



August 26, 2010

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Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities to launch People First self-advocacy group

NEWARK – The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) has announced plans to sponsor a People First chapter to promote self-advocacy and empowerment among local residents who have developmental disabilities.

The LCBDD will hold a series of three informational meetings to introduce the People First concept and how individuals can get involved. People First is an organization with chapters throughout the United States. Each local chapter is run for and by individuals with developmental disabilities

All three meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with lunch provided, at the LCBDD Service Coordination office, 565 Industrial Parkway, Heath.

The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 21. Special guests from the Knox County People First Chapter will discuss the purpose and goals for creating a Licking County chapter. Participants will gain knowledge about rights, responsibilities, community involvement and problem solving in order to improve their lives. There will be door prizes and entertainment.

For individuals who are willing to become part of the Licking County People First Chapter, a second meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 23. Discussions will focus on how to run the chapter, and nominations will be accepted for officers. Individuals will receive assistance with campaigning, and creating speeches and posters.

The third meeting is set for Thursday, Sept. 30. It will involve election of officers – individuals will hear campaign speeches and vote for their preferred candidates.

Because seating is limited for all three events, reservations are required and can be made by calling the LCBDD's Service Coordination office, (740) 349-1420, or (800) 722-6096.

To view an event flyer, please visit www.LCountyDD.org, and click on the news section.

The LCBDD provides comprehensive services to nearly 1,400 Licking County infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. The LCBDD Administration Offices are located in the Eleanor S. Weiant Center (formerly Starlight School), 116 N. 22nd St., Newark. The agency provides home-based Early Intervention Services to babies and toddlers; Adult Services at LICCO Inc., Heath; Transportation Services; Service Coordination; residential supports; and family support services such as respite care. The LCBDD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for providing high-quality supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

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