

Accent

January-February 2010
Volume 5 Issue 1

A Publication for Families and Friends

THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Remembering a Licking County legend



(Above) Katie Carter's grassroots efforts rallied parents and community leaders to support children with disabilities.

(Far right) In 1966, Carter broke ground for the Starlight School with (from left to right): Licking County Commissioner Carl Cooperrider; philanthropist and advocate Eleanor S. Weiant; and Starlight student Sandra Marsh.

The woman considered to be the "founding mother" of the developmental disabilities movement in Licking County recently passed away. Kathryn "Katie" (Kerrigan) Carter had been living with family in Berea, Ohio, for about the last 20 years. In this edition of *Accent*, we remember Katie's profound contribution to Licking County with this moving tribute that appeared in *The Advocate*:

*By Anna Sudar, Advocate Reporter
Jan. 13, 2010*

In the 1950s, many people thought children with developmental disabilities didn't have a future. But Kathryn Carter knew they had potential.

A St. Louisville native, Carter helped start the Starlight School in Newark. The school for children with mental and developmental disabilities evolved into the Eleanor S. Weiant Center, which now houses the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) Administration Offices and Early Intervention program.

Carter died Jan. 6 in her northeast Ohio home at age 97.

"She was a real lady and was very respected in Licking County," said Nancy Neely, superintendent of the LCBDD. "She was very involved here for many years."

A graduate of Utica High School and a mother of two, Carter founded the Starlight School to help children like her son, Billy, who were not able to go to public school because of their disabilities, according to her obituary.

"That was long before the days of special education," Neely said. "Katie got a group of moms together who started organizing their own classrooms and activities for their kids."

(Continued on page 2)



In this issue

Important news briefs	2-3
LICCO update	4-5
Superintendent's letter to families	6-7

Katie Carter remembered

(Continued from page 1)

Carter and a group of parents started Starlight School in 1952. Two years later, Carter founded the Starlight Country Day School in her home for children who did not meet state eligibility guidelines for the Starlight School. The school was open for only one year, but the Starlight School continued.

Classes for the school were conducted in Carter's basement, several churches and the former Mound School before a permanent building was built at 116 N. 22nd St. in 1967.

The building was named for Eleanor S. Weiant, another one of the school's founders who worked closely with Carter, Neely said.

Throughout the years, the school expanded its services to include career training and other adult services.

Today through the LCBDD, the former school provides early intervention services for children ages birth through three. The LCBDD also oversees adult services at LICCO Inc. in Heath, service coordination and transportation services. In 2009, the board served 1,366 people county-wide, Neely said.

Carter remained active in the center for 40 years before she moved to the Cleveland area in the 1990s to be near her family, Neely said. The gym at the center is named for her.

"She's a good example of what happens when a parent really motivates other parents and gets them directed and focused, it's amazing," Neely said.

Besides her involvement with the Starlight School, Carter also was a longtime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in St. Louisville, and the oldest member of the Teheran Grotto in Newark, according to her obituary.

She appeared on two game shows, "Queen for a Day" and "Strike it Rich," and used the money she won to buy playground equipment for her school.

Neely can remember working with Carter before she left Licking County.

"She treated people nicely; she was kind and considerate," Neely said. "For her, the school was a personal mission."

Carter helped raise awareness about developmental disabilities and created a foundation for supportive services in Licking County, Neely said.

"She left a legacy that people with disabilities lives are worthy of investment," she said. "She was very good at getting this community to embrace and support the potential that kids and adults with disabilities had."

A memorial service for Carter will be held at 1 p.m. June 26 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in St. Louisville.

(The preceding news story was reprinted with permission from The Advocate, and contains only minor modifications.)

LCBDD news briefs

HERE'S WHAT'S ON THE WEB... The best way for the LCBDD to communicate with you -- the families we serve -- is through electronic media.

Log on to www.LCountyDD.org -- to get the latest news from our agency 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Another great way to stay in the loop is to sign up for our e-mail news alerts. You can do this by sending your contact information to: heather.odendahl@LCountyDD.org.

Signing up for these alerts allows you to stay up to speed with news bulletins, and we'll let you know when our site has been updated with the current newsletter.

This also is a big help to us because we can save money by avoiding costly postage fees.

Please be advised that the LCBDD does not share personal e-mail information with third parties.

YET ANOTHER REASON TO LOG ON... The LCBDD has a new quarterly survey posted online that allows you give us feedback any time that it's convenient for you.

The link to the survey can be found at www.LCountyDD.org.

The current survey will be posted through the end of March, and another survey will appear shortly thereafter.

We want all families to know that there are many ways to let us know your opinions. You may contact the LCBDD during regular business hours -- 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Superintendent Nancy Neely can be reached by calling (740) 349-6588, or (800) 325-2848.

CANDLE CAMPAIGN HEATS UP... Volunteers from the Service Coordination department are continuing the "Dusk Till Dawn" candle sales to raise money for Citizens for Developmental Disabilities, the LCBDD's levy committee.

This product sale is very similar to the one conducted during the Christmas season. However, this time around, there are some new scents from which to choose -- just in time for spring. They are:

- Warm Vanilla Sugar
- Magnolia
- Cinnamon Clove
- Honeysuckle
- Apple Cider
- Midnight Bliss

The candles are \$8 each and can be purchased at the Service Coordination building, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath; or at the E.S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark.

You may also call Dori Burley or Lea Bonner at (740) 349-1420, to place an order.

"Dusk Till Dawn" candles are made by adults who receive services from the LCBDD and gain job skills through Midwest Innovations, a local dayhabilitation provider.

ATTENTION FAMILIES OF SMALL CHILDREN... The LCBDD is listening to you! During the month of February, you may receive a survey in the mail to gather your opinions about the services your child receives from us. We value your input and hope that you will let us know how we are doing. In order to promote confidentiality, our regional partner, MEORC, will conduct the survey.

We plan to use the information you give us to build strong programs that are focused on the success of people with developmental disabilities. We realize your life is very busy, however, please take time to answer the survey if you receive one. Your information will help the county board chart a course for the future that will have the families' opinions at its core.

SAVE THE DATE... We're already planning for summer! Please mark June 12 on your calendar. The LCBDD and the City of Newark's Parks & Recreation Department will host the second-annual Family Fun Day at TJ Evans Park off Mount Vernon Road.

The event will include free fishing (no permit needed), food and lots of fun. Last year's event was great so be sure not to miss it this year. More details will be published in upcoming editions of *Accent*.

THANK YOU... Citizens for Developmental Disabilities would like to thank the generous members of the Newark Moose Lodge No. 499 for their recent donation.

Each year, the local group donates a portion of their bingo earnings to charitable organizations, and Citizens for DD just happens to be one of them. We truly appreciate your kindness!

IT'S TIME TO GET REGISTERED FOR THE LICCO 5K... The LICCO Inc. 5K Spring Fitness Run/Walk is still a few months away, but it's not too early to register for the race. Just go to: <http://premieraces.com/2010Races/springfitness.html>.

You also may register by mail by first requesting a registration form. Contact Debbie Pound at LICCO -- (740) 522-8345, or debbie.pound@LCountyDD.org. You may also download a copy of the registration brochure from www.LCountyDD.org. All completed and paid registration forms must be returned to LICCO Inc., 600 Industrial Parkway, Heath, OH 43056.

Participation costs \$20 per person and benefits Citizens for Developmental Disabilities. Race T-shirts are guaranteed to the first 300 registrants.

Last year, the race attracted about 300 runners and raised more than \$7,000 for a very worthy cause. LICCO is accepting corporate sponsors for the 5K. If your company would like to get involved, contact Debbie Pound, or check out the detailed information found on the 'Sponsors' link on our homepage.

Don't forget, the event is to be held at 9 a.m. on May 15 at the Sharon Valley Road entrance to The Ohio State University-Newark and Central Ohio Technical College. The start of the race is near the Rotary Park Pavilion. Prizes will be awarded in specific age categories, and there will be plenty of post-race refreshments.

"ALL FOR ONE" DAY CAMP RETURNING TO YMCA...

Back by popular demand this summer will be the YMCA's "All for One" day camp for children with disabilities. The LCBDD partners with the YMCA to make this program possible.

The day camp is held each year at the Y's Newark location off West Church Street. Details of the 2010 "All for One" program are still being worked out, and likely won't be released until March. However, you can get your child's name on a mailing list to receive more information when it becomes available. Just contact Heather Hawkins at the Licking County Family YMCA. Her telephone number is (740) 345-9622.



Franks, Wigginton reappointed

President David Wigginton and board member Joan Franks have been reappointed for second terms on the LCBDD.

Judge Robert Hoover reappointed Franks; the Licking County Board of Commissioners retained Wigginton.

A graduate of Bowling Green State University with a bachelor's degree in business, Franks is vice president of human resources for Park National Bank.

"Joan brings a strong business and personnel background to our board," said Superintendent Nancy Neely. "She is very community-minded, and we are pleased she is returning for a second term."

Wigginton is a local attorney. He also serves as a trustee for the Ohio Association of County Boards.

Both board members' new terms began Jan. 1 and end Dec. 31, 2013. The LCBDD has seven board members. Five are appointed by the Licking County Commissioners, and the remaining two are selected by the Licking County Juvenile/Probate Judge.



(Above) From left to right: Superintendent Nancy Neely, reappointed board member Joan Franks, and Licking County Juvenile/Probate Judge Robert Hoover

January LICCO Team Member of the Month

Tawny Finley

Tawny Finley's motivation and dedication has earned her the distinction of LICCO Team Member of the Month for January.

"Tawny is a real joy to have in my crew," says Workshop Specialist Debbie Neighbarger.

Adult Services Facilitator Daryl Waterman notes: "Tawny comes to work with a great attitude and is willing to do whatever is asked of her."

Tawny is a Newark resident who began working at LICCO in March

2009. Congratulations on a job well done, Tawny!



January CES Employee of the Month

Nicole Jackson

LICCO's Community Employment Services recently selected Nicole "Nikki" Jackson as Employee of the Month for January.

Nikki works five days a week performing custodial duties at the E.S. Weiant Center.

She is doing a great job keeping the building looking its best, explains Job Coach Linda Hogue.

"Nikki has a great work ethic -- she's dependable, flexible, is a team player, and is highly motivated," Hogue says. "She has excelled in

her duties at E.S. Weiant and receives compliments daily."

Congratulations and keep up the great work, Nikki!



Editor's note: The February LICCO Team Member of the Month and the February CES Employee of the Month will appear in the March-April edition of Accent.



News

Thanks for a successful year

LICCO Inc. extends its appreciation to the local business community for its tremendous support in 2009. There were a host of small businesses and large employers who partnered with the workshop and Community Employment Services to provide work opportunities to people with developmental disabilities.

Anomatic
Arby's, Newark
Big Lots
Big "O" Refuse
Bob Evans, Heath
Book Nook
Buckeye Linen
Camp Ohio
Cardware International
Goodwill Industries/Boeing
The Home Depot
The Inn at SharonBrooke
L.C. Aging Program
Lil' Bear
McDonald's, Heath
Nutcracker Restaurant
The Ohio State University
Rally's
Skyline Chili
Sodexo/Denison
Tee Jaye's Restaurant
Wendy's, Heath and Newark
ADB Airfield Solutions
Arvin Meritor
BAE Systems
Bayer MaterialScience
Beal Tool Co.
City of Pataskala
Claypool Electric
Clean-Rite
Denison University
Ecolab
Enzyme Industries
Harry & David
Hendrickson Axle
Century 21/Frank Frye
Real Estate
Licking County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
Licking County Convention &
Visitors' Bureau
L.C. Commissioners
Healthcare Advisory
Committee
Hopewell Dental Care
Steve Barnes
Course & Club Golf Outfitters
Trading Corp. of America
Hopewell Federal Credit Union
Newark Rehab Associates
Dr. Jack Neely, Optometrist
Rusty Riders
Holophane
Jesse Ours
Kaiser Aluminum
Kendal at Granville
KMA Electric
Lazy River Campground
Masonic Temple
Medicaid Consulting Group
Office Mart
Ohio Association of County Boards
OSU-Newark
Owens Corning
Packaging Corporation of America
Patrick Guanciale
Ross Laboratories
Rusty Riders
Shaklee Corp.
Steve Barnes
TC Marketing Group
Tectum Inc.
The Community Health Clinic
The GolfWorks
The Magnus Company
THK Manufacturing of America Inc.
Trading Corporation of America
TREMCO Barrier Solutions
Unipac
Universal Veneer Mill Corp.
WS Packaging Group, Wilton, NH
WS Packaging Group, Hebron, OH
Allied Tube & Conduit
Atlantic Inertial Systems
Meijer Inc.
State Farm Insurance
The Place Off the Square
Victoria's Parlor
Dr. Mark Stewart
Licking Memorial Health Systems
Abbott Laboratories



(Above) LICCO Inc. wishes to thank those Licking County residents who served on its Board of Directors during the 2009 calendar year. They are, pictured from left to right: Leland Lescalleet, vice president; Melanie Spangler; John Gutmann, president; Zoe Lattimer; Jim Johnson, secretary/treasurer; Pam Ondrik; Linda Linham; and Sheri White. Not pictured: Doug Wills.

LICCO REMEMBERS DONNA STILES... The LICCO Inc. and Adult Services family was saddened by the recent passing of Mrs. Donna Stiles.

For many years, Donna and her husband Vernon have volunteered their time and donated to various LICCO causes.

In 2002, the couple was honored with the LCBDD's prestigious "Above & Beyond" award for their generosity and dedication to individuals in Licking County who have developmental disabilities.

The Stiles' were often known to have lunch in the LICCO breakroom, along with their son, Kenneth, and his many coworkers.

"Anyone who met Mrs. Stiles could soon learn about the LCBDD and LICCO and the individuals we serve because she was one of our biggest supporters," said LICCO CEO Kyle Miller.

"She left a lasting impression on everyone she ever had contact with because of her sincere love for others. Much can be said about all that Mrs. Stiles meant to our program but she wouldn't want any attention -- she often was very humble."

Donna meant a lot to our organizations, and she will be greatly missed.

LICCO, EXCEL ACADEMY TAPPED FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COLLABORATIVE... Newark Mayor Bob Diebold recently announced plans to allocate his 2010 salary increase to Excel Academy's vocational program and LICCO Lawncare to perform mowing at designated vacant lots and foreclosed properties within the city.

(Below) Mike Hinger of Bayer MaterialsScience submitted this photo of the Community Employment Services team that works on the box lid crew at Bayer's Hebron facility. It was taken during a holiday get-together. "We took the liberty of providing lunch and gave them each a few presents, not only to celebrate the Christmas season, but also to show our appreciation for all they do for us. They are truly members of the Bayer team," Hinger said. Pictured below, from left to right, are: Nicki Doelfs, Mike Hinger, Bill Mills, Sean Gillespie, CES Job Coach Chad Strohl, and Tom Olsen.



"This collaborative agreement is very beneficial to the community, particularly because work opportunities for individuals with disabilities can be very limited," said Mary Thompson, Excel's director of development. "It is a win-win situation because our youth and the LICCO employees will keep busy and earn paychecks this spring and summer. At the same time, they'll provide a very valuable community service."

Excel Academy is a private, non-profit organization located at 116 W. Church St., Newark.

The school offers educational and mental health services, and behavioral health care to children and teens from nine counties. For more information, please visit their Web site at www.excelacademyohio.org.

LICCO Lawncare got its start last June and quickly became a success.

It has since expanded to include year-round services such as leaf pickup and snow removal for residential and commercial customers. For more information, please call Gary Wimer at (740) 522-8345.

A letter to families

By LCBDD Superintendent Nancy Neely

I frequently hear from our Service Coordination staff how difficult it is to explain to families that their son or daughter has made no progress on getting to the top of the "waiting list" for a Medicaid waiver.

Of course the discomfort that staff experience as they try to explain this is nothing compared to the frustration that families feel as they wait.

Late in 2003, I wrote a couple of articles for *Accent* to explain what a waiver was and why it was called a waiver. It is time to provide an update to those articles and describe the set of circumstances that drives Medicaid waiver enrollment in Licking County.

I'll do my best to explain a complicated situation as well as I can. Please feel free to call me at (740) 349-6588, if you have questions or need clarification. I can also be reached by e-mail at: nancy.neely@lcountydd.org.

Our Local Finances:

Our Board generates money from two levies. The first is a 1.3 mill-continuing levy that was last replaced in 1999.

The second is a one-mill, five-year levy that was last replaced in May 2007.

The last levy for additional (new) millage was passed in May 1987.

State and federal revenue sources have declined, and local levy dollars increasingly have been needed to pay a greater portion of the cost for core county board services such as early intervention, adult services, service coordination and transportation.

Decreases in state funding have been significant. Ohio has experienced severe budget problems since early in the last decade, and we have received substantial cuts in our state subsidies.

Decreases in federal funding included the total elimination of the Medicaid CAFS program, and significant cuts in the reimbursement rate for targeted case management.

Our local levies are close to 75 percent of our total revenue. Ten years ago, our local levies made up approximately 50 percent of our revenues. This illustrates the degree to which we have become reliant on local levy dollars.



Superintendent Nancy Neely recently hosted a series of meetings to address waiver and funding issues, as well as ways families can get more involved in the LCBDD. This letter provided the centerpiece for discussion during those meetings.

Background on Medicaid Waivers:

Medicaid is a state/federal partnership. Programs and services must be proposed by a state to the federal government, and approved by the federal government, before they are eligible for federal Medicaid funding, which is also called federal financial participation.

When approved, the state or another public entity must "match" the federal payments.

The "match" is a percentage of the cost or rate of payment for the service or program.

In Ohio, the federal participation is about 60 percent, while the other 40 percent is the "match" and must be paid out of the budget of a "public entity."

So, for every dollar in Medicaid payments made in Ohio, the federal government pays 60 cent. The remaining 40 cents comes from the agency legally responsible for the "match."

Prior to July 1, 2002, Ohio's legislature allocated money to the Ohio Department of MRDD (now the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities) to be used as the "match" money for individuals enrolled on an Individual Options waiver.

After July 1, 2002, the 40-percent match for anyone enrolled on a Medicaid waiver became the ongoing financial obligation of the local county board.

Local boards were encouraged to ask for as many Medicaid waiver "slots" as they wanted as long as they had the financial means to pay the 40 percent match.

Enrollment of an individual on a Medicaid waiver requires a long-term financial commitment.

As a way to make more match money available to county boards, the Department of MRDD required local boards to "refinance" their supported living (residential) services starting in 2003.

Refinancing meant enrolling individuals onto a Medicaid waiver who were already receiving some type of residential services that were 100-percent paid with state money.

By enrolling one of these individuals onto a waiver and drawing down 60 percent of the cost from the federal government, that 60 percent could be used to supply the match needed for other individuals to be enrolled on a waiver.

In other words, instead of paying 100 percent with local or state money we could pay 40 percent, bring more federal dollars into the system and free up money to be used as match for other individuals.

Money that could be dedicated to Medicaid match to support waiver growth has been very limited. New enrollment occurs mostly because an individual has unenrolled.

Next Steps:

To make more money available for Medicaid waiver match, we have reduced operating expenditures in a number of areas. One example is the recent move of our Administration Offices from 65 W. Church St. to the Eleanor S. Weiant Center, 116 N. 22nd St., Newark. As a result, we now have only four buildings to operate and maintain, instead of five.

We also continue to make "refinancing" a top priority. Our current "refinancing" efforts take advantage of the Level 1 waiver to "refinance" the cost of Adult Services/LICCO Inc.

When adults who are living at home and attending LICCO (or another adult services program) are "refinanced" by enrolling them on a Level 1 waiver, then the Board pays 40 percent (the match) towards the cost of those adult services, rather than 100 percent.

When this "refinancing" is accomplished (target date is July 1, 2010), we will have freed up money to spend on enrolling other individuals onto a Medicaid waiver, particularly the Level 1 waiver.

By mid-2010, the LCBDD will consider a levy strategy to try and replace the almost 1.4 million dollars in revenue we have lost in state and federal money since 2002.

*Waiver facts***Ohio's home- and community-based waiver program**

- The federal government created a program in the 1970s to encourage the development of residential options for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities in their communities. The program was intended to be an alternative to large state-operated institutions that were prevalent at the time.

- Medicaid dollars -- provided in part by the federal government and matched by the state -- were used to pay for these residential programs, which are known as Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMRs).

- Ohio's ICFMR program became a part of the state's Medicaid plan and was approved by the federal government.

- Since the early 1990s, individuals with disabilities and their families have pushed for alternatives to ICFMR facilities. They want smaller, more home-like options. In response, the state stopped the development of new ICFMR facilities and began to explore alternatives.

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (then known as the ODMRDD) developed a proposal in the early 1990s that was approved by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (Ohio's Medicaid agency) and sent to the federal government.

This proposal gave eligible individuals and their families the option to waive their entitlement, or right, to an available bed in an ICFMR facility and instead be enrolled on a "waiver."

The waiver would pay for a range of services and supports provided to an individual with disabilities in his/her family home. Some examples of services include adult (non-vocational) day services, home modifications, and homemaker and personal care.

When the federal government approved this proposal, Ohio's Individual Options (IO) waiver was born. The state has applied for and received approval for other waiver programs since that time.

- In the mid 1990s, ODMRDD decided that county boards should administer the IO waiver program. When waiver administration was transferred to the local level, the state match money for each individual enrolled on an IO waiver at the time also was transferred.

- Since the first IO waiver slots were approved for Ohio by the federal government in the early 1990s, the number of slots available to people with disabilities has been limited by the amount of money available at the state level for the required match. By early 2001, conservative estimates of the number of individuals who needed a waiver slot to help pay for residential-type services was more than 7,000 statewide.

Despite growing waiting lists, no additional money was allocated by the state to be used as match money for waiver slots

- Enrollment of additional individuals on a waiver now depends on the financial resources of the local county board of developmental disabilities.

How are individual allocations of waiver dollars made?

- A statewide assessment or screening tool is used to identify individual needs. The tool is called the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP). The purpose of the ODDP is to make sure that individuals with similar needs are assigned similar amounts of money to pay for their services. County board staff is trained to administer the ODDP.

- After the ODDP is administered, it is sent to the state to be scored. After scoring, each individual is assigned a specific funding range. There are nine funding ranges.

- When a county board receives notification of an individual's assigned funding range, a service coordinator will meet with the individual and family to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP) that takes into consideration the person's needs and the funding range established for him or her.

- Rates paid to waiver providers for their services are included in the state DODD Waiver Reimbursement Rule. County boards do not negotiate rates with providers. Providers can choose to accept a lower rate if their costs don't justify the rate in the rule.

The LICCO Spring Fitness

5K Walk/Run

May 15 • 9 a.m.

OSU-N/COTC campus at Sharon Valley Road
(Rotary Park)

Register online:

<http://premieraces.com/2010Races/springfitness.html>

Print a registration form:

Go to www.LCountyDD.org and click on '5K Brochure'

Request a registration form:

Call Debbie Pound at LICCO -- (740) 522-8345

To learn more about sponsoring this event:

E-mail or call --

debbie.pound@LCountyDD.org • (740) 522-8345



The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is helping children and adults pursue their dreams and building a caring community that sees the possibilities in people with disabilities.

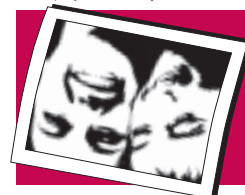
2010 Board of Directors
David Wigginton, President
Nancy Dumbauld, Vice President
Jean Wright, Secretary
Joan Franks
Tim Weiser
Jean Blasczyk
Dan Hoover
Nancy Neely, Superintendent (ex-officio)

Editor
Heather Odendahl

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LICCO Inc.
600 Industrial Parkway
Heath OH 43056

Picture the Possibilities



LICKING COUNTY
BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 602
Newark OH
43055