

## A year to remember

The 2015 year will be one to remember in the history of services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Thanks to the good work of staff and providers with the support of individuals served and their families, it has been a good year amidst a flurry of changes prompted, in part, by federal and state rule and law changes. How all of these changes will be perceived 10 or 20 years from now remains to be seen.

Services for children successfully made major changes in 2015. Early Intervention services increased emphasis on the parent/coaching model in natural settings while maintaining options for center-based supports. Tim Shriver, nationally recognized advocate for individuals with disabilities, commended FCBDD and Head Start Early Childhood providers for their inclusive and comprehensive services.



The school-age programs continued to meet diverse needs of students with the consolidation of Northeast and West Central Schools into West Central School, with focus on transition to adulthood and community options for 14-22 year old students. School programs operated by FCBDD staff in school district buildings continued to meet needs of children ranging in age from 6 to 22.

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## Board members Dean Fadel and Beth Savage reappointed

Probate Judge Robert G. Montgomery has reappointed two Board members to another four year term.

Dean Fadel has served on the Board since March, 2007, when he was initially appointed by Judge Belskis. Dean has a brother, served by FCBDD Employment Services Department and he has been active in supporting Ohio SIBS, an organization that emphasizes and supports the important role of siblings of individuals who have developmental disabilities.

Dean is Past President of the Franklin County Board and current President of the Ohio Association of County Boards serving persons who have developmental disabilities. Dean heads up Public Affairs Advocates, a consulting firm which specializes in providing services to clients designed to impact the state's legislative, regulatory and rule making process.

Beth Savage has served on the Board since January, 2012. Beth's teenage daughter attends Worthington Schools and receives some services from the Board. Beth is a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and she serves as the Director of Forensic Services for PriceWaterhouseCooperLLP.

Beth's volunteer experiences include service as Chair of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) and Chair of Best Buddies Ohio, which promotes one-to-one friendships, employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Beth serves as Finance Chair for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO stated "we are fortunate to have such dedicated and connected Board members, who voluntarily give of their time to support those we serve and their families."



Dean Fadel



Beth Savage

# Self-Advocate Advisory Council

The FCBDD Self Advocate Advisory Council continues to have an impact in Franklin County and Ohio.

The Council meets on a quarterly basis to receive updates from the Superintendent and to provide feedback on current policy and activities. Members of the Council are impacting legislation and policy in significant ways.

Marci Straughter was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. She graduated from Columbus State Community College's habilitation certificate program and continues to provide leadership with Project STIR.

Elizabeth Beu continues her work with the YMCA and provides leadership with the Project STIR program as one of the facilitators. Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) helps individuals to advocate for themselves in positive ways.

Christine Brown is a member of the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and continues to advocate for legislative changes to improve services and perceptions. Her advocacy to raise the Medicaid asset limit was significant and helped to get the law changed. Recent testimony encouraged legislators to change the term "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" in the Ohio Revised Code.

Jennifer Cunningham has continued to advocate for the ABLE (Achieving Better Life Experience) Act, which will allow individuals who have disabilities to save funds while maintaining their Medicaid eligibility. Jennifer testified with Treasurer Josh Mandel and legislators to get the law passed and now sits on an advisory committee to implement.

Other members of the Self Advocate Advisory Council continue to set examples for others and support special events such as the Legislative Advocacy Day and the Self Advocate Fall Conference. In December, Council members reflected on their good year and worked on their strategic plans for the future.



*Members of the Self Advocate Advisory Council from left to right: Christine Brown, Lisa Tillman, Mary Stark, Barb Rice, Marci Straughter, Jennifer Cunningham, Amy Tracy and Janice Keaser.*

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## Hague moves to Northeast Center

The Hague Living Skills program has moved into Northeast Center, effective December 7, 2015.

Linda Monroe, Director of Bixby and Northeast Centers credits her staff at both sites and Transportation for making this transition so smooth. Some individuals from Bixby moved to Northeast and those from Hague moved to either Northeast or Bixby.

Transportation routes had to be re-worked to accommodate the change.

The move from Hague was requested by Franklin County Public Facilities Management so the Hague building can be used eventually by the Sherriff's office. A new jail is proposed near this area.

In addition to the Living Skills program, Goodwill Columbus operates services in half of the Hague building. At Dateline's deadline, plans were continuing to move the Goodwill program to the former ARC South building in Groveport. Architects and contractors are making modifications to the building to accommodate programmatic changes.

Congratulations to all involved in making this transition so smooth!



## Patty McCune retires

Patty McCune, Personnel Officer for the Human Resources Department has retired after close to 40 years of service.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO, Patty "has been remarkable and a good friend to many over the years. Her accuracy with payroll and everything else, and her personal interest and support of staff have been evident in so many ways."

When Patty began working for the Board, there were just two staff in what was then called the Personnel Office. In addition to processing payroll and leave balances, Patty has advised hundreds of staff over the years. Whether it was advice on retirement planning, worker's compensation, leave requests or other policy, Patty was always willing to help.

About her work with the Board, Patty said "I have been very grateful to have this job. Everyone has been fantastic." Her retirement will be busy with golf, bowling, travel and more time with her two sons' families, including her four grandchildren.

Dan Darling, Director of Human Resources states that "Patty has always been there for staff and she has offered great stability to this office all these years. She will be missed."

Congratulations and thanks to Patty McCune on an exceptional career!



Patty McCune

## ARC Industries singers join Harmony Project

After four months of weekly practice, five men and two women from ARC Industries took the stage at the Ohio Theater December 1<sup>st</sup> to kick off the 2015 Harmony Project Performance.

The combined voices of Richard Kolodgy, Todd Fortson, Donna Thomas, Anthony Wells, David Toops, Pat D'Agostino and Bryan Heath were joined by the Commons in Harmony in a memorable performance of 'Lean on Me.'

Participation in Harmony has not only provided a creative outlet but has also provided an integral community connection where participants have the opportunity to share meals, fuse friendships and unite voices.

Kudos to Nan Burns, Director of ARC North, Karen Mills, Director of ARC East and Sandy Frey, Integrity Music and Live Arts consultant for your support and assistance.



ARC Industries Harmony performers.



ARC Industries singers join Commons in Harmony choir members .



Commons in Harmony performance on December 1st.

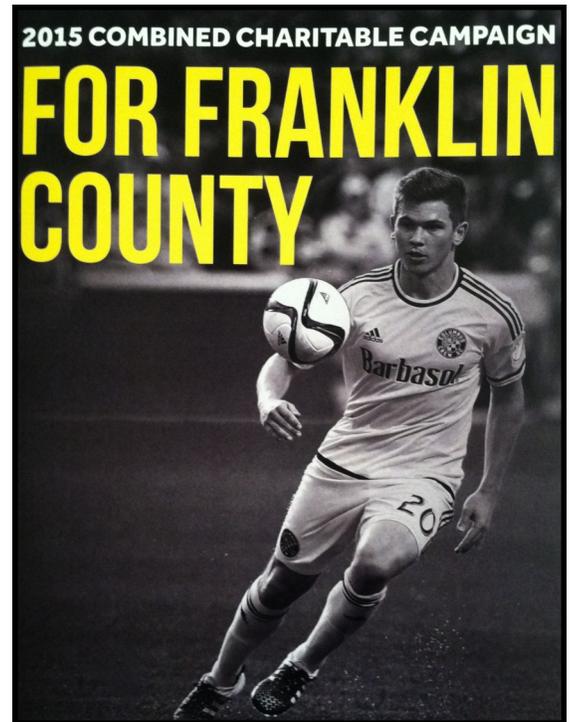
## Combined Charities Campaign

Over \$85,000 has been raised by staff for the Combined Charities Campaign and donations are still being received.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO, "our staff continues to impress me with their generosity. They see the need for these charities, which often help those we serve in other ways."

Dr. Angela Ray, with the support of Lindsay Harding in the Psychology Office, provided the leadership for this year's campaign. When all the funds and pledges are totaled, the goal is to reach a total of \$99,000.

Special thanks to all of the 2015 Department/Location Coordinators: Jack Brownley, Schools Administration, Recreation and Special Olympics; Courtney Congrove and Dan Darling, Human Resources; Randy Cuenot, Psychology; Marcia Duffy, ARC Business Office and Sales; Brenda Fletcher and Charity Buckley, Transportation; Bonnie Ford, Schools - Collaborative Units; Debbie Guyton, Hague LSC; Lyn Herron, ARC North; JoAnn Howard, Bixby LSC; Julie Kaber and Logan Burnside, ESD Housekeeping; Pam Lenahan, ARC East; Larry Macintosh, Administrative and Support Services; Jan Montgomery, ARC West; Susan Nagy, Service Coordination, Intake and MUI; Mary Martin and Sarah Gillilan, ECEFC and Home-Based Services; Kris Potridge, ESD Placement; Jennifer Schueneman, Fiscal; Travis Sherick, Information Technology; Greg Sorenson, ESD On-Site Crews - Enclaves; Gretchen Uhl, ECLC (Marburn); Deb Viney and Darlene Hayhurst, West Central School; and Dot Yeager, Administration - Maintenance, Insurance and Legal.



## Quick response

Melissa Miller, Bus Driver and Marian Walker, Bus Assistant were quick to respond when one of their riders needed emergency medical assistance.

While on their way to ARC East with a full bus, they were quick to notice that one of the riders was having difficulty breathing. They called '911' but were also close to Mt. Carmel East hospital. They went straight to the hospital and worked with emergency workers to get immediate care for the rider. Their quick and smart reaction prevented more serious problems.

According to Superintendent Morison, "our Transportation staff does great work every day and sometimes they are required to think quickly in emergency circumstances. This is one of many examples of extraordinary service."



Joyce Barrowman, Transportation Director, commended her staff and presented them with certificates of excellence to recognize their outstanding service.

Congratulations and thanks to Melissa Miller and Marian Walker!

*From left to right: Marian Walker, Jed Morison, Melissa Miller and Joyce Barrowman*

## NewsBits

If you would like to join our 'NewsBits' email list serve, just go to the FCBDD website at [www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org) and sign up.

NewsBits is emailed on a regular basis with updates and announcements from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

# Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Barb Campbell**, Behavior Support Specialist at ARC Industries North, for your dedicated service for over 30 years. You have impacted the lives of hundreds of individuals. Thank you for all you have done and best wishes.



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**Connie Blankenship**, an Instructor Assistant at West Central School has retired. Thank you for all your support of the students and your excellent service to this community.



Best wishes to **Mary Brooks** on your retirement from West Central School. Thank you for your service to the students as an Instructor Assistant and for your contribution to FCBDD.



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Special thanks and congratulations go to **Marilyn Croce**, Account Clerk at Administration, on your well-deserved retirement. Thank you for over 30 years of accurate and efficient work and your service to this agency.



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Congratulations to staff member **Jennifer Fox Cunningham** (center) for your participation in the Best Buddies Walk.



It was a special day at Mozart's Restaurant in Clintonville when 'Cookie' (**Loretta Dews**) from the Bixby Center, performed for the lunch crowd. Congratulations, Cookie!



# Career Milestones

**35 years**  
**Susan Gibson**

**30 years**  
**Mary Allen**

**25 years**  
**Carol Middaugh**  
**Dorcas Sharp**

**20 years**  
**Tracey Crawford**  
**Diane Kaiser**  
**Patricia Wells**  
**Douglas Zimmerman**

**15 years**  
**Carolyn Earnhardt**  
**Erin Kapps**  
**Jeanne Murphy**  
**Marsha Rummer**  
**Joel Workman**

**10 years**  
**Bradley Zubovich**

**5 Years**  
**Carrie Barnhart**  
**Elizabeth Nixon**  
**Michael Russell**

Congratulations **ARC Industries Singers**, for your performance at *The Harmony Project*.

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**Mike Boyce** and staff - thank you for all your excellent work preparing Northeast Center for services transferred from Hague.

# Jean Hahn retires after 38 years of service

Jean Hahn, Service Coordinator will retire at the end of January, after 38 years of dedicated service.

Jean started working in 1977 as an instructor and later moved to a Rehabilitation Specialist position. Jean provided training in Independent Living Skills and served as a Program Manager.

In 1999 Jean transitioned to the Service Coordination Department where she has provided support to hundreds of individuals.

About her employment, Jean stated that she has learned so much over the years and she will sincerely miss all of the individuals that she has worked with and supported. "It has been a good place to work, but I am ready to go. My husband and I look forward to traveling with two trips already planned for 2016. I really look forward to just getting to choose what I want to do each day."

Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination said "Jean has a set a good example for many with her dedication and loyal service to this community."

Thanks to Jean Hahn on an outstanding career.



# Autism Online Training Program

*ASD Strategies in Action*, an online training program aimed at improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families, launched November 18th.

This program, which is free to all Ohioans, offers information and skills to help families and providers better support individuals on the autism spectrum.

The program has two levels:

*Many Faces of Autism* will introduce you to characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and dispel common misconceptions through the experiences and perspectives of individuals on the autism spectrum. It takes about 90 minutes to complete.

The second level of modules is broken out by age range, and presents evidence-based strategies in action at home, school and community environments. Each section offers voluntary certification.

Visit [www.autismcertificationcenter.org](http://www.autismcertificationcenter.org) for more information and to access *ASD Strategies in Action*.

## 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*:

**Carl Scott**                      **Linda Fleming**  
**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](http://www.fcbdd.org)

## Calendar January, 2016

- 1 New Year's celebrated -- all county facilities closed. HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 4 FCBDD adult programs resume.
- 4 FCBDD early childhood and schools resume.
- 9 11th Annual "For the Fun of It" bowling event, Columbus Square Bowling Palace, 5707 Forest Hills Blvd. 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 20 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 25 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 28 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 28 FCBDD Annual Organizational Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

## A year to remember...

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One of the most significant rulings that was made in 2015 was the requirement for County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Ohio to stop providing home and community based services to individuals who have Medicaid waivers by 2024. This is required by the CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) rule titled 'Conflict Free Case Management' stating that the same organization that provides Case Management (Service Coordination) cannot also provide Medicaid funded home and community based services, such as adult sheltered workshops, habilitation programs or adult transportation. CMS will allow Boards of Developmental Disabilities to make this transition over time and by 2024.

Other adult services changes included the consolidation of four workshops into three, and the move of the Hague Living Skills Center into Northeast Center located in Gahanna. 'Employment First' continued to be a focus and much emphasis was placed on community based integrated services, choice and provision of options to meet diverse needs.

Special Services again met challenges in 2015. The Service Coordination Department revised the ISP (Individualized Services Plan) process with a more person-centered approach and began to transition people from the TDD (Transitions Developmental Disability) Waiver to other Medicaid waivers, per state budget changes. The Transportation Department transitioned from two compounds to one and continued to provide safe, door-to-door services directly and through contracts with other providers.

These and other changes in 2015 will serve as the foundation for future improvements as we continue to navigate our way through these challenging times.