

## Cuyahoga Campership Program

CCBDD's Cuyahoga Campership Program assists individuals who do *not* have a Support Administrator\* or who are *not* enrolled in the Family Supports Program\*\* with the cost of attending a summer camp.

To access the Cuyahoga Campership Program:

- Select and register with any camp that meets your needs.
- Complete and submit the Cuyahoga Campership Program application prior to attending the camp. CCBDD will not fund any camp that has not had prior approval. The application is available at [www.cuyahogabdd.org/en-US/CuyahogaCampershipProgram.aspx](http://www.cuyahogabdd.org/en-US/CuyahogaCampershipProgram.aspx).
- CCBDD will review your application and will inform both you and the selected camp if your application was approved or denied.
- The maximum campership amount is up to \$700 per individual for the camp season.
- Campership funds are distributed on a first-come, first served basis.

\* If you have a Support Administrator, please contact him/her to explore camp funding options.

\*\*If you are enrolled in the Family Supports Program, please contact NEON at 1-800-237-6828 to explore camp options.

## Did you know?



**Free health insurance is available for children up to age 19 of low to moderate income families.**

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as "Healthy Start" in Cuyahoga County, provides free health insurance for children up to age 19 of low to moderate income families who do not qualify for Medicaid. Children with disabilities can qualify for Healthy Start. Eligibility is determined by family size and income. Children enrolled in Healthy Start receive services through a managed care plan including hospitalization, emergency care, prescription medication, dental, vision, and other health care services.

To learn more or to apply, go to [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov). Or, call toll-free in Ohio: 1-844-640-6446 or 216-987-6387.



 CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
**Board of Developmental Disabilities**  
1275 Lakeside Avenue East Cleveland, OH 44114-1129  
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### Coming Up

**CCBDD Board Meetings**  
March 22, April 19  
Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.  
CCBDD Administration Bldg.  
1275 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland

**DD Awareness & Advocacy Day**  
March 7  
Ohio Statehouse

**Employment Collaborative Hiring Event**  
Westlake - March 22  
For more information, email  
[EmploymentCollaborative@CuyahogaBDD.org](mailto:EmploymentCollaborative@CuyahogaBDD.org)

**Spring Break**  
All sites closed March 30



## *A Message from the Superintendent*

The Cuyahoga County Board of DD (CCBDD) is looking ahead, planning for our future and our continued role in supporting people with DD of all ages and in all environments. Despite the transition of our adult, employment and transportation services to private DD service providers, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD will remain a vital agency within the county's health and human service system.

CCBDD will continue to fund services (including paying the local Medicaid Waiver Match), help people plan for their needs and goals, connect people to resources and their community, and partner with private providers and the community to promote inclusion and ensure high quality services. CCBDD's professionals and specialists, such as developmental specialists, therapists, and behavioral and health specialists, will continue to work alongside parents of young children, teachers, employers, service providers and other community organizations to support persons with DD in achieving their goals and having opportunities to enjoy and participate in community life.

Our commitment to serving people with DD across the life span begins with our youngest citizens- our children. This edition of News, Views & Notes highlights how we support children birth through age two, school-age children, and transition-age students. Be sure to review the information on our Cuyahoga Campership Program and Healthy Start- free health insurance for children.

*Kelly A. Petty*  
Superintendent & CEO



## Ensuring our babies and toddlers have a strong start in life- Early Intervention Program

CCBDD's Evidence-Based Early Intervention program for children birth through age two and their families is a joint effort of the Cuyahoga County Board of DD and Bright Beginnings (formerly Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County).

Once eligibility is determined, a team of early intervention professionals works together to develop the individualized family service plan (IFSP) and support the child and family to achieve their goals. Members of the team include a Bright Beginnings service coordinator and CCBDD professionals, including an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a speech-language pathologist and a developmental specialist.

One team member serves as the primary service provider (PSP) and visits the parents and child in their home or other places where they regularly spend time. At each visit, the family and the PSP work together to support the child's development during everyday activities. The PSP consults with other team members, as needed, and may join visits.

**Early Intervention in Action-** Cayden, his mom and Sue, his primary service provider, visit their local library to help Cayden increase his communication through interaction with his peers. Mom is learning how to use Cayden's motivation to play with children his own age to increase his vocabulary. Mom has also benefited from library visits by being able to connect with other parents.

To make a referral to the Early Intervention program or for more information, call 216-698-7500. Referrals are welcome from anyone.



## Helping students thrive in school: School-age services

Each local school district is responsible for providing a free, appropriate public education to children with disabilities from the age of 3 through the end of their 21<sup>st</sup> year. This includes providing, at no cost, related services which are necessary for a child to benefit from his or her educational program.

CCBDD specialists provide their expertise directly to public school districts and parents. Behavior and curriculum intervention specialists (BCIS), speech-language pathologists/augmentative communication specialists, assistive technology specialists and occupational and physical therapists consult with public school teachers, administrators, district specialists and parents to help students succeed in a least restrictive environment. CCBDD's business engagement services are available to assist in linking students to local employers for job shadowing and competitive employment opportunities.

**School-age Services in Action-** Phoebe is proud to be in a general education classroom and wants to remain there. BCIS staff have helped her with this goal by coaching teachers and aides on specific strategies aligned to her unique learning needs, including recommendations on how to adapt the curriculum and classroom design so Phoebe can learn successfully beside her peers.

### To learn more about school-age and transition-age services, please refer to the following:

- For augmentative communication/assistive technology and/or sign language interpreter, call 216-736-2730
- For behavior supports/curriculum intervention, call 216-736-2928
- For business engagement services, call 216-736-2623
- For occupational therapy and/or physical therapy services to assist in preparation for supports after graduation, call 216-736-2631



## Preparing for graduation, competitive employment and community integration: Transition-age services

For students age 14 and older, CCBDD partners with school districts on transition services that promote movement from school to post-school activities, including continuing and adult education, vocational training, integrated competitive employment, adult day services, independent living and community participation. Setting goals for after high school are a part of each student's individual education program (IEP).

Beginning at age 14, a CCBDD intake navigator is available to help students through the initial eligibility or redetermination process for CCBDD services and supports. The year prior to graduation, a CCBDD support administrator is usually assigned and will help the student explore interests and develop a plan that describes goals for living, learning and working as well as connect the student to resources available in the community.

Other CCBDD professionals are available to provide services to students before and after graduation. These services include travel assessment and training, business engagement, assistive technology (devices that can help people complete everyday tasks), augmentative communication (help to find other ways to communicate), and behavior and curriculum intervention services, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

**Transition-Age Services in Action-** Alex is a senior in high school and wants to transition to a competitive job after graduation. He is interested in sports and fitness. Staff from CCBDD's business engagement services set up a work assessment for him at a local fitness company looking to hire. Alex also receives supports in school and at home from behavior curriculum intervention and assistive technology staff. They are helping Alex stay on task using reminder apps on his phone. These services will continue to be available to Alex after he graduates.