

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

## Issue 4 passes - best result ever!

Over 81% of Franklin County voters voted 'For' Issue 4 – the best result of all the levy votes in the past 50 years.

The 3.5 mill levy renewal will allow for continued stability in services for individuals who have developmental disabilities in Franklin County. It will be effective for a ten-year period from 2019 through 2028.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO gives credit to all the staff, providers and families who work together to meet needs. "While we can always be better, we are so proud of the cooperation we have and the willingness of folks to work together to meet basic needs."

Special thanks was also expressed to County Commissioners John O'Grady, Marilyn Brown and Kevin Boyce for their consistent support. The Commissioners had the levy proposal reviewed by their Levy Review Committee and approved placement on the November 7th ballot.

The Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities operated an effective campaign for Issue 4. Television ads, yard signs, literature distribution, endorsements, speeches and absentee ballot communications were all part of the effort. Paul Coppel, attorney and former member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, serves as Treasurer for the Citizen's Committee.



Ethan Boerner, who was featured in an Issue 4 Levy advertisement, celebrates the victory with Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO.

## Guardianship Services Board works

*Editor's Note: The following article includes excerpts from an article written by Tami Kamin Meyer, an Ohio Attorney and Chair of the Marketing Committee of the American Society of Journalists and Authors.*

Upon taking office as Probate Judge in Franklin County, Ohio, Judge Robert Montgomery had a vision to change the guardianship system from an attorney-based guardianship system to one where social services agencies take the lead in protecting the needs of the indigent.

Today, the Franklin County Guardianship Services Board is making that vision reality. A social-services model has been established, which allows social workers and other professionals with specific expertise to assist vulnerable sectors of the population more efficiently than other methods.



Franklin County Probate Judge Robert Montgomery (center) pictured with outgoing Board Member Frank New (right) and incoming Board Member Fred Cloppert (left).

Continued on page 2

### Celebrate 50!

FCBDD celebrates 50 years in 2017.

Throughout 2017, we are celebrating 50 years of service provided by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, which were established on October 25, 1967.

To help celebrate, each month we will include a bit of history in our journey over these past 50 years to help people live, learn and work in our community. Let's Celebrate 50!

In December, 1984, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities assumed case management services from the State Department, initially as a Pilot Project.

The Case Management Department later changed its name to the Service Coordination Department and later moved into the Watermark building in April, 2010. Edie Martsoff was the first Director, followed by Jack Beatty and now Lee Childs.

# Guardianship Services Board works *(continued from page 1)*

Columbus's guardianship system serves a large, diverse population. Judge Montgomery's idea called for two major governmental agencies in Franklin County to join the effort. Those two organizations, the Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health (ADAMH) Board of Franklin County and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, serve many county residents who rely on guardianship assistance.

The Judge approached David Royer, the CEO of ADAMH and Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Board of Developmental Disabilities, to gauge their interest in his idea: a Guardianship Services Board (GSB). The judge believed that if the probate court partnered with those two agencies, wards could be efficiently served by the board if they did not have someone who agreed to act as their guardian.

His vision included licensed social workers, "people who know the ins-and-outs of system," serving as the guardians for those in need. Rather than naming a specific person as the ward's guardian, the head of the GSB, currently Jack R. Kullman, Jr., would be named as guardian. However, the licensed social workers working for the GSB would actually provide the various guardianship needs of its wards.

Establishing a GSB necessitated more than a handshake from the three men. Not only would each of the three organizations need to agree that indigent wards would be best served by a central system of guardianship in the county, but ADAMH and the Board of Developmental Disabilities were asked to pay into the venture, too. Both organizations agreed to contribute \$250,000 annually, with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners pitching in funding, too.

According to Judge Montgomery, an idea requiring the cooperation of governmental agencies might seem foreign elsewhere, but not in Franklin County. "People here tend to work together, not against one another" and that mutual vision made the task of creating the GSB that much easier, the judge says.

Once his partners were in place, the Judge's vision next required a change in state law. With the assistance of Ohio State Senator Jim Hughes, whose constituents are Franklin County residents, legislation was approved in September 2014 that allowed Franklin County to create the GSB.

Judge Montgomery and the GSB have been the recipients of awards and accolades as the program continues on its successful path. For example, this past April, the Columbus Foundation, among the top ten local foundations in the United States, established a program designed to increase services for indigent wards of the Franklin County Probate Court

In turn, the GSB is utilizing those funds to create a volunteer visitor program, pairing volunteers with wards seeking interaction with others. Ohio law permits a probate judge to accept donations to fund the delivery of

guardianship services. Other signs of the program's viability are beginning to sprout.

In late August, the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center entered into an agreement with the GSB for its guardianship services. The new partnership means the GSB will provide guardianship services to hospital patients in need of someone to assist them.

"What this really means is that the collaborative model is working and more wards are getting the guardianship assistance they need," says Judge Montgomery, noting his pleasure to work alongside Ohio State's prestigious medical facility. The new arrangement means another \$65,000 annually for the GSB budget.

If imitation is the highest form of flattery, the GSB is the darling of the Ohio probate world. Creating entities to emulate the successes of the GSB has garnered a lot of attention from other probate judges throughout the state, says David A. Hejmanowski, probate judge of Delaware County, Ohio.

"We are trying to get language in the statute to allow counties to create" their own version of Franklin County's GSB, he says. While none of the state's 87 other counties will be forced to participate in a social-services based system of guardianship, Hejmanowski, for one, is very interested in pursuing it for his growing county. "The number of cases is increasing but fewer attorneys are willing to take on these cases," the judge says.

As Baby Boomers start entering a life stage where guardianships can be necessary, but with a limited number of lawyers willing to tackle these matters, an organization like a GSB is imperative, says Hejmanowski. "We need qualified folks to serve as guardians and if we don't have enough lawyers to do it, we need someone safe and appropriate" to fill the gap, he says.

Others in the central Ohio business community lend their time and talents to the GSB, a true indication of the worth of the program. Frank New currently represents the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) on the Guardianship Services Board. In January, 2018, Frank will step down and be replaced by Fred Cloppert, Attorney and parent of two individuals served by FCBDD.

## Annual Action Plan

Annually, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities prepares an Annual Action Plan, consistent with rules of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

A public hearing on the draft plan will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at 2879 Johnstown Road and is open to the public.

# Good for you

## Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to Winston Tidwell, Service Coordinator for an outstanding presentation at the Self-Advocate Conference on the topic of social media and safety on the internet.



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Thank you to Jack Brownley and the Department Coordinators for excellent work with the Combined Charitable Campaign.

Congratulations to Amy Hipple, Art Teacher at West Central for statewide recognition from the Ohio Art Education Association.

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Congratulations to Becky Love, Director of Early Childhood Education for who recently received the Bennett-Schoedinger Award from Action for Children.



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Congratulations to all levy volunteers for a very successful campaign. With 81% in favor of this renewal levy, this is the best result we have ever had in 50 years

# Career Milestones

25 years

Michael Berry  
Johanna Nitz

20 years

Cindy Ashmore

15 years

Denise Henkel  
Terri Jones

10 years

Timothy Brock  
Theodore Plantz  
Melvin Pannell  
Robin Rexroad  
Michael Scott  
Ryan Young

5 years

Todd Surgoine

# Kyle Pigman raises funds to beat cancer

Congratulations to Franklin County Special Olympics Athlete Kyle Pigman (Swimming and Bowling) who raised \$1,035 as a Virtual Rider for Pelotonia.

Kyle participated in the Team Buckeye Sync Cancer Swim-A-Thon (sponsored by The Ohio State Synchronized Swim Team) at the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion on The Ohio State University campus area.

Kyle swam for his surviving friend Shannon Hazelton (Breast Cancer); and In Memory of Jodi Aufdencamp (Breast Cancer), the co-founder of Mama Mimi's Take-N-Bake Pizza and Tracy Austin (Pancreatic Cancer), Franklin County Special Olympics (Flyers) Basketball Coach and former Franklin University faculty member.

Kyle swam 72 laps (1 mile) and got to join some members of The Ohio State Synchronized Swim Team in doing "The Lift" in the water.

All the members of Team Buckeye Sync Cancer raised a total \$10,546; which is the most donations they have ever raised for Pelotonia and The James Cancer Hospital at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Kyle appreciates the support and donations to beat cancer.



Kyle Pigman doing "The Lift" in the water.

# Amy Hipple recognized

Amy Hipple, Art Teacher at West Central School, has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Central Region "Outstanding Art Teacher Award."

The award was presented in November from the Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA). Amy was nominated for this distinction from the membership of almost 2000 art educators statewide.

Linder Hoepfner Poling, Awards Chair for OAEA stated that Amy "has demonstrated a long term commitment to supporting the visual arts. This award

honors her professionalism, dedication and creativity."

Superintendent Morison stated that "Amy is a wonderful example of the quality of staff we have in our schools and most deserving of this award."

The award was presented at the annual conference of the Ohio Art Education Association.



Amy Hipple (left) with Dr. Maryalice Turner, Principal at West Central School.

# Transportation concept considered

A new concept to transition transportation services for adults has been introduced for discussion.

While no decisions have been made, the concept being discussed would satisfy the federal requirement to privatize adult transportation services, which are funded by Medicaid waivers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have said that all County Boards in Ohio must have "conflict free case management," which means that the same organization that manages the Waivers cannot also provide the services funded by the waivers.

The concept being considered would transition adult transportation services to ARC Industries, with opportunities for Transportation Staff to have jobs, preventing layoffs. The initial concept is as follows:

- *Transportation for Early Childhood and School programs would continue to be operated by FCBDD. These programs are not funded by Medicaid waivers.*
- *Transportation for adults would transition to ARC Industries, using vans rather than school buses, resulting in shorter routes and greater community access opportunities. ARC Industries recognizes that transportation is a vital component to a sustainable business model. All services to be provided by ARC Industries will be dependent upon participants having readily available access to the community and ensuring that participants arrive and depart in a timely manner.*
- *ARC Industries would become the employer of Adult Transportation staff, who would provide transportation and other direct services, with the offer of a steady 8-hour day. As retirements or resignations occur, some positions would not be filled.*
- *Some existing adult services staff (Community Specialists) would also drive vans and provide transportation for individuals to and from facilities and community experiences.*

Recognizing that this change would represent a significant shift from the current service delivery model, feedback is requested and should be sent to Marcy Samuel at [marcy.samuel@fcbdd.org](mailto:marcy.samuel@fcbdd.org) or 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

Following a feedback period, further discussion with the ARC Industries and Franklin County Boards will take place to see if a draft plan can be established.

## Calendar

### December, 2017

- 1 ARC East Holiday Party at Xenos, 1340 Community Park Drive, 9:00-12:30 p.m.
- 1 ARC North Holiday Party at Crowne Plaza, 9:00-12:30 p.m.
- 2 On-Site Crews Holiday Party at Crowne Plaza North, 10:30-2:00 p.m.
- 9 ARC Housekeeping Holiday Party Crowne Plaza North, 11:30-2:30 p.m.
- 11 Public hearing on FCBDD's Annual Action/ Strategic Plan, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4 p.m.
- 11,12 Building Better Lives event with Dr. Bruce Perry and Dr. Stuart Ablon at Xenos, 1340 Community Park Drive.
- 14 Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 15 ESD Staff Holiday Party at Creekside, Gahanna, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 15 ARC West Holiday Party at Xenos, 1340 Community Park Drive, 10:00-1:30 p.m.
- 15 Northeast Center Holiday Party at Northeast Center, 500 N. Hamilton Road, 10:00-12:30 p.m.
- 18 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 20 Bixby LSC Holiday Party at Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, 11:00-2:00 p.m.
- 21 Winter begins.
- 22 Winter recess for ECE and schools. Classes resume Wednesday, January 3, 2018.
- 25 Merry Christmas.
- 26-29 Winter recess for adult services. Programs resume Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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