

Advocates in Action

*Medina County Board of DD's
self advocacy newsletter*

January 2022 | Volume 12

Upcoming Meetings:

**February 22 – 6:30
Zoom**

**March 22 – 6:30
(meeting will be held both in-
person at the MCBDD and via
Zoom)**

**April 19 – 6:30
(meeting will be held both in-
person at the MCBDD and via
Zoom)**

***Due to the increase in Covid
infections all meetings are subject
to change based on health and
safety guidelines.**

FROM THE STATE

New Year, New Roles at DODD

Meet the new Director, Kimberly Hauck!



I am truly excited and humbled to be in the role of director and have the opportunity to continue our work together. The past year was not without its significant challenges and the coming year promises more will arise. I know that together as a system we can meet these challenges and continue collaboration to better support people with developmental disabilities and their families. I am

looking forward to what we can accomplish together. We as a department want to better understand your experiences, your perspectives, and your barriers. We want to hear from people with disabilities, families, guardians, providers, DSPs, county boards, and advocates. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out to us with your questions, your comments, or your concerns. We want to learn from you and partner with you.

Hi Advocates! Starting in February, our Advocates in Action newsletter will be coming to you in a new format! Be sure to check your email in the next few weeks to enjoy our new, MONTHLY newsletter!

Individual Support. Community Achievement.



2021 Advocacy Highlights

What was an advocacy highlight for you in 2021?
What would you like to see continue or added in



Jenny: One highlight for me was when we learned how to make our own succulent garden. I also enjoyed collecting items for the Medina Animal Shelter. In this new year, I would like to do more donation drives to give back to the communities we live in.

Ryan: I really appreciated how the Medina County Board of DD has allowed us to connect through Zoom during this pandemic. I would like to see that continue, but am excited to meet in person when it is safe to do so.



Lena: Bowling for Special Olympics and making new friends was big for me last year. I want to continue to hang out with my friends and go out to eat and join in other fun activities.

Adina: A highlight for me was to have the choice of joining our monthly advocacy meeting in-person or staying home and still having the option to participate by logging on via Zoom. I would like to have future meetings continue both in-person and via Zoom to allow advocates to have that choice.



Katie: My highlight last year was being seizure free. Since I recently returned back to Ohio after living out-of-state for a couple of years, I want to connect with old friends and make new ones this year.

Colin: Going to the Medina Show Biz Company for one of our advocacy meetings was big for me. I love the theater and have performed in five plays at Medina Show Biz Company, so to see my peers get excited about it too was great. This year, I want to continue casting parts in upcoming plays at Medina Show Biz Company.



Logan: My highlight was Project Stir. I love being a state-wide trainer and being able to teach advocacy to new people. This year I want to continue teaching Project Stir. I am scheduled to teach in Stark County this coming March, which I am very excited about!



Jeremy: My highlight was going to the Medina Show Biz Co. I always enjoyed the past plays we did here at the county board and this brought back good memories. This year, I hope to continue having guest speakers at our meetings. I always find those interesting. I also hope the pandemic ends soon so we can get back to in-person speaking events.

Erin: To have family and friends in my life is a highlight for me. This year, I want that to continue working and doing fun things with my friends.



Olivia: Running for fun and in marathons was big for me. I love to run. This year, I want Covid-19 to be over so we can all get back to normal.



Shellie: A highlight for me was having close friendships and my boyfriend in my life. I want to continue to have these people in my life and stay living with my roommates.

Alicia: I love baking, so for me, baking my famous snow globe sugar cookies for everyone was my highlight. This year, my hope is for everyone to stay healthy.



Ashley: My highlight was talking to students in our kindness and acceptance program, even if it had to be via Zoom because of Covid-19. This year, I want to continue speaking at the schools, but I hope we can get back to visiting the schools in-person.

Courtney: For me, a highlight was everyone learning how to use social media. I especially love when advocates comment on our MCBDD Self Advocates Facebook page, one of my favorite topics was "Does Pineapple belong on Pizza?" I also enjoyed learning that Adina has her own YouTube channel. I loved watching all her videos and look forward to new ones this year. I am also excited for everyone to start utilizing the We Thrive Together programs being offered this year!



Ben: A highlight for me was playing ball for Miracle League. I want to continue playing baseball and I also want Covid-19 to be over.

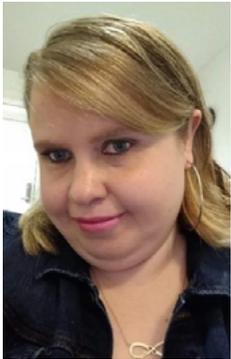
QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

chosen by self advocate Bill

"If you can dream it, you can do it."

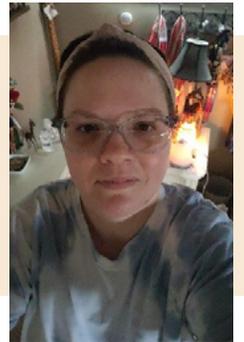
- Walt Disney

2021 Advocacy Highlights



Alyssa: Last year, I enjoyed doing an art project at one of our advocacy meetings. This year a goal for myself is to increase my speaking opportunities. I would love to become a statewide trainer for Project Stir and maybe speak at some schools and businesses.

Samantha: Last year, I enjoyed making new friends. This year, I want to continue meeting new people and trying new things.



John: Advocating for myself in my ISP last year was my highlight last year. I had a really good meeting. This year I want all the great stuff that we did last year to continue.



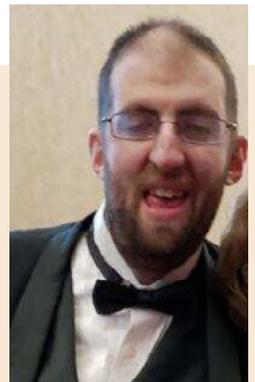
Paula: Being with friends and my boyfriend, Bill, was a highlight for me. Because of Covid-19, I didn't get to spend as much time with him as I had hoped, but hopefully that will change with this new year and we can enjoy many date nights out and about.



Jennifer: Last year, I enjoyed spending time with my family. They are very important to me. This year, I want Covid-19 to end so we can all get back to the things we love.



Bill: A highlight for me was learning from all of our guest speakers at our advocacy meetings; the Cleveland Zoo trainer had to be my all-time favorite. I also enjoyed touring the MCBDD Smart Home and picking out some technology that could help me be more independent. A huge "thank you" goes out to Sarah, MCBDD Assistive Technology Assistant, for coming to my home and programming my new items – I love them. Lastly, I thoroughly enjoyed the We Thrive Together Virtual Holiday Party. The charades and trivia were so much fun. This year, I want to see the meetings continue to be offered both in-person and virtually. It's nice to have a choice in how we attend.



The mission of the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to promote and empower individuals with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work, and socialize as citizens in the community.