

# HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



Dear Families and Friends,

We would like to begin by thanking you for trusting us to provide services to your loved one. We do not take this responsibility lightly. With health and safety issues dominating our daily lives, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide updates and to assure you that we are closely monitoring our service delivery for compliance with local, state and federal guidance.

We have been in touch with our local Health Department as well as other partners throughout our community to assure our protocols are in line with expectations. At this time, our Health Department is advising us to follow guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You can access the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

In summary, throughout our programs, our staff will be masking up when providing service, being aware of physical distancing and using sanitation practices much in the same way we did throughout all last year. Face to face meetings will be conducted outside when appropriate and weather permitting. We have found great success in using virtual platforms when providing services and we will continue to utilize that forum for meetings with those being served, some home visits with our little ones, and for general business functions.

Despite all the restrictions over the past challenging year, we were still able to help those being served to get out there and enjoy life! This newsletter brings to you some of those highlights as well as information on upcoming plans. We hope you enjoy reading about our adventures and look forward to all that fall brings!

Until next time,

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

## 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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Follow us on Facebook!



# ♥ Welcome to Preschool!

The new school year is upon us! We are excited to have students back in the classroom for the 2021-2022 school year. Summer seemed to fly by, but we are looking forward to seeing everyone once again. This year, we are operating at full capacity, with full day classes Monday through Thursday. To ensure we keep everyone safe, all staff will be required to wear a face mask when in public indoor spaces. Once in the classroom, masks can be removed. Masks will be required on the bus during transportation. We will monitor the health guidance from the Highland County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education and will make adjustments as needed.

We have had several staffing changes over the summer. Nicole Haines will fill the position of Administrative Assistant at the school. Becky Hayslip will begin as a Preschool Teacher. There are five new Preschool Aides this year: Kaleigh Bondurant, Samantha Crawford, Renee Karnes, Chelsea Miller and Bobbi Springer. We are thrilled to have these talented folks on board and look forward to their good work with our little ones at Hills and Dales Preschool.

As we begin the new year, we look forward to the time spent learning, playing and growing together. We are thrilled to begin new chapters and experiences with the students and can't wait to see their progress as we move through the school year. Welcome to new students and welcome back to returning students. Let's have a great year!



...a fun place to  
play and learn!

## Early Intervention Team keep services going!



From virtual visits to porch drop offs and play dates at the park – the Early Intervention Team continued to find innovative and safe ways to connect with families in natural environments. Pictured above is provider Katie Fouch, Development Specialist and Karah Dantas, Service Coordinator with an E.I. family at the park in Leesburg working on a child centered outcome. Our community and the rest of the world are accepting person to person interaction. While we are too, the Early Intervention Team has since found great success and efficiency in the continued use of technology and virtual visits, especially for service coordination actions. Families have remained informed, engaged and happy with the services they are receiving. We also have an increased presence from community partners during IFSP meetings as they are able to join with a simple click of a button! (no matter their busy schedules). Through the pandemic, the E.I. Team has learned to be more creative, resilient and to adapt but most importantly – the importance of modeling these skills for our E.I. families.

# Highland County Wildcats are enjoying games once again!



Special Olympics is now at full force! In late May and June, the Wildcats hosted Bocce outings for five weeks. There were up to 30 athletes who participated and it was a huge success. Bocce is now an offered sport for the Highland County Special Olympics.



On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Special Olympics golf outing and all proceeds go towards Highland County Special Olympics. You can see the flyer on the Highland County Special Olympics Facebook page.

Open gym is being held for basketball players on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am. Proper stretching techniques and the basic fundamentals are presented to our players.

We are currently working on reforming our unified softball team and will play against Fayette County in the near future.

Our golfers have been practicing for the upcoming unified golf tournament regional qualifier which will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The state tournament is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

On October 2, the annual fall games (track and field) will be held at Hillsboro High School from 9am-1pm. Open registration begins at 8:30am.

Flag football games will be scheduled in October and November.

As you can see, we have been very busy in the world of Special Olympics. We are pleased to once again be enjoying the sports we love and making memories with our athletes and volunteers. Follow the Wildcats on the Highland County Special Olympics Facebook page to keep up on all of the activities, games and outcomes of the events.



**Special Olympics**  
*Highland County*

# Community First Summer Youth Program

The Community First Team was busy again with Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE). 15 students from around Highland County participated in the 5-week work experience at Star Cinemas, the YMCA, the Elks Golf Course, and Ponderosa Steakhouse. Participants learned on-the-job skills working with customers and fellow employees, while earning some summer spending money!



SYWE is supported by funding from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and is an extension of our efforts with the local schools in providing Pre-Employment Transition Skills training. Our Community First Team is excited for the start of another school year to work with our students towards their career goals.

For more information on our transition program or job development, please contact Community First Transition Manager Molly Warnock at 937-971-8314 or Job Developer Jacob Alexander at 937-374-9600.



## Follow us on Facebook!

The Highland County Board of DD uses their Facebook page as the platform for helpful tools, suggestions and guidance for those we serve and our families. Weekly posts are shared in an effort to keep you aware of new information regarding many important topics. In the past few months, we have shared information related to the following items:

**\*Ohio's Tax Free weekend**

**\*Tool kit for parents to help manage constipation in children with autism**

**\*Special Olympic information**

**\*Job opportunities at the Highland County Board of DD**

**\*Mobile Food Pantry information**

**\*Nervous System Response information for children**

**\*Information on A Kid Again**

**\*Information on Fostering Connections Program**

**\*NAA's Big Red Safety Boxes**

**\*Imagination Library information**

**\*Information related to upcoming changes in the provider certification rules and new requirements.**

Be sure to like our page on Facebook to stay up to date on helpful information, tips, tools and updates related to county board operations.



# SSA News

Submitted by Meghan Dehart, SSA

**Bobby B. was hired at the White's Bakery 7/22/2021. Here is an account of Bobby's first day from his job coach, Chris Fogle of Grow, Inc.:**

*On his first day, the owner, Sinamon Cluxton, took Bobby to the back wash room and how it was done. There are three huge sinks! The first one is for washing/scrubbing with soap, the second is for rinsing, and the final basin had a blue liquid for sanitizing.*

*Bobby learned that certain pans and racks just get rinsed with hot water and then sanitized, while everything else gets scrubbed with soap. If the cast iron pans get washed with soap the cakes may have a soapy flavor after being baked. Bobby already has a good understanding of what gets soap and what does not.*

*Bobby did very well standing on his feet for several hours. I mentioned 'that standing in place can make the back ache so be sure to stretch out.' He took my advice and every once in a while he stretched out his back.*

*Bobby has a very mellow and easy going personality, but he also has a good sense of humor. He had some of his co-workers laughing and they enjoyed interacting with him. Bobby is excited about getting one free donut each day as well.*

**I met with Bobby last week and he said he loves working at White's. He stated that the owner has already asked him to increase his hours and work on busy Saturday mornings. Bobby is thrilled to get more hours.**



# Attention: Direct Support Professionals needed!!

The Direct Support Professional or DSP, is a key part of a person's team. Through their training and dedication, they assist people in achieving life goals and simply making someone's day meaningful. This can be helping with in-home needs or getting around town or providing employment training and job placement. This support can be for a child or an adult. The role of the Highland County Board of DD is to assist persons served, families, and guardians with selecting a provider of services, whether this is an agency or independent provider, and facilitating a team process that ensures a person-centered focus.

Below are some agency providers who employ DSPs to provide services in our county, along with their contact information. If you are interested in employment with them, please contact them directly. In addition, there are a number of smaller agencies in the county and if you are interested in talking with them please call the Highland Co. Bd. of DD SSA Director at 937-600-2706.

**Assurance Care Systems, 937-731-0508, [assurancecaresystems.org](http://assurancecaresystems.org)**

**Empowering People (EPI), 513-635-6278, [empowering-people.net](http://empowering-people.net)**

**Highco - 937-393-2891, [highcoinc.org](http://highcoinc.org)**

**IHS Services - 614-436-0854, [ihsservices.info](http://ihsservices.info)**

**ResCare, 937-402-4711, [rescare.com](http://rescare.com)**

If you are interested in becoming an independent provider, you can find more information at: **[dodd.ohio.gov](http://dodd.ohio.gov) or [highdd.org](http://highdd.org)**

