

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

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

**{September 2021}**



## **FORECAST**

**WELCOME!**

**Autumn starts on September 22, 2021**



### **Monthly observances:**

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- Classical Music Month
- Library Card sign up

- Healthy Aging
- National Courtesy Month

The last 18 months have not been easy and as a DSP taking care of oneself is usually on the back burner. As we move into the fall months it important to get fresh air before we head inside for the majority of the time. Some benefits of being outdoors (Web MD) <https://www.webmd.com/balance/ss/slideshow-health-benefits-nature>

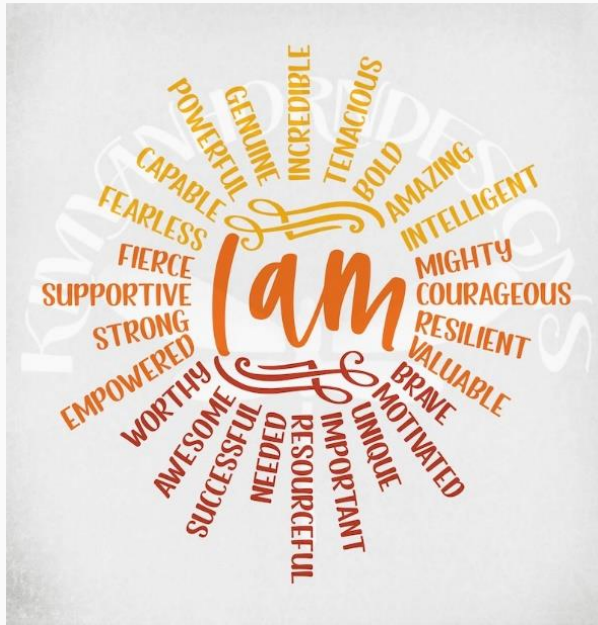
Being outdoors helps:

- Lessen anxiety, chases away the blues
- Improves your sleep
- Helps improve focus
- Helps you feel better about yourself
- Boost your creativity
- Improves your vision (move away from the screen)
- Breath of fresh air
- You get Vitamin D

For more information on Vitamin D see Dr. Laura's Medical Moment issue on DODD.

[https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/fba670f1-75cb-4c5d-af9f-1d940fcb97fd/Well+Informed+Vitamin+D.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT\\_TO=urI&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18\\_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-fba670f1-75cb-4c5d-af9f-1d940fcb97fd-nEgADRB](https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/fba670f1-75cb-4c5d-af9f-1d940fcb97fd/Well+Informed+Vitamin+D.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=urI&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-fba670f1-75cb-4c5d-af9f-1d940fcb97fd-nEgADRB)

We thank all DSP's for your dedication and hard work during these challenging and hard times. You are a valuable member to the team.



### Upcoming Rule Changes:

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>



**Congratulations to the agencies that received the following awards at the Virtual Provider Celebration:**

**Mission of LIFE Award - RVI**

Innovation Award - **Manahan**

Community Involvement- **Bittersweet**

Leadership Award- **Friends for Life**

In addition, the following video was shared with stories of appreciation submitted for many in our provider community. You can view that video at the following link:

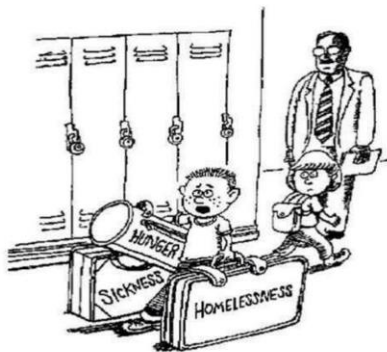
<https://youtu.be/IBZTSEGc2q8>

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



## PATHS TO SUCCESS

“Could someone help me with these?  
I’m late for math class.”



**Truly Seeing Others**

Narrowing an article to a small portion of a topic is a challenging task for any writer. That is what I'm struggling with here, because there is so much to say about people's suffering. So, instead of me saying it, I would like to tell readers about a training in the support field called Bridges Out of Poverty (BOP). I recently attended BOP for the second time, and plan to attend on an annual basis for as long as it is offered because once trained, reminders can serve us well.

BOP Training opens the eyes of its attendees to truly see others from both our minds and our hearts. When it comes to human beings, the baggage we carry around as children causes us undue pain and narrows the odds for success in life, as the baggage, if not surrendered, gets heavier, as we continue carrying it throughout our lifetimes, into our adult and senior years.

As a human race we never want to ignore the pain of others because, as we become desensitized to their pain, our hearts harden; instead, we want to keep our hearts soft, so that we can respond in service to those in need as requested and required. The path to success, no matter what one's idea of success is for them, if not paved with soft hearts, becomes a bumpy and dangerous trek. However, when we take time to pause in order to truly see and acknowledge others from our hearts, as well as from our minds, the path that is traveled with a soft heart causes the road, no matter the curves, to become easier and more joyful to travel on because it is traveled without the baggage of the regret, blame, and bitterness that helps create hardened hearts. May you travel on your path to success truly seeing others and doing what is requested and required of you, so that your path is smoother and more joyful as you move forward in your life.



**LAMPOST**

**Excerpts from the article**

**"Following Loss Of Parents, Community Steps In To Care For Man With Special Needs"**

**by Caroline Fassett, NJ.com/TNS | July 23, 2021**

FRENCHTOWN, N.J. — If you visit Frenchtown, there's a good chance you'll run into Edward

Joseph “E.J.” Collins. “You could call E.J. the unofficial mayor of the town,” said Denise Snyder, associate director in the family support office for The Arc of Hunterdon County in Hampton. “He could be a tour guide for Frenchtown and tell everybody everything they need to know about Frenchtown.”

Rick Paul, a Frenchtown resident and mentor to Collins, said, “I moved into town about eight years ago, and E.J. was even a presence at that point. Every town event, he was always there. He just brightens up every area that he’s in.”

Collins, 30, a lifelong resident of the community, might be spotted participating at a local gathering, cleaning the streets of Frenchtown, or alerting those who live there to potential weather hazards. Or, he might ride past you with a wagon full of Pokémon toys attached to a bicycle recently donated to him by the community. The fundraising effort for the new bicycle and wagon was spearheaded by Ed Snyder, a resident of Upper Black Eddy, Pa. Ed went to the Cycle Corner of Frenchtown and teamed up with its owner, Dave Bugler, to arrange for the shop to collect in-person donations from customers. He gathered support from the Frenchtown community through online posts, and also donated \$100 of his own to the effort. According to Bugler, the shop was able to raise enough money to give Collins a bicycle that is fit for a person with special needs within a week’s time. This most recent effort is only one of a countless number of actions members of the Frenchtown community and beyond have taken over the years to support Collins, who has special needs and lost both of his parents in 2018.

“I know my hometown like the back of my hand,” Collins said. “If I moved to another a town, I’m going to need a map or GPS to tell me where I need to go.” Collins has spent his life following in the footsteps of his father, who served in both the Frenchtown Fire Department and Kingwood Township Volunteer Fire Company. “I love helping people because it’s part of my goal, and I want to step up and do the best I can to help anyone I need,” Collins said. “And if I see anything, I report it to the police immediately.”

In addition to working at the Frenchtown Market IGA, Collins helps out throughout Frenchtown, such as shoveling snow off the streets and attending community gatherings to ensure all in attendance are safe.

His service is so well-known throughout the borough that he was even included in a 2018 exhibition at the ArtYard that paid tribute to Frenchtown. “He’s always willing to lend a hand with anything,” said Frenchtown Mayor Brad Myhre. “He’s got a good heart, and he doesn’t miss anything in the community functions. He’s always there.”

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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)

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### **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](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](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](mailto:Ashley.Smith@metroparkstoledo.com)

Visit the Metroparks Website:

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS & HAPPENINGS

**Waste Collection Assistance** is available to People with Disabilities through Republic Services.

[https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/f4a26453-42d3-f106-05c2-b605e5fd1128/City\\_of\\_Toledo\\_Bulk\\_and\\_Misc\\_Collection\\_Rules.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/f4a26453-42d3-f106-05c2-b605e5fd1128/City_of_Toledo_Bulk_and_Misc_Collection_Rules.pdf)

**Free Car Show in Monclova:**

[https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/7fe5992c-869a-6be7-35d8-bb9fcaf0f74d/car\\_show.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/7fe5992c-869a-6be7-35d8-bb9fcaf0f74d/car_show.pdf)



### 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**

The history of disability is riddled with negative viewpoints regarding those with varied degrees of intellectual, mental and physical disabilities. Research has shown that there has been segregation, extermination, separation, and even sterilization. The public has often failed to understand, or to care for the disabled with empathy and compassion. In the past, this has been a direct result of; the lack of education, fear and stigmatization. In many cases, it has been a matter of “out of sight, out of mind.” However, there have been significant members of the disabled population who have not remained completely “out of sight” or “out of mind.” Substantial strides have been made by some incredible members of the disabled population. Many of us are familiar with Stephen Hawking, who was diagnosed with a rare form of motor neuron disease when he was 22. Yet, he evolved as one of the most brilliant minds in the world. He was a true inspiration for others having disabilities. Yet, that inspiration can also be gathered from others who have led a crucial existence.

Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who went on missions to help Black people escape slavery through the Underground Railway. When she was 14 years old, Tubman developed epilepsy after a slave owner hit her on the head. Tubman then lived with epileptic seizures and excessive sleepiness, which did not deter her from saving many people’s lives while risking her own.

Albert Einstein, who was believed to be autistic, was a physicist who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 and was considered one of the most important scientists of the 20th century. He was thought to have Asperger's syndrome.

If you have ever played or are a fan of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven’s impact on the genre and music, is clear. When Beethoven was around 30 years old (in 1800), he became profoundly “hard of hearing” or “deaf.” Beethoven continued to have success as a musician after he became “hard of hearing” up until his final masterpiece (Piano Concerto No. 5) in 1811.

Fannie Lou Hamer was a Civil Rights activist from Mississippi who was involved in the **Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee** with late U.S. Congressman John Lewis. Most of her

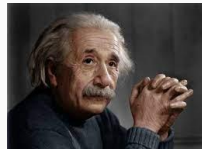
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activism was focused on helping Black Americans register to vote. Hamer became disabled after having polio as a child and was beaten in a Mississippi jail. The **American Association of People with Disabilities** organization has launched a leadership program in Hamer's honor to help encourage Black disabled people to vote.

Another significant figure can be identified in Temple Grandin. She was an author and an animal welfare and autism advocate. While her mother suspected that Grandin was on the spectrum when she was a teenager, Grandin was not formally diagnosed until she was in her 40s. Grandin became a fellow at the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and won an award from PETA for advocating for more humane treatment of animals. Grandin has also been the subject of a full-length movie.

This is merely a sampling of those who have proven that having a disability has not defined who they were. Instead, it has opened the door for research, acceptance and progress. Is it possible that if earlier history had developed the empathy and compassion sooner, we might have an even more inclusive view of those with disabilities currently?

**Noted individuals pictured below:**



## 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 **September Training Calendar** can be accessed here:

[https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/b73eb449-5de1-bd21-9679-cbf3d1029b50/September\\_2021\\_Provider\\_Training.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/b73eb449-5de1-bd21-9679-cbf3d1029b50/September_2021_Provider_Training.pdf)

This month we have some **special additional trainings** we want to highlight:

**Thursday September 16 from 11:00-12:00 "JFS and Medicaid: What Providers Need to Know" by Angie Cole, Waiver Administration SSA.**

*Gain a better understanding of JFS' system: Medicaid & SNAP benefits especially as they relate to individuals on waivers. Learn more about the role of being an authorized representative as well as some other important guidance related to the JFS system.*

**Wednesday September 29 from 10:00-11:00 "Creating Better Business Opportunities for Better Employment Outcomes"**

Learn how you can expand the services you provide and diversify your business funding stream by attending this informational session! This session will discuss Waiver Employment Services, becoming a Vendor through OOD, and the FREE Business Development Services available through the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. For more information see the attached flyer: [https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/0a20b6ae-34c7-1bf6-fce8-8a24263f4535/Employment\\_Session.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/46f9edd74ac726fdf457dfe0f/files/0a20b6ae-34c7-1bf6-fce8-8a24263f4535/Employment_Session.pdf)

**Thursday September 30 from 10:00-3:00 "ADA Seminar: Creating Transit Access"**

The ADA Seminar is presented by The Ability Center annually and will provide an opportunity for professionals to learn about best practices in access to public transit for people with disabilities. ADA coordinators and anyone interested in disability rights advocacy should attend. Event partners include Toledo/Lucas County Commission on Disability and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).

*This seminar is being put on by The Ability Center and registration is via their website:*

<https://www.abilitycenter.org/ada-seminar-2021-agenda/>

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

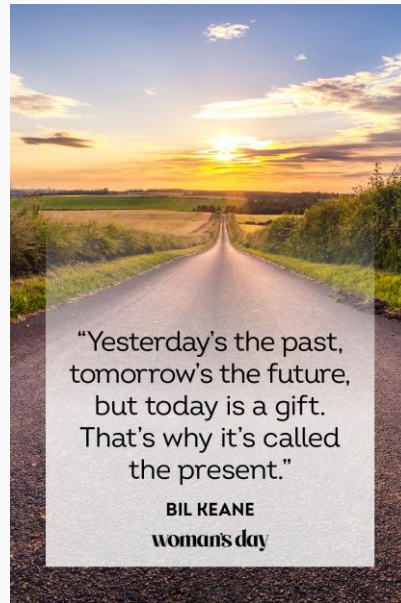
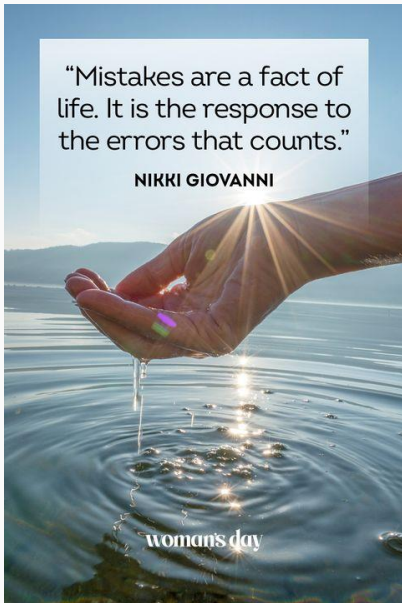
In need of some emotional support while dealing with all things COVID-19?

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

Call the Lucas County Emotional Support Line:



**SHOOTING STAR**



## FIRST AID

### Pain Awareness Month

The [American Chronic Pain Association](#) have spearheaded efforts to raise awareness of the challenges of living with and managing chronic pain, as well as awareness of how others can help.

### National Cholesterol Education Month

This campaign seeks to educate the public on the dangers of high [cholesterol](#) and its link to heart disease.

Organizations such as the [CDCTrusted Source](#) and the [American College of Cardiology](#) come together to recognize the work being done.

### Other awareness campaigns

Other awareness campaigns during September include:

- **Healthy Aging Month:** This is an observance designed to focus on the positive aspects of growing older. Visit [Healthy Aging](#) for a wealth of resources and information.
- **National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month:** This campaign seeks to raise awareness and education of [atrial fibrillation](#), a type of irregular or rapid

heartbeat. [Stopafib.org](http://Stopafib.org), [cardiosmart.org](http://cardiosmart.org), and [heart.org](http://heart.org) provide comprehensive insight and advice.

- **National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month:** Organizations such as the [Men's Health Network](#) sponsor events related to this campaign, alongside the [Prostate Cancer Foundation](#). The ACS also have a prostate cancer awareness [page](#).
- **National Sickle Cell Awareness Month:** This month helps focus attention on the need for research and treatment. The [Sickle Cell Disease Association of America](#) drive this campaign and have extensive resources and information online. Visit the [American Red Cross](#) to give blood.
- **Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month:** [Ovarian cancer](#) is a common gynecologic cancer in the U.S. Wear a teal ribbon to show support or visit the [National Ovarian Cancer Coalition](#).
- **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month:** This was created to increase awareness and education of [polycystic ovary syndrome \(PCOS\)](#), as there is currently no cure for it. [PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association](#) are the sponsoring organization, offering supporting resources, information, and events.
- **Sepsis Awareness Month:** Organizations aim to focus on the dangers of [sepsis](#) and how people can prevent it. Learn more [here](#).
- **Sexual Health Awareness Month:** Throughout September, the [American Sexual Health Association](#) offer fact sheets, interviews, and perspectives on sexual health.

**Resource:** <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/health-awareness-months#september>



## 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		