

Ohio becomes Technology First state

Gov. John Kasich signed the Technology First executive order May 24, making Ohio the first state in the country to place an emphasis on expanding access to technology for people with developmental disabilities.

"As we have worked in Ohio to renew economic growth and prosperity, we have made it a priority to leave no one behind -- including those with developmental disabilities," Gov. John Kasich said.

"The advancements we are seeing in technology with remote monitoring and advanced sensors are helping improve the way we care for those with disabilities and significantly improve the quality of life and increase independence for many. We can and should put these breakthroughs to work for the Ohioans who need them."

John Martin, director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, said Ohio is a national leader in technology.

"We have more folks using remote technology, we think, than any other state in the United States," Martin said. "We have come a long way since being the first state to have it in our waiver, to where we are today."



Governor Kasich signs
Technology First
Executive Order

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Opioid prevention campaign

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has officially joined the Ohio Opioid Education Alliance in support of a county and statewide effort to prevent opioid use among young people.

This community prevention campaign was introduced to the public on June 19 with a preview of television and digital ads that highlight how we must not deny that this is just someone else's problem.

David Royer, CEO of the ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health) Board of Franklin County has said that this problem impacts every zip code in our county and cuts across all socio-economic levels and cultures.

The Nationwide Insurance Foundation is contributing 2 million dollars to support this effort to prevent the next generation from becoming addicted or dying due to opioids.

Chad Jester, President of the Nationwide Foundation is providing leadership for the campaign and advises parents, grandparents, coaches and others to talk to youth about this. Resources are available at <https://DontLiveinDenial.org>.



The ads speak of a town called "Denial, Ohio" and feature parents denying that their child would ever get mixed up with drugs or opioids. If parents are in denial or don't talk to their children about this, they may find it is too late someday.

In addition to heroin, opioids also include common prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin. If misused or abused, these drugs can cause severe harm and high risks of dependency, addiction and overdose. Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are sometimes mixed into heroin and pills. Deaths from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids rose 72% in just one year.

Protect the next generation! According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, when parents talk to their kids about the dangers of drugs, they can cut the risk of abuse in half.

While many Ohioans with developmental disabilities face obstacles in their daily activities, as well as in accessing education and jobs, this effort to expand access to technology offers people an opportunity to experience independence and personal freedom, while improving their quality of life.

Under the executive order, Ohio will work with county boards of developmental disabilities to ensure technology is considered as part of all service and support plans for people with disabilities. People and their families can explore how supportive technology can enable them to be more productive and included in their community.

Many new technologies that support people to be more independent include devices that engage in two-way communication or provide step-by-step assistance. For example, some devices may help a person maintain a routine or schedule, provide instructions on how and when to prepare a meal, or help them access public transportation. Devices are often items like apps, cellphones, smart tablets, and smart speakers.

The executive order is not a technology-only policy. Instead, the goal is to help people learn more about how to use technology to better their lives.

Personal relationships are an essential part of caring for people with developmental disabilities, and technology can never replace human interaction. However, by increasing the use of technology, Ohio can help address the challenge of recruiting and retaining direct service providers who serve in the disability field.

As the demand for direct service providers is projected to increase, technology is one tool that can help support and supplement those who do the critical work of caring for people with disabilities.

Anthony Hartley to join ARC Industries team

Bob Gaston, CEO of ARC Industries has announced that Anthony Hartley will serve as Chief Operating and Financial Officer for ARC Industries.



Anthony has served for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the past year in the role of Director of Community Transportation Services, where he has led the effort to transition to a new transportation service for adults.

Adult transportation is in the process of shifting to ARC Industries with use of smaller vans rather than school buses. Anthony will continue to support FCBDD and ARC Industries transportation operations throughout the balance of 2018.

According to Bob Gaston, "Anthony comes to the position with excellent credentials, including serving as Chief Executive Officer for the Association for Developmentally Disabled (Add) and Chief Financial Officer for Goodwill Columbus. His understanding of our services makes him the perfect fit for the future of ARC Industries."

Anthony began transitioning to his new responsibilities in June, while he continues to guide overall transportation operations through 2018.

Stephen Pleasnick recognized

Stephen G. Pleasnick, former Superintendent of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) from 1973-1999, has stepped down from his position as a Board member for the Ohio Special Olympics.

According to Jed Morison, current Superintendent of FCBDD, "Steve has been a guiding force for Special Olympics and athletic/ recreational services for individuals with disabilities for over 54 years. He was one of the founding members of the Ohio Athletic Association for the Mentally Retarded, as it was called in 1964. He joined Jimmy Crum, Sonny DeLong and Dr. Walt Ersing in 1964 to start the Association."

In 1973, the "Ohio Athletic Association for the Mentally Retarded" was accredited to run Special Olympics in Ohio and later the name was changed to Special Olympics Ohio. Steve volunteered for 54 years and has seen the programs evolve from a track and field meet to a multi-sport, year round and inclusive athletic and recreational program.

Steve attends the Ohio Special Olympics Games annually, and attended the first National Special Olympics held in Chicago in 1968.

Steve was recognized by Special Olympics Ohio at the State Games in June held at The Ohio State University.



Congratulations to Stephen G. Pleasnick!

Busy finish to school year

Editor's note: Prom, 40th Anniversary Celebration and Graduation Ceremonies made for a busy May at West Central School. We thought our readers would enjoy pictures from all the events.



Keena Smith, Deputy Administrator for the Franklin County Commissioners' Office presented a Resolution to Dr. Maryalice Turner commending West Central on their 40 Year Anniversary Celebration.



Nura Abdulrahman graduates from West Central School - Congratulations!



Asha Dimery and Isaac Talbert enjoy Mardi Gras prom festivities.



Special Olympics update

It has been a busy summer for Franklin County Special Olympics with fund raising and the state games in Ohio, followed by the USA Games in Seattle, Washington. On June 2, 2018, Franklin County Special Olympics athletes played in an exhibition game at MAPFRE Stadium during the halftime of the Crew SC match against Toronto FC.

On June 4, 2018, Morgan Stanley again sponsored a golf outing, which serves as the main fundraiser for Franklin County Special Olympics.

On June 22-24, 2018, over 100 Special Olympians represented Franklin County in the Ohio Special Olympics, held at The Ohio State University. And, in the first week of July, Franklin County was represented in Seattle, Washington at the USA Games. Ryan Phillips, Coordinator of the Franklin County Special Olympics was selected as Ohio's track coach for the USA Games.

In October, our Special Olympics Unified soccer team will join the Columbus Crew for an exhibition game in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations to Franklin County Special Olympians.



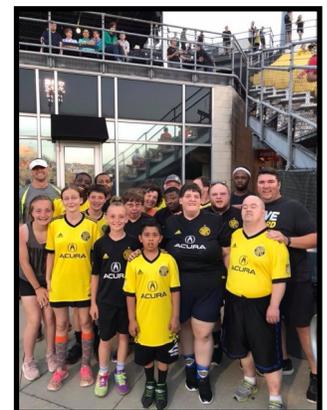
2018 Special Olympics Summer Games at The Ohio State University.



Coach Ryan, Jabari, Maggie, Ian, Abby, Coach Randi at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington.



Members of Team Ohio with Coach Ryan Phillips at the Special Olympics - USA Games in Seattle, Washington.



Franklin County Special Olympics athletes played an exhibition soccer game during halftime of the Crew SC vs. Toronto FC match at MAPFRE Stadium on June 2nd.



Provider Guide Plus launched

ProviderGuidePlus, a new resource to rate and review Providers has been launched in Ohio.

Similar to 'Angie's List,' *ProviderGuidePlus* provides a platform for individuals or family members to rate or comment on their Providers. The website is specific to Providers of individuals with developmental disabilities and it includes information on all Ohio Medicaid Home and Community Based Providers who are certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.



The Provider listing is organized by county, or one can simply look up the Provider by name. This is an excellent resource for individuals looking for a Provider.

The website was developed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards and the Ohio Provider Resource Association. Cuyahoga, Knox and Coshocton County Boards of Developmental Disabilities pilot tested the new website for the past three years.

The steps to use ProviderGuidePlus are as follows:

- Go to www.ProviderGuidePlus.com
- Click "Find, Rate, or Review Provider."
- Type the name of your provider in the search box.
- Click "Add an Anonymous Review" on the provider's profile page.
- You will be prompted to create an account. Creating an account is simple and be assured that your review will remain anonymous. When you want to make additional reviews, you will log-on using your account information.
- Rate and review your provider based on the services you receive from them.
- Indicate whether or not you would recommend your provider.

House-hunting: What to look for in an accessible home

Editor's note: Special thanks to Patrick Young, who wrote the following article on accessible housing.

If you or a loved one are living with a disability, it is important to find a home that has safety and accessibility in mind. It is not always easy to find such a home on the market, however, especially when you are on a budget. Older homes often require doorways to be widened to allow for wheelchairs and other medical equipment, while many newer homes have basements and stairs that make motion difficult for individuals with mobility issues.

When looking for a new home, it is important to have a list in mind of features you cannot live without. Updates to the bathrooms and kitchen are often important since these are the rooms that often need a little help when it comes to being accessible. It is also a good idea to do your research so you're knowledgeable about the homes in your area and their price ranges; this will allow you to set a budget early on, which is important when you're house-hunting.

Keep reading for some great tips on how to find the perfect accessible home.

Start with Size: Size is very important when it comes to finding a home that meets your specific needs. If you use a wheelchair or other large equipment for mobility, you won't want to have to navigate stairs; on the other hand, you may need adequate space to maneuver the equipment around furniture and through doorways. A home that's single-story may be too small for your needs unless it has an open floor plan, so do some research on the available homes in your area. When working on a budget, keep in mind that the average listing price for a home in Columbus, Ohio, is \$175,000.

Check the Bathroom: Accessible bathrooms should start with a step-in shower that has a seat, grab-bars, and non-slip flooring. You may also want a showerhead that can be removed and has a long hose, but these can be bought at any home improvement store and added later. If you spend much of your time in a wheelchair, you may also want countertops that are lower than average so that you can comfortably reach the sink.

Look for a utility room: Many homes have a basement space where the washer and dryer, hot water heater, and fuse box are kept. Look for a house that has a utility room on the main floor so that if you have to access these important items, you won't have to maneuver downstairs to use them or address any issues. This is a great way to stay independent and safe.

Accessible Front Door: You can always make small changes around the house, but you will want to look for a home that has a great exterior as well as the perfect interior. This means an easily accessible front porch (perhaps with a ramp) with smooth concrete and no trip hazards. The sidewalk or driveway should be as level as possible and free of landscaping that could pose a threat to your mobility. You might also think about looking for a home that has a mailbox installed near the front door instead of by the street. Talk to the local post office to find out their letter-carrier policy before adding one yourself.

Finding the perfect accessible home doesn't have to be difficult or stressful; it just takes some careful planning and a bit of research. Talk to a realtor who can help you look for all the things you need, and look online to find out if you qualify for grants or special loans that will help you finance any modifications you need to make.

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to Joe Kyte and Chris Reese for providing ALICE training to staff representing different departments of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate and provides guidance on how to proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter.





Congratulations to Margaret Burley, Executive Director of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities on a well-deserved retirement after over 50 years of service advocating for children with special needs. Margaret is pictured with Frank New, former Director of Special Education for Ohio and former FCBDD staff member. Frank recognized Margaret at the annual Horn/Walter Awards luncheon, which will be renamed the Horn/Walter/Burley awards and will include special recognition of a parent every year.

Congratulations to *The Traveling ARCBerries* singing group from ARC North for excellent performances to various audiences!



Special thanks to Graystone Consulting, a business of Morgan Stanley for another Golf Outing to benefit Franklin County Special Olympics. A very special thanks to Jennifer Hamant, who again volunteered to coordinate the fundraiser. Pictured are Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Programs, Jennifer Hamant and Ryan Phillips, Franklin County Special Olympics Director.



Career Milestones

30 years

Michael Butchko
Theresa Doughty
Sonya Hall
Susan Lee
Patrice Sorenson
Robert Williams

25 years

Jacqueline Boyle
Sue Heischman
Darla Hodo
David Miller

20 years

Martha Higgins
Toby Paine

15 years

Jacqueline Batts
Elizabeth Baumhackl
April Brehob
Linda Masterson
Mary Sevy
Haley Simpson
Melissa Wickham

10 years

Rockson Asare
Beth Droese
Christie Fletcher
Ann Guthrie
Andrea Lyle
Linda Monroe
Levi Pryor
Dale Pugh
Megan Sheumaker
Robin White
Jeanette Wehrle

5 years

Adrionne Bridges
Abbie Lawhorn
Fred Mounts
Brendan Shanahan
Ashley Voss



Guardian Training offered at FCBDD

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) will be a host site for the Ohio Supreme Court's guardian training. All guardians of adults are required to initially take a 6-hour training and then complete a 3-hour continuing education requirement annually.

FCBDD will offer the web broadcast of the 6-hour Course: "Fundamentals of Adult Guardianship" on August 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

For more details or to register for the six-hour session, please call Angie Franke at 614-342-5972.

FCFCFC has moved to:

Franklin County
Family and Children First Council

**2760 Airport Drive
Suite 130A
Columbus, Ohio 43219**

**Main# 614-407-9040
Fax# 614-351-2010**

*Jane Whyde, Executive Director
Julle Buzard, Assistant Executive Director*

Dateline

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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

July, 2018

- 16 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, 2780 Airport Drive, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 19 ECE Summer Center programs end.
- 19 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources and Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 19 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

August, 2018

- 3 School-age Transition to Work Summer Programs end.
- 20 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, 2780 Airport Drive, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/ Development Day.
- 22 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 22-24 ECE Program Service Days – Parent Visitation (No Transportation).
- 23 Guardianship 6-Hour Training, 2879 Johnstown Road, 8:30 a.m., contact Angie Franke at 614-342-5972 for details
- 27 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

Auction planned - August 25

A surplus auction of mostly used office furniture and other items, will be held on Saturday, August 25, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at 2201 Advance Avenue. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

