



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 4

## Jefferson County BDD

256 John Scott Highway  
Steubenville, Ohio  
43952  
www.jcbdd.com

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### *In This Edition:*

*\*Message from the  
Superintendent*

*\*Special Olympians  
Get Ready for Games*

*\*Simulation Day*

*\*Read Across  
America*

*\*Calendar of Events*

## A Message from the Superintendent:

### JCBDD to Lead Early Intervention Services

I'm excited to announce that beginning July 1, the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be the lead agency for early intervention services. Currently, these services are divided between JCBDD and the Family and Children First Council.

The pending privatization of adult services has created an opportunity for us to refocus and restructure our program and provide more comprehensive early intervention services. I can't think of a better way to serve

the community than to reach families and kids at the earliest age. By doing so, it should yield positive results for years to come.

I am proud to introduce our early intervention team of Neysa Rogers as supervisor, Autumn Francis as service coordinator, Nick Saggio as service coordinator and developmental specialist and Jen Orlando as developmental specialist.

In general, our early intervention services will be based on the principle that children learn best through

everyday experiences with people they know in their natural environment, making the parents or other caregiver their child's best teacher. Through the early intervention team and other direct providers, including speech therapists Megan Mirasola and Jane Herron, physical therapist Jennifer Brown, vision therapist Alisha Waugh and hearing specialist Kelly Sullivan, our goal is to provide quality services while seeking kids at risk for a developmental delay at the earliest possible age.

### *Special Olympians Ready for Upcoming Games*

Jefferson County athletes are getting ready for the 2018 Area 9 Special Olympics this May and conditioning is under way in Steubenville.

Each week, two groups gather at the School of Bright Promise to exercise and practice in preparation for the games at Harding Stadium on May 5 in hopes of advancing to the state tournament this summer. Area 9 Coordinator Janie Bodo said about 62 athletes signed up for bocce and track and field events and they are spending each Tuesday getting fit and practicing their skills. They recently gathered for some stretching and walking around the gym since the cold, damp weather prohibited outdoor practice. Several of the athletes said they were excited about the prospect of competing in the coming months.

Lisa Majewski, of Steubenville, has played bocce for the past 10 years and participated in the state tournament in 2017. She said she looks forward to the workouts because she likes competing and also being with friends.

"It's a lot of work because you've got to compete with everybody," she said. "It's nice [to meet each week] because you can spend time



**Linda Utzler, a boccie ball player in the Special Olympics, joined in conditioning for the upcoming games on May 5. About 62 people have registered for bocce ball and track and field events at the Area 9 Special Olympics at Harding Stadium with hopes of heading to the state tournament this summer.**

with people when you do training and you get fit. I like to be around others and most of them are my friends. Socializing is my favorite and I like seeing [Bodo]."

Emily Coleman got involved more than six years ago as a teenager. Now 21, the Steubenville woman enjoys taking part in softball and track.

"I like running and softball and I am doing the 50-meter," Coleman added, saying she has also made it to the state tourney. "It was good."

Her mother, Marybeth, said training has become a family affair and they spend several days a week walking the dog or at the track at Harding to get in shape, and those efforts have helped Emily become a more focused athlete. While most of the athletes are connected to JCBDD, Emily has been part of the public school system but could still get involved with the games.

"She started at Steubenville City Schools and I picked her up from the [Jefferson County Joint Vocational School]," Marybeth explained. "Being in the Special Olympics is a motivation for exercise. I knew some of her friends were involved and she couldn't be in regular athletics, so I inquired about this."

She encouraged others who are in school on Individual Education Plans (IEP's) to become involved with Special Olympics even if they are in a public school setting. Meanwhile, she added that it has positively impacted her daughter.

"She looks forward to the medals and the date. It's like Christmas."



## Simulation Day Held

About 30-40 high school students took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Simulation Day at the School of Bright Promise on March 16, where they learned what it is like have visual, hearing, mobility and other impairments. Teens performed activities at stations in the gym, such as wearing covered goggles to walk and read without the benefit of sight and painting a picture without the use of arms. The event also marked National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.



## Read Across America

Indian Creek Middle School Media Club members visited the School of Bright Promise to share Dr. Seuss books for Read Across America on March 1 and dressed as story characters in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Pictured are, from left, School of Bright Promise pupils Gerry Christian, Jason Markja and Jacob Wells. Back: SBP student Logan Briggs, ICMS students Lizzie Gillette, Hannah Lee, Sam Markovich and Bailey Harris and SBP student Jason Galloway.

## Calendar of Events

### April 1: Easter/April Fool's Day

April 2: NO SCHOOL; JCTC OFF; Steubenville Country Club Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer A)

April 3: Toronto Library 10 & Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Movies (A); Trampoline Park (Shaffer B); Mall Walk (Shaffer C)

April 4: SHS/Mingo Track & Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (A)

April 5: Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); EGCC Art Display (A); Game Night (B); Wii Tournament (C)

April 6: Gables Nursing Home 10, Lunch at Richmond UMC 12 & Mall Walk 12:45 (JCTC); Game/Craft Night (A); Staff Chooses Activity (B); Movie Night (C)

April 7: Karaoke Night (C)

April 8: Make Your Own Sundae (A); Comedy Night (B); Picnic on the Patio- Weather Permitting (C)

April 9: Mall Walk & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); IEP's (SBP); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer)

April 10: Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Safety Meeting 3 (SBP); God's Choice Church Party (Shaffer)

April 11: SHS/Mingo Track & Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at SV Lanes (Shaffer)

April 12: Human Rights Meeting 9 (SBP); Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC)

April 13: Gables 10, Lunch at Richmond UMC 12 & Mall Walk 12:45 (JCTC); Curriculum Meeting/School Behavior 12:45 (SBP); Back to 80's Toronto High School 5:30 (A); Pizza Party (B); Game Night (C)

April 14: Ride & Treat (A); Movie Night at Home (B); Pizza Party (C)

April 16: Mall Walk 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); IEP's (SBP); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer); Residents Choose Activity (B)

April 17: Bethany Baseball Game (Tentative SBP); Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); Movies (A); Trampoline Park (B)

April 18: IEP's (SBP); SHS/Mingo Track & Friendship Room 9 (JCTC); Bowling at SV Lanes (A); Comedy Night (C)

April 19: Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time Brooke Library 10:30 & SHS Walk 1(JCTC); JCBDD Board Meeting; Stamping @ Salvation Army (A); Mother's Day Craft (B)

April 20: Football Hall of Fame Day Trip (JCTC); M&M Party (Shaffer)

April 21: Basketball- Weather Permitting (C)

April 22: Earth Day; Matinee Movie (B)

April 23: Mall Walk 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Student Advocacy (SBP); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer)

April 24: Prime Time 10 & SHS Swim 12:30 (JCTC); IEP's (SBP); God's Choice Church Party (Shaffer)

April 25: Secretaries Day; SHS/Mingo Track & Friendship Room 9; Bowling at SV Lanes (Shaffer)

April 26: Rocky Road Gym 9:30, Prime Time 10, Urban Mission 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); Parent Support Group 1:15 (SBP); Craft Night (C)

April 27: Gable 10, Lunch at Richmond UMC 12 & Mall Walk 12:45 (JCTC); Craft Night (A); Walking at the Mall (C); Arbor Day

April 28: Resident's Choice (A); Movie Night at Home (B); Resident Council Meeting (C)

April 29: Resident Council Meeting (A); Make Mother's Day Cards (B); Wii Night (C)

April 30: Mall Walk 10 & SHS Walk 1 (JCTC); LPDC Meeting 2:45 (SBP); Steub CC Dance Class 5:15 (Shaffer); Resident Council Meeting and Tornado Drill (B)