

HORIZONS

FALL 2021


Crawford County
Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Save the Dates

First Day of Preschool

SEPT 7 & SEPT 8

Next Board Meeting:

SEPT 16

Chargers for Change

SEPT 20

Newsletter Contents

WELCOME	PAGE 2
EARLY INTERVENTION	PAGE 3
BACK TO SCHOOL/ PLAYGROUND	PAGE 4-6
CCBDD AT THE FAIR	PAGE 7
CBDD SPOTLIGHT & PB & J	PAGE 8-9
DSP	PAGE 10
DSP RECOGNITION	PAGE 11
CHARGERS FOR CHANGE & PARENTS / ADVOCATES GROUP	PAGE 12

Letter from the Superintendent

As summer is starting to wind down and schools are starting to be back in session, I am reminded how quickly time flies. It seems like the summer just started a few weeks ago. I must make a conscience decision to ensure that I cherish each moment and enjoy every day. We have been preparing to welcome all the students into Fairway Preschool. We have worked diligently with the local Health Department as well as the other Crawford County School districts to put a plan into place that meets requirements and recommendations and focuses on maintaining a healthy environment.



I learned that no matter how much planning you do, sometimes things do not work out the way you plan. We decided to upgrade the inclusiveness, variety, and safety of our Fairway playground this year. We planned for all this last school year and the new playground to be installed over the summer. We completed the demolition and removal of the existing playground in early June. Then we hear that the manufacturing company had a fire which delayed their production. We are now expecting to have approximately one month of school without most of our playground being available to the students. Although disappointing, I am confident the wonderful Fairway team will be creative and ensure each student has a great outdoor experience. This situation is a reminder that life doesn't always go as planned and sometimes you need to try to make lemonade out of lemons.

I can't close this note without feeling obligated to address the rising COVID cases throughout our community. Although there are only a few "Government Mandates" I would like to encourage everyone to do your research, devise a plan, and stay safe. If eligible, there are vaccines available. If there are any need for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) or other items that would help prevent COVID spread, please make contact with your connection at the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities and we can assist you in efforts to enhance your safety.

Make the most out of your day,

Court D. Sturts



Welcome



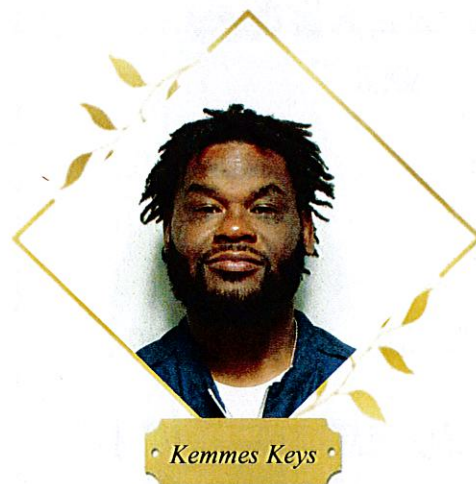
Kylie Korner

Meet Miss Kylie!!! Kylie is excited to begin the new school year! She has lived in Bucyrus her whole life and graduated in 2013 from Bucyrus High School. Currently, she resides in Bucyrus with her husband and three dogs; Ava, Lily, and Ellie. At Bucyrus, she was very involved in activities participating in basketball, softball, volleyball, and many clubs. After high school, she attended Heidelberg University and The Ohio State University at Marion to obtain a degree in Early Childhood Education. Miss Kylie can't wait to meet her new friends!!

My name is Kemmes Keys, Jr. and I am a Service Support Administrator at the CCBDD. I have previous experience working in the field; which includes prior history in Crawford County, while serving as the former Investigative Agent for the Clearwater COG. I graduated from Ashland University and received Bachelor of Science degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology. I later obtained Master's in Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary/Ashland University. My wife and I have five children - four daughters (ages 22, 18, 16, and 11) and one son (age 20).

Fun Facts: I am an avid sports fan, having played collegiate baseball where I was one of the starters on the first College World Series team for Ashland University. I have coached High School Football for over 20 years as both an assistant and Head Coach. When not working or coaching, I enjoy traveling and spending time with my family.

I look forward to meeting you all and appreciate the opportunity to assist you in any way possible.



Kemmes Keys



Amy Kitchen

Meet Miss Amy!!! Amy is starting her 17th year of teaching and is looking forward to building connections with her students and their families. She has taught preschool, Kindergarten and 3rd grade, but her joy lies within the 3-5 age group. She shares 3 little ones with her husband and they have a "mini farm" with chickens, ducks, an Aussiedoodle and a vegetable garden. She received her Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education from The Ohio State University and Masters Degree with teaching License from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Amy is very excited to join the team here!



Helping children and families wherever they choose to live, play, and spend their day.

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of young children with disabilities and developmental delays. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. That is why our local EI team works with you in your home or other places that you and your family spend time to develop a coordinated plan.

Our local EI team is based out of the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities. It consists of Developmental Specialists, Occupational, Speech, and Physical Therapists, as well as visual, hearing and early childhood mental health specialists.



Shannon Lear working with a local Early Intervention family in their home

Evelyn Franklin and Shannon Lear are Crawford County's Early Intervention Developmental Specialists. They, along with a team of other specialized therapists, provide services to children from the ages of birth to three years old. Early Intervention receives their referrals through Help Me Grow, who determines a child's eligibility for developmental services.

Early Intervention Services are free and voluntary for families in Crawford County that have an infant or toddler who are determined to have delays in one or more areas of development. The team provides strategies for families to implement at home to improve the child's specific area of delay. A child can be referred to Help Me Grow for evaluation to determine eligibility. A parent, medical professional, and other sources can make the referral for evaluation. The phone number for referral to Help Me Grow is 419-562-4667.





Though it may be sad that summer is coming to a close, we are happy to be able to bring our students back for a new school year. If you have a child enrolled in Fairway Preschool you should have received a letter in the mail about important information, including a school supply list. Some of this information can be found below. If you have not received this, please call the school at 419-563-9280 ext. 111. We are looking forward to having a wonderful school year!

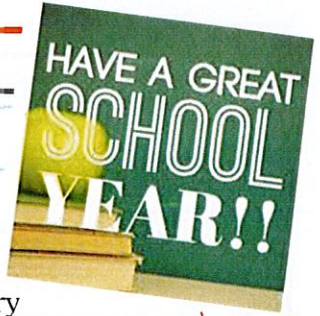
Staggered Start Dates: We are having a “staggered start” again this year. **The two start days will be on Tuesday, September 7 and Wednesday, September 8, 2021.** Half of the students will start on Tuesday, September 7th and the other half of the students will start on Wednesday, September 8th. Then all students will come on Thursday, September 9th.









All Parents: You will need to complete the **Free and Reduced Lunch Application** (Those will be available for pickup in the office. Stop in and pick one up.) & return it as soon as possible. Due to the pandemic, the Federal Government will be providing all students with a free lunch at school again this year. **But**, you will need to complete the **Free and Reduced Lunch Application for each child.**

Mask Requirement for All Bus Riders: Federal Guidelines, as far as public transportation and Covid-19 is concerned, has mandated that anyone over the age of 2, who rides public transportation, which includes our bus transportation, need to wear a mask while riding on the bus. We do realize that with some medical and behavioral challenges we may have students who won't/can't wear a mask. If you have some concerns with your child wearing a mask on the bus, please contact our office and we will advise you as to what to do for your child.



Preparing for Preschool



-  Visit the school before the first day and meet your child's teacher
-  Routine is key for preschoolers: set a regular bath time, bed time and read every night
-  Talk about your child's feelings: let them know it's okay to feel nervous
-  Prepare yourself and your child the night before school starts
-  Allow extra time in the morning so that your child does not feel rushed
-  Keep it positive: this will be a fun new experience for both you and your child.
-  If your child is crying or doesn't want to go in, do not give in. This is very normal and can last for a while, but most kids stop crying within minutes of being dropped off
-  It's best to settle your child in, give a hug/kiss (or special handshake), say goodbye and leave quickly

OHIO SPECIALTY SERVICES

School Bus Safety Tips

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least 10 feet away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Stay in your seat.
- Do not yell or shout.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

*We Wheelie Appreciate You!!
Thank you for all that you do
to get the kids back and forth
to school*



Construction of the Fairway Preschool Playground



STAY TUNED.....



Here is a sneak peek of the progress that is being made on the playground.

We had hoped that it would be done before school started. However, production on the equipment had been delayed because of an unfortunate factory fire. We hope that it will be done soon because we are beyond excited to share the new updates with the children.



CCBDD at the Fair



Hopefully, you had the opportunity to stop by and check out our cool booth that was set up at this year's Crawford County Fair. Those who visited were able to learn a little about what we do here at the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Like, did you know that we provide several services? Some of these services include Early Intervention, Preschool classes for both typical and special needs students and Service Support Administration / Case Management. And those are just a few examples of what we offer. If you want to learn more about what we do, please contact us.

A very special thank you goes to Mary Morton. This booth would not have been possible without your hard work and dedication. Thank you for organizing, setting up, and volunteering/working in the heat.



CBDD SHOWCASE



I am sure everyone knows Deb by the award-winning smile she always has. Deb has been with the County Board for numerous years receiving services and has achieved many goals that she has set for herself over the years. With the help of her parents, provider, and others, there is nothing she cannot do when she sets her mind to it. From learning to cook simple meals with her housemates, to becoming a huge part in the community she has achieved it all and more.

Deb has worked at Waycraft for many years, loves to challenge herself by trying new things such as working at Diamond Wipes and Champion Foods and has done an amazing job wherever she works. Deb is an amazing asset wherever she goes and loves to get out and try new things including volunteering. Just one was Deb helped by volunteering with the backpack program where Deb helped with sorting through the many items that were placed into backpacks for weekend meals during the school year to students.

Play Ball!

with the PB&J Baseball League!



In case you didn't get a chance to **Catch** it, the PB & J Baseball League was a **Hit** again this year as it was back in full **Swing** at the Little League Baseball Fields at Heise Park, Galion.

PB & J is the acronym for the ministry "Precious and Beloved by Jesus" which was created by the Galion Alliance Church to show love and support for people with disabilities and their families. The PB & J Baseball League grew out of this ministry in fulfillment of a need in our local communities. This need is for more social and athletic activities that children and young adults who live with disabilities can participate and grow in.

The games are played on regular Little League baseball fields with the use of coaches, announcers, umpires and adaptive equipment, rules and "buddies" (1:1 helpers) so that everyone, no matter of their ability, has the same opportunity to participate in a fun, safe manner.

The League has grown from 2 teams and 16 players to 6 teams and 44 players in a few short years. With the growth of the league, the ministry had to grow and now includes volunteers from Grace Point Church as well as others from the community. Many local businesses enjoy sponsoring the league and banners are displayed at all the games to honor their support.

This year the games were played on Friday nights with the final night also being the awards ceremony. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for the final game, so the last game was cancelled, but the Awards Ceremony occurred a week later.

Several individuals who receive services from the Crawford County Board of DD participated in the PB & J Baseball League this year and some of those are pictured above.

If interested in obtaining more information on the PB&J Baseball League and other activities of PB & J Ministries, contact: Rob Farson, SSA, at 419-563-2123 or

farsonr@crawfordcbdd.org.

Direct Support Professionals

What is a Direct Support Professional (DSP)?

The legal definition as defined by Goggle is “someone who works directly with people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. DSPs aim to assist people.” But if you ask some of the individuals who are served by the County Board of DD, you will hear “Friend”, “family”, “hero”, “my everything”. These are the people who are actively involved with individuals either at Day Programs, or through Residential Services. They are people who share laughs and heartaches with individuals. They are people who have unconditional acceptance, and patience. But they are also the people that we are now seeing shortages of.

Currently Ohio is seeing a huge shortage of DSPs to help individuals served. The shortage has slowly been increasing over the last several years, but due to COVID – we have seen a drastic increase in the shortage of workers, which is worrisome to our population. This in return places more of a burden on families, providers, and the County Board to think outside of the box to help ensure health and safety when there is not going to be a person to help work with our individuals. Shortages have caused several individuals and families to not have services for months.

We are expanding our access through assistance with technology, and even working on ways for people to share services that haven't in the past. These are both win-win situations for all involved. There is no magic answer currently, so we must work to create and develop a stable and sustainable workforce, for the future, with our provider partners and state/federal officials. Together with providers, the County Board will continue to discuss and explore viable options to address this concern.

If you, or anyone you know are interested in becoming a DSP, please reach out to the Crawford County Board and we can direct you to any of our GREAT providers in our county. Or if you feel that this is a great employment opportunity for you or someone you know, there is also the ability to become an independent provider.

Thank you to all of our DSPs and to the Providers who are OUR PANDEMIC HEROS. They kept those we serve and love safe over the last 18 months and didn't think twice about going into a home or staying in a home during all of this. We appreciate you!



DSP Recognition

Do you have a DSP or Provider that is doing an outstanding job and you just aren't sure how to recognize them? Do they go above and beyond what you expect? Do you just want to say, "thank you for all that you do"?

Together with the Clearwater COG, the Crawford County Board of DD is recognizing Direct Service Professionals, Independent Providers, and Provider agencies for all that they do to serve those in Crawford County. Below is a Recognition form with a few questions that you can complete to recognize a DSP/Provider that you work with.

Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire and submit it for them to be recognized through the County Board and to have a chance at a special drawing from the Clearwater COG during the month of September. And if you happen to have a photo of them with you/your loved one, please send that in as well so everyone can get to meet our great DSP/Providers.

Full size forms are available by contacting Kim Kent as

kentk@crawfordcbdd.org

Nomination Form for DSP or Independent Provider Recognition

Please use this form to submit your nominations

Name of nominee, their contact information and name of their agency, if applicable:

Name of person(s) submitting the nomination and contact information:

Please describe why you are nominating this person. Please give examples of what they have done to make them stand out. Please feel free to use as much space as you need.

Please attach a photo of the nominee, along with the nomination form and return to Rachael Benson at rbenson@clearwatercog.org and Kim Kent at kentk@crawfordcbdd.org

****Please keep in mind, if the photo includes a picture of the person they serve, in order to share it on social media a current release of information needs to be signed by the person and/or their guardian, if applicable. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Rachael at the above email or 419-680-6924.**



Chargers for Change

Chargers for Change, Crawford County's People First group, had its first meeting since February of 2020, on August 16. They had a great turn out with around 20 members present, who were happy to be back after such a long hiatus. They came prepared with some big ideas for the group moving forward!

The group is in the process of coming up with a Mission Statement and also has plans to be more involved with volunteer activities, in order to be more present in the local communities. Upcoming plans include a member volunteering each month with the County Board for the area Backpack Program, starting in September. The group will also be collecting items to send for Operation Christmas Child to help children in need around the world this Christmas. They plan to collect items between the September and October meetings, then have a "packing day" to get all of the boxes packed and shipped out by the beginning of November.



Chargers for Change will resume its monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10AM at the Trillium Event Center, the next meeting will be held on September 20, 2021. The meetings are open to any adults served by the County Board who are interested in self-advocacy, you may call the county board office if you have any questions about the group. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming meetings!

Parents / Advocates Meeting



The Parents/Advocates group will start back up in October. The group will meet the second Monday of every month from 5-7pm in the Fairway school cafeteria. There will be an hour presentation followed by an hour of socializing between participants. Refreshments will be provided and **EVERYONE** is welcome.

Come and join us on October 18 as we discuss Waivers, for more information or to RSVP contact Tabitha Smith at 419-563-9289.

Calendar Of Events

SEPTEMBER

1
6
7 & 8
16 7 PM
20 10 AM

Fairway Preschool Open House
Labor Day—Programs Closed
Fairway Preschool— Staggered Start
Board Meeting
Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)-Trillium

OCTOBER

11
18 5-7 PM
19 10 AM
21 7 PM

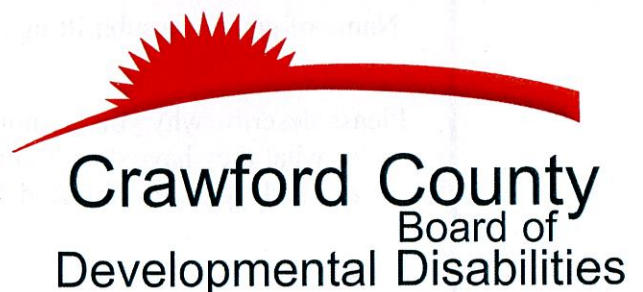
Columbus Day—Programs Closed
Parent Advocates Group
Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)-Trillium
Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

8 5-7 PM
15 10 AM
18 7 PM
25 & 26

Parent Advocates Group
Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)-Trillium
Board Meeting
Thanksgiving Break—Programs Closed

If there are emergencies that occur after normal business hours, please call 419-563-9292 and a Service Support Administrator will assist you.



1630 E. Southern Avenue, Suite 101
Bucyrus, OH 44820



Department of
Developmental Disabilities