



OUTREACH

A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF
MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

CELEBRATE OCTOBER - NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH.

CARRIE ROBERTS, ADULT SERVICES CSS

Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, established October as the official month to recognize the contributions that individuals with disabilities have made to the workforce and the workplace. Join the Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) in celebrating the achievements of working Summit County citizens with disabilities. The national theme for 2007 Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) is "Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team".



For the past 3 years, the Summit MRDD Community Supports and Services Department has recognized local community employers who set a new standard in advocating for employees with disabilities by holding an Employer Recognition Luncheon in their honor.

FOURTH ANNUAL EMPLOYER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

October 8, 2007 at 11:45 a.m.

Greystone Hall: 103 S. High Street, Akron, OH

In 2004, the Summit MRDD recognized the following employers: Sage Computers, Main Street Gourmet, and ACME Stores.

In 2005, the Summit MRDD recognized the following employers: Little Tikes, Geauga Lake, Haven of Rest Ministries, University of Akron, Camp Invention, and the Akron Zoo.

In 2006, the Summit MRDD recognized the following employers: Janco Service Industries, Courtyard by Marriott, Malco Products, Inc., Charlie's Restaurant, and Giant Eagle.

In 2007, the Summit MRDD will again recognize five exemplary employers.

Read more about Akron Children's Hospital and the impact they are making in the lives of working Summit County citizens with disabilities on page four.

Celebrate National Disability
Employment Awareness Month 1

The County of Summit
Board of MRDD Report
to the Community 3 & 5

What's Happening
CSBMRDD Calendar 3-9

Children's Hospital & Summit
MRDD Make Successful Team 4

Golfers Take to Links for
Summit MRDD 6

Belles Arrested for Muscular
Ditrophy Association 7 & 8

Kid's Corner 9

Potomac Lecture Series 10 & 13

Service and Support 10 & 13

Opening Doors 11

SHDC Spotlight 12 & 13

Did You Know 12 & 15

Family Training Schedule 14

Open House Schedule 15

OUTREACH

A PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF
MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

EDITOR: **KATHY LACY**

CONTRIBUTORS: ROBIN ADAIR	BONNIE BINNS
DENISE FUREY	GARY ILER
MAUREEN ILER	MICHAEL JACOBS
BARB JONES	JOELYN KARLSON
KEVIN MCGEE	LINDA PAYNE
STEVE OSTER	CARRIE ROBERTS
PATRICK STEPHAN	LUCKY TISCH
LINDA BORDENKIRCHER	

**TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER, SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR
SUBSCRIBE PLEASE CONTACT:**

KATHY LACY, PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MRDD
89 EAST HOWE ROAD
TALLMADGE, OH 44278-1099
KLACY@CSBMRDD.COM
330-634-8881

FOR PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATIONS DISABILITIES
PLEASE DIAL THE OHIO RELAY SERVICE AT 7-1-1.

ADDRESS CHANGES CAN BE SENT TO

LUCKY TISCH, PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS
COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MRDD
89 EAST HOWE ROAD
TALLMADGE, OH 44278-1099
LTISCH@CSBMRDD.COM
330-634-8656

**THE MISSION OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF
MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IS
TO BE A PRIMARY COMMUNITY FORCE THAT ENABLES ELIGI-
BLE INDIVIDUALS TO WORK, LIVE, LEARN, PLAY, AND PARTICI-
PATE AS EQUAL CITIZENS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

OUTREACH IS A REGULAR PUBLICATION OF THE PUBLIC AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT
BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS, THEIR FAMILIES,
STAFF AND CONCERNED FRIENDS. THE PUBLICATION IS ALSO
DISTRIBUTED TO SUMMIT COUNTY AREA BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES.

**THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD MEMBERS:
LINDA BORDENKIRCHER, PRESIDENT, JACKIE COOPER, VICE PRESIDENT,
OLIVIA DEMAS, SECRETARY, BILL GINTER, DAVE DOHNAL,
PEGGY MILLER AND JOE SIEGFERTH**

COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2007-2012 LEVY PERIOD PROMISES PROGRESS REPORT

All Part of the Plan

During 2005, the CSBMRDD put together a strategic road map to eliminate the waiting list for individuals seeking core day programs such as supported employment, sheltered employment and habilitation. The agency formulated a plan to serve a total of 1,089 additional individuals by 2012, including 400 additional residential placements. The agency leadership recognized the need to increase revenues through local levy dollars and continue to maximize federal revenue in Ohio's new Medicaid Waiver funding environment while reducing the operating costs per client. The promise to serve all who request core day services has now become a top priority for the next six years.

In late 2004, the agency began assessing its long-term needs for the coming 2007-2012 levy period. At that time, more than 240 people were waiting for core day services. Based on this level of demand, the board and staff of the agency put together an aggressive plan for the coming levy period. That plan would eliminate this waiting list and maintain services to all eligible Summit County residents whom were projected to request core day services 2012. The goal was to make our community a place where families of people with disabilities would not have to put their life on hold waiting for a day program to provide stable and consistent care for a son or daughter with a developmental disability. The total increase in capacity that was projected was an additional 1,089 people.

The board is now proud to report that the waiting has ended. As of August 2007, all who were waiting for an opportunity have been offered a day program or are in the process of being referred. This could only be accomplished by expanding the capacity in Summit County to provide services and supports. The capacity expansion has included work center space, habilitation classrooms, transportation services, service and support administration (case management), other services such as speech, language and occupational therapy and much more. The expansion of capacity has been accomplished by increasing operational efficiency (especially in administrative areas), reducing expenses, using new levy funds, expanding the use of Medicaid funding and most importantly, through the hard work of all the staff of the Summit MRDD board. The Summit MRDD has done extensive reorganization to create the financial resources needed to find the resources needed to operate with a zero waiting list. The two methods that have had the greatest impact are increased efficiency of MRDD board provided services as well as expanded contracting with local service providers such as United Disability Services, Hattie Larlham and numerous other private organizations that are part of Summit County's Care Management Network.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

WHAT'S HAPPENING SUMMIT MRDD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver and the Summit MRDD

Yankee Peddler

September 8-9, 15-16, 2007
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Clay's Park, Canal Fulton
330-379-3660

Blast Bowling

September 15, 2007
12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Riviera Lanes
330-245-1427

Summit MRDD Board Meeting and Work Session

September 19, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Board Room

Tallmadge Center

Employee Council Meeting
September 21, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Tallmadge Center
330-634-8402

Potomac Center

Employee Council Meeting
September 21, 2007
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver and the Summit MRDD

Yankee Peddler

September 22-23, 2007
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Clay's Park, Canal Fulton
330-379-3660

Family Training Series

Medicaid 101
September 24, 2007
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
or 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Weaver Learning Center
C-Wing Conference Room
Information: 330-634-8791
Registration: 330-634-8802

Bath Center

Employee Management Meeting
September 27, 2007, 10:30 a.m.
Bath Center
330-634-8200

Bath Center

Employee Council Meeting
September 27, 2007, 2:30 p.m.
Bath Center
330-634-8200

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



WHAT'S HAPPENING CONTINUED

Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver and Summit MRDD at the

Akron Health and Fitness Expo

September 28, 2007 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

University of Akron
Athletics Field House
330-634-8873

OCTOBER

Southern Center

Employee Council Meeting

October 2, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

Southern Center
330-634-8300

Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver and Summit MRDD at the

Ohio Mart

October 3-6, 2007, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Stan Hywet Hall, Akron
330-379-3660

CALICO Open House

October 4, 2007, 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Weaver Learning Center
330-634-8635

Potomac Center

Employee Council Meeting

October 5, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Potomac Center
330-634-8866

CALICO, Weaver Learning Center & Adult Inservice

October 8, 2007

CALICO, Weaver Learning Center & Adult Services Closed

Coventry Center

Employee Council Meeting

October 10, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

Coventry Center
330-245-1427

Blast Bowling

October 13, 2007, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Riviera Lanes
330-245-1427

Summit MRDD Board Meeting and Work Session

October 17, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Administrative Board Room

Tallmadge Center

Employee Council Meeting

October 19, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Tallmadge Center
330-634-8402

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & SUMMIT MRDD MAKE SUCCESSFUL TEAM

MICHAEL JACOBS, COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT MANAGER

Akron Children's Hospital is well known internationally for the outstanding medical care they provide their young patients. What is not as well known is the outstanding support they provide to the County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Children's Hospital of Akron has been very supportive of the Board's mission for many years. In addition to currently employing five individuals served by the Board, they have also sponsored workstations/enclaves and CADET sites in the past.

Presently, Tom Regan, Barbara Allen, George Nicodemus, and Betty Burkey are employed in the Housekeeping Department. With the exception of Betty, who helps maintain patient rooms, the others are responsible for the important job of keeping children's areas and toys clean and disinfected. Between them, they have 17.5 years of independent employment at Children's.

Barbara loves her job cleaning toys and thinks her bosses are nice.

George is the newest member of the toy cleaning team, having started his first ever independent employment job in December of 2006. He says, "I love my job." When asked what he loves about it, he said, "everything."

Tom has worked at Children's since 2000 and says he likes everybody. He likes his job because "keeping the toys clean is important."

Their success is in no small part due to the compassion and patience of the Housekeeping Department's supervisory staff of Pam Vaughn and Connie Fisher. They work closely with Sue Lester, the Board's Employment Specialist, and the rest of the individuals' team members to address any issues that impact not only the consumer's occupational goals, but their well-being. Pam volunteered that she gets great satisfaction from "watching them bloom and grow."

Children's 'Promise' to its patients and their families is "to work tirelessly so that all children can reach their full potential." Not so different from the Board's Mission to enable "individuals to work, live, learn, and participate as equal citizens in their communities."



SUE LESTER AND BARB ALLEN

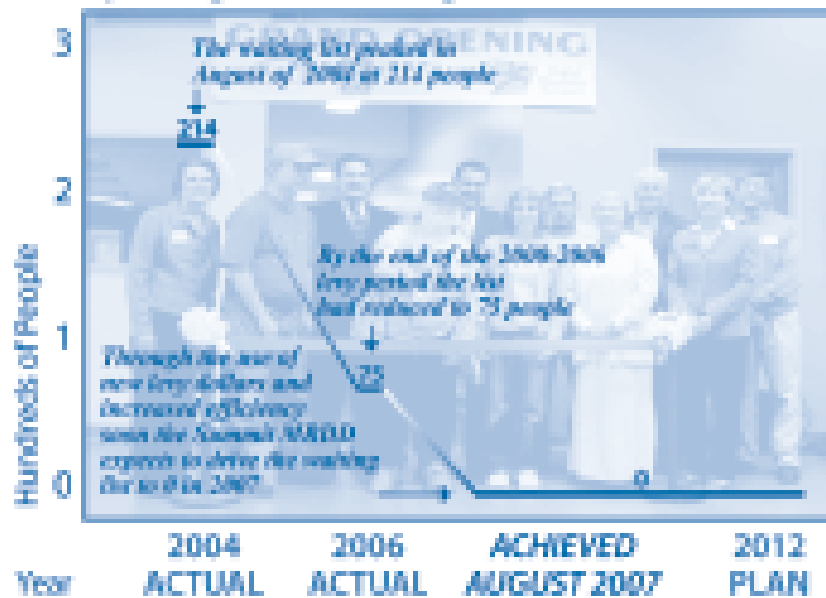


TOM REGAN AND GEORGE NICODEMUS

Keeping the Waiting List at Zero

Now that the agency has accomplished the goal of eliminating the waiting list, the Summit MRDD must continue to expand the county's capacity to serve Summit County residents. Planning has to include eligible students with disabilities who will graduate from 2008 through 2012, as well as eligible citizens who are identified during that same period. The board plans to meet this growing demand by continuing to combine administrative functions and to evaluate and restructure its services. Through actions taken to date, it has reduced its costs as a service provider, particularly in adult services, and is becoming much more cost competitive relative to private service providers. Recent calculations show this reduction to be as much as 11% lower than two years ago. The board is proud that through this time of change and transition it has been able to provide families and individuals the opportunity to choose from among a number of qualified services providers as is required by state and federal law.

Day Program Waiting List



Despite Summit MRDD's improved efficiency and radical service expansion over the past six years, growth in the demand for community employment programs, work center placements and habilitation day programs (collectively known as core day services) has been consistent. This rapidly rising demand has led to a waiting list for these core day services. Parents and caregivers with loved ones on this waiting list sometimes are unable to work themselves because of the daily obligations of caring for a person with a disability. The waiting list reached an all-time high in August of 2007 when 214 people were waiting for a opening. This has always been viewed as a serious issue by the Summit MRDD. By the end of the levy cycle in 2006, this waiting list had been reduced to 75, a 65% reduction. The board has made a commitment to reduce this list to zero and maintain day programs for all who need them through the end of the 2012 levy period. As of August 2007, the agency has eliminated the waiting list for core day services.

**THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MRDD
 WAITING LIST IS REACHING ITS END!**

In November of 2005, the voters of Summit County approved the funds for the Summit MRDD to pursue an aggressive plan to provide core day programs to all Summit County residents with developmental disabilities that were waiting for services. This list at one time contained the names of as many as 214 adults that were waiting. In keeping with the promises of the current levy period, the Summit MRDD is pleased to announce that as of August 2007 everyone on the waiting list for core day services has been referred to a service and is in the process of enrollment. This means that a "waiting list" for core day services will no longer exist. Thanks to all the people of Summit County for changing people's lives!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US ONLINE AT SUMMITMRDD.ORG

WHAT'S HAPPENING CONTINUED

**Potomac Center
Employee Council Meeting**
October 19, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

**Family Training Series
Referral & Provider Selection Process**
October 22, 2007
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Weaver Learning Center
C-wing Conference Room
Information: 330-634-8791
Registration: 330-634-8802

Tallmadge Center Halloween Party
October 31, 2007, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Tallmadge Center
330-634-8402

Blast Halloween Party
October 31, 2007, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Temple Israel, Akron
330-245-1427

NOVEMBER

**Potomac Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 2, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

*Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver
and Summit MRDD at the
Kids Fair*
November 4, 2007, 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
John S. Knight Center, Akron
330-634-8873

**Southern Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 5, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Southern Center
330-634-8300

Blast Bowling
November 10, 2007, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Riviera Lanes
330-245-1427

*Watch for the Gift Gallery by Weaver
and Summit MRDD at the
Holiday Mart*
November 10, 2007, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
November 11, 2007, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Summit County Fairgrounds, Tallmadge
330-634-8873

**Akron Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 13, 2007, 11:00 a.m.
Akron Center
330-634-8100

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

GOLFERS TAKE TO THE LINKS FOR MENTAL RETARDATION IN WEAVER GOLF OUTING

BONNIE BINNS, VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY EVENT COORDINATOR

On Friday, August 31, 2007, 144 golfers took to Cuyahoga Falls' Brookledge Golf Course for the 14th Annual Weaver Golf Outing presented by ViaQuest. Later that afternoon, family, friends and guests joined these golfers at the Brookledge Pavilion for a sumptuous Outback Steakhouse dinner. This annual tradition helps ensure the continuation of MRDD services in Summit County by raising funds for the MRDD Levy Committee.

Again, this year the morning began with food and fun prior to the 9:00 a.m. shotgun start of the 18 hole, bestball scramble. The day started with registration at the clubhouse and an open driving range at 7:30 a.m. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. the outing served players and volunteers a hot and cold breakfast bar featuring scrambled eggs, bacon, hash brown potatoes, fresh fruit, bagels, donuts, juice and coffee. As players finished their for the day, they enjoyed an Outback Steakhouse dinner courtesy of the Chapel Hill Outback Steakhouse. The dinner included a Bonzer steak grilled to perfection served with a jacket potato, Caesar Salad, Aussie Bread and cheesecake with assorted toppings. During dinner, golfers and guests enjoyed the live sounds of APAK at which time cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams. Special prizes were also awarded for hole-in-one, longest drive and closest to the pin. Attendees also had the opportunity to bid on a variety of silent auction items donated by local businesses.

The cause behind the golf outing is the County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, also known as the Summit MRDD. The Summit MRDD provides services to more than 3,500 individuals with disabilities and their families in Summit County. It is the organization's mission to be a primary community force that enables eligible individuals to work, live, learn, play and participate as equal citizens in their communities. The driving forces behind these efforts are the agency's board members, as well as staff, families, affiliated agencies, advocates and the individuals served by the organization. The agency's administrative offices are housed in the Weaver Learning Center, 89 East Howe Road in Tallmadge, Ohio. The CSBMRDD also operates nine education and work centers including Coventry Center, Tallmadge Center, Akron Center, Canal Place, Bath Center, Southern Center, Twinsburg Center and Potomac Center. Services are also delivered through many Summit County employers and contract agencies. More information regarding the agency is available online at www.SummitMRDD.org.

JOHN BELLES, PERSON SERVED AT COVENTRY, "ARRESTED" FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

ROBIN ADAIR, SUMMIT MRDD COVENTRY CENTER MANAGER



On June 21 John Belles, employee (person served) at Coventry Center raised \$85.00 among his friends and staff at the Coventry Center for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. John was "arrested" by the MDA security force and taken to the Akron Zoo for lockup!

Coventry manager, Robin Adair, interviewed John about what motivated him to raise the funds as a well as what the experience of being "locked-up" at the Zoo was like:

Robin: "So, John why did you decide to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy?"

John: "Grandma gave me a flyer about MD and I wanted to help; I felt that people should not have to go through life in that kind of pain."

Robin: "Do you feel like that about other disabilities?"

John: "Yes. Some people with disabilities are in pain and some are not. I want to help those who are."

Robin: "I understand you are also a professional wrestler with the UWC, United Wrestling Council? What's that like?"

John: "I like to entertain people and make them feel happy. Lots of people like to watch wrestling; so I decided to get a gig."

Robin: "But don't people get hurt? I thought you said you don't like to see people in pain."

John: "I don't inflict pain on my opponents. We are careful."

CONTIUED TO PAGE 8

WHAT'S HAPPENING CONTINUED

**Akron Center
Employee Management Meeting**
November 13, 2007, 1:30 p.m.
Akron Center
330-634-8100

Bath Center Family Focus Meeting
November 14, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Bath Center
330-634-8200

**Coventry Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 14, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Coventry Center
330-245-1427

**Summit MRDD Board Meeting
and Work Session**
November 14, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Board Room

**Disability Awareness Week
Activities Fair**
November 15, 2007, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
University of Akron Student Union

**Tallmadge Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 16, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Tallmadge Center
330-634-8402

**Potomac Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 16, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

Thanksgiving Break
November 22 & 23, 2007
Agency Closed

Family Training Series
Expectations, Involvement,
Planning & Emergencies
November 26, 2007
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
or 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Weaver Learning Center
C-Wing Conference Room
Information: 330-634-8791
Registration: 330-634-8802

**Coventry Center
Employee Management Meeting**
November 28, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Coventry Center
330-245-1427

**Potomac Center
Employee Council Meeting**
November 30, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

CONTIUED TO PAGE 8

WHAT'S HAPPENING CONTINUED

DECEMBER

**Southern Center
Employee Council Meeting**
December 4, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Southern Center
330-634-8300

**Bath Center
Employee Management Meeting**
December 12, 2007, 10:30 a.m.
Bath Center
330-634-8200

**Bath Center
Employee Council Meeting**
December 12, 2007, 10:30 a.m.
Bath Center
330-634-8200

**Coventry Center
Employee Management Meeting**
December 12, 2007, 3:00 p.m.
Coventry Center
330-245-1427

**Summit MRDD Board Meeting
and Work Session**
December 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Board Room

Bath Center Holiday Party
December 13, 2007, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Guy's Party Center
330-634-8200

**Southern Center
Employee Management Meeting**
December 13, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Southern Center
330-634-8300

**CALICO Winter Sing-A-Long
& Santa Visit**
December 14, 2007, 10:30 a.m.
Weaver Learning Center
330-634-8635

Tallmadge Center Holiday Party
December 14, 2007, All Day
Tallmadge Center

**Potomac Center
Employee Council Meeting**
December 14, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9

BELLES "ARRESTED" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Robin: "So you're saying professional wrestling is fake?"
John: "Now you're asking for it! Let me show you a few moves that I put on my opponents."
Robin: "NO, AHHGH; OUCH; STOPPPP!!!"
John: "That didn't hurt, you wimp!"
Robin: "Okay, okay, uncle already! Let's get back to the topic of Muscular Dystrophy. What was it like to be cheered on by all the employees and staff at Coventry as you were leaving?"
John: "It was an awesome experience, like when I win at wrestling!"
Robin: "No more wrestling, stay on the subject!"
John: "It felt good knowing I could help someone with Muscular Dystrophy."
Robin: "It was cool seeing you leave in the police car. What was that like?"
John: "It was fun and exciting. It was neat having my friends support me."
Robin: "What about the lock up?"
John: "They put us in a jail at the Akron Zoo. It was fun talking to other people about it. They even gave us something to eat and drink."
Robin: "Would you do it again?"
John: "Darn right! Anything to help someone who is hurting."
Robin: "John, thanks for the interview. You are to be commended for raising the funds for muscular dystrophy. Before for you go can you show me one more wrestling move? But please don't hurt me!"
John: "YAWWWW, SMACK, WHACK.....!!!!!"
Robin: "AHHGH, OUCH, STOP, UNCLE....."



How will the future of Ohio's MR/DD system affect you?

John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of MR/DD
Keynote Speaker at Event Luncheon

Thursday, September 27, 2007 - 12 Noon
Luncheon open at 11:30 AM
Sheraton Suites, 1999 Front Street,
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

John Martin was recently appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to Director of the Ohio Department of MR/DD. This event, hosted by Exant, is for those who work in the MR/DD field, those served by the system including parents, guardians and families of loved ones - or anyone interested in the future of MR/DD and Ohio's service delivery to people with disabilities.

Tickets for the event are \$25.
Reservations must be received no later than September 15, 2007.
Register online: www.exant.com/registration
or Call Beth Kerwin at 330-928-0300.

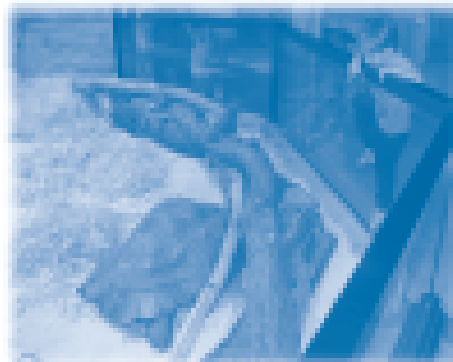




The graduation ceremony on July 27th, 2007 for the remaining five Weaver Learning Center students marked the end of an era here at CSBMR/DD! These five students will now join the ranks of the students who have graduated before them these past few years, and will either receive services in an integrated school environment in their district of residence, or will move on to an adult services program. We wish them the very best!

On June 25th, MaryJo Sabetta, Director of Children's Services received a check from Mr. Vince DeLuca and Mr. Hank Skowronski, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, in the amount of \$1,504.88. Their organization and it's various councils has been providing support to the Children's Services Department for the past several years by collecting and donating money toward the purchase of special toys and materials for the children we serve. We are so appreciative every year for their kind contributions!

On Monday, July 23rd, the CSBMRDD early intervention staff joined with the Help Me Grow service coordination staff and the education staff at the zoo to provide a fun and educational day at the Akron Zoo for our families of infants and toddlers with and without special needs. Special sessions were planned throughout the day for the children to participate in songs, games, stories and other activities relative to a special "zoo animal visitor" they were able to see up close and sometimes touch! The toddlers all received a t-shirt to commemorate the day, and the families all enjoyed exploring the zoo. There were about 335 attendees which represented approximately 85-90 families. This was a wonderful



collaborative effort on the part of all three agencies! Some upcoming events in the fall of 2008 will be some special learning sessions at the zoo for our preschoolers, and another six-week "Mommy & Me" session for our early intervention toddlers. We're so pleased and fortunate to have the Akron Zoo as one of our most recent "partners".

WHAT'S HAPPENING CONTINUED

Family Training Series

Family Transition
December 17, 2007
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
or 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Weaver Learning Center
C-Wing Conference Room
Information: 330-634-8791
Registration: 330-634-8802

Winter Break

Weaver School Closed
December 18, 2007 through
January 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

Blast Holiday Dinner & Dance

December 19, 2007, 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Temple Israel, Akron
330-245-1427

Potomac Center Holiday Party

December 20, 2007, All Day
(Tentative Date)
Potomac Center
330-634-8866

Southern Center Holiday Party

December 20, 2007, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Southern Center
330-634-8300

Akron Center Holiday Party

December 21, 2007, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
St. Joe's Party Center, Akron
330-634-8100

Coventry Center Holiday Party

December 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Coventry Center
330-245-1427

Winter Break

Agency Closed
December 23, 2007 through
January 1, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

CALICO & Adult Services Inservice

December 31, 2007

**TIMES AND DATES MAY CHANGE.
A CURRENT CALENDAR IS ALWAYS
AVAILABLE AT WWW.SUMMITMRDD.ORG.**

The CSBMRDD Early Childhood OPEN HOUSE will take place on Thursday, October 4th, 2007, 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm here at 89 E. Howe Road in Tallmadge. There will be activities for the toddlers, information booths, snacks and an opportunity to meet other families and talk to the Early Intervention and Calico staff. Watch for informational flyers....they will be coming out very soon!

POTOMAC LECTURE SERIES AIMS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING

SUBMITTED BY DENISE FUREY,
POTOMAC CENTER MANAGER

This past spring and through the summer the Potomac shop had a series of guest speakers who lectured at the bi-weekly employee meetings. The lecture series kicked off on May 4th with Alison First, the Education Coordinator for the Summit County Historical Society. The topic was "The Doctor's Black Bag, Home Remedies and Folk Lore."

In this first session, Alison discussed the history of medicine and shared "medical" practices from the past. Some of which were a little disconcerting, like gargling with kerosene to relieve a sore throat or the use of leeches to remove poisons. This lecture was both educational and entertaining as she showed us all how far the medical field has come.

With advancements in the medical field came knowledge about various syndromes that affect the people we serve. The next speakers shared information about specific syndromes to help us all be more sensitive to the needs of co-workers and friends.

Dan Hurd, the Director of Autism Services for Ardmore Inc. Center for Autism, spoke about autism and explained that people with autism are more sensitive to things going on around them. They cannot always ignore the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13

SERVICE & Support

JOELYN KARLSON, BATH SSA MANAGER

IMPORTANT UPDATE

There are many exciting things happening and getting ready to happen in the "World of Service and Support Administration Coordinators (SSAs)" here at Summit MRDD. This column will highlight important information for you.

CHANGES TO WAIVER REIMBURSEMENT:

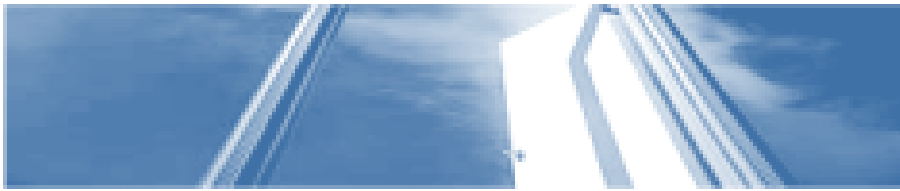
Residential Services and Day Programs

For those of you who have Waiver funding paying for your day program and residential services there have been and will continue to be changes to this reimbursement system. We eagerly began transitioning people receiving Residential Services funded by the Waiver to the new Reimbursement system, only to be put on a statewide PAUSE on 2/10/07 by the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD). This PAUSE continues today, but is expected to be lifted any time now. Once lifted, SSAs will commence calling teams and setting up meetings to continue the Waiver Reimbursement Transition for persons living in congregate settings and foster care. The transition must be completed by 12/31/07, but as a county we would like to be completed by 11/30/07 to allow processing time of the packet at the county and state level.

In addition, Waiver funded Day Services will be transitioned to a new reimbursement system and will be called Day Array Services. For most individuals, the service delivery will look about the same, but the reimbursement and billing will be different. Your SSA will be contacting teams to set up meetings to make some changes to the MY PLAN to accommodate this new reimbursement system. As with Residential, this transition must be completed by 12/31/07.

As a part of receiving services funded through the Home and Community Based Waiver system, the person served is afforded some rights that I would like to highlight now. There is an Ohio Administrative Code Rule (5123:2-9-11) that is called the FREE CHOICE OF PROVIDER RULE. The purpose of this rule is to support people in making a provider choice and supporting that choice. It affords persons served the opportunity to choose any provider in the state of

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13



OPENING DOORS

PATRICK STEPHANI, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE UTILIZATION: RESIDENTIAL EXPANSION

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR: LINDA BORDENKIRCHER

As parents of a 28-year old woman with disabilities, our lives are a little unusual from our friends. While they deal with the empty nest syndrome, we struggle with what is right for our child-living at home with mom and dad or moving into a community setting with her peers. My heart says we will have Andrea with us forever, but my head says, "Get real! Unless you know the secret of immortality, the chances are very great that she will live beyond you."

So how does one handle this dilemma? Well, every family is distinct, so everyone will come up with a different answer. For my husband and me, we decided long ago that we want her to be as independent as possible, and that we would do whatever we could to assist her. That means helping her make the transition while we're healthy, active and able. The thought of her simultaneously experiencing our deaths and the loss of her home are more than we can cope with. And though she has loving siblings, I'm not fond of the idea of asking them to assume responsibility. While they would do it willingly, the fact remains that eventually it would be a situation of old people taking care of an old person.

In an effort to plant the seed, we occasionally had discussions about it but that backfired. She had a difficult time with it so we decided to put the idea on hold. Then I found out that Summit MRDD and its affiliated residential providers were sponsoring a residential open house schedule throughout 2007. On the third Thursday of each month one provider opens a home for visitation. We decided to attend as many as possible and hoped that it would demystify the situation for her. It has exceeded our expectations.

We've seen such a variety of homes, both houses and apartments. Some brand new, some older. Some with residents already living in them, some waiting for occupants. Our daughter has had the opportunity to talk with residents about their experiences and meet some of the staff. She especially liked the time we visited as dinner was being prepared. It made real the fact that these are people's homes, not just houses, and that fun things take place there.

My husband and I have received a good education, also. We had no idea of the selection of home settings that are offered. More than once I heard him say he would like to live in such a place. It was also

reassuring to hear stories of neighborhood acceptance and the willingness of apartment managers to make accommodations where needed.

So, have we accomplished our goal? We won't know until the time comes for Andrea to move, and that's dependent on when she becomes eligible for a waiver. Like so many other adults in our county, she's on the residential waiting list. But one thing I do know - we have thoroughly enjoyed our visits into the community and will continue as long as they are offered. If you're interested in joining us, you can get a schedule from the Service Utilization Department at 330-634-8016. Hope to see you at the next open house!

2008 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

***DO YOUR HOLIDAY
SHOPPING EARLY!!!***

Coventry Center Employee Council is selling 2008 Entertainment Books (valid now thru '08). They are \$30.00. Make check out to Coventry Center Employee Council. Send check and order to Robin Adair at Coventry Center. (You can email Robin with your order and send check through interoffice.)

Proceeds help fund the Coventry Center Holiday Party. Thanks!!



**NANTUCKET DRIVE
HUDSON, OH
CONGREGATE (GROUP) HOME**

**GUEST CONTRIBUTORS:
MAUREEN & GARY ILER**

In late 2006, four Hudson families decided to develop a congregate (group) home in Hudson. Their four family members, who were currently living in their respective homes, had known each other for a number of years through school and Special Olympic activities, but none of them had ever lived independently.

With assistance from the involved families and excellent co-operation from the Summit Housing Development Corp. management/Board of Trustees and the CSBMR/DD Service Utilization Department, a four-bedroom home in a beautiful neighborhood near the center of Hudson was purchased in February 2007.

After an intensive process of interviewing potential agencies (providers), the families selected Evant, Inc. to provide the staff to assist the Nantucket residents (three females and one male). Two of the residents (Roxanne and Katie) moved into the home on May 21st and the other two (Alicia and Jamie) on May 28th.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13

**DID YOU KNOW . . .
NETWORK NEWS** with Barb Jones

SPOTLIGHTING PROVIDERS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CSBMR/DD

DID YOU KNOW

. . . that every day Care Management Network providers are exploring fun and creative ways to provide services and supports. For this issue and many issues to come, we would like to spotlight some of the work our CMN providers are doing.

ARDMORE - In 2002 Ardmore, Inc. established the Ardmore Center for Autism to support the unique challenges faced by individuals with Autism.

In 2003, Ardmore designed and constructed a home on East Ave. in Tallmadge offering many features that create an "autism friendly" environment.

In 2005, the agency opened a home specifically for children with autism with assistance from the Summit County Housing Development Corp. that is located in the Ellet area of Akron.

Recently, the Center for Autism opened another home for adults with autism located on Eastwood Ave. in Tallmadge. The home is very similar in design to the first home opened on East Ave. It is a four-bedroom ranch with an open floor plan and a finished basement that includes an activity area and exercise area. A sensory integration room will be added in the near future.

If you would like more information about the services provided by Ardmore's Center Autism contact Dan Hurd at 330-535-2601.

WEAVER INDUSTRIES - Weaver Industries will soon be in the business of information destruction. Recent legislation has changed the rules on how businesses must deal with information containing personal and private information. Simply throwing it away or recycling it is no longer acceptable. To assist in compliance with these rules, help protect personal and business information and to provide opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities, Weaver-SecurShred will soon be sorting, shredding and recycling mountains of paper.

Although the primary focus of Weaver-SecurShred will be the shredding and recycling of paper, it will also have the means to destroy and recycle other types of media containing private information. These include: Discs, CD's, DVD's, Hard Drives, VHS & Audio Tapes, Credit & Debit Cards, X-rays, Film & Photographs, Micro Fiche and just about anything else containing private information.

The projected start up date is still to be determined, but by the end of summer Weaver-SecurShred will be in full operation. So, if you have information that needs to be destroyed or know of someone who does, think Weaver-SecurShred and contact Jack Skinner, General Manager at 330-815-0294 or e-mail him at jskinner@weaverindustries.org. **CONTINUED TO PAGE 15**

SERVICE AND SUPPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Ohio as their service provider. There are two main qualifiers to this statement: 1) the provider must be "willing" and 2) the provider must be "able to provide the service".

The rule states that "willing" means having the physical capacity at a particular site or home, having enough staff available to deliver the service or that the proximity to services is appropriate. (For example, a provider in Toledo may not be "willing" to provide services in Akron). To further clarify, "able" means that the provider must be certified by the State of Ohio to provide the service or services. Many providers are certified in several areas, such as homemaker/personal care, transportation, day habilitation, etc.

As a part of the Free Choice of Provider rule process, the ODMRDD maintains a list on their website of providers certified to provide services in the State of Ohio. At this site you will find both Agency Providers as well as Independent Providers. This information can be found at www.mrdd.ohio.gov. The rule mandates that anyone choosing a provider have access to this list through the website. In addition, your SSA can help guide you to the information and suggest some questions to ask when you call to find out if the providers you are interested in are "willing" and "able"; however, they cannot make this decision for you as to which service provider to choose.

At least annually, your SSA will ask you if you are satisfied with your service providers. If you are not, you may begin the search for a new provider via the Free Choice of Provider Process. Your SSA will walk you through this process. You don't have to wait until your annual meeting to request a new provider. This may be done at any time that you are not satisfied with your provider.

As you can see, it is shaping up to be a very busy fall for SSAs. Please don't hesitate to call your SSAs if you have any questions about the information in this article. If you are not sure who your SSA is, please contact Ellen Lovell at 330-634-8958 and she can direct you to the correct person.

SHDC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

During the past two months, with the assistance of the Evant management and staff, Jamie, Katie, Alicia and Roxanne have adapted extremely well to their new environment and are thoroughly enjoying their independent lifestyle. They spend a lot of time in the community swimming at a local swim club, visiting the Hudson library and taking walks in local parks and the neighborhood. Special Olympic sports (bowling, golf, track and swimming) also keep them busy.

To say the least (to coin a recent CSBMR/DD advertisement), the four young adults view Nantucket "not as a group home, but as their home". In addition, the families are thrilled with how well the transition was handled and how happy their family members are with their new surroundings.

POTOMAC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

things that most of us can in our daily environment. This lecture taught us all ways to remain calm and not overwhelm our friends and co-workers who are autistic.

Georgi Smith, Summit MRDD Summit County Training Collaborative Instructor, followed with a discussion about Down syndrome. She explained the cause of Down syndrome and many of the symptoms. She also discussed the history and how the approach to Down syndrome has changed over time, explaining that prior to the 1960's it was thought "best practice" to advise families to put their children in institutions if they were born with Down syndrome. She continued her explanation, telling the group about the evolution of our understanding of Down syndrome through today's best practice, as it is currently known that people with this syndrome are productive members of society.

The lecture came to a conclusion with an open discussion as some of the Potomac employees were moved to share their experiences and first hand knowledge of life in an institution. Georgi continued explaining that they or their families did nothing wrong; it was what was considered by some as the best thing for folks with Down syndrome at the time. The lecture came to a close with a discussion about an article in the Beacon Journal featuring a woman with Down syndrome.

Our next series of "talks" will concentrate on community affairs and will be about the conservation of our beautiful earth, and the animals of Africa. The Zoo Mobile will be here for our Safari picnic on August 30th. Join us!

2007 FAMILY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Family orientation training courses will be held in the C-Wing Conference Center at the CSBMRDD Administrative Offices located at 87 East Howe Road in Tallmadge. Courses will be held the fourth Monday of every month (unless otherwise indicated on the schedule below) during 2007 and will be held from 10 AM -12 PM and 5-7 PM. Contact Mary Mendicino at 330-434-8791 to register, or Elizabeth Loeffler at 330-434-8810 for course specifics.

Family Orientation Training Series Topics:

1. Residential Service & Home Options	Course 1
2. Medicaid Waivers 101	Course 2
3. Referral & Provider Selection Process	Course 3
4. Expectations, Involvement, Planning and Emergencies	Course 4
5. Family Transition	Course 5

Why attend? If you hope to have your son or daughter receive residential services in the coming years, and/or they are on the waiting list for residential or Medicaid Waiver Services, these courses are designed to help families prepare for the future and learn about the services CSBMRDD has to offer.

Course Dates:

9. September 24, 2007	Course 2	11. November 26, 2007	Course 4
10. October 22, 2007	Course 3	12. December 17, 2007	Course 5

Family Orientation Training Series Instructors:

Elizabeth Loeffler, Service Utilization Manager, CSBMRDD
 Lindsay Bachman, Service/Support Manager, CSBMRDD
 Emily Martinez, Service Coordinator, CSBMRDD
 Jocelyn Carlson, Service/Support Manager, CSBMRDD
 Sandy Kidd, Residential Provider, Evant, Inc.
 Julie Cain, Residential Specialist, CSBMRDD
 Aaron Estes, Residential Specialist, CSBMRDD
 Laurie Freedman, United Disability Services
 Amanda Scherer, Residential Provider, Kern-Ohio
 Ted Alexander, Residential Provider, Hope Homes
 Don Hurd, Admco, Inc.

A panel of family members of individuals working residential services through the CSBMRDD will also participate in the training series.



DID YOU KNOW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

BLICK - The Blick Clinic Residential Advisory Committee is happy to announce the coordination of an Intranet Swap Site that will address the needs and interests of our residents.

Several weeks ago, a memo was sent to each Home Coordinator asking for a "wish list and client interest list" for each resident. This information has been compiled into a master list of requests and needs. We will solicit donations for the items on the list. Client's in Blick Clinic's Partial Hospitalization Program will sort and organize the items and store them in office space for "shopping". We have an Intranet Swap Site page where available items will be listed. We also try to match items with specific resident requests from their "wish lists". Other items, like new craft kits, donated videos, games, CD's and DVD's will be available to take out or borrow.

Stephanie Kamp is the coordinator of the program. She can be reached at 330-762-5425.

REM OHIO - A group of young adults who receive services from REM have been working with the Herald, a local Barberton newspaper. They collate the Weekender for the Herald as well as delivering them.

"Our relationship with REM has been a win-win situation. Their employees are earning a paycheck, and our customers are receiving reliable high-quality service," said Herald Circulation Manager Garry Prebyski.

Linda Hann, REM Program Coordinator said they are just "trying to help develop skills to help them get independent employment."

REM Ohio's vocational services have pre-screened crews who receive on-the-job training assistance by trained and experienced "job coaches".

For more information contact Linda Hann at 330-644-9780.



2007 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

In collaboration with affiliated residential providers, The Summit MRDD is sponsoring a residential open house schedule in 2007. Open houses are available at locations with each agency listed on the dates below (typically the third Thursday of the month). Visiting times are from 3-4 PM and again from 6-8 PM (unless otherwise arranged).

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. September 20, 2007 | REM Mentor |
| 2. October 18, 2007 | Hattie Latham Community Services (HLCS) |
| 3. November 15, 2007 | Community Habilitation Services (CHS) |

Please note the following contact information for each provider taking part in the open house schedule. Families are always free to contact providers directly if alternative scheduling and/or arrangements are desired.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| CHS: Monita Holmes | 330-753-3897 | remdd@bcoglobal.net |
| HLCS: Kim Grottel | 330-312-1813 | kimboey.botell@hattieclatham.org |
| REM Mentor: Jo Spargo | 330-644-9738 | jo.spargo@thementorshw.com |





More Fun!
More Prices!



MAKING CHOICES

Service Provider Expo, Dance & Pizza Party

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

FREE ADMISSION - REGISTRATION IS NOT NEEDED

ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY CENTER - 616 WEST EXCHANGE STREET, AKRON

SERVICE PROVIDER EXPO
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

PIZZA PARTY
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

DANCE
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

This event provides an opportunity for individuals, families, CSE Coordinators and other community professionals to meet with members of the Care Management Network and Waiver Service Providers. Come to the Provider Expo to become more familiar with the providers in Summit County, then stay for fun, food and refreshments at the Pizza Party Dance Event. Don't miss this chance to meet and mingle with MRDD professionals and the families we serve. Come for the information... stay for the fun!



Call 330.634.8079
for more information.



VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.CSBMRDD.COM



COUNTY OF SUMMIT
BOARD OF
MENTAL RETARDATION
& DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

89 E HOWE RD.
TALLMADGE, OH 44278-1099

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Akron, Ohio
Permit #737

THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD MEMBERS:
LINDA BORDENKIRCHER, PRESIDENT, JACKIE COOPER, VICE PRESIDENT, OLIVIA DEMAS, SECRETARY, BILL
GINTER, DAVE DOHNAL, PEGGY MILLER AND JOE SIEGFERTH