

## MRDD sees change in leadership

The Shelby County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) saw a few changes in 2018. One of these changes was the leadership as long-time Superintendent Zureich retired and was replaced by Leigh Anne Wenning. Even through these changes, SCBDD continues to flourish and provide innovative, quality services to people with disabilities in Shelby County.

“SCBDD’s Early Intervention (EI) program, which primarily serves children from newborn up to three years-old, continued to help children thrive,” said Wenning. “EI utilizes the child’s home or natural environment to teach therapeutic techniques to primary caregivers. These techniques (such as the PLAY Project) help children continuously work on skills that they need to be prepared to interact with peers their own age. In 2018, our EI department completed 97 evaluations while enriching the development of 133 children and their families.”

Her report continues:

SCBDD’s preschool, Shelby Hills, has had another very successful



Courtesy photo

**New Superintendent Leigh Anne Wenning poses with exiting Superintendent Laura Zureich at the Farewell/Welcome Open House in September 2018.**

year. Beginning in 2016, Shelby Hills has received and maintained a 5-Star Step Up To Quality rating. This is the highest achievement possible awarded by the Ohio Department of Education. While the 5-Star rating and high enrollment (412 students) made the year good, it was the staff and extra activities that made the school year great. The B.E.S.T. organization held a Glow Run in October that raised funds for equipment and other resources for students and families at Shelby Hills. There were many other events like

the Winter Wonderland Parade, Baseball Night, and Literacy Week that brings families together while providing an educational experience for the students.

Transitioning from school to adulthood can be a challenging time and it’s no different for students served by SCBDD. While students receive some job skills training from the schools they attend, SCBDD staff provides opportunities such as paid work experience, career exploration, and professional skills

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