

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

Levy renewal proposal submitted - No new tax!

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has forwarded a proposal to the Franklin County Commissioners to approve placement of a renewal levy on the November 7 ballot.

Because this would be a renewal, it means that **taxpayers will see no increase in their taxes**. The levy will continue to support services to children and adults who have developmental disabilities and their families. The Board helps individuals to live, learn and work in our community, through early childhood, school, vocational, adult employment and habilitation services and many special services, including housing, service coordination, therapies, transportation, and Special Olympics.

2017 marks the 50th year of services provided by County Boards. In 1967, legislation was passed to create County Boards of Mental Retardation. The name was later changed to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

The County Commissioners have asked their Human Services Levy Review Committee to review the levy proposal this Spring and are expected to consider the Levy Review Committee report for approval this summer. Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO and Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer will meet with the Levy Review Committee in March.

About the proposal, Superintendent Morison stated that "for the past several years our Board has worked hard and maintained the discipline to plan for a renewal, rather than increasing taxes. This plan will allow for continued stability in services and continued ability to fund the Medicaid match to draw down federal dollars."

Self-Advocate Advisory Council plans Legislators Day

The Self-Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is planning their third Legislative Advocacy Day to be held on April 7th at the Bixby Center, 4200 Bixby Road, Groveport.

Christine Brown, Coordinator for the event, indicates that previous events have included participation from over 100 self-advocates. All Central Ohio legislators have been invited to receive feedback from people with developmental disabilities.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. and is expected to be filmed for placement on YouTube. In addition to receiving feedback on state budget or other matters, legislators will also have an opportunity to offer comments.



Members of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council make plans for the 2017 Legislators Day.

Celebrate 50!

FCBDD celebrates 50 years in 2017.

Throughout 2017, we will celebrate 50 years of service provided by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, which were established on October 25, 1967. To help celebrate, each month we will include a bit of history in our journey over these past 50 years to help people live, learn and work in our community. Let's **Celebrate 50!**

The longest serving member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities was Ben Hale, who served a total of 20 years.

Current law indicates that Board members can serve a maximum of 12 consecutive years.

Transportation planning continues

Plans to transition transportation services to a private entity are continuing as required by the 'Conflict Free Case Management' rule of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The CMS rule applies to all County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio and requires privatization of those adult and transportation services that are partially funded by Medicaid Waivers, so as not to conflict with the case management services for those waivers.

The plan to transition transportation services is to establish a private non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization.

Beginning in July, 2017 the Board plans to employ Anthony Hartley to review all transportation operations and to develop recommendations on forming a non-profit organization. The current Director of Transportation, Joyce Barrowman, would continue to provide day to day leadership for the Department.

Mr. Hartley comes to this assignment with excellent credentials. He is currently CEO of the Association for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. (ADD). His experience in the field and his business acumen should

allow for a plan that offers stability for the long term. His success in leading this organization will mean success in maintaining excellent services and stability in employment for our dedicated and quality transportation staff.

Superintendent/ CEO Morison stated that "This is similar to how we established Creative Housing, Inc. in the 1990s. Pat Rafter, current CEO of Creative Housing, did a wonderful job of establishing the non-profit with policies, procedures and services."

According to the Superintendent, "We have chosen this plan to transition these services, rather than the option of getting out of the transportation business, which would require individuals and families to seek other providers and staff to seek other employment."

Anthony Hartley will begin in July, 2017 and will take several months to develop recommendations, including timelines and scope of the operations to be privatized (e.g. all of transportation or just adult transportation). Once approved, the new non-profit organization will contract with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to implement the recommendations.

ARC Industries trustees announce 2017 officers

Officers for the 2017 calendar year were confirmed at the ARC Industries annual organizational meeting held on January 23, 2017. Gary Coats was appointed as Board President, Jerry Guy as Treasurer and Robin Hepler as Secretary. The new appointment of Bob Gaston as ARC Industries, CEO was also announced.

ARC Industries leadership will oversee numerous projects in the upcoming year in preparation for privatization on January 1, 2019. Items slated to take place during 2017 include relocation of the adult services office complex, implementation of managing tools at each vocational training and habilitation center, strategic plan review and completion of a business plan.

Board officers will continue to work closely with Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent/ CEO Jed Morison and his management team to ensure a seamless transition of service delivery for all participants and staff.



Pictured from left to right: Gary Coats, CEO Bob Gaston, Robin Hepler and Jerry Guy.

State budget proposals

State budget proposals for the next biennium (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019) have been released and will continue to be considered by legislators this Spring.

The budget proposals related to developmental disabilities continue to prioritize funding to further increase opportunities for individuals to live in the community and provide additional support for Intermediate Care Facilities to meet needs of individuals with the most complex needs.

A total of approximately 300 new IO waivers will increase options for individuals who want to avoid or leave an institution. Approximately 700 new IO waivers

and 300 SELF waivers are proposed to increase options for individuals on a waiting list.

Other budget initiatives include funding to:

- Increase wages for direct support staff
- Ensure safety in delegated nursing
- Expand cost savings opportunities for shared living
- Support two programs for youth with complex needs
- Modernize ICF reimbursements and increase rates

Additional information on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities budget proposals can be found on their web site at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

Senators recognize 50th Anniversary

Central Ohio Senators Kevin Bacon, Stephanie Kunze and Charleta Tavares and Senate President Larry Obhof have signed a proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The resolution commends the Board on a "remarkable record of service to its participants and their families" and recognizes the "dedicated professionals who comprise the organization."

Further, the proclamation states that "over the years, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has enhanced the quality of life within Central Ohio."

Superintendent/ CEO Jed Morison expressed thanks to the Senators for this recognition and commented that "the parents who began this organization can be justifiably proud of the services they began in 1967."



Integrated Community Support (ICS) grant update by Kurt Smith, Director of Special Projects

Progress continues on the ICS grant awarded to FCBDD in February of 2016 by DODD/Employment First. Grant activities are focusing on expanding community centered options for 91 individuals currently served by our facilities. These options include increased opportunities for Discovery, integrated community employment, paid internships, volunteerism and other reoccurring activities.

To date 19 have been employed in the community and in enclaves, 29 have participated in paid internships and many others are volunteering at a wide variety of community based locations as we begin to see a decrease in the time individuals spend inside our facilities.

A "hub" currently operates out of space at ARC West. Ten individuals now receive services and supports which are not related to attending a facility-based program. Some of the ten do not attend the facility at all and others are increasing their time in integrated employment and exploring areas of their communities in ways related to themes found during their Discovery process. Our plan is to refine and expand "hubs" into neighborhoods where individuals live.

The "hub" concept is also being designed to assist adult services staff in developing skills in community-based services and supports. Seven staff persons are involved in the 'hub' pilot project; two of which are positions funded by the ICS Grant.

Progress is being made on the FCBDD/adult services "roadmap" for the development of community-based services and supports. FCBDD's and other grant recipient maps will be available at Loop Ohio <https://loopohio.org/>.

Some steps highlighted in the "roadmap" include:

- Development of two community-based training curricula; one for participant use and one for staff training.
- Long term strategic planning and action steps for adult services/ARC Industries.
- Development of reporting systems to provide prompt and accurate participation information in the areas of employment, internship volunteerism and community exploration.
- Modification of the Discovery and ISP process to capture both employment and community oriented themes and outcomes.

The continued support of the individuals we serve, parents, other providers and our community is greatly appreciated as we develop these new options. Although ICS grant assistance ends in June of 2017, FCBDD adult services looks forward to the future and taking many more positive steps toward community membership for those who have chosen us to provide their services and supports.



Stacia Billings prepares to serve customer samples at her holiday internship with Hickory Farms at Tuttle Mall.

Ohio unveils crisis text line

Ohio is making it easier for individuals who are experiencing a stressful situation to find immediate help, 24/7 with the launch of a free, confidential, statewide Crisis Text Line. Any Ohio resident who needs help coping with a crisis can now text the keyword "4hope" to 741741 to be connected to a crisis counselor.

"Crisis Text Line is not a replacement for counseling, but when one feels completely overwhelmed, lost and alone, it's a point of connection and a way to get to a more stable frame of mind," said Tracy Plouck, director for the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). "Crisis hotlines have been used successfully for decades, but technology is changing, and we need to be sure to meet Ohioans where they are in order to get them the help they need."



The Crisis Text Line is an outgrowth of an ongoing "Strong Families, Safe Communities" partnership between the OhioMHAS and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to fund innovative projects to assist families and youth who are at-risk.

"We are pleased this accessible method of communication is being made available to people with developmental disabilities who may be experiencing a crisis in their life," said Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John Martin.

Licensed and experienced crisis counselors are on stand-by to provide a personal response and information on a range of issues, including: suicidal thoughts, bullying, depression, self-harm, and more. The specialist helps the user stay safe and healthy with effective, secure support and referrals.

The Crisis Text Line launch is the latest in a series of strategies to strengthen and promote suicide prevention efforts in Ohio. Persons who aren't comfortable texting can still talk to a live individual by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1.800.273.TALK (8255).

For more information on what Ohio is doing to prevent suicides, visit <http://mha.ohio.gov/suicideprevention>. If you or someone you know is in an imminent danger to themselves or someone else, go to the nearest ER or call 911.

Creative Housing reaches milestone

After 25 years, the Creative Housing/ Creative Renovations team, in partnership with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has reached the 1000th home mark and is regarded as a national model of success.

Through a combination of 516 subsidized private market apartments, 243 Creative Housing owned single-family homes, 104 duplex units and 189 Creative Housing owned apartments, Creative Housing is now providing housing in 1052 locations across Greater Columbus.

"The 1,000-house milestone is an indicator of an extraordinary community commitment to support people with disabilities and their families in our neighborhoods in the Columbus metropolitan area," Creative Housing President & CEO Patrick Rafter said. "Our work to develop housing that is specially adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities and integrated into the fabric of our neighborhoods has shown that providing independence and quality housing options, sets the foundation for a well lived life."

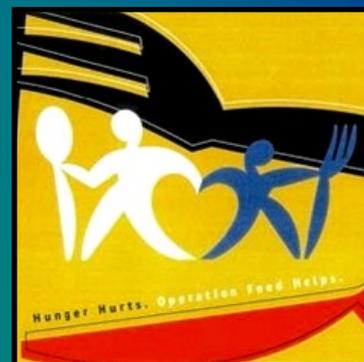
In addition to providing housing for people with developmental disabilities, this year Creative Housing/ Creative Renovation expects to complete another 300 home accessibility renovations projects for seniors and others with physical disabilities. For more information or to watch a video where clients tell their own stories, please visit www.accessibilityrenovations.org and www.creativehousing.org.



March is the month for Operation Feed

FCBDD staff, individuals served and families have long opened their hearts to provide strong support of Operation Feed. This year will be no different.

Look for raffles, sales, games, room challenges, fundraisers, penny drives and many more creative activities to be held at each facility.



Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Marci Straughter for being reappointed to another term on the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Keep up the good work!



Marci Straughter

Special thanks to Rose Dexter, Habilitation Assistant at the Bixby Center for all your good work over the years. Rose will retire at the end of March. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.



Rose Dexter

Special thanks to Jerry Young on all your years of service as an Inventory Control Specialist for the Transportation Department of FCBDD. Best wishes on a well deserved retirement.



Jerry Young



Thank you to Berni Thurn, Dietician for over 30 years for exceptional work for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Berni's outstanding work has supported hundreds of children and adults with proper diets, nutrition and food service programs.

Congratulations to Lyn Herron, Training Specialist at ARC North, on your retirement after 30 years of service to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Thanks for all your good work!



Lyn Herron

Congratulations to Greg Turner, staff member at Northeast Center, on a terrific career of over 30 years. Best wishes!



Greg Turner

Thank you to Central Ohio State Senators Bacon, Kunze and Tavares for recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Career Milestones

30 years

- William Green
- Lyn Herron
- Kathleen Lind
- Francine Steward
- Rayjeanna Stowe

25 years

- Carolyn Jones

20 years

- Paula Elder
- Brian McCoy

10 years

- Billy Evoy

5 years

- Elizabeth Bremer
- Ciera Ridgeway
- James Slentz

Work Matters

As 'Employment First' efforts continue to support individuals who want to work in the community, more and more businesses are supporting this initiative.

A recent article in the December, 2016 issue of 'The Costco Connection' talked about inclusive employment. Author Richard Seven described work as follows:

"WORK MATTERS. It helps put food on the table, and clothes on our back. It connects us to the evolving world. It develops and affirms our identities. Even when it feels like a slog, work engages us and shapes our potential."

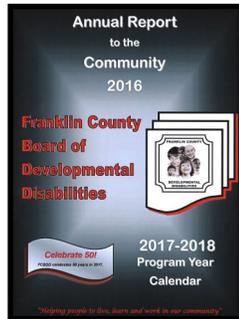
**May your pockets be heavy
And your heart be light
May good luck pursue you
Each morning and night.
~ an Irish blessing**

Annual Report available

The 2016 Annual Report of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is now available to those interested.

The report highlights the successes of 2016 and includes details on finances, services and partnerships with other community agencies. Special recognition of the 50th Anniversary of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities is also included.

The report is also available on the Board's website in the publications section (www.fcbdd.org). For a printed copy, call Amy Magginis at (614) 342-5950.



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Linda Craig, President
John Bickley, Vice-President
Beth Savage, Secretary
Marie Crawford
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos
Renée Stein

Superintendent/CEO **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

2017 Awareness Day - March 8th

The 2017 Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day will be held on March 8, 2017 at the Ohio Statehouse.



"Side by Side" is this year's theme, encouraging people with and without disabilities working, going to school, playing and participating together in their communities.

The day will begin with presentations at 10:00 a.m., including an update from John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, followed by presentations on technology, employment and a special performance by Zayne Harshaw, jazz guitarist.

Following the presentations, those who have registered will have opportunities to meet with their State Representative, Senator or staff members.

For details or to register, contact Shane Schaefer at (614) 224-6772.

Calendar March, 2017

- 2 Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 8 Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day at Ohio Statehouse, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 18 World Down Syndrome Day Celebration, The Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, for event details go to www.dsaco.net or call (614) 263-6020.
- 20 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 21 FCBDD Board Inservice, Creative Housing, Inc., 2233 CityGate Dr., Columbus. 11:30 a.m.
- 21 FCBDD Board meeting, Creative Housing, Inc., 2233 CityGate Dr., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.