



BUILDING A
COMMUNITY AND A

LEGACY

LANDMARKS ALONG OUR JOURNEY

summit **DD**
Developmental Disabilities Board

Ground broken for Summit County MRDD centers



Bath Township sisters Karen Peiser (left), 55, and Nancy Peiser, 52, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony. Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Summit County prepares to build a workshop on Second Street.



Workshops to be built in Falls and Barberton

By Jim Carney
Beacon Journal staff writer

TAHOGA FALLS: It is just a small plot of ground now.

about a year, however, a piece of property on Second Street will become a place for Nancy and Karen Peiser and more than 20

Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in Summit County, stood alongside county and agency officials Thursday at a formal groundbreaking ceremony where a new MRDD center will be built.

the noon event.

Before the ceremony, the two sisters hugged and clung to each other.

The ceremony in Cuyahoga Falls followed a similar one in Barberton, where a new MRDD building will be



KAREN SCHIEFF/Ames Beacon Journal photo
my Thursday as the Board of
d Street in Cuyahoga Falls



Attorney examined may behaviors

Hearing set

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STREETS BOARD
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The allegations
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Wagner could
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his attorney. Scott
also could not be

Throughout the Board's 50-year history, we have continued to ask "what is possible?" And our community keeps proving that with collaboration and a willingness to try something different, anything is possible. Although the Board's role has evolved, we have always been here to connect adults, kids and families to supports that help them thrive.

The first board members of Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board took their oath of office in 1968. However, programs were in place as early as the 1940s in Summit County to offer kids and adults with disabilities better options than institutionalization. Since then, 57 board members have taken that oath and five Superintendents have provided leadership to offer programs and services for adults and kids with disabilities in Summit County. The Agency has changed names, built buildings, moved buildings, repurposed buildings, worked through hard

economic times, adapted to ever-evolving state and federal laws, and built new programs and departments. One thing that has remained constant is the commitment of Summit County citizens to provide an equal life for all of its citizens.

The Board will undoubtedly continue to evolve in future decades. The citizens of



Summit County can be guaranteed that this Board will continue to challenge status quo to make our communities ones that welcome all people.

School fundi confronts rea

'60s

up to the

PARENT ADVOCATES

It was in July 1949 that Summit County began providing community-based disability services, two small classes held in the basement of an Akron church. Parent advocates continued to advocate for training and education programs and by 1968, Summit County's first

Board of Mental Retardation board members were sworn in. More than 500 adults and children were supported in three leased buildings when plans for a modern \$3.3 million facility in Tallmadge began.

The Child Welfare Board is incorporated

'49

'63 Child Welfare Board assumes responsibility from Akron schools to finance, staff and operate classes for kids with developmental disabilities



Dedicate School For Retarded

TALLMADGE — It was in 1949 that Summit County Council for Retarded Children started the county's first program for the retarded — two small classes.

They were held in the homes of parents who dreamed that someday their children would get help to find a happy place in society.

SATURDAY that dream was realized when 300 gathered to dedicate Weaver School and Skillered Workshop.

The modern building, which opened last Fall at E. Howe rd. and North av., is operated by Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and is supported by a 5-mill levy.

But it was the hard work of the parents and the council that made the building a reality for the 725 now enrolled there.

"If we had this kind of leadership in other areas," County Commissioner Victor Herbert told the audience, "we'd be making a great deal of progress."

EVERY person, Herbert said, has a contribution to make to civilization and should have the opportunity to lead a meaningful life.

"You have given these children this chance."

The dedicatory address was given by Harry E. Foster. He was introduced by Dr. Robert V. Toha, chairman of the Board of Mental Retardation, as "Mr. Mental Retardation."

Foster, president and chairman of the board of Foster Advertising of Toledo, organized the first campaign in Ohio to raise money for the mentally retarded.

Also taking part in the dedication was Mrs. Virginia



WEAVER SCHOOL. Cub Scouts contributed...



“Tallmadge - It was in 1949 that Summit County Council for Retarded Children started the county’s first program for the retarded - two small classes.”

- Akron Beacon Journal



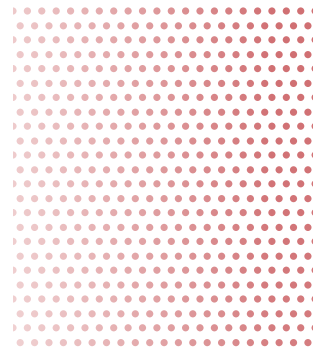
Weaver Workshop begins seeking partnerships with community businesses to help students with disabilities gain valuable job skills



The growing demand for educational opportunities for kids with disabilities sparks plans to build the Tallmadge Weaver School and Workshop



1967: House Bill 169 passes, creating the Mental Retardation Board in Summit County





'70s



SERVICES IN SUMMIT COUNTY

The 1970s marked a decade of growth. The Weaver School and Workshop opened in Tallmadge in 1971, and two more adult centers opened by the end of the decade. Residential programs began with the goal of bringing individuals who lived in institutions back to Summit County. By the end of the 70s more than 1,100 adults and children were served and Summit DD offered social services, home training, preschool, school services, adult services, residential services and transportation.

'71

Thanks to the efforts of parents and advocates, the Weaver School and Workshop opens in Tallmadge

School dream is realized

BY RANDY L. WALLACE
 Editor, *Journal of Management Education*

By RANDY L. WILLIAMS
TALLAHASSEE — Many more
of events of domestication and
planning will be brought into
focus after Senator Tim Wirth's
\$1.1 million request for the state-
funded research will be ultimately
dedicated to the
Lancaster, Pa.,

...the Western School and that the Western Country School for the mentally retarded which had its main building in 1900 in 1910. It was then that a group of prominent men from the town of Western, Wis., with two county boards, through the interest of developing an educational program for the mentally retarded, organized the Western School for the mentally retarded.

Two speakers, meeting at a Washington hotel, the first day of the conference, stressed the need for the country's economic recovery to be based on the private sector. The second speaker, a former U.S. ambassador to Japan, stressed the need for the country's economic recovery to be based on the private sector.

Under the leadership of the

When Mrs. George J. Rogers, a member of the Foreign Office, visited the school and a number of students, she was particularly interested in the work of the school in the field of social and economic education. She was particularly interested in the work of the school in the field of social and economic education. She was particularly interested in the work of the school in the field of social and economic education.

According to Kenneth Sawyer, a spokesman for the school and workshop, "the total amount each year is up to the individual, because we provide a lot of material for the students to use with the National Chemistry Olympiad. The amount of money offered by the school varies. Some students are able to go through before training sessions, without any additional financial classes. Others are charged for additional work and other services. We provide about \$200,000 a year and additional work."

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

With an operating budget of \$1.1 million for its first year of operation, the Western Illinois and Waukegan railroad stands to realize some money, and because the facility is expected to be a full-time center serving both as well as receiving from the Ohio Service as they use Waukegan and personnel from the latter railroad. Details on service are being worked out.

According to Vermont, New York and County's staff for such a study has already been approved by the State Office and the Board. In 1975, there will be 1,000 monthly organized parties in the county. All of these will be classified as private parties according to the law.

Though great planning and implementation, I am looking to the time when Vermont County will have a full spectrum of services which will include: medical, educational, recreational, financial, counseling, psychiatric, nursing and housing for the mentally retarded, among others.

Community has been made much more dynamic through the County's program which is to develop a new generation of the ability to learn of this age.

For example, the children of the County are currently in a program of a comprehensive program of a new generation of the ability to learn of this age.

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'80s

SERVICE EXPANSION

The Agency pushes for a continued expansion of employment opportunities for adults with disabilities



Special Olympics gains momentum and community support

The 1980s experienced growth of adult programs and expansion of community employment services. Legislation in the 1980s solidified rights of those with disabilities, provided protections from abuse and neglect and increased funding for Supported Living. Summit DD introduced its first Case Management Department, aligned its early childhood offerings, and implemented its 24 hour hotline. By the end of the 1980s the Agency was serving 1,400 kids and adults through the Early Childhood Program, Schools, four adult centers and through a growing network of contract providers.



CITY & REGION

Akron Beacon Journal

☆☆

Transfer of retarded ma

By Kathleen Byland
Beacon Journal staff writer

Ohio Gov. Richard F. Celeste's pledge to transfer the mentally retarded from large state institutions back to their communities will include the closing of a regional mental retardation office with 28 employees in Akron.

Minnie Fells Johnson, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, also told parents and volunteers at the Apple Creek Developmental Center Sunday that the administration has not ruled out closing the Wayne County center.

"Mainstreaming" the mentally retarded into smaller facilities or

'Mainstreaming' the mentally retarded into smaller facilities or group homes in their communities will be the goal of the department.'

**—Minnie Fells Johnson, director
Department of Mental Retardation**



group homes in their communities will be the goal of the department, Ms. Johnson said.

But the department will also prosecute any replacement facili-

ty which falls short of state standards, she said.

This year, the number of mentally retarded persons moved out of large state institutions into

• More power — and more money — will be given to county mental retardation boards. Ce-

"Mainstreaming" discussions begin as a way to give people with disabilities more access to their community and peers

Private nonprofit organizations begin to buy homes and offer residential services and partner with the Agency

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A new generation of parents prefer to have their children educated within the public school system. Weaver School enrollment continues to decline.



90s

SERVICES IN SUMMIT COUNTY

Summit DD saw a shift in the 1990s that led to regional-based services, aimed at providing day programs and residential options where people live. Throughout the 1990s the Agency used quality principles to prepare for a growing demand and a growing waiting list of adults needing day programs and residential services, and families needing early intervention services. By the end of the 1990s more than 2,000 adults and children were supported through an array of services.



'91

In 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act begins to build a more accessible community for all people.

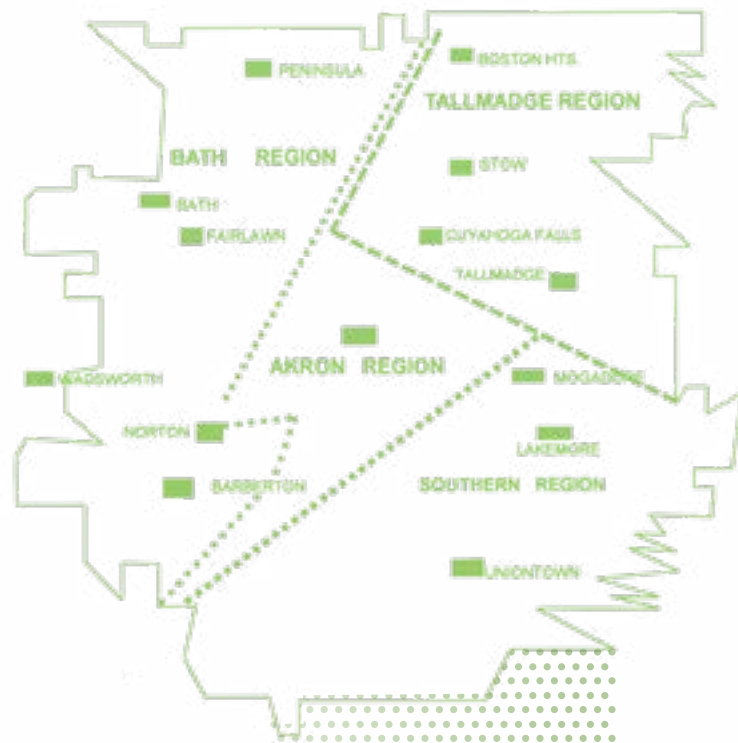


The Agency partners with 40 other county organizations in order to streamline early intervention services for parents with young children. The Board then opens the Collaborative Agencies for Learning and Innovative Childhood Options Center (CALICO), an integrated daycare center.



Board services grow into new regions in order to assist people with disabilities within their communities, closer to home.

New Regions



The Agency expands residential services by partnering with the Summit Housing Development Corporation.



00s

GROWTH OF MEDICAID

In the early 2000s legislation provided the Agency local Medicaid Administrative Authority. This meant that the Agency could use local dollars as a match to draw down federal Medicaid money which could pay for day and residential programs. Through Medicaid refinancing, the waiting list, with hundreds of adults waiting for day programs and residential support, was eliminated. The

Agency saw the evolution of case management to Service and Support Administration as the single point of accountability to create an individualized plan and budget. With the creation of a Major Unusual Incident Department, the Agency's role was evolving to an administrator of services. The Agency had doubled the number of adults and children it supported to more than 4,000 in 2009.



00s

Throughout the decade, the Agency opened smaller, more community-based centers in order to assist people with disabilities right within their neighborhoods.

New name for MRDD

Statewide law requires agencies to stop using 'mental retardation'



By Kelly Ryan
Summit Journal staff writer

Chris Brouse has grown used to the word "retard." But, the 34-year-old Barberton man with a developmental disability couldn't do much to change it. "One that should not be used,"

Now the state agency, a new Ohio law says the state-level agency and county boards serving those with developmental disabilities must change the word "mental retardation" from their names.

"It's a good thing. I don't change," said Patrick Miller, superintendent of the (Summit County) Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

"Mental retardation is an outdated term," said Miller. "It's a term of development disability, not a term of education," said Miller. "The Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is not a school, it's a service agency."

Summit County officials say the use of the word "retard" is outdated.

The law also requires the use of the word "retard" in the name of the state agency.

The law does not set a deadline for changing signs and using up printed materials, such as the county and pamphlets.

"We're looking at all options for extending our agency," Brouse said. "Any extension would be done on a voluntary basis."

On Friday, an agency was reviewing the plan. "The Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is not a school, it's a service agency."

Summit County officials say the use of the word "retard" is outdated.

include "mental retardation," said board superintendent John Tindley said.

"Yesterday, we've been talking to the law firm that is the lead on this," he said.

In March, the MRDD board might drop more than the term from its name.

Those already serving applicants, Lisa Thompson said, will continue to be a team that doesn't serve adults with developmental disabilities.

In March, the board is called for action.

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07

The Agency focused on decreasing waiting lists for services. In 2007, the waiting list for core day services was eliminated.

In 2009, the Agency removed Mental Retardation from their name in accordance with a new state law.

DAY PROGRAM WAITING LIST

The demand for services has increased over the years, and the Summit MRDD has redesigned the way it does business to pursue efficiency and maximize Federal revenue. These efficiencies, along with the additional resources so generously supported by the citizens of Summit County, allowed the Board the opportunity to enroll over two hundred individuals who had previously been waiting for services in a Core Day Service program. In 2007, the waiting list for core day services was completely eliminated.

The Board has made a commitment to maintain day program services for all who need them through the end of the 2012 levy period.

06

In 2006 and 2007, the CALICO Early Intervention Center-Based program transitioned into a community-based model. Parents of young children could now receive essential EI services at various community sites or within their homes.



Local & Opinion

Marine's last wish

Mother will fulfill wish of Lance Cpl. Robert Eckfield Jr. of Cleveland, who was killed in Iraq



Tom Clink helps Alex Plummer clap in a class at the Summit County MRDD last week, while Jennifer Harz leads the other toddlers.

MRDD services tied to levy

Agency says passage will allow it to meet needs of those kept on waiting list

By Mary Kay Quinn
Summit Journal staff writer

LeMar Barkley, like most young adults, enjoys music and likes to play ball and go to the mall.

Unlike most 20-year-olds, he is on a waiting list for the learning experience that best suits him.

In the meantime, Barkley continues to attend North High School. Because he has a developmental disability, he can stay there until he's 22.



and Developmental Disabilities

She fears that if Issue 6, a 4.5-mill, six-year replacement levy, doesn't pass, the wait will grow beyond a

couple of years. Miller, who is secretary of the board of trustees, has missed Barkley since he was 3 months old.

He enjoys singing Sam & Dave and Righteous Brothers tunes, but she said that when he has nothing to do and no structure, it can be aggravating for him and those around him.

If voters approve the operating levy on the Nov. 8 ballot, the MRDD board intends to reduce or eliminate waiting lists for key services.

William Ginter, president of the board of trustees, said combining the 4.5-mill levy with improved efficiencies would allow the board to provide day services to all qualified Summit County adults.

The board serves 2,950 people and hopes to reach an additional 1,000 over the levy period.

It currently has waiting lists for early intervention, and school-age and adult services. Almost 130 adults are in line for day services; the wait is about 3 1/2 months.

Please see MRDD, B5

Cinderella

2010s & BEYOND!

The 2010s represent another turning point in the lives of adults and kids with developmental disabilities. Focusing on the idea of empowering people of all abilities, the Agency made it its mission to make our communities inclusive for all people. While federal laws presented the Agency with the challenge of transitioning all adults to private providers of their choice

for adult day programs, it also created opportunities to connect with our community. This generation of individuals will go to daycare and preschool with their peers, grade school and high school in their hometown, and will have access to transition support that provides more community options at graduation. Supporting more than 4,700 adults and kids, Summit DD continues to connect people to supports that help them thrive.



The Agency launches the Community Partnership for Inclusion program to assist families with finding integrated daycare options for their children.

Due to a federal mandate from the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS), the Agency spends several years helping people transition to quality private providers.



Summit DD is building inclusive communities

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board, or Summit DD, is a regional resource that connects adults and children with developmental disabilities to right-fit resources, supports and services that empower them to lead full, equitable lives in their communities. Summit DD supports more than 4,000 individuals in Summit County through a lifetime of services and is building a new era of supports that is redefining inclusion and community.

Last year, Summit DD's board selected John Trunk to lead the agency into this new and exciting era. Trunk brings more than 25 years of experience and innovation with him. He is committed to building relationships and creating new collaborations to propel the agency forward in 2014.

"We need to take on a leadership role in the community to make our neighborhoods welcoming places for individuals with developmental disabilities. Everyone benefits when it happens," said Trunk.

"We have an important job to do here; we will work hard to do it and to get it done."

Inclusive programs for children

Summit DD provides Summit County's youngest citizens and their families the tools necessary to succeed in their communities. Through Early Intervention (EI) services, community inclusion programs and school-age support, Summit DD works with families to build supports that are flexible, yet customized to each family.

EI services are available to children with special needs,

from birth to age 3, at no cost to parents. Summit DD partners with Help Me Grow to provide seamless EI supports. Summit DD promotes a family-centered, consultative approach to EI services. This Evidence-Based Early Intervention uses a coaching model that assists families with implementing strategies to meet the outcomes they identify as important to their child.

Summit DD is also there to support community programs and childcare centers through the agency's Community Partnership for Inclusion program. Summit DD staff provides inclusion training to organizations in the community, ultimately increasing inclusive opportunities for all children, with or without disabilities. To date, Summit DD has partnered with 26 privately run child care centers that support more than 60 children with special needs and has trained 475 child care professionals.

Building an inclusive work force

Summit DD makes it easy for area employers to become more inclusive by connecting them with qualified candidates and offering ongoing support, creating a win-win situation for all. With the right supports in place, adults with disabilities are working for some of Summit County's most recognizable employers.

Together, with its many partners, Summit DD offers transition support to make community integrated employment the desired outcome for all graduating high school students. Center-based services are available to those who want to remain in that environment. There, adults are offered job discovery and self-advocacy supports that allow individuals to make informed choices about their life journey.

Creating awareness

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Join Summit DD in building stronger communities by supporting inclusion. Discover more about Summit County's regional resources for individuals living with disabilities by visiting SummitDD.org.



John Trunk, superintendent

Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board

Summit DD is building inclusive communities

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[illegible]

UA biomedical engineering team honored

[illegible]

Summit DD focuses on creating various partnerships within the community to foster inclusive programs, including the Summit County Sheriff, Lock 3, Woodridge Schools, and the University of Akron to name a few.

[illegible]

HARD DAY'S WORK PAYS OFF FOR TEENS

[illegible]

Summit DD launches the TANF Summer Youth Work Experience Program to help the next generation of teens learn valuable employment skills within their community.

WHAT'S NEXT

PERSONAL GOALS

What is important to you today and in the future? Summit DD is here to help!

SummitDD.org/SSA



Summit DD was founded through community.

Parents, individuals, teachers, staff, local business, and organizations contributed to make Summit DD what it has become today.

What do you see for Summit DD in the next 50 years? Take a minute to jot down what is important to you, the Agency and the community and send us your thoughts to help shape Summit DD into the future.



SUMMIT DD

What do think Summit DD should consider in our long-term plans? Help us shape the future of the Agency.

SummitDD.org/Library



SUMMIT COUNTY

How can community partners and organizations improve services and build inclusion?

SummitDD.org/Self-Advocacy



We would love to hear from you!

Do you have ideas to share?
Please submit your ideas to the
Communications Department.

Mail

Summit DD Communications
89 E. Howe Road
Tallmadge, OH 44278

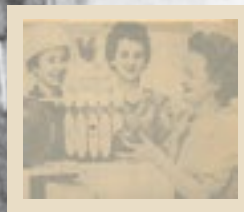
Email

PR@SummitDD.org









Thanks Summit County


summit **DD**

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