

Stability efforts continue

Stability in services and staffing continue to be themes as the Board focuses on long term budgeting at the start of a levy period.

2019 is the first year of this 10-year levy period which will extend through 2028. The Board is committed to make every effort to not return to the ballot until this levy expires. Because the voters approved a renewal levy, rather than an increase in 2017, long term and careful budgeting will be required to allow for continued stability.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "Long term planning is not new to us. With continued belt-tightening efforts we can gradually reduce expenditures in certain areas over a 10 year period, rather than drastic cuts as we approach the end of the levy period in 2028."

Belt-tightening efforts may result in small increases to class sizes, slightly longer bus routes or adjustments to caseloads. Other examples might include a review of county funded therapies, research on alternative revenue sources, increased use of technology to enhance independence and safety, review of partnership agreements, etc.

Superintendent/CEO Morison stated that "we are stable now and want this to continue as we plan for the long term. We are fortunate to have community support for our services and we are committed to fulfilling commitments made during the 2017 levy campaign."

Individuals, families and staff who have suggestions for reducing expenses or securing other revenue can be sent to Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities at dot.yeager@fcbdd.org.

The times are changing *by Jack Beatty*

It is undeniable that your life has been fundamentally influenced by technology regardless how reluctant a traveler you are in this world of fast paced change and innovation. Cell phones, computers, microwaves, smart house devices, laser surgeries, self-driving cars are but a few examples of developments that have changed the way we communicate and conduct our day to day affairs. However, it is only in comparatively recent times that there has been increased focus on the application of technologies to assist individuals with developmental disabilities.



Initially, design work was centered on home accessibility modifications, mechanized/custom wheelchairs, and communication devices. Later, parents of children with autism stimulated the production of applications that could help enhance communication ability. But in the last few years, improvement and expansion of various devices and technologies has increased exponentially. The aim of all of this is to provide alternatives to interested individuals that can both increase their independence and their safety.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), under the Technology First Executive Order, is working with County Boards to ensure that technology opportunities will be discussed as a part of all service and support plans for individuals. Service Coordinators in Franklin County will soon begin talking about options during planning meetings for interested persons. In general these technologies can be paid for through Medicaid Waivers. For funding purposes, DODD has divided technological devices and services into four categories; Remote Supports, Assistive Technology, Goods and Services, and Environmental Accessibility Modifications.

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March is DD Awareness Month

where we celebrate the capabilities and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Know your legislators

The November election and term limits brought about a number of changes to the Franklin County legislators in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate.

Several of the new legislators have recently visited the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to learn more about services and eligibility for services. Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison and Rebecca Love, Director of Early Childhood Education also provided a tour of the Early Childhood Education and Family Center located on Johnstown Road.

According to Superintendent/CEO Morison, "we are fortunate to have excellent legislators in Franklin County who maintain a strong interest in our services."

Senators



Senator
Hearcel Craig



Senator
Stephanie Kunze



Senator
Tina Maharath

Senators:

Tina Maharath	District 3	614-466-8064
Hearcel Craig	District 15	614-466-5131
Stephanie Kunze	District 16	614-466-5981

State Representatives



State Representative
Kristin Boggs



State Representative
Richard Brown



State Representative
Erica Crawley



State Representative
Bernadine Kent



State Representative
Laura Lanese



State Representative
David Leland



State Representative
Mary Lightbody



State Representative
Beth Liston



State Representative
Adam Miller



State Representative
Allison Russo

State Representatives:

Adam Miller	District 17	614-644-6005
Kristin Boggs	District 18	614-466-1896
Mary Lightbody	District 19	614-466-4847
Richard Brown	District 20	614-644-6002
Beth Liston	District 21	614-644-6030

David Leland	District 22	614-466-2473
Laura Lanese	District 23	614-466-9690
Allison Russo	District 24	614-466-8012
Bernadine Kent	District 25	614-466-5343
Erica Crawley	District 26	614-466-8010

Legislative Advocacy Day

Plans are continuing for the Central Ohio Legislative Advocacy Day to be held on Friday, April 5th at Bixby Center, 4200 Bixby Road in Groveport, Ohio 43125.

This will be the fourth Legislative Advocacy Day hosted by the Self-Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD). Franklin County has ten State Representatives and three Senators who will be invited. Legislators from

other counties and state officials will also be invited to hear from self-advocates from Franklin and surrounding counties.

Christine Brown, member of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council and Clinical Research Assistant at Nisonger Center is coordinating the event. FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison will also assist with introductions.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with remarks from Christine and

introductions of the legislators. Self-Advocates will then have an opportunity to offer suggestions. Guests can begin arriving at 10:00 a.m.

It is expected that the biennium budget priorities for the next two years will be a topic of discussion.

For details on the event, contact Christine Brown at 614-329-4560 or christine.brown@osumc.edu.

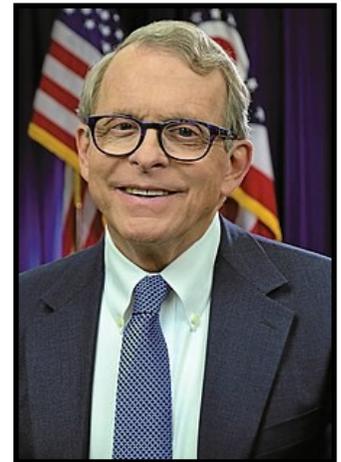
Governor adopts Executive Order on Disability Inclusion

Governor Mike DeWine has adopted an Executive Order on Disability Inclusion, to highlight the importance of employment of individuals with disabilities.

The resolution established Ohio as a Disability Inclusion State and model employer of individuals with disabilities and authorizes the appointment of a State ADA (Americans with Disability Act) Coordinator, who will be responsible for advising all state agencies and departments of disability policy and compliance with state and federal disability rights laws.

The Executive Order (#2019-03D) further requires each state agency to review hiring practices to identify and eliminate barriers to employment of individuals who have disabilities. The Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the State ADA Coordinator will also ensure that all state employees participate in regular disability etiquette and awareness training to build and sustain a culture of inclusion in the workplace.

Governor DeWine signed this and five other Executive Orders on his first day in office on January 14, 2019.



*Governor
Mike DeWine*

Text to 911 now available Call If You Can, Text If You Can't

After more than two years of work and cooperation between the county and its jurisdictions, Franklin County residents can now send text messages to 911 dispatchers - with one very key caveat. "If a person has the choice between calling or texting 911 centers throughout Franklin County, please **call if you can and text if you can't**," said Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown, who chairs the county-wide 911 Planning Committee.

"Calling is better than texting because emergency dispatchers can get more immediate answers to questions from callers, listen for distress in voices, and learn background information that could assist first responders in a potentially life-threatening emergency."

Still, Commissioner Brown is very excited about the new text-to-911 technology, and the work that so many central Ohio agencies put in to make it a reality. She knows the new text-to-911 service will greatly assist the deaf community, as well as those who may be in a domestic violence situation, are hiding, or simply cannot make a phone call.

Safety agencies throughout Franklin County collaborated to share 911 systems and develop partnerships to improve emergency service delivery for all Franklin County residents.

The 911 dispatcher will see Text-to-911 messages in a similar fashion to what shows up on a smart-phone text chain and have the ability to text back specific questions to the sender. With this in mind, agencies jointly developed pre-programmed responses aimed to address the text emergencies they receive and quickly ask for key information.



*Franklin County
Commissioner
Marilyn Brown*



Text-to-911 works on cell phones, tablets and other devices with the capability of sending texts. Text-to-911 service is subject to cell signal availability and not every text sent will be received – another reason why those attempting to contact 911 should **call when they can and text when they cannot**. In the event a text does not go through, the person attempting to use Text-to-911 will receive an automated bounce-back message indicating the text's failure to be delivered.

For more information about the new Text-to-911 service, go to www.text911.franklincounty.ohio.gov.

Table of Organization changes

With the retirement of Marcy Samuel, Director of Program Operations for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, changes have been made in the table of organization.

Recognizing the personnel and other agency changes that have transpired over the past several years and in an effort to reduce expenditures as we begin this new 10 year levy period, it has been decided that the Director of Program Operations position will not be filled. Rather, her responsibilities will be shifted to existing administrative personnel.

Dr. Angela Ray, Director of Psychology Services will report to Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer. Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Services and Becky Love, Director of Early Childhood will report directly to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison and Bill Ryan, Director of Transportation Operations will report to Jack Brownley.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "We will sure miss Marcy, but we also recognize that we need to get through the next 10 years without an increase in levy dollars. To maintain stability in services and staffing it is important that we

continue to adjust as changes come about. We will continue to look at ways to save or alternative revenue sources so we can maintain quality services."

When the levy was passed in November, 2017, it was clear that this was a renewal levy, not an increase. This means that services to an increasing number of people must be provided with no extra levy funds. Long term budgeting will allow for continued stability, although it might require some adjustments over time.

Jennifer Schueneman recognized

Jennifer Schueneman, Controller for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, recently received countywide recognition with the 'Circle of Excellence' award.

The award is presented each year to one of the County agencies or Departments for excellence with their Combined Charitable campaign. For the 2018 year, Jennifer and the Board of Developmental Disabilities were selected.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "Jennifer did an outstanding job coordinating the campaign during a particularly challenging year with the transition of staff to ARC Industries. Even with all this and her other day to day responsibilities, she still exceeded our goal by over 20%."

Jennifer credits all her Department Coordinators for the success of the campaign. She states, "it is because of all of their hard work the campaign was a success."

Congratulations to Jennifer Schueneman, all the Coordinators and the entire staff for generous support to help others through the Combined Charitable Campaign.

Jennifer Schueneman, holding the 'Circle of Excellence' plaque for Combined Charities, is pictured with (left to right) Lillian Williams Purkey, Treasurer's Office; Robin Ross Dever, Commissioners' Office; Deana Gordon, United Way; Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO, and Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer, FCBDD.



Baseball for all - Buddy Ball



The Buddy Ball League of Grove City provides individuals with unique needs the opportunity to participate in America's favorite past time... Baseball.

Through modified equipment, rules, and playing field, players with developmental, intellectual, and physical challenges do not face the barriers they would on a traditional baseball team. With the help of a "Buddy" (a typically developing peer/adult), players can enjoy all aspects of the game.

Buddy Ball registration started in January and the season runs from early May to July. The fee per participant is \$30. Scholarships are available for those in need.

The Mirolo Dream Field at Mount Carmel Stadium is located at 3400 Ventura Blvd., Grove City, Ohio 43123.

For more information on participating or volunteering to be a 'buddy', contact:

Website: www.gcdreamfield.com

Email: gc.buddyball@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gcbuddyball

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks and congratulations to Nevalyn Nevil, on 20 years of volunteer service as a Board member for Creative Housing/Creative Renovations. Nevalyn attended her last Board meeting on January 23, 2019, where she was recognized by Patrick Rafter and the Board and given a personalized Creative Housing ball cap. Thank you Nevalyn for your service to Creative Housing and this community!



Thank you to Sarah Gillilan for lending excellent photography skills and taking pictures of Legislators who recently visited the FCBDD Early Childhood Center.

Thank you to the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council for coordinating the Legislative Advocacy Day, which will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at the Bixby Center in Groveport, Ohio.

Congratulations to Jennifer Schueneman, Controller for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and recent Chair of the Combined Charitable Campaign for being the recipient of this year's Circle of Excellence Award for the outstanding campaign. The award was presented in a surprise ceremony held in the Courthouse.

Career Milestones

30 Years

Marianne Westbrook

15 Years

**Leonard Fears
Suzanne Flowers
Kim Treece**

10 Years

**Scott Holbrook
Lisa McKinley
Toni Noble
Timothy Voigt**

5 Years

Joseph Francik



The times are changing *(continued from Page 1)*

Examples of these technologies include: cameras with two way communication ability to speak with off-site staff, sensors to detect falls, GPS location devices, voice activated door locks, various programs to facilitate OT/PT/Speech therapies, automatic flush toilets, automated window blinds, video doorbells, induction stoves that are not hot to the touch, motion sensors, home security monitoring, devices that provide verbal reminders. The list goes on. There are providers who are currently exploring two way communication devices that can assist an individual with routine issues they have on the job. The individual taps an icon on their touch screen and a familiar staff voice responds with a solution which can include a live phone call. Some providers are custom designing hardware to meet the unique needs of the individual. Innovative and exciting possibilities are quickly evolving.

As you might guess, some of this technology is quite complex. It can be difficult to explain clearly and simply. To help with this, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) is constructing a Technology Lab at West Central School which will be an apartment like setting. Technological devices can be installed there and demonstrated. Training can also be provided to potential users. Families and individuals will have opportunity to see examples of technology in action in a real world setting.

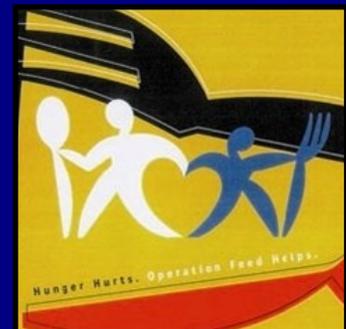
Additionally, between September and December of 2018, FCBDD sponsored a mini-grant program for assistive technology. A maximum amount of \$200 was available from the Board with a mandatory 25% contribution from the applicant. The idea was to stimulate the creative use of devices that could help individuals. The program was very well received and participants will be reporting results.

If you want more information, you can consult the DODD website or the websites of the companies providing Remote Support and Assistive Technology services. Perhaps the best place to begin is with the FCBDD Service Coordinator assigned to the individual.

March is the month for Operation Feed

FCBDD staff, individuals served and families have long opened their hearts to provide strong support of Operation Feed.

Every Dollar donated provides Four Meals.



Guardianship training offered

Approved training for guardians will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 2879 Johnstown Road.

This three-hour training has been approved by the Ohio Judicial College to meet the annual 3 hour requirement for guardians. The topic is "Government Benefits."

To register for the training, contact Angie Franke at 614-342-5972 or email angela.franke@fcbdd.org. There is no charge and seats will be reserved on a first come first serve basis.



Calendar

March, 2019

- 5 Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day at Ohio Statehouse, 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 10 a.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 20 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 10:00 a.m.
- 24 World Down Syndrome Day Celebration, The Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, for event details go to www.dsaco.net or call (614) 263-6020.
- 28 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Human Resources, Ethics and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4:00 p.m.
- 28 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 5:00 p.m.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

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

Provider Fair

"Your Provider, Your Choice" is the theme for the 2019 Franklin County Provider Fair that will be held on April 3, 2019 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Over 150 waiver providers and community resources are expected to be in attendance for individuals and family members to meet. Residential, transportation and day service providers are all expected.

The Fair will be held at the Lausche Building, at the Ohio State Fairgrounds on 717 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus.

There is no cost for admission and parking is free.

For details, Providers should call Joni Sparks at (614) 342-5964 or email her at joni.sparks@fcbdd.org.

Individuals and families on waivers should contact their Service Coordinator directly.

