Summer / Fall 2024

BOARDTALK

A Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities Newsletter

Welcome Michelle Gifford...

As we enter 2025, PCBDD is excited to announce its newest Board Member, Michelle Gifford.

Michelle is a long-time recipient of County Board services and is the first Board-eligible person to serve as a Board Member. Michelle brings an entire lifetime of first-hand experience that will inform the decisions she makes on behalf of her peers.

Michelle may be the first person receiving services to serve as a Board member, but she will not be the last. She is fulfilling a new requirement for County Boards to have at least one person who is eligible for services to serve as a voting Board member. This is an important step toward ensuring that people with disabilities are including in every aspect of decision-making…starting with organizations that specifically make decisions for those with disabilities.

In addition to serving in this historic way, Michelle brings years of leadership and advocacy experience to her Board efforts. Michelle is a Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) Graduate, a leader in county transportation-related advocacy, a member of the Board's Human Rights Committee, and a winner of a Synergy Advocacy Award.

We welcome Michelle to this new role and look forward to many years of her guidance!

-Marie Wilbanks, PCBDD Superintendent

-FAME 2024 went off without a hitch!

If you have not yet experience FAME (Fashion, Art, Music & Entertainment, you're missing out! FAME is Pickaway County's most exciting fashion show pairing up models with and without disabilities who bring our local retailers fashions to life on the red carpet set to a live band!

FAME also features an artist gallery, Wittich's Candy Buffet, Food Truck, and face painting. Did we mention a live band? Dancing isn't required, but you won't be able to help yourself! FAME 2025 is slated for May 31st, 2025—Mark your calendars!

-Project SEARCH had 5 students graduate in May! These included Brant Mendenhall, Cameron Groce, Nevaeh Perkins, Tommy Dowler, and Noah Lathem. Project SEARCH Students spend the school year actively working through rotations at Ohio Health Berger Environmental Services, Med Surg, Nutrition/ Kitchen, OT/PT, Radiology, Supply Chain, Same Day Surgery, Volunteers/ Greeting and Wound Clinic.

This year's class includes Madalynn Reedy, Hannah Layne, Sam Higginbotham, and Tanner McMurray. We are currently accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year! Applications can be obtained through your home school's Special Education Coordinator or via Pickaway Ross Career Center's website at: https://www.pickawayross.com/page/project-search

ICAN SWM CAMP 2024

iCan Shine

The iCan Shine Swim Camp returned this year, and slots were once again completely filled for this very special opportunity. 30 participants spent the week learning the basics of swimming and water safety. A BIG THANK YOU to our sponsors: Pickaway County Special Olympics, Pickaway County Banking Center, Circleville Eagles, Kingston National Bank and Forjak Industrial! We also want to give a huge shout-out to our swim coaches and volunteers who hopped in the pool to teach students. Our iCan Swim instructors, Ivy and Zuri, were top notch! Thank you also, to the YMCA staff for your support throughout this very successful week!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATES

Our Pickaway County Special Olympics teams are as busy as ever! This past year has been filled with numerous regional and state tournaments in track & field, softball, basketball, golf and power lifting! Our largest fundraiser of the year is our Golf Scramble (held every September) and this year we brought in $7,000. The money raised and donated are used towards tournament fees, travel & lodging, equipment and uniforms.

To donate to Pickaway County Special Olympics, contact Coordinator Jeremy Joyce:

jeremyjoyce@pickawaydd.org
740-248-8579

Like Us on Social Media

@PickCBDD

To submit story ideas, news releases, or suggestions, please contact:

Marie Wilbanks,

Superintendent
mwilbanks@pickawaydd.org

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Resource Information

Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
dodd.ohio.gov

Board Members
Jeff Rawlins (President)
Matt Tootle (Vice-President)
Jeannett Rhoads (Secretary)
LaDonna Edwards
Beth Kim
Cara Layne
Jennifer Rainey-Agresti

Mission Statement:

Empower People with Developmental Disabilities to Live, Learn, Work and Be Involved in Their Community

Upcoming Events

Board Meetings
200 E. High St. Circleville
6:00 pm
January 16th, 2025
February 27th, 2025
March 27th, 2025

Disability Awareness Month
March 2025
Dates TBA

- Art of Inclusion Art Gallery
- State House Advocacy Watch Party
- March Madness School Games
- Special Olympics Community Game
- Rock Your Socks Day