

Legislative Advocacy Day planned

'Legislative Advocacy Day' is planned for Friday, April 17, 2015, thanks to the efforts of the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council.

Several Legislators are expected to attend to hear from self-advocates around the state on their legislative priorities. State budget, Medicaid asset limits, Independent Providers, Medicaid Buy-In, Medicaid waivers and other topics are expected to be discussed.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road in Groveport. Christine Brown, Event Coordinator, expects over 100 to be in attendance. The event is also being supported by the Ohio Self-Determination Association.

For details, contact Christine Brown at christi6288@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 372-5184.



Northeast and West Central to consolidate

Students and staff at Northeast and West Central will establish new friendships as the two schools consolidate into one in August, 2015.

In their March 26th meeting, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities voted to merge the two schools into West Central School. While both schools have provided excellent services, West Central was selected due to several factors, including its central location in Franklin County and it houses the Board's only aquatics facility.

Northeast School, the first school built for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, opened in Gahanna in 1974. Nancy Mosure was the first Principal. West Central School, located in the Franklinton area at 1481 West Town Street, opened in 1978, replacing Holy Family School. Pauline Kitchton was the first Principal.

Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, has established a committee of representatives from both schools to work out the details of the move.

New transportation routes will be established, classroom and staffing assignments will be made and a new school schedule will be determined. Classes for all school age students will begin the week of August 24th at West Central School.

FRANKLIN COUNTY "Parade of Providers"

All DD Waivers - All Services

Wednesday, May 13th

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

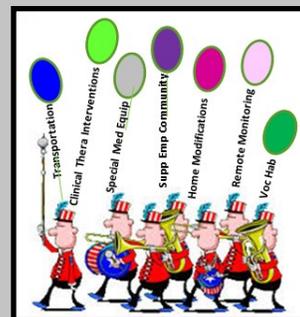
The Lausche Building

17th Avenue at I-71

Ohio State Fairgrounds

FREE PARKING

**(next to the building reserved
for Individuals and
their Family Members)**



(see details on page 4)

Independent Provider legislation

Within the 2016/2017 biennium budget, the Governor has prepared a shift to agency-only providers. If approved, this change would phase out independent providers, unless they are providing services under a self-directed waiver.

In a recent article in 'Pipeline' the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities electronic newsletter, updates were provided about who may be impacted, timelines and options for those who may be impacted. The information is reprinted here:

Who is affected?

- Individuals working with agency providers are not affected.
- Individuals on a self-directed waiver are not affected. Currently, one of DODD's waivers is a self-directed waiver – the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver.
- Individuals on the Independent Options (IO) and Level 1 waivers will be affected. However, DODD will add a self-directed option to these waivers, which will allow you to continue working with non-agency providers through Employer Authority.
- Agency providers are not affected.
- Independent providers who provide services under a self-directed waiver are not affected. Currently, one of DODD's waivers is a self-directed waiver – the SELF waiver.
- Independent providers who provide services under the Independent Options (IO) and Level 1 waivers will be affected. However, DODD will add a self-directed option to these waivers, which will allow non-agency providers to serve individuals through Employer Authority.

Note: DODD isn't adding a self-directed option to the Transitions DD waiver because that waiver is being phased out.

What are my options?

- Independent providers can seek employment through an agency provider if that option works for you.
- Independent providers can provide services under a self-directed waiver.
- Individuals working with independent providers can select an agency provider, or continue working with their non-agency provider under Employer Authority.

What are the key dates?

- This change would take place over a three-year period to allow individuals and providers to make any transitions. Key dates include:
- **July 1, 2016:** The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will not enroll any new independent providers.
- **July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019:** Current independent providers will not have their certification renewed when it expires – they can continue providing services until their certification expires.
- **July 1, 2019:** ODM no longer will accept claims with dates of service after July 1, 2019, submitted through independent providers, except in cases of self-directed waiver services.

If you have questions, please call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO) or 614-728-5311.

Nominate a star



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Community Star Awards, which will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at Villa Milano.

This will be the 13th year of the Star Awards, where individuals and organizations are recognized for extraordinary accomplishment.

Superintendent Morison stated “this is our Academy Awards, where 14 individuals served, family members, volunteers, staff and organizations are recognized for their accomplishments and the example they set for others. It is one of our favorite nights of the year.”

Nomination forms are included within this issue of *Dateline* and are due by May 15th. A committee will review the nominations and select the 2015 honorees.

Over 500 are expected for the event, which will be held at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Registration details will be available closer to the event.

Carmen and Miguel Salas retire

by Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination

Both Miguel and Carmen Salas have recently retired from the Service Coordination Department after more than thirty years of distinguished service.

Miguel was one of the original staff hired as a case manager when the office first opened in 1985. He initially coordinated the Model 50 Waiver Program (so named because there were only 50 Medicaid Waivers in the entire state), but quickly rose to a management position and has had a formative influence on the amazing expansion of Medicaid Waivers, supported living options, respite care, as well as Creative Housing. His calm, steady direction and hard work has been instrumental in the successful development of these services for individuals and families.

Carmen, too, was one of the original staff in a clerical office that preceded computers and voicemail. She has ably managed the functional details of the growth of the Service Coordination Office from few to many as well as the rapid development of technology. The plethora of details needing attention to facilitate the office relocation to Watermark Drive fell largely on her shoulders. She has been the "go to person" for all operational problems. Additionally, she has taken an active role with the growing number of Hispanic families, serving as an informal translator, troubleshooting problems, and advocating for needed services.

They said of their work here, "We departed with pride, with a sense of collective accomplishment, for having participated in the molding of what is today, the most successful and best regarded Service Coordination Unit in Ohio. We should all be so proud." They look eagerly toward the next chapter in their lives and have active plans that include travel to Venezuela.

So, we thank them for their long years of dedication and although they will surely be missed, we wish them well in new adventures.



Miguel and Carmen Salas

Candle Lab welcomes Independent Recreation Activities

Editor's note: The following article has been submitted by Joshua Smith, Senior Recreation Coordinator for the Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADD).

Franklin County Recreation has been focusing on offering independent, community based activities for those involved in the recreation program. We are developing partnerships with area businesses to help our members get comfortable with attending integrated activities on their own.

One of our members' favorite places to go is The Candle Lab. The Candle Lab is a Columbus-based fragrance brand specializing in natural gourmet soy candles and custom fragrance. They have three stores located in the downtown shopping districts of Worthington, Grandview, and the Short North.

Denise Smith, manager of the Grandview location, discussed her appreciation for the partnership formed:

"Franklin County Recreation had been coming the past several years. I love having them in the store. The participants interact with all of the other customers great."

One individual you can always count on being at The Candle Lab is Virginia Harper. Virginia hops on a bus two Tuesdays of each month to come make candles and bars of soap with her friends.

She stated, "I enjoy mixing different scents and helping everyone come up with good smelling candles."

Thanks to The Candle Lab for this exceptional opportunity.

For further details or suggestions on other area businesses that would be good partners, contact Joshua Smith at jasmith@add.ohio.



The Candle Lab

Partnership with Hilltop YMCA

A new partnership between the Hilltop YMCA and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will provide community recreation options for individuals who are employed in the afternoon or evening.



Ryan Phillips, Special Olympics and Recreation Director, Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, worked with the YMCA to establish the program, recognizing that most recreation activities are only available in the evening.

This pilot program began in March and will allow individuals to have access to the Hilltop YMCA and all their programs and facilities. Thirteen individuals have signed up for the pilot.

According to Jack Brownley, this may set the stage for similar options, where participants are integrated into regular community options. Jack stated "we are pleased to see this start and have been particularly impressed with the Hilltop YMCA. It is a great concept."

For additional details, contact Ryan Phillips at (614) 342-5984.

O - H - I - O !

Buckeye fans at ARC West recently welcomed OSU Basketball stars Sam Thompson and Shannon Scott.

Point Guard Shannon Scott and Forward Sam Thompson spent over an hour at ARC West on February 18th, signing autographs on hats, shirts, posters and OSU logo sheets.

Both seniors, Shannon Scott is the Captain of The OSU Buckeyes Basketball Team and Sam Thompson is the leading dunker in the country, often featured in highlights on ESPN or sports shows.

Special thanks to David Englehoff, Director of Basketball Operations, for arranging the visit.

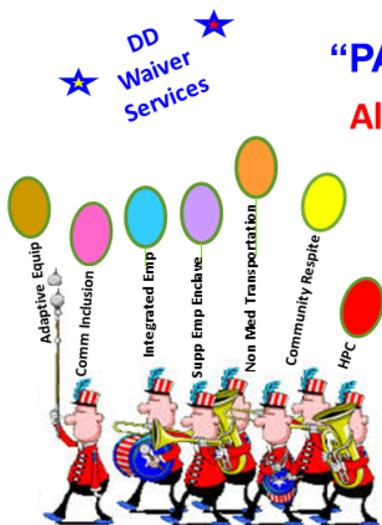


Superintendent Morison stated "we felt honored that they came, especially in the middle of their season."

Former Special Olympian Basketball Star, Leland Polock, has his picture taken with Shannon Scott (left), Superintendent Jed Morison and Sam Thompson.

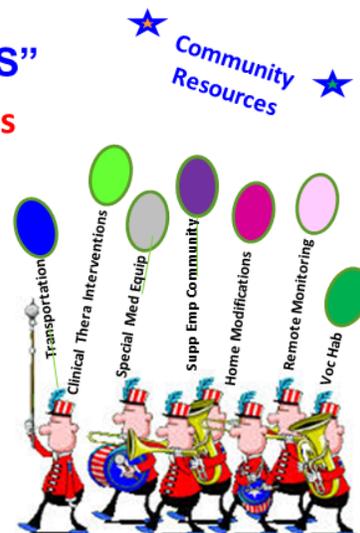
FRANKLIN COUNTY "PARADE OF PROVIDERS"

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★ **FREE PARKING** ★
Next to the Building
Reserved for Individuals &
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Mark your calendars to meet with waiver providers in Franklin County which we hope will make your selection process easier. A FCBDD Service Coordinator will personally assist you the day of the Fair, if you wish, in locating each Provider with the service you are seeking. There will be Community Resource tables, a Supported Living Options Specialist to help field housing questions, raffles, entertainment & DJ, and much more. Please plan on meeting the "Parade of Providers", and joining us in the festivities!!

Individuals & their family members contact your FCBDD Service Coordinator or Alex Corwin at alex.corwin@fcbdd.org. Providers contact Joni Sparks at joni.sparks@fcbdd.org.

Good for you

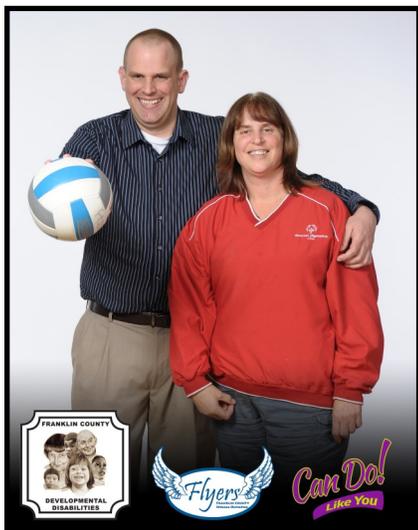
Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Bryan Heath** (left) and **Ethan Boerner** (right), member of the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council, for their participation in the DD Awareness Day activities at the Statehouse on March 3. Bryan works part time at McDonalds and both Ethan and Bryan work at ARC East.



Congratulations to **Linda Fleming** on the excellent design of the 2014 Annual Report for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Ryan Phillips, Director of Special Olympics & Community Recreation, established a new concept for DD Awareness. Special Olympics Coaches and Special Olympians are being featured on posters displayed at businesses where the volunteer coaches work.



Poster featuring **Craig Doles** (left) and **Chris Guzzo** (right)

Berni Thurn, Dietician, and all the **Operation Feed Coordinators** have again accomplished outstanding results in the FCBDD 2015 Operation Feed Campaign.

Congratulations to **Dot Yeager**, Chief Business Officer for FCBDD, for partnering with other County Board Business Managers on testimony to the Ohio House of Representatives on the biennium budget.

Special thanks to **Marlene Eloissant** and **Margie Parkman** for all their work in developing the Black History educational display at ARC North. Included in the display were several pieces from Haiti, Marlene's home country.



Kudos to **Carl Scott**, Print Shop Manager for outstanding support of Operation Feed and DD Awareness campaigns held in the month of March. Carl printed DD Awareness posters and bookmarks and distributed to all of the Columbus Public Libraries and he also managed the collection and distribution of all Operation Feed food donations.

Congratulations to artists from the **Bixby Living Skills Center** for having their *Handscape Exhibit* selected to be displayed at the **Groveport Town Hall Art Gallery** during March DD Awareness Month.

Career Milestones

30 years
Nan Burns
Joseph Decker
Kimberly Rudisill

20 years
Denora Pepper

15 years
Deborah Harris
Rebecca Nelson
Valerie Smith

10 years
Lilian Beck
Tsuyako Carta
Taronda Curry
Lavonda McLean
Sharon Post

5 years
Charisse Armstead
David McCluney

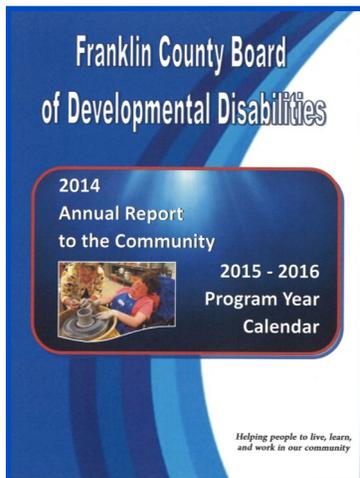
Special thanks to **Travis Sherick**, former Director of Information Technology, for 4 years of outstanding work with FCBDD. Travis resigned effective March 13th to take a position with MedVet.



Annual Report available

The 2014 Annual Report of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been published and is available to those interested.

The report provides highlights for the 2014 year, budget data, and information regarding services provided by the Board. Linda Fleming, Executive Assistant in the Superintendent's office did the design of the report and Carl Scott coordinated printing and distribution.



Copies of the report have been sent to each FCBDD facility and the report can be downloaded from the FCBDD 'Publications' page on the website at www.fcbdd.org.

For additional hard copies of the report, contact Carl Scott at carl.scott@fcbdd.org.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

Superintendent / C.E.O. **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.

The following staff contribute to the monthly *Dateline*:

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Amy Magginis **Jennifer Cunningham**

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

April, 2015

- 1 Happy April Fool's Day
- 3 Staff Development Day
- 6-10 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 13 Classes resume for ECE, Northeast and West Central Schools
- 14 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 15 Family Support meeting with Superintendent, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Legislative Advocacy Day at Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, Groveport, 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council and OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association)
- 23 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 23 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 27 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.

Save the date:

Community Star Awards Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Legal Counsel begins

Gwynn Kinsel has been selected as the new Legal Counsel for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Gwynn began her duties on March 23rd. She comes to the position with excellent credentials, including her recent experience as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General. Gwynn's law degree is from Capital University.

Gwynn replaces Martin Kerscher, who retired in January. She will report to Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer.