

School of Hope
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Cheryl Cotter, Superintendent (Ext. 110) - ccotter@sanmrdd.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

The first half of 2008 has been a busy time for us. Some of our major accomplishments:

- ✓ We continued to implement the recommendations from last year's CARF review and Family Friendly survey.
- ✓ We prepared for and successfully completed an Accreditation review conducted by the Ohio Department of MR/DD.
- ✓ We initiated improvements to our adult day services, transportation services, and residential services to comply with new Medicaid guidelines. Several other counties used us as a resource for implementing these improvements in their organizations.
- ✓ Our Board Vice President, Charlotte Urban, was recognized for her service to our Board and many other service organizations by receiving the 2008 Leadership Sandusky County Community Trustee award.
- ✓ A School of Hope instructor, Joanie Heberling, was recognized as "Teacher of the Month" by the Fremont Federal Credit Union.
- ✓ Sandco Industries received an annual award as medium sized "Member of the Year" from the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ We hosted a Health and Wellness fair for the community.
- ✓ We held a Family Information Day, providing morning and evening sessions on a variety of topics important to family members of individuals with disabilities.
- ✓ We held an all day conference on Autism with 218 in attendance, with half of attendees comprised of family members, community members, and professionals from outside our organization.
- ✓ We collaborated with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, the Seneca County Board of MR/DD and the Wyandot County Board of MR/DD to obtain a mini grant to provide an all day seminar on mental health and developmental disabilities topics for personnel who provide services for children in their homes.
- ✓ Rhonda Weyer, an adult services employee, was recognized at the Prevention Partnership Luncheon for her work the past three years with Green Springs Elementary students through the REACH program, helping them prepare for the world of work and teaching inclusion of all people, including those with disabilities.
- ✓ Three of our School of Hope students successfully graduated.
- ✓ We met with Dr. Alvin Jackson, the State Director for the Ohio Dept. of Health, to advocate for Early Intervention services.
- ✓ We participated in a multi-county Legislative Breakfast to meet and educate area legislators and candidates about the Family and Children First Council and to hear about their vision for the future of children and families in Ohio.
- ✓ Thirteen of our Special Olympians participated in the State Summer games and brought home two team awards and six individual awards, including a gold and third place medals.

Many thanks to those we serve, to their families and friends, to our employees, to our Board members, and to the community for your support during the first six months of this year. We hope to continue to provide the best services possible by continuously improving our services in the second half of 2008. Your feedback is always welcome.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Cotter
Superintendent

BOARD MEMBERS: Burk Tischler, President – Charlotte Urban, Vice-President – Lisa Edris, Secretary
Janet Michaels– Nancy Haynes – Rob Lytle – Deb Sachs

The Sandusky County Board of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in provision of services or employment because of handicap, race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age.