

*Over 150
Years of*
HISTORY



*Services for persons with Developmental Disabilities
across the nation and in Central Ohio*

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Helping people to live, learn and work in our community

Prepared for the Franklin County Board
of Developmental Disabilities

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Preface

Over 150 Years Of **HISTORY**

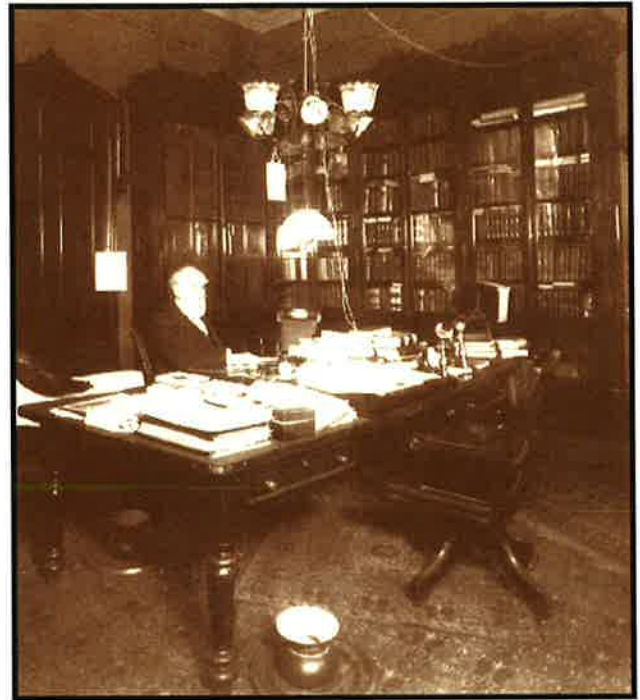
Services for individuals with developmental disabilities have changed significantly over the years. As attitudes, laws, technology and funding have changed, programs have evolved to better meet the needs of individuals. This history has been prepared to provide insight on these changes. Much of the information for the period from 1850 to 1950 is from publications from the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), including the book titled A Century of Concern. Special thanks also goes to the Franklin County Council for Retarded Citizens, the Columbus Developmental Center, Dr. Raymond Horn, and many parents and FCBDD staff who provided details on our history.

Jed Morison, 12/2023

The First One Hundred Years 1850-1950

1850-1885

- Persons with mental retardation identified as “idiots, feeble-minded, and imbeciles.”
- Ohio was the second state to establish a state-supported residential school for people with developmental disabilities. This happened in 1857. The first nine pupils were received on August 3, 1857. Their instruction was carried out in a temporary residence located in a house at 727 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio. In 1861, G.A. Doren, M.D. became Superintendent. In 1862, the resident population was 57.
- In 1864, the land that Columbus Developmental Center currently sits on was purchased and a year later the new residential school foundation was started. From the available records, it is unclear exactly when the building was completed but it is believed to have been in 1867 or 1868.
- “American Association on Mental Deficiency” was created in 1876. At this time it was named “The Association of Medical Officers of American Institutions of Idiotic and Feeble-minded Persons.”
- Seven states, including Ohio, had institutions for the “feeble-minded” in 1876; by 1885, twenty states had institutions (first public Institution opened in Boston, Massachusetts in 1848).
- Professionals made great efforts to promote the creation of institutions.
- Alcoholism recognized as a contributing cause of “idiocy”.
- Some professionals drew parallels between “idiocy” and “criminality”.
- Early institutions were founded on the principle that persons with mental retardation can be trained.
- In 1879, first classes for handicapped children were established in Ohio in Cincinnati and Cleveland.



Gustavus Adolphus Doren, the first superintendent of the newly constructed Columbus Institute, at work in his study.

1886-1895

- Need for more research on etiology stressed.
- Some advocated placing individuals in smaller county homes and alms houses, rather than segregating people in large institutions. (The beginning of group homes.)
- Sterilization, care of “epileptics”, and care of “delinquent retarded” persons were all subjects under consideration and discussion.
- Alcohol considered by many to be a cause of mental retardation.



The Columbus Railroad Company used horse drawn streetcars when Columbus State Institute was known as an asylum.

Current bronze plaque commemorating the Hannah Neil House at East Main Street in Columbus.



1896-1905

- Training for staff working with persons with mental retardation advocated.
- “Idiocy” defined as “a private person as opposed to one engaged in public affairs” caused by “deficiency of nutrition.”
- According to Dr. Langdon Down, “The Mongolian type” made up about 10% of the “feeble-minded children.”
- Institutions are overcrowded with waiting lists.
- Sterilization of persons with mental retardation advocated.
- By 1899, there were special classes for the “feeble-minded” in a few public schools, and a few special schools.
- In 1899, an AAMD report said that “removing a backward child from regular public school classes deprived him of the opportunity to mingle with more clever children and to imitate them” (mainstreaming). “In addition, the child’s reputation should not be spoiled and this blot may stay with him all his life if he was placed in a special class or special institution” (labeling).
- Researcher Wylie concluded that “feeble-minded children were subnormal in height and weight, puberty was delayed, and they continued growing later than normal children, indicating delayed development.”
- Tuberculosis cited as a major cause of mental retardation.
- Alexander Johnson advocated expansion of institutions to care for adults who would work to support themselves and reduce operating costs of the institutions. He also advocated the development of workshops, that wouldn’t compete with private industries, but would supply other institutions with brooms, brushes, clothing, etc.



A teacher with her class on the lawn of Columbus State Institute.

- “Individual Treatment Programs” advocated by some.
- Elizabeth Daniels Nash, 1902, suggested that heredity was not the only agent responsible for feeble-mindedness. She provided the following advice to parents:

“First — learn to expect little from your deficient child. If he has an intellect of a child half his years, regard him as of that age in the work you give him.

Second — give him something to do that is within his comprehension.”
- E.R. Johnstone deplored the use of corporal punishment, and proposed a system of discipline similar to present behavior modification techniques.
- In 1904, Johnstone stated “Our Association (AAMD) must take a bold stand and demand for the feeble-minded the education to which every child in the Union is entitled — whatsoever is best fitted for it.” (In the 1970’s P.L. 94-142, the “Education of all Handicapped Children” Act was passed.)
- Some Institutions had populations of over 1000.
- Many states enacted laws enabling Superintendents to keep the “feeble-minded” indefinitely in the institution, and laws to prevent their marriage.
- Alexander Johnson advocated the development of workshops, that wouldn’t compete with private industries, but would supply other institutions with brooms, brushes, clothing, etc.



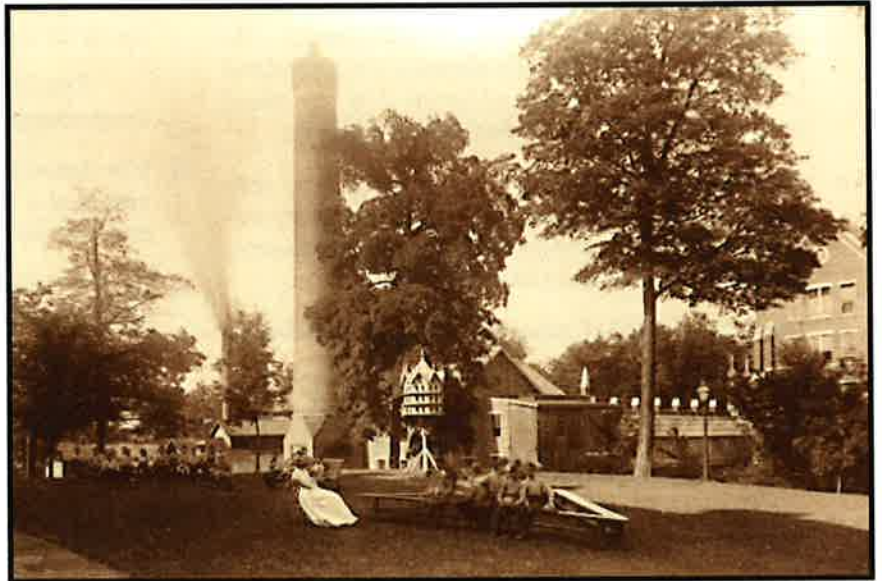
Working in the fields at Orient State Institute.

1906-1915

- Movement established to make a separation between mental retardation and epilepsy.
- Many family doctors told parents that their “feeble-minded children could be cured by sending them to an institution.”
- Several felt that the education and training of persons with mental retardation was for the Medical community rather than educators.
- In 1907, Naomi Norworthy, Psychologist, stated that “the difference between idiots and other people is one of degree and not of kind. The same difference exists between the very bright among school children, and the mediocre.”
- In 1909, Columbus Schools established first class for children with mental retardation.
- Some institutions had populations of over 1500.
- H.H. Goddard proposed the following classifications: IDIOT, IMBECILE, FEEBLEMINDED, with each class subdivided into three levels. In 1910, this was adopted by AAMD (at this time AAMD was called “The American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded.”)
- Fred Kuhlmann stated that “feeble-mindedness is a retarded rate of mental development. The term ‘arrested development’ or ‘mental arrest’ is a misnomer for it implies that the development has ceased.”
- Eight states had adopted sterilization laws by 1913.
- Many experienced difficulty in obtaining funds for the care of the “feeble-minded”.



Columbus State Institute as it appeared at the turn of the century.



Class out on the lawn at Columbus State Institute.



- Segregation of the “feeble-minded” into institutions was generally advocated.
- Binet tests were accepted as an objective and scientific method of measuring intelligence.
- The use of psychological clinics or laboratories in institutions grew significantly.

Rebecca

A teacher with her class in the Columbus Developmental Center.

1916-1925

- Attitudes of professionals shifted to advocating community placement, and special classes in the public schools; rather than sterilization and segregation. At this time, there was not widespread community acceptance of these ideas.
- Dr. Charles Bernstein advocated individual homes stating that children should be given a normal living environment instead of an abnormal one.
- In 1917, Columbus State Institute had 2430 residents, twice that of ten years earlier.
- Walter E. Fernald stated that "when we discovered the moron, we doubled the number of feeble-minded, and we carried over the generalizations about the idiot and the imbecile. The individuality of the feeble-minded is almost as great as our own. We can no longer say they all need this, or they all need that."

- Again, alcohol considered major cause of mental retardation, yet this was challenged by some.
- Recruitment of institutional staff was a problem resulting from inadequate salaries.
- Emphasis was placed on separating criminals/delinquents from the "feeble-minded".
- In 1924, there were over 39,000 "patients" in state institutions compared to 6,009 in 1893.
- In 1925, there were 89 private institutions, compared to 9 in 1893. There were special classes in 171 cities in the U.S. with enrollment of nearly 34,000.
- Instruction of parents and teachers was advocated at this time.
- Again, community understanding and acceptance was advocated.



Boys in institutional dress.



A teacher with his class in the cobbling shop at Columbus State Institute.

1926-1935

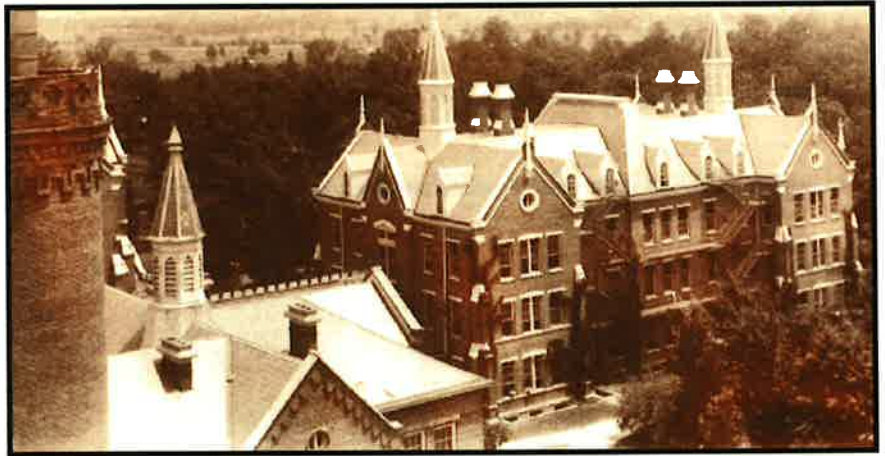
- By 1926, there were 56 state institutions in 43 states with a population of about 50,000.
- By 1927, 23 states had sterilization laws.
- The need for research and training was emphasized.
- Henry Goddard suggested that a measure of intelligence was not in itself sufficient for a diagnosis of feeble-mindedness.
- First International Congress on Mental Hygiene held in 1930.
- George L. Wallace, M.D., suggested dropping from the social vocabulary the terms "Institution" and "patient" and instead use the terms "school" and "pupil".

- Wallace advocated social training with academic training and suggested extending the school year throughout the entire twelve months.
- H.H. Ramsey, M.D., stated that the public looked upon the "defective with pity or as a menace."
- Feeble-mindedness and intellectual subnormality were considered under the generic term "mental deficiency."
- E.R. Johnstone reported that approximately 13% of the total population was intellectually subnormal or retarded.
- Several advocated closer cooperation between the Department of Welfare and the Department of Education in the various states.
- The name of "American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded" was changed to the "American Association on Mental Deficiency" (AAMD) in 1933.
- The word "feeble-minded" was replaced with "mentally defective."
- The grades of mental deficiency were defined as:
 - Idiot having an IQ of less than 20
 - Imbecile, with an IQ of 20-49
 - Moron, with an IQ of 50-69.

1936-1945

- Attitudes favoring sterilization began to change somewhat in the early 1940's. It was recognized that sterilization did not reduce the number of "mental defectives," yet there still remained some feeling for selective sterilization.
- Edgar Doll identified three essential elements necessary for a diagnosis of mental deficiency: (1) social inadequacy; (2) low intelligence; (3) mentally arrested development.
- Many children, who should never have been committed, were being sent to institutions.
- Research, training and public awareness all identified as major problems.
- Existing public education programs were criticized for lack of educational services for mentally retarded children.
- Careful screening for "mental defectives" by the immigration authorities was advocated.
- Research in motor development advocated.
- Horatio Pollock, Ph.D., stated that "The whole child should be treated, that instruction and training should be planned and given to meet the needs of each child; that the chief aim in training children should be development of a healthy personality, and that both physical and social environment should be favorable for the development of each child."

- Institutionalization continued to increase, resulting in overcrowding, long waiting lists, and poor staff/resident ratios.
- Advances in determination of different etiologies and the hopefulness of medical intervention, both in prevention and treatment were emerging.
- Much discussion centered around the problem of "delinquent defectives", including some preliminary discussion about reorganizing state institutions into county or regional institutions.
- In 1943, a total of 90,102 "mental defectives were in the custody of state institutions.



In 1925 there were 89 private institutions, compared to 9 in 1893. There were special classes in 171 cities in the U. S. with enrollment of nearly 34,000.

1946-1950

- The need for expansion of social work in the field of mental deficiency was emphasized.
- The function of the social worker was to provide guidance for "mental defectives" for post-school age, and to assist them in leading acceptable lives in the community.
- Changes in terminology were advocated because some of the terms that were used had fallen into disrepute. Terms such as "high-grade", "middle-grade" and "severely retarded" were substituted for moron, imbecile, and idiot.
- Safeguarding the rights and privileges of "the mentally retarded" was advocated.
- The National Association for Retarded Children held its first meeting in 1950.



Work buildings on the grounds of Columbus State Institute were converted from dormitory cottages.



Classroom work was encouraged in the Institutes.

FCBDD History 1950 Forward

1951-1960

- Franklin County Council for Retarded Children was incorporated on September 24, 1951 by the following persons: Mrs. Phyllis Emory; Dr. Roger Gove; Mrs. Mary Rankin; Dr. Herschel Nisonger; and Dr. J. William Rossel.
- In 1951, Am. S.B. 157 passed, establishing county or district training centers for "mentally deficient" youth under the age of 21.
- The first class of fourteen children, ages four to fourteen began in July, 1951, at the First Community Church. Entrance requirements were that a child be toilet trained, ambulatory, and able to fit into a group. At this time:
 - Mothers served as assistants to the teacher.
 - Car pools provided transportation.
 - Parents paid tuition of \$25/month.
- Public funds began to be provided for these services by the state and the Franklin County Welfare Board. Donations and door-to-door campaigns helped finance the programs.
- In 1952, the transportation system began with the purchase of two Willys station wagons.
- By 1955, enrollment increased to 60 in 6 classes.
- All facilities were leased or donated and provided limited programming options (e.g., Church basements, public schools which were no longer acceptable for public school use, etc.).
- Home Visitor Program established in August, 1958 with 20 receiving services during the first year.
- First sheltered workshop began at Goodwill Industries in October, 1959. Workshop was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- By 1960, 180 students were enrolled in 16 classes at Olen-tangy School, 40 persons were enrolled in home training, and 15 adults were enrolled in the workshop.



- In 1960, the approximate cost per enrollee per year had risen to \$610, almost \$130 more than it cost in 1951.
- In 1960, the Horn Report, prepared by a committee chaired by Dr. Raymond Horn, was submitted to Governor Michael DiSalle recommending establishment of a County system to serve persons with mental retardation, funded with local, state and federal funds. This led to the legislation (Am. S.B. 169) that created County Boards of Mental Retardation in 1967.



Franklin County Council For Retarded Children

Purposes of the Council, as stated in their incorporation articles, were:

- To promote the general welfare of the retarded child.
- To organize and stimulate the development of adequate facilities to meet the various needs.
- To further the training and education of professional personnel in the field of mental retardation.
- To advise and aid parents in the solution of their problems and promote mutual understanding between parents and the community for intelligent cooperation in the interest of the child.
- To solicit funds and bequests to be used to promote the general welfare of the retarded child.

1961-1970

- In November, 1961, The Council's Program was made an agency of the Franklin County Child Welfare Board, as a result of Amended House Bill No. 778.
- In 1962, a five year, .3 mill tax levy was approved by the voters and again renewed in 1967 for an additional five years.
- In October, 1963 ARCraft incorporated as ARCraft Division, Council for Retarded Citizens.
- ARCraft North Sheltered Workshop on Indianola opened in November, 1963; and in September, 1966, the ARCraft North Activity Center began.
- In 1963, the Council began its first preschool, although other preschool classes for mentally retarded children had been in operation since 1958.
- By 1965, there were 645 children and adults enrolled in the program at a cost of approximately \$730 per enrollee, per year.



- On October 25, 1967, Amended Senate Bill No. 169 created County Boards of Mental Retardation. This is when the Franklin County Program for the Mentally Retarded came into being as a separate agency, working cooperatively with the Council for Retarded Citizens.



- The original members of the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation were: Betty Crist, Joseph DeRoberts, Bernard Niehm, Theodore Mixer, Hylas Hilliard, Vera Schmarr, and Clyde Schoenfeld. The first Administrator was Mr. W. Ronald Ansley.
- Dr. Niehm was appointed Administrator upon Mr. Ansley's death in July, 1968.
- By 1970, the Program was serving 1071 children and adults at an approximate cost of \$1389 per enrollee, per year.
- In 1970, the voters approved a .7 mill, ten year tax levy, that allowed the Franklin County Program for the Mentally Retarded to begin an extensive building program.
- In 1970's Special Education Regional Resource Centers (SERRC's) established to increase parent involvement.

1971-1979

- Mr. Ken McBain began as Administrator in January, 1971.
- ARCraft of Franklin County, Ohio was incorporated in September, 1971.
- In 1973, Section 504 of civil rights legislation was passed, amending the civil rights legislation of 1963 and strengthening protections from discrimination for persons who have handicaps.
- Early Childhood Training Classes began under the Franklin County Program for the Mentally Retarded in 1973.
- Mrs. Dorothy Renner appointed Acting Administrator from March, 1972 to February, 1973.

- Mr. Stephen G. Pleasnick began as Superintendent in February, 1973.



- Southeast M.R. Training Center opened in Groveport in November, 1974.
 - In 1970s Special Education Regional Resource Centers (SERRCs) established to increase parent involvement.
- more of this decade on page 9.*

1971-1979 continued

- In September, 1974, Northeast M.R. Training Center, the first training center owned by the County, opened in Gahanna.



Northeast School before the playgrounds and landscaping were installed.

- Public Law 94-142, the "Education of All Handicapped Children Act" was passed by the 94th Congress of the United States in November, 1975.
- By 1975, enrollment had increased to 2226, with average cost per enrollee, per year at \$2050.
- Amended Substitute House Bill No. 455, Ohio's "Education for All Handicapped Children Act," was approved by Governor Rhodes in May, 1976. This legislation mandated that school-age programs of FCPMR be chartered by the State Department of Education. Other FCPMR services remained under the rules and regulations of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

- Infant Program for babies from birth to age two, began in October, 1977.
- ARCraft Sheltered Workshops given full, three year, accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in November, 1977.
- An additional 1.0 mill, five year tax levy was approved by the voters in November, 1977, generating approximately five million dollars per year.
- School-age and Early Childhood Education Programs awarded a charter by the Ohio Department of Education in March, 1978.
- West Central M.R. Training Center, the third school-age county owned facility, opened in July, 1978.
- ARCraft South, the first County owned Workshop, opened in April, 1979.
- In 1979, enrollment had stabilized at 2157, with the average cost per enrollee, per year at \$3671.
- In November, 1979, the .5 mill, ten year tax levy was renewed by the voters.

1980-1989

- ARCraft name changed to ARC Industries in April, 1980 to reflect the industrial image of workshops.
- Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 160 passed in July, 1980, changing the make up and the responsibilities of the Board.
- ARC Industries North Workshop, located in the Busch Corporate Center, opened in September, 1980.
- Franklin County Residential Services was incorporated in November, 1980.
- Agency name changed in December, 1980 from Franklin County Program for the Mentally Retarded to The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
- New Transportation/Administration facility opened in April, 1981.
- Early Childhood Education programs regionalized into two buildings in September, 1981 from classes held in 14 churches throughout the community.
- In December, 1981 Board purchased first house, on Highfield Drive, to serve as a residential care facility.
- In-home respite care services began in May, 1982.



Thealka Lehman with the help of several parents was the ribbon cutter in opening ceremonies for the new ECE location on Johnstown Road.

- In June, 1982, voters approved a continuous 1.65 mill, levy renewal and increase.
- Placement Services Department was established in September, 1982.
- Project SAVE, a long-range agency savings plan, was implemented in February, 1983.
- In June, 1983 the first residential care facility opened on Stelzer Road.
- ARC Industries East, located in Gahanna, opened in January, 1984.
- February, 1985 - Case Management transferred from State to Franklin County Board in Demonstration Project.

1980-1989 continued

- Am. S.B. 238 passed in 1985, providing for the transfer of funding of special education classes and related services for school-age children from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Ohio Department of Education.
- Dedication of Kimberly Woods residential homes held in December, 1985.
- Respite care facility opened at the Kimberly Woods location in February, 1986.
- Amended Substitute Senate Bill No. 322 was signed into law in April, 1986, creating a Bill of Rights for persons with mental retardation or developmental disabilities.
- Functional Living Skills Center, serving adults who are multiply handicapped, opened in May, 1986.
- Functional Curriculum Project for schools announced in December, 1986.
- In July, 1987, "Founders Night" honored those who established mental retardation and developmental disabilities services in Franklin County.
- Franklin County Special Olympics Booster club established in September, 1987.
- In November, 1987, Issue 5, a 1.8 mill levy for Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities passed by a wide margin.



The Highfield Drive, twin-single home, purchased as the first residence for FCRS.



Kimberly Woods residential homes opened in December, 1985. A respite care section opened 3 months later.



Staff, consumers and board members were on hand for the ribbon cutting at McDowell Road residential homes in August of 1988.

- Semi-Independent Residential program approved by the Board in February, 1988.
- Dierker Road Residential homes dedicated in April, 1988.
- First residents moved into apartment in Semi-Independent Living Program in June, 1988.
- Grove City/McDowell Road residential homes dedicated in August, 1988.
- Morse Road residential homes dedicated in November, 1988.
- New ARC Industries West officially dedicated in June, 1989.

New ARC Industries West at 250 Dodridge Street.



(1990 - 1999)

- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law by President Bush on July 26, 1990.
- House Bill No. 569 passed to change the definition of developmental disabilities in August, 1990.
- Creative Housing, Inc. incorporated in May, 1991 to begin shift in supported living philosophy where consumers have choice in where they live, who they live with and who provides services.
- New definition of developmental disabilities implemented in July, 1991 from a categorical to functional definition.
- Conversion of Marburn School to the Early Childhood Learning Community (ECLC) in August, 1991.



- Immunization Clinic and other Preventive efforts established at ECE in cooperation with the Ohio Children's Foundation and the City Health Departments in March, 1994.
- In April, 1994, ARC Industries South moved to their new location at 4395 Marketing Place in Groveport.
- ARC Industries Contract Services and Job Placement Departments merged to become Employment Services Department in July, 1994.



Staff and parents toured the newly opened PACE program.

- PACE (Personal Alternatives, Creative Endeavors) a new program operated by Goodwill Rehabilitation Center opened in November, 1994
- In December, 1994, the new Hague Avenue Living Skills Center in collaboration with Uniworks, was dedicated.
- Conversion of Southeast School into the Bixby Living Skills Center completed in June, 1995.
- In July, 1995, the Board began a new contract with Cerebral Palsy of Columbus and Franklin County, Inc., to provide non-vocational services for individuals with developmental disabilities at the Gace Kindig Adult Center.
- The Board began participation in the Person Centered Planning Project in collaboration with OACBMR/DD and ODMR/DD in August 1995.
- Students and staff from Southeast School, complete move into Northeast and west Central Schools to complete school reorganization in August, 1995.
- In September, 1995, the School District collaboration expanded to include two class placements at Montrose School in Bexley.
- Early Childhood programs operated at nine sites in collaboration with Head Start, School Districts and other community agencies
- Over 7,000 individuals ranging in age from birth through age 96, served by FCBMR/DD in 1995.
- In October, 1995, administrative responsibility for IO Waivers transferred from State to County Boards of MR/DD.
- In October, 1996, Sunapple and Company established as a division of ARC Industries.
- In 1996, the Board established a dual diagnosis clinic at OSU's Nisonger Center.

- Satellite Transportation Garage, located behind ARC Industries West opened in August, 1991.
- Governor recognized the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities on 25 years of quality service in October, 1992.
- FCBMR/DD began collaborative project with Gahanna Schools in October, 1992, where students enrolled through Northeast School receive their educational program in Goshen Lane Elementary School.
- In November, 1992, voters passed a 3.5 mill, ten year renewal and additional levy.
- In January, 1993, Extensions, an after school and work day care program, became fully operational after one year pilot project.
- In June, 1993, a new Career Camp for children with developmental and multiple handicaps was established by the Northwest Career Center, Columbus Public Schools and the Franklin County Board of MRDD.
- In June, 1993, all FCBMR/DD facilities became smoke-free.
- Board co-sponsors first statewide Prevention Conference in 1993.
- Transition Counseling Services began first full year of operation, under contract with RSC (Rehabilitation Services Commission) in January, 1994.

1990-1999 continued

- President Clinton signed IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) reauthorization legislation in 1997.
- In October 1997, FCBMR/DD celebrates 30 years of service
- State gets approval for medicaid Residential Facility Waiver (RFW) and begins transition of P.O.S. homes to RFW funding in 1997.
- FCRS offices move to Checkrein Avenue.
- In November, 1998, Board passed 2.32 mill levy for ten year term.

- Preschools and schools expand and continue collaborative classroom placements in Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Bexley and Columbus Schools in 1998
- In 1999, Board began "Stability for the Future", with 4.2 million reduction in projected budget.
- Served over 9,000 children and adults in 1999.
- Case Management and Adult Services consumer planning functions merged in 1999.
- In December, 1999, Steven G. Pleasnick retired after 26 years of service as Superintendent.
- Jed Morison appointed Acting Superintendent in December, 1999.

2000 – 2010

- Jed Morison begins as Superintendent
- The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities was one of the first twelve counties to be officially accredited by the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
- In November, 2001, passed a 3.5 mill replacement levy with 71% voting in favor.
- CAFS (Community Alternative Funding System) Medicaid federal funding for therapies and other specialized services ended in July, 2005.
- Began participation in "Managing For Results" planning and budgeting process in cooperation with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.
- Expanded collaborative programs with school districts, whereby some classes for students served by FCBMRDD were located in school district buildings.
- Over 13,000 individuals, ranging in age from birth to 92 years old were served by the Board in 2005.
- Celebrated the 50 year anniversary of the Franklin County Council for Retarded Citizens in 2001.



ECE Director Becky Love and community leaders helped cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Early Childhood Education and Family Center.

- Collaborated with over 100 different contract agencies in the community to provide services.
- Creative Housing began to secure HUD financing for further development.
- Implemented HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) in 2003.
- Privatized Franklin County Residential Services in 2004.



Superintendent Jed Morison congratulates Sandy Ebner who received a Community Star Award as Transportation staff member.

- Established "Community Star Awards" recognition program in 2003.

Franklin County Residential Services

- Moved into newly renovated Early Childhood Education and Family Center.
- ARC Industries achieved full accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
- Translated agency document into seven languages.
- Passed 1.55 mill replacement and 1.85 mill additional levy (Issue 29) in March, 2008 for total of 3.5 mills for continuous term and allowed 2.32 mill levy to expire. (Effective millage reduced from 3.97 mills to 3.5 mills).

2000 - 2010 continued

- Celebrated 20 year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 2010.
- Senate Bill 79 signed by Governor on July 7, 2009 to change name of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and from Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.
- Developed partnership with Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities in 2007 to serve individuals with intensive needs at Broadview Apartments on grounds of Columbus Developmental Center.
- Developed Red Cross Emergency Shelter at West Central School for individuals who have developmental disabilities in 2008.



Service Coordinators help enroll individuals into the Individual Options Medicaid Waiver program.

- Enrolled over 3,000 individuals on Individual Options (IO) Medicaid waivers from 2000-2010.
- The '20/20' cost projection tool, used to develop individual service plans and developed by FCBDD staff, was adapted for use all over Ohio.
- Collaborated with "Help Me Grow" services for infants and toddlers.



- Dedicated new Service Coordination Building on Watermark Drive in April, 2010.
- Established new logo and implemented name change by dropping the term "mental retardation" from the agency name.
- In 2010, over 16,000 children and adults were served by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

- Service Coordination replaced the name Case Management and Case Managers changed name to Service Coordinators, when state began use of the term SSA for Service and Support Administration.
- Creative Housing owns over 400 properties where individuals with developmental disabilities live in Franklin County.
- Senate Bill 178, Victims of Crime Bill, is signed by Governor Taft on January 30, 2004 to increase protections for individuals who have developmental disabilities.
- Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities established system for investigating, documenting and analyzing major unusual incidents (MUI).
- Columbus Developmental Center provides residential services to less than 120 people in 2010.
- Transportation Department recognized by 'Clean Fuels Ohio' and 'Green Fleet' magazine for environmentally friendly practices.
- FCBDD established "Green Team" to expand environmentally conscious practices.
- Ohio Autism Taskforce established in 2003
- Ohio Self-Determination Association established in 2000.
- American Association on Mental Retardation changes name to American Association for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.
- Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities program established in Ohio in April, 2008 to allow individuals who are working to maintain their health benefits.
- President Obama signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009, which includes Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (EFMAP) match funding, which assists county boards who have lost state funding due to the recession.
- Established 'Self-Advocate Advisory Council' in March, 2010 to advise Superintendent and Board on agency issues.



Director of the State Department of Developmental Disabilities, John Martin and Superintendent Jed Morison join the original members of the Franklin County Self-Advocate Council.

2011-2020

- John Martin re-appointed as Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities by Governor Kasich to retain position for an additional eight years.



- Robert Montgomery begins term as Franklin County Probate Judge, where he later established legislation to create the Franklin County Guardianship Services Board.

- The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities passed a 3.5 mill replacement levy in 2011 (Issue 22) for 6-year term (2013-2018)

- School programs consolidate into West Central School serving 14-22 year old students and Northeast School converted to adult facility in 2015.



- Columbus Crew partners with Franklin County Special Olympics to provide soccer clinics and hosting games at Crew Stadium.



- Franklin County Council for Retarded Citizens, originally established in 1951, dissolves in 2012. The Council helped to establish community based service, which led to establishment of County Boards of Mental Retardation, later changing name to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.



- Ben Hale, longest serving Board member and visionary leader, passed away in 2015.

- Governor Kasich issues Executive Order in 2012 creating Employment First task force to coordinate and improve employment outcomes for working-age adults.

- The Early Childhood Education Department received the highest possible "Step Up to Quality" rating of 5 stars.



- The Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) training for self-advocates supported and annually sponsored by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



- Young Professionals Club names Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a "Wonderful Workplace for Young Professionals."

- Adult services receives 3 year accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities).



- Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University celebrates 50 years in 2016.

- Franklin County Residential Services changes name to Boundless, Inc.



- Morgan Stanley continues to host golf fundraiser for Franklin County Special Olympics.

- Timothy Shriver, Chairman of International Special Olympics visits FCBD.



CDC Headstart Director Mattie James, Timothy Shriver and ECE Director Rebecca Love tour the Early Childhood Education and Family Center.

2011-2020 continued

- ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act signed by President Obama in 2014 and Ohio version called STABLE Accounts signed by Governor Kasich to allow individuals with disabilities to establish special financial savings accounts without losing eligibility for Medicaid.



- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities established partnership with ADAMH Board, Franklin County Children Services and Family and Children First Council to establish multi-system youth program at Kimberly Woods in 2017.

- Dorothy Renner, parent and Administrator, who was instrumental in establishing services for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Franklin County, passed away at age 99 in 2014.



- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities passes 3.5 mill, 10-year levy with 81% voting in favor in November, 2017.

- Disability Rights Ohio files class action lawsuit against State of Ohio in 2016 to change the way services are funded to encourage community options, settled in 2020.

- SELF (Self Empowered Life Funding) Medicaid waiver implemented in 2012.

- Provider Fairs hosted annually at Ohio State Fairgrounds.

- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities celebrates 50 years of services in 2017.



- The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities receives highest rating of 5-year accreditation from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

- Dot Yeager appointed Chief Business Officer, overseeing budget and business operations of the Board.



- Jeff Davis appointed Director of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in 2019, replacing retired John Martin.

- Adult transportation services transitioned to Vans rather than school buses in 2018.



- ARC Industries Adult Services and Adult Transportation services privatized in 2019 due to CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) requirement to have "conflict free case management."

- Franklin County Guardianship Service Board established in 2014.



Guardianship Services Board member Fred Cloppert, Probate Judge Robert Montgomery, and former GSB Board Member Frank New

- Services continue for over 11,000 at any one time and estimates of 20,000 throughout the course of a year.

- Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison awarded Visionary Leader award by Ohio Association of County Boards in 2017, Lifetime Achievement Award by PAR and Ohio Self Determination Association in 2011, and Champion of Children Award by United Way in 2013.



- All operations converted to 'virtual services' in March, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, extending through the year. Face coverings (masks), social distancing, and sanitization protocols established for balance of year. Early Childhood and School programs re-opened in Fall, 2020.

2021-2023

- COVID-19 Pandemic protocols continued through 2023. Public Health Emergency declared over by President Biden, effective May 11, 2023.



Bob Ryan appointed to the Franklin County Guardianship Board, effective in January, 2022, replacing Fred Cloppert.

- Rita Price, former reporter for the Columbus Dispatch, joins Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities as Communications Coordinator in January, 2021.
- Close to 11,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, staff and providers prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine.

- Marci Straughter, appointed in January, 2022 to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, by Franklin County Commissioners. Marci was the first person with a developmental disability to serve on the 7 member Board.



- Jeff Davis retires as State Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in December, 2021. Kim Hauck appointed as State Director, effective January, 2022.



'Connector' program was established in 2021 to help families find certified providers.

- Juneteenth holiday observed for first time on June 19, 2021. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

- Graduation exercises for West Central class of 2021 and 2022 held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, in-person graduation resumes.

- Preschool and School in-person services resume for 2020/2021 school year with protocols for masks, social distancing, sanitization, quarantine and isolation policies in place.

- Larry Macintosh, Director of Administrative Services, recognized by The Ohio State University, with the Nisonger Center Champion Award.



- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is first county board in Ohio to begin use of Ohio Department of Developmental Disability's new OhioISP (Individualized Service Plan) in 2021.

- Ohio Budget Coalition lobbies for unprecedented increases in state budget for Direct Services Professionals (DSPs) to bring average wage up to \$19.00/hour. County Boards of Developmental Disabilities contribute to efforts using some funds saved due to EFMAP (enhanced medical assistance percentage), where by the federal government increased their share of cost for Medicaid waivers.

- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Special Olympics partners with professional soccer and Columbus Crew SC.



- Creative Housing secures state funding to offer free or reduced cost internet services to allow greater use of remote supports.

- Sean Patterson appointed DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Coordinator for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

- Community Star Awards resumes in 2022 after 2 years pause due to COVID-19 pandemic.

- Christine Brown advocates for change in Medicaid Buy-In to eliminate age 65 restriction. Legislation passed in 2023 to advance this initiative.



Rebecca (Becky) Love retires as Director of Early Childhood Education, after over 50 years of service.

- Legislative Advocacy resumes in March, 2023 with over 200 self-advocates and friends in attendance to provide input to legislators.

- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities maintains stable funding, consistent with commitment to voters to stay off ballot until 2028 when 10 year levy expires.

- Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO, retires on December 31, 2023, after 54 years of public service.



Dot Yeager appointed Superintendent/CEO, effective January 1, 2024.

Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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