

B.R.I.D.G.E.S.

**Building Relationships Intentionally to Develop
Growth and Exemplary Services**

{August 2021}



FORECAST

WELCOME!



AUGUST

August 18 is “Never Give Up Day”. This day is about a mindset of determination to help us get through even the hardest of challenges. It is about motivating others and inspiring ourselves. Of course, we should try to keep this mindset all year round, but this day can help us get us back in the game and refresh us to keep going. To quote Thomas Edison, “I have not failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work”. To help us to never give up there are a few points to try and keep us going.

1. Adopt a “I won’t quit” mindset.
2. Remember and repeat your Why.
3. Find a different how and try a new technique or strategy.

4. Use failure as a lesson

August Monthly observances:

- National Black Business Month
- National Back to School Month
 - American Adventures Month
- American Artist Appreciation Month
 - Happiness Happens Month

Please review the latest DODD health and welfare alerts at

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/health-and-welfare>

There is some wonderful helpful information regarding summer safety. Here are some other summer safety tip ideas.

Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate

If you feel thirsty, you are already dehydrated

Carry water with you and drink frequently, use a reusable water bottle

Wear sunscreen when outside and reapply frequently

Wear Sunglasses and hats



Upcoming Rule Changes:

July 1, 2021 Rule: [5123-10-05](#) (Early Intervention Program - Developmental Specialist Certification)

September 1, 2021 Rules:

[5123-2-08](#) (Provider Certification - Agency Providers)

[5123-2-09](#) (Provider Certification - Independent Providers)

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/forms-and-rules/rules-under-development/effective+dates+for+new+rules>



The KUDOS for this month is going to be a little different. With the emergency DSP situation, I thought it would be good to share this.



TO
PILOT Agency

For taking care of one of their one of their DSP's by paying their salary while the individual that DSP is serving is away on vacation and not expecting that DSP to work.

PATHS TO SUCCESS



Balance

Have you ever tried balancing yourself on a balancing beam of some sorts? You wobble back and forth until you're able to steady yourself but, in order to remain *on* the beam, you must keep your arms stretched out and up to your sides, at shoulder height or thereabouts, and you must remain focused on the task at hand. I don't know about you, but I have felt as if I have been

walking on a balance beam more often than not lately (imagine my rolling eyes and expressing out a loud deep sigh). I swear it's not me! It's everyone else I've been coming in contact with lately! They're either too angry, too impatient, too demanding, too insensitive, too uncaring, too anything and everything!!! Ugh!!!

Lol! Hmmm...maybe it could be me (embarrassed emoji here).

Somewhere, a long time ago in my life, when it seemed like just about *everyone* I came in contact with on any given day was out to "get me," or if they seemed too "(place any negative emotion here)" towards me, I realized it *must be me*. I realized that if it's one person here and there it may be them, but if it's *everyone* I came in contact with, it *had* to be me. Anyway, just the other day I realized *everyone* was too angry, too impatient, too demanding....well you get the picture. So, once I accepted the fact that it had to be *me* that was off balance somewhere in my life, I began to take responsibility for my feelings and I started assessing where the imbalance could be coming from; I wanted to take responsibility (respond ability) for how I was feeling, so that I could work on bringing myself back to balance. I looked at my eating and other physical habits, because it could have been physical, I looked at my spiritual habits, because it could have been spiritual, and I looked at my thinking habits as of late, because it could have been attributed to my thoughts and perceptions. What I found in my self-assessment was that I had not been getting my sleep and I had not been eating right lately, so I thought there was a chance I was suffering from a physical imbalance. Once I made corrections in the amount of sleep I was getting and in my recent poor eating habits, most everyone became easier to live with and to be around! Imagine that!

I have discovered that maintaining balance in every area of my life is essential to maintaining and accessing joy. But it's not an easy task because it is a non-stop arduous task. United Healthcare has a newsletter, called *Renew*, that they send their members; in their June 2021 newsletter they included an article about balance, which was written by Molly Bennett. In the article Ms. Bennett quotes Dr. Rick Hanson, a senior fellow of UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center, as saying, "We're never on exactly the right course; we're adapting." Ms. Bennett said, "He likens it to the process of riding a bike: 'You shift your weight as you turn a corner, or you make adjustments to avoid an obstacle.'" In the Article Ms. Bennett also shares what Diane Barth, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Psychotherapist and Author of the Book, *I Know How You feel*, says, "It's important to accept that we will keep falling out of balance and we will have to keep re-finding our equilibrium. But that's a good thing. That's living."

As I have traveled on my path to success, I have learned that when I am willing to take personal responsibility for my responses and perceptions, in a balanced, intentional, and prepared way, it

becomes entirely possible for me to move forward in my life, while accessing peace and/or joy rather than anger, fear, and panic. My wish for each reader is for you to maintain balance in every area of your life and for you to be able to access peace and joy on your chosen path to success!



LAMPOST

Disney Can't Dodge Lawsuit After Boy With Autism Was Barred From Store

by Peter Hall, The Morning Call/TNS | June 22, 2021

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — A federal judge denied a request to dismiss a [discrimination lawsuit](#) by the mother of a boy with autism who was denied entry to the Disney Store at Lehigh Valley Mall last summer because he could not wear a mask.

U.S. District Judge Joseph F. Leeson denied the Walt Disney Co.'s motion to dismiss the Northampton woman's lawsuit, finding the allegations cover all of the elements of a valid Americans with Disabilities Act claim. The ruling allows the case to move forward and attorneys for each side to begin gathering evidence.

"We are very pleased with the court's decision which confirms what we have known all along ... civil rights do not disappear during a pandemic," said Allentown attorney William Mansour. "We believe the court's decision is definitely an early victory but an important one."

Attorneys for Disney did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit says the 7-year-old boy, who is identified in the court filing only by his initials, is highly sensitive to touch, especially on his face, like many people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. For that reason, the lawsuit says, his mother decided after experimenting with different face coverings not to force him to wear a mask in public.

When Shea Emanuel took her sons to Lehigh Valley Mall in Whitehall Township in August on a birthday outing for the boy's younger brother, staff at the Disney Store would not allow them to enter because he was not wearing a mask. Emanuel explained to the store manager that her son has autism, which prevents him from wearing a face covering, but the manager refused to allow the boy into the store, the lawsuit claims.

The experience was humiliating for Emanuel and her sons because they were turned away in front of about a dozen other patrons waiting. Her elder son, "was especially distraught since he was unable to fully comprehend why he was not allowed to enter the Whitehall Disney Store," the suit says.

The state masking requirement in place at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic included an exception for people who were unable to wear a mask due to physical or mental disability. There was no requirement to prove a disability.

The ADA bars discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation, such as stores and requires owners to make “reasonable modifications” to policies, practices or procedures when necessary to serve people with disabilities.

Disney argued that the request to make an exception to its mask policy was not reasonable or necessary for Emanuel’s son to have access to the Disney Store. It also argued that the policy was necessary for safe operation and that waiving it would pose a threat to the health and safety of employees and customers.

Leeson found that under the circumstances alleged in the lawsuit, Emanuel laid out a sufficient claim that the request was reasonable because Emanuel’s son was not infected with COVID-19 and did not have any symptoms of the virus and the number of customers in the store that day was limited. He also found that Emanuel made a sufficient claim that the exception to the mask policy was necessary by alleging her son’s autism spectrum disorder made it so unpleasant to wear a mask that he would pull it off after a few seconds.

The lawsuit seeks a court order barring the Disney Co. from enforcing its mask policy against people with disabilities covered by the ADA, and attorney fees.

FANS NETWORK

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? The FANS Network is looking for community partners like you to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. For more information, see the flyer below:

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/0f9f705b-ee3c-e063-6442-68685700baff/FANS_volunteer_flyer.pdf

Provider Certification Rules under Revision

Rule 5123:2-2-01 (Provider Certification) establishes procedures and standards for certification of providers of supported living, including Medicaid-funded Home and Community-Based Services provided in accordance with Section 5123.045 of the Revised Code.

DODD is proposing to rescind rule 5123:2-2-01 and adopt two replacement rules:

- 5123-2-08 (Provider Certification - Agency Providers)
- 5123-2-09 (Provider Certification - Independent Providers)

These rules are projected to go into effect September 1, 2021. For a chart of the proposed changes, please see the following links:

AGENCY PROVIDER PROPOSED

CHANGES https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/cef34d77-a9a9-4158-b2d9-ac15f29ac3e1/Crosswalk_Agency_Provider_2020_11_09.pdf

INDEPENDENT PROVIDER PROPOSED

CHANGES https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/2c7ff6bd-7961-4af5-bf27-9e6e9bf7a73e/Crosswalk_Independent_Provider_2020_11_09.pdf

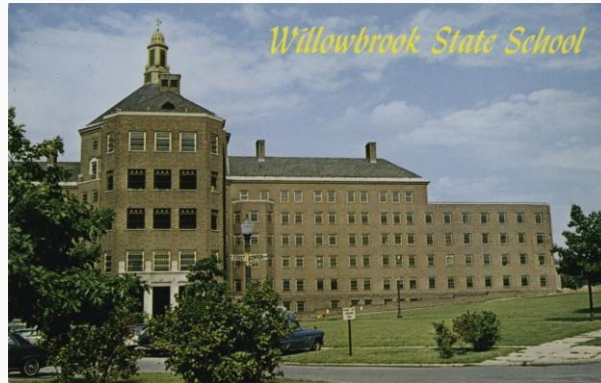
METROPARKS

Check out Metroparks Toledo where you can explore your parks, enjoy the wonders of the outdoors, and Get Outside Yourself. Metroparks offers a wide variety of inclusive activities for everyone such as kayaking, tree climbing, archery and more! Most activities can be adapted to fit the needs of anyone, regardless of their abilities. Participate in a public program, or request a private group program if that makes you feel more comfortable. The Metroparks Program Team can set up in a park or they can come to you for a program. For more information, contact: Ashley Smith at 419.265.2920 or Ashley.Smith@metroparkstoledo.com

Visit the Metroparks Website:

<http://metroparkstoledo.com/outdooradventures/metroparks-inclusive-programs/>

**LOOKING BACK
(A HISTORY OF DISABILITIES)
By Terry Myers**



After world war II, there were 375 acres in Staten Island, NY that held a facility which had an uncertain future. Many believed that it should be used for the care of disabled veterans.

However, New York governor Dewey advocated for the fact that there were thousands of children in the state who were “mentally and physically defective and feeble minded, who never can become members of society,” who needed to be cared for with a “high degree of tenderness and affection.” Because Dewey won out with his ideation, this was the birth of Willowbrook State School.

Willowbrook State School opened in October of 1947. They initially admitted 20 mentally disabled patients from upstate New York institutions. It was designed to house a capacity of 4,000 patients. Yet, by 1969 it reached an over capacity of 6,200 patients. It was now the largest mental institution in the United States. and host to some of the country’s most deplorable living conditions. Just a mere 9 years earlier, in 1960, 60 patients were consumed by an outbreak of measles. It took very little time for an institution of its kind to become known for social injustice, moral disgust, and the evident failures of the state psychiatric system. Though Willowbrook was called a school, there was no real educational structure at Willowbrook. When teaching did happen, it was only for a handful of cooperative students, and only for around two hours a day. It quickly became defined by constant neglect. However, this was a condition that the overstressed and underfunded staff were not necessarily responsible for.

The public would first hear of Willowbrook from a speech made by a Robert Kennedy. He spoke of systemic failures in mental-health care. He stated, “I’ve visited the state institutions for the disabled (*formerly expressed as “mentally retarded”*) and I think particularly at Willowbrook, we have a situation that borders on a snake pit.”

Concern and action regarding Willowbrook would wait another seven years before it was

completely enacted to expose the neglect, filth and sexual and physical abuse at the hands of other patients. An ambitious 29-year-old local news reporter named Geraldo Rivera, decided to cover the story. Rivera's story would reveal to America that mentally disabled patients were huddled in "anxious aimlessness." With exceptions in the warmer months, they were not allowed outside. Middle-aged patients slept on seats. Others crouched and rocked back and forth on the floor. Some child patients went without clothes. Such neglect was especially significant of a patient population in which 60 percent were not toilet-trained and 64 percent were incapable of feeding themselves.

Around two months after the television special, residents of Staten Island filed a class action lawsuit against Willowbrook. It would mark the beginning of the long end for the institution. It would also lay the foundation for recognition and legislation for both the state and country regarding treatment of those with disabilities. Today, the buildings once part of Willowbrook are now part of the College of Staten Island. They stand as artifacts of a time when American society more clearly failed its mentally disabled citizens.

TRAINING

[ALL TRAINING IS OFFERED VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AT THIS TIME.](#)

The **[August Training Calendar](#)** can be accessed here:

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/e49a1cac-9657-558b-27f2-f6984be26c33/August_2021_Provider_Training.pdf

You can also access **new provider** training free online at DODD's website at the following link: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/training/departments-provided-training/eight-hour-provider-training>. You will be prompted to make an account and it will keep track of which modules you have completed. You can print off a certificate at the end.



ALL ABOUT ZOOM!

As ISP meetings and provider trainings continue to be held virtually, we have all been learning new skills to keep up with our online work. We have linked a helpful video resource for using

Zoom on your computer or phone here: <https://youtu.be/mbbYqiurgeo>

For Provider Training sessions, we have some **Zoom Etiquette Expectations** that we ask all attendees to abide by:

1. Choose a dedicated spot to sit during the training that allows you to stay focused and participate in the training. Please sit upright and be attentive.
2. Put your microphone on "mute" so any background noise is not heard by other attendees.
3. Keep your camera on, and pay attention during the training. Dress appropriately as others will be able to see you on camera. Please limit distractions in the background.
4. Absolutely **NO DRIVING ALLOWED**. If you are driving during the training, you will be removed from the Zoom training and will not receive a certificate. This is to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

Thank you for supporting these expectations so that we can continue to offer free provider training that is educational and useful to all!

"WARM LINE" for Emotional Support

In need of some emotional support while dealing with all things COVID-19?

Feeling lonely? Depressed? Anxious? Stressed? Scared? Angry?

Call the Lucas County Emotional Support Line:



SHOOTING STAR



RESOURCES

The Provider Supports Department staff are here for you!

Pat Stephens, Director

Lisha Washington, Department Secretary

Julienne Hardman, Provider Compliance Coordinator

Lisa Poiry, Provider Development Coordinator

Jennifer Wolfe, Provider Training Coordinator

Sarah Diesch, MUI Coordinator

Erica McElmurry, MUI Coordinator

Provider Support Specialists:

Dan Barda

Jenny Kinney

Terry Myers

Jane Meyer

Linda Repka

Sally Damschroder

George Woodget

Gail Sanders Paul

Miles

Catherine Thanasiu

Michelle Cope-Morris

Meredyth Brown-Grycza

Success Coaches:

Faith McCreary and Sharon Calhoun

Technicians:

Sherrie Burkhardt, Mellisa Merritt, Sara Gardner, & Danielle Russell

Investigative Agents:

David Mullin
David Vaughan
Madelyn Siegel

Mira Banks
Tiffany Rozzano
Tammy Jones

Dana Myers
Nathan Wolfe
Tracey Merrithew

Erin Lee
Leslie Gray

***Helpful provider information is always available
at the following websites:***

DODD: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx#>

Lucas CBDD: <https://lucasdd.info/> (Click on "Provider Supports")
