

Update

January 2004

Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
419-248-3585 • e-mail info@lucasmrdd.com

State Receives Approval to Expand I.O. Waivers

Ohio has received approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of Individual Options (IO) waiver slots available for the Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver program. The approval allows the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to provide care to an additional 2,000 people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

"I am pleased that our state continues to expand the availability of in-home supports for people with disabilities," Governor Taft said. "Families now have more choices available to them where, in the past, very few options existed."

This expansion will be the fourth increase in available slots since January 2000. Since then, including this more recent increase, 6,500 more people will have the opportunity to receive in-home supports under the IO waiver program.

"We're not sure at this point how many waivers will be allocated to Lucas County," said Superintendent John Trunk. "The number will depend on how much match funding we can generate, but I encourage families to contact us for information about eligibility and benefits."

"For information, families may call our Centralized Intake Office at 419-381-8308."

State Accredits Lucas County for Quality Services and Supports

After a comprehensive review of programs, services, procedures and policies, the Lucas County Board of MR/DD has maintained its accreditation from the State of Ohio.

"This Accreditation should serve as an assurance to the residents of Lucas County that its county board and county government are acting responsibly and effectively in supporting people with disabilities and at the same time working to ensure that county and state dollars are being spent wisely," said Kenneth Ritchey, Director of the Ohio Department of MR/DD.



(from left) John Trunk, Superintendent; John Root, Quality Assurance Director; Tammy Talmage, Quality Assurance Coordinator; Kenneth Ritchey, Director of the Ohio Dept. of MR/DD.

Annual Action Plan Emphasizes Principles of Self-Determination

All Individual Plans will reflect the principles of self-determination.

That's a major element of the Board's 2004 Action Plan. The Action Plan (which is now available online at www.lucasmrdd.com) outlines specific goals and objectives for the coming year.

As outlined in the Action Plan, the four basic principles of self-determination are:

- **Freedom:** the ability to plan a life with supports rather than purchase a program;
- **Authority:** the ability to control a certain sum of dollars to purchase supports;
- **Support:** through the use of resources, arranging formal and informal supports to live within the community; and

- **Responsibility:** accepting a role within the community through competitive employment, organizational affiliations, and general caring for others within the accountability for spending public dollars in life enhancing ways.

The concept of self-determination is one of the five core values the Board adopted in 2001. The Board recognized that self-determination:

- Supports self-advocacy;
- Understands that people have diverse needs and desires and can shape their own destiny, with support and guidance if needed; and
- Acknowledges that self-advocates, parents, family members and advocates will define the supports needed to succeed.

Respite Care for Children



(from left) Superintendent John Trunk, Lucas County Board of MR/DD member Dr. Libby Ruppert, Anne Grady Center Board member Jack Mixon, and Anne Grady Executive Director Larry White cut the ribbon officially opening Annie's House, a new respite area for families of children with special needs. The facility can provide care for up to four children in planned or emergency situations.

New Managers Join the Board for the New Year



Diana Tamez, Human Resources Director, has just relocated from Milwaukee. She has ten years experience in the human resources field, primarily in healthcare and social services. She has a Masters Degree and says she's "very excited" to be on the team.



Jeff Holland, Accounting Manager/Lott Industries, has an MBA from the University of Cincinnati. He was previously employed by the University of Toledo. "I have found people here friendly, cordial and willing to help in any way possible," he said.



Hope Schang, Assistant Director of Business Operations, had over seven years in public accounting before joining the Board. She was previously an audit manager for the public accounting firm that audited both the Board of MR/DD and Lott Industries.



Laura Odiari, Facility Manager at the Hill Adult Services Center, has a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Special Education. She had previous teacher education experience in England and Nigeria before joining the Board in 1994.

Board to Address Cultural Competence

A Program-wide committee has begun working on plans to assist the Board in developing a work environment that is sensitive to an individual's ethnicity, cultural values, disability, religious beliefs, and language preference. The *Cultural Competence Committee* recently outlined a six-step plan to help the organization achieve this goal. One of the first steps will be a comprehensive assessment of attitudes, beliefs, understandings, fears and values.

What is meant by *cultural competence*? It's defined as an ongoing process of development that goes beyond cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity to changing what we think and how we do things to best serve and support individuals and families in our community from all cultural backgrounds.

"We are aiming at a work environment that values differences, celebrates similarities, and is responsive to diversity at all levels of the organization," said John Root, Quality Assurance Director and Co-Chair of the Cultural Competence Committee.

Classes Offered for Parents Raising Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Double ARC will again offer its new curriculum, *Triumph Through the Challenges of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The six-week course is scheduled on Thursdays beginning February 19 through March 25, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., at the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial Center. Babysitting is provided. This series provides comprehensive information and support to help parents – birth, adoptive, foster, guardian – work more effectively with their child with FAS/ARND. Parents can call Double ARC, 419-479-3060 ext. 6 for more information or to register.

Car Seat Safety Checks



Did you know that 4 out of 5 car seats are not used correctly? The Safe Kids Coalition will have a presentation on safe car seats and a car seat safety check will be held at the EduCare Center, 1932 Birchwood, on February 9. Families should register by calling Sarra Burnham in Early Intervention at 419-381-7300.

Joe Mason Retires



Best wishes are extended to Joe Mason, Production Coordinator at the Holland Road facility, on his retirement. Employed by the Board for 23 years, Joe was a valued member of the management team. The Board thanks him for his years of service.

Decorating at the Manor House



(from left) Gloria Harris, Rebecca Small and Habilitation Specialist Kim Neese work at decorating a room for the holidays at the Manor House at Wildwood Preserve Metropark. Many craft items made by workers at Lott Industries were available in the Metroparks gift shop.

Calendar Features Original Artwork Produced by Art Class at Telegraph Adult Services Center

Telegraph's Art Class has produced a beautiful calendar for 2004. Cost is only \$5. Professionally printed on quality cardstock it features original artwork and poetry. To order, contact Theresa Athaide-Victor or Ruth Koogan 419-476-2516.



Special Recognition



Ann Muder and Tim Floyd were presented with Special Recognition plaques at the December Board meeting.

Both are members of the Board's Best Practices committee and have participated in the Board's management training program. These efforts have focused on moving forward the Board's commitment to Self-Determination. Additionally, Ms. Muder and Mr.

Floyd, with their children, were early participants in the Self-Determination pilot program.

Ms. Muder was recently elected to the Lott Industries Board of Trustees.

Rene Reau Honored as Staff Person of the Month

Rene Reau is being recognized for her efforts coordinating enrollment of 158 people on waivers during 2003. While many Service and Support Specialists were involved in assisting families complete the enrollment process, Rene operated the central command center where she fielded communication with the Ohio Department of MR/DD, Lucas County Job and Family Services, families and her fellow Service and Support Specialists.

After many years of managing the waiting list and adding people to the residential waiting list, Rene was able to take many people off the waiting list and begin the process of linking them with services they had been waiting for.

Her commitment to this effort went "above and beyond." We are very pleased to recognize Rene as the Staff Person of the Month.



Rene Reau receives the Staff Person of the Month honor from Board member Rod Standiford.

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 28-30 Special Olympics Winter Games
- February 3 Parent Meeting at Transportation
- February 6 Parent Meetings at Hill and Holland
- February 10 Superintendent's Forum at Larc Lane Center
- February 12 Parent Meeting at Telegraph
- February 16 Presidents' Day — Facilities Closed
- February 17 Board of MR/DD Meeting
- March 5-6 West Sectional Basketball Tournament
- March 8 Facilities Closed — Staff Inservice
- March 9 Superintendent's Forum at Larc Lane Center
- April 9 Facilities Closed — Spring Holiday
- April 16 Spring Dinner-Dance
- April 17 Area IV Special Olympics Individual Bowling
- April 24 Area IV Special Olympics Developmental & Motor Sports

The next public forum with Superintendent John Trunk will be on February 10 at 9:30 a.m. at Larc Lane Center.

These monthly open gatherings with Superintendent John Trunk are designed to be informal discussions that allow the Superintendent to share information as well as hear first-hand the concerns and issues on the minds of parents, guardians, family members, advocates and service providers.

Update

Lucas County Board of
Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities
2001 Collingwood Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio 43620-1698
419-248-3585
<http://www.lucasmrdd.com>

John J. Trunk, Superintendent

Board Members

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Rod Standiford

Larry White
1525 Eber Road
Holland, Ohio 43528

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