



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

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

{December 2021}



FORECAST



**December is National Hand Washing Awareness Month:
“Life is Better with Clean Hands”**

The CDC suggests five steps to hand washing:

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.

Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.



Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use a 60% alcohol-base hand sanitizer. This can help reduce the germs on your hands, but keep in mind,

- Sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.

***DODD is encouraging Individualized Emergency Strategies to be used. For more information and an emergency planning template click on this link: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/communication/news/news-dodd-encourages-individualized-emergency-strategies-to-be-used>



Have fun this month by observing:

National Cookie Cutter Week December 1-7. Make cut out cookies!

December 4 is National Cookie Day

December 13 is National Cocoa Day

December 21 is the First Day of Winter

Brothers and sisters who have a sibling with special needs now have a program that's just for them called Sibshops. At Sibshops, they'll have a chance to meet other kids whose brothers and sisters have special needs and talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sibling with a disability.

Here is a link below with the Sibshop dates into 2021-2022:

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/3240d73a-ff1e-0e8f-5895-96c0363341c9/Sibshops_info_sheet_with_dates_2021_2022_4.pdf

DSP APPRECIATION!

Please watch this video sharing just some of the reasons we appreciate our DSPs all year long!



https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fdrive.google.com%2ffile%2fd%2f1Vb7pfPuP6WVI3Y-3qv0NAvAHbR7VzcnV%2fview%3fusp%3dsharing&c=E,1,QlbpsWTGdBef_IQD51u4cnJjB1MnzVxGhwaskvZl

[8KHuLUCh139_AV4ZEi44WusvY4EOI6qV4KH0H9mAYRTmOsTunx3zTM-jS4FRH3QUMvscykmAyQ.&typo=1](https://www.facebook.com/8KHuLUCh139_AV4ZEi44WusvY4EOI6qV4KH0H9mAYRTmOsTunx3zTM-jS4FRH3QUMvscykmAyQ.&typo=1)



Kudos

TO

NETTI MORIZEN OF ANNE GRADY

from Community Inclusion Coordinator, Sherrie Hathaway.

Sherrie commented: "I would like to recognize DSP, Nettie Morizen, who works for Anne Grady in one of their supported living homes. In the past, I had the pleasure to work with her for many years, as she worked at one of the houses where an individual on my caseload resided.

This weekend I ran into her, as she was accompanying an athlete at the Special Olympics State golf tournament in Cincinnati. When I stopped by their room to give her some instructions for the weekend, I noticed she was ironing the individual's shorts. This is clearly something she did not need to do, but she did anyway. The next day she made sure they were at the golf course in plenty of time to check in and to give time for him to eat. When

asked if she wanted to leave the golf course once he was out golfing with his Unified partner, she replied, “No, I better stay here in case something would happen and I am needed.”

In the interactions I have had with her, Nettie seems at ease with the individuals and cares for them like she would her own family. If I had a loved one who needed care from someone, I would want Nettie to be there! I want to personally thank her for the work that she does to support individuals with developmental disabilities in Lucas County."

Transit Authority Charts Path for Future with TARTA Next

As TARTA revs up to give the Toledo area a transit system for the 21st century, it needs the help of community members and riders with its TARTA Next project. This year-long effort will redesign the existing fixed route bus system and other services to make transit work better in the region and grow ridership.

“[TARTA Next](#) is a critical step in our journey to adapt to the needs of the community and residents we serve. To help us create a better system and services, we need as much information as possible from the people who use TARTA every day,” TARTA Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Dunham said. “We are eager to hear from our passengers about where we can improve, and have those opinions shape our next steps.”

Be on the lookout in the community for TARTA Next public outreach and pop-up events, beginning in early October. TARTA representatives will be on hand to learn from community members where transit in Lucas County is, and where it needs to go from here.

The TARTA Next timeline calls for service improvements to be determined by spring of 2022 and shared with the TARTA Board of Trustees for approval in the summer of 2022. Implementation of the TARTA Next plan is slated to begin in the fall or winter of 2022.

A public survey is available at <http://www.tarta.com> and you can learn more about [TARTA's plans for the future](#). Survey participants can win a \$50 gift card.



PATHS TO SUCCESS

Traditions

Traditions, which have their place in our lives, are subject to change. Since the Pandemic, albeit smaller gathering with safety considered in planning, it is so wonderful to once again have the opportunity to enjoy gatherings with family members and friends! Some of us will celebrate as we share our old traditions, while others will create new ones, and still others will adjust old traditions to become new ones. In the midst of any changes, love can be expressed and remembered, because love is fostered and grows through the expression of its attributes, one of which is flexibility to change in our traditions.

So, as the various holidays continue to be expressed with joy, as we travel on our paths to success, whatever success means for each of us, may we continually exhibit love, respect, and thoughtfulness regarding not only our own traditions, but regarding the traditions of others as well. In this way, a tradition of *shared joy*, due to our freedom to once again safely begin to connect with each other in the hustle and bustle of preparation, will be simultaneously felt in the smiles we share and the kindnesses we extend to all who cross our paths towards successful celebration.



LAMPOST

Assistive Technology Awareness Month

By George Woodget

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio offers various programs and services to assist people of all ages to reach their full potential with permanent vision loss. November is Assistive Technology Awareness Month. Technology product company representatives were available to demonstrate products and answer questions at the Sight Center. Some of the various products, devices and apps displayed included the desk top CCTV which stands for closer than television. This device looks like a 19-inch desk top computer. It can magnify printed material such as newspapers, financial statements and medicine bottles. A person can change the color contrast and print size. The hand-held CCTV can be placed in a hand bag and carried in a store. It is used like a portable magnifying glass.

Another device, the Echo device, is like an electronic Alexa. It will read a label out loud once the label is magnified. Some iPads have specialized apps that can read currency. The center show room is open daily 8:30 to 4:00 Monday through Friday.

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 Rule Change

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 has adopted two new rules:

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

These rules went into effect September 1, 2021. For a chart of the 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

Christmas is Coming!!

The Salvation Army will be accepting ONLINE applications for Christmas assistance beginning October 12th. Gifts are available for children birth

through age 12. Go to: www.salvationarmyassistance.org to access the application. Must have valid email address and reside in Lucas County.



REMINDER!!!!

Adult Day Support (ADS) and Vocational Habilitation (VH) Payments

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will resume using the ADS/VH rates associated with the acuity group assignment for each person receiving services effective September 1, 2021. Providers may continue to use the Restart billing codes for ADS/VH services delivered on or before August 31, 2021. For services delivered on or after September 1, 2021, providers should use the traditional ADS/VH billing codes.

DODD has received confirmation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) that this change does not constitute a violation of their guidance related to the maintenance of effort requirements in the American Recovery Plan Act.

It is not necessary for individual services plans (ISPs) and Payment Authorizations for Waiver Services (PAWS) to be updated prior to September 1, 2021, for providers to be properly reimbursed. ADS and VH services are represented on the PAWS by roll-up codes rather than by distinct billing codes, therefore, as long as ADS and/or VH services are authorized in the ISP, the billing system will look for the associated roll-up code on the PAWS to properly process claims.

STEP billing rates and codes will remain in place and are unaffected by this guidance.

LOOKING BACK (A HISTORY OF DISABILITIES) By Terry Myers

Individuals with disabilities are, and have historically been, particularly vulnerable

to human trafficking. As in all trafficking cases, perpetrators use force, fraud and/or coercion to hold victims with disabilities in servitude. While victims with disabilities may be trafficked into sex or labor, many cases include one additional element; the theft of Social Security and disability benefits. The opportunity to steal government benefits provides an added incentive for traffickers to target persons with disabilities.

One of the very first cases recognized in the United States as human trafficking involved a peddling and begging ring in New York City in the 1990s. Traffickers brought 55 Mexican nationals who were deaf to the United States to beg and sell trinkets on the subway. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 created new tools to hold traffickers accountable, including those who trafficked people with disabilities. Congress passed the law after the Supreme Court reversed a conviction for defendants charged with holding men with cognitive disabilities in involuntary servitude on a dairy farm in Michigan.

According to several global reports, people with disabilities or mental illness are more likely to be targeted by traffickers than people without disabilities or mental illness. However, collecting data on trafficking victims is challenging and there is not yet a global or U.S. estimate for how many trafficking victims have disabilities or mental illness.

Historically, disabled individuals have always been targets of human trafficking. America saw its first institutions for people with physical and intellectual disabilities in the late 1800's. These institutions acted as hubs for human trafficking, specifically in the form of peonage, or debt slavery, where an employer holds a person in servitude to pay off a debt. The residents of these institutions were forced to wash dishes in the dining hall, wash loads and loads of laundry, work in the fields, and help to bath, feed, and clean their other residents.

The intersection of disability and trafficking has only recently come into a primary focus in the anti-trafficking and disability networks. However, it is important to note that most survivors of trafficking are survivors with disabilities. Some have disabilities prior to the trafficking, which make them particularly vulnerable to the exploitation. Others have disabilities, like traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, and dissociative identity disorder, that were caused by the trauma of being trafficked. For many years this treatment of disabled individuals was capable of being hidden. It is no longer out of view of the public. As time goes on, the awareness for

physical and legal protection of disabled individuals continues to grow and become a priority.

TRAINING

*****NOTICE: Sara Gardner's Phone Number has changed. *****
To contact Sara to register for training, please call (419) 380-5164.

ALL TRAINING IS OFFERED VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AT THIS TIME.

The **December Training Calendar** can be accessed here:

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/2dba59f3-f731-b82d-5724-bb7a7d9d090b/December_2021_Provider_Training.01.pdf

*In December, our trainers will be piloting the new DODD curriculum for provider training per the new Provider Certification Rule. The material will include the current required elements such as MUI, Behavior Support, Roles and Responsibilities, Universal Precautions, and Rights.

*** For those EXISTING providers who have not yet taken the 2021 yearly required training, we are offering sessions for Behavior Support, MUI, and Review of Roles and Responsibilities in December.**

In 2022, we will be offering the new DODD curriculum for both Existing and New Providers each month.

New Provider Monthly Training Coming January 2022

Beginning January 2022, DODD's Office of System Support & Standards (OSSAS) will be offering monthly virtual provider trainings from 10 AM – 11 AM on the last Thursday of the month. Each month will have an identified topic and short presentation.

January 27, 2022 – **The Compliance Review Process** (Target Audience: Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers)

February 24, 2022 – **Background Checks & Training** (Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs)

March 31, 2022 – **Personal Funds** (Target Audience – All providers, including ICFs)

April 28, 2022 – **Service Delivery Documentation** (Target Audience – Independent Providers, Agency Providers, Licensed Waiver Providers)

Registration information will be shared in December.

If you have questions, please contact: ossas@dodd.ohio.gov

You can access **new provider** training free and on-demand 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



FIRST AID

World AIDS Day #WorldAIDSDay

December 1st

The theme for the 2021 observance is “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone’s Voice.” World AIDS Day was first observed in 1988. Each year, organizations and individuals across the world bring attention to the HIV epidemic, endeavor to increase HIV awareness and knowledge, speak out against HIV stigma, and call for an increased response to move toward [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.](#).

What Is *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.*?

Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) is a bold plan announced in 2019 that aims to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. Agencies across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) developed an operational plan to pursue that goal accompanied by a request for additional resources that

were provided by Congress.

The plan leverages critical scientific advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and outbreak response by coordinating the highly successful programs, resources, and infrastructure of many HHS agencies and offices. In its first phase, the initiative is focusing on areas where HIV transmission occurs most frequently, providing 57 geographic focus areas with an infusion of additional resources, expertise, and technology to develop and implement locally tailored EHE plans.

Goal

The initiative seeks to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by 75 percent by 2025, and then by at least 90 percent by 2030, for an estimated 250,000 total HIV infections averted.

HIV in America

HIV remains a significant public health issue in America.

- More than 700,000 American lives have been lost to HIV since 1981.
- More than 1.1 million Americans are currently living with HIV and many more are at risk of HIV infection.
- While new HIV diagnoses have declined significantly from their peak, progress on further reducing them has stalled with an estimated 38,000 Americans being newly diagnosed each year. Without intervention nearly 400,000 more Americans will be newly diagnosed over 10 years despite the availability of tools to prevent transmissions.
- The U.S. government spends \$20 billion in annual direct health expenditures for HIV prevention and care.
- There is a real risk of an HIV resurgence due to several factors, including trends in injection and other drug use; HIV-related stigma; homophobia and transphobia; lack of access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment; and a lack of awareness that HIV remains a significant public health threat.

Resources:

<https://www.hiv.gov/>;

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/statistics>;

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/data-and-trends/impact-on-racial-and-ethnic-groups>

[ethnic](#)



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	Mira Banks	Dana Myers	Erin Lee
David Vaughan	Tiffany Rozzano	Nathan Wolfe	Leslie Gray
Madelyn Siegel	Tammy Jones	John Heydinger	

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

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

Lucas CBDD: <http://www.lucasdd.org> (Click on "Provider Supports")



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