



A newsletter about Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities programs, supports and staff

Community Recognition Dinner March 20

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities' 17th annual Community Recognition Dinner takes place Sunday, March 20 at the Savannah Center off Union Center Blvd. in West Chester. The dinner is a way for the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities to honor individuals and businesses for their work and dedication to support individuals with disabilities.

Nomination forms were mailed to families the first week of February and are also available online at www.butlerdd.org/calendar.

The deadline to return nominations is Friday, February 18. **Don't delay, send in your nomination form today!**

The 2011 Developmental Disabilities Awareness theme is "Together" - the awareness video and poster will be unveiled at the dinner.

TOGETHER

**The future is brighter.
We support possibilities.
We accomplish more.**

Spotlight on: Behavior Support Services

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities' primary goal is to meet the health and safety needs of individuals served in all programs using positive behavior supports. The Board's Behavior Support Services Department includes: Family Focus, Classroom Consultation, and Community Behavior Supports.

Community Behavior Specialists support adults living and working in the community. Classroom consultants support children in eight of the local school districts. Family Focus serves individuals living at home. Family Focus supports are obtained through a referral process, but there is no cost. Anyone eligible for Board services living in a family environment can request this service. A family environment includes parents and children, grandparents, foster families, siblings and extended family. There is no age limit. A Family Focus Specialist comes into the family's home weekly or as necessary.

Family Focus Services are designed to teach individuals a more positive way to communicate and interact with the goal of decreasing problematic behaviors. Family members also receive positive strategies and suggestions to improve relationships. The goal is to provide support and learning and above all, to keep families together.

For more information contact Kelly Girts, Supervisor of Behavior Supports, at (513) 867-5653.



10-year-old Matthew Powell of Fairfield is pictured with his mom, Patricia, and Family Support Specialist Linda Lassetter.

The top three budget challenges for 2011

The Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities relies on revenues from local, state and federal funds to support individuals who qualify for their programs. Because of the unstable economy those funding sources are coming up short, resulting in revenue losses for the Board. Due to planning and monitoring, the Board only spent 95 percent of its 2010 budget. The planned budget for 2011 is \$29 million, the same as in 2010. In better years the budget increased from year to year. This year's budget takes cost-saving measures into account but more reductions may have to be made, depending on changes in state, local and federal funds.

The top three challenges for 2011 are:

- 1) The new state biennium (two-year) budget is due July 1, 2011. The Board could lose almost one million dollars in state subsidies in addition to \$1.7 million in state waiver allocations.
- 2) The phase out of the Personal Property Tax (a tax leveraged to businesses) is due to start July 1, 2011, which means the Board will receive less in local tax revenues, to the tune of about \$2 million.
- 3) The Board currently collects about \$21 million from its local 3-mil continuing levy. There is usually a 2 to 3 percent increase in local levy revenues each year due to new construction, but in 2010 levy revenues actually decreased because local tax collections were down. It is unknown what kind of decrease will happen in 2011.

The Board operates under a long-term financial plan and the goal is to maintain supports to families and individuals as much as possible.

Stay updated with the Board's financial news by connecting to www.butlerdd.org/news.

Two new members join Board

Two new Board members, Dale French and Laddie Henninger, were sworn in at the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities' January 13 meeting. Mr. Henninger is a parent of a 42-year-old daughter who receives our services. Dr. French is Senior Pastor at Eaton Avenue Church of God in Hamilton and also teaches at Indiana Wesleyan University. Both were appointed by Butler County Probate Court Judge Randy Rogers.

Pictured below, from left to right, are Board members Dr. Dale French, Utawna Leap, Laddie Henninger, Board President Dr. Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Connie Sullivan, Richard Meier and Tony Yocco.



Supporting Possibilities

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