

The Logan County Board
of Developmental Disabilities



A Lifetime of Dignity and Opportunities

*Empowering people
with developmental
disabilities to
contribute as valued
members of our
community*



Summer
2015

The Messenger



PAGE
The ADA Turns 25!
By Saul Bauer, Superintendent

Twenty-five years ago our nation committed itself to eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities. On July 26, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA has done much to improve the quality of life for millions of people with disabilities by expanding participation in community life, improving infrastructure, and reducing communication barriers. The law's protections have and will continue to shape and improve the lives of disabled Americans.

This celebratory time offers an opportunity to reflect on the ADA's history and its future potential. The disability community's unwavering commitment to the passage and implementation of the ADA continues to inspire. As the service delivery system becomes increasingly complex and the struggle for full community integration persists, advocacy for community integration is more important than ever.



[Follow Me to Page](#)

2

Inside:

- Junior Baker 3
- Brooke Schindler 4
- Children and ADA 5
- Financial Year in Review 6
- Paul Patterson 8
- ABLE Information 11
- More about ADA 12
- Guardianship Rules 14
- Being a F.A.N. 15
- RTC Overview 18



ADA Turns 25: Continued from Page 1

The concept of home and community based living would not be making progress without the ADA. Disability rights law propelled the widespread availability of home and community-based services from a lofty goal, accessible only to those who could afford it, to an actionable policy expectation. Most people strongly prefer to receive care and services in their homes and communities, as opposed to institutional settings. The ADA and Olmstead gives that preference the legal legs it needs to advance policy and become a reality.

Twenty-five years ago, the predominance of care for people with disabilities was delivered in nursing homes and large institutions. In 1997, two years before Olmstead, 75% of Medicaid long-term care dollars paid for institutional care, while merely 25% paid for care where most people want it, at home and in their community. Since then the advocacy of organizations such as the LCBDD and other County Boards of DD, ARC and Ohio Legal Rights (Disability Rights Ohio), combined with the legal precedence of the ADA, to advance efforts to "rebalance" Medicaid long-term care spending and services away from institutions and towards home and community-based services (HCBS).

Now, twenty-five years after the signing of the ADA and fifteen years post-Olmstead, nearly half of all Medicaid long-term care spending goes to care at home and in the community. People with disabilities should be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose and fully participate in their community. As a result of the ADA and Olmstead and the work of advocates and policymakers, people with disabilities have far more options than ever before. Twenty-five years ago, an adult living with cognitive or physical limitations, and needing assistance with daily living activities, would likely find a nursing home or large institution was their only option. Today, they have greater access to care and services to live in their home, or in a less restrictive environment. In most cases these services are less costly at home than they are in a nursing facility or developmental center.

Much progress has been made. More work, however, is needed. People with disabilities still remain more likely to be neglected or abused than other citizens. We are called to educate our community to the needs of people with disabilities and we are each called to be friends and allies to those who are vulnerable in our community.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the ADA, this newsletter will spotlight efforts that are opening gateways to full participation and opportunity for people with disabilities. Enclosed in this newsletter are many examples and opportunities for you to become a F.A.N.