

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF DD

A Message from the Superintendent

January 19th 2018

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 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.

Michael J. Zinno, CPA, MBA
Superintendent