

## Legislative Advocacy Day a success

It was a packed house at the 2019 Legislative Advocacy Day held on April 5, 2019.

Over 10 Legislators or their staff and state officials were in attendance for the event initiated by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) Self-Advocate Advisory Council. Christine Brown coordinated the event with the help of Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison and Dana Charlton, Director of the Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA). In addition to FCBDD and OSDA, ARC Industries and the Bixby Center served as sponsors for the event.

Every other year, at state budget time, this event is held to provide self-advocates with an opportunity to offer their suggestions to their elected officials. Legislators heard comments encouraging their support of wages for direct service professionals (DSPs), Stable Accounts and transportation services.

Other comments focused on technology and how it can enhance safety and independence, transportation, housing, universal design, electronic visit verification, communication devices and more.

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison commended Christine Brown on an "excellent job pulling this together. And, we certainly feel fortunate to have such supportive Legislators here in Central Ohio." Senator Hearcel Craig presented Christine Brown with a resolution from the Ohio Senate commending her on her work.

Legislators who attended included Senators Hearcel Craig, Stephanie Kunze, Tina Maharath and Andrew Brenner and Representatives David Leland and Rick Carfagna.

Staff representing Representative Erica Crawley, Representative Bernadine Kent, Senator Bob Hackett, Senator Sherrod Brown and Congresswoman Joyce Beatty were also present.

Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, provided remarks with highlights on his budget proposals for the 2020-2021 biennium.



*Senator Hearcel Craig presents Christine Brown with commendation recognizing her good work.*

**Photographs from the 2019 Legislative Advocacy Day are provided by Erich Hiner from the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) on page 3.**

## West Central Technology Apartment Lab on display

The May 16, 2019 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be held at West Central School, 1481 West Town Street, Columbus, to show the Board members the new Apartment Technology Lab.

Board members will meet at 11:30 a.m. to learn about the supportive technology that has been installed in the former Home Ec. Room of the school. The actual Board meeting is expected to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant, technology vendors and Creative Housing have worked with Larry Macintosh, Director of Administrative Services and representatives of the school to design the space. Technology that will enhance independence and safety is on display.

Visitors are welcome, yet must make an appointment to visit the Technology Lab. To schedule a visit, individuals or family members should contact Joni Sparks at (614) 342-5964 or [joni.sparks@fcbdd.org](mailto:joni.sparks@fcbdd.org).

# Technology for caregivers *by Jack Beatty*

At the March meeting of the Franklin County Provider Council, five companies that market computer software were invited to showcase their products. The meeting room was packed to capacity with staff from many provider agencies, eager to learn more about systems that could improve their quality of services to individuals.

The five software companies were Brittco, Xoomia, Connect-A-Voice, Primary Solutions, and Therap. Each had 20 minutes to explain their offerings which were essentially paperless documentation systems aimed at improving the accuracy and efficiency of the work of Direct Support Professionals and other caregivers.



There were nuances and differences among the companies' products but, in general, each allowed caregivers to provide all needed documentation through a laptop, a tablet, or, even more conveniently, a smart phone.

A worker begins by entering his/her arrival time at the home of the individual on their smart phone. Their agency administration will instantly know of their presence at the location. From then on, all information needed and all documentation necessary is provided through the caregiver's cell phone. The applications are web based and therefore, no sensitive information about the individual is stored on the phone.

A few capabilities include: Individual Service Plan goals and behavior support goals can be accessed and implementation documentation can be entered. Alert reminders occur when it is time to administer a medication and if a medication is refused, an incident report is generated. In some cases, progress notes can be dictated. The system automatically calculates mileage if the worker is transporting an individual. Various training modules are also available with built in quizzes and tests. The list goes on.

Some agencies present in the meeting were already utilizing these technologies and provided testimonials to their effectiveness. They liked that all staff activity can be viewed in real time by agency administrators; that problems and mistakes can be resolved immediately; and that summary reports and billing documents can be automatically generated. Training for staff to use the system was described as simple and intuitive. In general, most staff are familiar with the operation of smart phones and training can be reportedly completed in about one hour.

So, bold new technologies are being introduced that will result in increased efficiency for caregivers, better information sharing as well as accountability. It all adds up to improved services for the individual which is everyone's goal.



## 2020 Census committee established

Commissioner Kevin Boyce, Mayor Andrew Ginther and Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin recently held a kick off press conference to announce plans for the 2020 Census Count.

Recognizing that the Census count is very important in determining how federal dollars are distributed to state and local governments, the City of Columbus and Franklin County have established the 'Complete Count Committee' to be sure everyone is counted. Commissioner Boyce and Mayor Ginther will Co-Chair the Committee. Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will serve as the Chair of the Disability Sub-Committee.

In addition to federal funds allocations, the census determines the number of representatives Ohio has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Examples of programs that receive federal funding include Medicaid, Special Education grants, Head Start and many more.

According to Jed Morison, "we will want to be sure all are counted, including those who have disabilities." More information will be provided as we get closer to 2020.

*Pictured from left to right: Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin, Mayor Andrew Ginther and Commissioner Kevin Boyce recently kicked off the 2020 Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census.*



# Legislative Advocacy Day *(continued from page 1)*



**Adam Helbling, Self-Advocate, encourages Legislators to consider universal design for more accessible homes.**



**Senator Tina Maharath, from Franklin County, wants to prioritize issues to take back to legislature.**



**Legislators and State Officials listened to comments from the audience.**



**Representative David Leland explains how funding, in the recently passed Transportation bill, improves funding for public transportation.**



**Senator Stephanie Kunze, one of three Senators representing Franklin County, greets the self-advocates.**



**Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison welcomed everyone and helped to facilitate comments and responses from legislators.**



**Senator Andrew Brenner from Delaware County, announces that he and Senator Nickie Antonio have established a DD Caucus to support services for individuals with developmental disabilities.**



**Christine Brown is pictured with parents, Cathy and Doug Brown.**



**Representative Rick Carfagna, representing Knox and Delaware Counties, speaks to the crowd.**



**Mary Stark, Self-Advocate from Franklin County encourages federal legislators to support Special Olympics.**

**Special thanks to Erich Hiner of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) for providing photographs of the 2019 Legislative Advocacy Day**



**Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities provides details on state budget proposals.**

## Project Search recognized

The Project Search program at Designer Brands (formerly DSW) was the site of a recent visit from Governor Mike DeWine and other state and local officials.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), "the Project Search program began in 2014, thanks to the leadership of Jeff Girard of DSW and Bob Gaston of ARC Industries. Since that time, over 50 individuals have been successfully placed in competitive jobs with different employers."

Project Search provides a real life job experience and training for individuals with disabilities. The Project Search program at Designer Brands, formerly DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse), is the first for adults and was supported with funding from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Governor DeWine and State Directors Kevin Miller (OOD) and Jeff Davis (DODD, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities) toured the DSW warehouse and then met with participants in the program. According to Kevin Miller, OOD Director, "This is a great example of how collaboration between state and local public and private partners can help more individuals with disabilities gain new skills and jumpstart their careers." In addition to DSW, FCBDD, ARC Industries and State Departments, Goodwill Columbus is now coordinating the site at DSW.



**Governor DeWine presents a proclamation to Project Search partners and participants at Designer Brands Warehouse (formerly DSW).**



**Susie Rutkowski, Co-Director of Project Search and Kevin Miller, Director of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) explain the benefits of the Project Search program at Designer Brands (formerly DSW).**

ARC Industries plans to continue the program at DHL, a major international corporation providing deliveries all over the world.

Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, commended the participants, stating, "this is the way it should work, real life experiences leading to meaningful jobs. We need to replicate this for more adults."

For details on Project Search, headquartered in Cincinnati, go to <https://www.projectsearch.us>.

## West Central hosts professors from Japan

West Central School and Transition Services was honored to provide a tour and school overview with a group of professors from Japan, in March.

The Professors were collaborating with The Ohio State University and had heard about the quality services provided at West Central from a previous group of professors who toured in October.



**Pictured are: Dr. Kennosuke Kawama, Professor, University of Tsukuba, Dean of College of Disability Sciences, University of Tsukuba, specialize in physical impairment. Dr. Shoko Miyamoto, associate professor, University of Tsukuba, specialize in speech impairment, Dr. Miho Omura, assistant professor, University of Tsukuba, specialize in social welfare, Dr. Toru Morichi, assistant professor, University of Tsukuba, specialize in social welfare, Dr. Hisae Miyauchi, assistant professor, University of Tsukuba, specialize in visual impairment/ visiting scholar at OSU.**

## Ohio SIBS presents "Ready for Inspiration"

Congratulations to Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters) on a special evening titled "Ready for Inspiration," which included recognition of John Martin, former Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Scott and Kathy Rosenow, parents of 23 children, nineteen of whom were adopted, provided a presentation on adoptions of special-needs children and their ministry.

The event was sponsored by the GLOW Foundation named for Glenn O. Woodward.

Pictured are Bobbi Montenegro, Director of Ohio SIBS and Dr. Terry Ryan, former Superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and President of the Ohio SIBS Board.

For details on Ohio SIBS, email [info@ohiosibs.org](mailto:info@ohiosibs.org) or check Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioSIBS/>.



# Good For You

## Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to the Service Department of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the excellent work with bus inspections by the Ohio Highway Patrol.



*Back L to R: Compound Supervisor James Leonard, Fleet Mechanics Brandon Grandominico, Brian Davis, Mike McLeish, Lead Mechanic Matt Walter. Front L to R: Inventory Specialist Scott Vawter, Fleet Mechanic Curtis Mahnick*

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Thanks to Carl Scott, Print Shop Coordinator for supporting DD Awareness Month with Posters and Bookmarks sent to all Central Ohio libraries.

Congratulations to Christine Brown and the Self-Advocate Advisory Council for coordinating a very successful 'Legislative Advocacy Day' in April.

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Special thanks to David Ott, Director of Human Resources and his Operation Feed team for an outstanding campaign, including a terrific Operation Feed Pancake Breakfast. Pictured from left to right are: Julie Williams, Sarah Gillilan, Mandy Holland, Todd Lilley, and David Ott.



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Special thanks and congratulations to Yolanda Hairston for the outstanding job with Operation Feed. Yolanda is pictured with Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, who congratulated her and the entire Transportation staff for their leadership in securing funds and contributions for people in our community who need help. Thanks also to Mark Hafner and Amy Kulow for great overall leadership and support of the Transportation Operation Feed campaign.



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Congratulations to all the staff who volunteered to coordinate the Provider Fair in April. Over 100 Providers and Community Resources were present to speak to hundreds of visitors, Just some of the volunteers, pictured seated from left to right are: Bintou Bah, Corrina Hyde and Angela Jones. Standing from left to right are Jodi Toth, Jose Bennett, Patrick Murphy, Anne Watson and Larry Macintosh.

# Career Milestones

**25 years**

Patricia Jordan

**15 years**

Aileen Burnside

Beth Speaks

**5 years**

Teresa Crackel

Lindsay Smith

Joni Sparks



# Tech Summit 2.0

Tech Summit 2.0 will be held on June 21, to provide individuals with a chance to learn about different kinds of technology.

From tablets and phone apps to in-home remote support systems, advocates and family members can talk about technology and how it can enhance independence and safety. Experts from across the country will present. Participants will be able to sample technology designed to support people with developmental disabilities.

The event will be at the Columbus/Worthington Crowne Plaza, located at 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. (Just across the street from ARC Industries North).

For additional details contact Jordan Wagner at: [jordan.wagner@osumc.edu](mailto:jordan.wagner@osumc.edu) or call 614-688-3155.



# Lettuce Work has Mother's Day sales

Just in time for Mother's Day, 'Lettuce Work' has a great variety of popular hanging baskets, planters, shrubs, roses, vegetables and other plants for sale.

Stop by the Nursery at 14985 Fancher Road in New Albany to check out the sales.

The Lettuce Work Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports young adults with autism. For more details, call 740-913-0495.



# Calendar

## May, 2019

- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities In-Service, Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings at West Central School, 1481 W. Town Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting, 1481 W. Town Street, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.
- 22 West Central School and Transition Services Graduation Ceremony – 7 p.m.
- 27 Memorial Day observed - all county facilities closed. 
- 30-31 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2019 Spring Conference. Hilton Columbus at Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive. Call (614) 431-0616 for details.

# 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](http://www.fcbdd.org)

# Save the date for 'Celebration of Women'

A 'Celebration of Women' is being planned to recognize the women served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

This event, which is being planned by the Service Coordination Department, will offer information on self-advocacy, health and wellness, self-defense and will include interactive activities with door prizes, refreshments and more.

The 'Celebration of Women' will be held on Friday, October 11, 2019 at Xenos, located on Community Park Drive. More details will be forthcoming. For now, women are encouraged to save the date!

# Star Award nominations due

Nominations for the 2019 Community Star Awards are due by June 1, 2019.

The nomination form was included in the April issue of 'Dateline,' which can be downloaded at <https://fcbdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Dateline-Apr-2019-Electronic-Version-v2.pdf>.

The 2019 Community Star Awards will recognize 14 extraordinary individuals or organizations. The event will be held on Tuesday evening, October 1, 2019.