

THE SCOOP

February 7, 2018

DD Board welcomes two new members

The Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities has welcomed two new members.

Nicolas Comstock and Amanda Chapman were appointed by the Richland County commissioners to four-year terms. They succeed Virginia Harmon and Margaret Davis, who left the board in December after 12 years of service due to term limits.

Comstock is the first person currently receiving services to serve on the board in its 50 year history. He's a buddy director for the Best Buddies chapter at The Ohio State University-Mansfield and serves on Richland Newhope's Human Rights Committee.

Chapman has a son who receives services. The Mansfield native is employed by Mohican Valley Title Agency, is active in the parent-teacher organization at Discovery School, and volunteers with the Autism Awareness Walk-A-Thon.



During a reorganizational meeting on Jan. 24, Nicholas Gesouras was named president for the third consecutive year. Steve Swank will continue to serve as vice-president while Richard Otto remains secretary. Richland County Probate Judge Philip Mayer recently re-appointed both Swank and Otto to a second four-year term, effective Jan. 1.

The board holds its regular meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at Richland Newhope's Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave. There will not be a meeting in July and November, and the December board meeting will be held on Dec. 5. All meetings are open to the public.



Time to nominate

Richland Newhope/Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now seeking nominations for its new CARE awards.

CARE stands for Compassion, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The award categories are Direct Support Professional, Self-Advocate, Community Partner, and Hero with Heart. The first three are all new in 2018. Hero with Heart originally started in 2008.

A nomination form with descriptions of the award categories can be found on our [website](#). Forms are also available at the Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield.

The nomination deadline is March 7. Winners will be honored at the agency's annual

Recognition Banquet on May 4.

For more information, contact Community Relations Director Jane Imbody at 419-774-4215 or jimbody@rnewhope.org.

Fix The List

A new effort is underway in Ohio to modernize the state's Medicaid waiver waiting list.

Those with developmental disabilities and their families have complained for years that the list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers is overly complex and needs to be simplified. Not only is it confusing, but it can be misleading to advocates and hurt efforts by policymakers to direct resources to where they're needed most.

For the past 15 months, a coalition of individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates, county boards of developmental disabilities, providers, and the state along with several organizations have been collaborating to change the way the HCBS waiver waiting list operates.

It's estimated there are about 49,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities on the waiting list. However, the number is misleading because many of them do receive other services from county boards funded by local dollars or other resources. Also, some on the waiting list might not actually need a waiver at this time but anticipate a need in the future.



The coalition is working to address these flaws and allow the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and county boards of DD to better plan to meet current and future needs.

You can find out the latest on efforts to Fix The List at www.fixthelist.info or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Field Trip at Cinemark 14

Around 30 Mansfield Sr. High School students visited Cinemark 14 movie theater on Jan. 26 . The students learned about available jobs and the expectations and responsibilities for working at the theater. After the tour, the students watched 'Jumanji' and enjoyed some theater snacks.



Did You Know?

Richland Newhope operates a preschool program for children with disabilities or delays as well as for their typical peers. We offer morning and afternoon sessions Monday through Thursday. The preschool was recently awarded a five-star Step Up to Quality rating, which means the program has demonstrated the highest level of quality determined by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.



IN MEMORIAM

Anthony Joseph "AJ" Stallard

January 28, 2018

Calendar

Feb. 12 - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

Feb. 19 - Presidents' Day Holiday: Richland Newhope's Administrative Offices, Service & Support Administration, and Early Childhood Center closed

Feb. 27 – DD Awareness Month Kickoff, 9:30 a.m., Richland County Administration Building/commissioners' office, 50 Park Ave. East, Mansfield

Feb. 28 - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Newhope Administrative Offices, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield

March 2 – First Friday, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

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