesday, October 27th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Warren C. Young Center, located at 801 Drake Road in Lebanon. The seminar is titled, Understanding Sexual Development in Children/Adolescents—Guidelines for Parents.

Topics to be discussed include; sexual development in the context of children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, impact of media, understanding typical versus problematic sexual behavior, how to become an “approachable parent,” safe sex practices, and informed consent.

The presenter of this seminar will be Colleen Mercuri-Johnson, MSW, LISW-S. Mercuri-Johnson is a mental health therapist employed in the Behavioral Health Program at the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She specializes in working with individuals with co-occurring mental health and intellectual/developmental disabilities. She has been an instructor of Human Sexuality courses at Sinclair Community College, and is a certified Sexuality Educator through the American Association of Sexuality Education, Counselors, and Therapists.

To register for this free training, contact Chrissy Barton at Chrissy.Barton@warrencountydd.org or call (513) 228-6401 extension 6551.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

There are many wonderful companies that employ people with disabilities, and we appreciate all of them. They are making a positive difference. Below are just a few we want to thank. The next time you patronize their businesses, let them know you appreciate them too.

