

# TUSCARAWAS COUNTY Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Natalie M. Lupi, Superintendent  
330-339-9757

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June 20, 2006

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Charles H. Arndt, who I have known for over 10 years in my capacity as superintendent of a county board of mental retardation and developmental disabilities. I am very pleased to share with you some thoughts on an extraordinary individual that has done so much for the field of mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

Charlie is one of those outstanding individuals that have brought so much positive change in Ohio for the persons with disabilities. I am so personally grateful for all the countless hours that he has worked through the crafting of creative legislation in order that county boards could use local and state resources to serve individuals that were not being served. His perseverance of the changes that needed to take place in Ohio in regards to policy and funding changes, would not be what they are today without his vision and dedication.

Charlie worked countless hours crafting legislation (HB 94/405) that enabled county boards of mental retardation and developmental disabilities to use state and local dollars as a match to draw down additional federal Medicaid dollars to address the individuals that were living with aging caretakers and those on the residential waiting lists. He accomplished this through his talented lobbying efforts at the state and local level by collaborating with the various stakeholders. In this effort alone, he was able to gain over \$250 million for these services and supports.

Charlie's vision of addressing the educational component for county boards through H.B. 770 Educational Funding Reforms (1998) had a significant impact for the operations of school services for children needing special educational services that had severe and profound needs. This legislation provided for higher funding per capita for the children being served in our county in accordance with the severity of the disability.

His resume speaks for itself with the multitude of legislation that he wrote that addressed the many issues that faced the county boards.

I also had the great pleasure to serve on the Medicaid Strategic Planning Group that met on a regular basis as a mechanism to strategically plan out the needs for the 88 counties of Ohio in regards to the Medicaid opportunities that were created through Charlie's leadership. It was truly amazing how he would develop and author legislative solutions to complex issues that were facing county boards.

In all my years of working with professionals in this field, I have never found anyone like Charlie that has the energy, intelligence, determination and passion to make the contributions that he has accomplished. With all of the legislation, forward thinking and hard work he has demonstrated, over 60,000 individuals in Ohio are experiencing better opportunities because of his efforts. He is truly a one of a kind individual that is a rare find and would make an excellent asset to any organization.

Please feel free to contact me at 330-339-9779 with questions or to discuss Mr. Arndt's character and accomplishments in more detail.

CARF ACCREDITED

The Tuscarawas County Board of MR/DD is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Lupi', written in a cursive style.

Natalie Lupi  
Superintendent  
Tuscarawas County Board of MR/DD