Dean Fadel takes helm at OACB

For the first time since its creation in 1983, the statewide organization of county boards of developmental disabilities has chosen a Franklin Countian as its leader.

Dean Fadel was elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) on January 29th.

He is Vice-President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, of which he has been a member since 2007. He is also the brother of Jeffrey Fadel, a service recipient.

Mr. Fadel sees the state’s fiscal situation as the top challenge in the months ahead, and notes the need for cooperation among all elements of the service system.

“It will be vital for our community to be as united as ever while the state is facing a potential deficit in the range of 4 to 9 billion dollars in 2011.”

Mr. Fadel is a principal with Public Affairs Advocates and Vice-President for Government Relations of the Ohio Insurance Institute. A resident of Blacklick, he is an active volunteer with Next Chapter Book Clubs.

Spanish version of agency video released

In an effort to reach out to the county’s growing Hispanic community, FCBDD has released its first Spanish-language version of the agency’s video guide to services.

Both the Spanish version and its English counterpart are available on the agency’s web site at www.fcbdd.org.

Among other changes “the board” has become “la junta,” and “persons with developmental disabilities” are “personas con discapacidad del desarrollo” in the Spanish script.

“This is just one more effort to serve eligible individuals regardless of any language barrier,” said Miguel Salas, Supervisor with the Service Coordination Department. He provided the narration for the video.

FCBDD’s service brochure is available in eight languages besides English. They are: Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese.

Franklin County’s Hispanic population doubled from 1990 to 2000 according to census data.
Service Coordination gets new home

FCBDD’s Service Coordination Department relocated from 350 East Broad Street to 1600 Watermark Drive over the Presidents Day weekend. The new offices are in northwest Columbus near the Grandview Avenue exit off I-670.

The department had been in leased offices at the East Broad location since 1988. Space limitations there prompted the move.

“Even though we occupied the entire building, we were cramped,” said Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination.

Agency leaders looked at various options over a 2-year period before settling on the Watermark site. The 3-story, 44,000 square foot building was mostly vacant.

“It was a very functional space in a convenient location and available at an attractive price,” said Dot Yeager, Chief Financial Officer.

The county bought the property for $2.5 million. Its market value is $4.1 million according to the Franklin County Auditor’s Office.

FCBDD will not pay any rent for the building as it is county-owned. The resulting savings are expected to cover the purchase price in less than 8 years.

Director Beatty praised department staff for continuing their work without disruption during the move. “They haven't missed a beat,” he said.

DD theme stresses commonality

People with developmental disabilities are much the same as everyone else. Yet too often, common attributes seem to get lost among perceived differences. To help change this mindset, sponsors of DD Awareness Month have selected “Just like you” as the theme this year.

The statewide kickoff celebration will be held Thursday, March 4th, from 10 a.m. to noon. The site will be the Statehouse Atrium. All are welcome to attend.

FCBDD will recognize DD Awareness Month in various ways. The Early Childhood Education and Family Center will present a Health and Wellness Resource Fair on Wednesday, March 10th, from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Representatives will be on hand from the American Cancer Society, Columbus Health Department, Local Matters and the Nisonger Center, among others.

Northeast School will hold its traditional Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 20th, from 4 to 8 p.m. Dinners will be available on either a dine-in or take-out basis. For more information, call 614-476-0530.
“For the fun of it” was fun!

Over 200 FCBDD staff took part in the fifth annual “For the fun of it” bowling event held at Columbus Square Bowling Palace on Saturday, January 30th.

Mimi Livisey of Transportation won the top female series with a score of 497. Rod Frye of Employment Services took the high male series honors with a score of 624.

The top team series award went to Jack Stockley, Jeff Wisecarver, Joey Wallake and Randy Cuenot, who totaled 2,408 pins. The team of Tiffany Anderson, Charbeth Cooke, Carolyn Evans and Angela Singh was recognized for good effort.

Anna Srba of ARC Industries East won the grand door prize.

According to event coordinator Jack Brownley, over $4,200 was raised for Special Olympics and the Citizens Committee. “More importantly, the event helped promote a positive spirit within the agency as so many people got together and had a great time.”
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 Friday, March 12th.

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

John J. Siebold was a 27-year employee of FCBDD who was much 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.

Scholarships are awarded in the amount of $1,500 annually at the discretion of the scholarship committee. Since 2004, 44 scholarships have been awarded for a total of $62,000.

To obtain more information, including an application, please call 475-7007. Selection of scholarship winners will be made by April 6th.

Time is running out to show your support of Operation Feed. The 2010 campaign will end March 6th.

Operation Feed provides food for needy families in central Ohio. Since early February, FCBDD staff have been busy collecting food and funds to support this worthy cause.

Your help is needed now to combat hunger among the most vulnerable members of the central Ohio community. Of those aided by Operation Feed last year, 40% were children and 10% were senior citizens.

Won’t you please lend your support by donating canned or boxed foods items, or providing a check payable to “Operation Feed” at your favorite FCBDD location?

The coordinators for the 2010 FCBDD campaign are:

- Early Childhood & Family Center - Sarah Gillilan
- Early Childhood Learning Community - Denise Henkel
- Bixby LSC - Jackie Seaver
- Hague LSC - Carrie Vamos, Mary Jo Allen
- Northeast School - Robyn Wright
- West Central School - Debbie Osborn
- ARC N. - Marianne Patronite, Sharon Evrard
- ARC W. - Carolyn Dailey, Jo Ellen McKnight
- ARC S. - Malinda McKinley
- ARC E. - Mike Doran
- ARC ESD - Sheila Ross, Kurt Schmitter, Debbie Schafer, Bob McCarthy, Trish Potenza
- Transp. E. - Amy Kulow
- Transp. W. - Priscilla George, Mary Fairchild
- Transp. S. - Dorcas Sharp
- Admin. - Michael Davis, Amy Magginis

As a condition of membership, FCBDD committed to taking a number of steps, including creating and displaying an environmental policy or mission statement; measuring its compliance with health, safety and environmental regulations; and performing a waste audit, among many others.

Each FCBDD location has received a green spot decal and My GreenSpot Pledge to display prominently in their building, along with a list of mandatory commitments we have already accomplished or will undertake in the next year.

At its meeting on February 18th, the Board recognized Nick Gulyassy for his leadership of the agency’s environmental efforts. “Nick leads a very energetic and able team of staff who are doing a great job,” said Superintendent Jed Morison.
Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

FCBDD programs have helped inspire new developmental disabilities services in the nation of Georgia. According to a report from the Columbus International Program, Lika Kiladre, who visited FCBDD facilities in Spring, 2008, was fascinated by the service models here, and has opened similar programs. “This is the first time we have had such centers in the Imereti region,” she said.

Staff members of Hague Living Skills Center and Columbus Developmental Center joined forces to raise funds for relief of the earthquake victims in Haiti last month. Through the sale of lunches and baked goods, they raised $512. Special thanks to Bridget Alcaraz of Hague for her tasty treats!

Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Grandview is in the forefront of faith communities stepping up to help the poor. Jim Oyer, a job developer with the Employment Services Department, and a volunteer with the church, helped assemble over 300 gift packages for needy families recently.

Service Coordination staff found a great way to express their appreciation to Chief Financial Officer Dot Yeager for her yeoman’s service in connection with the department’s move to new offices on Watermark Drive. As she toured the facility on February 16th, Dot was surprised to see a large, colorful banner on display, saying “Thanks Dot!” Others receiving special thanks included Mike Boyce, Rick Grawemeyer, Jennifer Schueneman and Jerry Rose.

Career Milestones

30 years
Kenneth Gagen

25 years
Barbara Campbell
Joanne Hogan

20 years
Rose Law
Sherry Wirick

15 years
Therese Brady
Nancy Cardinale
Marva Mosier
Lora Rinehart

10 years
Vanessa Frieson
Anthony Jackson
Janet Temple
Tina Turpin

5 years
Jack Brownley
Meredith Lawther-Merryman
Elizabeth Taylor
Catch the spirit!

The Bixby Living Skills Center is conducting a spirit wear sale.

Through April 5th, you can purchase a variety of items bearing the distinctive logo of FCBDD. Items available include sweatshirts, hoodies, t-shirts, golf shirts and an all-purpose canvas bag.

Prices range from $7.50 for the bag to $21 for a sweatshirt (depending on size).

Sale proceeds will support the agency’s future levy campaigns.

For more details, including how to order, please call 836-6050 and ask for either Becky Shannon or Chris Parker.

Photos courtesy of Hague LSC.

Calendar

March, 2010

4 DD Awareness Month Kickoff Event, Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

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

10 ECE Fifth Annual Resource Fair, Early Childhood Education and Family Center, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

14 Daylight Savings Time begins.

17 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.

17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!

20 Northeast School's Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 500 N. Hamilton Rd., Gahanna, 4-8 p.m.

20 Spring begins.

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

25 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.

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

“Quotable quotes”

“Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson