

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

## March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Theme is "Can do! Like You"

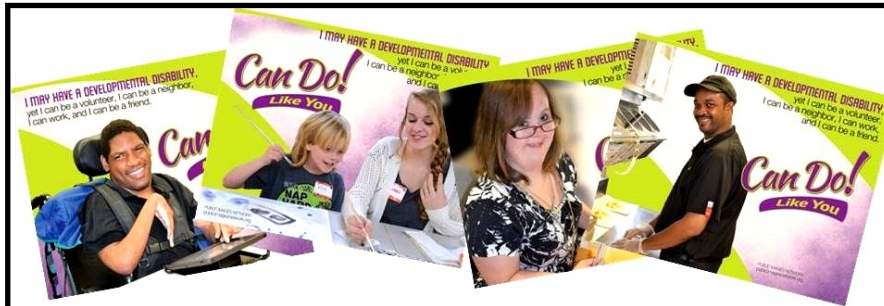
March has been designated as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and this year's theme is "Can Do Like You."

Each year, during DD Awareness month, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and many other organizations focus on peoples' abilities and similarities rather than the differences, and encourages everyone to welcome people with developmental disabilities into their communities. Many new opportunities are emerging in this spirit throughout the state, including community-based employment options and residential opportunities that more fully integrate people with disabilities.

Several events are expected in celebration and recognition of the individuals throughout our community who receive services that help them make the most of their abilities. The goal is also to raise public awareness about services available to help people live, learn and work in our community.

The kick off to DD Awareness Month will be held on March 3, 2015 at the Statehouse in Columbus. This Awareness/ Advocacy Day will include visits to legislators to discuss budget priorities for the biennium budget.

For more details on the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities visit the website at [www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org) or call (614) 475-6440.



## State budget discussions continue

The state budget for the next biennium (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017) is expected to continue to be debated at the Statehouse until it is approved in June.

The Governor's initial proposals were released on February 2, 2015. State Representatives in the Ohio House of Representatives will review the proposals, make amendments and then send those to the Ohio Senate for consideration. After the Senate reviews, a conference committee reviews the legislation to work out compromises before the bill goes back to the Governor for final approval.

This year's budget proposal has some significant policy and funding initiatives that are generating much discussion, including:

- ◆ Phase-out of Independent Providers beginning in July, 2016 for three years
- ◆ Additional state funded IO and SELF Waivers, with priority given to people leaving Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)
- ◆ Phase-out of the Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) Waiver over a two year period, beginning in July, 2015
- ◆ Addition of Nursing services to the IO Waiver
- ◆ Increases in 'Employment First' funding with additional support for more integrated services
- ◆ Changes to funding for Intermediate Care Facilities and modification of licensure requirements to say that no more than two people can live in a single room

Public hearings on these and other proposals in the several hundred page bill will be held throughout this Spring. More details on the budget initiatives related to developmental disabilities will be available at [dodd.ohio.gov/ourfuture](http://dodd.ohio.gov/ourfuture).

## Commissioners appoint Kenneth Wilson

The Franklin County Commissioners have appointed Kenneth N. Wilson to the position of County Administrator to replace Don L. Brown, who retired in November, 2014.

Administrator Wilson was Deputy County Administrator and has worked for the County Commissioners for the past 10 years. He will oversee the county's annual \$1.4 billion budgeting process for 35 agencies to ensure Franklin County remains one of the finest, best-governed counties in the nation.

Superintendent Jed Morison stated that "Ken has been an excellent resource and has been out to visit our programs on several occasions. As a member of the Commissioner's Levy Review Committee, Ken has a solid understanding of our services."

About his appointment, Administrator Wilson said "Franklin County has so much for which to be proud and I look forward to leading Franklin County to even greater heights."



*Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator*

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## Legislative Advocacy Day

Plans are continuing for the Legislative Advocacy Day that will be held on April 17, 2015 at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road in Groveport.

This event is being coordinated by the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council to provide legislators with feedback on issues that are important to individuals who have developmental disabilities.

Christine Brown is the Event Coordinator. Several legislators have already committed to attend. Topics of discussion are expected to center around the State budget, raising the Medicaid Asset limit to \$2000, waiting lists and other issues.

For more details on the event, contact Christine Brown at (614) 372-5184 or [christi6288@columbus.rr.com](mailto:christi6288@columbus.rr.com).

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## CMS comments on Conflict Free Case Management

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has told the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide a Corrective Action Plan related to the CMS 'conflict free case management' rules for home and community based services (HCBS).

Federal regulations state that a single agency should not provide both case management and services except "where the state demonstrates that the only willing and qualified entity to provide case management and/ or develop person-centered service plans in a geographic area also provides HCBS."

This regulation applies to services funded by HCBS Medicaid Waivers, such as the IO, Level 1, TDD or SELF waivers. Because most county boards of developmental disabilities provide both case management and services, individuals, families and staff members are concerned that some of their services will need to be separated or privatized from their Board. Only adult services and adult transportation would be

impacted since they are partially funded with home and community based Medicaid waivers.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities adopted a position paper on this issue in July, 2014 indicating that the Board "does not believe it is in the best interest of the individuals we serve to eliminate quality services provided by County Boards."

In 2004, Franklin County Residential Services, Inc. separated from the Board of Developmental Disabilities. If adult services and adult transportation are required to separate, ARC Industries and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be expected to discuss plans, based on the corrective action plan that CMS approves for Ohio. Superintendent Jed Morison indicated we will continue to seek answers and "we will work to ensure continued stability in services and staffing, as we navigate our way through these challenging times."

# Individual Service Planning changes

Individuals and teams can anticipate some substantial changes in both the tools and the processes utilized in the development of Individual Service Plans (ISPs) in 2015.

The Service Coordination (SC) Department is initiating these changes in an effort to shift the philosophy around the planning process from one that may appear to be prescriptive and compliance-oriented to one that is more individual-focused, meaningful and important to and for individuals. Additionally, this change will better align the service planning process to reflect new Federal (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) and State rules for Medicaid waivers so as to make them more person-centered.

A workgroup comprised of county board staff, parents, self-advocates, providers and guardians (APSI), has been established to assist in making these changes to the ISP and corresponding assessments. While the workgroup acknowledges that there may be

apprehension with the scope of these changes, there is also excitement for the opportunity to have more meaningful conversations aimed at assisting individuals to identify outcomes that truly align with their wishes, desires, and preferences.

Due to the complexity of transitioning more than 8,000 people to a different service planning process, the use of the new ISP format will be phased in throughout this current year. Comments and feedback on the process and format is highly encouraged, as the workgroup continues to make refinements throughout the transition.

Feedback should be forwarded to Chris Lopez (Chris.Lopez@fcbdd.org) or Karin Crabbe (Karin.Crabbe@fcbdd.org) directly, or one can call Service Coordination at (614) 464-2743.

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# Board to consider consolidation of schools

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is expected to consider the consolidation of West Central and Northeast Schools in their March meeting.

After review of the data and input received, the Administrative recommendation is to consolidate both schools into West Central, effective with the next school year to begin in August, 2015.

Classes operated by FCBDD in public school district buildings will continue to operate in 8 schools located in Reynoldsburg and South Western School Districts.

Northeast will continue to house the Young Adult Services (YAS) program and consideration will be given to relocating the staff from the ARC Industries Marilyn Lane Building which is currently leased by the Board. The ARC Industries scanning operation and the FCBDD Maintenance shop may also be relocated to Northeast.

The Board will meet at West Central School, 1481 West Town Street at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2015. For the past two years, the Board has held some of their meetings at various early childhood, school and adult services sites and received a tour of the buildings and overview of services provided.



*West Central School*



*Northeast School*

*Photo credit: Carl Scott, Print Shop*

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# Provider Fair in May

Save the date for the next Provider Fair on May 13, 2015.

This event will be held at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds from 1 to 7 p.m. Plans are being made for more space and more parking for Providers and guests to the event.

More details will be provided as plans are finalized.





## Aging in Place ~

### Creative Housing & Renovations Looks to Support Seniors/Change Attitudes

Statistics now show that one out of every three seniors age 65 or over falls once a year. If the fall results in a fracture there is a high likelihood that the individual will not return to their home but remain in a skilled nursing facility.

As Creative Housing tenants have aged, the organization is adjusting its homes to provide improved safety to its senior tenants. Bathroom grab bars, zero threshold showers, and railings have all been added to help to provide improved accessibility and safety.

As a community service during the month of March, Creative Renovations and its media sponsor **ThisWeek Community News** are launching an informative campaign to assist all seniors in taking steps to insure their safety in their home. The campaign will include weekly stories in This Week neighborhood newspapers, email stories with important tips and real stories of families that we have helped to stay in their homes safely.

Creative Renovation CEO Patrick Rafter notes that "All too often home renovations for safety and accessibility are perceived as a "surrender" to the aging process. We are encouraging seniors to think of the renovations as a positive means to support their desire to live independently in their own home for as long as possible".

To sign up to receive all of the important safety stories about home safety and accessibility options, visit Creative Renovations at [www.accessibilityrenovations.org](http://www.accessibilityrenovations.org). The site also has a short video about what Creative Renovations is doing to make homes safe for seniors in Columbus.



*Dorothy Albright receives support from Creative Housing.*

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## ARC North uses technology

*Editor's note: ARC North is taking advantage of technology advances in many ways through the use of iPads, adapted computer stations, touch screens, speakers and more. The following examples have been written by Davida Weaver, Language Development Specialist at ARC North.*

Julie Weckesser, an instructor at ARC Industries North checks out an iPad almost every day to use in her area with the individuals she serves. She uses the camera and apps on the iPad to develop meaningful stories and profiles to enhance their abilities to tell more about themselves and the things they have enjoyed doing during their days at ARC North.

Many days, if you walk into Julie's area, you will find the iPad on an easel crafted by Ed Green, the Rehab Technician at ARC North, so that it is easily accessed and used for communication, development of small motor skills and relaxation by the individuals in her area. Julie uses the large touch screen and Classroom Suites, News2you and Help Kids Learn links and software that are part of the adapted computer station to engage and inform the individuals of their environment every day.

Chuck Skeen, an instructor at ARC North in charge of the Janitorial staff, used the iPad and adapted computer station to teach and support new employees in a new job. Chuck knows that the use of pictures and written word will support the verbal instruction he gives to his employees. He used one of the ARC North iPads to walk through the employee's day and take pictures of what the employee

should be doing and what it should look like once the employee is done with the task. These pictures are then printed using the adapted computer station and color printer.

Power Point software is used to merge pictures and supportive words, phrases or sentences onto pages that can be printed out in color. These pages are then placed in a binder that becomes part of the individuals work station. In the case of individuals working in Chuck's area, this work station is the janitorial cart.

These are just two examples of how the newly acquired technology is being used at ARC North. There are so many more examples that could be sited in this article. Every day instructors and employees are discovering ways they can use the new technology. It really makes it so exciting to spend time at ARC North!



# Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Board member **Dean Fadel**, for being elected President of the **Ohio Association of County Boards** (OACB) serving individuals who have developmental disabilities.



Dean Fadel

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Stop over to visit the art display on the first floor lobby of the **Service Coordination** Building. Thanks to those who coordinated the display and to the **Open Door Art Studio** for the art, which is for sale.

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Congratulations to **Anthony Trotman**, Director of **Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services**, for being selected the *2015 United Way Champion of Children* along with the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Columbus**.



Anthony Trotman

Best wishes to **Best Buddies Ohio**, who will have their first Gala at the Ohio Statehouse on March 7th. For details, go to [www.bestbuddies.org/ohiogala](http://www.bestbuddies.org/ohiogala).



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**Superintendent Morison** has been reappointed by the **Franklin County Commissioners** to the **Franklin County Community Corrections Planning Board** and the **Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board**.

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Special thanks to the **FCBDD Bus Drivers** for doing such a professional job safely transporting individuals, especially during inclement weather days.



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Congratulations to **Jennifer Fox Cunningham**, **Bryan Fox** and other dancers for their performance in the Waltz Group at the **DSACO** (Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio) *'Dancing With Our Stars'* event on February 7th. **Kurt Ludlow** served as Master of Ceremonies and **Dr. Tom Fish** was honored.



# Career Milestones

35 years

**Kenneth Gagen**

30 years

**Barbara Campbell**  
**Joanne Hogan**

25 years

**Sherry Wirick**

20 years

**Theresa Brady**  
**Nancy Donahue**  
**Marva Mosier**  
**Lora Rinehart**

15 years

**Vanessa Frieson**  
**Anthony Jackson**  
**Tina Turpin**

10 years

**Jack Brownley**  
**Meredith Lawther-Merryman**

5 years

**Donna Baran**  
**Gregory Bucher**

# Quotable Quote

*No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips its turn.*

- Hal Borland



# Building an Independent Life ~ Life after School & Beyond

Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus will host their annual spring workshop on Saturday, March 21st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus, for those interested in learning about available resources for adults with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- ABLE Act: 529 Account for People with Disabilities PLUS Types of Special Needs Trusts and Guardianships with presenter David Zwyer, Esq.
- Jobs and Employment with presenters Meg Griffing of COVA and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill
- Financial: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne Russell of FCBDD
- Parent-Child Panel with presenter Marilyn Messina, LISW

The cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 for non-members (possible fee waiver available). Refreshments, a valuable take-home reference folder and the DVD of the Four L's of Independence will be provided.

To register contact Pat Karshner at (614) 885-2291 or by email at [networkffn@gmail.com](mailto:networkffn@gmail.com).

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

## Calendar

### March, 2015

- 3 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m.
- 5 Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 7 Best Buddies Ohio Gala at Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 7 to 11 p.m. For more details, go to [bestbuddies.org/OhioGala](http://bestbuddies.org/OhioGala).
- 10 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 FCBDD Board In-service at West Central School, 1481 W. Town Street, Noon
- 26 FCBDD Board meeting at West Central, 1481 W. Town Street, 1 p.m.

## March is the month for Operation Feed

FCBDD staff, individuals served and families have long opened their hearts to provide strong support of Operation Feed. This year will be no different. In February, site coordinators put together a plan to make 2015 a record-setting year. Look for drawings, sales, games, room challenges, fundraisers, penny drives and many more creative activities to be held at each facility.

Berni Thurn is the FCBDD Campaign Coordinator. Lending essential support for the cause are Carl Scott in the Print Shop, Carolyn Earnhardt with Transportation and Zac Kendall with Maintenance.

