



PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

April 2010
Volume 17, Issue 2

Expressions

Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs • www.pcbmrdd.org

**Portage County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**
Dennis M. Coble
Administration Building
2606 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1657

Superintendent's Office:
330-297-7261

Board Office:
330-297-6209

Fax: 330-297-1202

Website: www.pcbmrdd.org

Business Office:
330-297-8991

**Service & Support
Administration:**
330-297-4100

**Family Support
Services Program:**
330-297-4106

**Residential
Services Program:**
330-297-4106

Transportation:
330-297-6462

Adult Services:
Portage Industries
7008 State Rte. 88
Ravenna, OH 44266-9134
330-296-2839
Fax 330-296-8875

Children's Services:
Happy Day School
2500 Brady Lake Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1698
330-678-2400
Fax 330-673-3714

**PCBDD
Emergency Number**
330-678-7559



Pictured from left to right are: Chris Smeiles, Commissioner; Pat Macke, PCBDD Superintendent; Maureen Frederick, Commissioner; Diane Cotton, PCBDD Director of Business Management and Chuck Keiper, Commissioner.

2010 DD Awareness Month Celebration with a Proclamation Signing Ceremony

The Portage County Commissioners helped kick-off March 2010 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness month by issuing a proclamation declaring March 2010 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Portage County. Prior to the issuance of the proclamation, PCBDD Superintendent, **Pat Macke** and **Diane Cotton**, Director of Business Management, presented the Commissioners with "Just like You" materials including a T-shirt and coffee mug. Superintendent Macke also provided the Commissioners a report on the state of the Portage County Board of DD.



Miscellany – an assortment or variety of things, a mixed bag



Accreditation Update

All County Boards of DD are required by statute to be "accredited" by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). In the accreditation process, a review team from DODD reviews various parts of

the Board's operation such as personnel, physical facilities, policies and procedures, service delivery, etc in order to determine if policies and procedures are in compliance with state law and administrative code.

Last October (2009) a team from the DODD spent two days on-site reviewing the Board's programs as part of the accreditation process. In November, the DODD issued a draft accreditation report. The draft report contained several "citations", meaning that certain policies or procedures or both were out of compliance with state requirements. In response to the draft report, we submitted a response to DODD challenging the accuracy of several citations. There were also several citations that were not challenged and for these we were required to submit a plan of correction.

On April 9, 2010 we received notification that our plan of correction had been approved by the DODD and that we had been awarded a four-year accreditation. Clearly DODD believes that we are operating an above-average program!

Our accreditation outcome is the result of the efforts of many, many people. I want to again thank all of the administrative, direct service and support staff who contributed to this effort and outcome.

I would also like to particularly thank, **Jim Rock**, Assistant Superintendent, who was our liaison to the Department for the accreditation review; **Missie Trautman**, Account Clerk II, who organized all of our pre-review materials; **Bill Whitacre**, Director of Adult Services, and **Jim Critell**, Habilitation Manager, who spear-headed several of our key plan of correction responses. Our accreditation will now run through 2014.

Although spring is in full bloom, we have already begun thinking of this fall. While it is still a way off, it will be a most important and critical time for the Board. November 2, 2010 is the date for the general election and we will have a levy renewal issue on the ballot. Our issue is a five-year renewal of our current 1.8 mill levy that was first passed in 1996. This levy generates approximately four (4) million dollars per year, about 1/5 of our annual operating revenue. This will be a renewal request and as such, it does not mean an increase in taxes. The levy renewal will be for tax years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Renewal of this levy is essential!

Although the general election is still months away, we have already begun formal efforts for the levy renewal. At the March Board meeting, a resolution was passed asking the Portage County Commissioners to certify to the Portage County Board of Elections, the need for this tax levy renewal. The Portage County Auditor has been asked to certify the value of property within the county and the amount of revenue this levy renewal will raise. Passage efforts with the public will kick off sometime in August and there will be more about this most critical renewal in the next few newsletters.

Respectfully,
Pat

Got a question or topic for future issues, drop me an e-mail at: patm@portagedd.org



New name, new look, same helping hands



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Making the difference in meeting lifelong needs

Promoting positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities



Happy Day Creates a New Collaboration with Portage Learning Centers

Upon receiving a two-year grant, Portage Learning Centers will be creating Early Head Start classrooms for ages 6 weeks-3 years for eligible families in Portage County. They will be providing both home and center-based services for approximately 60 children.

Happy Day will be the site for two of the Early Head Start classrooms that serve 18-36 month old children. This service for economically disadvantaged children is a long overdue need in Portage County. This is a population of students that currently gets overlooked too often by social agencies.

The classes will officially open some time in April, pending ODJFS inspection and will operate Monday-Friday from 9:30-3:30 pm, year-round. They will be able to use our facilities including the gym, playgrounds, library and food services. Two teachers with either a two or a four-year degree will be assigned to each classroom with a total of 8 students. A site coordinator/family advocate will also be assigned to our building to assist the classrooms and monitor services.

In the fall, we will further collaborate with them and replace one Early Head Start class with a Head Start preschool class. Our hope is that the continuation of the grant will remain after the first two years and the long-term collaboration with PLC will be continued!

Pictured above, standing left to right in one of the new classrooms are Portage Learning Center's newly hired teachers Terri, Carli and Brooke. Not pictured is Samantha.

We welcome them into the Happy Day community.

Check out our new PCBDD logo



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Disco Fever

On Friday March 19, 2010, the consumers of Portage Industries enjoyed a "Disco Fever" dance held at Happy Day School. Some came in costume from the Disco era. Everyone had a good time dancing to Disco music. Snacks and drinks were available for all.

The next dance will be held at Happy Day School from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on May 14, 2010. The theme for this dance will be a Western Dance. Everyone is invited to come dressed in his/her western 'gear'.



Golf Outing

The 19th Annual Portage Industries, Inc. Benefit Golf Outing for Developmental Disabilities will be held on July 27, 2010 at Windmill Lakes Golf Club in Ravenna, Ohio. We are once again requesting donations from friends and business associates. Donations can be in the form of hole sponsorships, door prizes, gift certificates and completed themed gift baskets. Donations are tax deductible and all money raised is used for the levy fund. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact **Gretchen Spahlinger** at 330-296-3996 or e-mail at gspahlinger@portageind.org You may also contact **Phil Miller** at 330-296-3996 or e-mail at pmiller@portageind.org.



Relay for Life

Heather Stutzman, an employee of the PCBDD Board, is actively involved with "Relay for Life." Heather has made and sold bracelets and key chains in colors that represent the different cancers. On March 23, 2010, a Chili cook off and bake sale was held at Portage Industries. The employees donated homemade chili, side dishes and baked goods. A 50/50 raffle was also held with the winnings donated back to the cause.

After expenses and prizes, \$270.00 was donated to Relay for Life.



It's Better in the Bahamas!

Consumer **Michelle Reed** and PI staff member **Sue Barnette** went to the Bahamas for a week's vacation in March. Michelle swam with the Dolphins in the ocean, toured 3 caves, and went to a Bird Sanctuary where she was able to hold 2 of the birds. She also took Scuba diving lessons, and spent many hours on the beaches.

Michelle made many friends while there and two of them invited her and Sue on their yachts.

Entertainment was always available; there was a Bonfire on the Beach, Limbo contest, and dance contest topped off with a wonderful meal. The condo association offered nightly activities such as Dance Night and Karaoke. Michelle participated in both and won a conch shell for her dancing.





Visit to Happy Day School

Bus driver, **Ron Overberger**, took the consumers that ride his bus on another field trip. This time they went to visit Happy Day School. Several had attended HDS in their younger years, so visiting brought back many good memories for them. **Maria Bednarik**, one of Portage Industries consumers works at Happy Day School 4 days a week and she made a cake to share with everyone when they visited. Some of the people who were able to visit Happy Day School were **Kristin Hodges, Tammy Korpita, Danny M, George Cosko, Donald Parobek and John Terlecky.**

Teachers and staff at HDS enjoyed visiting with all the consumers and remembered them as students.

Ron's next field trip will be to The Buckeye Chocolate Factory in Newbury. The plans are being finalized for this and the date will be announced as soon as it is set.



Special Needs Soccer & Champion Baseball

Enrollment for the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Very Important Player (VIP) program for children with Special Needs will be through mid-May. This program provides a quality soccer experience for children with physical and mental disabilities. Please contact **Scotte Rorabaugh** at scotte@noga.org or 440-479-1176 for more information.

Champion Baseball is a division of the Streetsboro Junior Baseball and opens doors for children with special needs to play baseball. For information regarding the Champion Baseball League, please contact **Dr. Sam Lewis** at 330-422-1551.



Mark Your Calendar!



Parent Council News

Don't forget about the Annual May Dinner to be held at Happy Day School on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 4 -12 and ages 3 and under are free. Reservations must be made by April 30th. For more information, please contact Happy Day School, Portage Industries or the Dennis M. Coble Administration Building.

The Happy Day Carnival held on April 10th raised \$659.63. All the money will go to the Emergency Fund for Parent Council for families in need. Thanks to all who helped with this event.



Prader-Willi Syndrome in the Spotlight on ABC

On May 2, 2010, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" will feature the Starkweather family from Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Starkweather family has three sons. The youngest son, Ethan, has Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a serious medical disorder which interferes with the body's appetite control centers. Individuals with Prader-Willi do not recognize feeling satiated or full after they eat. People with PWS also metabolize their food at half the rate their peers do, so someone with PWS can easily gain weight at a tremendous rate. Characteristics of PWS are preoccupations with food, weight gain, behavior problems, learning difficulties with 60% having mental retardation/ cognitive disability, speech and language difficulties, fine and gross motor delays, short stature if growth hormone therapy is not initiated, and social skills deficits.

Tune in to learn more and see this family go through the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition experience.



A Friendly Visit

On March 30, 2010, approximately 34 students from St. Olaf College in Minnesota stopped at Portage Industries. We want to thank Ashleigh from POWERcorps. A friend of **Ashleigh Lawrence** who attends St. Olaf College, called asking her if there was something in the Portage County area that these students could help out doing volunteer work. Ashleigh immediately thought of Portage Industries.

These young people belong to S.T.L.F., Students Today, Leaders Forever. They have spent their Spring Break traveling from their college to Washington D.C., stopping along the way doing service projects in different cities. In Washington D.C. they will meet up with another group from St Olaf College and together they will be helping cleaning up the Potomac River.

Students and consumers assembled new picnic tables for the new pavilion. Seven tables were completely put together during their time here. Several of the students also helped out in many of the work groups. A couple of the women were able to help with communication with one of the consumers. We now know that by singing words we are connecting better with her.

While at Portage Industries pizza, salad, bread, and drinks were served to all the students, consumers and employees. This visit worked as an adventure for both consumers and students. A big thank you to the students of St. Olaf.





Good Luck to a Very Special Student

For the past twenty years, a very special student has been an important part of the Happy Day School student family. Every fall, since 1989, **Adam Englehart** has started his new school year by entering the doors of Happy Day with a bright smile on his face.

From infancy to adulthood, Adam's list of accomplishments continued to grow. He has become quite independent in the area of mobility; getting in and out of his wheelchair successfully as well as traveling throughout the school by propelling himself in his wheelchair. He now enjoys eating his lunch (with minimal supervision) with his friends in the cafeteria and even pours his own milk. Adam really enjoys working throughout the day too. From creating Build-A-Cards to cutting paper for the front office, he is always eager to get the job done.

I think it is safe to say that there are very few people at Happy Day that Adam has not become friends with. He is very social and goes out of his way to greet people. He is very eager to acknowledge others and seeks out special friends to be near. He enjoys everyone's company, and we enjoy his.

Happy Day will not be the same without Adam. We wish him the best in his future endeavors, and always welcome his visits. Congratulations and good luck Adam.

Area 10 Bowling Tournament Results

On March 13, 2010, the Area 10 bowling tournament (state qualified) was held at AMF Akron Bowl in Springfield Township. All the bowlers did their best and had a great time.



The Women bowlers and their placements:

Sylvia Cuvelier 2nd place
Susan Flowers 1st place
Jackie Howe 2nd place
Selena Lewis 1st place
Sherry Metzger 4th place
Christina Miller 4th place
Ashley Wilson 1st place

The Men bowlers and their placements:

Dan Casciato 3rd place
Destry Harper 1st place
George McCarthy 4th place
Ryan McCoy 3rd place
Chris McDaniel 3rd place
Kevin Wilson 3rd place



Family Chat

Dear Families:

As a result of the Futures recommendations and the Empowering People implementation team, we created a discussion listserv to encourage communication for families in supporting other families.

Peggy Martin

We are excited about this new way to communicate. Joining the group will come with responsibility to respect and protect each other with the information that is shared on the [family-chat] listserv.

We may need to ask you for some additional information when you join so we can verify who you are. We ask that if professionals join, you only ask questions on behalf of families.

The confidentiality issue is an important one. Even though this is a closed listserv, which means all members must be approved before they can join, we can't stop members from forwarding emails outside the discussion group.

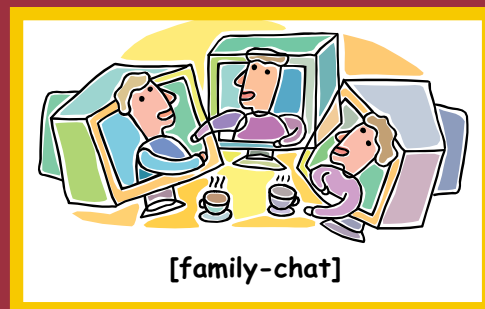
To join the listserv, simply open an email and type join-family-chat@list.dodd.ohio.gov.

We hope that you find Family Chat to be a strong resource for you, and I encourage you to contact me at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov if you do not find the information you need.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,
 Peggy Martin, Family Advocate

The above information was taken from the Ohio Department of Disabilities website.





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Calendar of Events

May/June/July 2010

May 7, 2010	In-Service – 240 Day Staff Only	Portage Industries Closed
May 14, 2010	Country Western Dance	7:00-9:00 p.m. Happy Day School
May 19, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m. Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
May 31, 2010	Memorial Day	Programs Closed
June 1, 2010	Programs Resume	
June 9, 2010	Last Day of School	Happy Day School
June 16, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m. Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
Summer Break	July 5, 2010 – July 9, 2010	
July 21, 2010	Board Meeting	5:30 p.m. Dennis M. Coble Administration Building
July 27, 2010	Golf Outing	

The mission of the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to ensure the availability of programs, services, and supports that assist eligible individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities in choosing and achieving a life of increasing capability such that they can live, work, and socialize in the community, and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving this objective.