HORIZONS

Spring 2025



Save the Dates

Chargers for Change

APRIL 16, 2025

Next Board Meeting

APRIL 17, 2025

Programs Closed

APRIL 18 - 21, 2025

Newsletter Contents

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Letter from the Superintendent

As we welcome the warmth of spring, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful progress our students, staff, and families have made over the past few months. The spring season brings with it a sense of renewal, growth, and excitement, and I'm eager to share some of the highlights and upcoming events with you.



Spring Updates: This school year has been one of resilience and perseverance. I am proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by our students, educators, and staff. From academic accomplishments to extracurricular activities, our community has continued to thrive.

Student Success: Fairway Preschool had a very successful first ever Family Engagement Valentines Dance. The pictures won't show all the fun that was had.

Teacher Excellence: Our educators have been tirelessly working to meet the science of reading requirements. They are looking forward to receiving their annual CEU requirements at OACYC convention at Kalahari this spring. March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: We had a very successful March activity to promote awareness and inclusion of people with Developmental Disabilities. Our Committee decided on the theme of "Rooted as one." To engage multiple age groups, we organized a variety of events. We started with a 2nd-grade coloring contest, followed by a middle school poster contest, and invited all the schools to participate in a challenge to create the best bulletin board. Additionally, we held a unified basketball game at Bucyrus High School, featuring athletes from all the varsity basketball teams alongside Special Olympic athletes. High school cheerleaders teamed up with the Special Olympic pep squad to cheer at the event. We also raised money for Crawford County Special Olympics, the Chargers 4 Change self-advocacy group, and the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities' food pantry. We plan on continuing our partnership with Crawford County CU Lead with coordination of an awareness / including a tour and luncheon in the fall.

Looking Ahead: We will be starting work on a new strategic plan for Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities effective January 2026, for a three year period. We are assembling an amazing committee to put work into this endeavor. If you have any feedback, please be sure to share it with me. Thank you for your continued support of our Mission. I wish everyone a joyful and productive spring season!

Warm regards,

Court Sturts

HOW MANY PINK FLOWERS CAN YOU FIND IN OUR NEWSLETTER?



Fairway Rewind































Important Preschool Dates-

April 4/17 - 4/21 - Spring Break

April 24 - NO SCHOOL

May 1- Field Trip

May 8- MARK's Ice Cream

May 21- Preschool Stepping Up

Program

May 21- Student's Last Day















Family Fun Night

Fairway Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year.







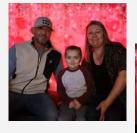




















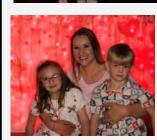






















Special

Olympics







MARCH 31ST AT THE FAIRWAY GYM FROM 5PM TO 6:30
WE WILL PRACTICE ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAYS
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
KELLY HUFFORD AT KHUFFORD@CLEARWATERCOG.ORG OR 419-455-4545



Join the Excitement of Special Olympics!

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming involved in Special Olympics? Whether you're an athlete, a volunteer, a coach, or simply a fan of fun, fitness, and friendship, there's a place for you in Special Olympics!

Kelly Hufford serves as the Special Olympics Coordinator for Crawford and Morrow Counties and is your go-to person for all things Special Olympics in the area. With her passion for inclusion and dedication to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, Kelly works hard to ensure athletes of all abilities have the opportunity to shine.

From track and field to basketball, bowling, and more, Special Olympics offers year-round sports training and competitions.

Athletes build physical fitness, confidence, and lifelong friendships through participation. Volunteers and supporters play a vital role in making each event a success and in cheering on our local champions.

If you're ready to get involved or want to learn more, reach out to Kelly Hufford today!

419-455-4545

khufford@clearwatercog.org

Let's celebrate ability together—join the movement and help make a difference in our community!



Early Intervention

10 Great Outdoor Activities for Infants and Toddlers



Knowledge is Power

It is finally Spring, and in Early Intervention world that means we can incorporate therapies outside! Here are 10 great activities for infants and toddlers that can be done right outside your front door.

- 1. Have a picnic
- 2. Dance with bubbles
- 3. Have a scavenger hunt
- 4. Catch bugs
- 5. Draw with sidewalk chalk
- 6. Pick flowers
- 7. Go on a nature walk
- 8. Collect leaves
- 9. Collect rocks
- 10. Set up a tent

Outside activities are a great way to switch up your normal routine and keep your children engaged. They require movement, building connections, critical thinking, problem solving, sensory input, interaction and communication. Narrate the activity with your child and let them take the lead.

Happy Spring!



CCBDD Joins the Fun at the Bucyrus YMCA Easter Egg Hunt!

We're egg-cited to share that the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) was part of this year's Easter Egg Hunt at the Bucyrus YMCA!

On April 12th,, families gathered for a morning filled with springtime fun, colorful eggs, and plenty of smiles. CCBDD was proud to join this festive event, sharing resources, handing out goodies, and celebrating the joy of community with local families.

Our team loved meeting new faces, reconnecting with familiar ones, and spreading the word about the services and supports we offer to individuals with developmental disabilities in Crawford County.

A big THANK YOU to the Bucyrus YMCA for hosting such a fantastic event—and to all the families who stopped by our table.

We look forward to many more opportunities to connect, support, and celebrate with our community. Until next time—Happy Spring!





Family & Adult Advocacy

The Power of Family Advocacy: Building a Stronger Support Network

Family advocacy is a powerful tool for ensuring the well-being, rights, and opportunities of our loved ones. Whether advocating for a child's education, a family member's healthcare, or support for special needs, families who come together can create a stronger, more supportive community. By forming a family advocacy group, we can amplify our voices, share resources, and provide encouragement to one another in times of need.

Our goal with family advocacy is to ensure that every family has the tools, resources, and support they need to thrive. By coming together, we can create a stronger network that fosters growth, resilience, and change. If you're looking for a community that understands, supports, and fights for family needs, consider joining an existing family advocacy group, or work with other families to start a local family advocacy group were here to help.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can make a difference!



Chargers 4 Change

Chargers 4 Change is Crawford County's dedicated self-advocacy group. Throughout the school year, members have been actively volunteering with the Bucyrus Backpack Program on a monthly basis.

Currently, the group is collaborating with Josh Young from the Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) to enhance their strategic planning efforts. This initiative aims to help the group clarify its purpose, set meaningful goals, and develop actionable strategies to achieve them. As a result of this planning process, they have crafted a new mission statement: "Chargers 4 Change, together we learn, help, and stand up for what's right."

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 AM at the Trillium Event Center. It is open to anyone aged 16 and older who is Interested in self-advocacy. For more information about joining the group, please contact your SSA or Kristen McCracken at the Crawford County Board of DD at 419-562-3321

CHARGERS 4 CHANGE



Together we learn, help, and stand up for what's right.





MARCH AWARENESS

A Special Thanks to All Who Made the CCBDD Unified Game a Success!

We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who showed up, participated, and lent a helping hand at the CCBDD Unified Game! Your support, enthusiasm, and teamwork made the event truly special. Whether you cheered from the sidelines, played your heart out on the court, or helped with setup and organization, you played an important role in making this day unforgettable. Your presence made a difference, and we are so grateful to have such a caring and dedicated community. Go team!



Another Successful Food & Hygiene Supply Drive!

We're thrilled to share that our recent food and hygiene supply drive—held during our basketball game—was a big success! Thanks to the generosity of our community, our pantry is now fully stocked and ready to support anyone we serve and their families.

From canned goods to essential hygiene items, your donations make a real difference. We're so grateful for everyone who contributed and helped spread the word. Check out our stocked shelves—we couldn't have done it without you!

Together, we're meeting needs and showing love in action.





MARCH AWARENESS



March is recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing public awareness, fostering inclusion, and celebrating the contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities. This month serves as a reminder of the importance of creating a society where people of all abilities are valued, respected, and given equal opportunities to thrive.

Understanding Developmental Disabilities

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions that result from impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavioral development. These disabilities may be present from birth or develop during early childhood and can impact an individual's ability to engage in everyday activities. Common developmental disabilities include Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disabilities. While developmental disabilities may pose challenges, individuals with these conditions have unique strengths, talents, and potential. With the right support and resources, they can lead fulfilling lives, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and achieve their personal goals.

The Importance of Awareness and Advocacy

Raising awareness about developmental disabilities helps break down stereotypes and misconceptions. Many individuals with developmental disabilities face barriers related to education, employment, and social inclusion. Advocacy efforts aim to ensure that they have access to necessary support, accommodations, and opportunities that allow them to live independently and participate fully in society. This month is an opportunity for schools, workplaces, and community organizations to educate others about the experiences of people with developmental disabilities and promote a culture of acceptance and inclusion.

How You Can Get Involved

There are many ways to support and participate in Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month:

- 1. **Educate Yourself and Others** Learn more about developmental disabilities, the challenges individuals face, and ways to support them. Share this knowledge with your family, friends, and colleagues.
- 2. **Support Inclusive Programs** Advocate for inclusive education, employment, and recreational programs that empower individuals with developmental disabilities.
- 3. **Volunteer and Donate** Many organizations work to provide resources, services, and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. Consider volunteering your time or making a donation to support their efforts.
- 4. **Celebrate Abilities** Focus on the talents and accomplishments of individuals with developmental disabilities. Highlight their contributions to the community and create spaces for them to share their stories.
- 5. **Engage on social media** Use social media to spread awareness, share resources, and participate in campaigns that promote inclusion and support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

As we observe Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, it is essential to remember that advocacy and inclusion should extend beyond March. By fostering understanding, breaking down barriers, and embracing diversity, we can create a more inclusive society where everyone, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to thrive.

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are recognized, supported, and included in all aspects of life. Let's continue working towards a world that values every individual's potential and contributions.







"From Fries to High Fives: The Life of Travis Frazier"



Travis Frazier is a man about the town and is always on the go. Travis can often be found working at McDonald's doing a little bit of everything, from cleaning tables to preparing the specialty drinks and getting DoorDash orders ready. His versatility keeps things running smoothly, and he's always up for a challenge. When he's not working, Travis can be found socializing with his friends in his apartment complex, always making time for those around him. He's also a regular at the local schools, especially on Football Fridays, where you can catch him cheering on the team or in the gym rooting for the basketball squad. His enthusiasm for local sports adds to the excitement and community spirit. Travis has also volunteered at the Outreach Center, lending a hand wherever it's needed, and continues to be a positive influence in the area. He's the kind of person who truly enjoys giving back.

When you see Travis in the community, don't hesitate to stop and say hello – he always enjoys meeting new people and spreading positivity wherever he goes.

Whether he's serving up fries, cheering on the team, or just catching up with a friend, Travis Frazier is a reminder of the power of community and connection.

Bristol Receives Adaptive Seating Thanks to Community Support

Ensuring proper positioning and stability during meals and other sedentary activities is essential for comfort and well-being. For Bristol, finding the proper adaptive seating was a crucial step in enhancing her daily routine. However, determining the appropriate type of adaptive seating required a thorough evaluation to ensure her unique needs were met. Additionally, the cost of such specialized equipment can often be relatively high.

Through the dedicated efforts of Bristol's support team, the Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), and the generosity of the Bucyrus Elks Lodge #156, Bristol now has the perfect seating solution—a Rifton Activity Chair. This specialized chair provides the stability and support she needs while also allowing her to engage comfortably in various activities.

The collaboration between Bristol's team and the Bucyrus Elks Lodge #156 highlights the power of community support in making a meaningful impact. Their generosity has helped ensure that Bristol can fully participate in her daily activities with greater ease and comfort. Now, with her new Rifton Activity Chair, Bristol can participate in style! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who made this possible and for their commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals in our community.











Greg Grochowalski: A Friendly Face, A Dedicated Worker, and a True Winner



If you have gotten the chance to meet Greg Grochowalski, you will know you have met a nice guy. He is a well-known man who doesn't know a stranger. He makes friends wherever he goes and has a lot of people who care about him. He has attended church and has several friends from there as well as he is a regular at the Moose and the VFW. Greg has several interests including gambling. He has been to the casino and has even made it to Vegas to gamble there. He enjoys playing the machines. He made sure to let me know that is where you will win at, on the machines, not the tables.

Greg has accomplished a lot of things that he is proud of including owning his own home and car to take him where he wants to go. He enjoys having his freedom to come and go as he pleases. He is easy to get along

with and is also very thoughtful and caring. He makes sure to remind people to be careful driving and that he hopes that they make it home safe. All around, he is just thoughtful and caring. That is just one of the reasons that he has so many people that love him.

Greg is employed at Avita Hospital in Galion and has been working there for 30 years. Avita held an anniversary dinner to honor those who have reached milestone years at Avita. Greg had the honor of being awarded that night. He received an award commemorating his 30th year at Avita. Not only did he get to attend the dinner and receive an award, but he also received an Amazon gift card, a silver and diamond pin with 30 years on it, and other gifts. That truly is a great accomplishment!

If you get a chance, congratulate Greg. We are all so proud of him and celebrate this milestone with him! Congratulations on all your hard work and dedication. You are not just winning on the machines, you are winning all the way around. **Way to go!**







Empowering Change: Gabby Kozinski's Journey as Ms. Wheelchair Ohio



Gabby Kozinski, born in Marion, Ohio, and raised in Bucyrus, Ohio, has faced many challenges since birth. At just 19 days old, she contracted encephalitis, which led to cerebral palsy. Despite these obstacles, Gabby has become a powerful advocate for individuals with disabilities, and her journey to becoming Ms. Wheelchair Ohio is a testament to her resilience. Inspired by her state coordinator, Ms. Wheelchair Ohio 2020, Gabby decided to compete for the title and, when she won, was both surprised and excited. The experience marked the beginning of her journey to raise awareness and advocate for disability inclusion.

As Ms. Wheelchair Ohio, Gabby's role was not just about wearing the crown, but about being a role model and advocate for the disability community. Her responsibilities included attending at least two appearances a month, from parades to community events, where she would document her experiences on social me-

dia and write a monthly blog. Gabby also had the opportunity to compete for the national title in Grand Rapids, Michigan, an exciting milestone that required significant fundraising and community support.

Through her platform, "Knowledge is Power," Gabby focused on teaching children how to interact with individuals with disabilities. She emphasized the importance of fostering empathy and understanding from an early age to create a more inclusive society. The positive feedback she received was overwhelming, with many people expressing their gratitude for her efforts in raising awareness and educating the public.

While Gabby's reign was filled with rewarding moments, it wasn't without its challenges. One of her biggest obstacles was securing reliable transportation to events, but she remained committed to her advocacy work. Over time, Gabby became a stronger advocate, not just for disability rights, but for overall accessibility and inclusion. Her experiences deepened her understanding of the challenges people with disabilities face, and she became more determined to create a world where inclusion is the norm.

As her time as Ms. Wheelchair Ohio comes to a close, Gabby remains dedicated to continuing her advocacy. She plans to keep raising awareness about accessibility and inclusion, knowing that advocacy is a lifelong journey. Gabby's advice to future contestants is simple: Be bold, be passionate, and stay true to your purpose. Her reign has proven that one person can indeed make a difference, and she looks forward to continuing to empower others in the future.













A Snapshot of Amanda Sutter Enjoying her Day Program



Amanda enjoys participating in music and movement activities at Blumoon. You might catch her hitting drumsticks together or drumming a ball in a bucket to Samba music. She also likes playing the large Connect Four game and shooting hoops to highlight her gaming skills. Look out, Caitlin Clark!

When Amanda is not moving around the facility with her friends, she enjoys art activities and likes it when the local art instructor makes a visit. Amanda created a beautiful painting on canvas that caught the eye of many. The painting was named, "Sunset on the Beach." She also likes crafts and sewing projects, especially attaching beads to fabric. Amanda has developed good friendships while participating in activities together. Amanda likes taking walks in the park to enjoy nature and to take in the fresh air. She also likes going on car rides. However, don't even think about passing by the Golden Arches without stopping for a good cheeseburger from McDonald's. Yes, "Donald's" is usually Amanda's top choice for grabbing a bite to eat. Don't forget her pop to wash it down. There is a trip to the Columbus Zoo and other fun community events on the

horizon for Amanda once warmer weather settles in for a while. **Amanda and her parents are grateful to Blumoon for their services!**

Jayden Ahlefeld: Navigating Life's Changes with Support and Resilience



Life is full of changes, especially during the teenage years. For Jayden, an outgoing and passionate young man, this year has brought both excitement and new challenges. His journey illustrates the power of resilience, support, and a positive mindset. This year, Jayden is transitioning from Galion City Schools to Pioneer Career and Technology Center, where he is pursuing a career in construction. This decision reflects his courage and aligns with his hands-on learning strengths. Though the shift involves challenges like adjusting to new routines and expectations, Jayden's resilience shines through, aided by a strong support system. Jayden faces daily struggles, whether it's keeping up with schoolwork or handling personal issues. Thankfully, he isn't alone; his family, Ohio Rise Services, County Board Services, and the team at Pioneer provide essential emotional and practical support. This network helps him develop coping

strategies and sustainable practices, empowering him to tackle challenges effectively.

Outside of school, Jayden participates in PB and J Adaptive Baseball, a league for individuals with disabilities. This experience allows him to connect with others, build confidence, and focus on a sport he loves. It underscores that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can engage in activities that bring joy. Despite the changes and challenges he faces, Jayden is determined to grow and thrive. With the unwavering support of his network, he is laying the groundwork for a bright future. Whether excelling in his construction program or enjoying baseball, Jayden's story is one of resilience and hope. Jayden's journey is a reminder that with the right support, challenges can be overcome. As he embraces new opportunities and navigates the complexities of growing up, he shows that resilience and a strong support network can make all the difference.



Discover the Crawford County Board of DD Tech Room: Empowering Independence Through Innovation





The Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD) is proud to introduce the Tech Room—an innovative space designed to showcase how assistive technology can enhance independence, communication, and daily living for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Tech Room features a variety of devices and tools, from smart home technology to adaptive communication systems, all aimed at supporting greater autonomy and improving quality of life. Whether you're an individual served by the Board, a family member, or a professional, the Tech Room offers hands-on opportunities to explore solutions tailored to unique needs and goals. Interested in seeing the Tech Room for yourself? Tours are available! To schedule a visit, contact your SSA or call the Crawford County Board of DD at 419-562-3321.

Come see how technology is transforming possibilities—one innovation at a time.

Transportable Adult/Universal Changing Area Now Available for Community Events

After making its debut at the Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival on August 15, 2024, the transportable adult/universal changing area is now available for local community events throughout Crawford County! This innovative facility enhances accessibility, providing essential support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

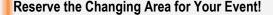
Features for Comfort and Accessibility

The transportable changing area includes:

- ♦ An electronic adjustable changing table for ease and comfort
- ♦ Sanitary wipes, hand sanitizer, and antibacterial wipes for cleanliness
- A disposal container for incontinent garments and other waste
- Adequate lighting to promote safety and ease of use

This initiative was made possible through an Ohio Department of Developmental

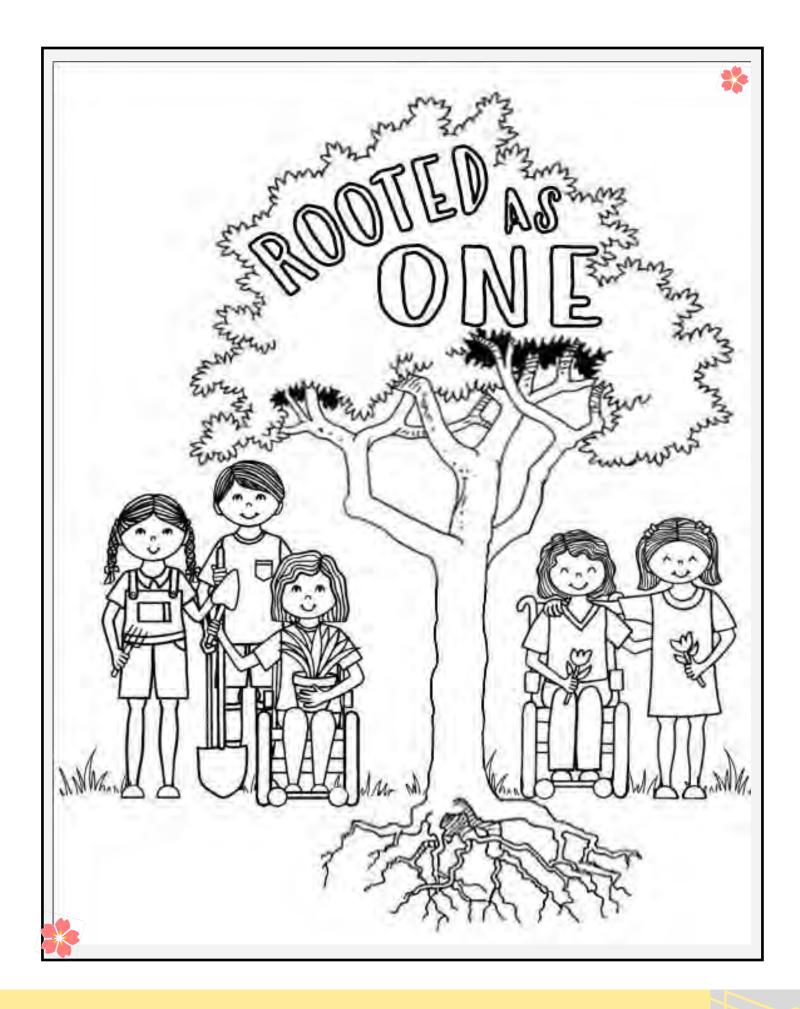


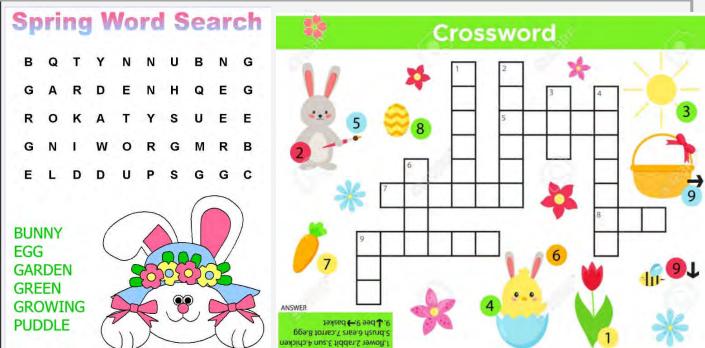


We are excited to offer this changing area for local venues to ensure that all individuals feel welcome and supported at public gatherings. If you're hosting an event and would like to reserve the transportable changing station, please contact the **Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities** at **419-563-2120**.









Making a referral for Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CB) Services is simple and confidential. If you know someone—child or adult—who may benefit from developmental disability services, such as early intervention, family support, or community integration, you can easily make a referral by contacting our office or completing a referral form online. Whether you're a family member, friend, educator, or medical professional, your referral could be the first step in connecting someone with the resources and support they need to thrive.

Use a QR code for quick access to County
Board of Developmental Disabilities
services.

The services of the se

There are 41 pink flowers

Calendar Of Events

APRIL 16 17 18—21	10 AM 5:30 PM	Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)- Trillium Board Meeting Good Friday / Easter — Programs Closed
MAY 16 21 21 26	5:30 PM 10 AM	Board Meeting Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)-Trillium Fairway- Program & Last Day of school Memorial Day- Programs Closed
JUNE 18 19 26	10 AM 5:30 PM	Chargers for Change (Self-Advocacy)-Trillium Programs Closed—Juneteenth Board Meeting

If there are emergencies that occur after normal business hours, please call 419-563-9292 and a Service Support Administrator will assist you.



1630 E. Southern Avenue, Suite 101 Bucyrus, OH 44820



Department of Developmental Disabilities