

# HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2021



**Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! Like many of you, we are anxiously awaiting the weather to catch up with the month but are grateful for every bit of sunshine we get. The preschool classes certainly have taken advantage of the days they have been able to get out on the playground and the Wildcats are excited when they are able to meet at various parks to resume some sporting events. After the pandemic year we have had, these very basic activities are welcomed by so many. Speaking of the Pandemic, we are grateful to the Highland County Health Department for leading the way in assuring COVID-19 vaccinations were available for our community. They hosted numerous venues, dates, and times to assure availability of vaccines and they spent months providing updated information, keeping all of us educated throughout the process. From all of us at HCBDD we are appreciative of their work.**

**We hope you enjoy the articles in this newsletter, and we hope your family is safe and healthy.**

**Deb Buccilla, Superintendent**

Highland County



Board Of  
Developmental Disabilities

### Mission Statement

Ensuring effective systems are available to assist people in achieving their life goals.

### Vision Statement

Enhancing the quality of life in our community – one person at a time.

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# HCBDD Hosts Vaccine Clinics

Highland County Board of DD extends a sincere thanks to the Highland County Health Department for holding vaccine clinics for those we serve and the staff providing services to them. Health Department staff and volunteers came to the preschool building gym for the clinics. Everyone that assisted in the clinics did an exceptional job with our individuals and the clinics ran in a well-organized and efficient way. We are appreciative of the time and efforts they gave to complete the vaccine process and the partnership we have together to ensure the health and welfare of those we serve and those that provide care to them. Thanks to the HCBDD staff that assisted with scheduling, transportation and the operation of the clinics.



## HCBDD Staff volunteer at Highland County Vaccine Clinics

HCBDD staff expressed appreciation to the Highland County Health Department for their efforts with the clinics at the gym by volunteering at the Highland County Vaccine clinics held at the YMCA facility in the months of March and April. HCBDD staff assisted with registration at the clinics when citizens of Highland County arrived to receive their vaccine, ensured forms were completed as required and assisting with sanitation to keep everyone safe. It was a great experience and we thank the Highland County Health Department for all they do to keep our county safe. We are in this together Highland County!



## An Update from Nurse Becky

This past year the Board Nurse . . . wait there is a nurse at the County Board? Yes, there is! The Board Nurse is part of the team who assures health and safety of students and adults receiving services from the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This includes delegation of medications/health related activities, training on various topics, consultation, medication administration quality assurance (MAQA) reviews and emergency care as needed.

As all departments of the County Board, 2020 presented many challenges. The Nursing department stayed in touch with staff and providers answering questions and giving guidance, as well as developing short health related training PowerPoints that were shared with staff and providers. Topics included Dehydration, PPE, Handwashing and When to Seek Help (Medical) just to name a few.

The primary responsibility of our Nurse is to assure medication and health related activities are delivered by trained staff and provider partners and if an illness or accident occurs, they can provide appropriate care. Medication Administration Certification is required by staff and providers to administer medications, perform health related activities, administer feeding or medications via a gastrostomy tube and administration of insulin. Certification 1 is for Medication and Health Related Activities and requires a minimum of 14 hours of training. Certification 2 (G-Tube) and Certification 3 (Insulin), both 4 hour classes, can be completed only after Certification 1 has been obtained. Each certification must be renewed annually by taking a re-certification class for each certificate. In 2020, 54 staff and providers complete the initial Certification 1 course. Re-certification 1 was completed by 77 staff and providers, a 2 hour training. Certification 2 (G-tube) initial class was completed by 17 providers and 33 completed the 1 hour re-certification. Initial Certification 3 (Insulin) was completed by 8 providers with 2 providers took the 1 hour re-certification.

Medical and emergency care is provided by our nurse as well as by our staff who are trained. The American Heart Association CPR/FA is taught to all staff and available to any provider or community member. Thirty-four (34) individuals completed AHA Heartsaver CPR/FA or Healthcare Provider certification.

Our Nurse is available as a consultant to parents, teachers, SSA's (Case Mangers) and occasionally physicians. The Nurse may participate in Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Individual Service Plans (ISP). The Nurse completed state mandatory hearing and vision screens on preschoolers and assisted in Communicable Disease training to preschool staff.

All those participating in the care of individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD) share a desire for everyone to have the freedom to live, work, and play where he/she wants by receiving safe, person-centered supports as needed. As the RN MAQA reviewer, the Nurse's focus is on the process of medication administration and health related activities administered by their providers. By looking for patterns that indicate areas of concern that need to be addressed, we can ensure the safest environment possible, with person centered positive outcomes, while creating a culture of compassion and caring. Last year, 6 individuals with providers living in their own home had a MAQA completed.





# Highland County Wildcats are back!!



In 2020, COVID-19 put a halt to all Special Olympic activities. Highland County athletes have been participating in a virtual exercise program. Athletes from five schools in Highland County and adults are involved. They have a monthly log to document all the workouts or exercises they have completed. This allowed athletes to remain active during the past year.

## Now for an exciting update!!

Permission to start Special Olympic activities on April 4<sup>th</sup> was given by Special Olympics of Ohio. To do this, Special Olympics Guidelines must be followed.

Starting April 4<sup>th</sup>, Phase 2 of the Return to Play for Special Olympics Ohio began. Phase 2 guidelines, which we will strictly follow, are as follows:

\*NO more than 35 people total at practice -including, coaches, volunteers, etc.

\*Teams are permitted to compete against ONE other organization/team.

\* Masks must be worn AT ALL TIMES when not actively participating in practice/competition. This includes spectators as well.

\* NO MORE THAN 1 spectators/parents/caregivers permitted to attend practice/competition- NO OTHER SPECTATORS PERMITTED.

\* Practice can return to FULL INTENSITY. NO other in-person gatherings of 35 or more people permitted.

At each practice or event, health screenings and temperature checks must be completed, and this will include athletes and all spectators. The goal is to keep everyone safe and still be able to participate in sports.

The first two sports that Highland County Wildcats will offer are track and bocce. Several events and activities are being planned around those two sport areas. Athletes will be contacted about activities by the Special Olympics Coordinator. Good luck to all athletes as they return to active participation in organized events. For more information regarding Special Olympics, please call 937-393-7926, ext. 136.



**Special Olympics**  
*Highland County*



Ryan started working at Walmart on February 22 and continues to do amazing. His duties include door greeter, sanitation of carts, as well as restocking of return items. He continues to impress his managers as they often ask him to do various tasks, which he completes diligently. Ryan's team, which includes Grow, Inc, OOD, his mother, and SSA, worked with Ryan for about a year before finding him a placement in which he was excited. The team coordinated transportation through FRS to get him to and from work. This was truly a team effort to assist and support Ryan and we could not be more proud of his success at Walmart.



Adah is currently attending Laurel Oaks for the early childhood program as she wants to work with children. Adah made the decision to go this route to better her future by having a career she enjoys and support herself as she plans to have her own apartment in the future. Her SSA nominated Adah for the exceptional student award through Hopewell as it was felt she deserved recognition for taking the initiative for her future. While she didn't get the award, Hopewell still sent her a certificate in the mail recognizing her exceptional achievement. Great job Adah!





Hills and Dales Preschool is heading toward the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The kids enjoyed water days on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, when they participated in beach day activities.

Preschool graduation is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are very proud how everyone handled all of the changes this year and look forward to next school year.



Beginning in January 2021, each month a DIY activity was sent home with preschoolers. Most of these kits contained the needed supplies, with a few supplemental items from home. The activities for each month and a few pictures of completed activities are below.

January: Toilet Paper Roll Windsocks

February: Egg Carton Owls

March: Scavenger Hunt and Random Acts of Kindness

April: School Milk Carton Balloon Powered Cars

May: Superhero Balloon Rockets





## Early Intervention and Help Me Grow



Kowen

From Kowen's mom: Our experience with the Early Intervention Team was nothing but positive. The most important thing to me was no one ran me over they all respected me as mom and always ask my opinion and what I would like to see Kowen improve on etc. All of our visits were virtual due to Covid. But we made it work. Kowen looked forward to seeing Katie and surprisingly built a rapport with her even though it was online. Kowen has improved so much, and I am very thankful for the team!

And will add miss Katie very much!!!



Braelynn

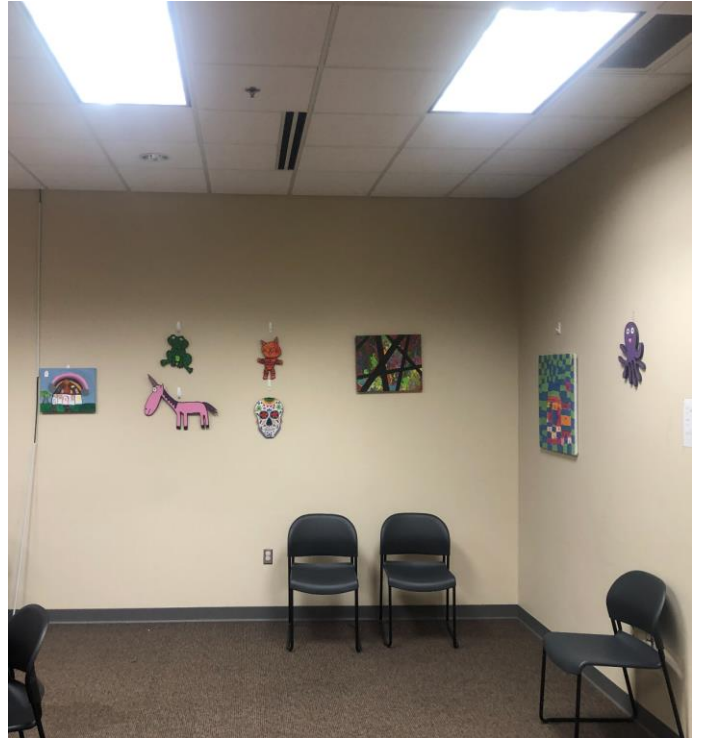
From Braelynn's mom: Early intervention has helped me understand that sometimes in life you get too caught up in comparing your child to other kids their age, when every kid learns at their own pace. Early intervention and Help Me Grow have really helped me in the past three years, from helping Braelynn grow into the sweet and smart girl she is now, to helping us prepare for a new addition to the family. They have grown to be a part of our family. I appreciate all their work they have done for Braelynn and our family. I would highly recommend their services to anyone. They go above and beyond daily.

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention program help babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities learn, play, and grow. Our shining star, Braelynn, was born premature at 28 weeks, weighing 2 pounds 1.2 ounces. She had a brain bleed at birth that resulted in her being diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 2 1/2 years old. Brae had a long road ahead of her at birth, spending 91 days in the hospital at different intervals throughout her first year of life. Her family never knew what was going on from one day to the next.

One thing the family has learned, is that miracles do happen. From day one, Brae has always been positive and never let her health concerns get her down. Braelynn just turned three in February 2021 and is catching up to her same age peers!

Starting early intervention can significantly change a child's developmental path and increase their success in both school and life. While Brae was in the Early Intervention (EI) program she received service coordination, speech, occupational, physical, and developmental services.

## Artists Display Artwork in the Community



The Up and Beyond Art Studio has been in full swing with artists creating unique pieces of art. We are very pleased to announce that their art is displayed in the community. We have 21 artists with their creative pieces displayed at the Highland County Health Department. Various artists have sold eleven pieces from the display and are very excited about doing so. Items may be purchased and paid for at the Health Department. Those who have viewed the display really enjoy seeing the art pieces created by the artists. The display is available for viewing at the Highland County Health Department during their office hours. If you would like more information about the display or about the art studio in general, please call 937-393-4237, ext. 137.

