

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

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

**{February 2022}**



## **FORECAST**

*February*

### **American Heart Month**

is observed in February to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy heart and to encourage healthy habits that help reduce the risk of heart disease. For

information on heart health toolkits 2022 check out the CDC

link: [https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american\\_heart\\_month.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american_heart_month.htm)



### **Ideas to spread awareness for Heart Month:**

- National Wear Red Day- the first Friday in February (February 4, 2022)
- Learn CPR
- Encourage healthy eating
- Get moving, be physically active
- Get a dental check
- Schedule a health screening or annual physical
- Learn the signs of a heart attack

### **Ohio DODD has developed the Strategic Plan for 2022-2023.**

The three goals for the year are:

1. Improve the coordination and delivery of services that promote positive outcomes for Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.
2. Enhance our partnerships to ensure the availability and effective delivery of services.
3. To promote excellence of our system and services through innovation and accountability.

To read more about the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives click on the link. <https://dodd.ohio.gov/about-us/resources/resource-strategic-plan-progress>

#### **First Aid/CPR Reminder**

Training must include an in – person skills assessment effective January 1, 2022. For information: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/communication/memos/memo-provider-compliance-rules-resume>

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### **MUI Quarterly Greeting**

In an effort to maintain open communication and collaboration, the MUI unit will be sending out a quarterly greeting with tips regarding the MUI rule and reminders on reporting procedures.

Please call the MUI unit at 419-381-5206 during LCBDD operating hours (8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday) with all concerns regarding possible MUIs or questions about open investigations. Our support staff will ensure your question(s) are directed to the appropriate MUI staff person. Protocol MUIs require verbal reporting immediately to within 4 hours from the time you have been made aware of the incident, and if immediate actions have not been secured the risk of failure to report will need to be determined. Outside LCBDD operating hours (nights, weekends and holidays) verbal reporting can be completed through our on-call service at (419) 380-5100. If you are sending in an incident report please use the [muinotification@lucasdd.org](mailto:muinotification@lucasdd.org) email.

### **Today's Reporting Reminders**

- When calling to report a possible MUI please have the individual's full name (or individuals' full names, if the incident is a Peer to Peer, or includes multiple individuals).
- The MUI unit does not answer the MUI phone during the lunch hour of 12-1, but please leave a message and we will return your call. If you do not hear back from the MUI unit within two hours please call back to ensure your allegation/incident has been documented. Best practice is to make a verbal report of all possible MUIs immediately to within four hours to reduce the risk of potential late reporting or failure to report.
- MUI notification emails are to inform the provider, SSA and SSA coordinator of an open investigation. The information will include the type of MUI(s) being investigated, the assigned IA, a summary of the allegation and

requested information, documentation and/or interviews that are required per the MUI rule.

### **Today's MUI Rule Tips: Guidance on Immediate Actions**

We know that times are very challenging right now and appreciate your focus on the immediate health and welfare of those we all serve. We wanted to provide some guidance about removals of DD employees following allegations of physical and sexual abuse, two of our most serious reports.

It is important to note, that while **removal of an employee is required for physical and sexual abuse**, it is not required for neglect or other MUI categories. However, a provider may determine that removal of an employee for neglect and other allegations, is appropriate based on the seriousness of the allegation. Immediate actions to protect "at risk" individual(s) can include many actions such as immediate retraining, removal from specific duties (i.e., medication administration, driving, money management), additional oversight, random visits by management, daily check-ins with the individuals, not working alone, or administrative leave.

The MUI rule is clear that we all have responsibility to protect people with developmental disabilities and yet our roles may be different. All parties should be working together to communicate and put protections in place for all involved (individuals and staff).

Additional immediate actions might include, but are not limited to: seeking medical attention, increasing supervision, notifying law enforcement/children services, developing a safety plan, implementing respite care, and securing finances, spending money or bank accounts.

If you have any questions please reach out to one of our MUI Coordinators.

Thank you for your continued dedication to ensure the health and welfare of the individuals we all serve,

Sarah Diesch and Erica McElmurry, MUI Coordinators

Sherrie Burkhardt, QA Technician

Investigative Agents: David Mullin, Dana Myers, Tiffany Rozzano, David Vaughan, Erin Lee, Mira Banks, Nathan Wolfe, Tammy Jones, Leslie Gray, and John Heydinger

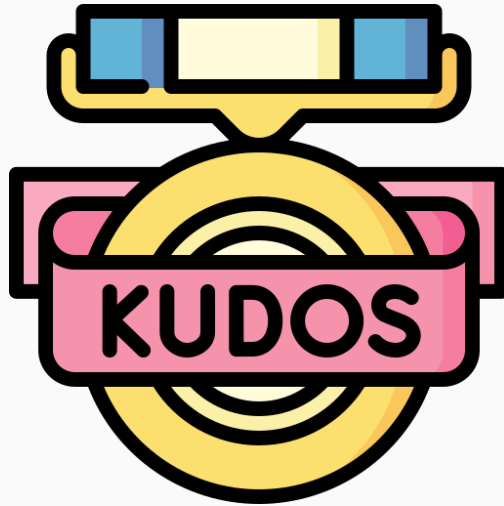
### **PROVIDER AGENCY LINE OF CREDIT REQUIREMENT**

DODD is requiring proof of a \$10,000 line of credit when agencies renew their certifications. Sometimes a bank's process for doing a line of credit takes a while and if a provider does not realize that they have have this and show proof of it during recertification, this could delay their application or even cause them to have to re-submit. For more information on this requirement, please see the link below:

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/initial-renewal-certification/2become-provider-agency>

One potential resource for providers to tap into is the Business Support Department at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. There is a wealth of assistance and guidance for both non-profit and for profit businesses. This is a free resource available to all and more information can be found at <https://www.toledolibrary.org/business>.





To  
**Shalonda and her staff at Mary Ella Homes!**

In the past couple of years, while there has been fear spreading throughout the world over what the Pandemic will mean in our lives, as well as in the lives of those we serve, because of the supportive environment they have created, Shalonda and her staff at Mary Ella Homes have remained working together, as they have for many years . Together, they provide quality services in a mutually respectful and heartwarming environment, where thoughtfulness and consideration are part of their everyday lives. When asked whether Shalonda will be growing her business, she said that she enjoys keeping her business small so she can continue to share joy with her staff and those they serve.

**Transit Authority Charts Path for Future with TARTA Next**

As TARTA revs up to give the Toledo area a transit system for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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



### Self-Talk

A [positivepsychology.com](http://positivepsychology.com) article by Elaine Meade states, “It’s not uncommon for most of us to keep a running dialogue inside our heads. This dialogue can range from giving ourselves instructions while we carry out a task, random observations about our environment or a situation, or it could be what is often referred to as self-talk. Self-talk is the internal narrative you hold about yourself. It’s your inner voice and you may or may not have spent much time thinking about it or giving it any attention. The truth is, our self-talk can actually have a much bigger influence on

the way we see ourselves, and the world around us than we realize.” Ms. Meade goes on to say that our self-talk can be negative, where we tell ourselves things like, “I’m not good enough” or positive, where we tell ourselves things like, “I’ll do better next time.”

The latter sounds so much better, doesn’t it? On the path to success, whatever that means for each one of us, let’s choose our *self-talk* thoughts and words carefully, so that we can increase compassion and kindness, which we exhibit towards others, towards ourselves as well.



## LAMP

### Upcoming Events Sponsored by Local Agencies

The Sight Center hosts a variety of events throughout the year. Each event serves a specific purpose that supports the work they do in service to people who are blind or visually impaired. Some events raise money while others raise awareness. Some enrich the lives of clients while others open the eyes of caregivers and family members. In addition The Autism Society is sponsoring a walk at Franklin Park Mall to raise community awareness and assistance to the community.

See below for event dates.

April 3, 2022	Autism Walk Franklin Park Mall / Autism Society
April 28,2022	The Blind Wine Event- Spring / Sight Center
June 8, 2022	The Sight Center Open Golf Scramble / Sight Center
June 21,2022	The Blind Wine Event – Summer / Sight Center
Sept 2022	Drive in Designer Purse Bingo / Sight Center



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## **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](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/0f9f705b-ee3c-e063-6442-68685700baff/FANS_volunteer_flyer.pdf)

## **LOOKING BACK (A History of Disabilities) By Terry Myers**

We all like laughter and feel great when we can have a good laugh. However, that laugh should not be at the expense of others. Too often and for far too long, people with disabilities have been characterized as a source of amusement. Since ancient times, they have frequently appeared in such fields of entertainment as circuses. In medieval and Renaissance Europe, “little people” were highly desired as court jesters.

From the time the film industry began, numerous casts of characters with disabilities have emerged, such as the scam artist faking their disability, the “comic mis-adventurer” whose impairment causes chaos wherever they go and the “sweet innocent” character.

Despite the presence of these casts, actual comedians with disabilities face inequities compared to their peers without disabilities. Clichés marked by stereotypes and misunderstanding about people with disabilities are still deeply engrained in virtually every aspect of society. As a result, comedians with disabilities often find themselves passed over in favor of other comics when they compete for gigs.

These discrepancies are often demonstrated by depictions of disability in comedic media that may or may not be sensitive to the issues people with disabilities face. Still, the disability community has offered more than its fair share of comedy

pertaining to the struggles of its members, such as the web comic series *The Disabled Life*. Created by Jessica and Lianna Oddi, who both have spinal muscular atrophy, the series depicts the challenges of having mobility-related impairments through a comic lens.

Some comics with disabilities, such as North Bergen, New Jersey's Chris Crespo, have expressed reservations about using their disability as a source of comedic material. Crespo, who has complicated syndactyly, initially felt uncomfortable about discussing his birth defect, marked by shortened arms, club-like hands, and a few deformed fingers, for comedy when he began studying the art of stand-up at New York's Gotham Comedy Club. Still, his teachers gave him the confidence to discuss it, and he considers it one of his best sources of material.

Meanwhile, Minnesota's Josh Blue also has cerebral palsy. He has appeared on various late-night talk shows as well as headlining numerous specials, in addition to winning a season of NBC's *Last Comic Standing*. His style of comedy is very self-deprecating, but he demonstrates a great deal of comfort with himself. As a result, his audiences are unable to feel uncomfortable due to his unique perspective on the topics he jokes about.

Regardless, some comedians with disabilities are weary of too much self-deprecation, seeing it as erasing the social inequalities they face. Instead, they may prefer forms of satire to better joke about their struggles.

Although a great deal of debate exists over how best to include comedians with disabilities in the industry, it is clear they have a lot of unique and quality material on the subject that can better shed light on disability for their audiences than the traditional stereotypes and cliché.

Yet, the exploitation of disabled people by professional non-disabled comedians on television is often overlooked. It is quite usual for TV scriptwriters or comics to use explicitly or implicitly offensive jokes and comedy routines about disabled people to get laughs, expressed author Colin Barnes in 1991. Commonly disabled characters are ridiculed by extracting humor from the functional limitation characterized by their impairments.

# TRAINING

To contact Sara to register for training, please call (419) 380-5164 or email her at: [sagardner@lucasdd.org](mailto:sagardner@lucasdd.org)

**ALL TRAINING IS OFFERED VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AT THIS TIME.**

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

The **2022 Training Calendar** can be accessed here:

[https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/019038cd-c5ef-57ad-79b3-cefc12295d54/2022\\_Provider\\_Training\\_Schedule.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/019038cd-c5ef-57ad-79b3-cefc12295d54/2022_Provider_Training_Schedule.docx)

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

[https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/e86448d8-d1c6-2456-659e-43f98b4de1f4/2022\\_Provider\\_Training\\_FEBRUARY.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/e86448d8-d1c6-2456-659e-43f98b4de1f4/2022_Provider_Training_FEBRUARY.pdf)

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## **Dementia Training Series: Save the Dates!**

As part of the Board's partnership with the Northwest Ohio Dementia Coalition, a series of trainings will be offered in March and April relating to those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Dementia. Registration information will be forthcoming. If you have questions, please email Jennifer Wolfe at [jwolfe@lucasdd.org](mailto:jwolfe@lucasdd.org).

***"Basics of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia"*** - Monday, 03/07/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

***"Symptom Identification and Assessment for Individuals with IDD and Dementia"*** - Tuesday, 03/15/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

**"Advanced Dementia Care For Individuals with IDD and Dementia"** - Monday, 03/21/28/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

**"Redesigning Day and Employment Situations for IDD and Dementia"** - Monday, 03/28/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

**"Ask the Expert with Dr. Phillip McCallion"** - Tuesday, 04/12/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

**"Train the Trainer for Basics of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia"** - Friday, 04/22/2022, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

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### **New Provider Monthly Training from OSSAS**

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.

Upcoming trainings include:

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)

If you have questions about these trainings, please contact:

ossas@dodd.ohio.gov.



# First Aid

## Low Vision Awareness

### Low vision at a glance

- Can't be fixed with glasses, contact lenses, or other standard treatments like medicine or surgery
- Most common in people age 65 and older, but it can affect anyone
- Can't be reversed — but it can be managed

Low vision affects millions of Americans — including many older adults in our communities. People with low vision aren't blind, but because of their vision loss, they may not be able to do everyday tasks like driving or reading.

We need your help in getting the word out about low vision. People with low vision — and their families — need to know how they can prevent further vision loss, make the most of their remaining vision, and maintain their independence.

Low vision is often caused by one of these conditions:

- [Age-related macular degeneration \(AMD\)](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Glaucoma](#)

It can also be caused by an eye injury.

### What is low vision?

Low vision is a vision problem that makes it hard to do everyday activities. It can't be fixed with glasses, contact lenses, or other standard treatments like medicine or surgery.

You may have low vision if you can't see well enough to do things like:

- Read
- Drive

- Recognize people's faces
- Tell colors apart
- See your television or computer screen clearly

## **What are the types of low vision?**

The type of low vision that you have depends on the disease or condition that caused your low vision. The most common types of low vision are:

- Central vision loss (not being able to see things in the center of your vision)
- Peripheral vision loss (not being able to see things out of the corners of your eyes)
- Night blindness (not being able to see in low light)
- Blurry or hazy vision

## **How can I make the most of my remaining sight?**

If you have low vision, you can find ways to make the most of your vision and keep doing the things you love to do.

If your vision loss is minor, you may be able to make small changes to help yourself see better. You can do things like:

- Use brighter lights at home or work
- Wear anti-glare sunglasses
- Use a magnifying lens for reading and other up-close activities

If your vision loss is getting in the way of everyday activities, ask your eye doctor about vision rehabilitation. A specialist can help you learn how to live with your vision loss. This can include things like:

- Training on how to use a magnifying device for reading
- Guidance for setting up your home so you can move around easily
- Sharing resources to help you cope with your vision loss

### **Resources:**

<https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/low-vision>

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## First Aid/CPR 2022 Reminder

*Attention: All Providers*

DODD's Office of System Support & Standards would like to remind all providers that **CPR/First Aid training obtained after January 1, 2022**, must once again include the in-person skills assessment required by rule.

For DSPs who obtained CPR/First Aid training prior to January 1, 2022, that did not include an in-person skills assessment, DODD will accept this as valid training through the certificate's expiration date. Upon renewal, the DSP will be expected to obtain training that includes the required in-person skills assessment.

For questions please contact [ossas@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:ossas@dodd.ohio.gov)



## 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	Meredyth Brown-Grycza	Michelle Cope-Morris	Sally Damschroder
Jenny Kinney	Jane Meyer	Paul Miles	Christine Hart
Linda Repka	Gail Sanders	Catherine Thanasiu	George Woodget

Success Coaches:

Faith McCreary and Sharon Calhoun

Technicians:

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

Investigative Agents:

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

***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")