

## Medicaid buy-in program starts

A state program allowing workers with disabilities to continue receiving Medicaid coverage has gotten the go-ahead to begin April 1st.

Federal officials have approved the program created by the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Ted Strickland.

Under the plan, Medicaid recipients who are employed may earn up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level (\$26,000) while maintaining coverage through payment of a monthly pre-

mium. Participants must be between the ages of 16 and 64, and have a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration.

"Through this change, we are empowering thousands of Ohioans with disabilities to be able to work while maintaining their health benefits," said State Senator Steve Stivers, sponsor of the bill authorizing the program. "Not only are we incentivizing people to work, which is good for the economy, but we are providing access to health care in a fiscally responsible way."

State Representative Jon Peterson, sponsor of Medicaid buy-in legislation in the House, noted, "This program will change lives. Participants in the program will be able to live their dreams of becoming fully integrated into the workforce."

Further information is available through the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 800/ 324-8680.

## Agency celebrates levy win

Nearly 200 supporters of Issue 29 gathered at Plank's on Parsons Avenue on the evening of March 4th to await the election results.

Friendly interaction and guarded optimism were main ingredients early on, seasoned by a dash of nervous anxiety.

Any tension in the room was short-lived, however, once the reporting began. By 10 p.m., all realized that voters had resoundingly approved the measure. The final tally was 69 to 31 percent.

Superintendent Jed Morison happily commented on the results:

"It is sometimes said that the quality of a community is judged by how well it supports those most in need... By that measure, Franklin County deserves high marks indeed."



Superintendent Jed Morison, FCBMRDD employee Jennifer Cunningham, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and FCBMRDD Board Vice President Jerry Saunders.

Levy, from p.1

Issue 29's margin of victory was the second highest ever for a FCBMRDD levy, surpassed only by the agency's 2001 levy, which received 71 percent of the vote.

The Superintendent thanked all in attendance, noting, "This is a great

result for people with disabilities, and it would not have happened without your tremendous dedication and support."

One enthusiastic supporter, apparently a college basketball fan, summed up the group's feelings with a shout, "What a win, baby!"

**Issue 29**  
**FOR - 195,410**  
**AGAINST - 89,381**

## Sharon Schertz, supervisor and original case manager, to retire

Sharon Schertz will retire at the end of this month, after playing an important and productive role in FCBMRDD's Service Coordination Department since its creation 23 years ago.

A supervisor since 1988, Sharon helped direct department staff in a number of core functions, including for many years, the investigation of major unusual incidents. She was instrumental in developing the department's policies and procedures. She also served on various committees and volunteered for many extra projects.

Sharon began her 31-year career in the MRDD field with the State of Ohio, working in case management in the old regional office.

After directing a residential facility in Connecticut for a few years, she returned to the Buckeye State to help oversee the systematic move of Orient Developmental Center residents into community settings.

In 1985, she was hired as one of the county board's original case managers.

The Director of Service Coordination, Jack Beatty, described Sharon as "an effective leader and tenacious advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities."

"Sharon's experience and dedication have been invaluable. As the field has changed over the years," he continued, "she has honed and expanded her skills as well."

As for the future, Sharon is looking forward to improving her gardening, cook-



ing and photography skills, as well as spending time in Arizona.

"I will miss the interaction and problem-solving, and most of all, the many good people with whom I've been fortunate enough to work," she said.

On behalf of the entire FCBMRDD community, we extend Sharon best wishes on her well-deserved retirement. She certainly will be missed.

# Programs help staff expand knowledge

Classes in FCBMRDD's schools and ECE program did not meet on Friday, March 21st. Agency buses remained in their parking lots. The adult facilities were closed as well.

The 21st was not a day off for agency staff, however. They were busy attending staff development programs.

Staff Development Day is intended to allow staff members the opportunity to receive training and continuing education to help them become better at their jobs. The programs are held three times per year.

"Our hope is to support and stimulate professional growth," said Superintendent Jed Morison, "and ultimately, to improve our ability to fulfill the agency's mission."

An added benefit is that often staff can earn credit toward state cer-

tification and registration requirements needed for their positions.

A small sampling of the day's programs follows.

ECE staff spent the day at the Ohio Department of Transportation Training Center, where they participated in a seminar titled, "The Positive Power of Diversity in Our Shared Work," presented by Dr. Brad Mitchell.

Adult Services staff attending the Quest Conference Center could choose from a range of options, including, "Autism Perspective Disorders" by Donna Owen, "Traumatic Brain Injury" by Dr. William Arnold, and "Managing Stress in Health Care" by Dr. Pam Dickerson.

School staff studied "Authentic Leadership" under psychologist and author, Dr. Steven Anderson. The

Ramada Plaza Hotel served as the site of the program.

Transportation staff attended a presentation on attitude, motivation and teamwork by Phil Sorentino, and then tackled changes in Ohio law relating to bus drivers with the help of the State Highway Patrol.

Organizing Staff Development Day is a major task. While many are involved, the staff primarily responsible are: **Kathy Mortimer**, ECE; **Deb Viney**, Schools; **Chris Reese**, Adult Services; and **Toss Horton** and **Karen Widmayer**, Transportation.

## Autism run slated

"Out Run Autism" has announced plans for its 4th annual 5 kilometer and 1 mile Fun Run to be held at Homestead Park in Hilliard on Saturday, April 19th.

All proceeds will go to Central Ohio Families for Effective Autism Treatment.

To register, please visit [www.premierraces.com](http://www.premierraces.com), or call Tamara Heyatt at 804-2863.



**OutRunAutism™**  
**5K & 1 Mile "Fun Run"**  
**April 19, 2008**  
**Homestead Park**  
4675 Cosgray Rd • Hilliard, OH 43026  
**Registration: 9:00 AM • Race: 10:00 AM**

## Siebold scholarship applications due April 21

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship from the John J. Siebold Memorial Scholarship Program, you must complete and submit your application to ARC Industries by Monday, April 21st.

To be eligible, an applicant must be employed by FCBMRDD for a minimum of one year, have a high school degree or equivalent, be pursuing a college degree (any level) in a field of study related to MRDD, and be either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

John J. Siebold was a 27-year employee of FCBMRDD, who was much loved and admired for his commitment to helping people. He died unexpectedly in June, 2003, at which time he was ARC Industries' Operations Director. In his memory, ARC's Board of Trustees created the scholarship program to assist agency staff seeking further education.

Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1,500 annually at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Since 2004, twenty-four scholarships have been awarded for a total of \$31,000.

To obtain more information, including an application, please call 475-7007. Selection of scholarship winners will be made by May 19th.

## Futures focus for families

Peggy Martin, Family Advocate with the Ohio Department of MRDD, will speak at a meeting of Families United on Thursday, April 10th. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street, Columbus.

Peggy will review the recommendations of the Ohio Department of MRDD's Futures Committee.

The public is invited to attend.

## Did you know?

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have measured the impact of stress on thinking. Through testing about 1,000 people ages 50 to 70, they determined that the stressed subjects performed worse than calmer subjects in nearly every aspect of cognitive functioning.

According to Dr. Esther Sternberg of the National Institute of Mental Health, "When you're at peak performance, just the nerve cells needed for the response are firing. But in protracted or very stressful situations, too many nerve cells fire at once. That's when you freeze."

## Singer Donal Hinely hits high note at ARC North

Donal Hinely, a singer and songwriter from Nashville, Tennessee, performed at ARC Industries North on Thursday, March 6th. Chris Noon, a Training Specialist, and Bob McCarthy of the Placement Department, shared their talents as well.

Donal brought the crowd alive with his upbeat, fun-loving music. He sang many original songs from his three CD's. The concert, which lasted approximately an hour, ended too soon for the enthusiastic audience.

A musician for 20 years, Donal is originally from Denton, Texas. He has performed in Australia and Europe.

He performs at the Renaissance Festival each year, playing the "glass harmonica," that is, drinking glasses filled with various amounts of liquid, which emit different pitches when a person rotates his fingers around the rims of the glasses.

Donal praised the crowd as "the best audience I've ever had." He added that he would love to come back again the next time he is in town.



*Chris Noon playing guitar at left, Donal Hinely playing and singing, Bob McCarthy on drums, play for an appreciative audience.*

## Clipper tickets available

The Knights of Columbus and Special Olympics are once again offering, for sale, tickets to Columbus Clipper baseball games. Prices are only \$2.00 each and are good for any home game between April 3 through June 13.

Just send a check or money order to for the amount of tickets you are requesting along with a stamped, self addressed envelope to Special Olympics, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219. Checks should be made payable to Special Olympics.

The Knights of Columbus have organized this fundraiser for over 20 years and have returned over \$150,000 for Special Olympics programs

# Good For You

## Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

**Gerald Spinks**, a greeter at Nationwide Arena (Front Street entrance) for Blue Jackets games, was the subject of a story in *The Columbus Dispatch* on March 18th. Gerald, who receives services from FCBMRDD, was described as “friendly and outgoing,” “fiercely independent” and as “wonderful to work with.” Way to go, Gerald!

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Transportation staff member **David Dawson** has continued his winning ways in the Senior Olympics. At swimming events held recently at the Dublin Community Center, David hauled in gold medals in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. Congratulations, David!

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Director of Planning **Frank New’s** efforts to develop emergency shelters for use by individuals with disabilities have not gone unnoticed. An article in *Commentary*, the quarterly magazine of the Columbus Foundation, praised the plans.

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West Central student **Patrick Crawford**, his brother **Peter**, and mother **Marie**, were all featured in an article in *The Columbus Dispatch* on March 19th. The interesting account focused on funding inequities.

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Special thanks to **Sue Taylor** and **Malinda McKinley** for taking over the Operation Feed campaign at ARC South while **Marsha Lowe** was ill.

## Career Milestones

### 20 years

- Cheryl Collins**
- Fred Copsey-Pearce**
- Brenda Isenhardt**
- Thomas Jude**
- Mark Lowery**
- Theodore Rhodes**
- Tamara Rucker**
- Brenda Toney**

### 15 years

- Marita Surry**
- Julia Williams**
- Connie Willis**

### 10 years

- Marla Mills**

### 5 years

- Amber Dzodan**
- Jessica Elder**
- Carla Oreilly**
- Steven Poindexter**

## Are you ready for some dodgeball?



The good folks in FCBMRDD’s Human Resources Department want to help their co-workers get some exercise and have fun in the process.

To this end, they’re organizing the first ever dodgeball tournament for agency staff.

Games will be played in the ECE gym on Monday and Wednesday evenings during May. Teams, made up of 6 members, can participate for \$30; individuals for \$5.

A soft Nerf-type ball will be used to help prevent injuries.

For more details, please call Pam Freeman in Human Resources at 342-5892.



# Volleyball team heading to Nationals \_\_\_\_\_



FCBMRDD's Unified Volleyball team is heading to Atlanta for the Memorial Day weekend. They will be competing in the USA Open National Volleyball Championships. Special olympics teams from seven states will compete at the Georgia Dome. The team is training on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Bixby Learning Skills Center.

God luck athletes!

*Pictured are members of the 2007 Unified team. Back row includes: Charlie Potts, Vernon Clark, Craig Doles, Darryl Kelly, Steve Wagner, Kevin Roddy and Eric Cabeen. Front row, from left are: Dee Hively, Mike Hively, Chris Guzzo, Darlene Farley and Nick Genton.*

## Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.  
Jerry Saunders  
Mildred Blumenfeld  
Paul S. Coppel  
Dean Fadel  
Helen Ninos  
Galen Stover

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

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The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of Dateline.

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(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

## Calendar

### April, 2008

- 1 April Fools Day!
- 8 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 10 Families United meeting, 411 N. High St., 7 p.m.
- 15 Income tax deadline
- 16 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 19 "Out Run Autism" fun run, Homestead Park, Hilliard. Call 804-2863 for details.
- 20 Passover
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 24 FCBMRDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBMRDD board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.

## "Quotable quotes"

"Change your thoughts and you  
change your world."

-- Norman Vincent Peale

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:  
**[www.fcbmrdd.org](http://www.fcbmrdd.org)**