

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

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

{November 2021}



FORECAST

November

Monthly Observances:

- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- National Career Development Month
- National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
- Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month
- National Diabetes Month

National Diabetes Month is to bring attention to diabetes. The focus for 2021 is to raise awareness about pre-diabetes and preventing diabetes. This year's theme is, "Small steps big difference, preventing diabetes is within your reach". Pre-diabetes is a serious health condition

where your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, yet not in the range to be considered diabetic.

Approximately 88 million American adults – 1 in 3 have pre-diabetes. There are some steps that can be taken to help manage pre-diabetes. Always check with your physician for guidance. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease and the CDC are good resources for pre-diabetes and diabetes.

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/community-health-outreach/national-diabetes-month>

<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/features/truth-about-prediabetes.html>

October has passed and the National Disability Employment Awareness Month may be over, but that doesn't mean we do not continue to strive in this area. **November is Career Development month** so, check out Ohio's Employment First website for beneficial information. <https://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>

National Games and Puzzle Week November 21-27. While people are gathering for Thanksgiving, celebrate the week by dusting off the table games and puzzles. Challenge family and friends to a game or complete a puzzle together

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_IQD51u4cnJjB1MnzVxGhwaskvZI8KHuLUCh139_AV4ZEi44WusvY4EOI6qV4KHOH9mA YRTmOsTunx3zTM-jS4FRH3QUMvscykMAyQ.,&typo=1

 **KUDOS**



TO

GMA HOMES, LLC

From a SaSS:

"I wanted to give a shout out to Tam Smith and her staff with GMA Homes. Tam started back in the provider business after a short hiatus. From day one Tam and her staff were taking an individual out every day and making sure he was doing things he wanted to do and having fun. Tam asks what individuals want and does her best to make that happen. Tam is able to work through conflicts and do what is best for the individual. Tam expects her staff to remain cordial and professional at all times. Tam has great relationships with individuals and with their guardians/parents/providers. She is a great provider who hires caring staff that really want individuals to be treated just like everyone else."

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



Maneuvering on the Path to Success

What a winding and bumpy road we've been on since the start of the Pandemic, huh!? While traveling on the road of life, whether you're driving down a flat, smooth, straight path, or a curvy, bumpy one with a cliff just inches away on the



side danger is a possibility in any scenario.

Sometimes the danger is unexpected, sometimes the danger is palpable. As we've each moved forward on our individual paths, I would venture to say we've all experienced both expected and unexpected challenges in our lives. These experiences have a way of showing us just how connected our individually chosen paths towards success are. I have experienced that connection in many ways, one of which includes witnessing the kindness of my fellow human beings. To the unsung heroes, to those of you who offer help when you see someone may be in need...you have paved your path with something that is worth so much more than riches or fame, you have paved your path with love.



Thank you



LAMPOST

Solheim Prepares a WELCOME Center for People with Disabilities

By: George Woodget

The Solheim Cup women's professional golf team competition took place in Toledo, Ohio from September 4th through 6th. A collaborative effort between the Ability Center, the Autism community, The Sight Center, and the Alzheimer's community set a goal to have the most disability friendly golf event in the world. A tent was set up with volunteers located at the Inverness Club next to the front entrance, to assist people with a variety of disabilities with needed accommodations.

Meg Ressler, the 2021 Solheim Cup co-chair, wanted everyone to feel like they belonged and included. Event organizers wanted to make sure they did everything possible to make the tournament accessible. Promedica Autism Center connected with a company called Kulture City which passed out sensory bags for individuals with Autism. They included head phones and various items that can be used to calm children with autism when they need a break. The goal was to make those with disabilities feel as comfortable as possible, so they could be a part of the event from start to finish. The Sight Center had staff at the event to assist people that are visually impaired negotiate the golf course for the event. Memory Care and the Area Office on Aging provided services to individuals and families with memory issues.

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.

LOOKINGBACK (A HISTORY OF DISABILITIES) By Terry Myers

All people are concerned with their own personal safety. We avoid certain areas of a city because of the crime rates. We are not strangers to the stories and crimes detailed in the news. However, have any of us ever considered the number of disabled individuals that fall prey to violent or fatal crimes each year?

Although disabled people comprise one-fifth of the population in the United States, according to FBI statistics they have "just one chance in a million" of being the target of a hate crime, according to Mark Sherry, a University of California, Berkeley, researcher. The disparity between reporting disability hate crimes and other crimes has been staggering. Disability hate crimes were not just underreported, they were virtually unreported. The number of media stories once outnumbered the statistics provided. There have been those who have argued that the underreporting was due to the perception of law enforcement agencies, policy makers and possibly even the victims as well. That perception was that they are attacked because of their vulnerability. The other side could be viewed that the vulnerability provided more of an opportunity for the attackers.

Many disability hate crimes weren't reported by victims because of the victims' physical need for a third party to relay the information to authorities. Others weren't reported because the perpetrator may have been a caregiver upon whom the victim depends. Sometimes police may never have learned about the crimes because victims consciously or unconsciously ignored the evidence of a hate crime. In 2002, there were only 23 states that provided penalties for disability hate crimes. Federal hate crime statutes did not include crimes against the disabled. A proposal to expand the federal definition to include the disabled stalled in the U.S. Senate earlier that

year.

Forty-three percent of the recorded crimes against the disabled from 1997-2001 involved simple assault. Intimidation accounted for 41 percent, aggravated assault for 10 percent, rape for 2 percent and other forms for 4 percent. A study was conducted in Boston that saw 452 hate crimes from 1983-1987. It revealed that 85 percent of the offenders were not arrested, and charges were dismissed against a third of those who did get arrested. In total, five assailants eventually went to jail.

January 30, 1999, Michael Finlay picked up Eric Krochmaluk, of Middletown, N.J. at 7 P.M. when he finished his shift as a cook at a fast-food restaurant in Tinton Falls, N.J. He told him that they were going to a party in an apartment in nearby Keansburg, N.J. Finlay encouraged him by saying that a girl there wanted to meet him.

When they arrived at the party, Eric walked in, wearing his work uniform. One man put a choke hold on him and someone else cut his tie in half. Next, they grabbed a small stuffed whale that he always carried and tore it apart as he watched. This was followed by stripping him to his underwear, slapping him, kicking him and forcing him into a plastic garden chair. They then taped him to the chair and dragged it around the room.

Eric had his head shaved and was beaten with a rope that had been knotted with beads. He was beaten on his naked chest, back and face with the rope. His head and eyebrows were shaved as well. Eventually, after being humiliated even more, he was taken into the woods where he was punched and slammed to the ground repeatedly for about an hour. Eric was able to get away and make it to a guard house near Union Beach, where the police were called.

Eric was taken to the hospital and later released. He could not understand exactly how disrespected, humiliated and savagely treated he had been. He only wanted to have friends. Eight men and women were arrested on February 17, 1999 after a two-week investigation into the incident. Most of the defendants faced kidnapping, assault, aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault charges.

The matter of hate crimes against the disabled has been overlooked in past years. Eric's case was one of the satisfactory cases. Among disabled people, hate crimes are often mislabeled "abuse" and dealt with through counseling as opposed to criminal prosecution. Regardless of the numbers yet to be revealed, these crimes are often quite serious and tend to be particularly violent.

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 **November Training Calendar** can be accessed here:

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/c4c6e1a1-dd3e-f2bb-2f1c-82d48ca92a21/November_2021_Provider_Training.pdf

*In November and 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.

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.

Free Community Training:

Virtual Narcan Training & Introduction to Harm Reduction on November 12 from 2-4 PM

Did you know that over 70% of overdose deaths in Ohio occur with a bystander present? These are all deaths that could have been prevented. Overall, overdoses have increased by 22% in Ohio, which means everyday there is a risk of someone you know overdosing. As the numbers increase it's important that we know all of the ways we can reduce potential risks and arm ourselves with education.

Join us for a free virtual Narcan training and introduction to harm reduction on November 12th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. If you want to learn more about harm

reduction and make a positive impact on your community, this event is for you. Tickets are free and available to all residents of Ohio. At the end of the presentation, there will be a Q&A segment to make sure you feel confident in the information you've learned.

During this event, you will learn:

“What is Narcan?” and how to use Narcan, how to recognize signs of an overdose, how to respond during and after an overdose, Laws in Ohio regarding overdose & Narcan, how to receive your own free box of Narcan, “What is harm reduction?” and how to do harm reduction work in your community

Eventbrite link to register below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/narcan-training-and-introduction-to-harm-reduction-tickets-182890218567>

NADSP FREE WEBINARS:

Let's Talk: Supports & Sexually Concerning Behaviours

11/10/21 • 2:00pm - 3:00pm ET

This webinar offers insight into Vita's treatment program for people who engage in sexually concerning behaviours and supplements an accompanying article, authored by Alice Agbaw, Pat Ejenavi, and Jennifer Closs. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6BOcSzYbR1WN0Mjt8KX-PA?mc_cid=e316570d0c&mc_eid=909e233a4d

Let's Talk: Trauma-Informed DSP Practice

11/23/21 • 2:00pm - 3:00pm ET

Please join Dr Karyn Harvey and Tanya Fritz LCSW as they explore the importance of Trauma Informed direct support practice. This session will explore the mechanics of trauma, the challenges of the direct support work, and its unique trauma and the key ingredients for healing. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GFxAUzeySZWxBuZMJ5YOIA?mc_cid=e316570d0c&mc_eid=909e233a4d



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!

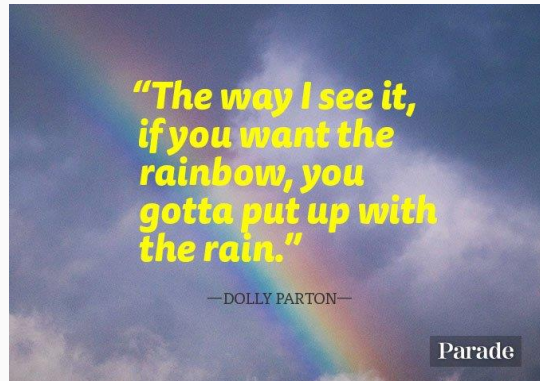
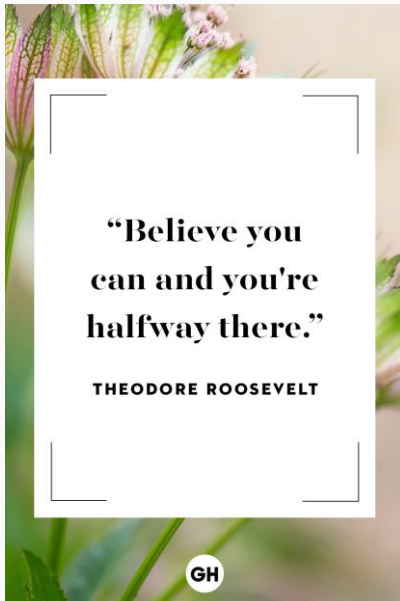
"WARM LINE" for Emotional Support

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

Hospice Palliative Care Month

“Most Families Wait Too Long to Utilize Hospice Care”

The month of November is National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and researchers say elderly people are in hospice care for an average of only 12 days. Why aren't they admitted sooner? Hospice centers provide valuable end-of-life care for the elderly. So, why aren't more people using these centers?

The [Medicare hospice benefit \(MHB\)](#) was established in 1982 in order to give recipients access to high-quality care near the end of their lives. But, new research in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society states that those who utilize the service often do so too late.

The study included 562 individuals, all aged 70 and older with an average age of nearly 87 years. Of these older adults, only 43 percent of them were admitted to hospice during their last year of life. While hospice is available to individuals with six months or less to live, researchers found that for half of the study participants their duration of hospice care was less than 13 days. The authors say underutilization of hospice care can create a burden for healthcare workers, and result in patient suffering.

So, why aren't more people using these centers? The reason why hospice care isn't used more frequently is complex. According to statistics from 2000, only 23% of Medicare beneficiaries who died were in hospice care at the time.

The MHB was initially offered for those with end-stage cancer. However, more and people have

begun seeking hospice care for noncancer-related ailments.

The problem is that other issues, such as frailty and dementia, may be harder to discern when determining an individual's eligibility for hospice care.

Lead study author, Dr. Thomas Gill, a professor of medicine at Yale University, agreed.

"Cancer tends to have the most predictable course," he told Healthline, "meaning it is generally easier to predict when someone with cancer is in the last six months of life than someone with another terminal condition."

"The challenge is even greater for older persons since many die from a combination of different conditions and/or debility, none of which may meet criteria for hospice," Gill added.

Resources:

- <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/most-wait-too-long-to-utilize-hospice>
- <https://www.healthline.com/health/what-is-hospice#services>
- National **Hospice Palliative Care Month** with the [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) and the [National PACE Association](#)



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

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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		

***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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BRIDGES is a monthly publication of the Provider Supports Department.

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