New waiting list assessment to start this month

The new rule that modernizes Ohio’s Medicaid waiver waiting list brings with it a new assessment to determine need.

The Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities (RCBDD) this month will begin using the new statewide assessment tool which will determine who should remain on the list. RCBDD has until Dec. 31, 2020, to complete all of the assessments of the more than 400 people currently on waiver waiting lists in this county.

The assessments will likely be done during an individual’s person-centered plan meeting or if that person’s needs change. Individuals with a need for a waiver will have an assessment completed within 30 days.

The new state rule sets several criteria that an individual must meet to remain on the waiting list. It’s estimated that only 10 to 15 percent of those currently on the list will remain after the assessments are completed.
Welcome Back!

Forty-nine youngsters were excited to start their first day of preschool Thursday, Aug. 16 at our Early Childhood Center. Parents were also invited to stay as part of an Open House for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Check out first day of school photos on our Facebook page!

Did You Know?

Since 2013 Richland Newhope has offered the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule or ADOS testing for young children suspected of having autism. In 2017, the agency performed 27 ADOS evaluations. Ten of the children were diagnosed with autism.

Special needs picnic

The Mansfield Shrine Club will hold its 44th annual Shriners Special Needs Picnic on Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Richland County Fairgrounds. Nearly 400 students from area schools are expected to attend.

Doors open at 9 a.m. with horse rides, hay rides, a petting zoo, and a DJ playing music. Lunch will follow at noon.

The event is courtesy of the Mansfield Shrine Club, Mechanics Bank, Snyder Lance, Pioneer National Latex Co., STARTEK, Kohls, GFS, and Ballreich’s Chips.
For more information, contact Mansfield Shrine Club President Mike Miranda at 419-295-2586.

**Annual agency in-service this Friday**

Richland Newhope will hold its annual all-staff agency in-service day on Friday, Sept. 7 and that will impact hours of operation.

The Administration Building, Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Service and Support Administration (SSA) will be closed all day. Staff should report to the Masonic Temple on Middle-Bellville Rd. at 8 a.m.

**September Calendar**

**Sept. 7** – Agency In-Service: Administration Building, Early Childhood Center and Service & Support Administration offices closed

**Sept. 7** - First Friday, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Element of Art Studio/Gallery, 96 N. Main St., Mansfield

**Sept. 10** - SCRAP recycling trailer, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Early Childhood Center, 255 Hedges St., Mansfield

**Sept. 15** - Autism Awareness Walk-A-Thon, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield

**Sept. 26** - Richland Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities meeting, 11:30 a.m., Richland Newhope Administration Building, 314 Cleveland Ave., Mansfield