NEWSLETTER – FALL 2025

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

KYLE LEWIS – SUPERINTENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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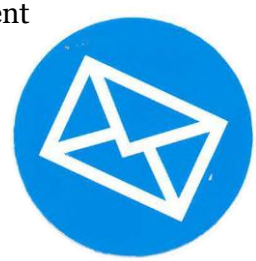
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am pleased to share that the Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities fully supports the Blue Envelope Program. This is a program that was introduced in Mahoning County but has since been spearheaded by a group of self-advocates in southern Ohio. Marnie Reed, our local Family Support Liaison, has met with our local law enforcement and first responder personnel to educate them on the program and seek their buy-in to ensure a successful launch right here in Clinton County. We are already finding great success locally.

So what is Ohio's Blue Envelope Program? The Blue Envelope Program provides individuals with disabilities a Blue Envelope decal for their vehicle and a Blue Envelope to provide to law enforcement or other community service personnel during a traffic stop or accident. The Blue Envelope may contain the individual's identification, contact information, medical information, instructions regarding communication preferences, or pertinent vehicle operating documents such as the vehicle registration and proof of insurance. The Blue Envelope decal, as well as these documents, tell the responding deputy or officer that an individual in that vehicle has a condition or disability requiring additional accommodations or assistance.



If you would like to learn more about the program, please reach out to Marnie Reed at mreed@clintondd.org.

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

The Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to spotlight **INNOVATIVE HOME HEALTH CARE, LLC**, a new but quickly flourishing agency that has made a remarkable impact on the lives of the individuals we serve. Under the ownership of Rachel Daniel, Innovative Home Health Care has become known for its compassion, reliability, and person-centered approach in a very short period of time.

From the moment Rachel's agency joined our provider network, it was clear that her focus was on ensuring individuals receive the quality supports they need to live happy,

healthy, and fulfilling lives. She communicates openly, follows through on every commitment, and works collaboratively with SSAs to make sure each person's ISP goals are met.

Rachel's dedication shines through not only in her own work but also in the team she builds. She hires staff who share her values, compassionate, dependable, and genuinely invested in the people they serve. One SSA noted. "Her staff reflect her own kindness, thoughtfulness, and determination."

Innovative Home Health Care's positive impact can be seen in the meaningful relationships her team has built. Tony, who began providing DSP services in February, has become an integral part of one family's life. "He is compassionate, caring, always on time, and willing to do whatever is asked of him," the family shared. "In such a short time, we consider him part of our family. We can't imagine our life without him." Starr, another dedicated DSP, has gone above and beyond to support an individual during a particularly challenging time following the loss of her father and her mother's health decline. Starr has assisted with medical appointments, Social Security coordination, apartment applications, and finding a more affordable storage unit. She's also made sure the individual stays emotionally supported and maintains visits with her mother. Her compassion and consistency have been a true lifeline.

Rachel's commitment to inclusion and joy extends beyond day-to-day services. Over the summer, she and her team hosted a birthday celebration, inviting all their clients for a cookout and cake. It was a special day filled with laughter, connection, and community; perfectly embodying the heart of Innovative Home Health Care.

Rachel's clear communication, teamwork, and follow-through have earned high praise from SSAs and families. Her dedication to person-centered care and her genuine compassion makes her agency a valuable addition to the provider community in Clinton County.

The Clinton County Board of DD is grateful for Rachel and the entire Innovative Home Health Care team for their commitment to quality, compassion, and community. Thank you, Rachel and team, for the incredible difference you make every day!

PROVIDER SUPPORT

Annual Training

Reminder for all direct support professionals (DSPs), independent providers, directors of operations, and administrators of licensed residential facilities to complete their required annual training for the 2025 calendar year by **December 31, 2025.**

Review the rules to ensure you meet all training requirements:

- Agency provider certification rule: OAC 5123-2-08
- Independent provider certification rule: OAC 5123-2-09
- Licensed residential facilities administration: OAC 5123-3-01

You can access your required training programs through DODD MyLearning via the following links:

- DSP Annual Training
- Independent Provider Annual Training
- Director of Operations Annual Training
- Administrator of Licensed Residential Facilities Annual Training

IS YOUR TRAINING UP TO DATE?

TECHNOLOGY FIRST

The Joyreal AAC Device is an affordable, easy-to-use communication tool that supports individuals with developmental disabilities, autism, or speech challenges. Featuring six programmable buttons with adjustable volume, it allows users to record personalized messages to express needs, wants, and emotions.

This device helps reduce frustration, build confidence, and promote independence, making it a great low-cost option for families or providers who want to explore communication devices before investing in more advanced systems.

Click Here for Item Link

SOCIAL SECURITY

Why is it important for workers with disabilities to have a *my* Social Security account?

- **Apply for SSI/SSDI benefits**
  - ✓ Check your application or appeal status
  - ✓ View the estimated decision date or any missing information
  - ✓ Access notices and letters online no need to wait for the mail

- **Track your work earnings credits**
  - ✓ Check that your wages are reported correctly each year
  - ✓ Mistakes in your earning record can cause benefit delays or lower payments later
  - ✓ You can review your income history anytime and request corrections if needed

- **Monitor your disability benefits**
  - ✓ View your current benefit amount and payment history
  - ✓ Check deposit Dates and make sure your payments are accurate
  - ✓ Keep track of changes if you're working while receiving SSI or SSDI

- **Report work and wage changes**
  - ✓ Report your job updates or pay changes quickly online
  - ✓ Helps prevent overpayments
  - ✓ Makes it easier to follow Social Security work reporting rules

- **Plan for your future**
  - ✓ View estimates for retirement, disability, and survivor benefits
  - ✓ Understand how your work earnings may affect your future benefits
  - ✓ Stay informed about your financial options as your situation changes

https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/

During the government shut down, Social Security offices are open but not all services are available. In addition to the reasons listed above, you can use your *my* Social Security account to request replacement Social Security or Medicaid cards, set up or change your direct deposit, and more.

The government shutdown will not affect benefit payments. They will continue without interruption, on time, and with no changes to payment dates.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Department of Children & Youth
Department of Developmental Disabilities

Our early intervention team and outreach team were busy with outreach events and activities in the month of October! You may have seen them at the Wilmington High School FFA Trunk-or-Treat, the Main Street Wilmington Downtown Trick-or Treat, the Wilmington Middle School Family Fall Festival, or the Wilmington Parks & Rec Trunk or Treat.

Families who stopped by our booth, table, or trunk were treated to free information, items, goodies, and treats and got to meet some of our incredible staff! Outreach events are a great way to engage famlies directly and let them know about programs such as early intervention.

The early intervention (EI) program is a part of Ohio's Help Me Grow system. EI services are provided in home, at no cost to eligible children ages birth to three and their families. Visit https://ohioearlyintervention.org to learn more about Ohio's early intervention programs.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics has a new medical form. Athletes are requested to have the new form completed and on file by the end of 2025. If you have recently been to the doctor for a physical, you *may* be able to drop off the form and have them complete it without making another appointment. Get a copy of the form by contacting the Clinton County Board of DD office at (937) 382-7519.

If you plan to cheer or play basketball, please use this form and return to Latasha Ruddle by December 1st. Forms can be dropped off or mailed to the Clinton County Board of DD or sent to Latasha by email at lruddle@clintondd.org.