

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

DD Awareness and Advocacy

'What's Your Story' is the theme for this year's annual Developmental Disability Advocacy and Awareness Day to be held on March 8th.

This event will help to kick off DD Awareness Month, in which people will tell their unique stories to enlighten others about the capabilities and contributions of individuals who have developmental disabilities.

The Advocacy and Awareness Day is an annual event that has taken place over a decade at the Ohio Statehouse. A special ceremony will be held in the Statehouse Atrium at 10:00 a.m., followed by individual opportunities to speak with legislators. The purpose of the event is to educate and empower people with developmental disabilities, their family members and other community allies to come together on a single day to advocate for policy issues with legislators. Due to limited space, attendance will be limited to the first 450 people who register at <https://ddohio.wordpress.com>.



For additional details, contact Hillary Spears at Hillary.Spears@osumc.edu or call 1-888-685-9084.

Provider Palooza

'Provider Palooza' is the name of this year's Franklin County Provider Fair to be held on Wednesday, March 30th from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

Plans are being finalized for the fair, which will provide opportunities for people to visit providers of all DD Medicaid Waiver services. There is no cost for individuals and their family members to attend and free parking will be available next to the building.

Because so many Providers will be in attendance, the fair will again be held in the Lausche Building, located on 17th Avenue at I-71 on the State Fairgrounds.

Providers wanting to register or with questions can contact Joni Sparks at joni.sparks@fcbdd.org.

Individuals and family members can contact their Service Coordinator for details or Alex Corwin at alex.corwin@fcbdd.org.

In addition to learning more about the Providers and their services, the event is also a great opportunity to meet up with old friends. Entertainment on the stage is also planned.

Have fun at "Provider Palooza!!"

FRANKLIN COUNTY PROVIDER PALOOZA!

**Wednesday, March 30
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
Consumers & Family Members**

Adaptive Equip
Comm Inclusion
Integrated Emp
Supp Emp Enclave
Non Med Transportation
Community Respite
HPC

Transportation
Clinical Thera Interventions
Special Med Equip
Supp Emp Community
Home Modifications
Remote Monitoring
Voc-Hab

DD Waiver Services

Community Resources

Best Buddies opens state office

Columbus, OH, Feb. 4, 2016--- Best Buddies International, a groundbreaking nonprofit founded in 1989 by Anthony K. Shriver to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is excited to announce the opening of its newest office in the state of Ohio.

The Best Buddies Ohio office will be located in Columbus and will work to expand Best Buddies programs in schools and communities throughout the state while providing support to existing chapters in Ohio (Ohio State University, Miami University, University of Dayton, Grandview Heights High School, Hamilton High School, and Kings Run Middle School).

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to expand the Best Buddies mission of friendship and social inclusion throughout the state of Ohio," said Anthony K. Shriver, Founder and Chairman of Best Buddies International. "The team in Ohio has done an amazing job laying the foundation for their state office and I couldn't be more proud of them. Best Buddies programs of friendship, leadership development and integrated employment will undoubtedly create positive change for the thousands of people throughout the state of Ohio with intellectual and developmental disabilities."



Janet Callison was selected as State Director after spearheading efforts to open the office for the past two years. Callison was inspired to establish Best Buddies in Ohio because of her son, Silas, age 15 with Down syndrome. Beth Savage, FCBDD Board member serves as the Chair of the Best Buddies Ohio Advisory Board.

"Best Buddies brings out the best in all of us. The organization was founded on the premise that each one of us, no matter our abilities, has what it takes to be a friend, a classmate, a co-worker and a valued member of their community," said Callison. "Because of the generosity of people throughout the state, the diligent leadership of our Expansion Board, and the support of Best Buddies International, Best Buddies Ohio can now facilitate opportunities that will absolutely change lives."

The opening of the state office will be celebrated at the upcoming Best Buddies Ohio Gala "OH! What a Night!" on April 16, 2016 at the Ohio Statehouse.

Early Intervention legislation

The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities are pursuing legislation to change lead agency status to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

While the two state departments have worked together for many years, the bifurcated nature of the current system has resulted in some confusion. This transition is designed to improve communication with as little disruption as possible. Diane Fox will oversee the new technical assistance/ training team.

According to John Martin, Director of DODD and Rick Hodges, Director of ODH, "the Help Me Grow Advisory Council and EI Stakeholder group will continue to meet and advise on federally mandated Part C work and this transition." Comments and suggestions can be directed to Kim Hauck (kim.hauck@dodd.ohio.gov) of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Employment First grant

The FCBDD adult services department has been selected along with four other providers in Ohio to receive a grant from The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and Employment First.

The grant, called the Integrated Community Support Start-up Grant, will provide funding to assist the Adult Services Department in the transition from facility to community-based service supports over the next several years. It will fund a process of present to future state mapping which will lay out a "roadmap" of transition action steps and timelines for the department. The grant will also support the development of a demonstration project to serve as a model for individualized community-based day services as well as for the transition of facility-based adult services staff to community-based service supports.

Bob Gaston, Director of Adult Services commented that "we are pleased to have been selected to participate in this opportunity to create positive change in the supports provided by FCBDD for people here in Franklin County."

Employment discussed at OSDA

City and State officials attended a recent meeting of the Central Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) to discuss employment issues.

Newly elected Columbus City Council member Michael Stinziano indicated he came to listen and hear concerns. Councilman Stinziano was previously a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, where he provided active support of Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) and other legislative initiatives.

Zach Haughwout and Tom Hess represented the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to seek feedback and to provide guidance on paths to employment. Kristen Helling, Assistant Deputy Director of BVR with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provided additional insights on how to work with OOD or BVR counselors who can assist with employment.

Self-Advocates shared their personal stories and provided state officials with their suggestions on supports that are needed. Some emphasized the importance of having support to secure employment as well as the importance of providing individuals with choice to pursue their interests.

The Central Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) typically meets on the first Wednesday of the month. For additional details on OSDA, email Christine Brown at christi6288@columbus.rr.com.



Representatives of the city and state present at OSDA meeting. Left to right are Christine Brown, Councilman Michael Stinziano, Tom Hess, Kristen Helling and Zach Haughwout.

Nisonger celebrates 50 years!!

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2016!

Nisonger Center has been working to improve the lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through education, research and service for 5 decades. To mark this milestone, Nisonger will host a very special 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 5:30pm-9:00pm at the Ohio Union.

Representative David J. Leland - District 22 of The Ohio House of Representatives - 131st General Assembly, will serve as the Honorary Chair for the event. David's father, Dr. Henry Leland (1923-2013), was a world renown Professor of Psychology and Chief of Psychology at the Ohio State Nisonger Center.

This evening of celebration will include several special guests, including Andrew J. Imparato, JD (Executive Director, Association of University Centers on Disabilities), a special performance by Josh Blue (winner of NBC Last Comic Standing - <http://www.joshblue.com/>), plated dinner, silent auction, wine-pull and music & mingling with friends of Nisonger. Nisonger also plans to share stories of former faculty, staff, students, trainees, as well as a few touching stories from families who have received services at Nisonger Center. If you have a story or memory of being at Nisonger Center that you would like to share, visit Nisonger's interactive blog site: <http://u.osu.edu/nisongercenter50thanniversary/>.

More information about this important event and other 50th Anniversary events will be available at: www.nisonger.osu.edu.

If you have ideas for silent auction items/donations, a potential sponsor or if you want to volunteer your time for Nisonger, please contact: Tamara Hager at tamara.hager@osumc.edu or 1-855-982-9955 (toll-free).



High marks for school meals

West Central School's meals program underwent an Administrative Review by representatives of the Ohio Department of Education in January as part of the USDA School Meals Program.

Besides reviewing supporting documentation, the consultants observed the food preparation and meal service, both in the cafeteria and classrooms. They found all aspects of the program, from the paper work to the delivery of the meals to the students, to be well organized and in full compliance of the Federal standards.

Kudos to the cooks, office staff, teachers, administrators and Nutrition Services staff, that work diligently every day to feed our students, for making this a "spectacular review experience" as was written by one of the consultants.

Superintendent Morison stated that "special credit goes to Berni Thurn, Dietician for her excellent work and to our outstanding cooks at West Central. Lee Masterson and Carol Weaver do great work every day."

'WHAT COMES NEXT' workshop

Goodwill Columbus will host a workshop to help families understand their role in helping persons with disabilities transition into adulthood.

'What Comes Next' will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 9:00am to 12:30pm at 1331 Edgehill Road, Columbus, Ohio.

All are invited to this Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus annual workshop with presenters;

- Anne Russell from Franklin County Board of Development Disabilities
- Meg Griffing of COVA (Center Of Vocational Alternative)
- Tiffany Martin, senior director of Residential Services at Goodwill Columbus.
- Derek Graham attorney with the law firm Onda, LaBurn Rankin & Boggs

The workshop will include a parent - child panel that will provide insights into how to help a person with disabilities live within the community.

The cost for up to two family members is \$10. Refreshments, a valuable take-home reference folder and a DVD on 'Building an Independent Life' will be provided.

To register contact Pat Karshner at networkffn@gmail.com, or call 614-885-2291.



Congratulations to Community Connections

Congratulations to Community Connections, operated by ADD (Association for Developmentally Disabled), for providing people with opportunities to find meaningful activities that they are passionate about and can be enjoyed on their own time.

Community Connections looks for ways to support people's interests and activities that lead to increased independence, self-assurance and that build on existing skills. One such story is about Paul Amaya.

Ashwni Dandaykar, a Community Connection Recreation Specialist, took a group horseback riding at the Autumn Rose Farms. The owner and instructor, Mr. Ollie Griffith, noticed how easily Paul Amaya takes to horses and how much the horses are comfortable around Paul. Mr. Griffith also mentioned that Paul has a natural inclination and physique to learn horseback riding.

Noticing a wonderful opportunity, Ashwni started the journey by talking with Paul about continuing horseback riding at Autumn Rose Farms. Paul showed great interest and so together with Paul's mother a plan was developed.

Ollie Griffith is also excited about Paul continuing classes. Ashwni stated that the big payoff for Paul was his "complete happiness." Paul continues to pursue his passion every Saturday.



Paul Amaya

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Bob Gaston, Director of Adult Services and CEO of ARC Industries, has been re-elected to the Board of the Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS). Bob recently provided **Douglas Herlensky**, new Director of OAAS, with a tour and explanation of FCBDD Adult Services.

Congratulations to **Art Newton**, Mechanic for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on a well-deserved retirement. Special thanks for all your work, Art, helping to keep the fleet of vehicles safe all these years!



Art Newton

Goodwill Columbus, in collaboration with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has successfully moved their Work and Community Services program from the Hague Avenue building to "The Learning Center at Groveport," formerly the ARC South building on Marketing Place. Congratulations to all involved!

Special thanks to **Robert Newman**, ARC West, for helping with the program year calendars. Robert assists every year and on more than one occasion has corrected errors. Thank you Robert!!

The ARC Industries Board has appointed an Ad Hoc committee to work with **Bob Gaston**, CEO of ARC Industries and Adult Services Director, on plans related to privatization of adult services, as required by rules of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Thanks to **Gary Coats**, **Ray Lawton**, **Bob Belz**, and **Clark Mount-Campbell** for your leadership.

Career Milestones

35 Years

Donald Crabtree

30 Years

Tamara Brauner
Patricia Davis
Melissa Draughn

25 Years

Robert Garrett
Colleen Ziemba

15 Years

Marc Anglin
Debra Patzer
Jason Justice
Carleen Mortimer
Grace Terry
Cameron Underdown
Faye Williams

10 Years

Jane Clore
Jennifer Cunningham
Susanna Dillon
Jessica Hudson
Kathy Parsley
Kristy Schuyler
Michelle McKinney
Maria Willis

5 Years

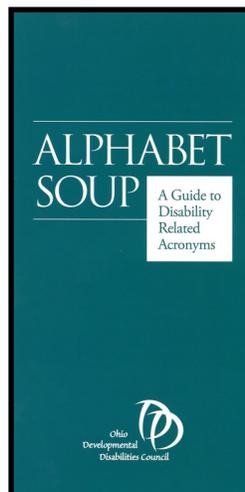
Lindsey Allen
Jessica Bonham
Marian Walker

Alphabet soup/ Acronyms defined

Have you ever attended a meeting or had a discussion where people use acronyms and you were afraid to ask what they mean?

Well, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has just the right publication for you. "Alphabet Soup" is a comprehensive booklet that lists hundreds of acronyms and their meaning in alphabetical order. It is a guide to disability related acronyms.

For a copy, contact the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council at 800-766-7426 or if you are a person or family served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, contact Linda Fleming at Linda.Fleming@fcbdd.org or call (614) 342-5950.



"Quotable Quote"

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.

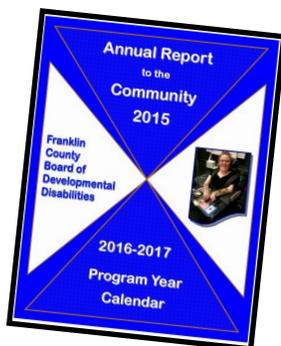
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Annual Report available

The 2015 Annual Report and 2016/2017 program year calendar is now available.

The report provides details on the successes of 2015 and updates the reader on services and finances of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

For a copy of the report, contact Linda Fleming at linda.fleming@fcbdd.org. The report will also be placed on the web site: www.fcbdd.org.



Provider First Council

People First of Ohio will hold their annual conference on April 28th through 30th at the Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio.

"The Power to Say No to Abuse is Strong Within Me" is the theme of this year's conference. Registration cost of \$185.00 includes all meals.

For additional details, visit www.peoplefirstohio.org.

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

Calendar

March, 2016

- 8 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff, Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 10 a.m.
- 9 Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 12 "What Comes Next" workshop hosted by Goodwill Columbus, 1331 Edgehill Rd., 9:00 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 20 World Down Syndrome Day, Bosco Center, 80 S. 6th St., for event details go to www.dsaco.net or call (614) 263-6020.
- 21 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 23 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 24 FCBDD Board In-Service, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:00 p.m.
- 24 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5:00 p.m.
- 25 Staff Development Day
- 28-4/1 Spring Recess for ECE and West Central Schools. Classes resume on April 4th.
- 30 "Provider Palooza", Franklin County Provider Fair held at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, Lausche Building on 17th Ave., 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

March Family Support Meeting

The March Family Support meeting is rescheduled to March 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Family members are welcome to hear updates from the Superintendent and to provide suggestions.

The meeting will be held at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus.