

Logan County Board Thanks Community for their Continued Support at Recent Fundraising Events

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Superintendent Saul Bauer expressed his gratitude to the community for their continued support at two recent fundraisers at the board meeting held on Thursday May 21, 2015.

The Driven Foundation put on a benefit basketball game at Benjamin Local High School on April 25th. The game featured 12 former OSU football players playing alongside local players. This event raised \$2,850 for our local Special Olympics.

Our annual flower sale ended on May 8, 2015, selling a record number of flowers, and resulted in \$4,010.73 being raised for our Foundation. These funds are used for a variety of needs including to assist associates if they need financial support with rent, utilities, marker for a gravesite, etc. We are so fortunate to have the support of a wonderful community. Thank you for your continued support.

In other board business, Mr. Bauer discussed many personnel changes. Michelle Wisner, instructor assistant resigned effective April 30, 2015. Vickie Smith, EI Secretary / Clerk 3 resigned effective April 23, 2015 and was rehired May 18, 2015. Carol Thorburg, assistant cook resigned May 14, 2015. Danny Diener, Intermittent Custodian was hired May 4, 2015. Kathy Foust, Occupational Therapy Assistant will retire effective 6/30/15 and will re-hire part-time September 1, 2015. Rodney Gillman Adaptive Physical Education Instructor will retire August 1, 2015 after 43 years of service.

Superintendent Bauer continues to provide updates to the board and the Logan County community about changes and improvements within the organization. The LCBDD and RTC Industries encourage improvements by moving from a facility-based model to a community one. We have offered opportunities for employment in our workshop for many years. Now, we are focused on integrating employment into the community.

We have had a great response from businesses in the community, and we are looking for more opportunities to participate in our mission to empower more people with disabilities to contribute as members of our community. The goal is to focus on offering community choices to every person of every ability.

All County Boards of DD are being faced with changes from the federal and state levels that cause us to think differently and respond creatively. We are sorting through the vast list of forces driving a variety of changes to County Boards.

The Department of Developmental Disabilities continues to work with the federal departments to define the parameters of the changes. Much is still unknown, particularly about the enforcement of the ADA and the Olmstead Act by Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) and the Department of Justice, and Gov. Kasich's Employment First Initiative and the 2015-2016 Budget proposals. Much is still unknown related to the various parts of the Centers for Medicaid (CMS) Rule and the Ohio Department of DD's Transition Plan to comply with it (more information is available about these drivers of systems change in our 2014 Summer addition of the Messenger, http://www.logancbdd.org/Messenger_SUMMER_2014_EDITION.pdf).

However, one part of the CMS rule known as "conflict free case management" for home and community-based services waivers (Medicaid waivers) is requiring our prompt attention. We must now focus on preparing for its impact.

Conflict free case management is a Federal Medicaid phrase that means the provider of case management, or the one who develops the person-centered plan, cannot be the providers of Medicaid waiver services. In Logan County and throughout Ohio, Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) develop the person-centered plan (the ISP) and oversee what CMS calls case management. We are currently, and have for many years, been providers of Medicaid waiver day services for adults through our workshop - RTC Industries.

The Ohio Department of DD has advocated with CMS for less restrictive interpretations of this rule with no success. CMS continues to push for County Boards of DD to phase out their role as direct service providers. What this means for Logan County DD Services and other boards in Ohio is that centers providing adult services such as RTC will need to be more independent, in other words they must become their own company.

The LCBDD and RTC Industries are creatively meeting these changes while maintaining the same quality services that the Logan County community has come to expect. One of our creative solutions involves RTC Industries becoming a more self-sufficient company. RTC will transition to a more independent company; however, their services will maintain the same excellent quality. The LCBDD and RTC Industries support this change and plans are being made to make this a transparent transition.

The clock started ticking on the conflict free case management rule in March 2014, and we must comply soon. CMS has not specified when they will require compliance other than to acknowledge that the rule is already in place and Ohio no longer

is permitted to “grandfather,” meaning we are currently not in compliance. What compliance looks like is not set in stone, but we already know that the Logan County Board of DD and RTC Industries will be directly affected.

County boards can no longer provide Medicaid services, yet CBs must continue to plan for these and other services and we must assure Medicaid waiver services are provided in the most integrated setting.

We will continue to fund Medicaid services through matching dollars and we will fund the many other lifespan services provided for people with developmental disabilities. We will continue to monitor services to assure the services are provided in accordance with the person centered plan; and we will continue to investigate when there are unusual incidents (a full list of our services can be found at: http://www.logancbdd.org/Approved_2014_Annual_Plan_Goals.pdf).

The Ohio Department of DD (DODD) submitted its statewide Transition Plan to CMS in March of 2015. They have not heard back from the federal officials and their response may still be weeks or months away. To learn more about the CMS rule and its impact on Ohio's system of services for people with DD, click here: [CMS Transition Plan](#).

Another issue receiving much recent attention is Ohio Gov. John Kasich's 2015-2016 biennial budget proposal. Media reports and other communications have indicated the proposal contains increased funding for DD services and waivers. However, additional funding is not expected to come to Logan County and we expect further cuts to funding due to the elimination of TPP tax. Also, additional information indicates that many of the state-funded waivers in the budget are not for new services. They are for people in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/DD) and Developmental Centers to comply with Olmstead and the CMS Rule. Waivers for ICF/DD and DCs will have little to no affect on Logan County. The budget proposal will not be final until the end of June.

Regarding independent providers and the budget proposal, a public hearing in the Ohio House of Representatives on the budget in March drew many families of people served to share their concerns about the elimination of private providers. Their messages had an impact on the proposal in the House and further changes are expected before the bill is finalized.

On to the Senate, we don't yet know what the Ohio Senate will decide. Read more about the results of the public hearings through the Ohio House and the budget and process by clicking here: [DODD Pipeline Extra](#).

In addition to all of that, a recent federal change is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which limits enrollment in adult centers unless the person is at least age 25 and has explored work options.

Other issues have emerged that will also impact us in ways we don't yet know. One is the federal Transition to Integrated and Meaningful Employment (TIME) Act. If passed, it will phase out special wage certificates under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) which would mean people with disabilities can no longer be employed at lower minimum wage rates. The Logan County Board of DD recently signed a resolution in opposition to the proposed TIME act. The resolution can be found at: http://www.logancbdd.org/April_2015_Media_Release.pdf.

Changes to the federal and state requirements are driving our future. Some of these changes advocate for person centered services and integrated services. We remain in agreement with these two ideologies and we continue to implement them in our plans and in daily services. Some proposed changes may affect subminimum wage and adult day services. As a board we have objected to some of these changes because we anticipate they will negatively impact the lives of people with disabilities.

Over the past two years we have made changes to our logo, our mission and vision and philosophy, and we have created value statements that clearly define what we value. These things will remain forefront in shaping our future.

We will likely look different in the near future. Services will be delivered in different places and in different ways. But we will continue to keep focused on what is best for each person served and we remain committed to our values and to our mission, "Empowering people with developmental disabilities to contribute as valued members of our community."

The next finance committee meeting, is scheduled for June 15th 2013 @ noon at the Logan County Board of DD board office conference room at 1851 St. Rt. 47 West, Bellefontaine. The next board meeting takes place on Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 pm in the board conference room. These meetings are open to the public.

Debra Morrison
HR/Executive Secretary
May 22, 2014