

Getting Vaccinated:

Individuals served and staff start receiving their doses of COVID-19 vaccine



Brent Bay, of S.O.A.R. (one of many providers that serves individuals in Athens County), received his vaccine in Vinton County.

We spent much of 2020 masked up, socially distant, or on lockdown. As difficult and stressful as the year may have been, it ended on a high note – with the start of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. It is a glimmer of hope that the pandemic may soon come to an end.

However, the slow pace of distribution – a simple product of limited vaccine availability – is a sober reminder that we have a long way to go. Adherence to health guidelines (mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, etc.) is still a must for the foreseeable future.

Vaccine distribution

Starting late December, the Athens City-County Health Department has successfully hosted a number of vaccine clinics for those eligible for Phase 1A (those living and working in congregate settings).

In collaboration with the health department, several ACBDD staff members are working quickly to get the word out to individuals served and providers, to ensure everyone who is eligible is notified and has the time to decide whether to get it. Of all the doses of the vaccine administered to date, around 120

The ACBDD helping health department plan for Phase 1B rollout

were individuals served by the ACBDD and their staff.

Next phase – 1B

The next phase of vaccine distribution is called 1B and covers people with developmental disabilities with certain underlying health issues (not just those living or working in congregate settings), those over the age of 65, and school personnel.

The ACBDD has continued to help the health department collect some information and get the word out about Phase 1B.

Vaccine distribution and the ACBDD

We at the ACBDD have been committed to doing our part to protect those we support and our staff from COVID-19. We did this by shifting the majority of our staff to working remotely, closing the school temporarily, instituting remote learning when needed, and adopting comprehensive safety protocols for when staff are in the buildings. This practice extends to the vaccine. Staff are not required but are encouraged to receive the vaccine, if they are able to safely receive it. The same goes for individuals we serve. Any questions about a person’s ability to safely take the vaccine should be directed to a family doctor.

Next steps

Individuals served, area providers, and our own staff will be hearing from the ACBDD as we help the health department prepare for the next phase of the vaccine rollout. We will share information as we receive it, but we may not have all the answers to your questions right away.

We still encourage you to ask questions of us, of your personal physician, and other medical professionals.

No one is required to receive the vaccine, but they are encouraged to receive if they can do so safely. We see this as an extension of all the other health protocols we have all followed to protect those we serve against the virus.



(Photos above and below) Several provider staff from across the region were also able to take advantage of some of the early phases of vaccine distribution.



Caregivers Jason and Heather Jolley show off their vaccination card after receiving the first dose of their vaccine.

Beacon School resumes in-person instruction in early January

Public access to agency facilities still limited

Beacon School resumed in-person instruction on Monday, Jan. 11, for all students who chose to return. In-person instruction takes place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday every week. Wednesday is again reserved for deep cleaning of the school building and virtual learning activities for all students. Families still have the option to keep a student at home for full-time remote/virtual learning.

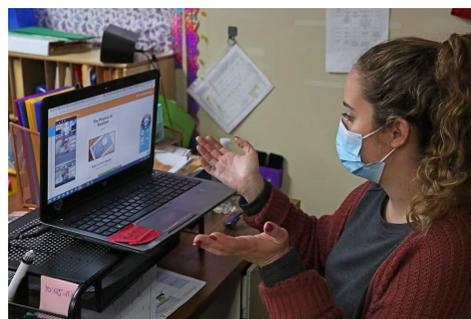
Staff will continue to follow all the safety protocols put in place in late summer, even as school personnel plan to receive the vaccine.

This year's school routine has seen a number of changes, but we are incredibly impressed and grateful to the staff, the students, and the families of Beacon School for their patience, flexibility and understanding. All of these adjustments have been made out of an abundance of caution and with the best interest of all in mind.

In early December, we had closed all our buildings to the public again and ceased all non-essential in-person activities until further notice. This was due to the continued and worsening community spread of COVID-19 in the county. (The agency fully closed in March and then started a "soft" re-opening in late August, with the understanding that things would change based on the rate of community spread.)

All services have continued agency wide (as they have since March), just in a mostly virtual way. Board meetings have also continued to be hosted remotely. There will be some exceptions for departments that have to do work in-person.

Even with Beacon School resuming in-person instruction in early January, access to the our buildings will still be limited to essential staff and essential activities until February 1. By that date, we will begin another "soft" reopening of our agency. While our offices might look a little different due to the new safety protocols, the level of service remains the same.



One-time increase in FSS funds provides \$23K to families in need

As of early December, the recently-approved special FSS funding for COVID expenses provided just over \$23,000 to families in need. SSAs worked diligently and quickly to make sure eligible families were able to take advantage of this additional support. One family was able to purchase needed

food. In addition, they were able to buy household cleaning supplies, and soap and sanitizer to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Another family was able to secure several learning/sensory toys to enhance both homebound learning and play.



Remaining funds used to purchase ham, turkey for Beacon families

The remaining funds allotted for the one-time initiative mentioned above were approved to be expended in another special way.

We purchased either one turkey or ham for each Beacon School family. This one-time purchase was another way of easing a small burden for the families we support during one of our most challenging years.

We can only do these sorts of things with the support of the Athens County community.

We thank you, Athens County, for supporting what we do!



Individuals stay engaged with help from DSPs and providers

During these challenging times, we have been impressed and grateful for the dedication and creativity of our Direct Support Professionals and provider agencies. They have shown, time and again, their resiliency and commitment to those we serve.

Here are just two examples:

Robin and Mary, two long-time friends, were able to meet up together via Skype, thanks to the help of their DSPs. Neither Robin nor Mary have their own laptops, and so the DSPs shared their equipment to make the meet-up possible.

Our friends Jim and Bill have enjoyed spending their time at home doing things like completing art projects and decorating their own masks.

Thank you to all of our county’s DSPs and providers for supporting these efforts and helping those we serve remain engaged while also staying healthy and safe.

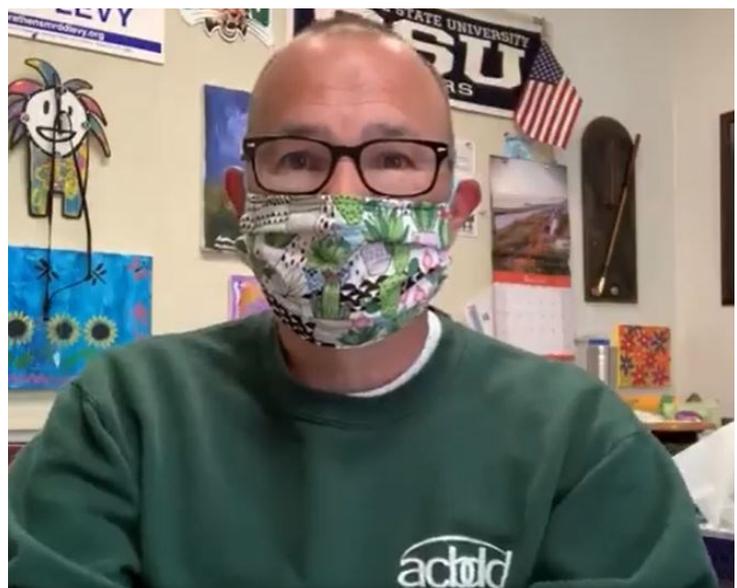


Supt. joins others in PSA on importance of wearing a mask

“I wear a mask because the individuals and families I work for deserve to be healthy and safe just like everyone else.”

- Supt. Kevin Davis

Thank you to Supt. Davis for leading by example and wearing a mask when out in public. Also, thank you for helping to get this important message out to the community by participating in this Public Service Announcement sponsored by the City of Athens.



Since March, SSAs delivered over 350 food boxes to families

The pandemic has changed many things in our lives, including the day-to-day jobs of our SSAs. Much of their attention has shifted to focusing on the health and welfare of those we support. This has meant ensuring individuals have enough food and other basic needs met.

Between March 2020 through the end of December 2020, SSAs delivered 358 food boxes to the households of individuals who receive ACBDD services. These food box deliveries continue to this day.

The role of the SSA has always been important, but it has become even more so during these times. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to helping those we have been charged with protecting.



Staff continue to adapt their work during times of COVID

During these times of COVID-19, we encourage everyone to wear masks and keep a distance to stay healthy and safe. If an in-person meeting is deemed necessary, it is better if it is hosted outside, even as people plan to receive the vaccine.

This has not impacted our ability to do our jobs in any way. Our staff and the individuals we serve have adapted well.

Mark, one of our SSAs, has remained diligent about meeting with others outside, as we see here.

We thank everyone for taking this virus seriously and for doing this work in a safe and responsible way.

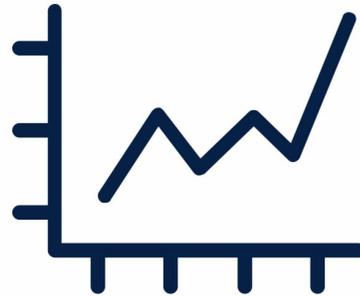


Antibody test clinic for all staff



In addition to the flu vaccine offered to staff this past fall, staff were also given the option of participating in a COVID-19 antibody testing clinic. A positive result would tell someone they had the virus in the past. Results from the test were sent directly to the staff member.

Tracking COVID's financial impact



Thanks to the diligent work of Steve Kramer and Scott Zielinski, we have kept a close eye on the financial impact COVID-19 has had on the agency's budget. They have been so precise, they have received praise from state-level entities. Thank you, Steve and Scott!

"Pete the Cat" masks donated



We would like to announce a huge "Thank you!" to Mrs. Liz Koon Hoisington for the wonderful Pete the Cat face mask donation. The students at Beacon School will love it. We appreciate her efforts trying to keep us all safe.

DSP recruitment efforts continue



We continue our attempts to recruit more Direct Support Professionals. We need them now more than ever. As we hear of interested candidates, we will forward them on to all the providers in the county for their consideration.

Food program makes and delivers nearly 12,000 meals to Beacon students from March - November



Once school was back in session on January 4, we went right back to making and delivering meals to Beacon School students. Since the start of the pandemic, we have sent home over 12,000 meals (both breakfast and lunch). We thank the staff members who help make this happen every school day. We are also grateful to Texas Roadhouse in Athens for their second donation of dinner rolls.



6,053
Breakfasts



5,930
Lunches



11,983
Total Meals

New HVAC system installed in Beacon gym

In the forty plus years that Beacon School has been standing, the gym never had air conditioning. After several years of planning, the installation of a new HVAC system began last spring and finished by late summer.

This new air conditioning system will now allow gym use for all (Beacon and the public) - even during the summer months.

We look forward to our students, staff, and community enjoying this upgrade. Many thanks to the Board for authorizing this project.



Staff engagement survey



For the second year in a row, we launched a survey to measure staff engagement at the agency. We will use this information to help guide plans moving forward. We were glad to see improvement from last year's survey, and we hope to continue on that trend.

Pay increased for sub bus drivers



We recently increased the hourly rate of all current and new Substitute Bus Drivers (from \$14 to \$15). We are hopeful this increase will make our pay rate competitive. We also hope it will assist with recruitment and retention. Spread the word!

Leadership Athens County graduate



Congratulations to Katie Evans, our MUI Coordinator, for successfully graduating from Leadership Athens County, a year-long program run by the Athens County Foundation. Well done, Katie!

Staff development plan created



For the first time, the agency has a Staff Development Plan. It lists over 200 examples of the ACBDD's investments in professional development in the last 12 months. It also highlights new strategies for how to more directly help individual staff members formulate career goals and monitor progress.

ACBDD shows appreciation for DSPs of Athens County

For National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, our staff made and delivered gift baskets to Athens County agencies that hire DSPs. We also shared special social media posts, sent out a press release, and sent thank you cards to independent providers.

Athens County has over 200 individuals who work as a Direct Support Professional (or DSP). DSPs assist people to live as independently as possible, realize their full potential, and help become integrated and engaged in their community.

Thank you to all the DSPs of Athens County for the wonderful things you do every day!



ACBDD adopts Juneteenth as paid holiday

We are proud to announce that the Board of the ACBDD voted recently to make Juneteenth (June 19th) a paid holiday beginning this year.

In other ways of embracing inclusivity and better understanding diversity, the ACBDD now recognizes Indigenous People’s Day, updated our Affirmative Action Plan, and arranged for diversity training for all staff and Board members.

The ACBDD is committed to diversity and inclusion. We support all of our staff members, all of the people we serve, and all members of the Athens community.



Plaque commemorates 1989 state championship Special Olympics win

We are happy to display our new plaque recognizing the 1989 Beacon Blue Devils State Basketball Championship win. It replaces a hand drawn flyer that was hanging in the gymnasium. We think this is a great upgrade! Thanks to Red Tail Design Company and Tim Martin for designing and creating.



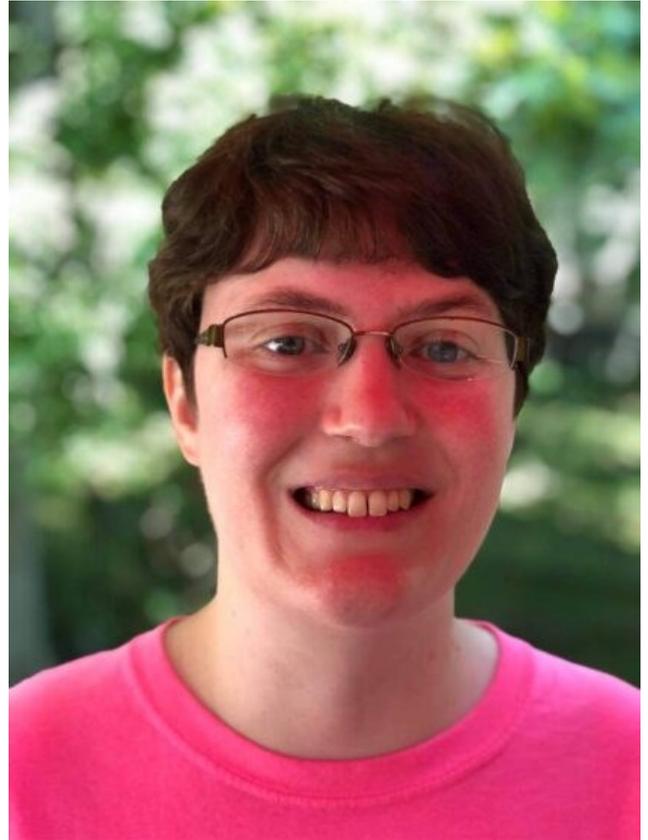
Katie Conner joins the ACBDD board

We recently introduced Katie Conner as our newest board member. She was sworn in by Magistrate Jonathan Perrin on behalf of Judge Robert Stewart, at the Athens County Courthouse.

“It is critically important that an individual who receives our services be able to have a voice in its oversight,” said Supt. Davis. “No matter how hard we try, we cannot replicate first-hand experience. Katie is a strong advocate and incredibly aware of the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities in Athens County. We look forward to working with her and experiencing what she brings.”

Identifying an individual who receives services to become a board member has been a priority for Supt. Davis. As a leader in integration and inclusion, it was important for the ACBDD to once again have adequate representation on its board.

“I am honored to serve on the Board and look forward to speaking up for others with disabilities like me,” Conner said.



Board Vice President elected to OACB and ARC boards

Dr. Jason Jolley, the ACBDD’s Board Vice President, was recently elected to the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB).

This comes on the heels of his recent election to the Board of Trustees of The Arc of Ohio.

Congratulations, Dr. Jolley! We are proud to know you are providing a voice for Athens County and Southeast Ohio with these state-level organizations.

“I have a steep learning curve,” Jolley said. “But I’m excited to be part of two organizations working to build a stronger and sustainable system for serving people with disabilities.”



Megan and Ruth given special recognition at in-service

Megan Stack and Ruth Robertson were recognized during our December virtual in-service for their hard work, and innovation. Megan received the “Jacque White Legacy Award” and Ruth won the “Celeste Salzman Think Outside The Box Award.” This marks the second time the ACBDD is issuing these special recognition awards, developed by the staff-run Positive Culture Committee.



Jacque White Legacy Award

Jacque White was a bus driver for the ACBDD who was loved by the people she served, the students of Beacon, and her co-workers. She faithfully worked behind the scenes, cared deeply about her job, and the individuals served, and performed her duties consistently. She did this, not for recognition and praise, but out of a serving heart.

The nominee for this award should exude her same spirit, passion, and hard work. The recipient will be someone who consistently does their job well in order to make the system work for all individuals served.

In her nomination letter, Megan is described as “always receptive and helpful. She treats everyone with kindness and respect. She is trustworthy and reliable both professionally and as a friend or confidant.”

Celeste Salzman Think Outside The Box Award

Celeste Salzman was a Job Trainer through ATCO, Inc.

for over 28 years. She was dedicated to finding creative solutions to challenging situations to help the individuals she assisted be able to succeed in their jobs. Her creative approach meant more successful outcomes and rewarding results.

The nominee for this award should be a staff person who has implemented a specific creative/innovative idea that helped improve a process of someone's life. They have exhibited exceptional innovation and creativity, contributing to positive results.

In Ruth’s nomination letter, she was commended for her help with implementing the plan for bringing students back into the building during the pandemic. "She worked with her infamous spreadsheets to design a plan that work for teachers, students, supportive staff, families and the bus drivers...This is what Ruth does on any given day: figure out a way to 'make it work.'"

Congratulations again to you both!

Three staff graduate from OACB’s leadership program

We are proud to share three more staff members have graduated from the OACB’s Executive Development Program. Steve Kramer, Gwen Brooks, and Scott Zielinski completed the training in December 2020. The latter part of the year transitioned to virtual experiences, like most everything else in our professional lives. Congratulations to you all, and we appreciate your commitment to your own professional development.





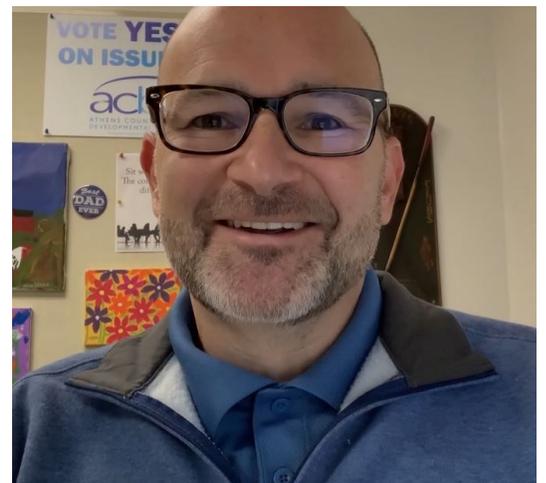
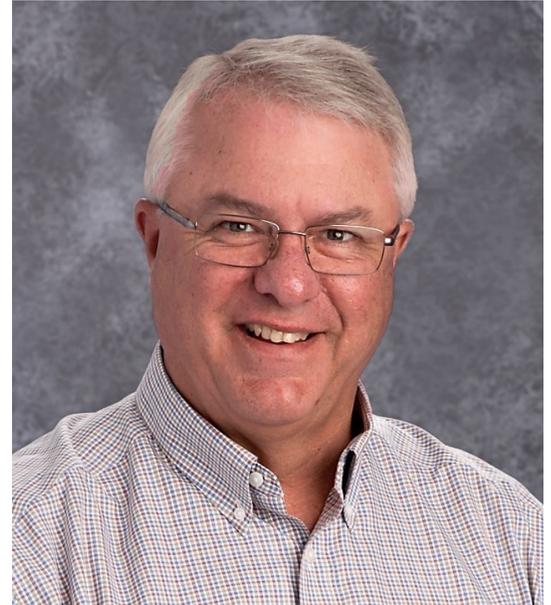
Service & Support
Athens County Board of DD

ACBDD, SSAs, community & family recognize and celebrate Dick Suehrstedt's retirement from agency

It was a bittersweet moment to send SSA Director Dick Suehrstedt off into retirement. Dick's time with the ACBDD was relatively short— only 4 years—but his impact would suggest otherwise. His positive influence will be felt at the ACBDD for years to come.

COVID prevented us from celebrating as we would have wanted. But with Tristin Lawrence at the lead of his virtual celebration, it was still a memorable and thoughtful send-off. Several people sent their well-wishes in a video tribute (a few are pictured below) and many others joined a surprise virtual party.

Dick's incredible career of service ended on a high note, with a successfully completed DODD accreditation review. This is just one of many accomplishments for Dick during his time with the ACBDD. We are grateful to call him a colleague and friend, and we wish him the absolute best in retirement.





Service & Support

Athens County Board of DD

ACBDD welcomes the SSA Department's new leadership team

Please join us in welcoming the new leadership team for the ACBDD's Service & Support Administration Division.

Tristin Lawrence (left) is now the SSA Director, and Audra Harrison has become the new Manager.

We are excited for this new chapter for the SSA Division, and we look forward to the good things we will do with the help of Tristin and Audra. Here they are posing with Supt. Kevin Davis.



Bethany Rivera selected as Good Life co-facilitator

Congratulations also to Bethany Rivera, one of our SSAs, on being selected to serve as a Good Life co-facilitator with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. She will still be with us and serve as an SSA, but she will also help the OACB during training sessions to lead discussions and review concepts of The Good Life.

The Good Life is a "new mental model" that focuses on the ability of professionals to show compassion, appreciation, and respect with the individuals we serve and with our peers.

Bethany has been a longtime Good Life advocate. She has even written a Good Life song. Congratulations on this recognition, Bethany! We look forward to seeing all that you do.



Employment Options

&



PersonnelPlus
Employment Services

Still the one in Athens County after 30 years!

PersonnelPlus receives 3 year CARF accreditation!

The staff of PersonnelPlus is pleased to announce they received the highest CARF accreditation rating that an organization can get (which is three years).

Preparing for an accreditation review is a labor intensive endeavor, and so we are proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing to provide exceptional services for years to come. Well done, everyone!



Partnerships help make virtual Summer Youth a success

Every summer, the ACBDD's PersonnelPlus has provided a youth-focused work program for students with disabilities in Athens County. This summer, of course, has looked a little different due to COVID-19.

With some creative thinking, help from area businesses, and support from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), we were still able to successfully provide this service all online.

We would like to thank our community partners for their support and help with this year's program.



BRENEN'S
coffee cafe



Karen's Pampered Pets

THANK YOU

Employment Options &



PersonnelPlus
Employment Services

Still the one in Athens County after 30 years!

Congrats to the 2020 Trailblazer Award Winners!!



Employee of the Year — Laura

Laura was selected as Employee of the Year in recognition of her stellar work ethic and continued superior work throughout the year. Laura has been a dedicated and conscientious employee with Ohio University Dining Services for 20 years. Her supervisors always have great things to say about the work Laura does, and we are excited to recognize her!



Visionary Award—Jackie O's Pub and Brewery

This year's Visionary Award goes to Jackie O's Pub and Brewery. The Visionary Award is presented to a business or individual in the community that has demonstrated a strong interest in the mission of PersonnelPlus, as well as a desire to become an integral part in ensuring individuals with disabilities are provided opportunities to work in the community.



Trailblazer Award for Business—Lowe's

Lowe's has been a great partner and has hired numerous people with disabilities over the past several years. Lowe's also was very generous by donating PPE and cleaning supplies to the ACBDD in the spring when supplies throughout the country were scarce.



Trailblazer Award for Business Leader —Dan Paul of Texas Roadhouse

Dan has worked to make the business inclusive and currently 5 people who receive services through PersonnelPlus have been hired. Three of those were recently hired, even during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thank you, Dan and all the staff at Texas Roadhouse for your support and partnership!



Ambassador Award—Ohio University Dining Services

OU Dining Services has worked with PersonnelPlus for over 21 years and has hired over 13 people during that time. Staff are always accommodating when new employees are hired and need special trainings or modifications. The employees of the dining halls make all the individuals feel like part of the team.



David Welch Award—Blane

The David Welch Trailblazer award recognizes an employee who has not only proved to be an excellent worker, but also demonstrates personal achievements in their lives. Blane is the perfect example of such an individual with his 8 years of service at Kroger of Athens.



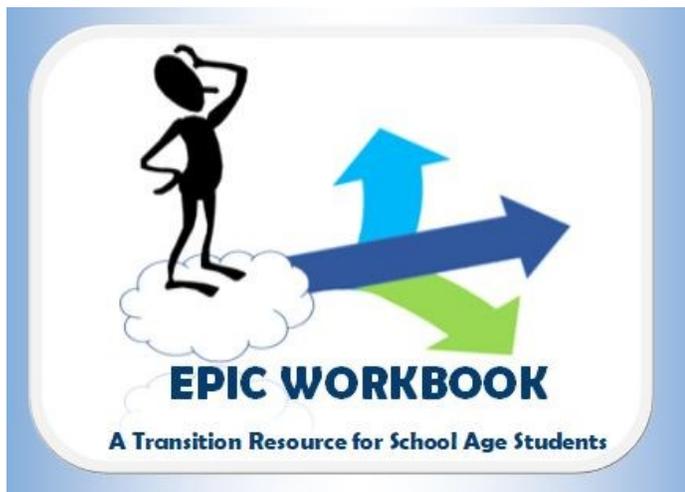
Integrate Athens continues to grow and strengthen in second year of operations

Integrate Athens completed its second year as a division of the ACBDD. Despite enduring a majority of the year under pandemic restrictions, we are proud of the various resources developed and launched by the IA team.

They have enhanced connections within the Athens community and they continue to help all our divisions find ways to be more integrated and inclusive. We look forward to all that they will do in the next year.



Coming soon: EPIC Elementary



The Integrate Athens team is currently working on an EPIC Workbook specifically for teachers and families of elementary-age students. The team has already developed a workbook for transition-age youth. EPIC stands for Educational Path to Independence and Community. These resources are designed to help ensure development activities are intentionally introduced to children to spark ideas and conversations about what they want to be when they grow up.

Welcome Tim Wasserman



As our new COMCorps FANs Coordinator, Tim has been developing Friend, Allies and Neighbor Connections in each area school, hosting virtual Movie Night and other fun ways to make connections safely. His role is understandably very different this year due to the pandemic, but we are confident in his abilities to get creative and make positive connections throughout the county.



A father of a 30 month old recently sent a text message to his Developmental Specialist exclaiming: “She told her momma ‘love you’ the other night and she knows more of her colors and knew her colors before her nephew....soooo....she’s coming along great! She’s also walking more without being prompted!”

In other EI news, the Developmental Specialists continue to successfully provide family services virtually. This has been true statewide. It has gone so well, in fact, that it is recommended that once in-person visits resume, EI will continue to offer virtual visits as an option. This is one silver lining to our transition to remote work.



In addition, the Athens County Early Intervention Team is happy to announce two new members—an Occupational Therapist and a Speech Language Pathologist. We are proud to have such a diverse and collaborative team serving our county’s youngsters.

In another piece of good news, Athens County’s team recently received a 100% compliance rating on its service coordinator documentation. We appreciate the wonderful team of providers for working collaboratively to ensure each child receives timely services in Athens County. Thank you to our amazing service coordinators for taking care of all the paperwork for each IFSP. We think is additionally impressive because of the team’s transition to virtual services in mid-March and still received 100% compliance.



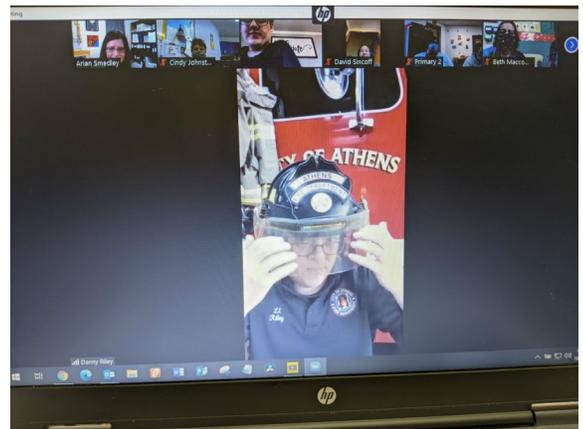


Wellness grants helps fund initiatives on trauma and building resiliency

Beacon School and other county schools were invited to participate in a wellness grant that focuses on creating a trauma-informed work and school environment, and building resiliency of students and staff.

We are grateful to be a part of this program (funded through the 317 Board), and have started a number of initiatives as a result. For example, students received an individualized Beacon Ray Care Packet earlier in the year. The packet contained things like soap and hand sanitizer, an age-appropriate book and an individualized item that was selected with each student’s educational goals and interests in mind. We have also started an enhanced staff appreciation program, which has since recognized Kris Dunlap, the agency’s IT Manager, and a “classroom of the month.”

Another goal of the program is to help strengthen positive relationships with first responders. To do this, we have arranged for virtual visits with Athens Fire Department, the Athens County Sheriff’s Department, and Athens County EMS. We greatly appreciate this funding opportunity and the community collaborations it has enabled us to cultivate.



Save the date: Polar Bear Plunge set for February 13

One of Beacon School’s biggest fundraisers is coming soon. The third annual Polar Bear Plunge will take place on Saturday, Feb. 13, at its traditional location of Lake Snowden in Albany. With the Athens City-County Health Department’s approval, organizers will be assigning each individual/team a specific time for their plunge.

This event has brought in over \$20,000.00 for the school’s PTA. These funds are used to pay for school field trips, special events like Water Day, and celebrations throughout the school year. We hope you can join us on Feb. 13! For more details, including information on how to register, visit: www.athenscbdd.org/polarbearplunge2021.





School still finds way to celebrate holidays during pandemic

For Halloween, Beacon School hosted a drive-by Trick-or-Treat event. The entire Beacon School staff showed up in costume and passed out goodies as the students drove by. And thanks to the financial support from Beacon School's PTA, our teachers selected special gifts for every student around Christmastime. We appreciate everyone who helped make these safe events possible.



Grant helps provide crisis intervention training to staff

Thanks to \$4,000 grant from the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation, Beacon School now has a certified trainer from the Crisis Prevention Institute. Carissa Trunzo, instructor in the Intermediate II classroom,



volunteered to become the trainer and attended the “train the trainer” sessions this summer through CPI.

The Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) is an international training organization that specializes in the safe management of disruptive behavior.

CPI training for staff was then conducted over the fall.

PTA shows appreciation to drivers, custodian, cook

Thanks to the financial support from Beacon School’s PTA, each of the school’s bus drivers, custodian, and cook were given a “thank you” card and gift card. This was the PTA’s way of showing their appreciation for this group of staff for their hard work and dedication, especially during these last few months. We are proud to have such caring people as part of our Beacon family.



The ACBDD in the news

Beacon School to being year with a hybrid format

The Athens Messenger—July 30, 2020

Beacon School to being year digitally, with limited in-person instruction

The Athens NEWS—August 4, 2020

National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

The Athens Messenger—September 14, 2020

ACBDD’s newest board member brings important perspective

The Athens Messenger—September 22, 2020



At the ACBDD, #WeAreThankful

During the month of November, a month often associated with giving thanks, we took the time to reflect on our year, both good and bad. Even with the challenges we've experienced in 2020, we found there is still plenty of reason to be thankful. We invited staff and friends of the ACBDD to share their personal reasons for being grateful. Here are a few responses:



"I am thankful I got to go fishing a lot with my family." - Brian



"I am thankful we have been able to provide some much needed therapies and school related services this year to children like Brayley. Everyday we provide in-person services (even in a limited form due to the pandemic) is a day to be grateful." - Supt. Kevin Davis



"I am especially thankful for my cat, Angel." - Pam



"I am thankful for the amazing community partners and other ADS and HCBS providers that we have in Athens County." - Rachel

In Memorium

Earlier this year, we were sad to share the news of the passing of two friends of the ACBDD.

Matt Wible was a longtime advocate for accessibility, equality, and marriage rights for people with developmental disabilities. He was a 19-year employee working with the Ohio University Culinary Services, a career he was very proud of. He was a life-long fan of the Alexander Spartans, Ohio University, and Joe Burrow (even though Joe was a bulldog). Matt’s humor and quick wit brought joy to so many! He will be greatly missed.

Mark Cullison was the director at ATCO for many years and also served as the director of PersonnelPlus for a period of time. Mark and Autumn Brown led the ACBDD through the ATCO Transition. They did so with dignity, class, respect, and a commitment to keep the focus on those individuals/families we served. Mark made a difference in the lives of those he worked with at ATCO and became a good friend to many of us. Mark was a true champion and advocate for all. He will also be greatly missed.



Please welcome our organization's recent hires!



Tristin Lawrence
SSA Director



Sarah Hunter
Physical Therapist Assistant at
Beacon



Audra Harrison
SSA Manager



Tim Wasserman
FANs Coordinator at Integrate
Athens (through COMCorps)



Amy Goldsberry
SSA



Carol Janes-Tinkham celebrates 40 years with ACBDD

Over the summer, we formally recognized Carol Janes-Tinkham on her 40 years of service to the ACBDD.

Yes, really, 40 years of dedicated public service to Athens County!

We appreciate all that Carol has done for the agency and for her hard work over the years. While we did formally recognize her during our in-service, we certainly think that sort of commitment is deserving of more celebration. So please join us in celebrating again our longest-serving, fiercely dedicated and reliable co-worker. Congratulations, Carol!!



Work Anniversaries

August

David Sincoff – 18 years
Letha Conner – 18 years
Lyn Justis – 10 years
Sam Dunlap – 10 years
Cindy Johnston – 7 years
Tina Wilson – 6 years
Gwen Brooks – 4 years
Becky Martin – 4 years
Bethany Rivera – 3 years
Susan Cablish-Kristofco – 2 years
Leslie Lazio – 2 years
Carissa Trunzo – 2 years
Ruben Arroyo Santiago – 1 year
Tricia Congo – 1 year
Angela Mosher – 1 year

September

Sue Orth – 19 years
Doug Mitchell – 18 years
Greg Grimm – 17 years
David McNelly – 6 years
Emily Finsterwald – 6 years

Heather Clemons – 5 years
Connie Davis – 4 years
Wes Kline – 4 years
Janet Wallisch – 3 years
Marcus Dobro – 3 years

October

Deborah Dixon – 29 years
Butch Withem – 23 years
Cressie Chaney – 22 years
Mark Shivers – 21 years
Mary Ann Smathers – 19 years
Audra Harrison – 18 years
Barb North-Moss – 16 years
Tristin Lawrence – 10 years
Megan Stack – 7 years
Ruth Robertson – 7 years
Jayne Hart – 4 years
Angela Carter – 4 years
Stephanie Kendrick – 2 years

November

Autumn Brown – 23 years
Jodi Mitchell – 19 years
Steve Kramer – 7 years
Margaret Casey – 7 years
Kevin Davis – 5 years
Tracy Gillum – 5 years
Kendall Dearing – 5 years
Robert Hutchison – 4 years
Josephine Queen – 3 years

December

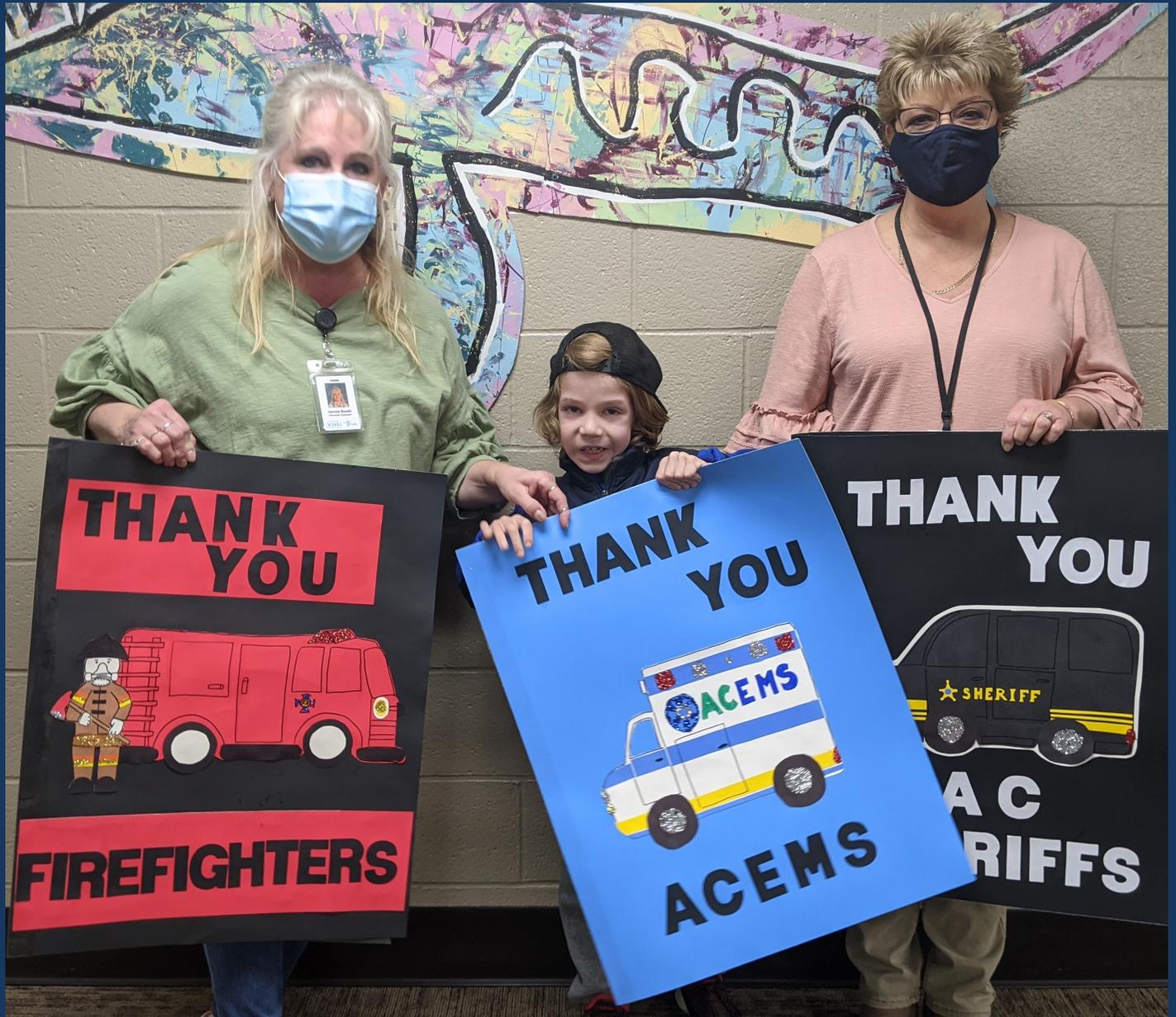
Beth Mccombs

January

Cale Hagen – 5 years
Amy Fronck – 4 years
Heather Dikis – 4 years
Tim Jones – 4 years
Jordan Hite – 4 years
Caitlyn Lowe – 3 years
Lisa Fierce – 2 years



At the ACBDD, #WeAreThankful



All of us at the ACBDD are thankful for the Athens Fire Department, Athens County Sheriff's Office, and Athens County EMS for working with the students of Beacon School, even during these times of social distancing.

We are also grateful for the work that they, and all first responders, do to keep our communities safe.