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Licking County MRDD awarded three-year CARF accreditation

NEWARK -- CARF International has announced that the Licking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD) has been accredited for a period of three years, the highest level of accreditation that can be granted to an organization.

According to CARF, the accreditation award shows the LCBMRDD's substantial conformance to the national standards for organizations serving adults and children with developmental disabilities. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality.

Highlights of the accreditation review included the LCBMRDD receiving "exemplary" ratings primarily for its Community Employment Services program which partners with local companies to find suitable jobs for adults with disabilities. The LCBMRDD also received an "exemplary" rating for the Early Intervention department's use of the P.L.A.Y. Project, a breakthrough treatment for autism. The LCBMRDD's E.S. Weiant Center staff was among the first in the United States to begin using this cutting-edge therapy.

The complete CARF accreditation report is available online by visiting www.LCBMRDD.org and clicking on the "Newsroom" icon.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known simply as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

First accredited by CARF in the mid-1980s, the LCBMRDD provides comprehensive services to about 1,300 Licking County children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The agency currently offers preschool and early intervention services at the E.S. Weiant Center in Newark; early intervention services at the Ann Davino Center in Pataskala; adult services at LICCO Inc. in Heath; residential supports; family respite; transportation services; and service coordination.

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