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## SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EARNS THREE-YEAR ACCREDITATION FROM CARF INTERNATIONAL

Latest accreditation represents the third consecutive CARF Accreditation awarded to the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Fremont, Ohio – CARF International granted the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) its third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation following an onsite survey and evaluation of its programs and services. The programs and services surveyed included the areas of Service Coordination, Child and Adolescent Services, Early Intervention Services, and Transition Services.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows SCBDD's substantial conformance to standards set by CARF. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of independent surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

While presently in a sound financial position, CARF surveyors encouraged SCBDD to keep an eye on both state and national trends. According to Sarah Zimmerman, Superintendent for the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD), CARF surveyors recognize this is a time of change and challenge for county boards.

*"The surveyors pointed out that nationally, increases in revenue are unlikely while the cost of providing services are certain to increase. So, while they commended us for building our asset base, they suggested that this base is most likely unable to meet our long-term needs. They encouraged us to*

*continue to be proactive and address fiscal challenges now, rather than wait until a crisis develops.”*

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. The accreditation process applies CARF’s internationally recognized standards during an onsite survey conducted by peer surveyors. Accreditation is an ongoing process that distinguishes a provider’s service delivery and signals that the SCBDD is committed to continuous performance improvement, responsive to feedback, and accountable to the community and its other stakeholders.

Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, now known as CARF, this accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. The accrediting body’s mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.

For more information visit: [www.carf.org](http://www.carf.org)

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