

Board re-elects officers

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities held their annual organizational meeting on January 22, 2015 and re-elected current officers for another year.

Renée Stein will continue as President of the Board. Mrs. Stein was appointed to the Board by the Franklin County Commissioners in 2009. She and her husband, Richard, have two children, one of whom is served by the Board. Mrs. Stein is employed by American Express.

Linda Craig will continue as Vice President of the Board and John Bickley will again serve as Secretary. Mrs. Craig is employed by the Franklin County Treasurer's Office and previously served as the Board's Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Mr.



Renée Stein, President

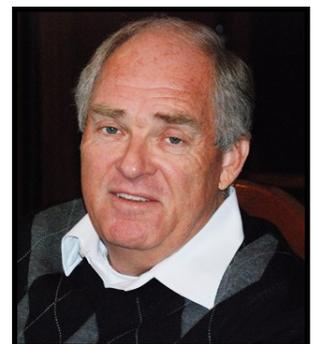
Bickley is retired from his position of CEO for the Central Ohio YMCA, however is again working with the YMCA on an interim basis. He also Chairs the Board's Human Resources Committee. Both Mrs. Craig and Mr. Bickley were appointed by the Franklin County Commissioners.

Past Board Presidents Dean Fadel and Helen Ninos continue their service on the Board. Beth Savage serves as Chair of the Finance Committee and Marie Crawford will continue her service as a member of both the Finance and Human Resources Committees.

In other business, the Board approved the Annual Action/ Strategic Plan and received updates on the State plan related to the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) Transition Plan which is due to CMS in March.



Linda Craig, Vice-President



John Bickley, Secretary

School consolidation considered

A recent analysis of enrollment trends and referrals to the FCBDD school-age program has led to discussions about consolidating both schools into West Central School.

Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, has been asked to seek feedback and provide a report and recommendations to the Superintendent by March 15, 2015. Current projections for next year's enrollment for the two schools is 122 students. An additional ten classes are located in public school district buildings.

For many years, the sixteen school districts in Franklin County have continued to take more and more responsibility for developing school programs in their neighborhood schools. FCBDD currently partners with Reynoldsburg and Southwestern City Schools, where FCBDD teachers and instructor assistants provide

instruction in the school district buildings. FCBDD will continue to offer this collaborative model to other school districts.

While school enrollment has shifted, early childhood numbers have continued to show high demand. The Board's Early Childhood Education Department continues to partner with the Franklin County Family and Children First Council for the 'Help Me Grow' program, providing assessments and services to young children with developmental delays.

The Board is not expected to consider a decision on the consolidation of schools until this Spring. Suggestions and feedback regarding the possibility should be directed to Jack Brownley at jack.brownley@fcbdd.org or by calling (614) 342-5960. Feedback is requested by March 1st.

State finalizes Strategic Planning report

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has finalized their Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) report and published the report on their website.

The report is the result of several months of meetings with representatives of various 'stakeholders' in the statewide developmental disabilities community. DODD Director John Martin stated that the 24 member group met monthly from November, 2013 through November, 2014 "to examine trends and issues, conduct in-depth analysis of data and learn about best practices." In addition, four open forums were held on topics such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, work opportunities and community living.

The final report highlights key strategic issues such as aging of people with developmental disabilities, waiting lists, workforce development and more. The final result of the report is a list of 24, ten-year benchmarks, which are expected to guide future policy discussions.

The ten-year benchmarks address three key areas:

- ◆ The experiences of people with developmental disabilities and their families
- ◆ Service delivery
- ◆ Infrastructure development

Just some of the specific ten-year benchmarks are as follows:

- ⇒ 90% of individuals newly-enrolled in waiver services will be planned enrollments, not emergencies
- ⇒ 25% of all DD waiver recipients will live in host homes, using technology and creative strategies for recruiting, matching and providing supports for success
- ⇒ The number of people employed will be 50% of adults served
- ⇒ The number of quality, affordable and accessible housing units in safe neighborhoods will increase by 25%
- ⇒ Nursing services will be in all waivers
- ⇒ The total number of ICF beds will be reduced by 50% to 2800 beds
- ⇒ All direct service professionals will earn a livable wage (200% of the poverty level) for all services provided to people with disabilities
- ⇒ 1500 people will leave ICF facilities of 16 beds or larger and move to community homes
- ⇒ A comprehensive DD waiver will be available

While not everyone on the leadership group agreed with all the benchmarks, at least 75% of those participating agreed on the benchmarks approved. DODD officials did not vote on the benchmarks.

According to Director Martin, "these 24 benchmarks provide a vision and a direction for our service delivery system. Our job as leaders is to manage these changes in responsible, planful ways that honor the choices and listen to the voices of those affected by these changes."

It is expected that some of the benchmarks will require additional funding and may result in state budget policy initiatives.

For more information or a copy of the complete report, please go to the DODD website at DODD.Ohio.gov/OurFuture.

Human Services Levy Committee update

Superintendent Jed Morison and Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer provided an update to the Human Services Levy Review Committee of the Franklin County Commissioners in January.

The Board was last on the ballot for a levy in 2011 and has committed to remain off the ballot until this levy expires in 2018. The Board may request a renewal vote in the Fall of 2017 or Spring or Fall of 2018.

The Levy Review Committee is Chaired by Jesse Hemphill of Hemphill and Associates. Other members of the committee include representatives from The Ohio State University, Nationwide Insurance, Franklin County Finance Authority and the National Affordable Housing Trust. Kenneth Wilson, Deputy County Administrator for Resource Management represents the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Commissioners' staff

assigned to work with the committee includes Heidi Hallas, Justin Nahvi, Zak Talarek and Carla Wallace.

Superintendent Morison and Dot Yeager provided an update on services, finances and the status of progress on previous commitments. It was noted that FCBDD staffing has dropped from 1420 in 2010 to 1189 in 2014 to adjust to reductions in levy funding and enrollment shifts due to an increase in providers and 'free choice of provider' for Medicaid recipients.

Committee members commended the Board for maintaining stable services and finances during these challenging economic times. Committee Chair Jessie Hemphill said "we are pleased that the Board is fulfilling previous commitments including their promise to not request additional levy funding until their current levy expires."

West Central Students honored by Amy Hipple

Two students from West Central School have had their art work accepted into special art exhibits.

Alexis Roush has been accepted into the YAM (You Art Month) exhibit to be displayed at the STRS building downtown for the month of March culminating in an award ceremony on March 14th at 10 a.m. Her artwork will then be displayed at different venues for the following year, to be returned to her in December 2015.



Alexis Roush

Julian Ramsey has been accepted into the YPAE (Young Peoples Art Exhibit) to be displayed at the Rhodes Office Tower downtown for the month of March culminating in an award ceremony on March 14th at 12:30 p.m. His artwork will then be displayed at different venues for the following year, to be returned to him in December 2015.



Julian Ramsey

Everyone at West Central would like to join the family and caregivers to celebrate this great accomplishment.

ABLE Act signed

Federal legislation was signed by President Obama in December to allow for individuals with developmental disabilities to open special accounts where they can save up to \$100,000 without risking eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other government programs.

The ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience) is modeled after college 529 savings plans. Individuals must have a disability that originated prior to age 26 and a maximum of \$14,000 can be deposited into an ABLE account annually.

While the law was passed in December, 2014, states will now be required to establish regulations to implement the law. Funds accrued in ABLE accounts will be able to be used to pay for education, health care, housing, transportation or other expenses. As more details become available, updates will be provided in *Dateline*.

Congratulations to Jennifer Cunningham and other self-advocates across the country who advocated for this legislation and spoke to legislators in Washington D.C.



Jennifer Cunningham advocates for the ABLE Act in Washington D.C.

Volunteer dedicated to sharing skills and building friendships by Becky Niles, Volunteer Services Manager Franklin County Recreation

Volunteers are an integral part of Franklin County Recreation. Our volunteers provide friendship and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, that we as staff can't always provide. Whether it's help with a project, an encouraging word, or a chance to do something in the community with friends, volunteers are the people that fill that role.

Renee Shouse has been a volunteer with Franklin County Recreation for over three years. Renee began as a volunteer at the Tuesday night galas, held twice each month. Now, Renee teaches a monthly cooking class at the gala, and volunteers for special events like the luau and formal dance.

In her own words, Renee talked about why she volunteers for Franklin County Recreation and the things she enjoys the most about her experience:

"I decided to volunteer because I

was interested in helping out my community and the gala event sounded like fun. It sounded as if it would allow me to help work with adults who had disabilities and utilize my teaching skills. Teaching was something I missed doing and I thought the "cooking" segment would be something I could share.

"What I enjoy most about the volunteering are the participants themselves. The interaction and socializing is inspiring. The participants are so happy, friendly and they genuinely enjoy their time at the gala. Although I may be teaching, they are teaching me more about how to be positive and value what is really important in life. The positive attitude they exude lifts my own spirits and helps me to be a better person.

"I would say to someone thinking about volunteering....DO IT. Find the time, fit it in your schedule and make it a habit to do."

Franklin County Recreation would like to thank Renee for her continued dedication to our recreation members, and thank all of our volunteers for the time they spend improving people's lives. Anyone interested in volunteering with Franklin County Recreation can email bniles@addohio.org for more information.



*Pictured from left to right:
Jane Taylor and Renee Shouse*

Special Olympics volunteer Laura Dewert honored

Franklin County Special Olympics volunteer coach and BMW employee, Laura Dewert, was recently recognized by BMW International at their home office in Munich, Germany, for her dedication and time she has spent as a volunteer coach for Special Olympics.

BMW instituted a worldwide initiative to honor BMW group employees that show extraordinary commitment to donate their time outside of work. Coach Dewert was recognized on Nov. 17th at the BMW Museum in Munich, Germany as part of the BMW Group Recognition for the Social Engagement of Associates 2014 ceremony.

She was one of eight finalists flown to Munich where she and the other nominees, plus a guest, spent a week getting the royal treatment and touring the area.

At the awards event Laura was recognized and stated that the 5,000 euros grand prize would be donated to Franklin County Special Olympics.

When asked about what Special Olympics has done for her personally Dewert said "There is just no better feeling as knowing that I have personally made a positive impact in a person's life."

Dewert has coached and volunteered for Special Olympics spanning over 25 years. She has worked with a variety of sports including tennis, swimming, bowling, powerlifting, softball, and volleyball. Starting at the age of 15 as a Unified Partner to now as the assistant-head tennis coach, Dewert continues to feel privileged at the opportunity to get to know the athletes personally.



Laura Dewert (right) accepting the BMW award recognizing her dedication and time volunteering as a coach for Special Olympics.

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to **Sherry Nickell-Simco**, HR Associate Relations Manager with **Dynalab, Inc.**, for her testimonial at a U.S. Department of Labor Conference on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities and the positive relationship Dynalab has with ARC Industries.

As part of Sherry's message, she highlighted the excellent work of **Mark Curto**, who began in an entry level position and now uses his soldering certification skills to place electronic components on a circuit board.



Mark Curto solders electronic components onto a circuit board for **Dynalab, Inc.**



Kurt Schmitter, ARC Industries and Sherry Nickell-Simco, Dynalab, Inc. at the U.S. Department of Labor Conference on employment of individuals with Disabilities.

Congratulations to the **FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council** for advocating for legislation to change the wording on signage from 'handicapped' to 'accessible'. The law (H.B.552) was officially passed on December 19, 2014 when **Governor Kasich** signed it.

Thanks to Representative Michael Stinziano for sponsoring legislation to change signage from 'handicapped' to 'accessible' as requested by the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council.



Representative Michael Stinziano

Congratulations to **Martha Cornwell**, Director of Operations for **Franklin County Residential Services (FCRS)** on an outstanding career. Martha's career has spanned 45 years. According to **Superintendent Jed Morison**, "Martha is one of the finest and most thoughtful people I know. Her dedication to this field and the people she has supervised and served is unparalleled. She will be missed." Martha retired effective January, 27, 2015.



Martha Cornwell

Career Milestones

30 years

Christine Lopez
Miguel Salas

25 years

Eric Dillon

20 years

Steven Scott

15 years

Christy Ramin

10 years

Kimberly Bell-Westcamp
Dotti Ellingsworth
Joanne Talerico
Ruby Petrowski
Evyonne White



Congratulations to **Dr. Angela Ray**, FCBDD's Director of Psychological Services and **Dr. Jeff Marinko-Shrivers**, Psychology Supervisor, for being asked to present at the upcoming **2015 Ohio Psychological Association Convention** on the "Role of Mental Health Professionals in Serving Persons with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities.

Congratulations to the **Down Syndrome community** for securing legislation that requires the **Ohio Department of Health** to create and distribute an information sheet for new parents of children with Down Syndrome.

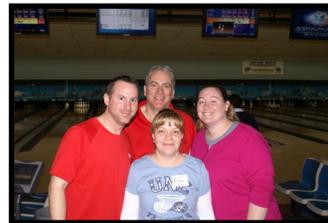
Bowling fundraiser successful

Over 100 staff participated in a bowling competition on Saturday, January 10 to raise funds for Special Olympics.

Special thanks to Jack Brownley and Cindy Massenelli for coordinating the event which celebrated its 10th year. Ryan Phillips again served as Master of Ceremonies, giving out many prizes donated from local businesses.

Overall team winners of the event were Jennifer Patrick, Kenny White, Donny Thompson and Greg Epley. Best effort went to Joyce Barrowman, Karen Gasaway, Brenda Fletcher and Jean Goss. Congratulations to Randy Cuenot with high score and Amanda Carroll with high women's score.

Pictured are just some of the teams participating in this year's competition.



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*:

Carl Scott **Linda Fleming**
Amy Magginis **Jennifer Cunningham**

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

February, 2015

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 16 Presidents' Day - all county facilities closed.
- 18 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.