

Plan to join us for Cuyahoga DD's 2022 Educational Forums



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.

April 13	Eligibility Learn about Cuyahoga DD's Eligibility process, including the support we provide and how determinations are made.
May 11	I.T. = Independence + Technology Learn how technology can help you live more independently. Try the latest devices and apps.
June 8	NEW FOR 2022: Parent Education Series Each month, from June - September, we will offer a program on a specific topic for parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities. These sessions will be informative, interactive, and will allow opportunities to connect with other parents. Stay tuned for more information!
July 13	
August 10	
September 14	
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.





Coming Up

Cuyahoga DD Board Meetings

April 28, 2022
May 26, 2022
June 23, 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

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NEWS, VIEWS & NOTES



March 2022

A Message from the Superintendent

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and as we continue our work toward community-based inclusion, Cuyahoga DD's theme is "Inclusion in Action." We strive to make Cuyahoga County a more inclusive place – a place where people with disabilities live, learn, work, play and *feel valued* – every day through our work. Throughout March, we will share a number of the many ways Cuyahoga DD puts inclusion in action.

Early in March, we announced the recipients of \$240,000 in grant funding that will support arts and culture organizations, local libraries and community recreation centers across Cuyahoga County in their efforts to either create or expand adaptive and inclusive programming for people with disabilities of all ages.

We expect the first of our new TryTech apartments to be ready this Spring. This innovative initiative is a collaboration between our Housing and Assistive Technology teams, and it will provide people with opportunity to try for an extended time a variety of technology products to help them live more independently in a real, home-like environment. More information about TryTech, the grant recipients and more can be found in this newsletter, on our website and on social media.

This month, I also invite you to visit our DD Awareness Month webpage (CuyahogaBDD.org/DDAwareness) to learn more about the innovative ways we put inclusion in action across Cuyahoga DD service areas, and I hope you will follow along on social media, too. To celebrate DD Awareness Month, we have launched a new Twitter and Instagram account – make sure to follow us there in addition to Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.



Kelly A. Petty
 Superintendent & CEO

Cuyahoga DD’s TryTech Apartments Near Completion

In early Spring, we expect the first of our TryTech apartments, developed with North Coast Community Homes, to be ready for use. Located in the heart of Lakewood, close to public transportation and many other amenities, TryTech is an integrated building that features four smart apartments people can live in for a short while as they explore various devices that can help them live more independently. This extended trial period offers individuals and caregivers the opportunity to experience the benefits of living with assistive technology, helping them make more informed decisions about items they choose to use in their own homes.



Exploring Housing Options

Cuyahoga DD recently completed a series of informational videos to help people with developmental disabilities and their caregivers understand the variety of housing opportunities available to them. Each video describes the setting, outlines expectations and demonstrates the benefits of that type of housing with a goal of helping people make informed choices about which options might best fit their individual needs.

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code to learn more about housing opportunities, or go to www.CuyahogaBDD.org.



For more information on housing, please contact your support administrator, or call Cuyahoga DD Eligibility at 216-736-2673.

Cuyahoga DD Grant Funding Supports Adaptive and Inclusive Programming

Cuyahoga DD is pleased to announce the recipients of \$240,000 in grant funding that will support Cuyahoga County arts and culture organizations, libraries, and recreation centers in creating and/or expanding inclusive and accessible programming for people of all ages with disabilities. The proposals truly support Cuyahoga DD’s vision of community-based inclusion, and we look forward to working with these organizations throughout the year to bring these plans to life.

2022 arts and culture recipients include: Artists Archives of the Western Reserve; Art of Me; Bad Racket Recording Studio; Beyond Words Music and Dance Center and North Pointe Ballet; Broadway School of Music and the Arts; Dancing Wheels Company and School; FRONT Exhibition Company; Future Ink Graphics; Solon Center for the Arts; Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art (moCa); and Valley Art Center.

2022 library recipients include: Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library; Rocky River Public Library; and Westlake Porter Public Library.

2022 recreation recipients include: Adaptive Sports Ohio; Bedford Parks and Recreation; Brecksville Recreation Department; Brook Park Recreation Department; Cleveland Metroparks; Empower Sports; Gigi’s Playhouse; Middleburg Heights Community Center; Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio; Olmsted Community Center; Rec2Connect; Seven Hills Parks and Recreation Department; S.T.A.R. Summer Camp; Youth Challenge; and West Shore Family YMCA.



Cuyahoga DD Awarded DODD Keeping Families Together Grant

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) recently awarded \$1 million in funding to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities through its **Keeping Families Together** grant. The goal is to increase support for families of youth who receive services from multiple agencies. Cuyahoga DD was awarded \$132,000; \$44,000 allocated for the 2022 fiscal year and \$88,000 for the 2023 fiscal year.

The **Keeping Families Together** funding will be used to supplement existing programs Cuyahoga DD has in place, including a new four-bed respite home in Shaker Heights and a youth Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). Funding will be used to provide staff incentives, such as sign-on bonuses, to help ensure the continuity of care, and it will allow for staff with clinical experience to be placed in each facility. In addition, **Keeping Families Together** funding will be used to purchase equipment and technology to help people adapt and be comfortable in these temporary settings.

Independent Provider Meet and Greets

Each month, Cuyahoga DD provides the opportunity to connect with new Cuyahoga County independent providers through a virtual meet and greet. They are a great opportunity to learn more about providers in your area and potentially make a match.

3/23	10am - 12pm	8/10	1pm - 3pm
4/20	1pm - 3pm	9/7	10am - 12pm
5/18	10am - 12pm	10/5	1pm - 3pm
6/15	1pm - 3pm	11/2	10am - 12pm
7/13	10am - 12pm	12/7	1pm - 3pm

For more information or to join a meeting, go to: www.CuyahogaBDD.org/resources/ip-meet-greet