

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

Ohio educators tour ECEFC

Forty educators attending the annual Early Care and Education Conference at the Columbus Convention Center took a tour of the Early Childhood Education and Family Center (ECEFC) at 2879 Johnstown Road on Saturday, April 5th.

The Conference, co-sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children, explored three programs in the Columbus area inspired by the philosophy of the Infant/Toddler Centers and Preschool Programs in



the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Besides ECEFC, The Ohio State University's Shoenbaum Center at

Weinland Park, and the Columbus School for Girls were other participating programs.

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Futures committee issues recommendations

(Note: The Ohio's MRDD Futures Committee issued its final report on March 20th. The following excerpt from the report contains the committee's 31 recommendations. For more details, please visit www.odmrdd.ohio.gov.)

1. Expand implementation of self-determination principles for waiver and non-waiver services:

a. Conduct a pilot that promotes self-directed services, such as person-centered planning, individual budgeting, use of a fiscal intermediary/management service, and an independent service broker.

b. Assess how to implement self-determination principles for HCBS waivers.

c. Evaluate how to implement self-determination principles for non-waiver services.

2. Develop standards of practice around assessments and service planning that support self-directed planning, self-determination, and person-centered thinking skills. The outcomes should be family-friendly, consistent in practice, and streamlined using "best practice."

3. Create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

a. Collaborate with private and public entities to enhance employment options.

b. Maximize incentives such as Medicaid Buy-In, tax credits, and wage options, for employees and employers.

c. Find ways to make community employment a priority and improve school-to-work transition.

4. Examine training issues, complexity of processes, and measured uniformity around service and support administration functions, with attention to:

a. Assessments, Individual Service Plans (ISPs), service authorization, and provider selection.

b. The Service and Support Administration (SSA) role at county boards of MRDD, including requiring face-to-face contact, credentialing, and personal representation.

c. Timely ISP development and payment authorization, which could include collaboration between county staff and providers.

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Conference attendees were shuttled from the Convention Center for morning and afternoon sessions. Twenty staff served as tour guides.

Conference participants observed how staff, families and the community embrace the key principles of the Reggio Emilia approach to early learning in an inclusive and diverse setting.

"It was a great experience and an honor to share our passion and love for children," said ECE Director Rebecca Love. "It was nice as well to receive praise from our local and statewide colleagues."



Kathy Bernon explains children's artwork in the gym area.

Danielle Farrar talks to visitors in her classroom.
Photos by Sarah Gillilan.

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5. Adopt the National Core Indicators as a basis for measuring the performance of and improving Ohio's MRDD service delivery system.

6. Explore development of a single standardized review tool which would apply to every type of provider as core qualifications. Consider additional 10 standards based on the type of service delivered (e.g., supported employment or residential facility).

7. Immediately initiate actions to make "individual satisfaction" a more significant part of the quality review process.

8. Review licensure processes for ICFMR to determine whether duplication exists with Ohio Department of Health Medicaid reviews and to the extent duplication exists, eliminate it.

9. Adjust the mode and frequency of monitoring activities of HCBS waiver providers and non-ICFMR licensed providers so that:

a. Newly certified/licensed providers receive an on-site review within one year.

b. Desk reviews and self-audits are established for providers who are performing well.

c. New and lower-performing providers are monitored more frequently than established, higher-performing providers.

d. Best practices are promoted throughout the system.

10. Ensure that people who provide the same service are subject to the same requirements, based on the service being provided instead of the type of entity providing the service.

11. Establish initial requirements for all HCBS providers that include basic standards needed prior to becoming certified:

a. Verify that requirements are met during the certification process as opposed to applicants simply attesting to having met the requirements, and include a face-to-face interview.

b. Review independent providers between six and 12 months of initial provision of services.

12. Implement existing statutes that time-limit certification for new HCBS waiver providers and develop processes to terminate certification of providers who have not billed for 12 consecutive months.

13. Consider accepting accreditation from national accrediting bodies in lieu of state accreditation of boards and certification of providers.

14. Redevelop the ODMRDD provider search website to assist individuals and families in identifying and selecting providers:

a. Ensure the information is accurate and up-to-date

b. Include (as applicable) the most recent version of the provider's/county board's compliance review, licensure survey report, accreditation review, Ohio Department of Health survey, annual major unusual incident review, and any related plans of correction.

c. Include a search tool filter to identify providers willing to serve additional individuals.

15. Develop resources in a variety of formats (e.g., informational pamphlets, checklists, online modules, and video conferences) to assist individuals and families in selecting, training, and monitoring providers.

16. Work collaboratively to develop and implement a plan to increase wages, benefits, training, supervisory support, recruitment, and retention of quality direct support staff.

17. Explore implementation of a competency-based curriculum for all providers/staff having direct contact with individuals receiving services.

- 18.** Facilitate creation of an organized, system-wide network of providers of services or programs for populations with significant challenges:
- Conduct regional meetings to develop partnerships, cross-system collaboration, and community planning
 - Develop and disseminate training and support for providers, caregivers, and others.
 - Plan for those with MRDD who are not eligible for county board services.
 - Identify providers and fill-in gaps.
- 19.** Increase emphasis on providing age-appropriate services for the population of persons with MRDD who are over 55 years of age.
- Identify the population and create an action plan to meet needs.
 - Identify or create regional solutions and model services or programs.
 - Assure reimbursement systems support integrated community-based services.
- 20.** Increase emphasis on providing support for caregivers living with and caring for individuals with MRDD:
- Help parents meet their own needs and assure that their child's needs can be met now and in the future.
 - Assist parents in transition from primary caregivers and support planning for the future.
 - Cooperate with other systems for caregiver support in the home.
 - Work with other state agencies to reduce complexity of support systems.
 - Develop a system for more flexible, reliable, and consistent respite care.
- 21.** Work collaboratively with other agencies to address the service needs for children ages birth through five:
- Collaborate with other agencies through Child Find to improve identification and referral for Early Intervention (EI) services.
 - Collaborate with other agencies to fund intensive, habilitative EI services.
 - Build on current collaboration for services.
 - Cooperate with other agencies and schools to develop a plan for children ages three through five.
- 22.** Address the need for specialized services for individuals with very challenging behaviors.
- Provide training, resources, and ongoing support for care providers, including behavior management and working with other systems.
 - Reduce medication management alone as a strategy for behavior control.
 - Increase the number of specialized behavior therapists and develop clinical support teams.
 - Create community crisis or back-up services, including crisis intervention, respite, and long-term residential treatment in regional collaboration.
- 23.** Address the need for crisis stabilization for individuals across age ranges, including those with dual diagnoses.
- Create regional capacity to assess and facilitate community-based or developmental center emergency placements that are safe for all residents.
 - Assure discharge planning for transition after inpatient or facility treatment.
 - Collaborate with other agencies, especially the Ohio Department of Mental Health, to expand access to services for the dually-diagnosed.
 - Change developmental center admission criteria to allow services for all persons eligible for county board services.
- 24.** Address the need for increased access to and the number of providers of medical and dental services with expertise working with individuals with MRDD across the lifespan.
- Use community and regional planning to develop strategies to increase access to medical professionals.
 - Increase access to services using multiple strategies including mobile services, delegated nursing, and dental and medical service extenders.
 - Create and expand training for medical professionals to work with persons with MRDD.
- 25.** Create data-driven analytical processes that align dollars toward adequate and sustainable funding for services and inform ODMRDD's policy decisions.
- 26.** Identify additional state and federal funds to support EI services and analyze tax policies related to alcohol and liquor sales to consider whether the level of tax is commensurate with the social impact and need for disability-related services.
- 27.** In cooperation with the Governor's Office and Ohio's Congressional representatives, aggressively pursue federal funding programs and prevent federal policy changes that negatively impact people with disabilities.
- 28.** Develop a comprehensive state housing plan to address any needed improvements to current and future housing options to ensure the health and safety of individuals choosing to live in the community.
- 29.** Develop a long-term, zero-sum funding approach that addresses financial sustainability and predictability through risk-sharing mechanisms, as well as protects individuals' access to services. Develop a draft proposal for possible consideration in the Fiscal Years 2010-2011 operating budget deliberations. More importantly, determine viable strategies to manage waiver reimbursement transition costs in Fiscal Year 2009, including realignment of existing system resources.
- 30.** Ensure that the impact of losing the tangible property tax on county boards of MRDD and other essential community services is addressed in the next biennial budget process.
- 31.** Overhaul the waiting list statute to accommodate the needs of individuals and families with attention to:
- Assessment requirement.
 - Identification and clarification of priority categories.
 - Reduction of the variety of waiting lists.
 - Consideration of statewide versus county waiting lists for high cost waivers (i.e., over \$100,000).

Renovations help Goodwill Columbus better serve older participants

Older service participants at Goodwill Columbus are enjoying improved facilities, taking fitness classes and creating their own artwork as renovations and new activities through Sage Senior Service abound at Goodwill this spring. All are contributing to Goodwill's observance of Older Americans Month this May as designated by the Ohio Department of Aging.

"We have so many new things to offer," said Carol Farmer, director of Adult Day Services for Goodwill Columbus. "We have completely renovated state-of-the-art facilities. We have new exercise rooms and wellness programs. We have an art studio to build upon our seniors' needs for creative expression."

In recent months, Goodwill Columbus completed a \$9.6 million renovation at its Edgehill Road facility in Columbus, home to Sage Senior Services, a program that provides community-based retirement activities and paid work opportunities for 230 adults, age 45 and older, with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The services are funded by FCBMRDD.

Sage Senior Services, include retirement activities, paid work, volunteer opportunities, care-giving, community involvement, nursing care, occupational therapy, personal assistance, self advocacy training, socialization and speech therapy. Senior participants choose their activities based upon individual interests, strengths, goals and preferences. Community activities and events occur nearly every day for those who participate in Sage Senior Services at Goodwill Columbus.

Linda Monroe is the program director of Sage Senior Services at the Edgehill location.

"Our renovated facilities have given our senior citizens so many new opportunities. Sage participants now have wellness education and fitness classes, putting them on a fast track to having fun while improving their health,"



said Monroe, adding, "Our one-of-a-kind Art Studio and Gallery at Goodwill Columbus is bringing in many senior citizens to draw, paint, make jewelry and ceramic items that bolster their creative self-expression not to mention provide income and recognition of their work."

Program Director Melania Massey oversees Goodwill Columbus' Sage Senior Services at Crosswoods in Worthington. There specialized services are available for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia-related diagnoses. Close supervision, medical monitoring and personal care assistance are available, too, for those with multiple disabilities.

"In addition to recent building improvements that have made our facility beautiful and more user-friendly, we have restructured our table of organization, resulting in increased activities and services for our seniors," said Massey.

During Older Americans Month, some special events are in the planning for senior citizens at Goodwill's Sage Senior Services. They include a weekly Old Film and Music Festival at Sage Senior Services at Crosswoods and a celebration of Cinco de Mayo at Edgehill as well as a number of activities, including a Senior Prom, new photography club and a group is forming for nature walks.

The renovation and new program offerings at Sage Senior Services have resulted in some major accomplishments as well. Sage Senior Services had 191 participants trained on 14 different jobs in 2007. The program also provided paid work opportunities 98 percent of the days that senior citizens attended Sage. Volunteerism increased as well. Forty-eight volunteers at Sage Senior Services clocked 230.5 hours for those receiving Hospice services at Odyssey Health Care. The volunteers helped brighten days of Hospice families by making cards, baking goods, and creating gifts.

Goodwill Columbus has been serving the community since 1939, and is the seventh largest social service organization in central Ohio.

Did you know?

If you are at risk of losing your home due to foreclosure, the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services might be able to help.

If you reside in Franklin County, have a minor child, meet income eligibility requirements, and are in danger of losing your home, you should call 233-4177 to explore possible assistance.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community



Stephanie Spencer is an artist who participates in ARC West's Art Studio. One of her drawings has been chosen by VSA of Ohio to be part of its traveling exhibit, *Accessible Expressions Exhibition*. The exhibit opened at the Toledo Botanical Gardens on March 8th. Congratulations Stephanie, and thanks for sharing your talent!

Once again, FCBMRDD's Operation Feed Campaign was a great success. As usual the competition within the agency was fierce. The top three sites based on overall points were: **1st - West Central; 2nd - ARC-ESD; and 3rd - ARC East**. Special thanks go to **Mike Davis** for heading up the campaign, which brought in 5,296 pounds of food, and \$16,875 cash.

Congratulations to **Ann Matteis**, parent of an ARC North participant, on winning the lovely handmade quilt that was awarded in a raffle in March. According to **Sharon Evvard**, ARC North raised \$854 in the project.

Thanks to the efforts of **Sarah Gillilan** of ECE and **Cathy Hutzel** of ARC Industries, the period of April 24th through June 10th has become known as "Yoga Time" at FCBMRDD. The pair organized two 6-week sessions which are being held in the ECE gym from 4:30-6 p.m. What a great way to exercise, relax and enjoy the company of co-workers!

ECE staff member **Mary Martin** and Administration staff member **Carl Scott** are coordinating FCBMRDD's Spring Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 20th, at Administration. Please call Mary at 342-5801 or Carl at 342-5974 to set up your appointment and help a needy patient "spring" into life.

Matthew Belz, son of ARC Industries Board member **Robert Belz**, has been named the national winner of the Igniting Creative Energy Challenge, co-sponsored by Johnson Controls and the National Energy Foundation. Matthew submitted a video titled, "One Kid's Dream," outlining ideas for reducing waste at school cafeterias. Matthew is a sixth-grader at Hastings Middle School in Upper Arlington. Way to go, Matthew!

Career Milestones

25 years

Tracey Fowler

20 years

Veronica Adamski

Mary Ann Austin

Theresa Cramer

Martin Goldsmith

Daniel Jividen

Jeanette Klopfenstein

Joseph Maier

Roxann Plantz

Nancy West

15 years

Joyce Anderson

George Barnette

Anthony Gullick

Diane Hart

Cheryl Huntzinger

Duane Thacker

10 years

Jason Childs

Arnold Peake

5 years

Stacey Coriell

Sheri Dewey

Theresa Hazlett

Star award nominees sought

FCBMRDD's Community Star Awards Committee is searching for stars. If you know an individual or organization whom you believe worthy of recognition, please complete a nomination form and send it to the committee today.

A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Dateline*. The deadline for nominations is June 30th.

Created in 2003, the Community Star Awards honor individuals and organizations who demonstrate outstanding support for FCBMRDD's

mission. The awards are given in 14 categories.

Please send your completed form to Frank New, Star Awards Committee, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus 43219.

Bill Brewer named AIMS support administrator

Long-time ARC Industries East Training Supervisor Bill Brewer will be making a career switch soon.

Bill will assume the newly-created position of Support Administrator with ARC Industries' AIMS program -- the new information tracking system for adult services.

Bill began with FCBMRDD 33 years ago at ARC Industries North, moving in 1985 to East. He has long been interested in making technology useful in day-to-day workshop activities.

In his new position, Bill will be liaison to Information Control Corporation, Primary Solutions, Inc., and Vertex Systems. He will instruct and assist users with all applications.

The goal of AIMS is to track all habilitation and work data of consumers on electronic tablets and eliminate the associated paperwork, thus improving efficiency.



County boards to hold conference

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OACBMRDD) will hold its 2008 Spring Conference on May 22-23 at Embassy Suites hotel of Dublin at 5100 Metro Place.

The event will feature presentations by ODMRDD Director John Martin, and Deputy Directors Michael Rench and Patrick Stephan. Professional continuing education sessions will be provided in a variety of areas.

Details regarding the conference may be obtained by visiting www.oacbmrdd.org, or calling Ann Neu at 431-0616.

Calendar

May, 2008

- 11 Mother's Day
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 19 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 FCBMRDD Staff Blood Drive, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call Mary Martin at 342-5801 or Carl Scott at 342-5974 for details.
- 21 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 22-23 OACBMRDD 2008 Spring Conference, Dublin Embassy Suites, 5100 Metro Place. Call 341-0616 for details.
- 22 FCBMRDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 26 Memorial Day observance - all county facilities closed.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

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Jerry Saunders
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Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos
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The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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"Quotable quotes"

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die,
life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

-- Langston Hughes

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:
www.fcbmrdd.org