

MCBDDS celebrates Adult Services legacy as end dates for programming draw near

Kuntz, Liberty to be sold to private providers; Calumet and Jergens to close no later than December 31, 2018

As MCBDDS moves toward its deadline of closing its Adult Services programs, plans are underway to celebrate the legacy and the bonds forged between staff and individuals.

“The relationships our staff have with the individuals they serve are more than just service-based,” said Superintendent **Nancy Banks**. “There is mutual caring and commitment that goes back years. It’s that type of bond that we want to acknowledge—and honor.”

In August, MCBDDS leaders accepted proposals for the purchase of its Kuntz and Liberty Centers programs, with Better Living to assume ownership of Kuntz, and MONCO/Boundless to operate the programs at Liberty. The expected date of transition from MCBDDS ownership to private provider ownership of these facilities is January 2, 2018.



The Board’s Calumet and Jergens Centers will not change hands. These buildings will close prior to December 31, 2018, and the 147 individuals currently attending programs at these facilities will need to

transition to private providers of their choice. MCBDDS staff will support them as they explore their options.

“We’ve more than doubled the number of private providers we have in the County, and that means more options for people who are transitioning,” said **Mitch Snyder**, MCBDDS provider development manager.

“Our goal is to help people find new providers that are the right fit for them.”

Before the MCBDDS Adult Services buildings transition, staff will host special farewell events for individuals who attend programming. Stay tuned for further information.

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MCBDDS staff earn Mental Health award

Each year, the Coordinating Center of Excellence in Mental Illness/Intellectual Disability (CCOE), a project funded by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, recognizes organizations that excel in providing services and resources to individuals with both developmental disabilities and mental illness.

This year, CCOE selected the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (MCBDDS) for a **CCOE Team Award for Excellence** for its efforts to coordinate care and assist individuals with complex needs as they transitioned from Montgomery Developmental Center to homes in the community.

The Award was presented at the Ohio National Association of Dual Diagnosis Conference September 26 in Columbus by the Ohio Department of



Developmental Disabilities. MCBDDS staff specifically recognized for their contributions were (left to right in photo) Service and Support Administrator **Molly Bergman**, Clinical and Mental Health Services Manager **Carroll Jackson**, and Residential Developmental Specialist **Brian Borgert**.



Library exhibit celebrates the lives, stories and contributions of people with disabilities



MCBDDS celebrated the lives, stories and contributions of people with developmental disabilities in a **special exhibit at the new Dayton Metro Library Main Branch** in downtown Dayton during September and early October. This special event, held in the Library's Opportunity Space @ St. Clair, sought to educate the community about developmental disabilities, and showcase how people with these disabilities contribute to the community through their employment, volunteerism and talents.

Visitors got to see amazing works created by artists with disabilities, and hear the stories of people with

disabilities who live and work in the Miami Valley through a special audio exhibit titled **"Talking about Disability: Just Ask,"** produced by **91.3 FM WYSO**. People also learned how the use of language affects how people with disabilities are perceived, and could familiarize themselves the services offered by the County Board and other organizations that help people with developmental disabilities. A self-advocacy component demonstrated ways people with disabilities can advocate for themselves, and a selection of literature curated by the Dayton Metro Library showcased works by—and about—people with disabilities.

Empowering People

Ohio Self Determination Association honors MCBDDS Self-Advocacy Group

On October 4, the Ohio Self Determination Association presented its **2017 ESDY Award** to **Voices Matter**, the community-based self-advocacy group sponsored by the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services, and the **Voices of Greene County**, a self-advocacy group sponsored by the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This award is given to honor individuals or entities that demonstrate excellence in promoting the principles of self-determination to direct and better their own lives and the lives of others.

Voices Matter and the Voices of Greene County were nominated for the award by **Tom Weaver**, the executive director of Choices in Community Living. Weaver highlighted the partnership the groups have created in promoting self-advocacy throughout the Dayton region, citing the groups' **Self-Advocacy Conference** and **Recreation Discovery Day** events held at Wright State University earlier in the year, as well as presentations to community groups designed to raise awareness of disability and disability-related topics.

For information about how to participate in the Voices Matter group, visit the MCBDDS website at <http://www.mcbdds.org/644/Voices-Matter>.



Angela Howard, a member of MCBDDS's Voices Matter self-advocacy group, is pictured with the group's ESDY Award.



Self-advocates presented to their Service and Support Administrators in October.

Individuals test their advocacy skills with SSAs

Members of **Voices Matter**, the community-based self-advocacy group sponsored by MCBDDS, recently met with the Board's Service and Support Administration staff to make a presentation called "What I Wish My SSA Knew." This opportunity allowed advocates to share their understanding of an SSA's role, and discuss topics including how to improve the Individual Service Planning process. SSAs also learned how they could more effectively support the people they serve.

Transition Updates

MCBDDS takes steps to assist with Direct Support Professional recruitment efforts

One of the most pressing needs facing residential service providers in the Dayton area is recruitment and retention of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). To help address this need, **MCBDDS started a workgroup where local providers can band together to tackle this issue.**

Since first meeting in the winter of 2017, the group has undertaken a number of activities, including a DSP Hiring Fair at The Job Center in Dayton and five Hiring Events held at County Board locations. The group shared information about job opportunities on WHIO-TV's public affairs program, "WHIO Reports," and offered input for a recruitment campaign the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) will kick off in November. They are also working with MCBDDS to find ways to extend OPRA's campaign through county boards' communications, and with MCBDDS and the Miami Valley Career Technology Center to produce 30 second promotional spots for social media that highlight the value and rewards of working with people with developmental disabilities. These efforts will get underway soon.



Employment candidates meet with providers at a MCBDDS-hosted Job Fair in June.

Transition Survey shows overall satisfaction with change in providers and MCBDDS support

To better understand the needs of individuals who went through the transition process and evaluate their experiences with support, **MCBDDS undertook a series of Transition Satisfaction Surveys in 2017.** These surveys were designed to assess whether individuals were happy with services after changing providers, and with support they received from MCBDDS staff.

In January 2017, MCBDDS sent surveys to 449 individuals and their parents/guardians, followed by a second round of surveys to 353 individuals, parents and guardians in July. All surveys were sent to people who left MCBDDS-operated services, and to people who changed from one provider to another. MCBDDS received 52 responses from the January mailing, including 20 from individuals, 21 from family members,

and nine from guardians. The July mailing resulted in 43 responses, which included 15 from individuals, 15 from family members, and 13 from guardians.

Results from both surveys were overwhelmingly positive, and showed that approximately 90 percent of respondents were happy with their new providers. The surveys did not show a pattern or systemic issue that needed to be addressed, and only seven of the 95 noted any concerns about services from new providers. MCBDDS's Provider Development Manager addressed all concerns except those submitted anonymously, and will continue these surveys every six months throughout the transition period. The next survey will be mailed in January 2018 to people transitioning out of day programs during the final six months of 2017.

Meet Kathy Duffin, the new MCBDDS Recreation Services Manager

While some may know **Kathy Duffin** as the fun and friendly Production Supervisor at Jergens Center, she has a little known alter ego: **Recreation Woman**. It's this identity that led to her selection as MCBDDS's new Recreation Services Manager.

The majority of Kathy's professional career centers around physical education and recreation, as do her volunteer activities. She has spent 32 years as a volunteer with Special Olympics, serving as the organization's Clark County coordinator, and coaching everything from basketball, bocce and bowling to golf, volleyball, and track and field.

Kathy's first exposure to the developmental disabilities field came when her college curriculum required a class in adaptive physical education. This experience gave her the opportunity to work with children with disabilities, and inspired her to become involved as a volunteer with Special Olympics. Upon graduation, she knew she wanted to work with people with disabilities. "The kids I taught were so eager to learn and try new things," she said. "Their enthusiasm and excitement made work fun!"

After college, Kathy taught adaptive physical education at the Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Town & Country School for 18 years. She also spent seven years as their Board's Volunteer Coordinator, where, among other duties, she secured community-based volunteer opportunities for individuals, and coordinated activities with business, civic and cultural organizations.



Seven years ago, Kathy came to Montgomery County and Jergens Center. "I learned so much from the staff there," said Kathy. "They created a happy, upbeat place, and did their jobs the way they should be done: by having fun, treating the individuals with respect, and finding ways to bring out the best in them."

While MCBDDS will continue to offer Recreational programming, Kathy's goal is to expand the program's presence in the community, and help individuals build relationships with groups that share their interests. "We want the people we serve to be integrated into activities offered by community groups. We also want to help people who are employed take advantage of recreational opportunities and pursue their interests in community settings."

Say hello to your new Recreation Services team

MCBDDS is **expanding its Recreation Services Department** to help provide socialization for people who work second and third shift jobs, when most recreation opportunities exist.

The Department now **has four Community Support Specialists** to assist individuals in developing relationships that allow them to participate in



The MCBDDS Recreation Team includes (left to right) **David Jenkins, Kourtney Wise, Eddie Green, Chelsea Viets, Tammy Brooks and Palmer Young.**

recreation and leisure activities in the community: **Tammy Brooks, David Jenkins, Kourtney Wise and Palmer Young.**

Chelsea Viets will continue in her role as Adult Recreation Assistant, and **Eddie Green** will continue as Children's Recreation Assistant. The department's Recreation Aides will also be under the supervision of Department Manager **Kathy Duffin.**

Residential & Family Services staff partner with Bicycles for All for Carnival giveaway

Eighteen children and adults won bicycles at MCBDDS's annual Halloween Carnival, thanks to a partnership between three community organizations and the **MCBDDS Residential & Family Services (RFS) Department**.

Tom Helbig of **Tomfoolery Outdoor Adventures** worked with **Bicycles for All**, a Dayton-based nonprofit organization that rehabilitates used bikes, to get the bicycles donated for the Carnival. **Chris Worrell** of **Black Pug Bikes** in Yellow Springs donated parts and equipment to repair the bikes, and guided the work of 36 RFS staff members, who made any necessary repairs and performed checks to ensure that the bikes were roadworthy.

"We consistently ask the community to support and embrace the individuals we serve, and this project demonstrated how willing people are to step up," said RFS Department Director **Kamarr Gage**. "We're grateful to these three organizations for partnering with us to make individuals' dreams come true."



Winter Carnival to be held in new location



St. Rita Catholic Church will be the site of MCBDDS's fourth annual **Winter Carnival** on **Saturday, March 10, 2018**.

The decision to hold the Carnival in a new location was made because of the closure of the Montgomery County Fairgrounds and its Coliseum, where the event had been held. **St. Rita Church** is located at 5401 N. Main Street, Dayton, 45415, and is situated on RTA Bus Routes 7 and 16. It also has plenty of parking.

The 2018 Carnival will be one part of the Board's celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and will feature music, dancing, and a variety of carnival games and prizes. Admission will be \$2 per person, and each visitor will receive five free game tickets. Additional game tickets will be \$0.25 each. Carnival food will also be available for purchase.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 10** from **5 to 8 p.m.** so you can attend this fun event!



MCBDDS Board member and son mark 50th anniversary of County Boards at celebration



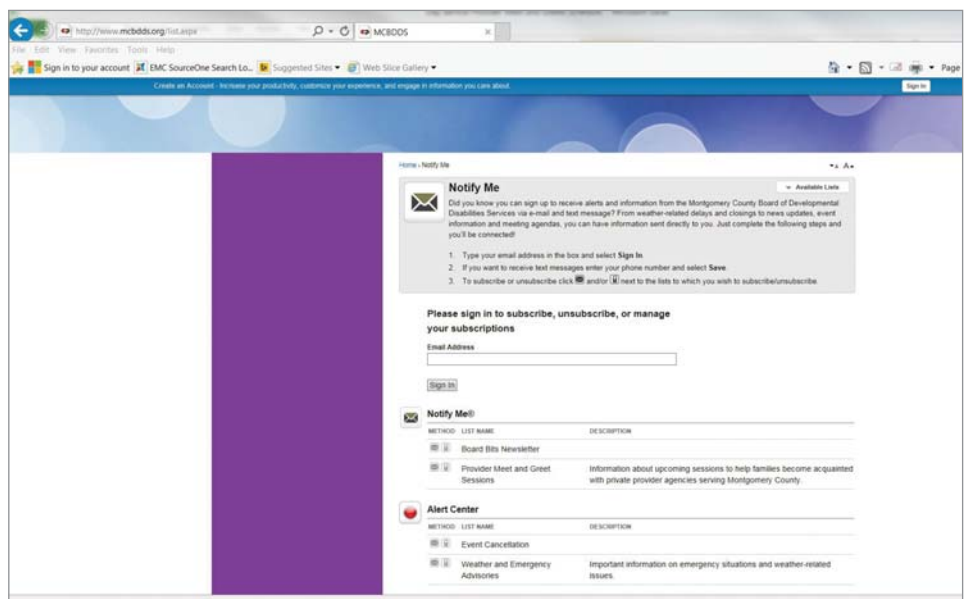
The 50th Anniversary celebration of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) served as a great introduction to Ohio's Developmental Disabilities system for **Naima Quarles-Burnley**, the newest member of the Board of the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and her son, **Thulani Burnley**. Quarles-Burnley and her son, who recently moved to Ohio from Washington state, represented MCBDDS at the event, which took

place in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and on the floor of the Ohio House of Representatives October 24. Highlights included presentations from Governor John Kasich and other legislators, tours of the Statehouse, a Resolution from the Ohio House in recognition of the 50th anniversary of County Boards, and the dedication of a time capsule that included mini capsules from each of Ohio's 88 counties. Thank you, Naima and Thulani, for representing our agency!

Interested in more timely delivery of information? Electronic notifications help you stay up to date

Did you know you can sign up to receive alerts and information from the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services via email and text message? From weather-related delays and emergency alerts to news updates, event change details and meeting agendas, you can have information sent directly to you in real time.

To opt in to this service, go to <http://www.mcbdds.org/signup> or visit the MCBDDS homepage and click on "Stay Connected" in the blue band halfway down the website homepage. Follow the instructions in the gray box on the page, and select from a wide variety of alerts, news categories, events and agendas. Need help registering? Call 937-837-9253.



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2017 Holiday Events: Registration Deadline December 1

MCBDDS's Recreation Services Department will host a series of holiday-themed events during December at Northview School, 8114 N. Main Street, Dayton, 45415. Registration requirements vary; see below for details.

Holiday Dance (adults 18 and up)

December 2, 2017, 6 to 10 p.m.
Registration required by December 1. Adults must choose between Holiday Dance and Holiday Party.

Breakfast with Santa (children 0-17)

December 9, 2017, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Registration required by Dec. 1. Children must choose between Breakfast and Holiday Party. Parents must accompany children. Siblings 8 & under welcome.

Pre-New Year's Eve Dance (adults)

December 30, 2017, 6 to 10 p.m.
Registration required by December 1. Cost: \$2.00.

Holiday Happening (children & adults)

December 9, 2017, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Includes Secret Santa Shop and gifts for purchase. Registration required by December 1. Open to all.

Holiday Party (children & adults)

December 10, 2017, 3 to 5 p.m.
Registration required by Dec. 1. Adults must choose between Holiday Dance and Holiday Party; children must choose Breakfast with Santa OR Holiday Party.

How to Register

Visit <http://www.mcbdds.org/register> to take part in these activities.