

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

Early Childhood programs receive 5-star rating

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) have received the highest rating possible for their early intervention and preschool programs.

The State of Ohio has awarded the ECE program a 5-Star rating for meeting quality standards established by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education. **Step Up to Quality** is a Five-Star tiered quality rating and improvement system created to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above the health and safety licensing requirements.

Both the Early Childhood Education and Family Center (ECEFC) on Johnstown Road and the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) on Rudy Road received the 5-Star recognition. State officials from the Ohio Department of Education reviewed the following categories: Staff Qualifications and Professional Development; Learning and Development; Administrative and Leadership Practices; and Family and Community Partnerships.

Rebecca Love, Director of FCBDD Early Childhood Programs commended her staff, partners and families for the exceptional rating. "It is wonderful for our staff and all of our partners, including families, to have this validation of the quality and importance of these services for young children. And, I give much credit to Debbie New, ECE Operations Manager, for her efforts to coordinate the process."

According to state officials, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is the first County Board in the state to receive this recognition for both the early intervention and preschool services. The three year rating will extend to March 19, 2019.

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison stated "our Early Childhood staff is outstanding and most deserving of this recognition, especially at this time when our greater community is emphasizing the importance and value of quality early childhood services."



Jack Kullman leads Guardianship Board

The Franklin County Guardianship Services Board (GSB) is currently serving as guardian for many vulnerable individuals in Franklin County thanks to the leadership of Director, Jack Kullman.

The Board was created in Franklin County as an innovative solution to a complex guardianship problem across the state of Ohio. Probate Judge Robert Montgomery identified the problem and worked with Senator Hughes to enact legislation to establish the Board.

Two major pitfalls of the guardianship system in Ohio are a lack of funding and the absence of suitable guardians. The Board was established to help address those issues. It is a partnership between FCBDD, the ADAMH Board and the Probate Court, with each entity appointing one member to the Board. FCBDD has appointed Frank New, a well-respected former FCBDD employee, to represent FCBDD on the Board.

Jack Kullman, a seasoned Court Administrator, was hired as Director of the GSB and has built this agency from the ground up. Jack brings a wealth of court management experience to the agency. He retired from the Tenth District Court of Appeals after many years as the Court Administrator. Jack is also a Certified Court Manager with the National Center for State Courts.



Jack Kullman

Setting clarification for HCBS

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities recently published clarification regarding settings that are acceptable for services funded through home and community based services (HCBS) Medicaid waivers. These guidelines apply to both residential and non-residential settings, including workshops and day programs.

What the rule requires of waiver providers:

- ◆ Providers are required to offer opportunities for all individuals served to get involved in their communities. This could include community employment and/or participating in community-based events/activities.
- ◆ Providers must offer opportunities that are meaningful to individuals and support their personal interests/outcomes.
- ◆ Providers must provide necessary services/supervision to maintain health and welfare, as identified in person-centered plans, while individuals are involved in community-based events/activities.

What the rule DOES NOT require:

- ◆ All workshops and day programs will close.
- ◆ 100% of all day program supports must be provided in fully integrated community-based settings.
- ◆ All providers must provide community employment services.

What it DOES NOT mean for people receiving waiver services:

- ◆ Everybody is required to work in community-based settings.
- ◆ Individuals cannot spend time during the day with other people with developmental disabilities.
- ◆ When not working in the community, no other day program options will be available.
- ◆ People are required to spend a specific amount of time in or participate in a certain number of community-based activities each day/week/month.

What the rule means for people receiving waiver services:

- ◆ People have greater opportunities to try new things.
- ◆ People are able to make informed choices, based on experiences, about community employment and what community-based activities/involvement they may enjoy.
- ◆ People may get involved in community employment and/or other community-based activities based on their interests and desired level of involvement.
- ◆ People who do not want to receive waiver services in disability-specific settings, such as workshops, day programs, group homes, etc. cannot be made to do so.

Human Resources Director hired

David Ott has been selected as the new Director of Human Resources for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

He comes to the position with excellent credentials and over 25 years in Human Resources and Labor Relations. He has worked for agencies supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities for nearly twenty years.

David's most recent experience has been as Director of Human Resources for the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and for the State of Ohio's Columbus Developmental Center. He has a Masters' Degree in Organizational Development from Bowling Green University.

David will begin as H.R. Director on May 2nd.



David Ott

Civility please!

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for the Service Coordination staff newsletter. We thought our Dateline readers would enjoy his words.

Unless you were held hostage in a third world country for the past six months, you have been subjected to the same relentless, shrill, escalating political rhetoric as the rest of us..

At first, it was like watching at a train wreck. You knew it was going to be ugly and horrific, but you could not turn your head away. By now, however, it has all become so vile that you switch TV channels immediately when a candidate for President appears, but there is no place to hide. It pervades every news station twenty four hours a day. Formerly accepted rules of debate and civility have been abandoned and "truth" has become unimportant. Wild, attention getting statements abound while the fundamentally important issues facing us, as a people, go unmentioned as if not to merit serious discussion. Language of hatred, condemnation, and blame is ubiquitous.

In an effort to escape all of this, I found myself channel surfing recently and I landed briefly on the Country Music Awards. Tim McGraw was singing a song that I did not know called "Humble and Kind" during which he was slowly surrounded on stage by children, elderly men and women; people of all colors, nationalities, and faith traditions. His words were in part:

*Hold the door, say please, say thank you
Don't steal, don't cheat, and don't lie
I know you got mountains to climb but
Always stay humble and kind
When the dreams you're dreamin' come to you
When the work you put in is realized
Let yourself feel the pride but
Always stay humble and kind*

...

*Don't take for granted the love this life gives you
When you get where you're goin'
Don't forget to turn back around
And help the next one in line
And always stay humble and kind*

Now, some will find the lyrics cheesy and maybe so, but I tell you it was a powerful moment as people of all descriptions engulfed him. And I thought, "That is what America is about". Equal rights, compassion, forgiveness, respect, charity... And if our leaders will not take us there then we will just have to show them the way through our daily work and example.

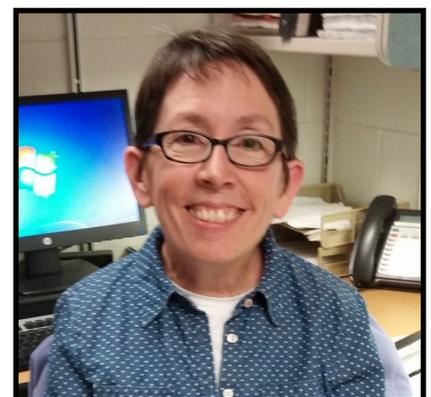
Deb Chenault retires

Deb Chenault, Language Development Specialist at ARC East retired on April 29th after 30 years of service.

Deb began her service to FCBDD at the original Functional Living Skills Center in 1986. She moved to ARC East in 1992 and began providing services to ARC East and ARC West in 1999, alternating weeks at each location. Deb has also worked with many OSU Language Development Specialist students who have gained practicum experience at ARC East and West.

Deb states "the participants in the program have taught me the most important things in life. Enjoy every moment of the day, and don't take anything for granted."

In her retirement, Deb plans to spend more time with her family and friends. She will continue to enjoy her passions of reading, traveling, and race walking half marathons.



Deb Chenault

Karen Mills stated that "Deb's soft spoken, caring and calm personality will be missed by everyone at ARC East. She even made sure that the birds had food in the feeders at East!"

Cooking matters!

"Cooking Matters", Mount Carmel Foundation and the Mount Carmel Health Living Center recently sponsored a six week class on nutritional cooking for community members, including participants from ARC West.

According to Laura Banner of the ADD Community Connections program, participants enjoyed cooking, learned about nutrition, kitchen safety and how to plan and prepare cost conscious and balanced meals.

All participants also received a "Cooking Matters" nutritional cookbook, which will lead to greater independence at home. Congratulations to Joy Hale, Susan Wildermuth and Lorrie Hemmerle from ARC West who enjoyed the interaction with other community members.



Laura Banner, Joy Hale, and Susan Wildermuth enjoy class at "Cooking Matters."

Graduation planned

Graduation ceremonies for West Central students will be held on Wednesday, May 25th, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Kurt Smith, Director of Special Projects for Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will provide the keynote address. Kurt previously served as the Director of ARC South.

The graduation ceremony will be held at West Central School, located at 1481 West Town Street in the Franklinton area. A total of 23 graduates are expected.



Kurt Smith

Litigation filed

On Thursday, March 31, 2016, Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) filed a class action lawsuit against the state of Ohio, including the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, The Ohio Department of Medicaid and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

Disability Rights Ohio says the goal of the lawsuit is to have Ohio change the way it funds programs and services so people can live in the community they want, with the care they need, find a job with the help they need and pursue activities in the community with the support they need.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities stated they have made great strides for individuals and families by designating 3000 new Medicaid waivers and creating financial incentives to encourage ICFs to get smaller and convert to home and community based services.

The 60 page lawsuit has been filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division.

SAVE THE DATE
for the Star Awards
October 5th

**The 2016 Community Star Awards will be held on Wednesday evening,
October 5, 2016 at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road.**

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community



Congratulations to **Gloria Coleman**, On the Job Trainer for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on her retirement, effective May 31st. Gloria has provided exceptional service for over 20 years and will be missed. Best wishes!

Congratulations to **Jennifer Cunningham** for serving as a fashion model at the Bosco Center for World Down Syndrome Day.



Congratulations to **Rebecca Love**, ECE Director and **Barbara Acton**, ECE Assistant Director for representing FCBDD with presentations at the recent conference of the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance.

Thanks to staff who again contributed generously to the Operation Feed Campaign. **Berni Thurn** coordinated the effort, which will put food on the table for many in need. Congratulations to all Operation Feed Coordinators.



Jack Beatty gets 'pied' in the face at Service Coordination's Operation Feed fundraiser.



Special thanks to **Steve Snyder**, who retired from ARC East in April with 39 years of service with FCBDD and Columbus Developmental Center. Steve looks forward to moving to a farm in Coshocton near family and plans to travel. According to ARC East Director **Karen Mills** "his quick wit, fun personality and genuine care of participants will be missed."

Congratulations to **Robin Oakley** who recently retired from ARC East after 24 years of service. Robin states "the participants have been my favorite part of coming to work and I will miss them most." Robin looks forward to retirement including more time gardening, cycling and relaxation. ARC East Director **Karen Mills** states that "Robin's participants left every day knowing they were loved because of Robin's care and attention."



Becky Love, Director of ECE, recently served on a panel of distinguished professionals at Reeb Center to discuss the importance of early childhood services and how to leverage opportunities in the community to support children and parents.

The FCBDD Provider Fair was a big success with over 100 Providers and hundreds of visitors. Congratulations to all who helped! Special thanks to **Joni Sparks**, **Alex Corwin** and **Larry Macintosh** for extraordinary efforts.

Career Milestones

30 Years

Mary Brooks
Grace Fair
Janet Wilbur

25 Years

Michael Armentrout
William Brauner
John Dixon
Dorothy Forrest
Cynthia Phillips
Nancy Sherfey

20 Years

Theresa Alfred
Karin Crabbe
Linda Fleming

15 Years

Adenike Alli
Jacqueline Rasey
Jeffrey Woods

10 Years

Sean Banks
Jessica Bush
Annette Griffin
Lamont Mosley
David Nadolny
Crystal Schneider
John Taylor

5 Years

Helen Adams
Amy Blair
Edna Salvatore
Dwana Sollars

Special thanks to **Mary Linden**, Receptionist for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, who retired in April. Mary's pleasant personality and helpful approach to visitors and callers will be missed. Best wishes, Mary!



Jack Kullman leads Guardianship Board

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With Mr. Kullman's expertise, the Board now has a strong staff of social workers and is taking on wards appointed by the Probate court. The Board meets monthly and with Mr. Kullman's direction, continues to develop this agency to help fill a guardian void in Franklin County.

Questions related to FCBDD guardianship issues can be directed to Gwynn Kinsel, Legal Counsel, who is serving as the FCBDD liaison to the Guardianship Services Board.

ABLE Account update

Plans are continuing to make ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Savings Accounts available to individuals who have disabilities that originated prior to the age of 26.

Ohio's version of ABLE Accounts will be called STABLE Accounts. The Ohio Treasurer's Office has a web site where people can get more information. For details on eligibility and an explanation of STABLE Accounts, go to www.stableaccount.com.

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

Calendar

May, 2016

- 12,13 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2015 Spring Conference. Hilton Columbus at Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive. Call (614) 431-0616 for details.
- 16 Deadline for applications for John S. Siebold Scholarship program. For more details, please call 475-7007.
- 16 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 19 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 19 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 25 West Central School Graduation Ceremonies, at West Central School, 1481 W. Town St., 7 p.m.
- 30 Memorial Day observed - all county facilities closed.

FCBDD 'NewsBits' available

If you want to receive regular updates and announcements from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, sign up for 'NewsBits'. 'NewsBits' is sent through email to over 2000 individuals.

Brief, 'bits' of news on the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities or related topics are sent frequently to all who are registered. To sign up, go to the FCBDD website at:

www.fcbdd.org/publications/newsbits.