



John R. Pekar, *Superintendent*

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Frederick A. Destadio, *President*

Debra D. Buccilla, *Vice President*

Dr. Mark Weedy, *Secretary*

Laura C. Bee

Pamela Hoyt

Theresa Nixon

Christine Swindells

April 9, 2012

**Letter of reference for Charles Arndt**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to present this letter of reference for Charles Arndt. I have known Mr. Arndt professionally and personally for over twenty years.

I first met Mr. Arndt when I was the CEO of a non-profit organization providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities in northeast Ohio. It was about this time that the state of Ohio was implementing its newly passed supported living statute, and Mr. Arndt, in his role as the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, reached out to me as a representative of Ohio's provider organization to assure that County Boards of DD and Ohio's provider community worked in concert to make this new venture a success. Even now, more than twenty years later, Ohio's supported living statute stands as a testament to not only Ohio's foresight but also Mr. Arndt's willingness to bring together sometimes disparate groups to assure success of a project.

I later became Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and one of my most important tasks was to implement the Individual Options Waiver, Ohio's first waiver that funded services for individuals with developmental disabilities. I worked very closely with Mr. Arndt during this initial phase of the waiver, and ultimately we found success in the implementation of this waiver via having county boards of Developmental disabilities assume the day-to-day responsibilities of waiver implementation. Mr. Arndt's leadership was critical in convincing county boards to take on this responsibility. Not only was waiver implementation successful, but this initiative served to set the stage for Ohio's county boards to be true gatekeepers of services in Ohio, and set the stage for perhaps Mr. Arndt's greatest accomplishment.

In the early part of this century, Mr. Arndt pulled together a coalition of stakeholders, some with very differing agendas, to craft a plan for funding services that ultimately became part of Ohio law as H.B. 94/H.B. 405. This sweeping legislation changed the face of services in Ohio. It became the catalyst for

**Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

Administrative Offices  
795 College Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7220  
(740) 687-7250 (fax)  
(800) 750-0750 TTY

Pickerington Office  
820A Refugee Road  
Pickerington, Ohio 43147  
(614) 861-0535  
(614) 861-0715 (fax)

Opportunity Center  
4465 Coonpath Road NW  
Carroll, Ohio 43112  
(740) 652-7230  
(740) 756-7857 (fax)

Northwest Center  
820 Refugee Road  
Pickerington, Ohio 43147  
(614) 856-1630  
(614) 856-1697 (fax)

Forest Rose School  
1592 Granville Pike  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7225  
(740) 681-5731 (fax)

Transportation Services  
1592 Granville Pike  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7228  
(740) 652-1091 (fax)

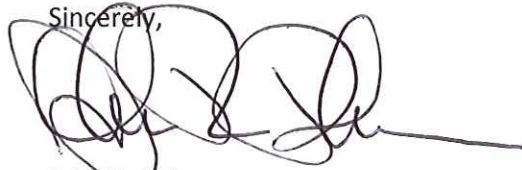
[www.FairfieldDD.com](http://www.FairfieldDD.com)

rapid waiver expansion. It solidified funding for services, allowing county boards for the most part to survive significant state budget cuts that came later. It placed county boards firmly in a gatekeeper role that better serves individuals with developmental disabilities. And ultimately, though the process was extraordinarily difficult and even mean-spirited among varying stakeholder groups, Mr. Arndt's vision of what could be became reality, with those disparate stakeholder groups today working closely together with little acrimony.

These are only a few of the many contributions of Mr. Arndt while he served as the leader of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. It is hard to imagine what the developmental disabilities landscape in Ohio would look like had it not been for Mr. Arndt's contributions. The relative stability of Ohio's system can in large measure be attributed to Mr. Arndt's intelligence, passion, and foresight.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. Pekar', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John R. Pekar  
Superintendent