



INSPIRE

EMPOWER

SUPPORT



Delaware County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

**2017**  
Annual Report



Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities

## Our Mission



To inspire, empower, and support people  
to achieve their full potential.

**Looking back on 2017 I am proud of the incredible year we had. We have the privilege of serving over 2,700 people and their families in Delaware County. Determined to serve people to the best of our abilities, 2017 was a year of considerable achievements and positive change.**

## **Achievements**

The year 2017 marked 50 years of service by county boards throughout Ohio. We were thrilled to celebrate this monumental milestone during our Block Party in October. While we are undoubtedly proud of this achievement, it would not have been possible without the continuous support of our community leaders and citizens who have faithfully passed our levies that allow us to carry out the important work of our mission.

We made significant progress on our 2017-2019 Strategic Plan this year, completing over a third of our action items. An additional 22% of our initiatives are in process allowing us to touch over 50% of our Strategic Plan in just one year. Community employment for adults who receive services is a key initiative of our Strategic Plan and in 2017, we saw a 10% increase in community employment! Another

important initiative of our Strategic Plan worth highlighting is our commitment to education and training. We held several educational forums for the community throughout the year and our staff attended over 140 trainings.

Our community engagement grew leaps and bounds in 2017. We participated in several county-wide events such as Trunk or Treat, Source Point's Health and Wellness Fair, Safety Town, and school diversity days. We also hosted several of our own awareness events like the very popular Sensitive Santa, Block Party, and Holiday Art Sale.

In November, current Board President Louis Borowicz was elected as a trustee to the Ohio Association of County Boards. Louis will represent the North Central Region of Ohio. We are very excited to have him serving as our representative. He will have a seat at the table to advocate for positive change for people served.

## **Positive Change**

In one year, we implemented new service delivery methods in both Early Intervention and Service and Support Administration and experienced departmental restructuring. The Early Intervention department took the Core

Team approach from a pilot program to practice. As of September, we had three Core Teams serving our county based on geographical location.

Service and Support Administration implemented the new Person-Centered Planning initiative, allowing us to better understand what is important to and for the people we serve. In addition, the SSA department improved our Self-Directed Plans. Perhaps the most significant change was the restructuring of the SSA department which allowed us to decrease caseload sizes. With a smaller caseload, SSAs now have the ability to develop a closer connection with people and families that we serve.

Yes, in 2017 we made *significant* accomplishments. So much so, that during our Accreditation Review in February of 2018, we were awarded a three-year accreditation, the highest possible award



**Superintendent Kristine Hodge Collecting Food from Week of Service for PIN**

available. I am incredibly proud of the work our agency accomplished and I am extremely grateful to work alongside such a talented team of caring professionals. It is our privilege to serve Delaware County.

**Thank you for a great 2017. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2018!**

**"The greatest success we'll know is helping others succeed and grow."**

**- Gregory Scott Reid**



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. SUPPORT.



Strategic Plan Update

In December 2016, DCBDD passed its 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. In 2017, DCBDD completed over a third of this plan. Take a look at the progress we've made!

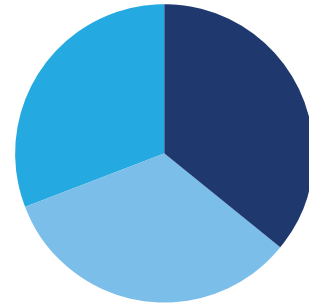
GOAL	2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1 Strengthen community inclusion opportunities, support, and success	Shared stories highlighting people succeeding in the community and enhanced community partnerships
2 Increase community employment success	Implemented an Employment First Policy and increased the number of people served employed in the community by 10%
3 Educate and support individuals and family members	Collected new referral information, balanced caseloads, provided trainings to individuals and families, partnered with MEORC, Lorain County, DODD, ODM and Delaware County Sheriff's Office to educate staff
4 Strengthen providers' ability to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities	Updated Provider Book on website to improve usefulness, offered a variety of trainings to providers, streamlined DCBDD provider certification process
5 Strengthen Person-Centered thinking throughout the agency	Implemented new Person-Centered assessment and plan, implemented Core Teams, provided all staff with Person-Centered training and Diversity and Inclusion training
6 Continuously improve internal operations	Implemented Board Committees, launched new website, restructured departments for efficiency, established Staff Appreciation Committee



# Early Intervention

The Early Intervention (EI) Department experienced a great deal of change in 2017 as we successfully implemented the Core Team Primary Service Provider Approach. In total, we have 336 children enrolled in EI and 70 more children that are being assessed for eligibility. We have seen a successful shift in service practice. Families enrolled in the new Core Team approach have been overwhelmingly positive about their experience.

## Core Team Geographic Distribution



**Team 1 - 36%**  
(Northern Delaware County)

**Team 2 - 33.4%**  
(Southwestern Delaware County)

**Team 3 - 30.6%**  
(Southeastern Delaware County)

## We love the Core Team!

### Meet Alexander

Alexander started with the Core Team at 9 months and is now 2 years old! We sat down with his mom Tiffany to see how things were going.

### How are the team meetings?

"The team meetings are life changing. They just listened to me. It is the best collaboration of every facet you could ever need in one room."

### What advice would you give to new Core Team families?

- Embrace the team
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- You have access to so many experts at one table -- Lean on them

### What Alexander's therapists think:

"As a professional, if I'm stuck on something I have a whole team that offers suggestions."

"It's more efficient. Allows for therapies to be provided much faster through sharing resources."



**“Before the Core Team, Alexander could not sit up, roll over, or talk. Now he is crawling all over the place, babbling, and pulls himself up to stand.”**

**-Tiffany Smith**



## Sensitive Santa

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, families from around the area came to DCBDD to meet Santa. A great time was had by all! While the event was free, participants were encouraged to bring a new

## Parent Feedback

*"Thank you so much. You have no idea how much we appreciate this."*

*"Thank you so much!!! We appreciate the event you have organized!!!"*

*"(Our child) had a great time at the event, I really appreciate that these types of events exist!"*



## Success Story

Meet Taryn! Taryn is a vibrant and charismatic 21-month old. Since birth, Taryn has been working hard to strengthen her mobility and communication skills. Today, Taryn is walking independently, running after her dog Canyon, and loves helping mommy at home. She has advanced in her sign language skills and has made great progress in her verbal communication as well!

*"We are so proud of her for how hard she has worked and are so grateful for the services she has received! We have no doubt it has changed the course of her life in very positive ways!" - Sarah (Taryn's Mom)*

**Serving  
336 Children  
In EI**



Focusing on what is important to and important for the people we serve.



## Positive Progress - Implementing changes for positive outcomes for people served.

In March of 2017, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) conducted an Accreditation Review. In order to address DODD's identified areas of growth, as well as meet the needs of our continued increase in enrollment, the SSA department made several changes. In 2017, the SSA department implemented the new Person-Centered Planning Assessment, reduced caseload size to allow for better direct support, improved our Self-Directed Services, and improved our internal processes and procedures.

## Tristan has his 1st job!

Working for Delaware City Schools is Tristan's first job. **When asked how he felt about receiving his first paycheck he said, "happy."** His coworkers are happy to work with Tristan too. "Tristan filled a major need. Willis had limited custodial support. Tristan took care of areas that had been totally neglected," shared Rhonda, Tristan's mom. To read more of Tristan's story visit: [www.dcbdd.org/news-publications](http://www.dcbdd.org/news-publications).



## Employment First

Connecting the adults we serve with meaningful employment is important to DCBDD. Take a look at our 2017 Employment stats!



83% of adults employed have a degree



92 businesses employ adults supported by DCBDD



Community employment increased by 10%

## Future ESPN Announcer



Jacob has been serving as the high school intern for The Ohio State's Big Ten Network (BTN) broadcasting group. Stacy Kelleher, B1G Network Production Manager shared the following note about Jacob's involvement:

*"Just wanted to drop a quick note and say thank you for connecting our BTN Student U group with Jacob. Aside from providing great coverage for teams, one of my objectives with this program is to give young people the opportunity to find their talents, have a voice, and a group where they fit in. In the same way that our college students have the opportunity to find their voice and be a part of a team, I think Jacob has done the same. My students are so happy when they hear that Jacob is joining us on a broadcast. He brings such positive vibes and joy to our group, and he really fits in well with all of my sports nerds here!"*



# Happy Highlights



**Meet Noah**  
Hockey Fanatic,  
Caring Friend, &  
Future Inventor



**Meet Rachel**  
College student,  
NCIS Fan, &  
Future Teacher

Noah, Rachel, Owen, and Josh all have great stories to share. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website to read their complete stories!



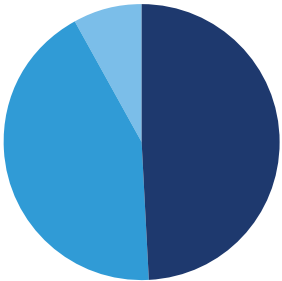
**Meet Owen**  
YouTube Sensation,  
Graphic Novel  
Enthusiast, & Future  
Chef



**Meet Josh**  
Avid Volunteer,  
Aktion Club  
President & Faithful  
Employee

## Waivers & Financials

### 2017 Waiver Report

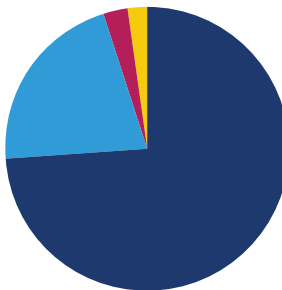


#### Waiver Enrollment by Type

Level One Waivers	414
IO Waivers	359
SELF Waivers	67
<b>Total Waivers</b>	<b>840</b>

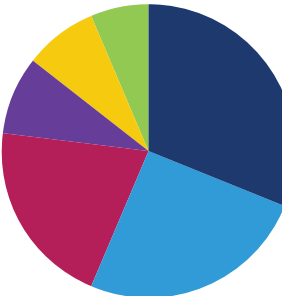
A Medicaid waiver allows a person to receive services in their home and the community. DCBDD coordinates services based on assessed needs and then develops a Person-Centered Plan to meet those needs. The state and federal government pay approximately 60% of the cost for waiver services, while DCBDD pays the remaining 40% of the costs. Sharing costs for waiver services allows DCBDD to manage our growth and serve more people.

### 2017 Operating Revenues and Expenditures



#### Revenues

Property Taxes	\$15,886,694
Intergovernmental	4,570,869
Grants & Reimbursements	585,049
Miscellaneous Revenue	437,702
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$21,480,314</b>



#### Expenditures

Waiver Match	\$5,918,783
Locally Funded Services	4,838,078
Service & Support Administration (Salaries & Benefits)	3,895,428
Early Intervention (Salaries & Benefits)	1,628,841
Operations	1,538,531
Administration (Salaries & Benefits)	1,194,640
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$19,014,301</b>



# Community Outreach Highlights

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

*-Winston Churchill*

## Disability Education

In November, we participated in a Disability Awareness Night for a group of 50 Cub Scouts in Powell. Scouts had the opportunity to participate in activities that simulated different types of disabilities. They learned that people with disabilities are very capable of doing the same things they are, it just may take them a little more time.

In December, we participated in a staff training for employees of the Strand Theatre in Downtown Delaware. Staff learned about People First Language and how to interact with patrons who may have a disability.

Also in December, we participated in Olentangy Scioto Ridge Elementary School's Diversity Day where we were able to talk with nearly 500 students about disabilities.

## Awareness Outreach

In July, the Delaware County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing July 17-21 as National Disability Voter Registration Week. The Delaware County District Library was an instrumental part of this through its participation in the REV UP campaign.

In October, we celebrated 50 years of service with our first ever Block Party! During the event we recognized Legislator of the Year, Andrew Brenner for his dedication to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. Attendees also heard from a family that receives services who explained how important DCBDD has been in their journey.

In December, we hosted our annual Sensitive Santa and our first annual Holiday Art Sale. Over 50 people participated in Sensitive Santa.

## Community Service

In July, we participated in a "Week of Service" by collecting food and supplies for People In Need (PIN). In one week, 352 pounds of food and supplies were collected.

In October, the YMCA and City of Delaware hosted their annual Trunk or Treat for families in Delaware County. We distributed nearly 500 goodie bags with information to spread awareness of our mission.

In November, DCBDD participated in the 3rd Annual Fight Against Hunger Games with the Delaware Hayes High School and Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court. From this joint effort, 125 meal kits were created and the Delaware City School's Pacer Pantry shelves were stocked.







Featured Left to Right: Alice Nicks, Jeffrey Wallace, Rita Seese, Howard Heffelfinger, Tracie Davies Toot, Louis Borowicz, Gerald Plassenthal

## 2017 Board Members

**Louis Borowicz, Esq.**

*President of the Board*  
2nd Term Ends in 2018

**Jeffrey Wallace**

*Vice President of the Board*  
3rd Term Ends in 2020

**Alice Nicks**

*Secretary of the Board*  
3rd Term Ends in 2018

**Howard Heffelfinger**

1st Term Ends in 2021

**Gerald Plassenthal**

2nd Term Ends in 2018

**Rita Seese**

2nd Term Ends in 2018

**Tracie Davies Toot**

1st Term Ends in 2021



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7991 Columbus Pike Lewis Center, OH 43035  
740-201-3600  
[www.dcbdd.org](http://www.dcbdd.org)

