Strategic Plan ushers in new look, programs

In recognition of their participation on the Strategic Planning committee, Superintendent Bill Green (center) awards self-advocates (from left) Harry Widder, Jeff Quinn, Michelle Yekel, Louise Cox and Diana Clifton with Amazing. Every. One. awards at the December board meeting.

With the Board's approval of the Three Year Strategic Plan at the December board meeting, change can be seen in all areas of county board services.

The Plan focuses on four clear directions.

1. Segregated to community environments.
   With this, the Board plans to foster community partnerships, moving toward greater choice and access to the Stark Community. The Board has purchased its first Parabus, which is a smaller, wheelchair accessible bus that will transport groups to activities in the community.

2. Provider-Funder to Funder-Provider.
   With more than 1,200 people currently on the waiting list for a waiver, the Board hopes to carve out more dollars from its current provider funds and move it into providing more waivers for individuals with developmental disabilities. “By funding a home and community based services waiver, we can directly reach into the homes of the people we serve, providing much needed help and services, no matter where they choose to get them,” said Bill Green Superintendent.

3. Reactive to Proactive Decision Making.
   Anticipating further spending cuts on the part of the State

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Look inside:

Stark DD Board appointments  
Provider Search Tool debuts  
SureScan finds new home  
Special Olympics swimmers grab State medals  
Milliken named to State Board
Looking Ahead at Stark DD

January

January 3
Schools, Adult Services resume

January 14
RSSS Staff work day;
No students

January 17
Martin Luther King Day
Program closed

January 22
Stark County DD Board Meeting
10 am; Whipple-Dale Center
Multi-purpose Room
Open to the Public

January 27
Adult Social Night
Santangelo’s Party Center

February

February 4
Southgate Free Throw Contest

February 7
Mercy Medical Dental Screenings
Eastgate

February 12
Portage Invitational Bowling
Tournament, Kent.

February 14
Southgate Hearts Dance
King and Queen announced

February 17
FANS Event
Housing, Group Homes
Panel Discussion
Golden Key Ctr. for Exceptional
Children, 6 p.m.

February 18
Adult Social Night
Edward “Peel” Coleman Ctr

How is the Board appointed?

Five members of the Board are appointed by the Board of Stark County Commissioners and two members are selected by the Judge of Probate Court. At least two of the members appointed by the county commissioners must be parents of an individual with mental retardation or developmental disabilities receiving Board services. Of the two members appointed by the probate judge, at least one must be a member of the family of an individual eligible for services.

Next Board Meeting

The 2011 Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities will convene on Saturday, January 22 in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Whipple-Dale Center. During the meeting, Hoffman and Calhoun will be installed, the Board will elect officers and determine the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. Visit www.starkdd.org for the annual schedule.

2011 Board appointments announced

Probate Court Judge Dixie Park announced her appointments to the 2011 Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities in mid-December.

Richard Hoffman will begin a four-year term in January, replacing Frank Gressel who retired from the board because of term-limits.

He was retired as a senior executive in the oil and gas industry for several years until he recently again accepted a management position back in the industry.

Hoffman has served on several boards, both non-profit as well as industry-related boards during his career.

Hoffman said he looks forward to utilizing his managerial expertise to help create a sustainable entity, that provides opportunities for all individuals requiring services for the Stark Board of Developmental Disabilities.

His daughter, Gretchen, receives supported services at the Whipple-Dale Center.

Additionally, Judge Park re-appointed Jack Calhoun to a second four-year term on the Board. Jack J. Calhoun began his term with the Stark County board of DD in 2006. A retired Major in the Stark County Sheriff’s Office and Chief of Security at the Stark County Courthouse, he is a native of Canton, Ohio. Jack and his wife, Connie, have four children. His son, J.J. also attends Whipple-Dale Centre.
Provider Search Tool links families to services

Service and Support Administrators (SSA’s) support individuals and families to freely choose new service providers from among all who are certified, willing and able to provide the services. They do so without influencing provider selection.

This obligation is a Medicaid tenet called “Free Choice of Provider” and is outlined in Ohio Administrative Code 5123:2-9-11.

In addition to the listing of certified providers found at the Ohio Department of DD’s website, http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/, Stark County is excited to provide additional support to individuals and families by implementing a local web-based Provider Search Tool.

Selecting a service provider is an important decision and it can be challenging and time consuming for individuals and families.

This new Provider Search Tool will help make the process more satisfying because it adds efficiency to the provider contact process and it provides additional information about each provider who chooses to participate.

Stark DD’s new web-based tool will serve two primary functions:
1.) Individuals and families can view information about providers, including live links to Provider websites and email addresses.
2.) Providers can view profiles of services and supports needed by individuals (without identifying information, of course).

A full-time Service Support Administrator will provide direct support for individuals and families throughout the provider search process.

The Provider Search Tool will be available online beginning January 3rd. Please direct questions to Danielle Shuler at (330) 479-3692 or by email to shulerd@starkdd.org.
Higgins Players Jack Frient (left) as Scrooge and Brett Terhune as the Ghost of Christmas Present staged “A Christmas Carole” in December. Special thanks to Scotts Costumes for donating use of the costumes.

Looking Ahead at Stark DD cont.

**Strategic Plan**

*continued from page 1*

of Ohio, decisions about services will be based on our values, and how we can do more with less. This includes expanding opportunities for individuals with developmental to earn money, and enrich the activities in their day. From new supported employment enclaves, to remodeled classrooms and program, change is taking place daily.

**4. Unsustainable to Sustainability.**

By making changes now and incremental changes in the future, the Board can make the services last into the future. This includes dual-routing our buses, staggering starting times and moving from direct therapy to assessment and consultation of therapy needs.

All of the Three Year Plan rests on a successful 2013 levy campaign that will combine levies in 2013 and 2014 and combine into one substitute levy that will request no new taxes from the citizens of Stark County in May of 2013.

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**New Director of Adult Services announced**

Ms. Carmen Crum will be the new Director of Adult Services for the Stark County Board of DD. Ms. Crum comes to our county from the Delaware County area, where she has invested over 17 years as the CEO of The Alpha Group of Delaware/The Delaware County Bd. of DD, and most recently as a consultant helping other county boards throughout the state of Ohio. Overall, she brings with her more than 30 years experience in working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Crum is a staunch advocate of self-determination for people with developmental disabilities. In addition, she has successfully secured grants to supplement existing funding, while also demonstrating a hands-on approach to direct care services.

She will begin her duties February 3, 2011.

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**Looking Ahead at Stark DD** cont.
New program teaches healthy living

Kicking off the new year is the Health Matters program which emphasizes exercise, nutrition, and health education classes for adults with developmental disabilities.

The curriculum is based on the successful health promotion program of the Department of Disability and Human Development at The University of Illinois at Chicago.

Diana Lashley, coordinator of Stark DD health and therapy services, first heard of the program in May 2009, and had worked to bring it to Stark County ever since.

The goals of the program are to improve fitness, increase knowledge about healthy lifestyles, and teach family friends, and staff to achieve individual goals.

“My overall hope is that this becomes a natural part of every individual’s ISP (individualized service plan),” said Lashley. “Our individuals can have healthy lifestyles if given the opportunity to set and accomplish personal goals and actively participate in the community.”

A class of five individuals will meet three days per week in two hour sessions to complete the 12-week program. All participants must have a physician’s approval before participating in the program.

Each adult site has a dedicated Health Matters classroom with basic exercise equipment. “In changing to an assessment and consultation model for therapy services, we are able to use some of the therapy equipment for this program,” said Lashley.

Existing staff with a passion for health and wellness will drive the program. They include Brad Hamilton-WDC, Rick Allerton-Higgins, Julie Crowder-WSC and Linda Ward-SE, in addition to a training coordinator, behavior specialists, nurses and administrators.

Also key to the program is the connection with community partners and resources, such as the Aultman Hospital Wellness-On-Wheels van, and local YMCAs. While some of the classes will take place at each adult center, fieldtrips out in the community will happen as well. “We can visit the YMCA to learn how to sign-up for a membership. We can visit a local sporting goods store and learn how to get a properly fitting tennis shoe. We can team up with a community culinary program and learn how to cook a healthy meal. The possibilities are endless,” said Lashley. “We’re going to help individuals with developmental disabilities find those resources in the community…just like you and I do.”
SureScan, the high speed document scanning operation, has found a new home on the second floor of the Whipple-Dale Centre. Located in a group of vacant offices, the remodeled site boasts open space for multiple computer stations and sorting tables. The new space opened for business January 3.

Also new to the SureScan operation is a supported employment enclave to better control production and improve security.

“With a full-time dedicated staff of at minimum six individuals and a supervisor, TWi should be better suited to meet 2011 production goals,” said Tim Casper, TWi Manager.

Prior to the January opening, a two day initial training session taught the scanning process to a group of Supported Employment staff, including job coaches and operation managers. From there, enclave employees learned the scanning process through job coaching. Currently six adults work in the enclave, with the possibility of adding three more, said Casper.

To schedule a tour or find out more about SureScan, call 330-479-3958, or visit www.theworkshopsinc.com.
Curtis designs winning holiday card

Whipple-Dale Centre artist Brianna Curtis won the annual Brewster Cheese Holiday Card Design Contest.

The contest began at request of TWi customer Brewster Cheese, who sends the cards out to customers for the holidays.

All card designs had to incorporate either cheese or Christmas in the artwork.

Brewster Cheese used two of Curtis’ drawings, awarding her $100.

SureScan employee Dannette Zane greets State Senator Scott Oelslager during a tour of the new SureScan office in January. Several smaller offices on the second floor of the Whipple-Dale Centre were combined and remodeled to house the TWi business.
In Memoriam

Arlene “Siddy” Ruffin
Received SSA services

Robert Owen
Received SSA services

Kaitlin Ostrot
Whipple-Dale Centre

Joel Berzon
Previously attended
West Stark Center

Audrea Morrison
Attended The Workshops
Received SSA services

Aaron Vlacovsky
Received SSA services

John Patrick Hollinger
Whipple-Dale Centre

Judith “Judi” Pryor
Received SSA services

Robin R. Stover
Attended Cohen-Joliet
Received SSA services

Shirley Kocher
Received SSA services

Recalled

Anthony Dempsey
Holly Minarik
Deborah Steven
Workshop Spec. I

Robin Hill
Kathyla Lightfoot-Howell
Dawn Smith
Program Substitute

Eastgate’s “Couponing” equals budgetary savings

Eastgate’s Coupon Committee
It is no secret that times are tough. Whether it’s at home or at work, everyone is trying to figure out how to make their dollars stretch even further.

The staff at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center has taken to heart the financial concerns of the Board and is doing their part by cutting coupons.

The coupon committee utilizes donated coupons from a local nursing home, staff members and their families to purchase large quantities of needed items. By utilizing some of the strategies from the “Sisters Shopping on a Shoestring” (http://www.sistersshoppingonashoestring.com/) the committee takes advantage of coupon doubling, buy-one-get-one-free specials, and savings off towards the next shopping trip to maximize their savings.

The coupon committee is led by Kay Clark (El assistant) and Michelle Clagg (follow along). They are supported by committee members Ann Slagle (curriculum director), Trina Wachtel (classroom assistant), Amanda Shull (El specialist), Kathleen Schauer (pre-K IS), Amanda Tomey (preK IS), Tami Garner (El specialist), Brenda Cekanski (BSPI tutor), Mikel Bailey (classroom assistant), Sue Domer (teacher sub), Melissa Thompson (classroom assistant), Debra Barnett (pre-K IS).

Rather than take a bite out of services to students or risk jobs, the committee’s goal is to take a bite out of the supply budget for the many materials needed to create an effective classroom for students with special needs.

For instance, the committee recently purchased 36 bottles of Purex laundry detergent, required to wash lunch shirts, paint shirts and bibs that protect student clothing, and paid only the sales tax. The committee also realized big saving on 100 tubs of baby wipes, spending only 50 cents each instead of $2.59.

Each week the committee meets for 30 minutes before students arrive at school to organize and plan their savings. Numerous hours of personal time are spent locating and purchasing items.

With tremendous support from Giant Eagle in North Canton, Rite Aids and Walgreens, Eastgate has been able to help to cut costs to the tax-payers and the Board.
RS Southgate School receives Arts in Stark grant

RS Southgate School has been granted a $4,000 Arts In Stark grant for 2011.

According to Principal Myrna Blosser, students will create visual stories through learning how to use a digital camera and use computer programs to transform their images into unique story boards.

This grant will allow students the opportunity to use a camera which may have never had experience with.

The yearlong project will include students learning about art through filed trip to downtown Canton Art Museum and galleries, peer collaboration and team teaching with GlenOak High School to learn photographic process and production of the stories and downloading pictures, and finally to display their artwork at Kevin Anderson Art Gallery and participating high schools.

RS Southgate staff paid for a Casual Dress Day as a way to donate to Breast Cancer Awareness.

New Hires

Laura Binnig-Norman
Service & Support Administrator

Darlett Turner-Stevenson

Tina Edmonson
Gary Smith
Payment Authorization Spec.

Dawn Myers
Intervention Spec. Substitute

Amanda Fisher
Intervention Spec. Asst. Substitute

Julia Wiggins
Alicia King
Program Substitute

Ranae Trotter
Kimberly Berger
Tristan Hoover
Workshop Spec. 1 Substitute

Rehired

Mary Gemmel
Workshop Spec. 1

John Matthews
Workshop Spec. 1 Substitute

Kirk Gruber
Intervention Spec. Asst.

Kim Goodrich
Intervention Spec. Substitute

Jodie Yazvec
Special Olympics Coach

Promotions

Wayne Hershey III
Service & Support Administrator

Frances Mokodean
Intervention Specialist
Swimmers bring home State medals

Special Olympics swimmers representing the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities brought home eight gold, three silver and three bronze medals from the State Aquatics meet in December at the Ohio State University.

Tanya Grahek of North Canton earned double gold medals in both the 50 Meter backstroke and 50 Meter Freestyle.

Meghan Roach of Canal Fulton demonstrated her athletic ability in the 25 meter Backstroke event. With 10 meters to go Roach was in approximately fourth place, when she picked up her stroke to finish first and take the gold medal.

Congratulations to the Stark DD Special Olympics swim team:

*Bill Frye, Silver – 25M Freestyle, Gold – 25M Backstroke. (North Canton)*
*Steven Howell, 4th – 25M Backstroke, Bronze- 25M Freestyle. (North Canton)*
*Elizabeth John, Bronze – 25M Backstroke, 4th – 4x25M Freestyle Relay, 5th – 25M Freestyle. (Canton)*
*Alex Laird, Gold – 25M Freestyle, Silver – 25M Backstroke. (Massillon)*
*Amy Jo Marginean, 4th – 25M Freestyle, Bronze – 25M Backstroke, 4th – 4 x 25 M Freestyle Relay. (North Canton)*
*John Orenchuk, 4th – 25M Freestyle, Gold – 25M Backstroke. (North Canton)*
*Jodie Yazvec (Community)*

Basketball

There are three traditional Special Olympics Basketball teams currently practicing and competing: Men’s team 1, Men’s team 2 and the Ladies’ team. Additionally, there is a basketball skills program.

**Basketball Head Coach – Joe Benincasa (WSC)**
330.479.3972
1st Asst. Basketball Coach –
Rich Miday (Community)
1st Asst. Basketball Coach –
Jayme Riley (WSC)
1st Asst. Basketball Coach –
Darla Orenchuk (Community)
Asst. Basketball Coach –
Rebecca Polka (Southgate)
Asst. Basketball Coach –
Dan Contrucci (Bus Garage)
Asst. Basketball Coach –
Jodie Yazvec (Community)

**Bowling**

**Bowling Head Coach - Kris Baughman (North Place)**
330.479.3576
1st Asst. Coach –
Pat Cooley (Community)
Asst. Coach –
David Budd (Community)
Asst. Coach – In process of being hired.

**Track and Field**

Track and Field Coaches are in the process of being hired. It is anticipated that the Track and Field Tryout will be held in March with practices beginning in early April.

*For Additional information about Stark DD Special Olympics contact Ron Leonard – Special Olympics Local Coordinator at 330.479.3860

For a complete listing of schedules, visit www.starkdd.org/specialolympics.

Special Olympics • Ron Leonard, co-ordinator • 330-479-3940

Alex Laird of Massillon is pleased with his gold medal he won in the 25M freestyle competition. Laird also brought home a silver medal in the 25M backstroke competition.

Tanya Grahek of North Canton was a double gold medalist winner in December’s State Aquatics meet held at the Ohio State University.

Stark DD Special Olympics swimmer Meghan Roach of Canal Fulton (waving) waits to receive her gold medal after her exciting finish in the 25M backstroke competition.

Photos courtesy of Darla Orenchuk.
Mr. Robert Milliken, a member of the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, was recently named to the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

The Ohio DD Council, one of a national network of state councils, seats more than 30 members appointed by Governor Ted Strickland.

Members are people with developmental disabilities, parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities, representatives from concerned state agencies, and nonprofit organizations and local agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities. Milliken had two older brothers with developmental disabilities, both of whom are deceased.

“We are extremely pleased with the Governor’s appointment of Robert Milliken to the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. With the wealth of personal and professional experience he brings, we know that he will make a significant contribution to Council’s efforts to improve the lives of Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities,” said Carolyn Knight, Executive Director for the DD Council.

Also on the Council from Stark County is Neil Castilow, whose adult son receives services from the County Board and attends Whipple-Dale Centre.

According to the DD Council website, the mission of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is to create change that improves independence, productivity and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities and their families in community life.

Recommending Milliken for the Council was Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John Martin.

“The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council will have an excellent new member in Bob Milliken. I have known Bob for more than three years, and appreciate his knowledge and commitment to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. He has been a lifelong advocate through his own experiences gained by having two brothers with developmental disabilities. They inspired him to become an advocate for all people with developmental disabilities at an early age, and Bob has added to those life experiences a strong leadership style that will serve to strengthen the overall membership of the Ohio DD Council,” said Director Martin.

To find out more about the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council visit www.ddc.ohio.gov.
Board Members
Tom Bucka
Jack Calhoun
Roger Gines
Carlene Harmon
Richard Hoffman
Larry Marcus
Robert Milliken

Superintendent
William Green

Reach us by e-mail at starkdd@starkdd.org
or visit us on the internet at www.starkdd.org