



Jill Harrington

Special Recognition Award May 2026

At the start of the new year, the Lucas DD Provider Support Department began a new training opportunity called Side-by-Side. The idea for these trainings was developed through ongoing conversations and advocacy by Jill Harrington, Director of Adult Day Services at Assured Health Services.

While similar trainings were already taking place in other Ohio counties, Jill recognized the value of expanding it into Lucas County to better support both Lucas DD staff and individuals served.

The purpose of the Side-by-Side training is to bring staff and individuals together in a shared learning environment. This model allows staff to earn DODD credit while individuals gain practical knowledge, tips, and strategies to be safer and more informed. Learning alongside one another creates an inclusive atmosphere that promotes mutual respect, engagement, and understanding.

Jill has played a critical role in the development and success of this program. She provided valuable insight based on her experience seeing the program run elsewhere, while also giving Lucas DD the flexibility to develop the Side-by-Side trainings thoughtfully and intentionally. Her support allowed the program to grow at a pace that met the needs of both Lucas DD and Assured Health, ensuring the program remained mutually meaningful and sustainable.

Since the first training in January, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Individuals at Assured Health are highly engaged during each session and look forward to the staff visits each month. Jill remains open and receptive to a variety of topics, offering constructive feedback that helps staff continuously improve the training. Because of Jill's persistence,

encouragement, and passion for this work, the Side-by-Side program has now expanded into a second agency, with additional growth opportunities on the horizon.

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to award Jill the May 2026 Special Recognition Award with deep appreciation of her dedication, collaboration, and commitment to creating supportive learning opportunities. Jill's passion for empowering individuals is evident, and we are grateful for her partnership in making these impactful experiences possible.