2015 Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Although involved in major systemic changes in 2015, the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities re-dedicated itself to improvement of LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potentials.

LIFE is an acronym for a revised set of Core Values:

L... for Living LIFE- a desire to live life in the same manner as everyone else. This means having the opportunity to choose home, relationships, hobbies, career, and beliefs. I represents Inclusion - a person should be included, accepted, and able to participate in all things throughout the community.

 $\,F\,$ is for Freedom of choice- where an individual's voice is heard \dots and a person's opinions matter.

E- Everyone has worth- and may share talents and abilities. Every person deserves the chance to contribute to the betterment of the community.

2015 was also the year the Board submitted its plan for major systemic changes — notably the phase out of adult services and transportation services. Individuals that have relied on the Board of DD to provide transportation to and from day programming must now receive that service from a provider in the public sector. The phase out of transportation services is expected to finish by mid-2016.

Lott Industries, a not-for-profit corporation that provides employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities, must end its direct link to the Board of DD. That means Lott Industries will soon no longer avail itself of the Board's financial and staff support.

The major catalysts to these changes are two directives from Medicaid.

The Board can no longer be the entity that administers Waiver dollars and also accept those dollars to provide services. Medicaid also wants services provided in non-segregated environments.

The plan submitted to the State has benchmarks, or timelines, that must be met to ensure the transition is on schedule to be completed over the next few years.

The Board will partner with providers in a quality network of community support for persons served. One way we will do this is to coordinate provider training.

Staff from the Board's Service and Support Administration are meeting with mental health organizations... including the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board... to ensure quality mental health services for persons with dual diagnosis.

The Board will maintain its focus on Early Intervention... with outreach into the community... including community play groups at libraries, the West Toledo Y, and the East Toledo Family Center. We partnered in 2015 with two school districts to provide Self-Determination Training for students. The Children's Department will also expand its outreach to children preparing for the transition into adult life.

In 2016, the Board will continue its active involvement with the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition... working to prevent people with developmental disabilities from being exploited.

This is an amazing time in the evolution of services for persons with developmental disabilities – an evolution that began in Lucas County with the Josina Lott in the late 1930's to ever-expanding opportunities to live, work, play and socialize in community-based settings.

MEDICAID MATCH 30%

DIRECT SERVICE 70%

