

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

Agency moved forward in 2008

If a song title were selected to sum up the discussion at FCBMRDD's senior staff meeting on December 16th, the 2007 hit *Let's See How Far We've Come* by Matchbox Twenty would be a fitting choice.

Staff members, per the request of Superintendent Jed Morison, cited the top accomplishments for the agency in 2008.

Some of the items mentioned were:

- Secured passage of Issue 29, the MRDD levy, to allow for continued stability in services and staffing.
- Met Managing for Results measures.

- Enrolled many individuals on Medicaid waivers.
- Implemented new waiver reimbursement system.
- Received *LifeWorks* grant to promote employment from Rehabilitation Services Commission.
- Maintained 98% success rate for students taking Ohio Proficiency Test Alternate Assessments.
- Streamlined staff health insurance benefits.
- Established "Green Team" to promote environmental awareness.
- Restructured computer network to increase security.

- Developed emergency shelter agreement with Central Ohio Red Cross to serve persons with developmental disabilities, and trained 70 volunteers.

- Raised record amount for Combined Charitable Campaign.

Superintendent Morison concluded the discussion noting: "While we still have much to do, we can be proud of our accomplishments in 2008. This success is due to the outstanding, cooperative efforts of staff, volunteers, providers, individuals and families."

Dateline promotes e-mail subscriptions

Would you like to help FCBMRDD trim costs while also work to improve the environment?

If you are a *Dateline* subscriber who receives the newsletter by U.S. Mail, you can help the agency meet these goals by switching to an e-mail subscription.

Dateline is requesting that subscribers return postcards which have been enclosed with this issue, indicating their subscription preference.

Subscribers may also respond by e-mail to: linda.rockwell@fcbmrdd.org.

According to *Dateline* editor Martin Kerscher, "E-mail is the best way to subscribe because each issue arrives at the beginning of the month, and the pictures are in color."

Dateline December 2008
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Departing board members honored

Three members of the Franklin County Board of MRDD were recognized for their service to the county at the November 20th meeting of the Board.

Mildred Blumenfeld, Paul Coppel and Ben Hale will end their tenures as Board members next month.

Ms. Blumenfeld was appointed to the board in 1987 and served as its President in 2004 and 2005. She has previously chaired the boards of ARC, Scholastic, Council for Handicapped Children and Franklin County Residential Services.

Mr. Blumenfeld has worked to improve clients' health through better nutrition and has efforts to obtain air conditioning of county buses.

Paul Coppel was appointed to the board in 1997 and served as President in 2002 and 2003.

A lawyer and business man, Mr. Coppel brought a business, practical approach to board deliberations. He stressed the need for fiscal controls and provided valuable guidance on personnel and facility-related issues.

Ben Hale is the longest serving board member in FCBMRDD history having served since 1981 to 1990, and again from 1997 to the present. He served as Chairman from 1988 to 1990, and as President from 2007 through the present.

Mr. Hale provided leadership in developing residential options, ranging from the county's SCMR facilities to independent living arrangements through Creative Housing, Inc.

All three board members earned reputations as strong advocates for clients, staff and the general public.

Commenting on the board members, Superintendent Jed Morison said: "They help are exceptional public servants. We have been very fortunate to have them on our board."

Gov. Strickland visits cleaning crews

An ARC initiative celebrated the 20th anniversary of its opening with the Ohio State House. State Office Tower became an event space for an event where Governor Ted Strickland paid a surprise visit.

The gathering took place in the lounge on the tower's 19th floor on the evening of November 20th. ARC employees and FCBMRDD staff had been invited to the event.

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New board members named

Franklin County Commissioners have named three new members of the Franklin County Board of MRDD. They will begin their terms on January 22nd and will succeed Mildred Blumenfeld, Paul Coppel and Ben Hale.

The new members are Lito Ramirez, Renée Stein, and Jean Williams.

Dateline will provide background information on the new members in its next issue.

Special Olympics has blog

FCBMRDD's Special Olympics Program has launched a new way to communicate with coaches, volunteers, fans and community partners. The Franklin County Special Olympics Blog was begun on December 22nd.

In addition to state competition results, upcoming events, athlete profiles, donation information, home schedules and photos, the blog will also offer a forum to talk about Special Olympics.

The blog will also be a recruiting tool to inform prospective volunteers about the program. Nearly 600 Special Olympics athletes are served annually through FCBMRDD, many in multiple sports. All are coached entirely by volunteers.

Staff are encouraged to visit the blog, and tell friends and family about it.

To visit the Franklin County Special Olympics Blog, go to www.franklin-countyflyers.blogspot.com For more information, please e-mail Ryan Phillips at ryan.phillips@fcbmrdd.org.



Support plans to be focus of families

Families United will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 8th, from 7 to 9 p.m. The location will be Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4131 N. High Street.

Guest speakers will be Matt Talicksa and Mark Groll, Behavior Support Specialists with Franklin County Residential Services, Inc.

The topic of discussion will be, "Producing Positive Outcomes During Individual Support Plan Meetings."

The public is invited.

Village Shalom accepting applications

Village Shalom Apartments is currently accepting applications from prospective residents.

The apartments are HUD-subsidized, and offer maximum independence and professional support.

For further information, please call Denise George, Property Manager, at 239-1999.

Goodwill receives commendations from CARF

Goodwill Columbus has received four exemplary commendations upon completion of a survey by the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

“We are exceptionally proud,” said Margie Pizzuti, President and CEO of Goodwill Columbus, noting that CARF exemplary commendations were awarded in areas of leadership, strategic planning, health and safety and human resources.

“Clearly, this represents the collective efforts of so many dedicated and capable staff throughout our organization, as well as the deep and abiding commitment to our mission by our community volunteers through our various boards and committees.”

Mary Vail, Goodwill's Vice President of Programs and Services, was involved in hosting the surveyors from CARF on November 6-7. She said, “It is uncommon to receive one exemplary CARF commendation, let alone four.”

The independent assessment is performed at Goodwill every three years and focuses on a number of key operational areas including finance, governance, health and safety, human resources, leadership, programs, risk management and strategic direction.

FCBMRDD Superintendent Jed Morison stated, “We value our partnership with Goodwill Columbus and congratulate them on this excellent CARF report.”



CARF surveyors described Goodwill Columbus as a “very warm and inviting place to be.”

Goodwill Columbus has been serving central Ohio since 1939.

For more information, please visit www.goodwillcolumbus.org.

Hilliard apartments completed

Creative Housing has completed construction of its newest fully accessible apartments.

Located on Leap Road in Hilliard, the project consists of two buildings, each containing four apartments.

This project marks the sixth accessible housing project completed by Creative Housing as part of a partnership with FCBMRDD and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tenants began moving into the apartment late last month.



My trip to Colorado

by Jennifer Cunningham

I went to Copper, Colorado for a training camp for cross country snow skiing. I enjoyed being selected along with Bryan Fox. We both had a good time, and enjoyed being part of the world games for Winter Olympics in Boise, Idaho.

I made some new friends who were really nice. We all got along great. This was my first time doing cross country snow skiing, and Bryan's too.

In February, we'll be part of Team USA, competing against other countries.

Go USA and good luck at the world games!

(Jennifer Cunningham, a Special Olympian, is employed at Administration.)

Seated around their training table are Maria, Analine, Jennifer and Bryan.



At center are Bryan Fox, Jennifer Cunningham and Pat Handy.



Rose parade in sight for marching band



The marching band of the Ohio State School for the Blind, the only blind marching band in the country, has been accepted to participate in the 2010 Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, California.

The band has 17 members with a nearly equal number of sighted assistants. A recent performance of the band at a skull session in St. John Arena may be viewed at www.ossb.oh.gov.

In order to make the trip, the band needs to raise funds. If you would like to help, please mail a check, payable to OSSB, to Ohio State School for the Blind, c/o Tricia Mobley, 5220 N. High Street, Columbus 43214.

Questions may be directed to Tricia Mobley at 995-2183.



Photo courtesy of the OSSB Newsletter.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones

Eleven lucky participants in FCBMRDD's **Recreation Program** took in the Radio City Music Spectacular starring the Rockettes on December 11th. All enjoyed the Christmas classic, which was held at Nationwide Arena, as well as dinner at the Florentine. Special thanks to **Jim Salvatore's Special Heroes** for donating the tickets.

Scott Erenpreiss, the agency's Financial Services Manager, was honored by the Ohio House of Representatives on November 20th. The representatives adopted a resolution, introduced by **Rep. Kevin Bacon**, recognizing Scott's work in developing a computer program application for statewide use. Board member **Dean Fadel** presented the document to Scott, and thanked him on behalf of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD.

Lauren Jackson, an employee at ARC Industries West, alerted her family to a fire in their home over Thanksgiving break. The first to observe the fire, Lauren warned all to leave, thereby saving them from possible injury or even loss of life.

FCBMRDD's **Transportation Department** will be highlighted in an upcoming article in *School Bus Fleet* magazine. The article will be titled, "Green Fleets Across America."

Professor David Covey from OSU's Department of Dance, who has led the **ARC Dance Company** for the past five years, was featured, along with several dancers, in the December 11th issue of *On Campus*, OSU's faculty and staff newspaper.

The following people have been appointed members of FCBMRDD's Behavior Support Committees: **John Huntzinger; Joan Gillis; Holley Wiseman**, Chairperon; **Tommy Porter; Karen Widmayer; Pat Jackson; Josh Weisel**; and **Brian Turley**.

Patti Aellig, Chairperson; **Patrick Keenist; Deb Viney; Rae Wilhelm; Paul Chenderlin; Theresa Setser**; and **Nancy Mills**. **Randy Cuenot** and **Karen Laub** have been appointed substitute members.

The following people have been named to FCBMRDD Human Rights Committee: **Terry Abel; Marck Harrison; Helen Malone; Jack Brownley; Melissa Wren**; and **Joe Edwards**.

The stork has paid a visit to Director of Psychology **Joe Edwards** and his wife, **Shivani**. They are proud parents of a baby girl, **Sophia**, who was born December 19th. Congratulations!

30 years

Deborah Hawk

25 years

**Janet Hammond
Ann Mason
Daniel Gilbert
Patricia Tietz**

20 years

**Tina Davis
Rodney Frye
Cheryl Hodgkinson**

15 years

Charlene Leach

10 years

Kathy Chase

5 years

Kimberly Demond

Get ready for bowling fun

The fourth annual *For the Fun of It* bowling event is slated for Saturday, January 24th, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The tournament, which will be held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace, is open to FCBMRDD staff. Friends may come to watch and cheer.

It is expected that sixty-four teams of four will participate. Each will bowl three games.

Many door prizes will be awarded throughout the festivities.

At press time, opening for teams still existed, but were filling up fast.

Please contact Jack Brownley at 342-5960 for further information.



Calendar

January, 2009

- 1 New Year's Day -- all county facilities closed.
- 2 FCBMRDD adult programs resume.
- 5 FCBMRDD schools and ECE resume.
- 5 Fiesta Bowl, featuring Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Texas Longhorns, University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Arizona, 8:20 p.m.
- 13 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 11 a.m. Please call 844-3800 for location.
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -- all county facilities closed.
- 21 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 22 FCBMRDD Human Resource and Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 22 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 24 "For the Fun of It" bowling tournament, Columbus Square Bowling Palace, Rte. 161 and Cleveland Ave., 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please call 342-5960 for details.
- 26 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.

Tune in for closing news

Weather-related closings are a fact of life during the winter months.

For information concerning closings, please listen to the following after 5:30 a.m.:

Radio AM	Radio FM	Television
WBNS (1460)	WCOL (92.3)	WCMH (4)
WMNI (920)	WCVO (104.9)	WSYX ABC (6)
WOSU (820)	WNCI (97.9)	WBNS (10)
WTVN (610)	WSNY (Sunny 95)	WOSU (34)
	QFM (96)	

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

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Galen Stover
Renee Stein
Jean Williams

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

FCBMRDD does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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

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"Quotable quotes"

"Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

-- Martin Luther King Jr.

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbmrdd.org