

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

Schools ready for transition focus

by Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs

In the summer of 2011, FCBDD announced their intention to restructure school-age programs with a new focus on Transition to Adult Services. Now three years later, the staff and administration at both Northeast School and West Central School, the two school facilities operated by FCBDD for school-age youth, have welcomed students back to school with a program that has been adjusted to provide a commitment to successful transition into adult service options of their choice.



Northeast school



West Central School

For many years, the school-age program has earned high marks for providing effective school services for children, many of whom experience significant challenges from cognitive, physical, medical, and behavioral disabilities. School services for students age 6 to 22 have emphasized teaching functional academic and personal daily living skills to enable each child to reach their potential for independence as adults. Functional skill training, communication training, and skills promoting independent living will always represent cornerstone concepts of our school curriculum.

In 2012, Governor Kasich introduced the *Employment First* initiative in Ohio. All school districts in Ohio are required to create an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for all students with disabilities. These IEPs include transition plans specifying activities that will facilitate students' adjustment when leaving school-based programs into opportunities for working and participating in community-based settings as adults. FCBDD has chosen to focus on this age of transition (ages 14-22), by expanding innovative and effective practices leading to successful placement in adult program options upon graduation from school.

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Board endorses children services renewal levy

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has endorsed the Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) renewal levy that will appear on the November ballot.

The 1.9 mill renewal levy will not raise taxes and it will continue to support more than 30,000 abused and neglected children and families in crisis.

The Board partners with FCCS in support of children who have developmental disabilities and who also need FCCS protective services. Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO of the Board stated that "FCCS has been a solid partner and they continue to provide vitally needed services in our community."

Because this is a renewal levy that expires in 2014, the levy will not raise taxes. For details on the levy, contact the Committee 4 Children at 230 West Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Register for star awards

The Community Star Awards will celebrate the achievements of fourteen individuals and organizations on Tuesday evening, September 30, 2014 at Villa Milano. Winners were announced in the July/ August *Dateline*.

Over 500 are expected at the event which will feature the Dave Powers Trio and Marcus Thorpe (WCMH-TV4) as Master of Ceremonies.

Registration forms are included in this issue of *Dateline* and are still being accepted. The event promises to be a great celebration.



Schools ready for transition (cont'd from page 1)

The key components of the schools' restructuring effort have included:

- Training all teachers on current concepts of Customized Employment, including *Discovery, Person-Centered Planning, Supported Employment, and Community Integration*.
- Adjusting intake policies to limit new enrollments to students age 14 – 22.
- Establishing agreements with community partners to build reciprocal opportunities to experience the benefits of specialized facilities and programs, while also promoting natural integration and participation into community and school settings.
- Repurposing some professional positions to create a Transition Resource Coordinator role to coordinate transition planning for each child and to help each family explore the wide variety of employment and/or day support programs available in Franklin County.
- Repurposing some classroom assistant positions to provide a core team trained in job coaching to assist individual and small groups of students experience employment and community services in natural settings.
- Adopting curriculum aligned with *Ohio Content Standards – Extended* that provides practical and functional training activities for students at the High School (age 14 – 18) and Transition (age 18 – 22) levels.
- Expanding a broad spectrum of community-based experiences for students age 14 - 18 to explore opportunities for employment, participation in arts, recreation, civic, and social life in their community, and to discern the areas of individual interest and aptitude that is preferred by each student.
- Expanding a broad spectrum of community-based options for students age 18 – 22 to experience and practice employment and community integration based on their chosen areas of preference, including practicum, internships, part-time jobs, volunteer involvement, and spectator opportunities.
- Through this longitudinal process of discovery and person-centered planning each student and their family can make informed decisions about their choice for adulthood.
- Alliances have been built with other FCBDD departments, as well as with local school districts, to create collaborative teams as needed to support each student.

No “one-size fits all” design will truly meet the needs of every student. Our school-age program believes it is ready to implement a Transition-Focused Program that is adaptable to each student and their family. By offering coordinated services both within FCBDD as well as between FCBDD and community partners, families can realize more clearly the variety of choices available, and make informed decisions about the best path for their young person entering adulthood.

President signs Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

President Obama has signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that includes a section related to individuals who have disabilities.

While further analysis of the 300 page Act is required, the section related to disability reportedly states that individuals under the age of 24 will no longer be allowed to work in sub-minimum wage jobs unless they first receive pre-employment transition services and try vocational services. Some suggest that this will limit sheltered workshop eligibility, consistent with the employment first initiatives.

For additional details on the act, check the WIOA Resource Page at: www.doleta.gov/WIOA.



President Barack Obama

State Director updates on plans

John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) recently updated Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities on how the DODD is responding to recent rule changes and requests.

In particular, the State is considering how to respond to the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) rule that was adopted in January, 2014 and the requests from a letter received in July from Disability Rights Ohio. These and other initiatives of DODD have resulted in a clearer definition of major pieces of work that need to be considered.

Topics include:

- Waiver rates and additional state funded waivers
- Nursing services in Waivers
- Conversion of TDD waivers to other DD waivers
- ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities) program considerations
- Funding for day services with incentives for integrated opportunities
- Conflict Free Case Management
- Housing Planning
- Developmental Center downsizing
- Training to field



Director John Martin

Director Martin emphasized that these are topics under discussion and no final decisions have been made. He and his staff are seeking input from county boards, providers, families and individual advocates before adopting final plans.

Superintendent Jed Morison commented that "Director Martin has been very open to discussion. While status quo is not an option, I am impressed with the Director's willingness to listen and confident that our state officials will develop plans that allow people to have quality options in compliance with CMS rules."

William Wilkins appointed to Guardianship Board

William W. Wilkins, former President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has been appointed to represent the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the newly forming Franklin County Guardianship Services Board.

Thanks to efforts of Probate Judge Montgomery and Senator Jim Hughes, a law has been passed to allow Franklin County to establish a public guardianship board.

The other appointments to the Board will include one individual appointed by the ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health) Board and one appointment from Judge Montgomery. The Board is expected to eventually hire a Director and take over guardianships for individuals who are indigent and/ or in need of a guardian.

According to Dean Fadel, current member and past President of the Board, "Bill is the perfect person to serve on this Board. His business knowledge and experience as former CEO of Ohio Health and his leadership as a cabinet level official under two Governors make him the perfect fit for this new Board."

The Guardianship Services Board is expected to begin meeting this fall.

Position statement adopted

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has adopted a statement on the continued provision of services by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The statement was adopted to encourage state officials to advocate with federal officials to allow County Boards to continue to provide case management and Medicaid services with provisions to mitigate conflicts of interest. Under current rules, this is permitted, however a recent new CMS (Centers for Medicine and Medicaid Services) rule encourages "Conflict Free Case Management." Further guidance on the new CMS rule is expected soon.

The Board's statement emphasizes that County Boards have been the standard bearers for programs and services for nearly 50 years and further states that "we should strive for a well-designed system of both private and public providers."

The full statement can be found on the home page of the Board's website at www.fcbdd.org.

Back-to-school 5K and Fun Run

Franklin County Special Olympics is excited to announce its inaugural Back-to-School 5K and Fun Run, to be held at the famous Arch in McFerson Commons Park in the Arena District (across the street from Nationwide Arena) on Sunday, September 14th. Runners and walkers will start and finish near the Arch (that was once the entry into the Old Union Train Station) which will serve as the focal point for this signature event benefitting Franklin County Special Olympics.

Athletes of all ages and abilities are encouraged to attend this event. According to Special Olympics Director Ryan Phillips, their vision of hosting a 5K for Special Olympics athletes, coaches and community members is turning into a reality. "The beauty of this event is to mix together athletes, coaches, supporters and the great people of Central Ohio to benefit our program and athletes while being active and healthy," Phillips said.

Registration is currently open for this event through their partner, Premier Races, and 100 percent of the profits will benefit Franklin County Special Olympics, a

program offering 16 sports annually to more than 500 athletes that utilize more than 200 registered volunteer coaches.

To register, visit the race website at <http://premieraces.org/events>, or visit Facebook at www.facebook.com/FranklinCoSpecialOlympics. Lead sponsors for the event are ARC Industries and UnitedHealth care.



OSU calls for research participants



Professor Stephanie Hoffer and Dr. Tom Fish are conducting focus groups with family members and individuals who have developmental disabilities on the topic of how individuals with disabilities experience the Medicaid eligibility application and benefit retention process. Participants will receive a gift card for their time. For details, or to participate, contact Professor Hoffer at 614/247-7856 or hoffer.11@osu.edu.

Synergy Conference

The annual Synergy Conference is scheduled for October 1-3 at the Dublin Embassy Suites. The conference is a collaborative effort of the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA) and PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) and it brings together self advocates, professionals, family members and others for an incredible event.

For details on the program or registration, go to www.synergyohio.org.

Franklin County sponsors Project STIR training

The Holiday Inn in Worthington, Ohio was the site of a recent Project STIR Leadership training sponsored by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) in collaboration with the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA).

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is a training by and for people with disabilities, designed to provide tools to help individuals advocate for themselves. The training also helps people to connect with others in advocacy and gain leadership experience.

This leadership training used a "train the trainer" approach, so participants can then train others using the Project STIR curriculum. Information was provided through presentations, demonstrations and small work group activities. Representatives from all FCBDD workshops and the employment services department participated in addition to several individuals throughout Ohio. Each participant had an ally/ coach to provide support.

FCBDD sponsorship of this Project STIR training was suggested by the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council. Several members of the council have participated in Project STIR training, including statewide trainers Marci Straughter and Elizabeth Beu. The four day training took place from August 18-21.

For additional information on Project STIR, contact the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA) at 614/ 846-5530 or www.ohiosda.org.

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to **Don L. Brown**, County Administrator for the **Franklin County Commissioners** for consistent support of services for children and adults who have developmental disabilities. Don served as a member of the Board from 1977 to 1979. Don will retire as Administrator for the County Commissioners in October, 2014.

Congratulations to **Kurt Schmitter** on the nice article in **Smart Business Columbus** highlighting **ARC Industries** and employment of people who have developmental disabilities. The article is titled "Educating Employers."

Congratulations to **Sean Patterson**, Service Coordinator, for being featured in a story in the **Columbus Dispatch** supporting bone marrow donations. Sean donated to a little girl with aplastic anemia. For details on bone marrow donations, call 800-507-5427 or go to: www.bethematchfoundation.org.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Zuhosky**, **Colleen Deel** and **Elyse French**, **Service Coordination** staff, for the recent article in the State Library newsletter and '*Pipeline*', the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities newsletter. The article featured the great work they have done indexing and digitizing over 350,000 documents (3 million pages) to increase access of records and allow Service Coordinators to do their jobs more efficiently utilizing technology. Previous files filled over 150 file cabinets and 3000 square feet of office space!



L to R: Elyse French, Colleen Deel, and Jonathan Zuhosky from Service Coordination.

Congratulations to **Ron Harrison**, On-Site Crews Field Supervisor with over 29 years of service with the **ARC Industries Employment Services Department**. Ron was instrumental in starting the housekeeping division for ARC Industries and has been a leader in establishing On-Site Crews. We wish Ron the best in his retirement.



Ron Harrison

Christine Brown, Self-Advocate, has been appointed to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. Congratulations!

Career Milestones

40 years
Mark Salter

35 years
Catherine Gordon
Roslyn Jackson

30 years
Lori Boxill
Diane Dildine

25 years
Mary Butler
John Lee
Larry Martin
Karen McDaniel
Betty Scott

20 years
Pete Cox

15 years
Regan Mauk

10 years
Kathryn Hopper
Susan Jones
Donald Knox

5 years
Barbara Durthaler
Teresa Mulinex
Elisa Panico
Heather Russell
Albert Taylor

“Quotable quote”

"Few will have the greatness to bend history, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. And in the total of all those acts will be written the history of a generation."

-- Robert F. Kennedy

Developmental Disabilities council recruits members

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC)? Appointments to the council are made by the Governor.

The council is searching for people who have disabilities or family members. For details, call Carla Cox at (614) 644-5538 or by email to carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov.

Save the date

The 14th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be held on November 7th and 8th at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel.

For details on the event or to register online, go to www.OhioSIBS.com. More details on the conference will be in the October issue of *Dateline*.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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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

Calendar

September, 2014

- 1 Labor Day
- 9 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 11 Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 14 Back-to-School 5k and Fun Run at McFerson Park, Registration begins at 8 a.m. Run begins at 9 a.m.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 21 Buddy Walk, sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, Columbus Crew Stadium. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Opening ceremony at 9:45 a.m.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 25 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 30 Community Star Awards banquet at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Rd., 5:30 p.m. Please call (614) 342-5950 for details.

October Family Support meeting rescheduled

The October Family Support meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at 2879 Johnstown Road.

Normally held on the third Wednesday, the October meeting was rescheduled to the fourth Wednesday due to a schedule conflict. Family members of individuals served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities are welcome to attend to hear updates from the Superintendent and provide input regarding services.