



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

September 2019

## First Day of School Memories — 2019



*The first day of school this year was an exciting and wonderful day for students and staff alike! Here are a few memories of that special day!!*

Left: **Khloe Smiddy**

Right: **Rosalie Chamberlain** with Classroom Aide **Lisa Koney**

Center: **JaLaysia Brown** with School Receptionist **Peggy Smith**

Below left: **Calvin Kaminski**, with Early Intervention Supervisor **Heather Knobler**

Below right: **CJ Martin** with Director of Education, **Dann Swift**



# 'Find Your Voice' Self-Advocacy Event

On August 22 Murray Ridge held its 'Find Your Voice' countywide self-advocacy event. Funding for this event was provided through the Myrtle Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County. This event featured guest speakers, **Josh Anderson** from No Regretz, and **Britta Hough** from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, as well as Lorain County consumers, **Megan Beals**, **Matthew Schoerverth**, **Dan Fenik**, and **Diana Clement**.

Josh Anderson inspired the audience members to set goals for themselves, be persistent, and live with no regrets. Britta Hough discussed options for finding your own unique path to community employment. The four Lorain County consumers shared their experiences with self-advocacy as well as their successes, dreams, and hopes for the future.

One of the highlights of the evening was the prize drawings. Winners received the opportunity to attend STIR training and the upcoming Synergy conference. STIR training teaches people how to become a self-advocate, while the Synergy conference allows individuals with disabilities to network and learn about a variety of topics, including advocacy, safety, planning, and using technology. Winners also received t-shirts, cards, and fun take home baskets. Everyone who attended enjoyed a taco bar, an ice cream cart from Trikeable Treats, and the fun and exciting atmosphere. Keep your eye out for future advocacy events. In the meantime, Find Your Voice and keep reaching for your dreams!!



Pictured clockwise from top left: **Josh Anderson**, **Megan Beals**, **Diana Clement**, **Matthew Schoerverth**, **Dan Fenik** and **Britta Hough**.

# Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

## Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

**Learn** about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

**Gather** useful tips and local resources!

**Discover** ways to succeed!

## 2019 Fall Course Series

### Evening Sessions:

**September 24, 2019:** Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

**September 26, 2019:** Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

**October 01, 2019:** Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

**October 03, 2019:** Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

### Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD  
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.  
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035  
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School  
\*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA lot. Please enter in back door.

## Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD  
(440) 284-3655  
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

### Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



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## Series Details

- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

## Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



## SSA Staffer Receives Exceptional Service Award



Congratulations to Service and Support Administration (SSA) staff member **Caitlyn Keil** who was recently presented with an Exceptional Service Award at an SSA staff meeting (left) by Board Member **Dan White** and Superintendent **Amber Fisher**.

Caitlyn was nominated by Murray Ridge School student **Alyssa Maraldo** and her twin brother, **Matthew**. Their eloquent nomination stated that Caitlyn "has taken it upon herself to truly understand who we are as individuals and recognize our likes and dislikes. She is such a positive person. She always greets us with smiles and actively listens to our wants and needs.

"She's helped us transition into the workforce . . .and provided information on social groups and community activities. We are so blessed to have her in our lives."

## Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

***Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Chris Vasco, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Please include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions, contact Chris at (440) 329-3734 or [cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org](mailto:cvasco@murrayridgecenter.org)***

## EOVC Consumers Help Local Kids get Ready for School

Staff members and program participants from Murray Ridge Center's Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) recently gave back to the community by donating a variety of school supplies to the Elyria City Schools – and a video about the donation was posted on the Elyria Schools' YouTube channel.

Proceeds from food sales at the EOVC's 'Cage Grill' were used to buy the school supplies at the Oberlin Walmart . . . which also made a generous donation toward the purchase! Thanks to staff members **Merle Simmons** and **Dale Griffin**, along with program participants **Jackie Allen**, **Jaclyn Guerrieri**, **Terry Meagher**, **Tyler Rudolchick**, and **Lori Rodehamel** for all their hard work with this great project!!



## The Artistic Side of Murray Ridge

### MICHAEL ELLIOTT

Congratulations to **Michael Elliott**, a program participant at the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center for winning a 2nd and 3rd place award at this year's Lorain County Fair. Michael is pictured below with some of his more recent work.



### NICOLE SKERIK & EOVC AREA C

Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) staff member **Nicole Skerik** creates various murals and paintings under the watchful eyes of program participants in Area C. They assist by mixing paint, bringing her supplies, and helping with the actual creations of various works of art throughout the building!



### TONY HARRIS

Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) program participant **Tony Harris** specializes in drawing portraits of people — particularly staff members at the LOVC.



## Murray Ridge Annual Talent Show



Congratulations to all the impressive participants from our three Opportunity/Vocational Centers who took part in the annual Murray Ridge Talent Show held last week! Special congratulations go to the three winners pictured: First Place Winner **Angel Rivera** (center) from the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center (EOVC) who danced to Bobby Brown's song, 'Every Little Step'; Runner-Up **James Wilson** (left) from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC) who sang and played bongos to Kane Brown's song 'Lose It'; and Third Place Winner **Michael Kimbrough** (right) from the EOVC who sang 'School Days' by Al Green.

Special thanks go to the event judges: Board Members **Bev Gedid** and **Vassie Scott**; **Michele Gray** from Our Lady of the Wayside; **Vanessa McKissick** from Echoing Hills; LOVC Program Participant **Katie Kellogg**; and Judge Coordinator **Terri Camp**, Supervisor at the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center. A special 'shout-out' goes to Gold Star Awards who refitted our trophies for the talent show again this year at no charge.

## Consumer Profile — Meet Ashley Hamrick

Ashley lives in North Ridgeville with her father, Larry, and her dog, Midnight. She is the youngest of six siblings with four older sisters and one older brother. Ashley is a kind, funny and helpful individual who is very independent. She is able to handle her finances and most of her medical and income benefits (Dad is always available when needed).



She also enjoys going bowling with him. At home she plays with her dog and watches TV. **Ashley is supported by her Murray Ridge Center Service and Support Administrator, Deanne King. Deanne assists Ashley with the development of her Individual Service Plan, monitors her services, and helps to keep her plan up to date as her needs and desires change.**



In June, 2018, Deanne coordinated the installation of a vertical platform lift at Ashley's front door to enable her to enter and exit the home safely and independently.

**Ashley is supported in the community by Deloris Kibble, Independent Provider, who is also a retiree from the Murray Ridge Center-Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center.** Deloris helps Ashley to access the many activities that she enjoys in the community by providing companionship and transportation. When out and about with Deloris, she likes to go shopping at the thrift stores, go out to eat, go to see scary movies, and go to the library. She also really likes attending the Mega Championship Wrestling event "Breaking Down Barriers."



**During the week, Ashley attends a day program operated by Rising Sun Centers.** Rising Sun is a small program (for a maximum of 60 individuals) that opened in 2011. Rising Sun offers volunteer opportunities, recreational activities, functional academics, daily exercise programs, arts and crafts, opportunities for paid work and gardening (in a vegetable garden during the summer).



Ashley has attended Rising Sun Center since 2015 and has made many friends there. Ashley said she loves being able to help her peers and work in groups. She also enjoys the various volunteer opportunities such as those at the nursing home, Salvation Army, Neighborhood Alliance Daycare Center and Habitat for Humanity. Her favorite thing to do is taking part in the

Cooking Club! Each person cooks something at home and brings it in for everyone in the club to share and experience different styles of food. She looks forward to every other Friday when a therapy dog comes to visit at Rising Sun.

In 2018 Ashley expressed interest in finding a job in the community. **Though the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) process, Ashley chose Goodwill Industries for Supported Employment services.** With the support of Goodwill, Ashley completed Job Seeking Skills Training, and received help with resume development, job searching (on-line and in the community), interviewing skills and networking. With the help from Goodwill, she was able to find and secure a job at Horizon Daycare in Westlake as a classroom aide assisting the teachers with caring for the children. Unfortunately, the daycare downsized and Ashley was laid off. She was then able to find a job at Walmart as a stock person, but it turned out to not be a good fit. Nonetheless, Ashley has not lost determination in her job search, and she continues to work with her job developer at Goodwill. Ashley is very excited about the future and all of the new opportunities opening up for her.



# September 2019

## Activities & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 					

- 9/2 - Labor Day Holiday / Agency Closed
- 9/3 - First day of school for preschool students
- 9/18- LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 9/30 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 26, 2019

In order to reflect changes to the Ohio Administrative Code, the Board unanimously approved revisions to the following policies: *Resolution of Complaints Involving the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Appeals of Adverse Action Proposed or Initiated by the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, and *Waiting Lists*. In order to enable part-time Management and Confidential employees to convert a portion of earned sick time to vacation time, in keeping with a recent change to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Board unanimously approved revisions to the following policies: *Sick Leave* and *Vacation Leave*. Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services, presented and the Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2019-2020 school year, and Superintendent Fisher/her designee(s) were authorized to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter of 2019.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

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Elyria, OH 44035



### **Murray Ridge to Operate a Point of Distribution in the Case of Certain Emergencies**

In the event of a county-wide health emergency requiring the distribution of medicine or treatment, Murray Ridge Center, in conjunction with Lorain County Public Health, will operate a temporary Point of Distribution (POD) to provide medicine or treatments to consumers (people with developmental disabilities who have been determined eligible for services from the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities), and their immediate caregivers.

Family members who live in households with children and adults with developmental disabilities will be eligible to receive medication/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center closed POD. Caregivers assigned at the time of POD operation to work with individuals with developmental disabilities who do not live with family will also be eligible to receive medicine/treatment from the Murray Ridge Center POD for themselves and members of their immediate households.

Should the need to operate a Murray Ridge Center POD occur, specifics will be communicated on the Murray Ridge Center Facebook page, on our website, and/or through other local media and other communications.

### **News You Can Use**

**Connecting for Kids** (CFK), an organization which provides education and support to families who have concerns about their child, has announced that registration is now open for a variety of fall programs.

Among the many programs being offered are a Speaker Series, Elementary Experiences, Sensory Consults, Music Therapy and More, and Adapted Library Programs. All CFK programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, go to the CFK website at [connectingforkids.org](http://connectingforkids.org); call/text: (440) 570-5908; or email: [info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org)