

Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Administrative Offices

Hills and Dales Preschool and Early Childhood Center



8919 US 50
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133
Phone: 937-393-4237
Fax: 937-393-5871
Web: highdd.org
Facebook: HCBDD



Annual Report 2022

From the Desk of Superintendent

Debra Buccilla



The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (HCBDD) served more than 800 individuals and families in 2022. This total represents the highest number of individuals served in the history of the Board. HCBDD is responsible for eligible individuals throughout their life span, from birth thru end of life. Highland County voters passed continuing levies in 2003 & 2009. The Board's work today continues to be funded at this same local amount with additional support from other state and federal partners.

Keeping costs steady, has been possible by the excellent work of staff whose priorities are serving individuals in the most responsible way possible and by adding services that are self-supporting and invest in the future. It is often said that what we “put into a child today we will see tomorrow”. Everything we do in our day-to-day work has this one goal...help the individual be as successful and self-reliant as possible. We know that when this happens, the cost to a community is less and the benefits far greater.

Enjoy our 2022 Annual Report and thank you for your support.

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

Service and Support Administration

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department provided eligibility determination and service coordination to 206 people in 2022, with 128 of those supported by home and community-based waivers. We continued our commitment of ensuring people receive services to enhance the quality of their lives while promoting individual choices. This work was accomplished through services provided including assessment, person-centered planning, referrals, payment authorization, linkage, and monitoring.

The SSA Department supports people being served to reach their goals. Here are the success stories for Joseph, Bobby, and Sam.

The Hillsboro McDonalds experienced an upgrade and reopened in August of 2022. This led to many new jobs and three individuals, in particular, answered the call. Joseph of Lynchburg, and Bobby and Sam of Hillsboro, are working various job roles at this Ison Family-Owned McDonalds



Joe had previously worked at McDonalds since 2012. He was unfortunately let go when the lobby was closed during the pandemic. Joe's manager was happy to hire him back upon reopening and on 8/12/22, Joe resumed working in the front lobby. He's responsible for cleaning, taking out trash, gathering trays, sweeping, and mopping. After receiving employment supports from Grow, Inc, Joe is stable in his job and works independently. He is also a great support to new employees and assists with training.





Bobby is one of Joe's trainees and assistant. Bobby was receiving Job Development through Grow, Inc when he was offered a job as a lobby attendant at McDonalds in late September. Bobby used many of his learned job skills developed through previous vocational training and additional job coaching from Grow, Inc. It was no surprise to his team that he picked up the job very quickly. Bobby is very happy with his job and loves to interact with the customers and coworkers.

With the assistance and support of family, Sam applied, interviewed, and accepted a job in time for McDonald's reopening. Sam was hired to prep food, take out trash, and bus tables. Since then, Sam's been trained in working various food stations to prepare food for McDonald's customers. Sam is doing exceptionally well and is sought out often to take on extra shifts. Sam received Independent Employment Support services through Grow, Inc which helped him navigate his schedule.

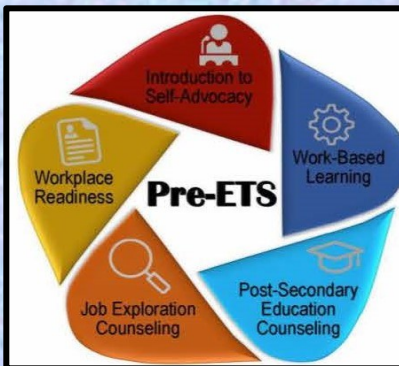


The Hillsboro McDonald's is one of many bustling restaurants in our town. The crew and management have welcomed these three men, all of whom receive services from the Highland County Board of DD. All of the guys are proud of the work they do and diligently perform their job duties. Everyone here at the County Board wishes these men well in their careers and thank the Ison-family McDonalds and Grow, Inc for their efforts in supporting community employment for all.

Community First

Our Pre-Employment Transition Services partner with local school districts, including Hillsboro, Bright Local, Fairfield, Greenfield, Lynchburg-Clay, Hillsboro Christian Academy, two CTC schools, home schools and specialized schools and have expanded into three Clinton County Schools. We currently have sixty-five students and looking for that number to continue to increase. Through networking done while collaborating with the students, we have several students who have been offered different job opportunities once they graduate. We provide Workplace Readiness, Self-Advocacy, Job Exploration, Work Based Learning, and Counseling on Post-Secondary. The important thing about these courses are they are person-centered, meaning they are tailored for each individual student. We let the student tell us what they want and explore that choice until they understand everything involved with the choice. This gives the student autonomy and allows the student to fully understand everything involved with that career. Some students find out they want to continue to pursue that dream and others have realized that the job is not what they thought and decide to explore other avenues.

Another option students have while receiving transition services is working in our Summer Youth Experience. Students work in a local business for five weeks during the summer and receive a stipend of above minimum wage for the work they do. We had fifteen students participate in the program in 2022 and two students were hired at one of the businesses after the program.



In 2022, Anjelica was a participant in multiple programs with Community First. To start the year, Anjelica worked with our Pre-Employment transition Services while finishing high school. In the summer, she participated in the Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) working at a local business. After successfully completing the SYWE, Anjelica started working on the job developmental process. Through the process, Anjelica and her job developer created a resume, participated in a mock interview, and planned out the job search process. Once this was completed, the job search started. All the hard work and preparation paid off because Anjelica had two interviews scheduled quickly and ended up getting offered a position at The Alley Neighborhood Grill. After getting the job, Anjelica's job developer followed up with her for 90 days about the job and any accommodations she may need. As of December, Anjelica is now job stable. Anjelica is one of sixteen individuals that were referred to Community First for employment services through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities in 2022. The individuals have received job offers from employers such as Star Cinemas, ODNR, Holtfield, Sunrise Sunset, R& L, Walmart, Kroger, and Lowes.



People First of Highland County

The People First Advocacy Group continued to expand in 2022. The group enjoyed 7 guest speakers that shared beneficial information for individuals with developmental disabilities. They held monthly meetings locally and attended the Southern Ohio Advocacy Group (SOAG) regional meetings in Chillicothe. Seven of the local advocates went to the Synergy Conference in Sandusky. Several advocates volunteered at Rocky Fork State Park throughout the year.



Up and Beyond Art Studio

Many artists participated at the Up and Beyond Art Studio in 2022. The group had great sales at local festivals this year as well as offered artwork for sale on Facebook and through appointments at the art studio. Artists keep 90% of sales with 10% going to the supply fund.





Special Olympics



The Highland County Wildcats had a great year of competition and friendship. The basketball season was cut short due to health and safety concerns, but the team was able to have 3 games and ended with a 3-0 record. After the regular season, the Wildcats competed against the Highland County Sheriff Department at Hillsboro High School. This was a great experience for the players, the gym was filled with students, faculty members, families, friends, and supporters. This was so much fun, that this will now be an annual event.

For the first time in two years, we hosted the Youth Special Olympics event at the YMCA. There were 103 youth representing each area school district. Fifteen volunteers worked with the youth to develop basketball skills. The event was enjoyed by families and supporters.

Track and Field was held in the Spring and Fall this year. The Spring Games, held at Lakota East High School was the regional qualifier that included 17 organizations in the region. Out of 28 local athletes, 14 qualified for the Summer Games and brought home 11 gold, 15 silver and 14 bronze medals. The Fall Games were held at Hillsboro High School and 67 local athletes participated.

Bocce continued to grow during 2022. The Wildcats hosted the annual bocce tournament with 28 athletes competing.

Unified slow-pitch softball held one tournament and two regular games, finishing 3rd out of 5 teams, and having a 1-1 record in regular season games. Flag football athletes competed in 3 games. This team is young and learning new skills for the game.



Hills and Dales Preschool



Avery started services in our Early Intervention Program at the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities before she began preschool at Hills and Dales in August of 2020. Avery uses a communication device to help her communicate her wants, needs, and desires. Her communication device was implemented through speech therapy which she receives during her school day. With this assistance, Avery has shown amazing growth in her social skills and daily schedule. She enjoys interacting with friends at recess, especially when they chase each other. Avery will graduate in the spring and move on to kindergarten in August! Congratulations, Avery! We are so proud of you.

Avery is one of 61 students enrolled in Hills and Dales Preschool for the 2022-2023 school year. Hills and Dales is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed special needs/inclusion preschool program, which helps both children with and without special needs learn from each other, develop social skills, and create friendships. There are 29 students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which may include supports such as occupational, physical, behavioral and speech therapy. The HCBDD nurse participates in IEP development and completes state mandatory hearing and vision screenings on preschoolers.

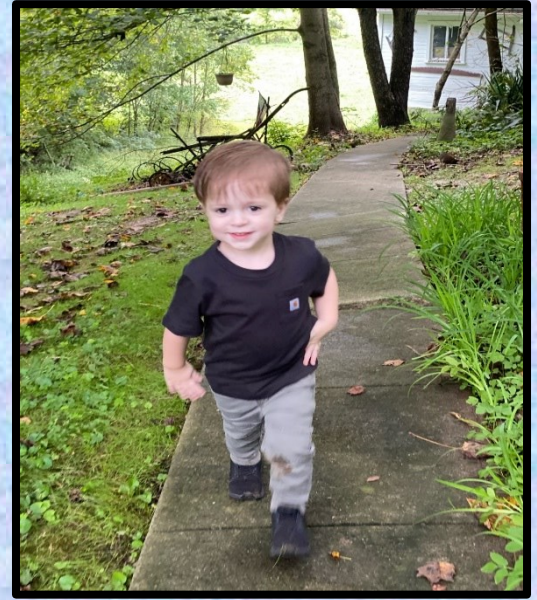
During the 2021-2022 school year, 34 students graduated from Hills and Dales preschool.

Transportation was provided to requesting students and family. During the first half of the 2022-2023 school year, 46 students utilized school transportation. Fifty-one students rode the preschool buses for the last half of the 2021-2022 school year.



Early Intervention

Early Intervention provided service coordination for 185 families in 2022. Of that, 130 families received direct services from the EI team. The services provided were through virtual and home visiting methods. Early Intervention had several young ones successfully “graduate” from the EI program in 2022. Early Intervention works with children and their families to enhance the child’s development through everyday learning opportunities and routines. EI serves and supports infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years of age. The EI team consists of Service Coordinators, Nursing, Developmental Specialists, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapist.



Collaboration and growth have been a huge piece of HCBDD’s 2022 initiative with the development of the ADEP (Autism Diagnosis Education Project) Program. Sylvia Call serves in the role of Autism Services Coordinator, and she partners with Dr. Lenora Fitton of ABC Pediatrics to provide access to local autism diagnosis services for our Early Intervention families. This program began in July of 2022, and since that time Sylvia and Dr. Fitton have completed evaluations for a total of 5 children in Highland County. Of those 5 completed evaluations, 3 children received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder from Dr. Fitton. The program has been well-received by families in Highland County as an alternative to waiting more than a year at the larger test sites for the same diagnostic services. Kennedy Gillman, parent of one of our Highland County EI children who has gone through the ADEP Program has this to say about her experience: “The ADEP Program made the diagnosis process for our second son go so easily. After our first son was diagnosed, we knew we needed to have his little brother checked. The process through Children’s for big brother was a long wait list, super long drives, and exhausting appointments. This program made appointments swift and easy, and locations were much closer! The results were discussed privately and professionally by Dr. Fitton and Sylvia, and they even supplied us with a take-home bag of supports, resources, and therapy items to get us started on our next journey!”



Help Me Grow (HMG)

Help Me Grow (HMG) continues to provide services in four counties: Adams, Brown, Clinton, and Highland. HMG is funded through the Ohio Department of Health. HMG served approximately 220 families in 2022 across the four counties. Help Me Grow has changed their model to Parents as Teachers (PAT). This model allows children who are eligible to enroll up to age 2 and services can be provided for 36 months potentially up to age 5 depending on enrollment age. HMG staff completed the Parents as Teacher's curriculum, new to HCBDD this year, to provide quality services to this new age group. In addition, HMG was awarded the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant again for Highland and Adams County. This grant provided services to a total of 30 families. Another new outreach opportunity has been the navigator grant. This provides 8 hours a week in both Highland and Adams county for HMG staff to do creative outreach to various groups.



Help Me Grow Home visiting offered themed monthly playgroups to families. Pictured above is the staff from the holiday party that many families attended. There are celebrations of many varieties!

Recently a Home Visitor (HV) started seeing a mom and baby. Mom had been drug-free for 8 months, but CPS was involved because her baby was born with drugs in her system. The HV met mom and the kinship caregiver weekly and also attended court hearings. Mom needed to find housing for her, and the baby and home visitor gave her many resources and options. The Home Visitor also spoke with mom about the importance of organization to keep up with all the appointments she had for herself and gave her ideas of ways to do this. Recently the mom lost her job, and the home visitor helped her navigate her way into finding a new job. To date, mom has been drug-free for nearly 2 years, CPS just awarded her full custody of her baby and is due to close her case soon and HV is helping mom work on her next goal of getting her driver's license back.

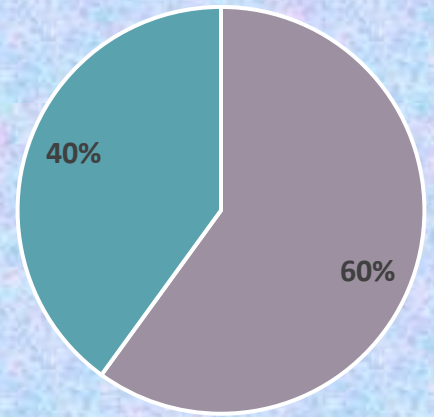
2022 Statement of Activities

Revenues

\$5,379,811.00

Local and Federal/State

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *3.35 mill Tax Levy | *Medicaid Administrative Claiming |
| *1.0 mill Tax Levy | *Title XX |
| *Waiver Reconciliation | *Other |
| *Grants | *ODE Funding |
| *Help Me Grow Part C | *Help Me Grow Home Visiting |
| *Targeted Case Management | *OOD |

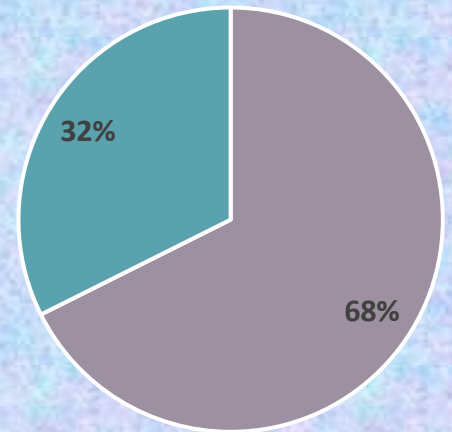


■ Levy ■ Federal/State

Expenditures

Supports and Services

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Residential | *Adult Day |
| *Employment | *Transportation |
| *Early Intervention | *Family Support |
| *Preschool | *Nursing Support |
| *Help Me Grow Home Visiting | *Community First |
| *Service and Support Administration | *Community Outreach |
| *Medicaid Coordination | *Provider Support |
| *Quality Assurance | *Employment Coordination |
| *Home Purchases | *Home Repairs |



■ Supports and Services
■ Administrative Support

Administrative Support

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| *Facility Maintenance | *Utilities |
| *Supplies | *Equipment |
| *Overhead | *General Expenses |
| *Personnel | |

*During 2022, the Highland County Board nurse provided training to providers and county board staff throughout the year. Sixty-two people completed American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/first aid or Healthcare Provider Certification. Forty-three people completed the 14-hour Medication Administration Certification class and ninety-five people completed the 2-hour recertification class. Fifteen providers completed the initial 4-hour G-tube certification course and eighteen providers completed the initial 4 hours insulin course. Recertifications were issued to twenty people for G-tube training and one for insulin training.

*To ensure individuals receive medications as prescribed, Medication Administration Quality Assurance (MAQA) reviews were completed by the board nurse. Individuals living in their own home require this review and 6 reviews were completed in 2022.



*Operations completed many minor projects in the past year. All entry doors were replaced throughout the facility in 2022 to ensure areas were up to code for fire and safety requirements.

2022 Board Members

Elizabeth Fryman, President

Michael Richards, Vice President

Cheryl Lyle, Secretary

John Levo

Paul Pence

Kim Adams

Matthew Roberts

2022 Administrative Staff

Debra Buccilla, Superintendent

Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

Bret Malone, Education Director/Operations Director

Lori Moore, Business Director

Elizabeth Brennfleck, Human Resource Director

Molly Warnock, Community First Director

Kelli Williamson, Service and Support Director

Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director

Brady Scott, IT Manager

Becky Pollard, Nurse

Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent