



Person Centered Supports Focus of *imagine* Project

The Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards along with the 15 other County Boards in southeastern Ohio and the Ohio Department of DD have spent the last two years working together on a project that will have significant meaning to the people we serve in the future.

A comprehensive review of the system of support - how we have operated in the past and what we want the future to be - has resulted in the *imagine* Project, a new way of thinking that will ultimately transform the developmental disabilities' system in Ohio.

Imagine is about spending less time on paperwork and more time with people.

Imagine is about doing away with long, unproductive ISP meetings and developing flexible plans.

Imagine is about new technology that will empower the person, provider, family and the SSA.

Imagine is about respecting the person and building meaningful relationships within his or her circle of support.

The core concepts of *imagine* are what the BHN Alliance has focused on for several years. Simply stated, it is a common sense approach that acknowledges the wants and needs of the person first, and then framing supports so life takes shape the way he or she sees it, not the system.

With support from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the governor, barriers are being removed and the system is being redesigned to

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Board President Retires

It's been nearly 20 years since Belmont CBDD president Jay Rodak began his volunteer service to people with disabilities. Rodak's term is expiring at the end of this year, and his long and distinguished service was recognized at the November 7th meeting of the board.

Rodak served on the Belco Works' Board of Directors before his appointment to the Belmont County Board where he has served for 12 years, the last four as president.

Rodak was presented with an original acrylic created by Stephen Kohut, an artist whose work is sold at The New Corner Store in St. Clairsville.

A surprise visitor at Rodak's last meeting was Monty Kerr, former BCBDD Superintendent who served with Rodak and is now a Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of

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The Gift of Warmth

Gina models one of the shawls that she volunteered to make as Christmas gifts for elderly shut-ins this season.

The shawl-making activity was a partnership between Paramount Support Services, Walmart and Thoburn United Methodist Church. Eighty no-sew shawls were made on December 2nd and blessed the following week before being distributed in the community. Activities like this are developed by Paramount so the people it serves can volunteer alongside everyone else in the community.



Change Your Thinking and You Change the World

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” -Einstein

Albert Einstein was a genius, yet many of the things he said were simple truths. When I found the quote above, I realized that it speaks to where we've been and where we are going in the developmental disabilities' field and how important our thinking is.

Decades ago we thought people with disabilities were better off segregated, in institutions living with tens, maybe hundreds, of other people who were all isolated from their community. Thankfully, we changed our thinking. Yes, it took some time, but today we understand the importance of seeing the whole person, not just the disability. This has led to more opportunities for individuals to lead lives in the community, not apart from it.

The Board's vision for the people we serve is a simple one - that people are valued for who they are and what they bring to the community. In order for people with disabilities to be valued *by the community*, they must be *in the community*. That has been our goal for the last few years as we have worked to locate opportunities for people to learn, work, and live alongside everyone else. To accomplish this goal we are developing partnerships with local schools, providers and organizations. Together we are finding creative ways to help children and adults join the community.

Through our partnership grants we are supporting providers who are locating or developing community employment options. Our collaboration with the public schools has meant that children have what they need to succeed in the same educational setting as their peers and siblings.

By listening to the people we serve, we learn that what they want and need is not always what we think it is. This helps us target services for each individual and what a difference this makes in their lives! It has made a difference for us as well. When services are targeted and we partner with others, we find increased efficiencies that lead to financial stability for the Board. This stability is vital if we are to serve more people with less funding in the future.

We continue to change the way we think with each new person who comes to us with goals and ambitions of their own. It is incumbent upon us to listen and be open to new ideas and ways of supporting them.

I am grateful for all those who have changed their thinking and now understand the value of living, learning, and working alongside people of all abilities. Together, we are changing the world for us all.

Stephen L. Williams, Superintendent

People First Event



Yvette Gray (left) points to an assortment of photos taken of activities that People First-Belmont County took part in during 2012 as Phil Dolan, Belco Works' board member, and Vicki Jewell look on. This photo was taken at the annual People First picnic held in August at Barkcamp State Park. People First is a self-advocacy group with chapters in counties throughout Ohio. For information on the local chapter, call 304-242-1019 or 740-695-9408.

Imagine *Continued from Page 1*

support this innovative, collaborative, respectful, common-sense approach to supporting people with developmental disabilities.

imagine is entering its pilot phase and you'll begin hearing more about it in the coming months. To date, many staff members have received training in Person Centered Thinking (PCT) and important quality concepts, as well as the use of tools that will help individuals, families, providers and the County Board work together.

If you would like to learn more about the *imagine* Project concepts, click on <http://tiny.cc/imagineTheTimeisNow> or check it out on YouTube at JUSTImagineRVCC

Partnering with Those Who Serve and Protect

When situations arise where people with disabilities need the support of law enforcement officers, the Belmont County Board has made sure those officers have access to information they may need.

The Board has distributed a card with its 24-hour emergency number – 740-310-2255 – to all police departments, the sheriff’s office, and Highway Patrol. This number is manned by County Board personnel who can provide assistance to the officers when they come across situations where people with disabilities are in distress or are the targets of suspected abuse, neglect and other crimes. The number is available 365 days per year.

“We value the services provided by law enforcement officers, who protect all citizens and this is a way we can support them,” said Stephen L. Williams, Superintendent of the Board.

The Board’s Incident Reporting Department is also available to assist during regular business hours. The MUI



Coordinator is Melanie Ritz, who is available at 740-695-0407, ext. 346.

“Part of our role in the lives of people with disabilities is to ensure their health and safety, and we thank these officers for partnering with us in this effort,” Williams added.

Medicaid Services Management

Medicaid Waivers are one funding source that County Boards use to meet the support needs of eligible people. To date, the boards of the BHN Alliance manage 188 waivers, but it’s not just about the numbers. It’s about getting to know people and their unique needs. That is what Jennifer Lohan, the Medicaid Services Manager does, as part of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) team.

At the November board training, Jennifer and SSA Team Leader Darlene Pempek gave an overview of Medicaid Services, all the different waivers that are managed and the role of the MSM.

Waivers allow individuals to live in community settings with supports, rather than in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) or other congregate settings. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities currently administers three waivers: the Individual Options (IO) waiver, the Level I (LI) waiver, and the new SELF Waiver. Administration of the TDD waiver (formerly the Home Care Waiver), will be added in January 2013.

There are financial and eligibility limits to what the waivers pay for, all based on a standard, state formula. Adjustments are

continually made as people’s lives change and Jennifer pays close attention to this process to ensure they receive what they need.

Some boards contract waiver administration to a council of government or other entity. The boards in the BHN Alliance assumed the task many years ago to gain ownership of the process.

“By making the commitment to bring waiver administration in house, we added to the quality of services and our efficiency,” said Darlene Pempek, SSA Team Leader. “We know the people we serve, so it made sense to be the one authorizing their services.”

The primary role of the MSM is approving the amount of services the individual receives. This activity is the PAWS, or Payment Authorization for Waiver Services, a cost analysis the MSM provides that helps the Service and Support Administrator complete the individual service plan.

Darlene noted that the Medicaid Service Manager supports the SSAs so they can spend less time on paperwork and more time with the people they serve.

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Developmental Disabilities. Kerr was on hand to present Rodak with a Distinguished Service Award from the department that drew attention to his visionary leadership and focus on new and creative initiatives that enhanced the lives of people with disabilities.

As Rodak accepted the honors, he said, “This board has had some quality individuals and it’s been a pleasure serving with the current board and past members,” Rodak said. “We were able to do a lot of good things and changed how services are provided to accomplish the best for people with disabilities.”

County Board Superintendent Stephen Williams (right) presented outgoing Board president Jay Rodak with an original acrylic created by artist Stephen Kobut. Rodak’s volunteer service to people with disabilities ends this year.



Belmont College SGA Supports Children with Autism

Children with autism and other disabilities now have a little 'wiggle' room in the course of their day, which means they have a place to run, jump and play when classroom work becomes a little overwhelming and they need to expend some energy. Belmont CBDD was already developing The Wiggle Room, another sensory option for the children, when a donation came in from the Student Government Association (SGA) at Belmont College.

The SGA conducted autism awareness and fundraising activities earlier this year and donated the funds raised to the School of Hope, the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities' school program, and the Augusta Levy Learning Center, Wheeling. Nearly \$1500 was divided between the two agencies that support children with autism.

The Belmont CBDD designated the donation for The Wiggle Room, which gives children with autism and other developmental disabilities a way to expend energy so they can perform better in the classroom. It contains colorful mats, a specially-designed trampoline, ball pit, rock wall and other items. Students draw on their gross motor skills like jumping, climbing, and sliding to use up excessive energy and regulate their sensory systems.

The Wiggle Room is another resource for children with disabilities and the Board is grateful for the students' interest and their generous donation.

The Belmont College Student Government Association presented a donation to the Belmont CBDD for The Wiggle Room, a place where students with disabilities can use up excess energy to help them perform better in the classroom. SGA members are pictured in the Wiggle room with staff, from left: Lea Sicurella, Autism Support Coordinator; Stephanie Turner, Intervention Specialist; Bronte Showalter, Early Intervention Specialist; and Everett Mace, Children's Services Director.



Autism Facts

- Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation \$137 billion per year
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

Source: Autism Speaks
www.autismspeaks.org

Public Forum in January

The Board of Developmental Disabilities will hold its annual Public Forum on Thurs., January 17, 2013. Interested parties are invited to visit the Board offices at 330 Fox-Shannon Place, St. Clairsville, anytime between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. The annual survey will be available for individuals to complete.

TEAM Consulting Marks Decade of Service

TEAM Consulting marked 10 years of service to persons with disabilities in 2012 and celebrated this milestone in October.

TEAM Consulting LLC was founded by Karen Fisher in 2002 as a provider of vocational rehabilitation services in Old Washington. In January of this year, TEAM purchased a building at 109 Washington Street in Bethesda to serve a growing number of Belmont County residents with developmental disabilities.

According to its website, TEAM assists people with disabilities, those who are otherwise disadvantaged, unemployed or underemployed, or those who have current job retention problems. It is accredited by CARF (Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities).

TEAM has expanded services and recently changed its mission to ***Building Brighter Futures Together by Creating Hope.***

For more information, visit www.teamconsulting.org or call 740-484-4330.

Mixed martial arts competitor Travis “The Terror” Clark (fourth from left) was on hand to sign autographs for those who attended the TEAM Consulting 10 Year Anniversary Celebration on October 27th. TEAM is a for-profit provider of vocational services for people with disabilities.



CARF Accredits Belco Works

CARF International has accredited Belco Works for a period of three years for its Community Employment Services (Job Development, Job Supports, and Job-Site Training) and Organizational Employment Services programs. This endorsement is the second consecutive three-year accreditation that CARF has awarded to Belco Works.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. Belco Works has been providing vocational services for adults with developmental disabilities in Belmont County since 1966.

CARF is an independent, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.

The Boss

Oscar Niemann, aka Skip, commanded respect dressed like a gangster boss and won the Costume Contest at Tomorrow's Corner this Halloween. Pretty Boy Floyd never looked so good!



ACROSS THE COUNTY BOARD

Two new staff people have come on board in recent months serving the BHN Alliance, the collaboration between the Belmont, Harrison and Noble County Boards.



Glenda Myers

Glenda Myers is an Early Intervention Specialist with the BHN Alliance. Glenda holds a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. Most recently, she worked as an Adjunct Instructor with Argosy University Online. Her background also includes six years of teaching experience including preschool and in-home instruction. Glenda resides in Bethesda with her husband and two young sons.

Andy Bresiger is the newest Service and Support Administrator, who will assist with the added responsibilities of the Transition Waiver. For the last five years Andy has been employed as a residential supervisor with Paramount Support Services where he provided oversight to staff who worked with individuals with developmental disabilities. In that role, he also worked with SSAs in Belmont, Monroe and Noble counties. Andy holds a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education and has worked as a Special Olympics assistant coach in Belmont County. He lives in Shadyside with his wife, April and daughter, Aubrey.



Andy Bresiger

Children's Services - Everett Mace joined the Belmont County Board in August as Children's Services Director. He oversees the daily operation of the Board's school and community-based programs and oversight of the early intervention program. Everett holds a master's degree in school psychology and has been involved in supporting and leadership roles in the education of children with disabilities for 27 years, most recently as the Special Education Coordinator at Union Local. Everett lives in Wellsburg, WV.



Everett Mace

Retirement Announced - Joyce Liberati - We extend our best wishes to **Joyce Liberati**, who retired in October after nearly 26 years at the School of Hope.

Welcome Back - Karen Datkuliak - Retiree **Karen Datkuliak** has come out of retirement to drive the Powhatan Point bus route. Welcome back, Karen!

The Great Pumpkin

Ayzic, Crystal, Noah, and Mark enjoyed a fall field trip to Barnesville where they played on the Amazing Playground at the park, ate lunch at McDonald's and walked around the Pumpkin Festival where they posed for this photo in front of the King Pumpkin. The students enjoyed a full day of fun and new experiences with Miss Dawn, Miss Cindy and Miss Stephanie.



BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER



Amanda provides a screen against Bellaire Head Basketball Coach J.R. Battista so Erin can take a shot in the first benefit basketball game of the 2012-2013 Special Olympics' season, played Nov. 27th at Bellaire High School. The Belmont Eagles prevailed against the team of Big Red coaches. Proceeds from the game were divided between the Bellaire Athletic Fund and Special Olympics-Belmont County. Benefit games like this are included in the Eagles' season as a way for the players to give back to the community which supports their efforts all year long. To learn more, contact Special Olympics-Belmont County Coordinator Tom King at 740-359-7432.



2012-2013 BELMONT EAGLES BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
DEC. 4	CARROLL	AWAY	6:00
DEC. 6	MONROE	HOME	5:30
DEC. 11	COSHOCTON	AWAY	6:00
DEC. 18	HARRISON	HOME	4:30
JAN. 3	MUSKINGUM	AWAY	6:00
JAN. 10	TUSCARAWAS	HOME	6:00
JAN. 22	HOLMES	HOME	6:00
JAN. 24	MONROE	AWAY	5:30
JAN. 29	JEFFCO	AWAY	6:00
FEB. 4	TUSCARAWAS	AWAY	6:30
FEB. 7	MUSKINGUM	HOME	6:00
FEB. 12	JEFFCO	HOME	6:00
FEB. 19	COSHOCTON	HOME	6:00

**Encouraging, Supporting and Respecting
People on their Journey through Life**



Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

It is published to inform and educate individuals served and their families, staff, providers, and others in the community.

To submit an article or subscribe, please call or write to:
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Tune In When It's Bad Out

When the weather turns bad and snow, wind or icy rain affects the roads, the Belmont County Board of DD may delay or cancel transportation and other services it provides. Announcement of two-hour delays and cancellations for the School of Hope and Board of DD Transportation is broadcast on the following TV and radio stations:

WTRF TV 7
WTOV 9
WBNV
JACK FM
KOOL FM
WWVA
WOVK
WEGW
WKWK



Winter weather also means the driver may drive slower than usual for safety reasons. That means the bus or van may be a little late. If you have questions, refer to the BCBDD Transportation handbook or call 740-695-7420 weekdays 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

330 Fox-Shannon Place
St. Clairsville, OH 43950



LITTLE PILGRIMS



Preschoolers Hannah and Drayden wore happy smiles as well as pilgrim hats and bonnets for the annual Thanksgiving meal served by Miss Sharon and Miss Pam in the School of Hope cafeteria.



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in your In
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