



For 32 years PersonnelPlus has been a leader in providing employment services for persons with disabilities. PersonnelPlus focuses on job training by matching individuals' skills and abilities with local Athens employers.

PersonnelPlus has the pleasure of welcoming three new team members. Julie Jones is our new Internship Coordinator and Barbara North-Moss fills the vacant Habilitation Specialist opening. We also welcome new Job Trainer Carey Tausch to the team.

Now, let's hear from some of our team members!

**Job Developer Josh Hilliard-** The last few months have provided several exciting opportunities to grow. In the last few months Josh has attended two trainings, one was organized by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the second was organized by the Association for Persons Supporting Employment First. Both events were excellent venues for networking, finding inspiration and learning emerging best practices. PersonnelPlus has also had several opportunities to make a positive difference in people's lives. Year to date, PersonnelPlus has placed seven individuals in jobs across the community. Job Development is a lot like washing the dishes, once you're finished, someone brings a cup to the sink. While we have placed several individuals there are still many more who are waiting for a difference to be made in their employment life.

**Transition—**So far we have 21 students approved for the Summer Youth Work Program. There will be two, five week sessions again this year. We have nine sites set up with local businesses that offer a wide range of experiences for those participating.

**Training Coordinator Stephanie Howell**—Stephanie has been working with a client, post-hire, on improving her relations with co-workers and addressing other issues related to working. Stephanie has been preparing for the Summer Youth Work Program by interviewing potential Summer Youth Trainers and assisting with work site development. She has been responsible for the new hire training with Julie and Carey as they start their employment. Stephanie has also been evaluating several new work sites.

**Habilitation Specialist Jordan Pepper-**Jordan has three people with newly opened VRP3 cases. They are moving right along the path to employment. Two others are actively doing internships at local businesses. One individual was asked back by the job site to do another internship with them in an expanded role! Jordan is also helping someone who is moving out of Echoing Meadows and into her own home to begin a volunteer position working with animals. Jordan is working with the Service & Support Specialists to transition to a new ISP format that is more person-centered.

**Habilitation Specialist Barbara North-Moss-** Barb North-Moss took training and obtained her certificate in Orientation to Supported Employment Web Course. This Web-based training is an introduction to the competencies for effective supported employment and all PersonnelPlus staff is required to complete. Seven lessons will cover the following topics: 1. Values, Definitions, History 2. Legislation, Funding, Ohio's Employment First 3. Roles and Rights 4. Supported Employment Process and Benefits 5. Career Planning, Discovery, Vocational Profile 6. Marketing and Job Development and 7. Job Design and Training, Natural Supports. This course should take between 12-20 hours to complete over a three-week period. This course is also available to anyone who may be interested. Barb has been meeting with several of her clients and attending ISP meetings and will be working with the PPAAC.

**Internship Coordinator Julie Jones-** Julie recently stepped into the role as Internship Coordinator after working as a Job Trainer supervising the crew at Appalachian Behavioral Health. An internship offers a chance to get out and explore work experiences and what it means to work, all with the security of having a professional trainer to offer support if and when it is needed. Julie is charged with the great task of meeting with individuals and helping them discover what they might be interested in pursuing as a career and then creating opportunities within the community where they can experience what these careers entail. Julie sets up experiences where people will be challenged and ultimately feel proud of what they accomplished— resulting in feelings of more self-worth and the confidence that they, in fact, CAN DO whatever they set their mind to! Julie has been using her skills and connections in the community to help set up numerous new internship sites that are allowing PersonnelPlus to offer more varied types of work experiences.

**PersonnelPlus Advocacy and Advisory Council-** In response to the recent devastating fire on the Square in Nelsonville, the PPAAC voted to make a monetary contribution. Deb Taylor, Facilitator of the PPAAC, visited and personally presented a check to both Stuart's Opera House and the Nelsonville Volunteer Fire Department. Way to go PPAAC! The PPAAC continues to thrive and has a lot of exciting things planned for the rest of 2015.



ATHENS H.S. CROWNS 2015  
PROM KING AND QUEEN



***Congratulations to our previous Beacon School student!***

Collin Hall was crowned king, and Alexis McCollum was crowned queen, of the 2015 Athens High School prom, held on April 25, 2015 at the Athens Community Center. Collin previously attended Beacon School and we are very proud of his accomplishments!

## **Important Information & Resources to Stay Informed**

- **County Boards of DD are now required to develop and implement plans to reduce the number of adults to whom they provide direct services.**

In response to the “conflict-free case management” federal regulations that prohibit a single entity from providing both direct services and case management services, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has revised its “Free Choice of Provider” Rule under Ohio Administrative Code 5123:2-9-11. Effective May, 1, 2015, the new rule requires County Boards of DD to do the following:

1. Establish and implement annual benchmarks to reduce the number of individuals to whom they provide day program, employment and transportation services. The benchmarks must include a description of the factors that were considered when establishing the benchmarks and the specific plan to reduce numbers served. DODD must approve these benchmarks and the reduction plan.
2. Establish and implement annual benchmarks for recruitment of sufficient non-County Board of DD providers of day program, employment and transportation services. DODD must approve these benchmarks. The benchmarks must include a description of the factors that were considered when establishing the benchmarks and the specific plan to recruit providers. DODD must approve these benchmarks and the recruitment plan.
3. County Boards of DD shall report progress on achieving the established benchmarks to the DODD twice per year in accordance with the schedule and format established by the department.
4. Compliance with the new Rule will be required on September 1, 2015 when the initial benchmarks and plans are due to DODD. Thereafter, progress reports must be sent to DODD on June 30 and December 30 of each subsequent year.

This new rule requirement significantly changes the future role of County Boards of DD. The ACBDD Management Team, with Board guidance, along with staff and stakeholder input via the upcoming strategic planning process, will need to develop a strategy and plans to come into compliance with this new rule. Special attention must be given to the welfare of individuals, families and employees during this process.

- **The Ohio Department of DD (DODD) is working to respond to outside forces such as the Governor’s 2015 budget plan and new federal regulations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).** The latest information concerning these efforts and changes with the system is being communicated through the *Pipeline* (a DODD publication) and a new tool called *Direct Line*. Individuals, family members, and independent providers should continue to following developments as they occur. You can access *Direct Line* at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/OurFuture/](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/OurFuture/) . In addition, you can sign up at the following link to receive the DODD *Pipeline* at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx)

- **If you have questions about Developmental Center closings or the budget bill** you can call a hotline set up specifically for that purpose. The DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline is 1-855-611-6446.

- **If you are interested in quick and easy to read System Summaries that provide overviews of key State of Ohio departments that serve families and youth,** as well as Tip Sheets written by parents for parents that offer insights and suggestions on a variety of topics, then check out Red Treehouse under Tips and Tools. Red Treehouse.org is a collaborative effort of the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, Inc. and Ohio Family and Children First. For more information, visit [www.redtreehouse.org/](http://www.redtreehouse.org/).



### -Mark your Calendars-

- June 1—Last day of School, Beacon
- June 23—ACBDD Board Meeting, 6 pm
- July 2-3—Atco program closed for Summer Break
- July 3—All programs closed, 4th of July
- July 28—ACBDD Board Meeting, 6 pm
- Aug. 17—ACBDD Kick-Off Day (stay tuned)
- Aug. 19—First Day of School, Beacon
- Aug. 25—ACBDD Board Meeting, 6 pm

## Staff Notes....

### New Hires—Welcome!

- 2/9—Julie Jones-Internship Coord., PersonnelPlus
- 2/25—Jennie Booth, Adult Svc. Aide, Atco
- 4/6—Barb North-Moss, Habilitation Specialist, PersonnelPlus
- 4/20—Jamie Hart, Service/Support Spec., SSA
- 5/19—Jay Swackhamer, Service/Support Spec., SSA

### Resigning Staff—Good Luck!

- 4/17—Wayne Savage, Passion Works Coord.—4 yrs.
- 5/30—Betty Churchheus, SSA—7 yrs.
- 6/3—Chris Stewart, Transition Coordinator—5 yrs.

### Retiring Staff—Thank You!!

- 3/1—Teresa Darst, Adult Svc. Aide, Atco—30 yrs.
- 5/30—Gloria Whipple, Adaptive Phys. Ed Instructor—35 yrs.
- 5/30—Joyce Bowers, Asst. Instructor—21 yrs.



The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Beacon School held a dedication ceremony on May 22, 2015 to dedicate the swimming pool in honor of Gloria Whipple, Adapted Physical Education Instructor, and her 35 years of service.

Ms. Whipple dedicated her entire 35-year career to the ACBDD and individuals with developmental disabilities. As one of the founding instructors of Beacon School, she has been instrumental in teaching children with developmental disabilities the skills associated with water safety, gross motor development, swimming, and team

sports. Ms. Whipple was recognized for her outstanding efforts and dedication towards making a marked difference in generations of children's lives.

The event was well attended by local county officials, staff, friends and family. Congratulations and thank you Gloria!

## BOARD MEMBER NEWS

### *New ACBDD Board Member Appointed*

*The Athens County Commissioners appointed Margaret Demko to the ACBDD Board effective April 21, 2015. Ms. Demko had previously served on the Board from Jan. 2007 to Dec. 2012. She held the position of Board Secretary in 2008-2011. In addition, she chaired the Program and Personnel Committees, and served on the Executive Committee during her tenure as a Board Member. Margaret comes to us with extensive knowledge in the DD field. Welcome back Margaret!*

### *Past ACBDD Board Member Recognized*

*Previous ACBDD Board Member Barb Brown-Lindsay was recognized at the May 26, 2015 Board Meeting for her many years of service to the Board. Board President John Day presented Barb with an OSU Buckeye Passion Flower in recognition of her dedication and service. Barb stated the gift represented two of her deepest passions, the ACBDD and the OSU Buckeyes.*

