



2019 Annual Report

athenscbdd.org

Our BOARD



We are grateful to our 2020 Board Members. These individuals are well respected in our community. They volunteer an enormous amount of time ensuring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive the highest quality of services in Athens County. The year 2020 marked the beginning term for Dr. Carolyn Bailey-Lewis.



Photo above: Back row from left to right, Dr. Leonard Allen; Pam Bond, Board Secretary; Margaret Demko, Board President; Dr. Kevin Davis, Board Superintendent. Front row from left to right, Dr. Carolyn Bailey-Lewis; Dr. Jason Jolley, Board Vice President; Sherri Oliver. Photo at left: Dr. Davis and Dr. Allen are seen working together during one of the ACBDD's strategic planning sessions.



Front cover: From left, Marcia Faires, ACBDD Supt. Kevin Davis, and Fred Cremeans walk together during the "10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls" community walk at the West State Street park, hosted by the ACBDD's Integrate Athens.

A message from our Supt: Let's connect, Athens County

The chosen theme for the 2019 Annual Report is "Let's Connect." Those of us at the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) chose this theme because we understand the value and the impact connections can have for a person, whether it be in person, over the phone, or online. A new connection can lead to a friendship, a professional relationship, a learning opportunity, and a chance to better understand someone different from you.

One way we at the ACBDD help promote connections is through our Annual Report. This year through pictures, we have highlighted our biggest developments, each of which involved a special connection of some kind.

Some of the highlights from 2019 include the launching of the Office of Integrate Athens and the ATCO Legacy Fund; participating in the first-ever Polar Bear Plunge, which raised over \$8,000.00 for our school's PTA, and introducing the Appreciation Awards that recognize exceptional work from our staff.

Each of these developments get us closer to our vision, which is an integrated and inclusive Athens County. As always, we know we could not have done any of this without the support of community members like you. There are few counties in Ohio that show the level of commitment and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities like Athens County. We know we are truly fortunate.

We thank the Athens County community for continuing to support the ACBDD. This past year, we assisted nearly 680 individuals with developmental disabilities stay safe, achieve their dreams, and live the fullest life possible.



ACBDD Supt. Kevin Davis reconnects with a friend, Emily Demko, daughter of ACBDD Board President Margaret Demko.

We hope you enjoy these photos highlighting our milestones from 2019.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Davis".

Dr. Kevin Davis, Superintendent



Our Leadership Team



Back row from left to right: Autumn Brown, Integrate Athens Director; Mary Ann Smathers, EI Developmental Specialist; Kris Dunlap, IT Manager; Dick Suehrstedt, SSA Director; Steve Kramer, Finance & Operations Director; Scott Zielinski, Medicaid Manager; Megan Stack, Health Services Coordinator; Butch Withem, Facilities & Transportation Director. Front row from left to right: Gwen Brooks, HR Director; Katie Evans, MUI Coordinator; Arian Smedley, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Kevin Davis, Superintendent; Becky Martin, Education Director; Doug Mitchell, Employment Options Director; Tristin Lawrence, SSA Manager.



Attendance and excitement increased for the second annual "March on Court Street" for Disability Awareness during March.



This year's summer camp at Beacon School was the first one managed by ACBDD staff, and it reportedly was the best one yet!



2019 saw a number of improvements to the Beacon School/ ACBDD Administration building, including an expanded parking area.

About Our Agency

Since its inception in 1957, the ACBDD has provided individuals opportunities to learn, grow, and enrich their lives. We provide quality services by assessing individual needs and creating individual plans. We help to integrate individuals with developmental disabilities into their community as valued citizens.

Our Mission & Vision

Our mission is to serve our community with compassion, innovation and transparency.

Our vision is an integrated and inclusive Athens County

Our Core Values

Respecting Everyone
Spending Responsibly
Thriving Communities
Working Together
New Ideas
Openness
Honesty
Reliability



Dar performs with his air guitar during the 10th ATCO Idol talent show, hosted at Stuart's Opera House.

Highlights from 2019 in photos



The Albany VFW Post 9893 hosted their first Polar Bear Plunge at Lake Snowden. The event raised over \$8,000.00 for Beacon School's PTA.



ACBDD Supt. Kevin Davis accepted the invitation to participate in the annual Boxing for Books event, which raised the most funds ever for Trimble Local Schools. His match against County Commissioner Chris Chmiel ended in a draw.



The ATCO Legacy Fund launched its inaugural funding cycle in the spring of 2019. Proposals from five organizations, including Sech-Kar, totaled \$10,000.00 and focused on integration and inclusion initiatives.



The Office of Integrate Athens, directed by Autumn Brown (third from the left), launched at the start of 2019. In its first year, it established a number of new community connections and new initiatives focused on integration and inclusion.

Highlights from 2019 in photos



For the first time, all Beacon School students received breakfast and lunch at no cost to their families.

Highlights from 2019 in photos



After collecting input from the community, Beacon School adopted a new mascot in late 2019. “Ray” made his first appearances in early 2020 and is already a favorite among the students.



The newly formed Positive Culture Committee gave out its first staff appreciation awards to Beth Graham (Jacque White Legacy Award) and David Sincoff (Think Outside the Box Award).



This year, Beacon School expanded its preschool program. The school now has two preschool classrooms, one for those age 3 and those age 4. Here we see Supt. Kevin Davis posing with little Logan and his parents during the school’s Open House in August.



With help from Integrate Athens, Dan Schoonover officially launched the Athens Artisan Co-Op Shop on Columbus Road. It is the first fully integrated shop of its kind in the region.

Highlights from 2019 in photos



The "Step Into Work" program, which is designed for those with complex needs, successfully completed its first session in the summer of 2019.

Highlights from 2019 in photos



Job Developer Angela Carter received an Honorable Mention for Professional of the Year by The Arc of Ohio. Angela's years of experience, drive and hard work have led to record job placements over the past three years.



Beacon School successfully hosted the second annual Help Me Grow Holiday Party, which is open to all families enrolled in our Early Intervention Program.



Bottom left photo: The ACBDD installed examples of assistive technology in Beacon School's model apartment to help families better understand what it looks and feels like. Bottom right photo: Supt. Kevin Davis started "Chats with the Superintendent," which were open to all stakeholders to come and talk about the agency.



Highlights from 2019 in photos



This year, the ACBDD hosted the first-ever county-wide planning meeting to help improve special education services with our community partners. Superintendents and Special Education Directors from Nelsonville-York, Alexander, Federal Hocking, Trimble, Tri-County Career Center, the Athens-Meigs ESC, and the Athens City Schools attended. The outcome of the meeting resulted in a Beacon School Success Plan that prioritizes integration and inclusion efforts between Beacon School and the six other county schools.

In Memorium: Jacque White and Jacob

In 2019, we lost two longtime members of the ACBDD family. Jacque White, who passed away in January, was a driver. Jacob, who passed away in August, was a student in our Young Adult classroom.

Jacque started driving for the ACBDD in 2002. She had the most positive attitude any of us have ever encountered. Jacque had an excellent relationship with all her fellow employees and all the individuals she served at ATCO and Beacon during her tenure with the ACBDD. Her positive demeanor inspired the creation of the Jacque White Legacy Award.

Jacob was an amazing young man who was loved



by everyone. He was part of our Beacon family for 14 years, most recently in the Young Adult class. He started at Beacon at the age of 3 in our preschool program. Jacob is dearly missed by his family and friends.

2019 by the Numbers

676



Number of adults & children assisted by the ACBDD

104%



Percentage increase in individuals assisted in 2020, compared to 2010

399

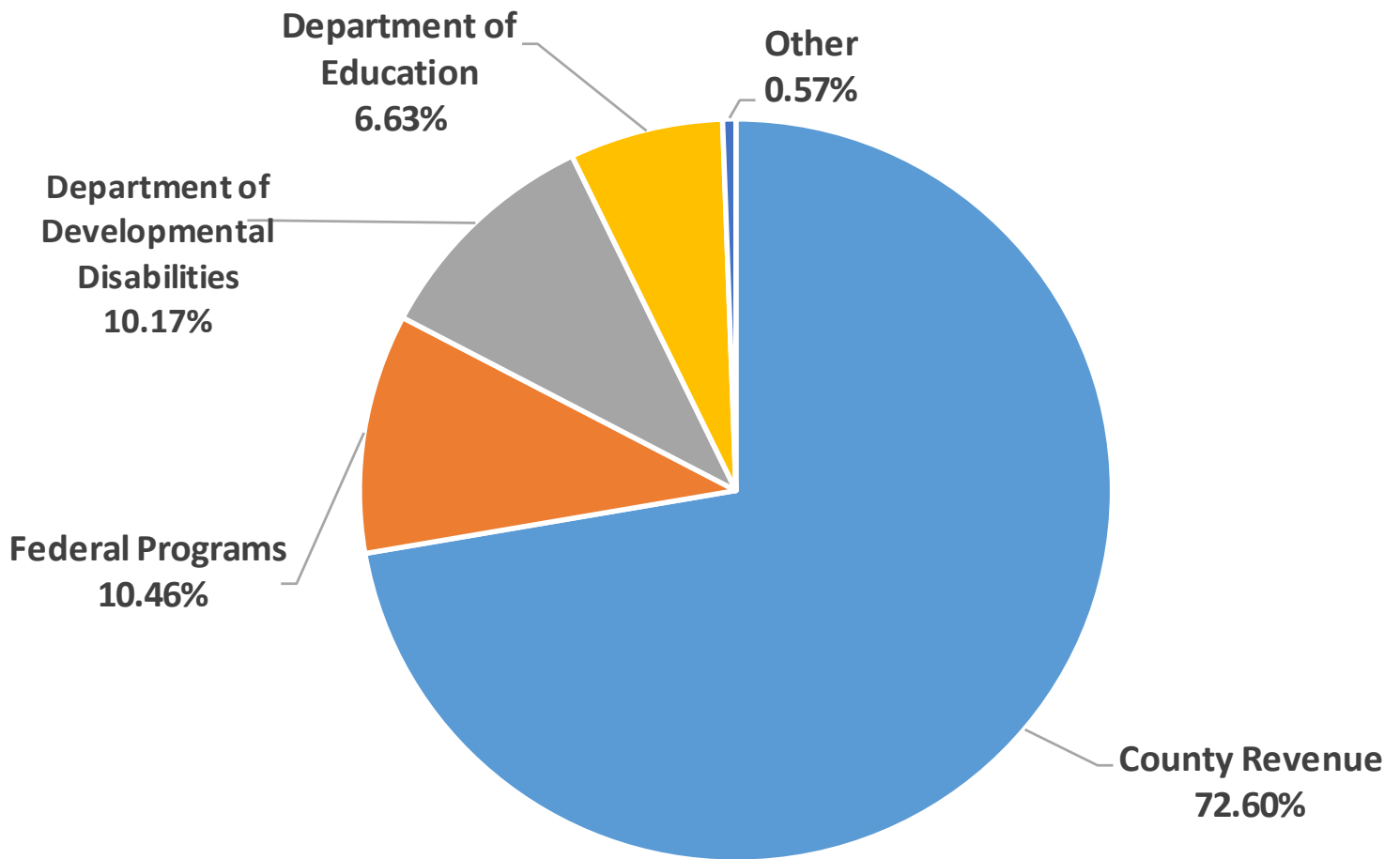


Number of individuals receiving case management services through our Service & Support Division



In addition to participating in the 2019 Ohio University Homecoming Parade, the ACBDD also won First Place in the float decorating contest.

2019 by the Numbers



Total Revenue: \$10,606,413

178



Number of individuals who received help from *PersonnelPlus* to find and retain employment

77



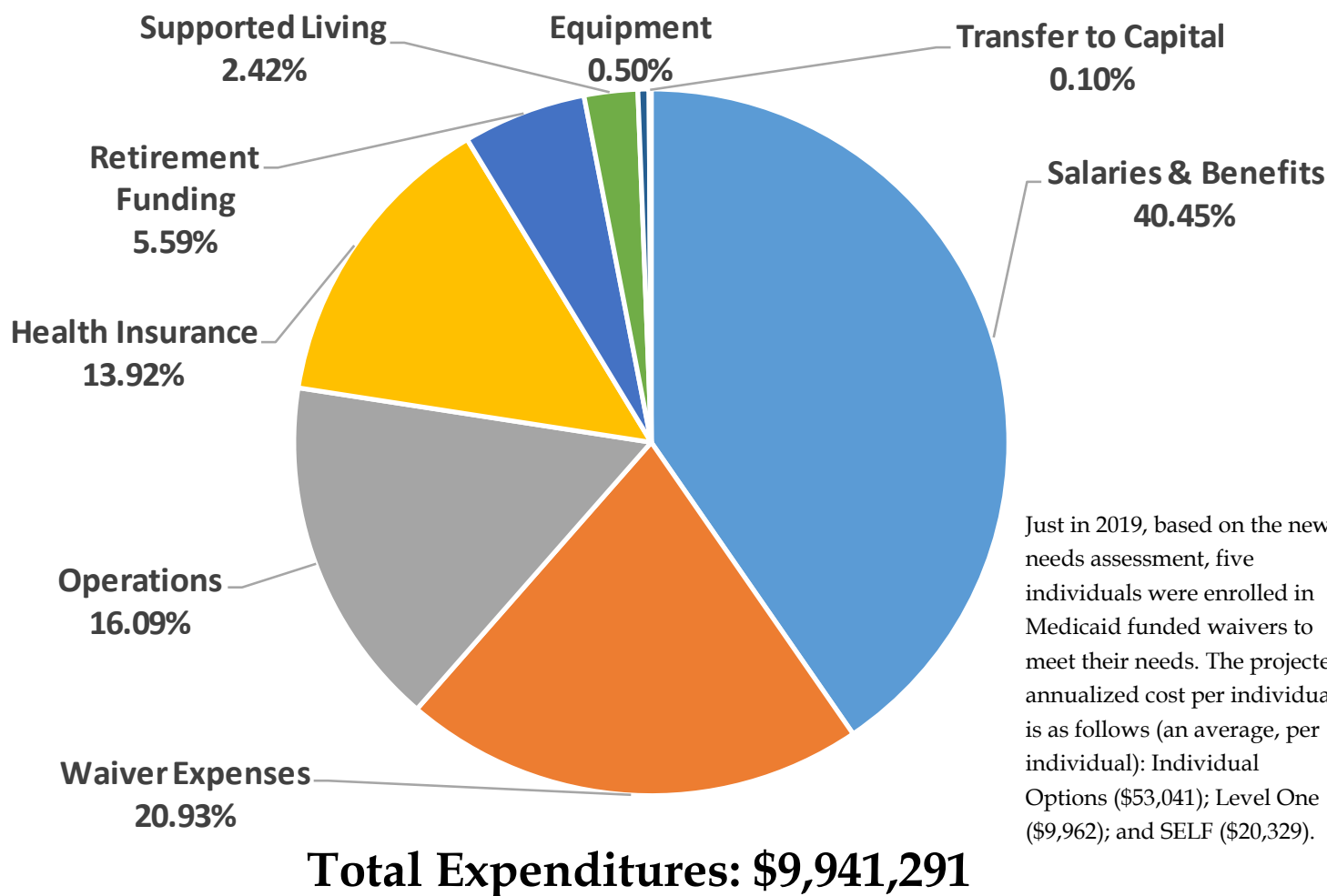
Number of young people age 3-21 who are enrolled in our Preschool and Beacon School

\$8,000



Amount invested to help launch the Line 7 Pilot, which expanded bus routes to Albany and Nelsonville

2019 by the Numbers



62



Number of children from birth through age 3 participating in Early Intervention

203



Number of individuals supported to live safely in their chosen community setting

59



Number of individuals on the Wait List at the end of 2019. This is down from 222.

The ACBDD In 2020 and beyond

In the years to come, we will continue to work toward our mission of creating an integrated and inclusive Athens County. Specifically, we plan to focus on these areas:

Employment



We will identify and place up to 15 individuals with complex disabilities in jobs that match their preferences and skills. We will do this by providing Job Seeking Skills Training to individuals, which will further assist them in successfully transitioning into paid community employment.

HCBS



In 2020, we anticipate enrolling up to four individuals to receive home and community based services (HCBS). These services will be phased in based on the assessed need of the individual and the use of the free choice of provider process.

Other Inclusion Efforts



For individuals we serve of all ages, we will continue to help them build resiliency and expand their opportunities in the community. We will do this by building partnerships that support inclusivity, expand educational expectations, enhance supports for our workforce, and encourage natural leadership abilities.

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Kruze takes a moment to pause and smile
with his blue toy pig.



ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES