

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

Electronic Visit Verification is coming

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is expected to become effective for many individuals who have Level 1 or Individual Options Waivers in August.

EVV is mandated by the federal government to electronically verify that providers are on duty and to verify billing claims. The system verifies when the caregiver's visits begin and end. Those who live with another person with a Waiver and bill through the 'daily rate' system are exempt.

Providers and individuals served will have different options to report on their visits. Individuals will have devices delivered to their home to use to verify their visits.

The devices, provided by Sandata, look like a smart phone, although it does not have smart phone capabilities. In fact, the device's only function is to verify that services have occurred. The EVV does not cost anything to either the individuals receiving services or the caregiver.

Classroom and Webinar trainings on EVV are being offered until August 3, 2019. Visit <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/INITIATIVES/Electronic-Visit-Verification/Training> to sign up for the training.

Alternate methods of reporting are being developed by software companies or other Providers. For additional details on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), call the Ohio Department of Medicaid consumer hotline at 855-805-3505 or you can send an email to EVV@medicaid.ohio.gov.



Quaran Gibbs recognized



Quaran Gibbs, student at Reynoldsburg High School served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, has received the R.A. Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities.

Joseph Becker, Assistant Principal for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Garla Brown, Principal at Reynoldsburg High School nominated Quaran for this prestigious award. Just one student from Region II in Ohio is selected for the award.

The award, which was presented in June, is named for Dr. Ray A. Horn, former Assistant Superintendent for the Ohio Department of Education and former member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**Congratulations to
Quaran Gibbs!**

*Quaran Gibbs, RA Horn Outstanding Student Achievement Award Recipient
Quaran Gibbs (right) and Amber Jordan, FCBDD Collaborative Teacher at Reynoldsburg City Schools (left).*

*Photo credit to
Assistant Principal Joe Becker.*



South-Western City Schools, Viaquest, and OPRA recognized

Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and Governor Mike DeWine recently recognized three organizations for their part in opening up career options for direct service professionals (DSPs).

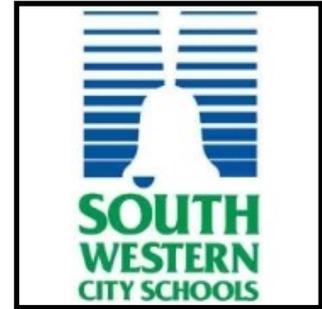
The event was held at ViaQuest Day and Employment Services during "In-Demand Jobs Week" to highlight the success of Community Connections Career Partnerships – Ohio, also referred to as C3P(O). This program provides high school students with an opportunity to learn about the field of direct support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through in-class training and on-site internships.

South-Western City Schools, under the leadership of Dr. Bill Wise, was the first school district to offer this curriculum following a suggestion from OPRA (Ohio Provider Resource Association). Amy Schakat, Coordinator of Career-Technical Education provides leadership for the program and stated that 71 students have graduated with the Certificate of Initial or Advanced Proficiency. All the students, some of whom may have been at risk of not graduating, left South-Western Schools with a diploma.

Credit was also given to ViaQuest who also stepped up to the plate when asked and provided students with internships. Rich Johnson, CEO and founder of ViaQuest commended South-Western Schools and Director Jeff Davis for initiating the program when he was Director of OPRA.

Kelsey Goodman, a recent graduate of the program spoke of her experience and is now proudly serving in the field. She was recently recognized with the Maureen Corcoran Award from OPRA for her dedication and leadership.

Jesse Britt, an employee of ViaQuest and recipient of services spoke about the value of direct services professionals. Jesse is the Receptionist at ViaQuest Grove City and proudly calls himself the "face of ViaQuest Strong in Grove City."



Garden with a purpose

Northeast Center, located in Gahanna, has a new garden called the "Garden with Purpose," thanks to volunteers through an organization called FEMERGY.

Jessica Bennett, teacher at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, organized the project, which resulted in three garden beds with plantings and a fourth for adults served at Northeast to plant their own seeds.

FEMERGY is a non-profit, education based organization for young girls in the community. The organization focuses on sports, life skills, college preparation, career planning and community service/outreach. The 'Garden with Purpose' will create an opportunity for individuals and families to learn about plant life cycles, healthy eating and gardening skills.



Twenty girls, age 12-20 and other volunteers planted the gardens in May and will check on the garden throughout the summer. Local Matters and Lowes donated expertise and supplies for the project.

Jack Karner, Director at Northeast Center said he was "so impressed with the enthusiasm of the group and the terrific job they did. We will enjoy this for some time."

Special thanks and congratulations to Jessica Bennett and FEMERGY.

Preschoolers donate \$1017 to Children's Hospital

It's not often that preschool age children donate money to charity. It happened recently, when the children in Christine Hunter and Kristen Harman and their Head Start team's class donated \$1017 to Nationwide Children's Hospital.

As a class project, the children opened a mini 'Store' with a counter and goods for sale in the hall outside their classroom. All items were priced at 50 cents or a dollar and they received lots of customers.

The word got out that the 'Store' was raising funds for the Child Life program at the hospital and more and more customers shopped. Staff, volunteers and parents bought items such as magnets, greeting cards, Mother's Day cards, ceramic necklaces, beaded necklaces and more.

Soon, the 'Store' had collected \$100, then \$500 and finally \$1017. On May 17, the check was presented to Children's Hospital as a way to support children, just like one of their classmates was supported when in the hospital.

Hats off to Room 403, Teachers, Assistants, and Danielle Norman and AJ Heckman, Arts Specialists and especially the students for making this possible. All students received a special medal from Children's Hospital and a customized tee shirt to recognize their generous contribution for the children at the hospital.



Children and staff from ECEFC's classroom 403 present their generous contribution to Nationwide Children's Hospital to help support children needing the hospital's services.



State Budget bill passed

House Bill 166 has been approved by the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate and has been signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine.

This state budget bill covers the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The bill is several hundred pages in length, with specific sections related to disability and education. Just some of the initiatives included in the bill are:

- Increase in base wage of direct services professionals (DSPs)
- Funding for early intervention services
- Communication requirements regarding Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Changes in school funding formulas
- Additional funds for adult day and non-medical transportation

Details regarding the state budget for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) are expected to be included on the DODD website.

Ethan Boerner assists Columbus Clippers

Ethan Boerner, ARC Industries employee and member of the Self-Advocate Advisory Councils of ARC Industries and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, recently joined the Columbus Clippers for a special night.

Ethan was suited up in a Clippers uniform and assisted in the dugout for batting practice and much of the game. At the beginning of the game, Ethan joined the Clippers manager to give the Umpire the official line-up card and he was introduced to the crowd.

Ethan is no stranger to baseball and sports. As a youngster, he played for the Reynoldsburg Special Angels baseball team and in high school, Ethan was a New Albany High School Sports Equipment manager.

In addition to his work at ARC Industries East, Ethan consults for the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University. He is a member of the Disability Experience Expert Panel (DEEP), advising on disability matters. He has also been featured on an anti-bullying video with singer Hunter Powell. Congratulations to Ethan Boerner.



Ethan Boerner

Jabari Wilson wins big *by Jack Beatty*

In the brief span of his 22 years, Jabari Wilson has accomplished a great deal. His parents describe him as a “hard worker” but that is clearly an understatement.

His interest in basketball led him to Special Olympics at age 8 and in 2018, he won gold medals at the USA Games in Seattle. He competed in the pentathlon which is a five event medley that includes the 100 meter run, long jump, shot put, 400 meter run, and 400 meter relay. Those medals in Seattle qualified him to participate in the World Summer Games.

So, in March of 2019, Jabari, accompanied by his parents and younger sister, flew to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to compete along with 230 other athletes from the United States in the 2019 Special Olympics World Games. Some events, including Jabari’s, were held in Dubai. The video of the events is dramatic. Though he has the build of a weight lifter, Jabari can run like the wind. He won a gold medal in the pentathlon with even higher overall points than he had earned in the USA Games. Jabari said that it was a great experience, the best part of which was making new friends from other states and getting to travel overseas.



Jabari Wilson

Hard work and success have always been elements of Jabari’s life. With an early diagnosis of autism, he struggled with speech and behavioral challenges but was able to rectify both through determined participation in therapies and the loving support of his family. He went on to graduate from Hilliard Darby High School while playing on the football team as well as running track.

These days he keeps busy with a job at the YMCA and is taking some courses at Columbus State with the goal of eventual employment in the sports field. He says he will continue to participate in Special Olympics, as there is no age limit. Doubtless, there will be more adventures in store for this remarkable young man who has learned to meet challenges with persistence and resolve.

Karen and Ralph Watts inducted into Hall of Fame

Karen and Ralph Watts, foster parents of children with special needs, were recently inducted into the Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Karen and Ralph have helped many individuals and families with special needs children. They have been blessed with four birth children, 14 adopted children, 45 foster children, 22 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.



Karen and Ralph Watts

Karen and Ralph had similar interests and both had sisters with special needs. They married and started their family. By the time Ralph graduated college they had two children. He was called to minister to others and was soon a pastor. They have four birth children. They both wanted to add another child to their family and with support of their birth children, they decided that the time was right to adopt a child with special needs.

Children’s Services approached them with growing regularity to help other families with special needs children. They sheltered and protected the children who no one wanted because they were medically fragile or had challenging behaviors. They have taken in children who have been on monitors, feeding tubes, full body casts, and in wheelchairs.

Karen and Ralph remain active in the ministry and counseling and have also served on various boards at Nationwide Children’s Hospital advocating for parents’ rights.

They mentor other parents who are struggling with foster care or being adoptive parents and they work closely with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Congratulations to Karen and Ralph Watts on this well-deserved recognition!

Pete Moore appointed to OPRA

Pete Moore has been appointed as the President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA).

Pete is no stranger to the field of developmental disabilities. He previously served as Executive Administrator of Mt. Aloysius, an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFIID) in Perry County.

Prior to this, Pete was Chief of Staff at the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB). He has experience as a Residential Director, Vocational Director and is the co-founder of the Good Life Network. In his role of consultant with the Good Life Network, Pete trained several staff of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Pete began his new job in June.

Congratulations to Pete Moore!



Pete Moore, President/CEO of OPRA

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to the first and second year students in the Direct Service Provider curriculum at Franklin Heights High School. South-Western City Schools has been a leader in promoting curriculums to assist students with career options, including the option to work with individuals who have disabilities. Thanks also to Boundless, Goodwill Columbus and Viaquest for leadership in providing internships and support!



Congratulations to Jesse Britt, on an excellent speech delivered at an In-Demand Jobs Week event at ViaQuest Day and Employment Services in Grove City. Jesse serves as Receptionist and refers to himself as the "Face of Viaquest Strong."



Thank you to Columbia Gas and the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) for establishing the "Law Enforcement and Public Safety Outreach Initiative," whereby police departments will receive training on how to effectively communicate with individuals who have developmental disabilities. Following the training, families can register for SMART911, a program that provides information to emergency responders if the caller has difficulty communicating clearly.



Congratulations to Ethan Boerner for his appearance with the Columbus Clippers. Pictured below is Ethan with his father, Ed, and with Team Manager Tony Mansolino. (See story on page 3)



Career Milestones

35 Year

Susan Fast
Cam Yeagley

30 Year

Bill Bartley
Julie Buren

25 Year

Jodi Dayan
Elizabeth Gibson

20 Year

Tammara Fields
Roberta Martin
Leslie McLeod-Tucker

15 Year

Kimberly Batts
Kelly Bowers
Jean Goss
Stephanie Hukle
Angela Ray
Beth Robinette
Amy Yenkin

10 Year

Wayne Meredith
Tim Smith
Natasha Swartz

5 Year

Stephanie Bennett
Nicole Hatfield
Lauren Heckman
Amanda Koons
Gregory Marinelli
Freedom McDonald
Sharon McJannet
Kelsey Ripper
Lynette Thomas
Rozalyn Trego
Courtney Wentz

Congratulations to the Franklin County Special Olympics for another strong performance at the 2019 State Games, held at The Ohio State University on June 28-30.





If you want to keep up with the latest news, join over 2500 people who receive 'NewsBits' for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

'NewsBits' is an email blast that updates recipients of the latest news or announcements. The intent is for the emails to be short with 'bits' of information, hence the name 'NewsBits'.



To sign up for 'NewsBits', one can visit the website of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (www.fcbdd.org) and click on the sign up at the bottom of the home page.

★ **Dateline** ★

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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, 2019

- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 18 ECE Summer Center programs end.

August, 2019

- 1 County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 1 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 2 School-age Transition to Work Summer Programs end.
- 19, 20 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/Development Days.
- 21 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 21-23 ECE Program Service Days – Parent Visitation (No Transportation).
- 26 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.



Save the date **Community Star Awards** **Tuesday, October 1st**

The 2019 Community Star Awards will be held on Tuesday evening, October 1, 2019 at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road.

Award recipients and information to register to attend the event will be in the September issue of *Dateline*.

