

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

Board elects officers

In their January Organizational meeting, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities elected officers for the 2016 year.

Linda Craig was elected President; John Bickley will serve as Vice-President and Beth Savage was elected Secretary.

Linda Craig was appointed to the Board by the Franklin County Commissioners in 2010. Since then, she has served as Chair of Ethics and Human Resources Committees and she has served as Secretary and Vice President of the Board. Ms. Craig is employed by the Franklin County Treasurer's Office as Community Outreach Coordinator.

About her election to President, President Craig stated she "looks forward to another good year supporting those in our community who have developmental disabilities and their families. We are fortunate to have an outstanding staff and excellent providers in our community to guide us through these changing times."

John Bickley was appointed to the Board in 2012 by the Franklin County Commissioners. He is the former President and CEO of the YMCA of Central Ohio. Mr. Bickley has served as a member of the Board's Finance Committee, Chair of Human Resources Committee and Secretary of the Board. He has an adult daughter served by the Board.

Beth Savage began her service to the Board in 2012, when she was appointed by the Probate Judge. She was recently reappointed to another term by Judge Montgomery. Ms. Savage Chairs the Board's Finance Committee and serves as a member of the Human Rights Committee. She was formerly President of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) and serves as a Board member for Best Buddies Ohio. Ms. Savage has a daughter served by the Board and in her work she is the Director of Forensic Services for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.

In other news, the Board approved the 2016 Annual Action and Strategic Plan and approved the calendars for the 2016/2017 program year. The Board typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.



Linda Craig, President

ARC Wellness & Healthy Lifestyles by Mary Jane Timmons

ARC Wellness has been on 'the move' with an exhilarating inaugural year.

The excitement toward healthy lifestyle changes started in June with Health Fairs at each ARC site, then continued as we virtually walked from Columbus to Disneyland.



We partnered with Special Olympics and joined the Discover Your Abilities 5K in September. ARC artists made the finishers medals.

For the past 5 months, the selected group of pilot participants embraced the mission statement "Educate, Initiate, Integrate Healthy Lifestyles." Education in nutrition took us to a partnership with Cooking Matters and shopping trips to Kroger stores, then onto a Cooking Class with Wellness Matters.



Adult Directors appointed

With retirements and transfers, new leadership has been appointed for some of the FCBDD adult programs.

Mary Beth McDonald has been hired as the Director of ARC West, replacing Jan Montgomery who retired in January. Mary Beth has over 22 years of experience in the field. She has worked on state and local levels to develop and implement new programs and initiatives. She has residential services experience, has worked for a county board, and was an assistant deputy director with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for over 12 years. According to Bob Gaston, Adult Services Director, "Mary Beth has extensive Medicaid and business experience that will serve us well as we move forward into the private arena. She is bright, creative, energetic and excited about becoming a part of ARC West."



Mary Beth McDonald



Linda Monroe

Linda Monroe will transfer to ARC North to replace Nan Burns as Director. Nan retired at the end of January. Linda has extensive experience including, service as Director of the Northeast (formerly Hague) and Bixby Centers and previous work as Director of the Young Adult Services program for Goodwill Columbus. Linda has also taught at Columbus State Community College. According to Superintendent Morison "Linda has done exceptional work in so many respects, including recent leadership for the move from Hague to Northeast Center.

Replacing Linda at Bixby and Northeast are Teresa Hall and Jack Karner. Bob Gaston, FCBDD Adult Services Director announced their appointments in December with the following statements:

Teresa Hall has been with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for over 25 years. She began her career in residential services working with individuals with developmental disabilities. She then received promotions to training specialist and most recently training supervisor. She provided leadership with the development and implementation of the ARC South consolidation plan at which time she transferred to Bixby Center. Teresa is a dedicated, organized and committed individual who brings a breadth of talent and experience to the position of Director of Bixby Center.



Teresa Hall



Jack Karner

Jack Karner brings over 26 years of experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities. He too began his career in the residential field beginning in 1989. He was hired by FCBDD in 2000 and was promoted to behavior support specialist and then to training supervisor at Hague Living Skills Center. In addition to his skills in our field, Jack is also a talented artist whose art work can be seen at the West Central pool. He also facilitated two community art exhibits in 2015 that brought artwork produced by our participants into the community. Jack is a creative, energetic and dedicated individual who will continue the talented work already begun at Hague and now at the Northeast Center.

Lee Childs named assistant director

Lee Childs has been appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the Service Coordination Department for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD).

In making his announcement of Lee's appointment, Jack Beatty, Director of Service Coordination said that "Lee has done excellent work for the Board and will work well with the other Assistant Directors Mark Johnson and Chris Lopez".

Lee has been employed by the Board since October, 2001, when she began as an Investigative Agent for the FCBDD MUI (Major Unusual Incident) Unit. She was later promoted to the position of MUI Manager and she had several months of experience as a Training Specialist Supervisor.

Prior to coming to the Board, Lee held positions of Court Approved Mediator, Protective Services Investigator and Guardian Ad Litem. She has a Master's Degree from Franklin University and completed the Executive Development Program of the Ohio Association of County Boards.

FCBDD Service Coordination Department provides services to over 8000 children and adults, with over 5000 maintaining support through the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program. In addition to supervision of staff, Lee will also serve on the Columbus Developmental Center Citizens Advisory Council.



Lee Childs

Winter weather precautions

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has issued guidelines related to winter weather precautions, recognizing that individuals with developmental disabilities are at higher risk for injury due to falls and exposure to inclement weather.



To avoid cold temperature related complications, the following advice is provided:

- ◆ Dress in layers of loose, dry clothing;
- ◆ Be sure to have a heavy winter or water/wind resistant coat and boots;
- ◆ Be sure to adequately cover hands, feet, face, nose, and head. A warm hat or hood is critical, as up to 40 percent of the body's heat is lost if the head isn't covered;
- ◆ Wear a hat, scarf, and mittens/gloves;
- ◆ Wear sturdy shoes and boots with good tread;
- ◆ Make sure to use handrails when climbing stairs to prevent falling on ice; and
- ◆ Ensure walkways are clear of ice and snow.

For more details, visit the DODD Health and Safety Toolkit at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthandSafety/Pages/Tool-Kits.aspx>.

Calendars approved

In their January, 2016 meeting, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) approved the calendars for the 2016/2017 program year. (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).

Early Childhood and School staff will return from summer recess on Monday, August 22, 2016 with West Central School students scheduled to begin classes on Wednesday, August 24, 2016. Preschool students will be notified of start dates.

Winter recess for early childhood and school programs will be from Thursday, December 22, 2016 through Monday, January 2, 2017 and spring recess will be the week of April 17, 2017 through April 21, 2017. The 2016/2017 school year for students will end on June 1, 2017 and most staff on June 2, 2017.

The calendar for all adult programs will be similar to the current calendar and will be available on the FCBDD website at www.fcbdd.org.



Reminder of notification system for calamity days and options

The Franklin County Board of DD Transportation Department has an automatic call system for use on inclement weather days when transportation is cancelled. Individuals who sign up will receive a text or email when the decision to cancel transportation is made, generally at approximately 5:00 a.m. Messages will also be given to radio and television stations.

If interested in being added to the FCBDD notification list, please email your email address or cell phone number (with area code) and Carrier (e.g. Verizon, Sprint, etc.) to brian.parks@fcbdd.org.

On days when transportation is cancelled the Administrative, Service Coordination and Adult Services locations are open so people can provide their own transportation to these sites. However, be certain to call the building in advance just to be sure.

Individuals, family members and providers are also reminded that they can always decide not to send an individual even if the FCBDD buses are operating. Conditions may vary in different areas of the county. Individual circumstances and health considerations may require that people stay home to be safe.

Debbie Wright retires

Debbie Wright, C.O.T.A. (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant) at ARC East, has retired from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



Debbie Wright

Debbie began her career with FCBDD in 1985 and has provided services at ARC east during her 30 years of service. The health and safety of all consumers has been the first and foremost priority for Debbie. In 30 years one comes into contact with many people, including those receiving services, their families and fellow staff. Debbie is one of those people who everyone likes and respects—always there to provide support and with an encouraging word.

Debbie states that “I enjoy the appreciation shown by the consumers, their sense of humor, their views and their pure honesty. They have taught me a lot about life, they make me laugh, and sometimes they make me cry! Being a part of their life has been the *‘best highlight’* of each day and now the *‘best highlight’* of my career! I hope in some small way I’ve made an impact on their lives!”

Karen Mills, Director of ARC East states “Debbie has taught many of us the same things she has learned during her career. Debbie has always given her best and we have all benefitted greatly from her service. She will be missed.”

Compliance reports posted

To help individuals and families to make informed choices about who provides services, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) posts compliance reports online.

Individuals and families can review reports to gather more information about current or potential providers.

All reports from 2013 and forward are posted online. To access online compliance reports: go to the Provider Search feature on DODD's website at www.dodd.oh.gov. If the provider had a compliance review in 2013 or later, the report can be reviewed.

Providers may not be reviewed every year - if a report isn't listed for 2013 or later, the provider was not reviewed. Also, all providers who have had a review will have a report next to their name - the report will be either a letter stating that the provider received no citations or a copy of the review which contains the citations that were found as well as the provider's action to correct the citation.

Linda Meeker sets example for others

Linda Meeker attends ARC West and recently participated in a smoking cessation class at the workshop.

She smoked for many years and said she needed help to kick the habit. She successfully quit smoking in November. At first it was very difficult for her, but with the help of home staff, family and the ARC West team, she maintained.

Linda says she feels better and has a lot more money to spend on things she enjoys. Additionally, Linda inspired one of ARC West's staff to quit smoking.

Linda's success will inspire others to improve their health. Congratulations to Linda Meeker!



Linda Meeker

Annual Action/ Strategic Plan approved



The Annual Action/ Strategic Plan of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been approved for the 2016 year.

Development of the plan is a requirement of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and it provides a road map of services for the current year. It is well aligned with the Board's long term strategic plan that corresponds to levy cycles. The current long term plan is for the period from 2013-2018.

The Annual Plan includes reference to primary mandates, current status, projected needs, goals and strategies for the year. The plan also includes assessment and implementation information for the three year period of 2016-2018.

The plan will be available for review on the FCBDD website at www.fcbdd.org.

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **ARC Industries** for your excellent work with the non-profit organization, **RestoringVision**, processing orders to distribute glasses, helping people in developing countries to see again.

Special thanks to **The Ohio State University Women's Club Toy-makers** for making and donating hundreds of soft dolls for the infants and toddlers served by the FCBDD Early Childhood Department.

ARC of Ohio again donated hundreds of toys for all the children served in the FCBDD Early Childhood Centers. We thank and sure appreciate **David Lewis**, who coordinated the entire effort.

Thanks to the **Information Technology Department** for recent upgrades of the Board's intranet site.

Staff again exceeded goals at the recent blood drive for the **American Red Cross**. Special thanks to **Jeff Baird** and **Mary Martin** for coordinating the blood drives.

Congratulations to the **Transportation Department** and all who helped, on the new bus exit on Johnstown Road to lessen congestion.



Special thanks to **Mike Boyce** and **Building Maintenance Crew**, who have done such excellent work renovating Northeast Center and the former ARC South building for alternative uses.

Congratulations to **Scot Gassen**, Training Specialist for the FCBDD Adult Services Department, who retired at the end of February.



Scot Gassen

Scot did excellent work as a training specialist at ARC South for over 18 years before transferring to ARC West for his last year and a half with Franklin County.

With a Master's degree in Fine Arts, Scot's group activities focused on adding beauty to ARC South. He has been involved in several Sunapple projects at ARC West, leading a painted mural project for Ohio Made, a ceramic sculpture "award" for the Nisonger Center and helping with "The Hero Within" exhibit at the Cultural Art Center to name just a few.

Thank you to Scot Gassen, and we wish you the best in your retirement!!

Career Milestones

35 Years

Nancy Karr
Sherri Noecker
Donna Tracy

30 Years

Anne Thomas

25 Years

Judy Cousins
Marva Lovely

20 Years

Scot Gassen
Eric Vazquez
Letitia Porter

15 Years

Stacie Meeks
Kathleen Wade

5 Years

Kenneth Gagen
Sondrous McDaniel
Karen Mills
Michele Sexton
Faith Stephens
Sheila Wakefield

Phone dialing changes

Effective

January 30, 2016

all phone calls now require dialing the area code *and* phone number

all 10 digits

And, new phone numbers will be assigned the new area code of '380'

FRANKLIN COUNTY "Provider Palooza"

All DD Waivers ~ All Services

Wednesday, March 30th
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 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)

Providers contact Joni Sparks at
joni.sparks@fcbdd.org.

Individuals & Parents contact your
FCBDD Service Coordinator or Alex
Corwin at alex.corwin@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/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

Calendar

February, 2016

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 6 Dancing with Our Stars Gala hosted by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) at Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center at 6 p.m., 1630 Schrock Rd. For more information please go to www.dsaco.net/gala.
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 15 Presidents' Day - all county facilities closed.
- 17 Family Support meeting with Superintendent/CEO Morison, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 22 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 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.

ARC Wellness & Healthy Lifestyles

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Exercise basics were taught at each site, then off we went to the YMCA to participate in a circuit training class, ride stationary bikes, and shoot hoops. Chair Yoga was experienced by all and we learned the benefits of stretching.

A celebration for these champions was the perfect completion to the program. They proudly wear their "I AM ARC WELLNESS" T-shirts. Please congratulate these amazing individuals!

