

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This information is updated frequently. If you have a question you think should be addressed on the FAQ list, please e-mail it to us at Heather.Odendahl@LCountyDD.org or call (740) 322-6911.

1. When was the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities founded?

Our agency was created under Ohio law in 1967 as the Licking County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, although families were very active in our community many years prior to 1967. In the early years – as far back as the early 1950s – some of the people responsible for coordinating educational services to children with developmental disabilities included the late Jane Marsh, Kathryn “Katie” Carter and Eleanor S. Weiant.

2. Why did the name change?

On August 24, 2009, our name changed to the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities as directed by state law and the wishes of individuals and families throughout Ohio. We dropped the term “mental retardation” or “MR” because many believe that it had taken on a derogatory tone, conjuring up negative images of people with developmental disabilities.

3. What is a developmental disability?

The term “developmental disability” covers a wide range of conditions that can affect an individual’s ability to learn, communicate, care for personal needs, live and work independently. Developmental disabilities can include, but are not limited to: Intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury, fetal alcohol syndrome, cerebral palsy and spina bifida.

4. How many people are served?

In 2010, the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities served more than 1,400 individuals and their families. In contrast, just five years ago, the agency served about 1,000 families. Specific details can be found on our website in our 2010 Annual Report – published in Summer 2011 – which can be found here:

<http://www.lcountydd.org/pdfs/Possibilities%20Summer%202011%20small%20version.pdf>

5. Who pays for the services?

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities is supported by local taxpayers, federal funds and state subsidies. The agency collects revenues from two local operating levies:

- ❖ A 1.3-mill continuing levy that was first passed in 1979. It was last-replaced in 1998.
- ❖ A 1-mill, five-year levy that was passed in 1987, and last-replaced in May 2007.

Local revenue accounted for about 65 percent of the County Board’s funding last year. We also receive some federal and state funding, as well as a small amount of revenue from local contracts.

6. Why did the E.S. Weiant Center close?

The E.S. Weiant Center did **NOT** close! In fact, the building at 116 N. 22nd St. (the former Starlight School) in Newark is home to our Administration offices and offices for the Early Intervention Services staff. Many people have the misconception that the building closed, when in fact we’ve shifted the focus of our services in the last couple of years. The preschool program that was housed in the E.S. Weiant Center merged with the Newark City Schools and the Licking County Educational Services Center’s Flying Colors program. This has saved money for both the local school districts and the County Board of DD, as well as eliminated a duplication of services. The Early Intervention staff conducts home visits for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays and disabilities. This allows families to become more involved in their child’s services as the Early

Intervention staff coaches parents and caregivers to help little ones reach milestones. Studies have shown that children learn better in their natural environments, rather than in center-based programs.

7. What is the relationship the County Board of DD has with LICCO Inc.?

LICCO Inc. is a private, non-profit agency that works in partnership with the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities. LICCO for many years has been referred to as the “sheltered workshop” because it provides meaningful work experiences for people with developmental disabilities. LICCO has a website – just go to www.LICCOINC.com, or visit their exclusive online jewelry store at www.spiritlinejewelry.com. LICCO has more than 200 trained and highly-focused employees whose focus is on meeting our customers’ needs efficiently and effectively. LICCO offers a wide range of products and services, including:

- ❖ Assembly and packaging
- ❖ Kitting
- ❖ Sorting
- ❖ Bindery services
- ❖ Contract packaging and repackaging
- ❖ Labeling and more.
- ❖ Industrial services including light manufacturing, inspection and testing, hand finishing, reworking and more.

8. What does LICCO stand for?

LICCO is not an acronym. It simply is a shortened version of Licking County. Many workshops throughout the state adopted their names in this fashion. For example, the workshop in Perry County is called “PERCO;” a similar facility in Belmont County is named “BELCO.”

9. How do I get on your mailing list?

The Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities prefers to disseminate information via e-mail or on our website. We even have a brand-new Facebook page that we update almost every weekday (just check it out by searching for us, and click the “LIKE” button to share it with others!). However, we know that many of our friends and families have limited or no access to e-mail, so we would be happy to mail you copies of our newsletter, *Accent*. To get on the e-mailing list, please send a message to Heather Odendahl@LCountyDD.org; or give her a call at (740) 349-6588 to provide your home mailing address. We also encourage you to use our website to stay up to date on current information – www.LCountyDD.org, and to search for us and “like” us on Facebook – just search “Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.”

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