

Graduations planned

Graduation ceremonies for West Central and Northeast Schools are being planned for May 19th and 20th.

The West Central ceremony will recognize seventeen graduates on Tuesday, May 19th at 7 p.m. Christine Moranda, Manager of Disability Services for Ohio Health will provide the keynote address. Christine is committed to developing vocational programs and services to assist in creating pathways for employment for people with disabilities. Through her efforts, Ohio Health has received numerous disability employment awards. In 2014, Christine received the Ben Bonnano Disability Advocate Award from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).



Christine Moranda

Fourteen students will be recognized at Northeast School on Wednesday, May 20th at 7 p.m. This will be the last graduation ceremony at Northeast School, as both Northeast and West Central School will be consolidated into West Central beginning with the next school year.

Ryan Phillips, FCBDD Director of Special Olympics, Community Recreation & Aquatics, will provide the keynote address. According to Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, "Ryan is an excellent choice to provide the keynote. His energy and commitment to quality, community-based services is evident in all he does." In 2013, Ryan was recognized as one of the top 40 under 40 professionals in Franklin County.



Ryan Phillips

The public is invited to attend the events. Superintendent Jed Morison has been asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies for both events.

Transition plan submitted

The Ohio Office of Health Transformation has submitted its Transition Plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS required each state to submit a Transition Plan outlining how the state will come into compliance with the CMS rule adopted in January, 2014. The new CMS rule emphasizes more employment, more community integrated services, less segregated settings and it says that states should have 'conflict free case management', whereby Case Management/ Service Coordination is not provided by the same agency that provides home and community based services.

Ohio's Transition Plan was submitted on March 13, 2015 and outlines Ohio's assessment methodology, results and remediation strategies. While much of the plan will require further work, including convening work groups, Ohio was clear in stating that the state would like until March, 2024 to "implement setting specific remediation strategies for settings determined to have institutional qualities" and to "develop relocation plans for settings that... cannot comply with the HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) characteristics".

The CMS rule applies to services funded by Home and Community Based Waivers such as the IO, Level One, SELF, and TDD waivers.

Over 5,000 individuals in Franklin County have these waivers and receive services from private providers or the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

It is expected that Ohio will hear from CMS in the next 60-90 days on the Ohio Transition Plan. Discussions regarding the 'conflict free' issue are separate from the Transition Plan. The state is expected to provide more clarification on the 'conflict free' issue and timelines once they get further information from CMS.

Ohio's Transition plan can be reviewed on the Office of Health Transformation website at <http://healthtransformation.ohio.gov>.



REMINDER
Provider Fair
on May 13th
at the Lausche
Building on Ohio
State Fairgrounds
1 to 7 p.m.

Schools planning expanded summer options

by Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs

The FCBDD School-age Program will be offering expanded summer program options for 2015.

The traditional “**Summer Center**” will continue to be available for students enrolled in FCBDD schools. The cost of \$175 covers five weeks of summer recreation activities for students age 6 – 16, and will include new opportunities to participate in community-based summer programs offered through several YMCA branches as well as selected branches of Columbus Parks and Recreation. The Summer Center will be held at West Central School from June 10th through July 10th which is earlier than traditional dates in July.

In addition to Summer Center for younger students, we will be offering **Transition to Work** summer program for students

entering their final three years of school-age program (age 16+). The **Transition to Work** program will focus on skills to prepare students for employment in the community.

Extensive exploration and participation in community and work settings will broaden students’ awareness of the personal characteristics and skills needed to successfully transition from school into adult options upon graduation. Families will consider using waiver resources to pay for this program as “Supported Employment – Community” and “non-medical transportation” to and from the base location at West Central School.

Transition to Work will be the first level of a three-summer program sequence. Through collaboration with Columbus City Schools, Reynoldsburg City

Schools, and South-Western City Schools, students from all four organizations will be able to move through three levels of summer programs. The first year, Transition to Work, is operated by FCBDD. The second year, **Exploration of Employment**, will be run by Reynoldsburg and South-Western to experience a variety of job tasks and locations. In the final year before graduation, students will experience **Career Camp**, run by Columbus City Schools, and experience a paid summer job placement in a position chosen by the student, based on their interests and skills.

For questions about “Summer Center” families can contact Jack Brownley, 342-5960 or Debbie Viney 342-5953. For questions about “Transition to Work” families can contact Jack Brownley, 342-5960 or Lilian Beck, 342-5966.

Transitions DD Waiver to transfer

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has sent a letter to all individuals and family members who have the Transitions DD (TDD) Medicaid waiver, announcing their proposed plan to transfer people who have this waiver to a different waiver that will better meet their needs.

The transition to the new waiver is expected to occur over a two-year period. Individuals will be able to enroll in the Individual Options (IO) waiver or could choose to enroll on the Level One or SELF (Self-Empowered Life Funding) waiver.

DODD has submitted a proposed plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). If approved, the transition period will begin on July 1, 2015, beginning with individuals who have minimal nursing needs. For those who require ongoing nursing services, the transition is expected to begin on July 1, 2016, after nursing has been added to the IO waiver.

DODD will send a list of TDD Waiver recipients to the County Board with each individual's transition date schedule.

DODD has also said they will ensure that all current TDD providers will be certified to provide similar services under the IO, Level One or SELF waivers.

Extraordinary volunteers

Special thanks to two wonderful volunteers who have provided exceptional leadership with the Operation Feed Campaign.

Retired bus drivers Carol Adams and Mary Morris have baked and sold over \$2000 worth of lunches and baked goods.

Superintendent Morison stated "Their generous efforts and contributions set a wonderful example for all of us. Because of Carol and Mary, many who are less fortunate will be able to feed their family."

Thank you to Carol and Mary!



Carol Adams and Mary Morris

John Wiles retires

by Elizabeth St. John

Wednesday, March 18th was a day of mixed emotions for John Wiles. After 20 years of service at Regency Manor he opted to retire.

On his last day of work, John's tenure at Regency did not go unrecognized. The management and staff threw a surprise farewell party for him. For over an hour, a steady flow of residents, support staff, and management gathered to thank John for his dedicated service and friendship. He was presented with a plaque and a watch inscribed with his name.

Amongst the group there was a collective agreement that it was a pleasure to work with John. They vocalized how much they appreciated his reliability and dedication. John was too overwhelmed to address the crowd; however, while choking back tears, he let everyone know he would be back to visit.

The Employment Services Department-Placement Division at Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities helped John obtain the job, and provided coaching and follow-along supports throughout his employment.



Pictured with John Wiles is Betty Butler, John's manager at Regency Manor

Congratulations John Wiles. We all wish you well in your retirement!

Legislative Advocacy Day

Over 150 self-advocates from around the state were in attendance at the Bixby Living Skills Center on April 17th to provide elected officials with their opinions on legislative matters.

Much of the discussion focused on state budget initiatives that are currently being considered. Advocates spoke in favor of raising the Medicaid Asset limit, more waivers and a 6% increase in the homemaker/ personal care provider rate.

Several legislators were in attendance to listen and to offer their comments, including: Representatives Hearcel Craig, Michael Curtin, Anne Gonzales, Bob Hackett, David Leland, and Michael Stinziano and a representative from Senator Sherrod Brown's office.

Christine Brown, Self-Advocate and member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council coordinated the event with the help of the Council and the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA). About the event, Christine said it was "awesome" and "great that so many legislators attended."

Special thanks to Adam Herman of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) for providing the photographs.



*Christine Brown,
Event Coordinator*



Rep. Bob Hackett



Rep. Michael Stinziano



Rep. Hearcel Craig



*Dana Charlton,
OSDA Director*



Rep. Mike Curtin



Rep. Anne Gonzales



Rep. David Leland



Supt. Jed Morison

Touchstones

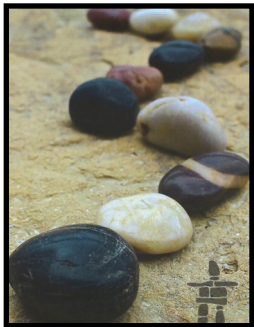
"Touchstones - Sharing the Wisdom of our Journeys" was the theme of the April 3rd staff development day for Early Childhood staff.

The day began with presentations from the many leaders who influenced the development of early childhood services provided by the County Board.

Each 'elder' was asked to write five words on stones that represent their inspiration, wisdom or views that led to the development of these quality services. As each 'elder' spoke, staff learned of the history of ECE and the value of the collaborative partnerships and relationships that have evolved over the years.

Throughout the day, staff followed up with their personal and professional reflections, their wishes for the future and thought about how they can pay it forward. Topics of reflection included 'partnership', 'outdoors', 'wellness', 'transformation', and 'how we make it work'.

Staff described their teaching philosophy and reflected on this as they heard from others.



Special thanks to all the 'elders' who made it a special day. Elders included: **Jean Gordon**, Architect; **Don Harlow**, Former Assistant Superintendent, FCBDD; **Sally Harrington**, Assistant Director, ECE; **Mattie James**, President/CEO CDC Headstart of Franklin County; **Chris Kloth**, Director of Changeworks; **Rebecca Love**, Director, ECE; **Linda Day-Mackessy**, Vice President of YMCA - Central Ohio; **Jed Morison**, Superintendent, FCBDD; **Frank New**, Former Director of Planning, FCBDD; **Stephen Pleasnick**, Former Superintendent, FCBDD; **Bernice Smith**, PhD, Former Supervisor, Columbus Public Schools; **Ed Sterling**, Former Director, OSU Nisonger Dental Clinic; **Noreen Warnock**, Director of Community Outreach, Local Matters; and **Susan Weber**, Principal Partner, Integrity Sustainable Planning & Design.

ARC North supports homeless by Lyn Herron

The extreme temperatures in the winter are hard on all of us, but especially those who are homeless.

Lynn Herron's group at ARC North wanted to help by making fleece scarves to deliver to Maryhaven's Outreach Team. Others joined in helping make the scarves, while staff brought in cold weather clothing items.

What began as a small scarf making activity grew beyond belief. Staff donated thermal undergarments, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, washcloths, towels, scarves, socks, hose and even toiletries and non-perishable food items.

If interested in doing a similar activity, please contact Debbie Rambo at Maryhaven's Outreach Team at 449-1530.



Individuals at ARC North helping out those in need.

Operation Feed a success

Over \$23,000 and close to 5,000 pounds of food have been donated to Operation Feed in this year's campaign.

Berni Thurn, Dietician for FCBDD headed up the campaign with the support of Coordinators for each department. According to Superintendent Morison, "Berni and her team did a terrific job. I can't recall a year when we had more special events to generate contributions from our staff. Our staff recognize the importance of this and always impress me with their generosity."

"And, we also owe a special thanks to Carl Scott, Carolyn Earnhardt, Keith Ogle, Zach Kendall and Steve Yarnell who were all instrumental in gathering and delivering these thousands of pounds of food to Mid-Ohio Food Bank."

Congratulations to the FCBDD staff on another outstanding campaign to help ensure all children and adults in our community have food on the table.



Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to the Staff Development Day organizers and presenters on an excellent day of professional growth for FCBDD staff.

Allison Skinner, Service Coordinator, was recently recognized by The OSU School of Social Work for her role in providing guidance to students participating in the MSW (Masters in Social Work) internship in Service Coordination. Congratulations!



Allison Skinner

Congratulations to **Chris Clarkson** for having an article published in the Catholic Times. The article was titled "Living with Asperger's Syndrome."

In under 30 minutes, ECLC raised almost \$60 for Operation Feed! Tickets were sold giving the opportunity to throw a pie at **Sally Harrington**, Assistant Director at ECE (left) and **Helen Epitropoulos**, Headstart Center Coordinator at ECLC (right).



Congratulations to **Cathy Hutzel**, Administrative Assistant to Bob Gaston, Director of Adult Services. Cathy has accepted a new job with the Ohio Department of DD so her talents will be able to be shared statewide. In addition to her day to day work, Cathy has frequently gone the extra mile with projects such as: coordination of Combined Charities campaigns, organization of the John Siebold Scholarship Awards, CARF Accreditation support and maintaining stability during transitions of Adult Services Directors. She will be missed!



Cathy Hutzel

ARC East has been selected to receive the *Life Care Alliance 2014 VIP Spirit Award* for generous support and commitment to **Life Care Alliance**. The Volunteer Recognition Event was held on April 27. Congratulations!



Congratulations to students from Senior Level Instructor **Dale Pugh's** class on recent field trip to Griggs Reservoir, where students learned about hydro-electricity.



Students at Griggs Reservoir. Photo credit: Kathy Ahlers

Career Milestones

25 years

Kimberley Buchanan
Richard Robertson

20 years

Louise Dixon
Margaret Hart
Julie McCarthy
Roger Ward

15 years

Deborah Charles
Kemberly Conteh
Joshua Marriott
Danielle Norman

10 years

Elizabeth Cimprich
Carnell Cunningham
Brian Johnson
Sarah Wills

5 years

Brent Basbagill
Andres Monsalve
Ciara Okon

Franklin County Provider Fair May 13



The next Franklin County Provider Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

The Fair gets bigger every year with more space for displays and conversations, more parking for providers and attendees. The event will be open from 1 to 7 p.m.

All are welcome to meet the many excellent providers in Franklin County. For details, call Joni Sparks at 342-5964.

Assistive technology conference scheduled

"Tech II - Technology Toward Employment" is scheduled for May 13-14 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus.

Many types of assistive technology that help people with disabilities get or keep a job will be on display. Hands on exhibits, break-out sessions and opportunities to talk to experts are included in the registration fee of \$150. Financial assistance and scholarships are available.

For additional details on the conference, call (614) 892-0390.



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**

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

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

May, 2015

- 12 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 13 Franklin County Provider Fair at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. 1 to 7 p.m. Contact Joni Sparks at 342-5964 for details.**
- 13,14 Tech II - Assistive Technology Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus. Please call (614) 892-0390 for details.
- 14 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 14 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 14,15 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2015 Spring Conference. Hilton Columbus at Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive. Call (614) 431-0616 for details.
- 15 Deadline for applications for John S. Siebold Scholarship program. For more details, please call 475-7007.
- 18 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 19 West Central School graduation ceremony, 1481 W. Town St., 7 p.m.
- 20 Northeast School graduation ceremony, 500 N. Hamilton Rd., 7 p.m.
- 20 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 20 ARC of Ohio Cedar Point Day. Call (614) 487-4720 for details.
- 25 Memorial Day observed - all county facilities closed.

In memoriam

Sheila Ross

We are sorry to report that Sheila Ross, receptionist for ARC Industries, passed away suddenly on April 13, 2015.

Sheila was a very special person who supported so many and always had a kind word with all she knew. She will be missed!

