

Logan County Board of DD Highlights Equine Therapy Services During April Meeting

The Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) held its regularly scheduled meeting on April 3 at 5:30 p.m. Prior to the meeting, Board members participated in an informative training session led by Lindsay Jackson of Discovery Riders, an equine-assisted services organization. The presentation highlighted the wide range of supports Discovery Riders provides to individuals with social-emotional needs, communication disorders, physical challenges, and learning disabilities. Their services are available for individuals beginning at age 4 through adulthood. Among their programs is a 10-week session specifically designed for students ages 8 and older, which helps participants prepare for competition in Special Olympics. In 2024, Discovery Riders served 103 students—61 of whom were from Logan County. Participants travel from across nine different counties, and 100% of the students receive some form of scholarship assistance to help cover costs. Discovery Riders is made possible by a few staff members and a dedicated group of approximately 70 volunteers, who contribute in various capacities to support the organization's mission.

The Board introduced Mrs. Kari Eckard as the new Business Director. Mrs. Eckard presented the financial report for February, highlighting that expenses were at 14.4% of the annual budget, compared to the projected 16.7%, and revenues were at 12.5%, also below the projected 16.7%. She also noted the recent installation of new Wi-Fi access points at both the LCBDD office and The Discovery Center.

Mrs. Krista Oldiges, Superintendent, shared that a Mobi-mat purchased through a grant from United Way will be installed this summer at Old Field Beach, enhancing accessibility for individuals with mobility needs. The Board also received a \$6,500 Youth Allocation Grant from Student United Way to support advocacy and education youth services during the summer months.

Facilities updates included the completion of the HVAC project at The Discovery Center, boiler repairs at the board office, replacement of five fire extinguishers, and a backflow valve replacement following an inspection by OVIS.

Mr. Jason Moyer, SSA Director, reported that the Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Committee completed its annual review for 2024. Mr. Moyer also met with Mary Rutan Pharmacy representatives to explore options for improving local access to medication delivery services, as current providers offer limited availability.

Mrs. Staci Nichols, Human Resources Director, reported on staffing updates, including three open teaching positions and one nurse opening at The Discovery Center Preschool. Longtime staff members Jill Butler (preschool teacher) and Deb Shotts (preschool nurse) will retire at the end of the school year. Those interested in applying may contact Mrs. Nichols at snichols@loganbddd.org.

The next blood drive will take place on May 15 at the LCBDD office.

The Early Intervention Department recently hosted a Splish, Splash and Craft event at the Hilliker YMCA for families receiving services. Ongoing programs for EI families include Baby and Me Yoga and Tiny Tunes music classes.



Tiny Tunes Music Class



Splish Splash and Craft Event

Ms. Sulich, Preschool Director, announced that The Discovery Center Preschool will receive two years of free Creative Curriculum materials provided by the state.

In new business, the Board approved an agreement with Primary Solutions for business services software, reviewed and approved three policies, and adopted the updated Table of Organization and 2025–2026 school calendars for students and staff. The Board also voted to extend the IT stipend for the SSA Director for an additional three months.

LCBDD Board meetings are typically held the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at 1973 State Route 47 West, Bellefontaine, OH. The next board meeting will be held on May 1, 2025.

For more information about services and programs, contact LCBDD at 937-592-0015 or visit www.loganbddd.org.

