## Lucas County Years Board of Developmental Disabilities

## 2016 Report Community



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The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities would like to thank the residents of Lucas County for their ongoing support. The employees of the Board work very hard to serve the individuals of our community and to be mindful of the trust placed in us.

There are significant changes underway in how the Board is providing its services. Never before has the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities been involved in such a huge systemic change as what it is now experiencing. Because the Lucas County Board of DD is a Medicaid administrative agent and determines eligibility for service, Medicaid mandates that the Board have "conflict free case management." This requires the Board to eliminate its direct services. Eliminating direct services has the potential to affect every person served, families, staff and the entire provider community.

The first major change was ending transportation services provided by the Board. These services are now being provided by TARTA, TARPS and other providers in the community.

Vocational training and employment managed by the Board through Lott Industries will end this year. Lott, a not-for-profit corporation, is being reorganized and starting to operate independently from the Board of DD.

A major emphasis of the Board will continue to be in Provider Support. We want to help providers maintain regulatory compliance and build upon their strengths. We will also grow our efforts developing providers in specialty areas, such as, seniors and people with autism.

In 2016 the Board was fully accredited by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities... and by CARF, the international Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Accreditation means state-of-the-art programs and quality service delivery.

2016 was the first full year for our new Mission Statement: Improving LIFE so that individuals with developmental disabilities reach their full potential.

A series of television announcements highlighted the new Mission... and the four Core values:

- Living the Life I desire;
- Being included and accepted;
- · Having my voice heard in decisions that affect me; and
- · Being able to share my talents.

Highlights of our 2017 Action Plan include:

- Utilizing a grant from Leadership Toledo to develop a network of volunteers to support individuals in community-based activities;
- Developing programs in association with the Arc and Camp Courageous to enhance self-advocacy through People First;
- · Employing a state grant to help direct service providers recruit staff and increase retention; and
- Recognizing the vulnerability of persons with developmental disabilities to be victimized, the Board will maintain its involvement with the Human Trafficking Coalition.

The year 2017 marks that 50th anniversary of county boards of developmental disabilities. We recognize it will be a year of ongoing change and new challenges... but also a year in which we will continue to support eligible individuals and their families in developing a vision for the future based on individual strengths, interests and choices.

