



The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Jefferson County
BDD**

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A Message from the Superintendent

Giving at Christmastime and Beyond

While November is a time for giving thanks, in December we turn our thoughts to giving.

Giving to those less fortunate is an important aspect of one's well-being. To give from one's savings, whether it is in the form of time or money, makes our society better. Let us make a commitment

to give not only during December, but all year, the gift of our time and energy. Let us reach out to give the gift of conversation, a cup of coffee, lunch or inclusion in a club or a group of friends.

The individuals we serve in our program, particularly the adults, would be a great place to start.

Join me as I commit to do a better job on including our adults into our daily lives. Let us work together to bring forth community integration for all.

I want to wish you a wonderful holiday season, and more importantly, a happy and healthy new year.

JCBDD Announces New Adult Day Service

More changes are coming to the landscape of the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities with the addition of new adult day services in the community.

Superintendent Michael Zinno announced that JCBDD will be transitioning its adult program services as the program continues privatization efforts under federal mandates. PALS, which stands for "physical activity and life skills," is a Chrysalis Health company based in Gahanna, Ohio, which will begin supporting dozens of adult individuals long under the board's umbrella. PALS was formed by Mingo Junction native Aaron Bracone in 2012 and has locations in Heath and Columbus, while it offers an array of person-centered programs from residential services and community respite programs to vocational training and employment services. The goal is to help special needs adults become acclimated with mainstream society and all of the opportunities it brings.

"I am excited to announce the addition of a new day service provider for our county. PALS will be working with the county board and Jeffco to assure a smooth transition of Jeffco's adult day service

program," Zinno said. "The addition of PALS will create more opportunities and choices for those we serve. They are an established provider in several other counties throughout Ohio and the individuals we assist will continue to see quality services while ensuring health and safety."

A series of informational sessions will be held with one set for Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. at the JCBDD office near John Scott Highway to gather input for the three-year action plan.

PALS will utilize the Jeffco Training Center on Cherry Avenue in Steubenville in the interim but is seeking another location for operations, one that will be more suitable and ensure health, safety and community integration. Zinno said officials were studying what to do with the training center building and remodeling was underway at the workshop site behind the JCBDD office to centralize services on one campus. Many changes will occur behind the scenes around March 1 and PALS will become the provider of record with many of the same faces providing the service. Jeffco, which has been in operations for more than four decades, will re-

main in operation and continue to support developmentally disabled individuals. He noted that JCBDD will ensure a free choice of providers and will meet with each individual to provide options.

"Jeffco will be transforming its services as officials assess the needs of the developmentally disabled community. The Jeffco board is committed assessing the needs of the individuals we serve; however, the services will change over time and we will work to meet unmet needs," he continued. "PALS is a day service provider in a number of different counties and they are going to do business in a different way and will ensure health and safety first and foremost."

Meanwhile, Bracone was excited to return to his old stomping grounds and help people in the community. Among its current services are employment, life skills, education and health and wellness. Another is Art Outside the Lines, a community art studio that partners with local galleries and community members to showcase special needs adults' artwork in public buildings while teaching

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“Polar” Expressions

Secondary students at the School of Bright Promise raise their voices in song during a lesson with Aimee Carroll, music instructor at the Center of Music and Art in Wintersville. The Bright Promise Singers are preparing for their annual Christmas program, which is set for Dec. 13 for 12:45 p.m. This year’s theme is “Inspirations from The Polar Express,” which was selected by the school’s student advisory group, and pre-school through secondary classes will perform songs and scenes from the classic holiday story. Pictured with Carroll are, clockwise from left, Logan Briggs, Jarred Vojvodich, Dale McCoy, Isabella Wright, Cheyenne Monigold, Braden Blackburn and Jacob Wells. Also present but not pictured is Cheyenne Hooper.



SERVICE

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and coaching them to sell pieces and generate income.

“One of our core philosophies is to try to give as many options as possible,” he commented. “We came from a sheltered workshop mindset that didn’t help people feel like they had control over their lives. This program makes sure they have control and choices. We’re trying to look at PALS as a steppingstone and the goal of getting people to realize their dreams in life.”

Bracone said he began in the field of direct care after attending college and later became a program director, but he wanted to make an impact and drafted the business plan for PALS.

He got involved with Florida-based Chrysalis Health and continued to grow services in the Columbus area. However, he was grateful to have the opportunity to bring his concept back home to Jefferson County.

“There’s a clear need and you want to

do what’s best for the people you serve,” he noted. “I am thrilled and very excited. Just knowing the area, we are very proud to be from Jefferson County. We want to make it a smooth transition for everyone.

It can only benefit the people Jeffco serves. We want to improve the quality of life, options and opportunities. Providing people with endless possibilities, that’s what we do.”

For more information about PALS, go online to www.palschrysalishealth.com

Calendar of Events

Dec. 1: Christmas Movie Night (Shaffer A&C); Toronto Christmas Parade (Shaffer B)

Dec. 2: Make Your Own Sundae (A); Make Christmas Ornaments (B); Nutcracker Village (C)

Dec. 3: Business Professional Women (Employment Navigator/Community Facilitator); Music Practice (SBP); Christmas Movie (A); Resident’s Choice (C)

Dec. 4: Prime Time Senior Center Advisory Board (EN/CF); Music Practice (SBP); God’s Choice Church Party (A&C); Bowling League, Trampoline Park (B)

Dec. 5: Harding Middle School Visit (EN/CF); Lion’s Club Holiday Event (SBP); Bowling at Steel Valley Lanes (A); Festival of Lights (C)

Dec. 6: Music Practice (SBP); Nutcracker Village (A); Festival of Lights (B); Christmas Craft Night (C)

Dec. 7: Buckeye Local Jr./Sr. High Visit, Family Children First Council, Strengthening Families Learning Network (EN/CF); Music Practice (SBP); Game/Craft Night (A)

Dec. 8: Steubenville Christmas Parade (Shaffer)

Dec. 9: Bingo Night (B); Nutcracker Village (C)

Dec. 10: Jefferson County Christian School Visit (EN/CF); Music Practice (SBP); Christmas Light Ride (A); Make Christmas Cards (B); Wii Night (C)

Dec. 11: JCBDD Leadership Team Mtg., Kiwanis (EN/CF); Music Practice, Safety Meeting (SBP); Movies at AMC (A); Bowling League (B); Christmas Light Ride (C)

Dec. 12: Edison Jr./Sr. High School Visit (EN/CF); Music Practice, School Behavior Mtg. (SBP); Bowling at SVL (A); Festival of Lights (B)

Dec. 13: Multi-Agency Transition Youth Team Mtg. (EN/CF); Christmas Program (SBP); Nutcracker Village (A&B); Decorate Christmas Cookies (C)

Dec. 14: JCESC Special Educators Directors Mtg. (EN/CF); Game Night (A); Pizza Party (C)

Dec. 15: Residents’ Choice (A&C); Christmas Movie (B)

Dec. 16: Christmas Movie Night (C)

Dec. 17: Christmas Movie Night (A); Resident Council (B&C)

Dec. 18: Kiwanis Mtg. (EN/CF); Ugly Sweater Day (SBP); God’s Choice Church Party (A); Bowling League, Trampoline Park (B)

Dec. 19: Bowling at SVL (A); Home C Christmas Party (B&C)

Dec. 20: **Christmas Break Begins— No School until Jan. 3 (SBP)**; Coleman Professional Services/ Employment Provider (EN/CF); Make Christmas Cookies (A); Festival of Lights (B); Make Christmas Cookies (C)

Dec. 21: M&M Party (A&B)

Dec. 22: Residents’ Choice (A&C); Bake Cookies (B)

Dec. 23: Resident Council Meeting (A); Decorate Cookies (B)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Dec. 26: Festival of Lights (B)

Dec. 27: Build a Snowman (A); Go to Movies (B & C)

Dec. 28: New Year’s Crafts (A&C)

Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve Party (B&C)