



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

March 2019

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 14

## Jefferson County BDD

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## *A Message from the Superintendent*

# Building Awareness of Developmental Disabilities

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. During this month, and the rest of the year, it is important to highlight the success and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

It was not long ago that people with developmental disabilities did not participate in community life. Parents kept their loved ones at home and they did not have opportunities to learn or develop relationships. In the 1960s, parents wanted more for their children with special needs. A movement started back then and it keeps growing! Families

in Jefferson County have made sure that people with developmental disabilities are valued, appreciated and given opportunities to grow.

This month, we are revealing the history of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I hope you take a moment to visit our website at [www.jcbdd.com](http://www.jcbdd.com) and click "History" to read it and appreciate the road we have traveled. Through the hard work of many people, individuals with DD have a better life.

As I have said before, it is our goal to continually strive for some-

thing better, to improve services and always ensure the health, safety and welfare of those we serve. I look forward to someday updating the history to include the many changes taking place today. The privatization of adult program, housing, early intervention, preschool and our residential program are some of the things that will be included.

As we look back on our history, we realize things are better today and I look forward to working with everyone and ensure an even better future.

## Chester Welcomed as JCBDD Board Member

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities welcomed its newest member as Stephanie Chester was sworn in at the most recent session.

Chester, of Toronto, fills the unexpired term of Dick Allen, who formally left the board earlier this year after six years of service. Chester took her seat at the Feb. 21 meeting and has a close connection with the JCBDD since her son, Ronnie, attended the School of Bright Promise and is currently involved in the adult program. She said she looked forward to serving on the panel as well as assisting special needs individuals and their families.

"I am excited to be part of the board. When [Ronnie] came here to school, I remember reading the names of the board members and was interested in being involved. The opportunity has since presented itself," she added.

Her son, who is now 25, has Down syndrome and was later diagnosed as autistic. He initially attended an early intervention center-based program in Franklin County but transferred to the



**Stephanie Chester was welcomed as the newest member of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She is pictured, front left, with fellow board member William Kerr. Rounding out the panel are, back from left, board Vice President Lorie Sullivan, Jim Padden, secretary Jim Morgan and board President Chris Irvin. Not pictured is member Dr. Ed Florak.**

School of Bright Promise when his family returned to the area. Ronnie graduated from the School of Bright Promise and Indian Creek High School in 2015 and presently participates in the adult day service program at the Jeffco Training Center.

Chester currently works as director of the Jefferson County Health Department's WIC Program and

previously served as a waiver care manager for the state when she resided near Columbus. Her experience helped prepare her for the forthcoming privatization of adult services as per federal mandates. JCBDD will no longer provide programming and clients now have

**(Continued as CHESTER)**

## Simulation Day Set for March 15

As Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month approaches in March, the School of Bright Promise is giving some local students an opportunity to understand what it is like to live with special needs.

The site will host its 10th annual Simulation Day on March 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and students from Indian Creek, Steubenville, Buckeye Local, Steubenville Catholic Central, Toronto, Edison, Harrison Central and Jefferson County Joint Vocational School and about 40 students have participated in the past.

Principal Jane Bodo said participants will travel between stations to learn about visual, hearing, speech, motor and other disabilities using equipment to mimic effects.



### Moving to the Beat

Students and faculty at the School of Bright Promise were treated to an energetic African Drum and Dance Troupe performance on Feb. 19. The show, which was sponsored by the Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists, Inc. of Lawrence, Kansas, featured Senegal-based entertainers in traditional garb at the interactive production. Pictured is student Isabella Wright being cheered on as she shows off her moves.

### Chester (Continued from Front)

options to use such services as PALS or Paramount.

“I think it’s timely with the changeover from DD to the PALS,” she noted. “I also think it’s important that consumers of DD services have a voice when they can’t be their own voice, and I also consider the family dynamic. The changes aren’t just for the consumer; it’s a change for the whole family.”

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno said Chester was an asset to the board and would provide a wealth of expertise.

“She will be great with the board and brings a great deal of knowledge,” Zinno said.

Chester’s term runs until Dec. 30, 2021, at which time she will be up for reappointment.



## Calendar of Events



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| <p>March 1: DD Awareness Month Begins (SBP); Family &amp; Children First Council Meeting (Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator); Spring Craft (Shaffer B); Resident’s Choice (Shaffer C)</p> <p>March 2: Walk @ Mall (Shaffer A); Dr. Seuss’s Birthday (B); St. Patty’s Craft (C)</p> <p>March 3: Resident’s Choice (A); Movie Night @ Home (B); Movie &amp; Popcorn (C)</p> <p>March 4: Game Night (A); School of Bright Promise Visit/Women’s Club of Steubenville Mtg. (EN/CF); Comedy Night (B)</p> <p>March 5: Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss (SBP); Prime Time Senior Center (EN/CF); God’s Choice Church Party (A); Trampoline Park (B); Movie @ Carmike Cinemas (C)</p> <p>March 6: Professional Development Day (SBP); Student Empowerment Tour Planning (EN/CF); Bowling @ Steel Valley Lanes (Shaffer)</p> <p>March 7: Employment Department/Diversity Team/ BHJ-MPC Transportation Team Mtgs. (EN/CF); Craft Night (A)</p> <p>March 8: Walk @ Mall (A); Resident’s Choice (B); Game Night (C)</p> <p>March 9: High Tea Party (A); Music Night (B); Wii Tourney (C)</p> <p>March 10: Cookie Dough Sundae (A)</p> <p>March 11: Toronto Jr./Sr. High School Visit</p> | <p>(EN/CF); Bingo Night (C)</p> <p>March 12: Human Rights &amp; Safety Meetings (SBP); JCBDD Leadership Team/Kiwanis Mtgs. (EN/CF); Shop for Craft Supplies (A); Bingo Night (B); God’s Choice Church Party (C)</p> <p>March 13: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Coffee &amp; Connections/Harding Middle School Visit (EN/CF); Bowling (A&amp;B); Game Night (C)</p> <p>March 14: IEP @ SBP/Employment Dept. Mtgs. (EN/CF); Resident’s Choice (A); Movies (B)</p> <p>March 15: End of Third Quarter/Watson/Simulation Day (SBP); “Spread the Word” Campaign @ Edison Local Schools (EN/CF); My Fair Lady” @ CCHS (A); Country Ride (B); M&amp;M Party (C)</p> <p>March 16: St. Pat’s Walk in Toronto (A); St. Patty’s Day Cake (B); Just Dance Wii (C)</p> <p><b>March 17: St. Patrick’s Day</b>; St. Patty’s Fun and Games (A)</p> <p>March 18: Resident’s Choice (A); Staff Choice Activity (B); Bowling (C)</p> <p>March 19: Report Cards Sent Home (SBP); Kiwanis Mtg. (EN/CF); God’s Choice Church Party (A); Trampoline Park (B); Movie @ Cinemas (C)</p> <p>March 20: Statewide Tornado Drill (SBP); SET Planning/Steubenville HS Visit (EN/</p> | <p>CF); Bowling (A&amp;B)</p> <p>March 21: Parent Support Group &amp; BDD Board Mtg. (SBP); Game Night (A)</p> <p>March 22: “Spread the Word” Campaign @ Toronto City Schools (EN/CF); Walk @ Mall (A); Wheeling Nailers Game (C)</p> <p>March 23: Movie Night @ Home (B); Walk @ Mall (C)</p> <p>March 24: Resident’s Choice (A); Ice Cream Sundaes (B); Bake Cookies (C)</p> <p>March 25: Student Advocacy Mtg. (SBP); Ride to Lake (A); Resident Council (B)</p> <p>March 26: Transitional Youth Info Mtg. (EN/CF); Resident’s Choice (A); Cabela’s (B)</p> <p>March 27: SET Planning (EN/CF); Bingo &amp; Bagels @ Sienna Woods (A); Bowling (B); Wii Game Night (C)</p> <p>March 28: School Behavior Mtg. (SBP); Multi-Agency County Transition Youth Team/Employment Dept./Strengthening Families Learning Network Mtgs. (EN/CF)</p> <p>Resident’s Choice (A); Board Game Night (B); Bingo Night (C)</p> <p>March 29: LPDC (SBP); IEP @ SBP (EN/CF); Ice Cream Social (C)</p> <p>March 30: Walk @ Mall (A); Rock Painting for Spring Garden (B); Spring Crafts (C)</p> <p>March 31: Ride to State Lake (A); Easter Craft (B); Resident Council Mtg. (C)</p> |
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