

Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## **ANNUAL REPORT** To The Community

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is focused on thousands of people with developmental disabilities in Lucas County reaching their full potential. We do this by:

- Developing a vision for the future, taking into consideration an individual's strengths, interests and choices;
- Working to make our community more inclusive, so individuals can be employed, access housing, and find social opportunities; and
- Ensuring the voting public that we are good stewards of the public dollar.

Staff at the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities met the challenge of the pandemic with the necessary resolve to maintain our focus on the health and well-being of individuals served. This was accomplished through working remotely to keep staff protected from the coronavirus, employing distribution of personal protective gear to providers, and maintaining contact with individuals served.

Throughout the challenging times of 2020 the Service and Support Specialists addressed day-to-day needs of persons served as well as assisting them to maintain jobs and find new job opportunities.

During 2020 we increased our partnerships with other agencies to support children of all ages with delays and disabilities -- to include the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Lucas County Children Services, schools, court/juvenile justice system, and the Family Council.

## Priorities for the Board in 2021 include:

- Through greater outreach to the community we will continue the effort to break down attitudinal barriers that often stand in the way to greater access to housing, employment, recreation and social contacts;
- We will continue to expand the Friends, Allies, and Neighbors Network (FANS) to address unmet needs of individuals;
- The effort will continue to increase sporting and recreation opportunities through Special Olympics;
- Explore new opportunities to use technology to enhance the independence and privacy of individuals served;
- Enhance quality services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health concerns;
- Emphasize the principles of trauma informed care so individuals being served feel safe and secure; and
- Provide services for children as they transition through the various stages of life.

For more information about the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities, please visit our website www.lucasdd.org