

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

## Marty Kerscher ends 'outstanding' career

Marty Kerscher, Legal Counsel for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for over 35 years has announced his retirement to be effective on January 1, 2015.

According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "Marty has been outstanding. His wise counsel to so many staff and family members has been invaluable. His advice reminds me of the old E.F. Hutton commercial: 'When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen'. **When Marty talks, people listen.**"

As Legal Counsel, Marty has willingly taken on many other roles for the agency, including service as EEO and ADA Coordinator, Editor of *Dateline* for many years, consultant to Board members and staff on laws related to civil service, disability, personnel and any number of other legal questions. His advice was also frequently sought on levy and media communication matters.



Marty completes the 2013 Nationwide Childrens Hospital Marathon

As Legal Counsel for the Board, Marty served as liaison to the legal offices of the Franklin County Prosecutor, Probate Judge and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. He was often asked advice from other county and state officials.

According to Bill Reddington, Administrative Magistrate for Probate Judge Montgomery, "Marty is a strong advocate for the clients of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. His passion for the interests of the clients of the FCBDD is seen both in his articulate representations in the courtroom as well as his day to day dealings with the Franklin County Probate Court. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to work with Marty over these past many years in his advocacy for the rights of those with developmental disabilities."

About his career with the Board, Marty said "You might say I've had the best of two worlds: a job that contributes to the betterment of our community and co-workers whom I like and admire."

"When I was a 3rd year law student at Capital University, one long-time professor advised, 'if you want to be happy, attach yourself to a cause that is larger than yourself and work for its success.' My career with FCBDD bears out the wisdom of that advice."

Marty recalls that he started his career on May 29, 1979, when the administrative offices were located on Cleveland Avenue. He indicates "the biggest change I've seen -- and there have been many over the years -- is the use of the internet. Communications that typically took several days to complete can now be done in minutes."

In his retirement, Marty plans to spend more time with family and he will certainly continue his support of The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Marty is married to Maribel and has two daughters, Tracy (of Aiken, South Carolina) and Carrie, a senior at OSU and one son, Martin Jr., a junior at Miami of Ohio.

Best wishes to Marty Kerscher. Your impact has been significant and benefitted thousands of individuals served by the Board and their families. We will miss you!



Martin J. Kerscher

Please join us for a retirement open house for Martin Kerscher, Legal Counsel for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on Tuesday, December 16th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 2879 Johnstown Road.

Please RSVP to Linda Fleming at (614) 342-5950.

# Advocacy conference develops dreams

The ABCs of Dream Development was the theme for the fifth annual Self-Advocacy Conference recently held in Columbus.

Michael Heifner, self-proclaimed Dream Developer and adult services administrator from the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities led participants through the day to help them identify their aspirations and then attach those dreams to real life employment possibilities.

Participants employed at all ARC Industries Workshops and in the community enjoyed the full day event titled "Roll on the Wheels of Knowledge." Nan Burns and Jan Montgomery, Directors of ARC Industries North and West, coordinated the training which was held at Xenos near The Ohio State University Campus. Superintendent Jed Morison welcomed the group and introduced members of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council.

The annual conference began five years ago, based on input from the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council.

Mike Heifner provided participants with the ABCs of Dream Development, from starting anew to establishing the courage needed to make dreams in life come true.

Mary Stark, Kedrick Smith and Marci Straughter, all members of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council, were among the enthusiastic participants in the day's activities. Also in attendance were Marcy Samuel, FCBDD's Director of Program Operations and Bob Gaston, Director of Adult Services.



Mary Stark, Self-Advocate Advisory Council member and Scott Armstrong



Mike Heifner and attendees hard at work developing dreams



Left to right: Nan Burns, and Sharon Evrard, ARC North, Jan Montgomery, ARC West

## ADD merges with Hattie Larlham

The Board of Directors for the Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD) has approved a merger agreement with Hattie Larlham effective January 1, 2015. Hattie Larlham is a nonprofit organization based in Northeast Ohio that has provided services to people with developmental disabilities for more than 50 years.

"By becoming part of Hattie Larlham, we are putting ourselves in a position of strength to continue to positively impact the lives of those we serve," said ADD President and CEO Anthony Hartley. "With this merger, we are joining an organization that shares our mission, values and passion and has an outstanding reputation for quality program service delivery."

ADD is a nonprofit organization based in the Columbus area. The organization was created to help people with developmental disabilities live and grow in their community. ADD connects its clients with the community through recreation, education and residential programs.

"Hattie Larlham looks forward to establishing a strong presence in central Ohio and ensuring that critical services for people with developmental disabilities in the region remain available and viable for the long term," said Hattie Larlham CEO Dennis Allen.

Both Hattie Larlham and ADD conducted meticulous due diligence before negotiating and approving this merger. Building on the framework developed by both organizations during the due diligence process, ADD will spend 2015 engaged in further planning and evaluation with Hattie Larlham to determine how best to leverage its joint resources.

Established in 1961, Hattie Larlham is a nonprofit organization that provides services to 1,500 children and adults with developmental disabilities. Hattie Larlham inspires people with disabilities and their families to dream and achieve through the medical, residential, vocational and recreational services the organization offers. For more information, visit [www.hattielarlham.org](http://www.hattielarlham.org).

# Ed Harper retires from FCRS

Ed Harper, the first and only Executive Director for Franklin County Residential Services will retire in early 2015 after almost 40 years of service.

Ed began in 1976 as a residential specialist for the Association for Developmentally Disabled (ADD), while a student at The Ohio State University.

In 1980, Ed was hired by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to begin the process of establishing residential services for the Board. His first task was to develop a five year plan. This plan and subsequent plans led to the formation of a non-profit Board, Franklin County Residential Services (FCRS).

Supported living services were first established at the Stelzer Road house in 1982, followed by the opening of a home on Highfield Drive. Under Ed's leadership, respite and family resources were established, FCRS became the provider of before and after school services (Extensions Program) and FCFS residential/ supported living services were established for over 100 individuals.

In 1985, Kimberly Woods opened and included an out-of-home respite option for children and adults. In 1988,



Ed Harper

McDowell, Morse and Dierker Road homes were established utilizing Medicaid funds. Many more supported living and respite options came later.

It was July 1, 2004, when FCFS separated from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to become an independent, private not-for-profit agency. Through this major change, Ed provided the leadership that resulted in continued quality services and staffing.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "Ed has been a steady and thoughtful leader, as he has navigated FCFS through the many changes our field has experienced over the years. He has done a terrific job."

Rick Zarnoch, President of the FCFS Board of Trustees, said it best when he said Ed's "value has been immeasurable." He stated that Ed has provided "great stability, reliability and direction... from day one through today."

Congratulations to Ed Harper and special thanks for improving the quality of life for so many. That's an impressive legacy.

## Franklin County Guardianship Board is appointed

Probate Judge Robert G. Montgomery has announced that the charter members of the Franklin County Guardianship Services Board have been appointed.

Judge Montgomery's appointee to the Board is attorney Larry H. James of Columbus, a partner at the Columbus firm of Crabbe Brown and James, LLP. He has served as an assistant city attorney for the cities of Columbus and Cleveland, and as Public Safety Director for the City of Columbus.

The ADAMH Board's appointee to the Board is attorney Jane Higgins Marx, a partner at Carlile Patchen & Murphy LLP, a Columbus law firm. She practices in the areas of estate and business planning, probate, probate litigation, business succession planning, and elder law.

William W. Wilkins, former President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

and member of the Creative Housing Board will serve as the FCBDD appointee. He is the former CEO of OhioHealth and has served as the Ohio Tax Commissioner, State Director of the Department of Administrative Services and State Director of the Office of Budget and Management.

Judge Montgomery stated: "I am looking forward to working closely with this sterling panel of public servants and community leaders to ensure the care, treatment and safety of the most vulnerable citizens in Franklin County. By ensuring collaborative efforts of the public and private sectors, inter-governmental cooperation and good communication, I believe that this new Board will elevate the level of service delivery to those citizens unable to protect themselves."

Judge Montgomery continued: "I applaud the diligent efforts and financial support of the ADAMH

Board and the Developmental Disabilities Board to get the Guardianship Services Board underway. I also appreciate State Senator Jim Hughes' efforts, as he sponsored the legislation for this pilot project, which will ensure a completely different approach to way Franklin County addresses the needs of the most vulnerable citizens through guardianships."



Probate Judge  
Robert G. Montgomery

# ARC Industries Board adopts strategic plan

The ARC Industries Board has unanimously adopted a strategic plan to serve as a roadmap for the future.

The plan includes a vision stating that we want to be "a community that values the contributions of everyone and a mission that states "ARC creates employment opportunities through outreach, education and enterprise."

Broad strategic goals that apply to all aspects of ARC Industries are:

1. Expand employment opportunities by creating new paths for people with disabilities.
2. Support development of enterprises that create employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
3. Increase career education and training opportunities for people with disabilities.

Bob Gaston, recently hired Adult Services Director, said the ARC Industries Board has been working on this plan for several months and adopted it at their October 27, 2014 meeting. He stated "the plan provides us with solid direction for the future, which will require gradual change, while recognizing the value of existing services."

Superintendent Jed Morison commended the ARC Industries Board for their "forward thinking as we continue to navigate these challenging times driven by local, state and federal initiatives."

Please call (614) 475-7007 for more information about the strategic plan.

## Center for Autism Services and Transition (CAST)

The Center for Autism Services and Transition (CAST), located in Hilliard, is a part of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

The clinic focuses on providing health care for adults with autism. It is one of only a few clinics in the country to provide care coordination and primary and specialty care services for adults.

Dr. Christopher Hanks, Medical Director for CAST and staff recently met with representatives of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to describe their services.

Superintendent Jed Morison stated he was "impressed with Dr. Hanks and their staff and I am confident his services will be well received by individuals who have autism and developmental disabilities and their families."

For additional information on CAST call (614) 688-9214.

## Columbus Academy students volunteer by Erick Berquist

This was the tenth year that Columbus Academy students have come to ARC Industries as part of their community service.

During their visit, the students performed a variety of activities including painting a classroom, providing one-on-one support to individuals at ARC Industries North, playing games, assisting with contract production, and assisting with the "Tailgate Lunch" fundraiser.

Columbus Academy students and staff expressed their appreciation for the "amazing learning experience." North's staff and participants enjoyed and appreciated having the student's assistance and look forward to doing it again next year.



*Front row: Virginia Klemens, Sarah Fornshell, Ana Clavijo, Kristie Sun, Jen Carlin (teacher/advisor). Back row: Margaret Kaye, Max Smith, Katherine Guan, Ben Dahl, Shrikar Kundar, Chris Lavskoskt, Scott Mackenzie.*



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

## Good for you

*Notable achievements in the FCBDD community*

Congratulations to Sunapple Artist **Wendi Olszewski**, who will be a featured author at a book signing at the Ohio Craft Museum's Winterfair on Sunday, December 7th from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Wendi will sign her book titled **The Coloring Book Your Kids are Sure to Love**.



\* \* \* \* \*  
**The Ohio SIBS Conference**, held on November 7th and 8th in Columbus was a big success. For details on Ohio SIBS, go to [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com).

**VSA, The State Organization in Arts and Disability** has selected the FCBDD's Early Childhood Education Department for the *Adaptive, Integration and the Arts* (AIA) residency program for the 2014-2015 school year. The AIA partners teaching artists and educators in classrooms inclusive of students with and without disability.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Congratulations to all who organized the **World's Largest Provider Fair** on November 19th at the Ohio State Fair Grounds. Over 1,000 were in attendance to chat with providers.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Thanks to the outstanding work of the participants and staff of **ARC South**, the other adult services locations and the **Transportation Department**, the consolidation of ARC South has been completed.

## Career Milestones

**20 years**

Troy Gussler  
Paula Kassa  
Kelly Lutz  
Nancy Riley  
Carl Scott  
Kevin Yuhas

**10 years**

Amanda Carroll  
Rosalyn Haines-Berger

**5 years**

Karen Holman

Congratulations to **Peggy Martin** on her retirement from the **Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities** as their Family Advocate. Best wishes to Peggy!

## Check here for Closing news

For information concerning the emergency closing of FCBDD facilities, please tune in to the following radio and TV stations after 5:30 a.m.:

**Radio AM**  
WBNS (1460)  
WMNI (920)  
WOSU (820)  
WTVN (610)

**Radio FM**  
WCOL (92.3)  
WCVO (104.9)  
WNCI (97.9)  
WSNY (Sunny95)

**Television**  
WCMH (4)  
WSYX (6)  
WBNS (10)  
WOSU (34)

## Ben Hale saluted

Ben Hale, former President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and longest serving member of the Board, recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Central Ohio Commercial Real Estate Development Association.

Over 300 were in attendance at the Archie Griffin Ballroom in the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University to recognize Ben on his many contributions to the Central Ohio community. From his work with the Board of Developmental Disabilities and Creative Housing for over 20 years to his work in helping communities with their development and growth, speakers praised Ben on his long and distinguished career.

Superintendent Morison joined Creative Housing President Pat Rafter, former Superintendent Steve Pleasnick and a dozen other friends, colleagues and family with words of thanks. Mr. Lex Wexner provided the keynote address offering insights

into his 40 years of knowing and working with Ben.

Ben is a partner with the law firm of Smith and Hale, LLC, where he has a long and distinguished track record of providing counsel on zoning, land use, annexation and real estate development matters. It was Ben Hale who, as a member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, paved the way for the development of the Kimberly Woods, Morse, Dierker and McDowell residential and respite programs in the 1980s.

According to Superintendent Jed Morison, "Ben Hale has been a remarkable leader and continues as a true and loyal friend to our Board. His leadership will benefit thousands of individuals for years to come."

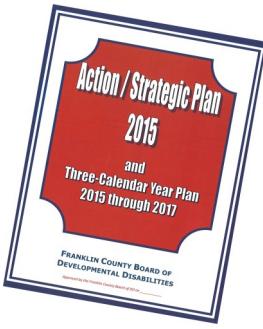
Ben lives in New Albany with his wife Jan. He has two daughters, Susie and Sarah, son-in-law Aaron Underhill and three grandsons. Congratulations to Ben Hale!

# Annual Plan and Needs Assessment

It's that time of year that the Board begins development of the Annual Action/ Strategic Plan and conducts the 'Community Survey and Needs Assessment.'

Included with the December issue of *Dateline* is the assessment form. Individuals, family members, staff, volunteers, state officials, providers and others are requested to complete the form with their assessments.

The feedback from this assessment will be considered for the Board's Annual Action/ Strategic Plan, which is expected to be adopted by the Board in their January, 2015 meeting.



## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

Superintendent / C.E.O. **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.

The following staff contribute to the monthly *Dateline*:

<b>Carl Scott</b>	<b>Linda Fleming</b>
<b>Amy Magginis</b>	<b>Jennifer Cunningham</b>

**News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to:**

Jed Morison  
2879 Johnstown Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43219  
(614) 475-6440 FAX (614) 342-5001  
e-mail: [jed.morison@fcbdd.org](mailto:jed.morison@fcbdd.org)

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

**[www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)**

## Calendar

### December, 2014

- 3,4,5 Ohio Association of County Boards Convention, Hilton Easton. For more information please call 431-0616 or visit [oacbdd.org](http://oacbdd.org).
- 8 Public hearing on FCBDD's Annual Action/ Strategic Plan, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4 p.m.
- 9 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 11 Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 15 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Retirement Open House for Martin Kerscher, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 21 Winter begins.
- 24 Winter recess for ECE and schools. Classes resume January 5th.
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 26-31 Winter recess for adult services. Programs resume January 2nd.

## Public hearing scheduled

A public hearing on the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Annual Action/ Strategic Plan is scheduled for Monday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m.

The hearing will be held at 2879 Johnstown Road. Participants will be given the opportunity to comment on the draft plan for the 2015 year.

This plan is required by rule of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The FCBDD Board is expected to consider it for approval in their January 22, 2015 meeting.

For a copy of the draft, call Linda Fleming at (614) 342-5950.