



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

February 2018

Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Issue 2

## Jefferson County BDD

256 John Scott Highway  
Steubenville, Ohio  
43952  
www.jcbdd.com

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## *A Message from the Superintendent*

First and foremost, I want to wish you a happy and healthy new year.

While I want to look forward to 2018, let's celebrate and recognize a successful 2017. A few items worth mentioning include the following:

1. Financial results for 2017 continue to be positive.

2. Major progress towards privatization has taken place with the hiring of Tracey Thomas, consolidation of our adult program into one building, name change from Jeffco Workshop to Jeffco Services, separation of adult and children's transportation and submission of the Medicaid application to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

3. The hiring of a Community Integration Specialist.

4. The hiring of a full-time IT Specialist.

5. Approval of four housing grants.

6. Funding of four new vans for Jeffco.

7. The continued good work of our school and the relationship with our

local school districts.

8. The start of restructuring at Shaffer Plaza to the home operator style of management.

9. Being named Jefferson County Chamber Organization of the Year.

10. The celebration of 50 years of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio.

Some items worth mentioning as I look forward to 2018 are:

1. The continuation of privatization, and the possibility that it could occur in its entirety before the year ends.

2. Two new housing developments operational with a couple more in process.

3. Improving Shaffer Plaza through the home-operator style of operations and downsizing to three seven- or eight-bed homes.

4. A greater focus and redeployment of our assets into early intervention services as we continue to privatize.

5. The planning, analysis and feasibility of an early childhood learning center for birth to age 5.

6. Consolidation of all county board staff from the training center to our former workshop.

7. Continued improvements in community integration and inclusion.

8. The analysis and feasibility of establishing a socialization/behavior support program within our local school districts for both special need and typical kids.

9. A board in-service to re-define our mission, develop a vision statement and re-define our role in the changing landscape.

As always, I am grateful to all of our employees, board members and volunteers for their dedication to individuals with special needs. Let us continue to work together to make JCBDD a great place to work and receive services.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Zinno, CPA, MBA  
Superintendent

## Calendar of Events

Feb. 1: IEP at School of Bright Promise; Prime Times, Rocky Road Gym and Big Red walking (JCTC); Valentine's Day craft (Shaffer)

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day; National Wear Red Day at SBP for AHA; Mall walking (JCTC)

Feb. 3: Valentine's Day Craft at Home C; Chili Cook-off Funday at FUS (Shaffer)

Feb. 4. Super Bowl Party

Feb. 5. Movie Night at Home; Dance class at Steubenville Country Club at 5:15 p.m.; Big Red walking

Feb. 6. Parent-Teacher conferences at SBP at 4-6:30 p.m.; Trampoline Park for Home B; Craft Night at Home C; Toronto Library and Big Red swimming (JCTC)

Feb. 7: Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (Shaffer); Friendship Room and Schiappa Library (JCTC)

Feb. 8: Human RT's at SBP 9 a.m.; Prime Times; Rocky Road Gym; Big Red walking

Feb. 9: Game Night (Shaffer); Mall walking

Feb. 11: Monster Jam at 1 p.m.

Feb. 12: Dance classes at Steubenville Country Club at 5:15 p.m.; Big Red walking

Feb. 13: Safety meeting at SBP at 3 p.m.; God's Choice; Big Red walking; Fat Tuesday

Feb. 14: Native Pride dancers at SBP at 9:30 a.m.; Valentine's Day pizza party (Shaffer); Friendship Room; Schiappa Library; Ash Wednesday

Feb. 15: 100 Days of School; Olympics at SBP 9:30 a.m.; School behavior meeting at SBP at 3 p.m. PreK ELA opens; Prime Times, Brooke Library and Big Red walking (JCTC)

Feb. 16: Professional Development Day at SBP; M&M Party at Shaffer; Mall walking

Feb. 17: Comedy Night; Wii Bowling tournament (Shaffer)

Feb. 18: Matinee movie at Carmike Cinemas

Feb. 19: President's Day- NO WORK/SCHOOL; Dance Class at Steubenville CC at 5:15 p.m.

Feb. 20: Watson Alternate Assessment

starts and IEP's at SBP; Trampoline park at Home B; Big Red swimming (JCTC)

Feb. 21: Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes; Friendship Room and Schiappa Library (JCTC)

Feb. 22: Parents' Support Group at SBP 1:15 p.m.; Game Night at Home C; Prime Times, Rocky Road Gym and Big Red walk

Feb. 23: IEP's at SBP; Resident's choice; In-house activities; Mall walking

Feb. 24: St Patrick's Day craft; Mall walking for Home C

Feb. 25: Movie Night at Home; Resident's Choice for Home C

Feb. 26: Student Advocacy Group 1:15 p.m.; Resident Council meetings; STRV training at JCTC ; Big Red walk

Feb. 27: God's Choice; Big Red swimming

Feb. 28: IEP's at SBP; Decorate house for Easter/crafts at Shaffer; Friendship Room and Schiappa Library (JCTC)

# Winter Olympics Slated at the School of Bright Promise

In celebration of the 2018 Winter Olympics, students at the School of Bright Promise will be vying for medals of their own during a miniature version of the global competition on Feb. 15.

About 80 preschool through secondary students will represent countries around the globe and kick off events around 9:30 a.m. with a parade around the building.

Afterwards, they will head into the school gym to take part in altered activities based on actual sports. Principal Rachel Bodo said a similar event had been held in the past and officials thought it would be a fun way to mark the Olympics in South Korea.

"It's going to be the Winter Olympics, so we thought what a great way to include that into our school," Bodo said.

Each class selected countries they will represent, including Australia and Canada to Sweden and the United States. Some of the events on tap include speed skating, building a bobsled out of popsicle sticks, a scooter slalom, Wii bowling and a hockey shootout. Physical education teacher Janie Bodo is overseeing the games and winners will gain medals in the end.



## All-Stars Hold Court

The Jefferson County All-Stars are proving their mettle on the basketball court and have a series of matchups at home and away through February. Team members include, front from left, Johnny Abshire, Logan Briggs, Jarred Vojvodich, Lacey Karas, Kim Myers and Melissa Vargo. Back: Assistant Coach Joey Thomas, George Tingler, Josh McAlpine, Chris Sims, David Verhovic, Tom Pitts, Mike Harris and Coach Joe Thomas.

## Jefferson County Transition Team Formed

Local school districts and organizations are banding together to ensure future success for young people with special needs by taking part in a multi-agency endeavor.

The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities held the first meeting of the county Transition Team on Jan. 25 from on the second floor of the Towers Building in Steubenville. Alex "Cookie" West, employment navigator and community facilitator for the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities, said 45 representatives of school districts and local and state groups discussed ways to build opportunities for youth to smoothly transition out of high school and into the community, be it through work, volunteerism or higher education.

"We're talking about efforts to improve the quality of life for these individuals and their families. It was an initial meeting on what we'd like to do and we discussed the strengths and resources in Jefferson County and identify the barriers youth face following high school."

West said it will be an ongoing process and monthly sessions will be held to formulate plans so everyone has a chance to succeed. Among the groups involved are school districts such as Edison and Jefferson County

Joint Vocational School to agencies from the Family Recovery Center and Ohio Means Jobs to Urban Mission Ministries Inc., the Ohio Family and Children First Council, Tower of Power Church and Ohio Valley Youth Network, as well as community leaders. Chris Filler, Program director for the Ohio Center of Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), facilitated the first session while West will oversee later meetings.

"We're looking for this team to be in existence as we try to break through the barriers and have open, improved communication and support to transition youth with disabilities. We all have the same target goal for the youth to be successful through volunteerism, jobs and post-secondary education, whatever it is. This is to bring in a collective conversation with people who have an interest in our youth."

West said officials want to maximize services without overlapping, thereby creating more efficiency.

"I think this will be a win-win for the students and the community as a whole," she said.

For more information about the transition team, contact West at (740) 264-7176, Ext. 2118.

## Parents' Support Group at SBP

Parents of children with special needs have a place to go and share their experiences at a support group offered at the School of Bright Promise.

The first session was held on Jan. 18 and school Principal Rachel Bodo hopes more parents take the opportunity to participate with others in similar situations.

"We tried this in the past," she said. "We just want parents to be able to come in and talk amongst themselves and have a network. They can talk about things going on in their lives with families sharing the same thing, so they are not alone. If they also need resources, we want to provide that for them."

The latest session included a \$25 Kroger gift card giveaway to help participating families stay healthy and fed during the cold winter season. Monthly meetings are being planned with the next one set for Feb. 22 at 1:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

For more information, contact Bodo at (740) 264-7176.