

Superintendent Update

New Strategic Plan

The Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) successfully completed all of the objectives outlined by our last strategic plan. We are excited for a new challenge! We are currently in the process of creating a new three-year plan with goals that will benefit all of our stakeholders and actively prepare us for the future.

The number one focus of the Board will always be the well-being of the individuals served in our community, and we will continue to support providers to ensure every individual receives the support he or she needs to thrive and be happy. The new strategic plan will help TCBDD establish a blueprint for future success as we work toward our news goals of enhancing self-advocacy efforts across the county and improving provider relationships as we work together to transition more of our individuals into the integrated workplace.



As part of the strategic planning process, TCBDD will need feedback from all of our stakeholders, including the individuals we serve, the administration, staff and the community. The support and feedback of the community will be crucial during this process.

Even as we embark on a new strategic plan, our mission still remains the same: to ensure individuals with disabilities and their families receive the services and support they need throughout their lifetime.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ed Stark

Superintendent
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Ohio Budget includes wage hikes for DSPs

In July, the final version of the state's two-year spending bill was passed and it had a direct impact for people in the DD community, most notably, an increased wage for direct support professionals (DSPs).

The final budget bill sets aside funds to help provider agencies increase their pay rate for DSPs so that the average hourly wage will be \$12.82, which is up from the current national average at about \$10.70/hour. This is slated to go into effect January 1, 2020.

That wage is set to again increase starting January 1 of 2021 to \$13.23/hour. This much deserved increase should help make DSP jobs more attractive and help fill vacant positions.

The budget also included a \$9.8 million provision to overhaul the structure by which the state pays for **non-medical transportation services** for people with developmental disabilities. This will help make these services more predictable and encourage additional providers to offer them.

The budget included many other elements that will have an impact including:

- Nearly \$25 million for Early Intervention Services through Help Me Grow
- A new Summary Suspension Process
- County Board Sustainability Measures
- DD Levy Roll-Back Protections

2019 Direct Support Professional of the Year Nominations

In recognition of the critical role that direct support professionals (DSPs) play in Ohio's DD support system, OACB has commissioned a new award to be presented annually to a DSP who exemplifies the field's standards of professionalism, integrity, compassion, and respect. This award will recognize a DSP who has routinely exceeded the standards of the profession and whose work has had a demonstrable effect on the quality of life, wellbeing, and/or safety of a person they serve. To learn more, visit www.oacbdd.org/forms/2019-direct-support-professional-of-the-year-nominations.

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To update your
newsletter preferences,
please visit our website
at www.tcbdd.com.

Save The Date

Calendar Event

Wednesday, November 6,
5-7:30 p.m.
Ciminero's Banquet
Center

Shop For A Cause

December 3

Holiday Movie Day

December 7

Laughability

Saturday, January 25,
6-9 p.m.
Ciminero's Banquet
Center

Help Us Eliminate Hunger!

Fairhaven School would like to start a Backpack Program to help eliminate food hunger with all students. The goal of this program is to offer all students three free meals per day for weekends and holidays. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or help sponsor our project, please reach out to Lindsey Ison, Backpack Program Coordinator, at 330-652-5811 or LindseyIson@tcbdd.org or Ryan McNaughton, Director of Community Relations & Resource Development, at 330-652-9800 or RyanMcnaughton@tcbdd.org.

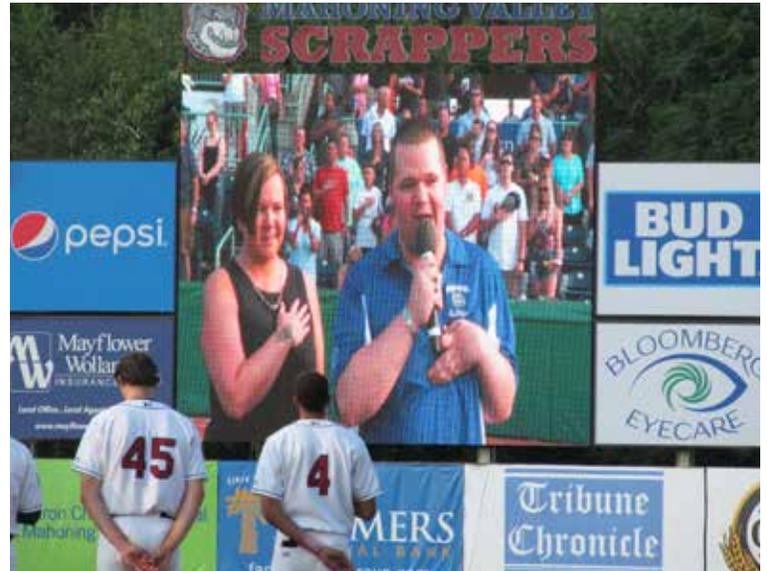
The Fairhaven Foundation was one of three nonprofits to receive the Measure Up Grant from the Knights of Columbus.

The Measure Up fundraising effort raises approximately \$400,000 for statewide and local caring agencies that sponsor a variety of training and support programs. Of the money collected, 20% is used for statewide programs, while 80% is returned to the local councils for donating to their local agencies.

The grant is courtesy of KoC Council #13260 in Vienna. This grant will allow the Foundation to continue impacting the more than 1,100 residents who receive services through the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



The Foundation was honored to be selected and is thankful for the support!



We hope you caught Fairhaven student Nikko Cappitte showing off his talent singing the National Anthem before the Scrappers game at Fairhaven Night at Eastwood Field. Way to go Nikko!

Trumbull County Provider Meetings

Stable Accounts

Presentation by the Ohio Treasure's Office
November 21, 2019, 10 a.m. - Trumbull County ESC

OOD and DODD presentations

February 13, 2020, 10 a.m. - Morrison Board office

DODD Trainings and Events:

Outcome Tracking System face-to-face training for providers - October 30, 2019, 2-5 p.m.

DODD Live Chats

1. October 16 DODD Live chat – Outcome Tracking System Changes with Lindsay Terry-Stine of DODD
2. November 20 DODD Live Chat – Wait list assessment
3. December 11 DODD Live Chat – Office of System Supports and Standards (OSSAS)

Visit the DODD website to register, www.dodd.ohio.gov.

Students recently enjoyed the Cafeteria Themed Dino Day. All students were invited to pose in a picture with a dinosaur and were able to walk on dinosaur tracks to get their lunch. Thank you to the wonderful cafeteria staff that made this possible!



left to right: Jo Folz, Joni Tobey, Charlene Cupan, and Catherine Shiamone.



Students from the Fairhaven School have been able to have a wonderful, hands-on experience learning about ant farms, scales, and night crawlers. The experience was part of an Eagle Scout project for the preschool outside Science Center. Thank you to Nathan Woofter, his father and other scouts they recruited to build and install the structures.

Gordon Food Story



Erin Pressell, Rebecca Hostetler, Jasmyne Brogdon and Gage Tichenor, students at Fairhaven School, had the opportunity to learn about working in a grocery store and the skills it requires to do so. The students took part in this career exploration as part of a school-to-work activity with Fairhaven School Transition Coordinator Jessica Mazei and Direct Link staff.

Brian Moore, manager of the Niles GFS Store, invited the students for a tour and demonstrations. The students were shown how groceries arrive at the store and how they make it to the shelves, coolers and freezers, where they become available for the public to purchase.

The students had an opportunity to stock items by learning what the numbers on the shipping codes mean and how the numbers relate to where the items get placed in the store. The students were also given the chance to use the scanner and cash register.

Mr. Moore taught the students that the most important skills to have in the customer service field are friendliness and helpfulness. He also impressed upon the students that if a customer

wants to know where an item is that it is not only important to tell the customer what aisle the product is in but to also walk the customer to that item.

The students were inquisitive and asked several important questions about how many hours someone works in a week and the typical rate of pay.

Following the tour, the students received a tasty treat from Firebirds Wood Fire Grill. We greatly appreciate Firebirds for their kindness.

We thank Mr. Moore and GFS for taking the time to teach the students the skills it takes to work in a grocery store and how to provide good customer service. He may have helped a couple of students narrow down their after-school career choice.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced "The Right Talent, Right Now" as the theme for the 2019 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

The 2019 theme emphasizes the essential role that people with disabilities play in America's economic success, especially in an era when historically low unemployment and global competition are creating a high demand for skilled talent. The Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) administers NDEAM.

Journey of Hope Recap

Thank you to our wonderful friends from the Journey of Hope, we had a great visit! Every summer, members of Pi Kappa Phi cycle from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle to Washington, D.C while delivering a message of understanding. Your dedication and drive means so much to us. See you next year!

