

Hague services to move

The Living Skills Center and Goodwill Work and Community Services programs will move from the Hague Avenue building by the end of the year.

In April, FCBDD officials learned that Franklin County Public Facilities Management Office would like to use the Hague building for the Sherriff's Department. Currently, the Sherriff uses property directly behind Hague and the Columbus Police Academy is close to the area.

Plans to relocate the Living Skills Center services and Goodwill's program were approved by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities in their May 14th meeting. Northeast School in Gahanna will be repurposed to provide Living Skills Center services and the former ARC South in Groveport will be used for the Goodwill Work and Community Services program. The Goodwill Young Adult Services program, that utilizes a remodeled wing at Northeast School, will continue to operate at the same location.

Specific timelines for these moves have not yet been finalized, however the Board has committed to move out of the Hague building by January 1, 2016. Northeast School will be renamed as services at the location will shift to adults.

Jennifer Cunningham supports Ohio's ABLÉ Act

Jennifer Cunningham, member of the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council, FCBDD staff member and representative of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) recently participated in a press conference to introduce legislation designed to implement the ABLÉ Act in Ohio.

In December, Congress passed and the President signed the "Achieving a Better Life Experience" (ABLE) Act. This law helps individuals with disabilities and their families to save for disability-related expenses and proactively plan for their future.

An individual could save \$14,000 per year for future healthcare, housing, education, transportation or other costs. These accounts would resemble '529' college savings plans and could accrue up to a maximum of \$100,000. Additionally, individuals would not forfeit their eligibility for Medicaid, Social Security Income (SSI) or other governmental benefits.

With the federal government's passage of this law, states will be able to establish companion laws. Ohio's version of the ABLÉ Act is HB155 and SB147, introduced by Representative's Jonathan Dever and Margaret Conditt and Senators John Eklund and Shannon Jones. The bill is supported by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel.

Jennifer Cunningham stated that this bill will allow her and her parents/ grandparents to save for future expenses.

The bill was introduced in April. It is hoped that the bill will be passed into law and implemented this year.



Jennifer Cunningham speaks at ABLÉ Act Press Conference. See Page 4 for a transcript of Jennifer's complete speech.

ECE and School Retirements

Early Childhood Education

Stephanie Blevins Stephanie pioneered and designed the vision program in early childhood. Her career with this agency spans 37 years to include school age programming, professional consult, cross-training and in-servicing in the Franklin County community. Her intelligence and interest in technology was the catalyst to empower all children through the use of technology was groundbreaking for early learners, families and educators alike. Stephanie's soft spoken elegance and contributions to ECE will be long remembered.

Li Fong Chong Li Fong has provided quality services to children and supported many staff in their diligence to understand the role they play in developing the fine motor skills of children in their care. Li Fong has served FCBDD for 30 years and is a very knowledgeable occupational therapist who has contributed much to the quality services delivered in early childhood. Her delicate manner in which she approaches her work with children and families will be missed.

Kathy Renick Kathy was among the first assistant teachers to blaze the trails of our FCBDD partnerships in the community. Kathy co-taught at one of our first sites in partnership with CMAAO Head Start in the late 80's. She has continued as an assistant teacher in this form of work and she is retiring from a position of FCBDD ECE in partnership with the YMCA Early Learning Center at Johnstown. As a skilled assistant and awesome team player, filling her role will leave us with a difficult a task. Congratulations Kathy on your retirement after 24 years of service.

Northeast School

Sue Boyers

Sue began her career working with the DD population at the Starlight School in Muskingum County. In 1997, she started at Northeast School as an instructor assistant. She has loved working with the students but now is looking forward to more time with family and friends.

Mary Butler

Mary started in September 1989 as an instructor assistant working at Southeast School and then transferred to Northeast School when the Southeast School closed. She has enjoyed the friendships she's made over the years as well as helping students reach their potential.

Shannon Shannon

In 1988, Shannon began her career with FCBDD in food service. She has enjoyed her time serving lunches to many children over the years. Shannon has also been involved with training opportunities for students in the cafeteria and lunch room. She's looking forward to spending time with 13 grandchildren and traveling.

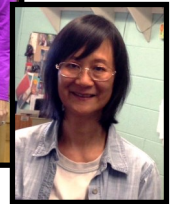
Joanne Hogan

Joanne started with FCBDD in 1985 working as an instructor at Northeast School. Her last 18 years she has been involved as co-teacher in our collaborative High School unit in Reynoldsburg, where she has taught many children and also served as a resource for Reynoldsburg staff.

Editor's Note: With the end of the school year and changes to some of the formulas related to retirement, FCBDD will say goodbye to several excellent staff this year. We wish them well and extend thanks for their dedicated service.



From left to right: Pat Tietz, Cathy Gordon, Kathy Renick, Stephanie Blevins



Li Fong Chong

Cathy Gordon

Cathy's 36 year legacy of service to our agency as an educator and compassionate employee will be treasured. She has impacted hundreds of children and their families in our school age programs and in early childhood for which she is retiring. She has also been a leader in coordinating special projects such as the Combined Charitable Campaign and Levy Support. Thank you Cathy for loyalty and love for so many.

Patricia Tietz

Patricia is a selfless trailblazer for children, their families and our professional community. As a physical therapist, she has delivered services to thousands of children during her 31 years in our schools and early childhood. Her commitment to building professional development opportunities for fellow staff has been a sustainable contribution to our agency. Thank you Pat for caring so much.



Back row left Sue Boyers, right Mary Butler, center, Shannon Shannon

West Central School

Kathy Bayliss Kathy is retiring after 30 years of service to FCBDD as a teacher in the school-age program. Throughout her career, Kathy has demonstrated a commitment to engage students in community-based learning and service projects. Kathy has taught in FCBDD classes located in both Bexley Schools and South-Western City Schools, advocating for inclusion and social integration for her students. For her leadership and teaching accomplishments, Kathy has received the FCBDD STAR Award, and has been nominated for the prestigious state "Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award".



Pictured from left to right: Stephen Testerman, Deb Viney, Diane Stahl, and Bob Motley.

Deb Viney Deb has worked for FCBDD for the past 29 years in the school-age program. Most of her career has been as a master teacher at West Central School, having been honored with both the FCBDD STAR Award, and the prestigious Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator state award. For the past ten years Deb has helped lead the school-age program as Educational Training and Development Coordinator, including guiding staff in adapting to new state mandates for IEP and Alternate Assessment, Curriculum and Technology initiatives, Positive Behavior Support initiative and orientation and mentoring for new staff. She has served on both the Local Professional Development Committee for educator licensing and the Agency Behavior Support Committee for oversight of individual intensive behavior plans.

Deanna Bukovec 'No stronger advocate for our students' Physical Therapist Deanna Bukovec worked tirelessly to provide exceptional care and physical therapy to all the students at West Central and its collaborative classrooms. Her accent on 'good' health was infectious. Deanna completed 24 years of service at West Central.

Bob Motley Stalwart Senior level teacher, Bob Motley, did two tours of duty with a total of 15 years at West Central. Bob loved working with his team to do magical things with the students.

Diane Stahl Invaluable to her team, Instructor Assistant Diane Stahl completed 34 years. She enjoyed working with everyone and will miss the dear friendships and all the fun times with students.

Stephen Testerman Stephen expressed these thoughts: "I'm thankful and want to express my appreciation to FCBDD for allowing me to serve our many Central Ohio students over the past 35 years as an Instructor. FCBDD has done an excellent job in providing services for all of our citizens of Central Ohio! One of my highlights of working for FCBDD is that I have been surrounded by very talented, caring and amazing co-workers throughout my years."

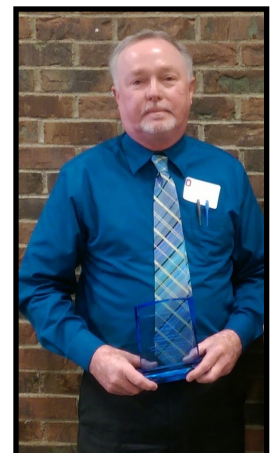
John "Jack" Smith - Award and Retirement by Mark Johnson

What do these things have in common? Star Wars debuted in theaters, Elvis Presley died, the Oakland Raiders won the Super Bowl, the Yankees won the World Series, and Jack Smith started his career with FCBDD. The answer is: they all happened in 1977.

Nearly 38 years ago, when Jack began work at ARC South, it was located on the grounds of the Columbus Developmental Center. He spent many years at this workshop at various locations (CDC, Advance Avenue, and Marketing Place) and was an essential contributor to the success of the program. He is remembered for his yearly fundraising event called "Funder Alley" in which he brought race cars to ARC South to raise money for individuals needing hearing aids and communication devices. Jack transferred to the Service Coordination Department in 1999, where he has since served as a supervisor.

Recently, Jack was presented the Community Partner Recognition Award from the OSU College of Social Work. This award recognizes his lifetime involvement with the OSU College of Social Work and specifically, his direct sponsorship of student field placements. Due in part to Jack's advocacy, the Service Coordination Department developed a two year internship program for MSW students in conjunction with OSU College of Social Work and the Nisonger Center that has been quite successful and will be a lasting legacy for Jack.

His sense of humor and unruffled demeanor will be missed by his peers and his staff, but we congratulate Jack and wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his story. As he says, "It was a good run."



Jack Smith with his award from the OSU College of Social Work. Congratulations!

Councilman Hardin visits

Columbus City Councilmember Shannon G. Hardin recently visited the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to learn more about services provided.

Councilmember Hardin was appointed to Columbus City Council in October, 2014. He currently chairs the Public Service and Transportation Committee and the Small and Minority Business Committee. Prior to his appointment to City Council, he served as the external affairs manager for the office of Mayor Michael B. Coleman.

Following a meeting with Superintendent Morison, the Councilmember toured the Early Childhood Education and Family Center. About his visit, he indicated he "was impressed with the services provided to Columbus and Franklin County residents and pleased to see our community is a leader in providing services to individuals with disabilities."



From left to right: Councilman Shannon G. Hardin, ECE Director Rebecca Love, and Superintendent Jed Morison.

Northeast School has final events

Northeast School held their final Prom, Graduation and All School Picnic this Spring as plans proceed for students and staff at Northeast School to move to West Central School in August.

The Northeast Prom theme of "Enchanted Forest" was a big hit with students and family members. Special thanks to Teresa Mulinex for again coordinating Prom decorations. Teresa and Prom Coordinator Sharon Skaggs stated they "had a wonderful team helping with the event."

The Northeast School graduation was held on May 20th with a total of 14 graduates. Ryan Phillips, FCBDD Director of Special Olympics and Community Recreation and Aquatics provided the keynote address.

On May 22nd, Northeast School had their final annual picnic, with current and former students, staff and family members. Some reminisced about Northeast School, which was the first school built by FCBDD and opened in 1974. Nancy Mosure was the first Principal at Northeast School, after students moved from their former classes held at Peace Lutheran Church in Gahanna.

Northeast School will continue to house the Goodwill Columbus 'Young Adult Services' program and open space will be repurposed for other adult services uses.

For a copy of a *Dateline* Special Edition on Northeast School, call (614) 342-5950 or check the FCBDD website at www.fcbdd.org.

Jennifer Cunningham's speech at the ABLÉ press conference

For years persons with disabilities have been limited to \$1,500 a month in assets. That is not much above poverty level.

When I was growing up, my parents wanted to save for my college like they did for my brother and sister, but they couldn't. My grandparents wanted to add me to their will like they did for my brother and sister, but they couldn't. I wanted to save money to pay my own expenses in my own home, but I couldn't.

The ABLÉ Account will allow us to save money for needed expenses. Those expenses are: Medical and Dental care, Education, Community Supports, Employment Training, Assistive Technology, Housing and Transportation.

The ABLÉ Act will help people with disabilities live full, productive lives in their communities without losing benefits. The federal bill passed, and now Ohio must do the same.

Thank you to the sponsors in Ohio for introducing this bill. This bill will have a huge impact on our lives.

Thank you for coming today – and we are counting on you to pass this soon!



Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Michelle Khorie** and **Theresa Whitlow** who recently attended the Young Adult Institute Conference on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and represented Sunapple Studios.



Pictured from left to right: Theresa Whitlow, Jan Montgomery, and Michelle Khorie.

Marci Straughter, member of the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council and Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council recently graduated from the Columbus State Community College Habilitation Certificate Program. Marci was a recipient of the John Siebold Scholarship from ARC Industries and is pictured with **Jaime Graham**, ARC East Supervisor, **Gary Coats**, President of the ARC Industries Board and **Bob Gaston**, FCBDD Adult Services Director. Congratulations, Marci.



Back row from left to right: Jaime Graham, Gary Coats, Bob Gaston. Front : Marci Straughter

Thanks to the **Franklin County Commissioners**, **Goodwill Columbus**, **Columbus Clippers** and **Columbus Dispatch** for diverting nearly 18 tons of used and obsolete electronics from the landfill while helping to support and sustain Goodwill's job training programs for individuals with disabilities.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been awarded the "Above and Beyond" award from the **Department of Defense** for demonstrating exceptional support for staff who are in the military. **Pete Cox**, staff member and member of the military accepted the award on behalf of the Board.



From left to right: Stephen Koper, Chairman of the Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, FCBDD's Rick Inskip, Becky Hearn, Pete Cox, and Force Master Chief CJ Mitchell.

Career Milestones

40 years

Claudia Simmons

35 years

Robin Ryan

25 years

Geoffrey Armstrong

20 years

Christopher Meek

Jeffrey Smiley

15 years

Karen Bain

Kevin Kapel

10 years

Karen Bunders

Courtney Plantz

Patrice Sanieel-Banrey

Tammy Willaman

Megan Willcoxon

5 years

David Barrow

Jessica Buchanan

Leandra Calloway

Jonathan Mayton

Margie Parkman

Thank you to **Joni Sparks** and the entire **Provider Fair Team** on another successful Provider Fair.

Dr. Angela Ray recently presented to the Ohio Psychological Association. Congratulations!

School Bus Road-E-O

Three bus drivers for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently represented the Board in the 2015 Central Region Road-E-O.

Albert Bain, Karen Bain and Nancy Stewart attended the event, which was held at Reynoldsburg Summit Elementary School. This year's theme, "We Are the Champions", seemed fitting as it represents the excellent work that Bus Drivers do every day to get children and adults back and forth from their homes.

The School Bus Road-E-O is an annual competition designed to test and recognize the skills of Bus Drivers. Drivers must participate in special activities and winners are sent in to statewide competition.

Joyce Barrowman, FCBDD Transportation Director, indicated she "was proud that we were represented and really appreciated the leadership of our three Drivers who were willing to represent us."

Congratulations to Albert, Kim and Nancy!



Left to right: Karen Bain, Albert Bain and Nancy Stewart.

In memoriam **John Salley**

We are sorry to report that John Salley, Service Coordinator for our Intake Department, passed away suddenly on May 12. John was a wonderful person who worked for FCBDD for many years, including time at ARC West. John maintained a big caseload and was well liked by everyone he knew.



John Salley

Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family, friends and co-workers. He will be missed.

Wellness Run

Save the date of September 13, 2015 for the second annual "Discover Your Abilities 5K" run to benefit the Franklin County Special Olympics. The event will be held at McFerson Commons, 218 West Street in the Arena District, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

For details, go to premieraces.com as we get closer to the event, or contact Ryan Phillips at 342-5984.



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.

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

June, 2015

- 9 ECE Summer Center begins, 2879 Johnstown Rd.
- 10 School-age Summer Center begins, West Central School.
- 11 FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 25 FCBDD Board In-Service, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 26-28 Ohio Special Olympics, the Ohio State University. Please call Andrea Stonebraker at 342-5989 for details.

July, 2015

- 3 Independence Day Celebrated - all county facilities closed.
- 9 ECE Summer Center programs end.
- 10 School-age Summer Center programs end.
- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 23 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 23 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 27 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.

August, 2015

- 7 Staff Development Day for Adult Services and Transportation staff. All adult facilities closed.
- 24 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/ Development Day.
- 24 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 31 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

Next Dateline issue...

The next issue of *Dateline* will be the July/August issue printed in late July.