

Published by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities
"Helping people to live, learn and work in our community"

Levy discussions continue

Plans are continuing for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to be on the November 7, 2017 ballot for a renewal levy, representing **no new taxes**.

In February, the Board requested that the County Commissioners place the 3.5 mill renewal levy on the ballot. The Commissioners then requested their Human Services Levy Review Committee to review the levy proposal.

Superintendent/ CEO Jed Morison and Chief Business Officer, Dot Yeager have met with the Levy Review Committee twice to review the proposal and respond to questions. The committee will prepare their report and submit to the Commissioners.

Assuming that the Commissioners approve the request to be on the November ballot, they will ask County Auditor Mingo to officially certify the amount of

funds the levy will continue to generate. Following this, the Commissioners are expected to consider a resolution to request that the Board of Elections place the renewal levy on the ballot.

According to Superintendent Morison "this levy is needed to maintain basic, quality services for the children and adults of Franklin County who have developmental disabilities. It will allow us to continue to provide or support services, including early childhood education, services for school-age children, adult employment and habilitation services and special services such as Service Coordination, Transportation, Special Olympics and therapies."

Because this is a renewal, there is no increase in taxes. If approved the renewal levy would be for a ten year period.



*Throughout 2017, we will celebrate 50 years of service provided by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, which were established on October 25, 1967. To help celebrate, each month we will include a bit of history in our journey over these past 50 years to help people live, learn and work in our community. Let's **Celebrate 50!***

Creative Housing, Inc. was incorporated in May, 1991 with shift in philosophy, where individuals have choice in where they live, who they live with and who provides their services.

Patrick Rafter was hired as the first President/ CEO.

Advocates educate lawmakers

Over 100 self-advocates were present on April 7th to educate Central Ohio legislators on important issues related to the state budget and other laws.

The third Legislative Advocacy Day was held at the Bixby Center in Groveport with fourteen legislators or their staff in attendance. The event was sponsored by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council.

Christine Brown, Event Coordinator said "this was the best ever. We really had a good turnout and chance to educate our legislators on topics such as Medicaid waivers, remote monitoring, employment first and college tuition costs."

Superintendent/ CEO Jed Morison welcomed the legislators and crowd and commended Christine Brown on the great job pulling the event together. In addition to the legislators, many other officials, including Director John Martin, were also present.

State Representative Hearcel Craig surprised the audience with the presentation of a commendation to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the occasion of the Board's 50th Anniversary. Representative Craig congratulated the Board on its "noteworthy record of accomplishment and unfaltering dedication to service and achievement."

The first Legislative Advocacy Day was held in 2013, then again in 2015. The Self-Advocate Advisory Council suggested these years to correspond with state budget discussion.



From left to right: Joe Bengoechea representing Congressman Steve Stivers, Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Hearcel Craig, Christine Brown, and Rep. Laura Lanese.

A Taste of Employment *by Marcia Duffy*

Having successfully completed the PIECE Program in August of 2016, Stacia Billings was eager to find employment. Stacia began working with FCBDD Employment Service Department Job Developer Amy Blair to identify potential community opportunities that matched preferences and themes that had been identified through the Discovery process.

Stacia's outgoing personality, ease in talking with others, hard work ethic and persuasiveness made her a perfect match to be a sales/food samples hostess. Manager Roger Carillon welcomed the opportunity for Stacia to complete an internship at the Tuttle Mall Hickory Farms kiosk.

Prior to her internship, Stacia and job developer Amy were looking for employment opportunities in different areas however the internship experience revealed that Stacia had amazing customer service skills!

Stacia and her Employment Services Department team are currently pursuing career planning through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. This will allow Stacia to try various jobs in the community prior to stepping back into employment.

FCBDD Adult Services provides paid internships for participants interested in an opportunity to engage in a real-life employment experience. 12-week internships provide a chance for an individual to work on a job to determine if it is a good fit, the ability to add valuable work experience to their resume and the reward of earning a paycheck.



Stacia Billings

DRO and Nationwide partner

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) and Nationwide Insurance have announced a new partnership designed to provide free legal services to Ohio families and children with disabilities. The partnership will help bring much needed legal support to people struggling to obtain access to adequate healthcare services and medical equipment.

The project will pair volunteer attorneys and paralegals from Nationwide Insurance with eligible clients entangled in the legal complexities of the Medicaid appeals process. DRO staff will work collaboratively with the Nationwide volunteer team to train, screen and refer eligible clients and provide case preparation and ongoing support.

"DRO is excited to partner with Nationwide on this program," says DRO Executive Director Michael Kirkman. "We know there is a high demand for legal assistance with Medicaid hearings, and partnerships like this will allow us to expand our capacity and support more Ohioans."

"Nationwide is proud to partner with Disability Rights Ohio. Our legal department is staffed with compassionate professionals anxious to contribute their time and talents to those needing access to certain legal services," said Mark Howard, executive vice president and chief legal officer at Nationwide.

The project began on April 1st. Individuals interested in speaking with a volunteer about a Medicaid administrative case, or for those who want to learn more about eligibility requirements for this program, are encouraged to contact Disability Rights Ohio at 800-282-9181 and select option 2 for intake.



Glenn O. Woodward Dental Suite

Thanks to a generous donation from the Woodward family, the Dental Suite at the Nisonger Center has been named "The Glenn O. Woodward Dental Suite."

Bob Woodward, Jr. and family were present at a ceremony on March 16th for the official dedication. Dr. Mark Tassé began the ceremony with a special thanks.

The Woodward Family has a long history of supporting services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Bob Woodward, Senior and Anna Woodward both served as President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities in the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1990s, Bob, Jr. served as President.

Glenn O. Woodward received services from the Board and attended ARC Industries North. According to Bob Woodward, Jr., Nisonger Center Dental Clinic provided quality care for his brother from infancy to his passing. Dr. Ed Sterling, retired Director of the Nisonger Clinic, was especially acknowledged for his service.

Zayne Harshaw/ Governor Kasich highlight Awareness Day

The 2017 Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day included a performance from Blues Guitarist, Zayne Harshaw, followed by a speech from Governor Kasich.



Gwen and Zayne Harshaw

Several Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities participants attended the sold out event at the Statehouse. Shari Cooper served as Master of Ceremonies and other speakers included John Martin, Bill Darling, Stephanie Barber-Maynard and Gwen Harshaw.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO stated that "Zayne did a terrific job resulting in a well-deserved standing ovation. And, his mom, Gwen, also gave a very nice speech offering her perspectives."

Governor Kasich's appearance was a surprise to the audience. In his speech, he complimented those who have disabilities as well as their parents and caregivers. The Governor has consistently supported developmental disabilities budget initiatives. He stated that we should all hope that John Martin stays in his job as State Director.

OPRA (Ohio Provider Resource Association) coordinated the event which also included scheduled visits with legislators.



Christine Brown, Nancy Abbott, Cindy Boggs, David Bingle, Pam Weisbeck enjoying DD Awareness Day.

Always There campaign features Ted and Jean Williams

In celebration of 50 years of service provided by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is sponsoring an awareness campaign titled "**Always There.**"

Ted and Jean Williams, parents of Tom who attends ARC Industries North, are featured in the campaign sharing their perspective over these past 50 years. Posters with a picture of Ted and Jean are being displayed all over Ohio with the following quote:

When a physician told Jean and Ted Williams it would be best to institutionalize Tom, their young, nonverbal son with autism, they refused to send him away. Instead, they began a lifetime of working to create opportunities - including preschool and respite care - for their child and so many others. "Back then, parents had to organize and do things on their own," says Ted. "But the creation of the county board had great impact on us. It has entitled Tom to have enough funds to be independent and receive the care he needs."

For additional details and to see stories celebrating families and the history of services, visit the "**Always There**" website at: AlwaysThereforOhio.org.



DSACO sponsors *iCan Bike*

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) is partnering with iCan Shine, a national organization that facilitates bike camps for individuals with special needs. DSACO is partnering with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Autism Society of Central Ohio to conduct the camps.

This unique approach enables those with disabilities to become independent bicycle riders. *iCan Bike* is the perfect program for individuals at least 8-years old who want to learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle.

The *iCan Bike* staff who will travel to Columbus to implement the camp are highly trained. Both a Floor Supervisor and a Bike Technician will be on hand to ensure that campers are using the right bike for their size, strength and ability; are being assisted properly by the volunteers; and are safe.

Each camper will be assigned two volunteer spotters that will walk and run as the camper pedals. Last year these volunteers included siblings, therapists, aides, and college and high school volunteers. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age and must be physically capable of running to keep up with the bikes. The two spotters take turns running and resting.

For more information regarding *iCan Bike*, volunteering, applications, participant requirements, registration fees, and/or general information, please log-on to the hosts' website at www.dsaco.net. This year, DSACO is proud to host two camps at McCord Middle School on June 5-9 and Grove City High School from June 12-16. For more details call DSACO at (614) 263-6020.



Sunapple artists recognized

Saturday, March 26th was 'A Day of Arts for All' at the Westerville Community Center. This was the kick off for *The Accessible Expressions Ohio* statewide touring exhibition.

Sunapple artists, Daniel Wycuff and Tim Prenzlin's, work is included in this juried exhibit through VSA Ohio. Tim was awarded 3rd place in the Professional Artist category with his acrylic on canvas painting "Best Friends". His award winning artwork will be on display an Arts & Autism Festival in April at Gateway Film Center. Daniel's work is an abstract using watercolor, acrylic paint, chalk and art markers.

According to Margo Crabtree of Sunapple Studios, "we are not only honored to have artists participating, VSA commissioned Sunapple to make the award medals for this event. Our artists drew original designs inspired by the award categories. Those designs were transferred to a glaze decal and applied to a handmade ceramic medal.



COTA launches redesigned bus network May 1st

Bus service throughout the region will be enhanced when the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) launches a redesigned bus network on May 1.

The redesign is a complete overhaul of the COTA network that will provide simplified routes, increased frequency, connections to more places, reduced bus congestion downtown, and service to more jobs.

"We believe the redesign will provide better transit service to the community," said W. Curtis Stitt, COTA President/CEO. "The new COTA network will have twice as many high-frequency bus routes that arrive every 15 minutes, and service will operate on consistent schedules seven days a week."

Signs are being placed at every bus stop in COTA's system notifying customers of service changes that will occur on May 1. Customers are encouraged to use the Trip Planner on COTA's website at COTA.com/TSR to plan their new trip beginning on May 1.



Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Derek Burns and Mikayla Fentress for being recognized as Accessible Expressions Ohio Artists.

Thank you to Michael Schadek, from Mayor Andy Ginther's office for visiting FCBDD and the Early Childhood Education and Family Center.

Congratulations to Susie Burke and FCRS staff for implementing a new partnership for multi-system youth at Kimberly Woods.



Special thanks to Pat Rafter and Creative Housing for hosting the March 29 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Congratulations to Tim Prenzlin and Daniel Wycuff, for having art work selected by VSA Ohio to be displayed in a juried exhibit.

Special thanks to Dody Twyford, long-time volunteer at ARC Industries West, for exceptional service with the "Can Do Players."

Congratulations to the FCBDD Early Childhood Education Department and Megan Davis-Bushway and Sharon McJannet for partnering with VSA (Very Special Arts) Ohio for coordinating a Movement and Play Workshop titled "The Art of Listening: a conversation without words" at the Urban Arts Space.



Special thanks to Pete Moore and Willie Jones from OACB (Ohio Association of County Boards) who are providing the Good Life Training to several staff leaders. The Good Life training celebrates strengths, positive relationships, promoting what is good as opposed to focusing on the negative.

Congratulations to West Central students Julian Ramsey, Michael Harbert, Qua'lil Draughn and Kaitlyn West and Art Teacher Amy Hipple for participation in recent art exhibits/receptions at the Rhodes Tower and the STRS building.



Thank you to Gahanna Mayor, Tom Kneeland and staff for a wonderful visit at ARC Industries East and for continued support of ARC Industries East, Northeast Center and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Congratulations to Christine Brown and the Self-Advocate Advisory Council, for coordinating the Legislative Advocacy Day in April.

Thanks to Gwynn Kinsel, Legal Counsel and Travis Sherick, Director of Information Technology, HIPAA training has been provided to all staff.

Congratulations to Joni Sparks, Alex Corwin, Larry Macintosh, and over 100 Providers and all involved in making the Provider Fair in April a big success.

Career Milestones

25 years

Jay Marlowe
Tracey Triplett

20 years

Michael Doran

15 years

Michael Beachler
Concetta Armentrout

10 years

Holly Smith

5 years

Tracy Wilson



If you want to keep up with the latest news, join over 2500 people who receive 'NewsBits' from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

'NewsBits' is an email blast that updates recipients of the latest news. The intent is for the emails to be short with 'bits' of information, hence the name 'NewsBits'.

To sign up for 'NewsBits', one can visit the website of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and click on the sign up at the bottom of the home page.

www.fcbdd.org



Some of the featured artists from West Central are pictured from left to right: Michael Harbert, Mikayla Fentress, Kaitlyn West and Derek Burns.

Operation Feed campaign

Thanks to a generous staff and many volunteers, the 2017 Operation Feed Campaign of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was a big success.

Carl Scott, Print Shop Coordinator, headed up the campaign and reports that staff contributed over \$10,000 and over 3,000 pounds of food. This is estimated to provide over 40,000 meals to individuals in need.

Carl gives lots of credit to all the coordinators and especially Carolyn Earnhart, Keith Ogle and Zach Kendall for their "tremendous support hauling all the food to the Operation Feed headquarters and Mandy Holland for managing all contributions."

Special thanks to the FCBDD staff and especially Carl Scott for coordinating another great campaign in support of Operation Feed.



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Linda Craig, President
John Bickley, Vice-President
Beth Savage, Secretary
Marie Crawford
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos
Renée Stein

Superintendent/CEO **Jed W. Morison**

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or disability.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

Star award nominations due

Remember to submit Star Award nominations for the 2017 Community Star Awards.

Nominations are due on May 17, 2017. Nomination forms were included in the April issue of 'Dateline' or can be requested by calling Amy Magginis at (614) 342-5950.

The Community Star Awards recognizes individuals and organizations for extraordinary service that supports the Board's mission of helping people to live, learn and work in our community. This year's event will be held on October 3, 2017 at Villa Milano.

Scholarship applications accepted

Applications for the 2017 John J. Siebold 14th Annual Scholarship Program will be accepted until May 22, 2017.

The college scholarship program is available to staff of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities in honor of John Siebold, former Sales Director for ARC Industries.

Applications will be reviewed and awardees will be notified on or before July 7, 2017. For additional details or to receive a copy of the application form, contact Marcia Duffy at marcia.duffy@fcbdd.org or call (614) 342-5734.

Calendar

May, 2017

- 11-12 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2015 Spring Conference. Hilton Columbus at Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive. Call (614) 431-0616 for details.
- 15 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 18 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 24 Graduation Ceremonies at FCBDD's West Central School, 1481 West Town Street, Columbus, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Deadline for applications for John S. Siebold Scholarship program. For more details, please call 475-7007.
- 29 Memorial Day observed - all county facilities closed.