Board OK’s school restructuring plan

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities approved a restructuring plan for the agency’s school program on June 28th. The plan, which applies to West Central School and Northeast School, will take effect in September, 2014.

Under the plan, both schools will serve students ages 14 to 22. The curriculum at each school will be transition-focused, and designed to promote “Employment First” options in line with state and national priorities.

The plan was developed by a task force chaired by Jack Brownley, Director of Schools, and made up of FCBDD and school district staff.

“We owe Jack Brownley and the task force our gratitude for their hard work on this project,” said Superintendent Jed Morison. “The next steps will be to refine the curriculum for the program and to identify partners to join us in this effort.”

No current students will need to change to non-FCBDD schools as a result of the plan.

Each school will endeavor to network with school districts, employers and community agencies in its area, exploring opportunities for shared services and promoting inclusion in community activities in neighborhoods where individuals live and work.

The plan also raises the possibility of relocating FCBDD staff from other departments who have responsibilities for transition to adult services.

New waiver begins

As of July 1st, Ohioans with developmental disabilities have a new option that will enable them to direct where and how they receive waiver-funded services.

The Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver is a capped waiver offering a budget of up to $25,000 for children and $40,000 for adults.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) estimates up to 500 individuals statewide will enroll in the waiver the first year and up to 2,000 will be using the waiver by the third year it is in effect.

In order to be eligible, individuals must meet Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) level of care requirements and be willing to participate in self-direction.

DODD has prepared a handbook about the SELF Waiver, which can be obtained by visiting www.dodd.ohio.gov or calling the toll-free number 800-617-6733.

FCBDD’s Service Coordination Department will assist in the implementation of this waiver for Franklin County.
Autism conference slated for Aug. 3-4

Autism Speaks will hold its national conference in Columbus on August 3rd and 4th.

The conference, which will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, will be open to professionals, as well as individuals and families affected by autism.

The 2-day program features science sessions and targeted workshops focused on medical issues and approaches to integrated care.

Anne Russell appointed to advisory panel

Service Coordination Supervisor Anne Russell has been appointed to the Franklin County Juvenile Court's Community Advisory Committee.

Anne has been with the Service Coordination Department since 1996. She has participated in a number of community assignments including the Columbus Health Department’s child fatality review process.

Anne has a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from Mary Baldwin College. In 2005, she won a FCBDD Community Star Award.

Anne is looking forward to her new role with the Juvenile Court. “I have a feeling it will be very interesting to participate,” she said.

Sibling conference set for Oct. 26-27

The 12th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be held at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel on Friday, October 26th, and Saturday, October 27th.

Featured speakers include Dr. Ann Kaiser, Scott Osterfeld, and Rob Snow.

Ann Kaiser Ph.D. is the Susan W. Gray Professor of Education and Human Development at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and is the Director of Kid Talk. Dr. Kaiser’s primary area of research is early language interventions for children with developmental disabilities and children at risk due to poverty. Her other research interests are sibling relationships and families of children with disabilities.

Scott Osterfeld works at the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities as the Coordinator of Community Outreach and Engagement, and is the President of Osterfeld Consulting.

Rob Snow began his comedy career in the late 1990s. In 2009, Rob and his wife had their second son, Henry, who was born with Down syndrome.
Bixby staffers complete language course

Twenty dedicated staff from the Bixby Living Skills Center completed a 10-week Sign Language course recently. The class was developed and taught by Speech Pathologist Deb Wellness.

Between classes, students were encouraged to practice their skills with the participants in their classrooms. Once the core vocabulary was learned, they were also challenged with a rousing game of “Sign Language Jeopardy” in which teams competed to choose and demonstrate signs learned.

Staff members who completed this course were: Mary Jo Ritter, Kem Conteh, Shirley Maynard, Dottie Forest, Carrie McDonald, Maureen Halaiko, Grace Fair, Pat Jackson, Jessica Siebold, Ivory Havener, Michelle Moxley, Sherita Kendrick, Rae Wilhelm, Jack Blakeslee, Paula Elder, Rose Dexter, Judy Cousins, Chris Parker, Sandy Ford, and Brittany Ulrich.

Changes coming to Diagnostic Manual

by Angela E. Ray, Ph.D.

What’s in a name? Names identify individuals and organizations; they evoke emotional reactions. Some names or diagnostic labels determine eligibility for services or funding resources; influence treatment options; and contribute to one’s perceptions of people or situations. Persons familiar with FCBDD know the importance of labels due to the recent change in our agency’s name (see Dateline, July/August 2009).

This article presents changes proposed by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to the diagnostic label “mental retardation.” (A second article to be published in the September Dateline will discuss proposed changes to the diagnosis “autistic disorder.”)

The APA’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 4th Edition (DSM-4) is used by doctors, psychologists and other professionals to classify mental and behavioral conditions. The APA is revising the DSM for the first time since 1994. Estimated publication date is May, 2013. Until publication of the DSM-5, the diagnoses in DSM-4 will continue to be used in professional reports.

Diagnoses previously in the chapter “Disorders Usually First Diagnosed in Infancy, Childhood or Adolescence,” will now be found in the DSM-5 chapter, “Neurodevelopmental Disorders.” It has been suggested that the diagnoses of mild through profound “mental retardation” and “mental retardation, severity unspecified” be replaced with “Intellectual Developmental Disorder” and “Intellectual or Global Developmental Delay Not Elsewhere Classified,” respectively.

The term “mental retardation” is no longer used internationally or in U.S. law so a name change is required (APA, 2012). Because the DSM is a classification of diseases and disorders, the APA selected the term “Intellectual Developmental Disorder (IDD)” rather than “Intellectual Disability (ID).”

Diagnosis of IDD is based on clinical assessment of a person’s intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. Deficits in cognitive ability and adaptive behavior must have first appeared in the developmental period. Details of the proposed changes in the diagnosis are available at www.dsm5.org.

Some strongly support, while others strongly oppose the DSM-5. Regardless of one’s personal opinion of diagnostic labels, it is important to know that staff of FCBDD focus on the needs of individuals served, not on any label or grouping.

Interested persons may follow the discussion at the website noted above and at www.apa.org (American Psychological Assoc). Comments, petitions, and other feedback regarding DSM-5 can be accessed easily by typing “DSM-5” into any internet search engine.

(Note: This is the first article of a two-part series.)
105 county athletes compete in Summer Games

by Ryan Phillips

The 2012 Special Olympics Summer Games were held at the Ohio State University over the weekend of June 22nd. Franklin County entered 105 athletes in the games and took 35 coaches, two interns, two staff and two nurses to support the effort.

Athletes competed in gymnastics, tennis, powerlifting, roller-skating, bowling, bocce, volleyball and track and field.

The first Gold Medal of the games was won by John Smith in the 30 meter wheelchair slalom.

Athletes attended opening ceremonies Friday night wearing the 2012 Flyers shirt featuring the silhouette of a runner with his arms up and containing the slogan “I am the only player who can beat me.” Athletes took that message to heart and showed their grit throughout the weekend.

Some highlights of the weekend were: the tennis doubles team of Vernell Park and Jason Miller coming back from two games down to win; Ray Dillon and Carol Hickman sweeping their doubles and team bocce divisions; and Donneice Ross, three-time gold winner in powerlifting, breaking no less than four nails on her way to triple gold.

These stories and countless others are what make Summer Games the highlight of many a Special Olympian’s summer. Many thanks to the countless volunteers and supporters who made this experience possible.

Go Flyers!
County adopts direct deposit

In an effort to reduce costs and support the “Go Green” initiative, Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo has adopted a direct deposit payroll policy.

This policy requires every county employee to provide a written authorization designating a financial institution and an account number to which payment of the employee’s compensation should be credited. All active employees who are not already signed up for direct deposit will be expected to sign up.

If you have any questions pertaining to this new policy, please call Dan Darling, FCBDD Human Resources Director, at 342-5983.

Russian visitors tour ECE program

Six child welfare administrators from Russia and three staff from the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children paid a visit to FCBDD’s early childhood program on June 21st.

The visit was part of a week-long tour arranged by Dr. Judith Rycus, who directs international activities for the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare.

According to Dr. Rycus, Russia is working to build community-based support services for families. Columbus was chosen as a place to visit because it has a well-organized array of services in place for at-risk children.

Superintendent Jed Morison welcomed the visitors and showed them a short video about the agency as an introduction.

The group then toured the Early Childhood Education and Family Center and took in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. They took part in a wellness demonstration, a Fit Kids activity, and enjoyed a summer salad prepared by the Local Matters group.

“I think they were impressed by the outdoor gardens and the community support of our work,” said Becky Love, ECE Director. “We were honored to be a part of their visit to the U.S.”

Reach for the stars Oct. 2

FCBDD’s annual Community Star Awards banquet is set for Tuesday evening, October 2nd.

The awards program was started in 2003 to recognize persons who contribute in extraordinary ways to the betterment of the FCBDD community. The 2012 winners will be announced in the September issue of Dateline.

“The Star Award winners deserve a special night to recognize their contributions to our community,” said FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison, “We hope to make it a memorable occasion.”

Golf outing a success

The 2012 Franklin County Special Olympics Golf Outing presented by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney was a great success.

On June 18th, over 100 golfers took to the course at Little Turtle Country Club. The event cleared over $65,000 that will assist Franklin County athletes in the Special Olympics.

“The golf outing requires a great deal of volunteer work, and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney have given 100% support to this project,” said Ryan Phillips, Special Olympics Director.

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Open house set

Learning Never Ends will host an open house for its new building at 6460 Busch Boulevard on Wednesday, July 18th from 3 to 7 p.m.

Learning Never Ends is a provider of adult day waiver services, and is now accepting new enrollment applications for its day habilitation and employment programs.

With the recent opening of its new location, the program now offers 12,000 square feet of indoor activity space equipped with a functional kitchen for cooking lessons, naturally lit space for art classes, an in-house library collection, a computer lab, an exercise area, a game room and two sensory rooms.

In addition, the program offers continuing education, day trips and community based activities.

For additional information, please call Amanda Kennedy, Day Habilitation Director at 546-7462 or 888-8486.

Golf scramble set for Aug. 25

ARC Industries will hold its third annual golf scramble on Saturday, August 25th, at Royal American Links at 3300 Miller Paul Road.

Registration and driving range will open at 12:30 p.m. Dinner, awards presentation and a silent auction will get underway at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Mark Isenhart at 436-4800.

Special license plates now available

Through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Special Plates program, you can now order a set of license plates displaying the Special Olympics Ohio logo. You would pay an additional $25 for the plates, and Special Olympics Ohio would receive $15 for every set of plates sold.

To learn more about how to order these special license plates, visit www.plates.com or call 800-675-2837.

Did you know?

Eliminating mosquito habitats around your home can prevent bites, reduce your risk of disease and make your summer evenings more enjoyable.

Here is a list of common and easily overlooked mosquito habitats around the home: tires, buckets, cans, bottles and plastic containers; bird baths (drain and refill every 3-4 days); wading or kiddie pools (drain and refill frequently); pools and hot tubs (keep chlorinated, covered or keep completely dry); pool covers that hold water; boats, boat covers and tarps; pet food containers and water dishes; and clogged gutters and downspouts.

In memoriam

Friends and family of Marcus Ferguson took part in a Celebration of Life service on May 22nd. A longtime client of FCBDD’s Job Placement Department, Marcus passed away on May 9th.

Marcus was a hard worker who was well liked by all his coworkers at the Whetstone Care Center and Wexner Heritage Village. He also will be missed by many friends at the Franklin County Recreation Department.

Marcus was especially supported by his sister Terri, and brother Julian.

Rick Schostek wins book award

What Happens Next?, the heartwarming book written by former FCBDD board member Rick Schostek whose son has autism, has won first place in the Parenting/Family category in the 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

The awards program is the country’s largest not-for-profit book awards program for independent authors and publishers. The 2012 winners were honored recently at a special ceremony held in New York.

In the book, Mr. Schostek chronicles his 23 year-old son Greg’s odyssey with autism from birth through adolescence and into early adulthood.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Jana Van Hooser upon her graduation last month from the Ohio State University where she earned a Master's in Social Work. The first to complete the collaborative program between the university and FCBDD, Jana was hired by FCBDD in the position of Service Coordinator. Best of luck, Jana!

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Special thanks to Casei Phillips for donating her talents to design the graphics for the Special Olympics Golf Outing last month. Casei heads up communications for the Professional Insurance Agents of Ohio.

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A tip of the hat goes to staff at the Hague Living Skills Center and especially Beverly Mann, R.N., for their support of the American Red Cross. They undertook a very successful blood drive on June 19th. Donors received a free pint of frozen custard from Culver’s, as well as a chance to win free gas and tickets to Zoombezi Bay.

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Cindy Hilscheimer has been elected to the Board of Trustees of OCLC, a nonprofit, membership library service and research organization based in Dublin. OCLC is the world’s largest library cooperative. Cindy is the principal and founder of SC Search Consultants, an executive search firm.

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Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Associate General Counsel Vicki Jenkins has been honored by the Columbus Bar Association for distinguished service. Vicki received the Bar Service Medal in recognition of her volunteer activities over 25 years, including taking a leadership role in the association’s Summer Leadership Intern Program. Way to go, Vicki!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Some retired FCBDD staff members are proving the truth of the old saying that there is no friend like an old friend. On the second Wednesday of each month, an informal group meets for breakfast at Scrambler Marie’s, 6152 Cleveland Avenue. All are welcome. Meeting time is 9:15 a.m. For more information, please call Harriet Haniotes at 794-1425. Seen above are Dan Espinoza Roberta Lehman and Sue Stauffer. Seated are Audrey Hilliard, Jim Sawyers, Rosie Sawyers and Harriet Haniotes.
The green spot  by Rae Wilhelm

As a Green Spot organization, Bixby Living Skills joins all FCBDD departments in practicing good recycling efforts. Many employees continue these efforts at home, placing their recyclables at their curbs, or taking them to a larger collection point. This practice soon will become a little easier for Columbus residents who, like residents of some surrounding communities, will be able to participate in a no-fee recycling program.

As reported by the Columbus Dispatch (June 3rd) beginning with the far west and northwest areas of Columbus, residents will be able to place all of their recycling materials in recently delivered 64 gallon bins. These bins are placed in the same spot where the trash bins are placed. The program is expected to cover the entire city by February 1st, according to the Dispatch.

“The no-fee recycling effort is one of Mayor Michael B. Coleman’s top initiatives this year and is expected to reduce city landfill costs by about $3 million annually once it’s fully in place.”

That’s a great savings, especially during these times.

As more communities come on board, it will become increasingly easier to preserve our children’s environmental future.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Dean Fadel, President
Jean Williams, Vice President
Renee Stein, Secretary
John Bickley
Linda Craig
Helen Ninos
Beth Savage
Superintendent 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 handicap.

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

Calendar

July, 2012

18  Family Support (formerly Parent League) meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.

23  ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.

26  FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.

26  FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

27  School-age Summer Center programs end.

August, 2012

2  ECE Summer Center program ends.

3  Staff Development Day for Adult Services and Transportation staff. All adult facilities closed.

14  Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.

20  ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/Development Day.

22  First day of classes, Northeast and West Central Schools.

25  Third Annual ARC Industries Golf Scramble, Royal American Golf Course, Galena, 12:30 p.m.

27  First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

27  ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.

“Quotable quote”

“Blessed are the flexible for they shall not get bent out of shape.”

-- Betsy Shirley