



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

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

{October 2021}



FORECAST

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came-
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

inspirationlane.tumblr.com

WELCOME OCTOBER!

October is the tenth month in the year and has 31 days. It is known for the month of preparation for winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

October Observances

Monthly:

- ADHD Awareness Month

- Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

NDEAM is held each October to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy. The theme for NDEAM 2021, “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion,” reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weekly:

- Fire Prevention Week (October 3-9)

The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 3rd – 9th) is **to raise fire safety awareness, and help ensure your home and family is protected.** In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

For more information on fire and safety

- City of Toledo Fire and Rescue Department: <https://www.toledofirerescue.com/>
- Toledo Fire Prevention Bureau: <https://www.toledofirerescue.com/bureaus/fire-prevention-bureau/>
- Smoke Alarm Brochure: <http://tfd.hanson-prod.com/assets/Smoke-Alarm-Brochure.pdf>



- **Ruth Sullivan, co-founder of the Autism Society of America, passes away at the age of 97**



<https://www.today.com/video/ruth-sullivan-co-founder-of-autism-society-of-america-dies-at-97-122017861558>



Kudos

To

Friends for Life Residential

For offering podcasts to everyone on a wide range of topics involving the DD Universe by bringing in community members, county board members from all over and other providers, among others as guests. They have over 20 Medical Monday episodes covering topics such as dementia, PICA, medications among many other medical related topics. They also have over 20 Midweek Mini episodes. And they also offer a series called Nursing in No Time. These podcasts are very informative and are worth a look.

You can view the podcasts at this link

<https://friendsforliferc.com/podcast/>

Thanks to all of our amazing providers for all you do every day. You are appreciated!

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

Along the Way



Here's a story I once heard of two gentlemen and a bet they made regarding their long-term goals: One day these two men were talking about their very similar goals to accumulate millions of dollars in their bank accounts within the next 5 years. The one man said that his goal was to have \$5,000,000,000 in the bank in 5 years, the other man's goal was to have \$20,000,000,000 in the bank in 5 years. The man whose goal was to have \$5,000,000,000 said, "Well why don't we make it interesting and make a wager! If one of us does not reach his goal, he has to pay \$1 to the one who did." They shook hands in agreement and went on their way.

Five years passed and the men met up to settle their bet. Right off the bat, the man whose goal was to have \$20,000,000,000 in the bank by then handed the other man \$1 because he knew he had lost the bet. "So, you weren't able to make your goal huh?" the man with the \$5,000,000,000 in the bank asked. "No," the other man said in a somber and disappointed voice, "I was only able to save \$18,000,000,000, so you win." The moral of the story is to aim high, even if you don't achieve your highest goal, you'll most likely get a lot further than if you had set a lower one.

I'd like to share what I believe is another moral to this story...did you notice how the man who had saved \$18,000,000,000 wasn't happy because he hadn't achieved his goal of \$20,000,000,000 so he wasn't able to win the \$1 bet!? So many times we set goals and become so focused on achieving them that we miss our achievements along the way. As you travel on your chosen life path, don't forget to celebrate the victories along the way. Many people go from striving to achieve one goal to striving to achieve the next

goal, hardly taking a moment to breathe in the sweet success of their current accomplishments from all their hard work. Someone once said that when we do this on our paths to success, we find ourselves “always striving and never arriving.” My hope for anyone reading this article is that you will notice the small victories along the way.

On your path to success, whatever success means to you, may you enjoy the smell of the roses instead of only thinking and talking about your experiences with the thorns.



LAMPOST

DSP Shortage

By George Woodget

When speaking with local providers and asking about their biggest challenges, most say the staffing shortage. This situation has impacted every industry nationwide. Employers have increased wages in order to compete for employees. Some Adult Day Service providers have offered incentives such as hiring bonus, increased wages and health care to attract new talent. Some providers feel they may have to reduce services, in order to balance out the staffing shortage. Others may consider networking combining operations and staff. Most providers feel the current business model needs to be revamped. This will take time as congressmen, senators and the governor evaluate cost and budgeting.

New employees are and will always be needed in the field. To assist with training and recruitment, LCBDD will continue to offer PATHS Training (Professional Achievement Through Training and Education in Human Services) for new and existing DSP staff. Provider Support representatives also attend local job fairs such as those being held at The University of Toledo and the Source. Meetings with Toledo area High School Administrators, teachers and students are taking place to introduce students to opportunities available to work as a DSP. We are committed to pursuing all avenues to assist with the DSP shortage.

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

Understanding the JFS system & a Provider's role related to

Medicaid & SNAP benefits

Angie Cole, Waiver Administration SSA at the Board, delivered an important training in September to help providers gain a better understanding of JFS' system: Medicaid & SNAP benefits especially as they relate to individuals on waivers. She shared about the role of being an authorized representative as well as some other important guidance related to the JFS system.

If you were unable to attend, we have linked a copy of the recording so that you can access this valuable information.

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NQf8M4W8cY3JtGUhiCNha4dQFks4CNZGf7Vq6GzJO5f8RrXphYUI1Jn-P673Fq03.lqwb6O1xUGJpJ1Ss>

NADSP hosted "**The 2021 Virtual Event: From Promise To Progress**" and recordings from the various sessions are free to watch at the link below. The focus of the event goes beyond just the recognition and appreciation for DSPs, by sharing specific actions and cutting-edge approaches to improve the human services field and elevate the status of DSPs.

https://nadsp.org/2021-virtual-event-from-promise-to-progress/?mc_cid=ebe3a5e227&mc_eid=909e233a4d



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

Everyone is familiar with the Olympics. They were born over 3,000 years ago in Greece. Yet, the first modern Olympics took place in 1896 in Athens, and featured 280 participants from 12 nations, competing in 43 events. On the other hand, 1948 would introduce an alternate sporting marathon. This was the beginning of a more inclusive display of athletic talents. Sir Ludwig Guttman organized a competition in Stoke Mandeville, in the United Kingdom, for World War II veterans with spinal injuries. This event was quite successful. This would become a more important event in just 12 years.

The first official Paralympic Games were held in 1960 in Rome parallel to the Olympics. However, it was not always called the Paralympic Games. The initial games in 1960 were known as the 9th International Stoke Mandeville Games. The event has also been called the "Olympiad for the Physically Disabled," "Olympics for the Disabled" and the "International Games for the Disabled." It has only been called the "Paralympic Games" since 1988.

The Paralympic Games caters for athletes with a range of disabilities. The disabilities were inclusive of and categorized for amputee, Cerebral Palsy, wheelchair, intellectual disability, visually impaired, dwarfism, Multiple Sclerosis and congenital disfigurements.

The size and diversity of the Paralympic Games have increased greatly over the years. The Paralympics in 1960 hosted 400 athletes from 23 countries participating in eight sports. Just over 50 years later, at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London, more than 4,200 athletes representing 164 countries participated in 20 sports.

Rather than promoting exclusion, the Paralympic Games provide disabled athletes with a chance to compete in an equitable environment. The games are held every two years and have both Summer and Winter sports. The sports equipment for the Paralympics may be modified for specific disabilities. Since the late 20th century the Paralympics have been held in the same city that hosts the corresponding Olympic Games. The Paralympics will usually follow shortly after the Olympics conclude. The International Paralympic Committee, which was founded in 1989 and is based in Germany, governs the Paralympic Games.

In 2001 an agreement between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International

Paralympic Committee (IPC) was reached that ensured that from 2012 onward, the city chosen to host the Olympic Games will also be obliged to host the Paralympics.

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

https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/75c34bbb-fede-8297-57e5-9696b59883ec/October_2021_Provider_Training_Calendar1.01.pdf

You can 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



FIRST AID

October Is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

2020 and 2021 has been a powerful reminder that we need each other and are all in this together, and our choices and actions have the power to protect the most vulnerable among us in a big way. The same holds true when it comes to breast cancer.

Every woman is important and we need to be an inspiration and hope to all women young and old. Keeping each other aware, informed and connected in our communities can become a force for good access to education, screening, treatment, support, and hope regardless of her circumstances.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. Here are just a few ways you can help women in need this month:

Screening, Access & Treatment

Make a one-time or monthly donation to help a woman in need. New this year, choose exactly where your donation goes. [Learn more.](#)

Education

[Download](#) our free *Breast Problems That Aren't Breast Cancer* eBook.

Support

[Volunteer](#) to join virtually in Helping Women Now.

Spread the word about Breast Cancer Awareness Month on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

Host a [virtual fundraiser](#) or [Facebook fundraiser](#) benefitting NBCF.

Hope

[Share the story](#) of how you or a loved one have been affected by breast cancer.

Proudly wear [a pink ribbon](#) during October or year-round.

Resources: nationalbreastcancer.org, <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/>
<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>



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

***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")



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