



Planting Seeds of Knowledge Educational Forums

All forums take place from 6:00 - 8:30pm over Zoom.

No cost to attend. Registration is required:
www.CuyahogaBDD.org/plantingseeds
or call 216-736-2690.

October 12	STABLE Account Gain more independence and financial stability through Ohio's STABLE program.
November 9	Guardianship Learn about guardianship and the important role guardians play in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

Please register at www.CuyahogaBDD.org/plantingseeds

If you need any accommodations to take part in the webinar (sign language interpreters, captioning, alternative formats, other), please let us know when you register.

You will receive a Zoom link with your confirmation.

Family Resource Fair

Saturday, October 15, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

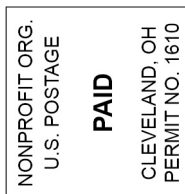
Holiday Inn – Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Road • Independence

The Cuyahoga DD Family Resource Fair is open to individuals and families served by Cuyahoga DD, agency and independent providers and community partners.

Representatives from Cuyahoga DD departments will be available for informal Q&A. Get to know Cuyahoga DD providers, visit the Assistive Technology Vehicle and see what equipment Occupational and Physical Therapy has available.

Fun activities for all, including a DJ, photo booth, balloon animals and caricatures!

Registration required. Scan code to register.





CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities
1275 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44114-1129

Coming Up

Cuyahoga DD Board Meetings

October 27, 2022
November 17, 2022
December 15, 2022

Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.

Agenda and meeting information
can be found on our website:
www.CuyahogaBDD.org

Family Resource Fair

October 15, 2022

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NEWS, VIEWS & NOTES



October 2022

A Message from the Superintendent

As we head into October, we celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM is an opportunity to celebrate American workers with disabilities and shine a spotlight on inclusive employment policies and practices. This year's theme is "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation." Equity is at the center of our approach to workforce development at Cuyahoga DD. We work to develop opportunities for competitive employment for people with developmental disabilities. That means people with disabilities work in the same types of jobs, with the same rate of pay, and with the same opportunities for advancement as people without disabilities. Through our work with the Employment Collaborative of Cuyahoga County and our partnerships with local employers, we develop hundreds of job opportunities each year.

Also in October, we look forward to our Family Supports Program enrollment opening. This program, which grew by 12 percent in 2021, continues to grow, serving 3,781 families in 2022. The Family Supports Program helps families who are not eligible for a Medicaid waiver access critical supports and services. Not only did the number of families served increase this year, we also were able to increase the amount of money each family received, further helping them meet their needs and fully participate in their communities.

Finally, we are finishing our new strategic plan, which will guide our work from 2023 to 2025. I am proud of the great work we do here at Cuyahoga DD, and I look forward to sharing the strategic plan with you and showing you how we plan to continue that work.



Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO

TryTech: Nation’s First Trial-Basis Smart Apartments for Adults with DD

The August 2, 2022 ribbon-cutting for TryTech at The Cranford Apartments in Lakewood was attended by Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, State Rep. Michael J. Skindell, and State Sen. Nickie J. Antonio, who all presented proclamations in honor of the event. The ribbon-cutting was widely covered in the media, including the Plain Dealer, Channel 5 News, Fox 8 News and more.

TryTech offers a unique opportunity for people with DD to live in a smart apartment in an integrated building on a short-term lease, to try tools and technology they might want to use in their future daily home life for mealtimes, entertainment, security, wellbeing and self-care, and more. This trial housing option lets people with DD live with assistive technology, to gain confidence and determine what tools work best for them as they move toward living as independently as they want.

To adapt the four units into safe and comfortable apartments for people with DD—including one accessible unit—Cuyahoga DD partnered with North Coast Community Homes, an organization with decades of experience in fulfilling the housing needs of people with disabilities.

Adults who receive Cuyahoga DD services and want to experience living with assistive technology in an integrated apartment building in the heart of downtown Lakewood should speak with their SA about moving in to TryTech for a trial period. Renters can live in a TryTech apartment for several weeks, during and after which their SA and Cuyahoga DD Assistive Technology staff will assess their needs and determine next steps for achieving the goal of independent living.

For more information about TryTech, visit CuyahogaBDD.org.

Cuyahoga DD and Playhouse Square Partner for Sensory-Friendly Events

For individuals with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum disorders and other sensory, social and cognitive challenges, a trip to the theater can be difficult.

To address this, in November 2013, Playhouse Square and Cuyahoga DD partnered to develop sensory-friendly performances. This initiative increases access and inclusion for people who might otherwise be overwhelmed by a traditional theater experience. The first sensory-friendly performance at Playhouse Square was December 2013’s “A Christmas Carol.” On September 3, 2022, a sensory-friendly performance of “Frozen” delighted audiences.

Playhouse Square’s sensory-friendly performances feature:

- Special ticket pricing
- Lower sound and light levels and no strobe effects
- Theater lights are left on low throughout the performance
- Audience members can make noise, stand and move around and use electronic devices
- Designated calming areas staffed by volunteer specialists
- A welcoming, judgment-free environment for all patrons
- Freedom for guests to talk, leave their seats and move freely during the performance

Cuyahoga DD trains volunteers and Playhouse Square redcoats (ushers) to recognize beginning signs of distress or tension among audience members. Volunteers can offer manipulatives (fidgets) that patrons can take home after the performance, or noise-cancelling headphones that must be returned at the end of the show.

The sensory-friendly performances have grown in popularity, with increasing attendance for each production.

For more information, including upcoming sensory-friendly events at Playhouse Square, visit www.playhousesquare.org/sensory-friendly-programming.

Changes to Medicaid Coming – How You Can Prepare

The Public Health Emergency (PHE) issued in January 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is coming to an end soon. That means that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which prevented families from losing Medicaid, SNAP, and CHIP coverage, will also come to an end.

When the PHE ends, Medicaid, SNAP and CHIP eligibility reviews will restart. It is possible that some of your current Medicaid benefits may be greatly reduced.

Recipients in all states, including Ohio, will receive 60 days’ notice before the PHE expires. We haven’t received this notification yet, but we want to help you prepare.

While Cuyahoga DD does not directly process Medicaid applications, it is important to us that we make sure you are aware of this upcoming change and that we can serve as a source of awareness and information.

Here’s what you need to do to get ready for these changes:

- **Update your contact information** – make sure Medicaid and or SNAP/CHIP has your current contact information – mailing address, phone number, email address, etc. – so they can contact you about your benefits.
- **Keep an eye on your mail** – Medicaid and SNAP/CHIP will mail you information about your benefits. This letter will also tell you if you need to fill out a renewal form to see if you still qualify for benefits.
- **If you get one, fill out the renewal form as soon as possible** to avoid a gap in your Medicaid, or SNAP/CHIP benefits.

If you have questions and are not on a waiver, please call the Medicaid Hotline at 800-324-8680. If you are on a waiver, and you have questions, please call Cuyahoga Jobs and Family Services Long-Term Care number at 216-761-3371.