



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

January 2016

A Message From The Superintendent



Superintendent Amber Fisher

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that our agency has been in existence for nearly 50 years and that, during that time, there has been such an evolution in the system of services for people with developmental disabilities.

I am always delighted to speak with service recipients and the families of eligible individuals who have been involved with our programs from 'the beginning.' On such occasions, I am consistently impressed by the importance of our educational, vocational, and socialization offerings in the lives of individuals served, and the sense that Murray Ridge is 'family.' Even as service models, funding, and philosophies have changed significantly within the field, Murray Ridge has continuously adapted, and strived not only to fulfill, but also to become ever more enterprising in the fulfillment of its core mission: to ensure the availability of services and supports that assist eligible individuals in living the lives they choose, to promote their health and safety, and to assist and support the families of these individuals in achieving these goals.

2016 promises to be a year of opportunity: a chance to focus on new and creative ways to help people with developmental disabilities to explore their interests, and to identify their gifts and put them to use in ways that not only make their lives more fulfilled, but also improve the world around them.

Our Board has developed a plan for the next three years that lays out strategies for increasing opportunities for community employment, community integration, and self-advocacy. Our 2016-2018 strategic plan also addresses the reduction of waiting lists for home and community based services, and the recruitment of sufficient providers of service.

This spring, we will welcome a new part time Manager of Quality Assurance who will assist with identifying ways to access people and places that will help those we serve to play a greater role in community life. Our Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) will continue to roll out 'Person Centered' Plans, and to coordinate a variety of resources, and both unpaid and paid support providers that will help each individual to pursue his or her unique interests and life goals. Our Adult Services staff will focus on promoting the development of self-advocacy skills, adopting a more community-based model of service delivery, and assisting individuals to develop critical 'community access' skills. Our Supported Employment Department will strive to sustain its very impressive track record of increasing the number of eligible adults who work within our community; and job exploration and readiness will be an important focus at Murray Ridge School.

As we move forward, it will be increasingly important for our community to recognize that Murray Ridge is not only an excellent provider of direct service, but also a critically important coordinator and funder of services that are delivered by many providers who offer residential and adult services. For example, as we transition out of the operation of group homes in the year ahead, our SSAs will continue to take the lead in development of person-centered plans, coordination of formal and informal support, and monitoring of services for those who previously lived in county board-operated homes.

I am truly excited to work closely with our staff, consumers, families, providers, and community partners to bring about new opportunities and great outcomes for those we serve in 2016.

Amber Fisher
Superintendent

2015 Swim Team at State Meet



The 2015 Murray Ridge Raiders Special Olympics Swim Team ended another successful season on December 5, 2015, when swimmers competed at the State Swim Meet in Columbus. Swimmers earned 2 Gold medals, 5 Silver and 6 Bronze medals!

EI Wins Big at Annual Zero-Proof Mix-Off



Congratulations to the Murray Ridge Early Intervention Department that won Best Tasting Drink at the Zero Proof Mix-Off at LCCC ON December 3! Great job EI team!!

Important Weather-Related Announcements

Murray Ridge program closing information will be available on TV station Fox 8, on the Fox 8 website fox8.com, and on radio stations WEOL 930 AM and WOBL 1320 AM, as it has in the past. **There will be two separate listings for Murray Ridge Center:**

- **Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers**
- **Murray Ridge School**

Parents and caregivers of school students should disregard the "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge School." Conversely, adult consumers who attend our Opportunity/Vocational Centers and their parents/caregivers should disregard the "Murray Ridge School" listing, and follow only the listing for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers."

If "Open—No Transportation" follows the announcement for "Murray Ridge—Adult Activities Centers," parents/caregivers are welcome to transport adult consumers to their day service sites. Regular programming will be provided. Consumers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 3:45 p.m.

In the event of bad weather, the decision to transport individuals to Murray Ridge Center will be based on the ability of our buses to travel safely on city and county roads. Regardless of whether or not transportation is available through Murray Ridge Center, if our Opportunity/Vocational Centers are open, but there is an individual concern about the weather, adult consumers should feel free to stay home. Likewise, parents/caregivers of Murray Ridge School students who have individual concerns regarding the weather should feel free to keep their child at home, even if school is in session.

Please be aware that transportation to enclave sites is generally available even if transportation to the Opportunity/Vocational Centers is cancelled. Murray Ridge Center does not broadcast the status of enclave transportation on the television or radio. Consumers should assume that enclave transportation will be available unless they receive a phone call from a member of our Supported Employment Department.

First Student bus company can be reached at 288-2222

THE MURRAY RIDGE SUPPORT GROUP IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!



The Murray Ridge Support Group, a not for profit organization that exists to support the mission of Murray Ridge Center and local residents with developmental disabilities and their families, is seeking new members!

Some activities of the Murray Ridge Support Group include:

- * Provide education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and their families
- * Conduct fundraisers
- * Address special financial needs of consumers
- * Sponsor social activities for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

M R S G

For more information on how you can join the Murray Ridge Support Group, please contact Joaquín Page at 440.453.2576.

Holiday Happenings at Murray Ridge!



Right: Jesse Frisch, a consumer working in Murray Ridge Center's Supported Employment Department, collected donations from the MRC Administration Building and the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center for the Make-a-Wish Foundation for the 4th year in a row!



Above: Paul Kropp is all smiles after winning the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center's Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest! Right: Audrey and Penelope Dodge sit on Santa's lap when he made his annual visit to the students of Murray Ridge School!



Above: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center. Pictured, front row, l-r: Kathy Piskur, Chayise Kurdinat, Sarina Fries, Amanda Spreng and Donna Wolfe. Back row, l-r: Terri Camp, Alexandra Piechota, Ryan McCoy, Ken Martin, Dawne Edwards, Shannon Gaines, and Judy Wood.

Right: Murray Ridge School students were visited by two of Santa's reindeer! Pictured are staff members with students Delmenio Hollingsworth and Christian Martin, feeding the lucky reindeer a few snacks!



Above, the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center celebrated Christmas with various activities, including a photo booth! Pictured, l-r, are adult program participants Michelle Bednar and Lynda Fanara, and staff member Jennifer Hall.

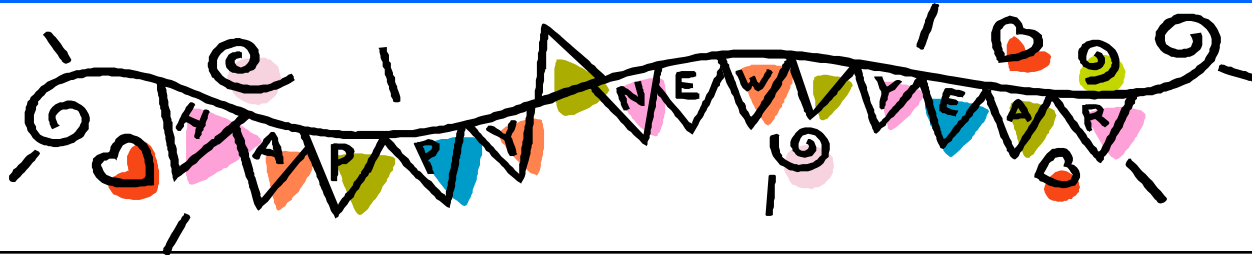


January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					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

Activities & Events

- 1/1 - **Agency closed for winter holiday**
- 1/4 - **Murray Ridge School resumes classes**
- 1/6 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/12 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m., EOVC, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 1/18 - **Agency closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday**
- 1/21 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/29 - LCBDD Organizational Meeting , 12:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 1/29 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council begins immediately following the Organizational Meeting



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on December 18, 2015:

It was reported that the Board Award Committee has an Exceptional Service Award winner who will be honored at the next Board meeting. A synopsis of the OACB Conference/Delegate Assembly was provided. The Board approved the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan. The Board established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the first quarter of 2016. Also reviewed and approved were the Individual Cost Ceilings for Supported Living, and an agreement with Murray Ridge Production Center. The 2016 Board calendar was discussed; no meeting will be held in July or October, and meetings will continue to be held on Fridays (usually the last Friday of each month) at 12:30 p.m. The Murray Ridge Support Group (MRSRG) announced that it provided \$4,000 in gift cards for the holiday season to families in need who utilize MRC services. The MRSRG will have its next meeting on 1/12/16.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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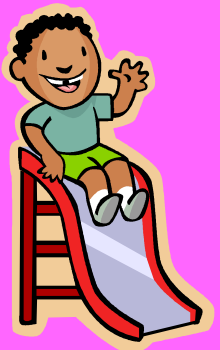


Exceptional Service Award

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 Jennifer Judkins, Public Relations/Volunteer Director. 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 at regular scheduled meetings, usually held on the last Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.

Inclusive Playground FREE Admission!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! Free at this time, the unique playground incorporates water play (shut down for season), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features. Stop in and visit today!



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(440) 984-3470

Work at the Ridge!

Check out our website
www.murrayridgecenter.org to see
our open positions!

