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Welcoming Accreditation with Open Arms

By John LaCivita



The Accreditation Advance Team visit occurred as scheduled on May 13. Anne O'Connell-Null from the Ohio Department of MR/DD met with Anne Slanker, Health Services Coordinator; Jeff Gates and Peggy Van Hoose, Organization Services Coordinators; Julie Anthony, EI Specialist; Jordan Buschur, Behavior Support Specialist; Dave Wheatley, Operations Director, and John LaCivita, Organization Services Director.

Many hours of staff time were dedicated toward assembling records relating to all aspects of services received by the 32 individuals on the sample. This has been an agency-wide effort which has involved all divisions.

Kudos to Family Support Services Director Carol Ansel for her efforts in working with us to make sure everything was there, in place, and in order. Special recognition is also due to Business Director Susan Thompson as well as Anne Slanker and the Health and Safety Committee in establishing a solid Emergency Care Card system. Through the Self Review process we noted that a better system was needed to inform drivers of special transportation needs. I requested the Safety Committee to conduct a review of all ECCs to determine what further information was needed to ensure health and safety.

Annually, we conduct a self-review of all areas to ensure compliance. We are always looking for better ways to meet the needs of the people we serve, as well as practical ways to meet rule requirements. This is done through the Organization Services division with such on-going practices as Quality Assurance Reviews and Nursing QAs.

The actual Accreditation Review will occur on June 10 and 11. ODMR/DD representatives will be interviewing/visiting with individuals, staff, and families at a variety of sites including day programs and homes.

The purpose of an Accreditation Review is to determine a County Board of MR/DD's compliance with applicable rules. Previous reviews were heavily weighted in policy and procedure. Our understanding is that this review will be based on how well we apply these policies on a day to day basis and outcomes — how effective/efficient we are meeting the needs of the individuals we serve.

Among the many aspects of the Madison County Board of MR/DD program the Accreditation Team will be assessing are — Early Intervention, Behavior Support, Waiting List, Transportation (Medical and Behavioral Needs), Medication Administration, Self-Medicating with Assistance, Title XX, Adult Day Services, Level 1 Waiver, Individual Options Waiver, Administration Resolution of Complaints, Health and Safety, Personnel, Supported Living, and Major Unusual Incidents.



Sing a song for Grandfriends!

By Peg Johnson

Four-year-old Brandon Brown sings his heart out as Fairhaven School welcomed many special guests for Grandfriends Day, which was held in mid-April.

On that day, the students entertained some very special visitors. Our annual Grandfriends Day was celebrated. Our program was provided by Mark "The Toy" Rossio, a well-known children's entertainer. Mark had everyone young and old on their feet singing and dancing. A

special lunch of spaghetti was enjoyed by our students and their guests.

Special Olympics

Golden day for Tigers

COLUMBUS – Going for the gold.

And then, capturing a good chunk of it.

The Madison County Special Olympics track and field squad earned 15 gold medals in various events at the Columbus Classic, held recently at Whetstone High School. They even got to meet Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman (pictured shaking hands with Jon Weeter).

Leading the way for the Tigers was Bobby Higgins who 'ran away' with three gold medals. He earned individual first place finishes in the 100m run and running long jump, and then joined with teammates Nick Dummitt, Thomas Cunningham and Taz Hamilton to capture the top spot in the 4x100m relay.

Cunningham also earned a gold medal in the 100m run. Others who finished first in their events were John David Zeeck (running long jump), David Lambert (shot put), Ross Johnson (running long jump), and Bridgett Gray (softball throw). Also grabbing gold was the 4x100m relay team of Johnson, Lambert, Shaundra Sayre, and Paul Strickler.

Also placing first was Madison County's Special Olympics Volleyball team. The Volleyball Tigers are a Unified Team – made up of athletes served by the Madison County Board of MR/DD, and partners who are volunteers from the community. They will be traveling to Minnesota later this month to compete in a national tournament.

Earning silver medals for second place finishes were Clayton Conley (100m walk and softball throw), John Mulkey (running long jump), Gray (100m walk), Strickler (running long jump), Lambert (100m run), Cunningham (200m run), Hamilton (100m run) and the bocce duo of Brian Goff and Jeff Horn.

The Tigers added 17 bronze medals to go along with their pile of gold and silver. Bocce was the big bronze winner as the duos of Teddy Busk and Bryan Thompson, Keith Farris and Brian Farris, Dale Jones and Rebecca Bell – as well as a quartet made up of Bell, Jones, Goff and Horn – all had third place finishes. Other bronze medals were earned by Johnson (100m run), Sayre (softball throw), Dummitt (100m run), Jay Large (100m walk), Jon Weeter (shot put), Hamilton (running long jump), and Mulkey (shot put).

The following athletes earned ribbons for fourth through sixth place finishes – Sayre (100m run), Dummitt (200m run), Large (shot put), Strickler (100m run), Weeter (100m run), as well as the bocce duos of Tracy Inman and Jamie Gordon, and Harold Wilson and John Bunn.

The Tigers Special Olympians are working toward competing at the State Games to be held on the Ohio State University campus June 26-28, 2009



Special Olympics Bowling

Tigers keep rolling along ...

Striking out against the competition.

While in baseball and softball that would be a bad thing, it's just what you want to do in bowling.

A group of Special Olympics bowlers from Madison County had much success Saturday against some tough opponents in East Sectional Qualifying Tournament held at Mr. Bill's Bowling Center in Columbus. The Bowling Tigers



as affiliated with the Madison County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Every Tuesday afternoon, Madison Lanes hosts a plethora of Tiger bowlers as they enjoy time with friends, but also prepare for competitions.

Earning first place gold medals were Brian Farris, Brian Goff, Jeff Horn and Harold Wilson. Silver medals went to Donna Blentlinger, Keith Farris, Paul Hiles and Jay Large. Jerry Brown, Sam Elliott and Diane Large finished in third place. Picking up ribbons for fourth place finishes were John Bunn, Charlie Gildow, Dale Jones and Jeff McCarty.

The success of Madison County's Special Olympics program is due in part because of the individuals who volunteer to help. Madison County Board of MR/DD Recreation Coordinator Lincoln Comer was quick to point out the contributions of Linda Gildow, Cathy Goff and Janet Norris as they accompanied the bowlers on this trip.

"Without their help, many of our athletes would not have the opportunity to compete in Special Olympics bowling," Comer said. "Their personal time and efforts to assist our athletes are greatly appreciated."

That sentiment was seconded by Madison County Board of MR/DD Organization Services Director John LaCivita.

"The services that Linda, Cathy and Janet provide – as well as many others – week in and week out make them very valuable assets to our program," LaCivita said. "Without our volunteers, a number of the activities we offer could not be done."

... and so do the families of Fairhaven



By Vicki Thompson

Fairhaven School held its Family Fun Night at Madison Bowling Lanes on Monday, April 27.

This was a special Wellness night for our families to encourage healthy eating & fitness together!!

We had a wonderful turn out of families and a fun night bowling together!

Brady Fisher said he had lots of fun bowling with his family & friends - and they won! Ayden Cooper agrees that it was a great time!

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Madison County Board of MR/DD Monthly Board Update by Betsy Dodds

- The Regular Monthly Board Meeting was held Thursday, April 16, 2009 at the Administrative Office. Board members attending were Tonya Keaton, Blaine Brockman, Julie Brand, Sue Mosier, and Mary Hopkins.
- The Board approved the 2009 Summer Program Proposal that was presented in the amount of \$29,070.
- The Board entered into an agreement with the county for the 2009 CHIP Grant in the refurbishing of four housing units owned my Madison Community Housing. The Board agreed to the commitment of funds in the amount of \$46,000 to be used on the four housing units for maintenance and repairs.
- The Board approved the temporary changes in the Table of Organization pertaining to two staff members effective until 9/1/09.
- The Board approved the 2009-2010 program calendars for the Administration Office, Fairhaven School, and the Adult Services Day Program.
- The Board approved the attendance for any Board Member interested in attending the Spring Conference on May 21-22.
- The next Regular Monthly Board Meeting of the Madison County Board of MR/DD will be held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Administrative Office at 4pm.



Tigers Unified Volleyball heads to Minnesota

The Madison County Board of MR/DD's Special Olympics Unified Volleyball team is headed to the great state of Minnesota, where they will compete in the 2009 National Volleyball Tournament at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

In 2007, the Tigers' Unified Volleyball squad participated in the same tournament. That year it was held in Austin, Texas. That year, the Tigers placed fifth overall in the Gold Division after earning a spot in the top bracket by winning their preliminary division.

A full account of the Minnesota trip will be in the June edition of *The Madison Express*.



Madison County Special Olympians accept a donation for the Madison County Special Olympics program made by the Business Professionals of America Club at Tolles Career & Technical Center. On hand to participate in the presentation were (from left) athlete Jeff Horn, BPA co-advisor Mike Oler, BPA treasurer Destiny Robinett, athlete Paul Hiles, BPA president Jackie Collins, BPA co-advisor Carissa Jeffery.