

**Vinton County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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Board Members:
Tiffany Pierce, President
Karen Hauck, Vice-President
Sharon Chaney, Secretary
Tammy Hopkins
Ruben Garcia

Our Mission

The mission of Vinton DD is to empower people to lead lives of increasing capabilities and independence within our community.

Advocacy News and Events



Champions of Rights met on December 28th to celebrate the New Year with a pizza party. Everyone had a great time socializing.

Please plan to join Champions of Rights on March 28th for a DD Awareness walk through downtown McArthur from 10:30-11:30. Please wear t-shirts or make a sign promoting DD Awareness. The walk will start at the corner of Main Street and Sugar Street.

Everyone is welcome to attend our advocacy meetings. The group holds an annual walk-a-thon to benefit Wyman Park Board for inclusive equipment and accessibility at the park. They also participate in DD Awareness events and community projects. If you need additional information on attending a meeting, please call Tina Spanos at 740-596-5515 ext 100.



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The Voice

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**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Board meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Vinton DD offices, 31057 Industrial Park Dr. in McArthur. Please be sure to check our website, www.vintondd.org, for any schedule changes.
- Be sure to like The Vinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Facebook!

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*A Note from
Superintendent
David Uhl*



Vinton DD is proud to announce that it received a 3-year accreditation award from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities during its last accreditation visit. This award demonstrates the hard work of Vinton DD team members to provide the best services and support possible.

Vinton DD and Fairfield DD have enjoyed a strategic alliance and partnership for some 15 years. Over those years, both boards have benefitted from the shared administrative agreement. However, things change and evolve. We now believe that it is in the best interest of those we support, as well as the taxpayers of Vinton, Fairfield, and Hocking Counties to transition leadership of Vinton DD to Hocking DD. Hocking Superintendent Jill Squires has been working with Vinton and Fairfield to ensure a smooth transition, which we expect to be finalized by July.

It has been a joy to work with the team and people in Vinton County. I know that Jill and the Hocking team will do a great job as the Vinton/Hocking partnership evolves.

Cordially,

David A. Uhl
Superintendent
duhl@vintondd.org

Meet Jill Squires Incoming Superintendent

Hello!

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Jill Squires and I am transitioning into the position of Superintendent with the Vinton County Board of DD. I am incredibly excited to begin this journey with all of you.

Southeastern Ohio is my home. I was born and raised in Nelsonville in Athens County and furthered my schooling at Ohio University. Go Bobcats!! My background is in hearing and speech-language sciences as well as special education.



During my college years, I completed an internship with the Logan-Hocking School District where I knew that working in this field was where I belonged. The Hocking County Board of DD family welcomed me into their family in 2003 as the Early Intervention Specialist, serving children ages birth to three years old. I worked alongside the Help Me Grow Service Coordinators and, for a few years, I was a Service Coordinator as well. In 2014, I started directing the Early Childhood Programs for the Hocking Board of DD. In 2015, I was given the chance to be trained as a Superintendent by the Ohio Association of County Boards. It was such a valuable experience, and I am so glad I took part in it. In 2018, I was given the opportunity to lead the Hocking County Board of DD as their Superintendent. I have been blessed to be able to fulfill that role ever since.

As we are all rolling into this time of transition between now and June, I am hopeful for things to come. I am looking forward to meeting new people and building new relationships with all of you. Please don't hesitate to let me know your thoughts; your input is welcome. Thank you so much for the privilege to serve Vinton County!

Talk to you soon!

Jill Squires

Superintendent

Hocking and soon-to-be Vinton County Board of DD

Welcome our new SSA Sydney Waugh!



We are pleased to welcome Sydney Waugh to our SSA Team. Sydney is a life long resident of Vinton County and will be a great asset to our team.

Sydney earned her Bachelor's degree from University of Rio Grande in 2022 and will earn her Master's degree from Grand Canyon University in 2025.

She is anxious to meet her new case load and will be visiting all of the Adult Day Programs soon.

Sydney lives with her adorable son, Lucas and her beloved cats.

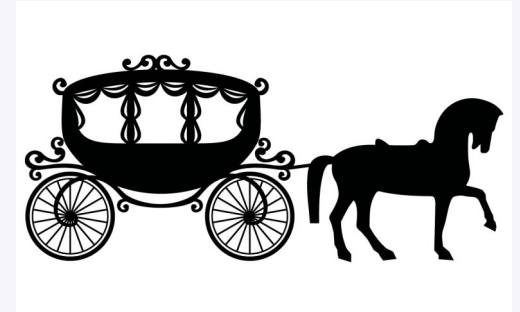
Please help us welcome her to the Vinton DD team!

Save the Date!

The Royal Ball will be held on **Sunday, April 28th** at Vinton County High School from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

This event is hosted by Vinton County Auditor, Cindy Owings Waugh. More details to follow!

Plan now to attend this event!



March is DD Awareness Month



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Here are some ideas to do during March to promote awareness.

1. Wear Orange
2. Share images, videos, and stories on social media
3. Attend a DD Awareness event (see page 4)
4. Become an advocate of a self advocate
5. Spread the word to end the r-word
6. Educate others about disability related issues