

Looking for things to do this winter?

Check out our Shared Virtual Community, your guide to inclusive places, jobs and events. All of the resources in the Shared Virtual Community have met Cuyahoga DD's All Means All guidelines, ensuring they are accessible and inclusive.



Shared Virtual Community

A guide to inclusive places, jobs and events.

Visit Cuyahogabdd.org/shared-virtual-community/ for more!

Enroll in the 2022 Family Supports Program by 12/31!

The new year is just around the corner and you won't want to miss out on the Cuyahoga DD Family Supports Program. People who enroll in our 2022 program by December 31 will have access to an additional \$500 for covered resources and services. Family Supports Program funds can be used for camp assistance, home modifications, respite care and more.

Learn more about eligibility and how to apply at Cuyahogabdd.org/eligibility-services/family-supports-program.



Family Supports Program

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CLEVELAND, OH
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CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities
1275 Lakeside Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44114-1129

Coming Up

Cuyahoga DD Board Meetings

January 27, 2022

February 24, 2022

March 24, 2022

Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Agenda and meeting information can be found on our website: www.CuyahogaBDD.org

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NEWS, VIEWS & NOTES



December 2021

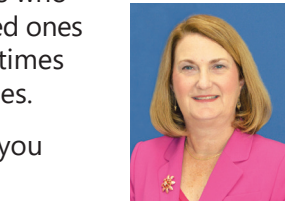
A Message from the Superintendent

The holiday season presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments we made over the last 12 months. And while 2021 continued to present pandemic-related challenges, Cuyahoga DD remained flexible in the face of uncertainty and focused on providing high-quality supports to individuals and families. The pandemic reinforced the significance of our mission, demonstrating very clearly the important role Cuyahoga DD plays in connecting people with disabilities to their communities. From hosting vaccination clinics in February to expanding our Family Supports Program, we saw individuals' and families' needs and took steps to meet them – steps that would help ensure the health and wellbeing of the people we serve.

The end of the year is also a time for looking forward, and we have big things in store for 2022! As you continue to read, you will learn about innovative housing initiatives, additional supports for individuals with high-behavior needs, and a new sensory and mobility clinic. These are just a few of the exciting projects we are working on in 2022 that will provide new opportunities and expanded supports for individuals and families. We look forward to sharing more about our progress throughout next year.

Finally, the holiday season is about the people we love – those who are still with us as well as those who are not. It is in this spirit that we remember the individuals who lost their lives in a motor vehicle accident just before Thanksgiving while traveling to a job site. They were dedicated workers who will be missed by many. We hold their loved ones close and support them in these difficult times as we continue our work in their memories.

From all of us at Cuyahoga DD, we wish you a happy and healthy new year.



Kelly A. Petty
Superintendent & CEO

Expanding Housing Opportunities

There are a number of exciting housing initiatives planned for 2022. As a result of investments made in 2021, the “Try Tech” apartments, developed with North Coast Community Homes, will be ready for use in early 2022. Located in the heart of Lakewood, close to public transportation and many other amenities, Try Tech is an integrated building that features four smart apartments individuals can live in for a short while as they explore various devices that can help them live more independently. This extended “try before you buy” period offers individuals and families the opportunity to experience the benefits of living with Assistive Technology, helping them make more informed decisions about items they choose to use in their own homes.

In addition to the Try Tech apartments, Cuyahoga DD will:

- Increase the cost-to-live subsidies available to individuals so people can live where they choose and be connected to the community.
- Increase the amount available to individuals living with their families for home modifications, allowing people to live with family for as long as possible or desired.
- Offer an incentive in 2022 for non-family shared living providers to increase the number of individuals able to access this model of service.
- Provide one year of free internet access to anyone willing to utilize remote supports to increase the number of people accessing this service.

And, in partnership with area colleges and universities, Cuyahoga DD has expanded the capacity of “collegiate roommate homes,” matching four (4) individuals with disabilities with college students at two area schools in a program that fosters independent living.

A series of informational videos about housing options will launch in early 2022 to help individuals and families understand their options and find the best fit based on their needs.



Supporting Families with High Behavioral Needs

Recognizing that individuals with especially challenging behavioral needs and their families may require additional support beyond what is available under the I.O., Level I or SELF waivers, Cuyahoga DD will implement the following initiatives in 2022 to help meet this need:

- Develop two interdisciplinary teams to support individuals with intense/challenging behavioral needs with the goal of keeping families intact.
- Invest in provider(s) to provide qualified, trained staff inside family homes or in other natural settings and authorize local funds for individuals and families to access these services.
- Research and develop additional models for support such as an after-school program and/or weekend activities (respite), etc.
- Develop a community-based residential facility for those who need and/or choose this option.

Connecting Individuals to their Communities

Supporting people to find and maintain employment and to access their communities has been a priority for Cuyahoga DD for many years. In 2022, we plan to do even more promote community employment and inclusion.

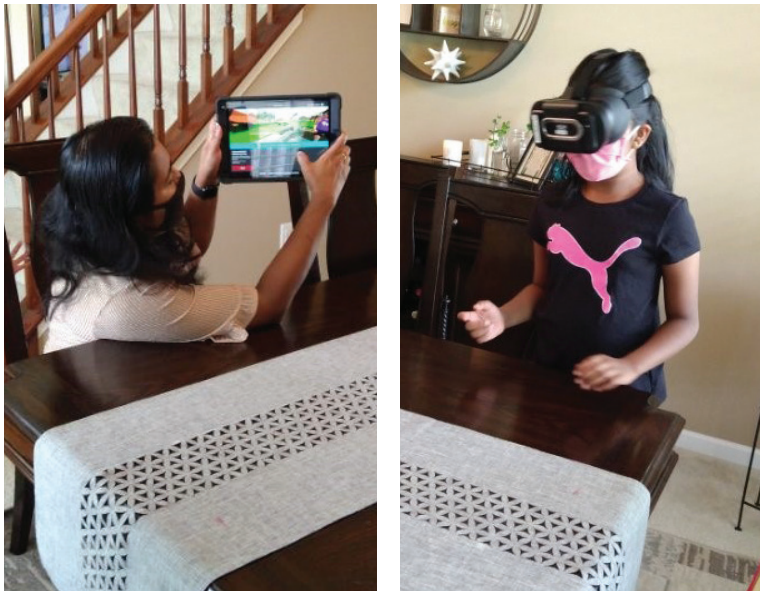
- Cuyahoga DD will design an app that matches individuals’ interests and skills to local employers with job openings
- To help individuals connect to their communities, Cuyahoga DD will again invest in local recreation centers to help them increase their ability to make their spaces and their programming inclusive of people with disabilities.
- Cuyahoga DD also plans to partner with various art studios and libraries, with the goal of increasing access for people with disabilities.
- A pilot project with Uber and Lyft for transportation for people with DD is in the works to increase accessibility.

Promoting the Use of Technology

Cuyahoga DD intends to be THE leader in Assistive Technology (AT) for people with developmental disabilities, as we support individuals in building skills, increasing participation and living more independently with technology.

In 2022, Cuyahoga DD will expand the use of virtual reality (VR). Our partnership with Floreo, which has been a success with the school-age population, will be extended to adults, and VR devices will be available for short-term lending.

Additionally, we plan to develop a sensory and mobility clinic in one of Cuyahoga DD’s existing buildings. This clinic will be a place where individuals can experience a variety of mobility aids and sensory experiences that are difficult to trial at home due to space and installation restrictions. This space will lead to improved movement and sensory regulation for individuals, more innovative assessments from therapists and better home programming.



Cuyahoga DD looks forward to increasing virtual reality opportunities in 2022.