

Dateline

May 2024

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"Helping people to live, learn and work in our community"

Hundreds attend expanded Franklin County Provider Fair

The 2024 Franklin County Provider and Community Resource Fair moved to a bigger building this year, offered expanded hours and drew more than 800 visitors. Joe Price was so happy to be among them that he spent most of the day at the event.



"I come every year," he said. "And this set-up is nicer because it's not so congested."

Held in Kasich Hall at the Ohio state fairgrounds, there were dozens and dozens of service providers, community organizations and other vendors. "I also come to check out the assistive technology," Price said. "I like to see what I can use to be more independent."

Being able to speak with service providers in person is important, said Kristina, who was in search of after-school support for her teenage son. Finding a good fit isn't always easy, so she was glad that potential providers could meet her 16-year-old and get an idea of his needs. "Sometimes you get stuck between a rock and a hard place," she said, wiping tears. "Going through the map of providers here gives me a strategy."

Anne Watson, a Service Coordination supervisor at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, said attendance data indicates that many people took advantage of the later hours offered this year.

Larry Macintosh and Joni Sparks in the FCBDD Administrative and Support Services Department led the organizing and logistics, along with help from service coordination staff, maintenance and West Central School.



Advocates work to enact supported decision-making legislation

Ohio could soon enact a law recognizing supported decision-making plans as an option for adults with developmental disabilities who want alternatives to guardianship.

Senate Bill 213, sponsored by state Sen. Jerry Cirino, includes new wording that is preferred by self-advocates, said Kristen Henry, executive director of APSI (Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc.). A previous version of supported decision-making legislation had drawn concerns that it was not explicit enough about the rights of the person with disabilities.

"It's called a supported decision-making 'plan' now instead of an 'agreement,'" Henry said. For some advocates, "There was a way of reading the prior version that made it seem like the supporter was making the decision."

Supported decision-making plans are defined as a plan between an adult with a developmental disability and one or more supporters chosen by the adult. Through a voluntary plan, which can be informal, formal or recorded in writing, the supporters can assist with such matters as decision-making, communication, understanding information and accompanying the person during discussions with third parties.

The bill makes clear that, unless otherwise determined by a court, adults with developmental disabilities are presumed capable and competent to handle their own affairs. Ohio would not be the first to act on the issue; at least a dozen other states have supported decision-making statutes.

To listen to an APSI webinar on supported decision-making, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3dadm6mh> and enter the passcode: P@d#\$\$t1

To submit an interest form for updates about SB 213, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/TWmVx3YSqM>

State offers resources about parents as paid caregivers

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has a new web page with information about a service option that allows parents to be paid providers for their minor children.

The “Parents as Paid Caregivers” site explains the program criteria set forth in the state rule. Among the key eligibility requirements:

- The child must go through the existing county board and home and community-based waiver eligibility process and be enrolled on a waiver.
- There is no other willing and able service provider available to meet the child’s needs.
- The child must meet the criteria for extraordinary care based on the Ohio Department of Medicaid’s assessment tool.

County boards can authorize a parent to provide up to 40 hours of care per week, depending on the child’s assessed need and waiver budget. The 40-hour limit may be exceeded only with approval from DODD. Paid parent caregivers also must work for an agency or provide a self-directed service through the Financial Management Service (FMS) and are not permitted to own or operate the agency.

First allowed during the pandemic as part of the Appendix K emergency actions, the parent caregiver option sought to help families struggling to recruit and retain direct-support professionals. Because workforce challenges remain – sometimes forcing parents to quit their jobs to care for children with disabilities – the administration of Gov. Mike DeWine instructed DODD and the Ohio departments of Medicaid and Aging to keep the option and find ways to structure it fairly and appropriately.

For details or to watch a video on the option, please visit:

https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/services/paid_family

Celebrating and sharing as a person with Down Syndrome by Jennifer Cunningham

My experience being a young person with Down syndrome has given me good opportunities to share my activities and interests with others, especially people who care about me.

My family and friends support me in my ability to do sports such as gymnastics and downhill skiing. I also am involved with many events through the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO).

I am on the STABLE Advisory Board, too. STABLE accounts help people with disabilities save and invest money without losing important benefits.



This year I was involved in the local World Down Syndrome Day celebration on March 21, which was really fun. I loved being in the Proud To Be Me fashion show with my friends. I’ve been a part of the show for many years and it’s great to be able to help send positive messages about people with Down syndrome.

Jennifer Cunningham works in the Human Resources Department at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

FCBDD Psychology Department moving to ARC

The Psychology Department of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will transfer this summer to ARC Industries, which is working to establish a behavioral health line of service as part of its emphasis on serving the “whole person.”

The FCBDD board approved the move during its March meeting. The transfer is planned for July 1, and likely will be preceded by a celebration in late June of the department’s many years of service.

FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Dot Yeager said the Psychology Department has shifted its focus in recent years to delivering counseling services while continuing to support Intake and Service Coordination’s need for guardianship evaluations, Medicaid waiver evaluations, eligibility determinations and other requests.

The move to ARC will allow current counseling services and support of FCBDD operations to be sustained while growing the capacity for behavioral health services in the community.

2024 FCBDD Community Star Awards Nominations

Know someone whose accomplishments or support efforts in the developmental disabilities community really stand out?
Nominations for the Community Star Awards are being accepted until June 10, with winners recognized during an awards ceremony on October 16, 2024 - more details to be announced soon!

Please use the nomination form included in this issue of Dateline.

Goodwill Columbus, Harmony Project team up as ‘Superheroes’



With music, dance, poetry, powerful storytelling and more, the Goodwill Columbus-Harmony Project collaborative performance ‘We Can Be Superheroes’ earned rave reviews from participants and audience members alike.

“That’s the outcome,” Tiffany Martin, Director of the Goodwill Columbus Work and Community Services Program, said of the April 10th big event. “But it’s the months and months of preparation and practice that are so important. It’s taking the talent people have and figuring out what they want to do.”

Goodwill has partnered with the nonprofit Harmony Project and We Amplify Voices (WAV) the past two years to create arts opportunities for people with differing abilities and life experiences. Liz has taken part in the overall program, worked on songs and videos with WAV, and is eager to do more:

Any favorite performance areas?

I love singing, I love acting – I love it all! Growing up, there were people who told me I wasn’t going to amount to anything. Well, let’s see them memorize all these lines and perform. It’s like I found my happy place.

Sounds like you make artistic expression a part of your everyday life, too.

I like to draw, and I like to write my own songs. I wrote one that I sang for my grandma’s funeral.

What are some of your other interests? You have accomplished a lot.

I lived at the CDC (Columbus Developmental Center) for 15 years and now I am in Grove City with a roommate! I’m 32; I just did that last year. I do retail, woodshop and the bike shop here at Goodwill. I love animals and I have two guinea pigs – they’re sisters.

You like to help people. What’s some of your best advice?

Do what your heart is telling you to do. I did. Have a faith in yourself, and others will, too.



To learn more or video of the Superheroes session, go to: www.goodwillcolumbus.org/we-can-be-superheroes

Federal legislation update

Advocates say job classification code would help DSPs

After passage in the U.S. Senate, advocates are now pushing the House of Representatives to approve legislation that would create a Standard Occupational Classification code for the job of Direct Support Professional.

Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies DSPs in the broader category of “home health care aide,” which includes all home health care occupations. That makes it difficult to compile accurate wage and workforce data for DSPs.

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals says the legislation, known as the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act (HR 2941), is vital to recognizing the true scope of the job and the role DSPs play in the lives of people with disabilities.

The direct-support workforce has long been plagued by low pay and high turnover rates, which in turn can make it difficult for people with disabilities to find the support they need.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals and many other disability-advocacy organizations support the legislation. For more information on supporting the legislation, click on the link below.

<https://www.ancor.org/actions/call-on-congress-to-recognize-direct-support-professionals/>

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community



Congrats to Hunter Primmer, a voiceover artist with autism who recently narrated a series of videos for the Ohio State University Nisonger Center dental program. Hunter hopes to build a career around his amazing voice talents. To learn more, go to www.hunterprimmer.com.

Links to the Nisonger clinic videos are at the bottom of the page at:

<https://nisonger.osu.edu/adult/adult-clinics-services/dental-program/mccampbell-hall-dental-clinic/>

Thanks to Carla Maynard (admin), Michaela Rodgers (admin) and nurse Tammy Bourne (ECE) for their quick action in assisting an elderly woman who became ill while at FCBDD. They knew just what to do, and they did it with kindness and compassion.

It was great to have our Early Childhood Education program host another parent-listening session for Ohio's new Department of Children and Youth. About 40 families with young children came to share their views on what is needed to help children grow and thrive.

Career Milestones

20 Years
Beth Speaks

10 Years
Lindsay Smith
Joni Sparks

Easterseals is again teaming up with [The Improvaneer Method](#) to offer summer "Improva-Camp" sessions in Hilliard. Youth and adults with disabilities learn how to use improvisation to build important skills such as quick and creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork and more.

~June 27-29, noon to 2 p.m.~

~Age 16 and up~

~\$250; spaces limited~

To register, go to TINYURL.COM/IMPROV24

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or disability.

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org



Calendar

May, 2024

- 16 FCBDD Early Childhood Education and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Produce Drive Through from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the ECEFC Bus Lane (accessed via Marilyn Lane). For more details, contact Sarah Gillilan at 614-342-5803.
- 16,17 Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Spring Conference, Downtown Columbus Hilton
- 22 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Family Support meeting, 12 Noon (Zoom)
FCBDD Family Support Meeting Link:
<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>
- 23 Franklin County Board of Developmental Board meeting, **12:30 p.m.** at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.
FCBDD Board Meeting Link:
<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>
- 27 Memorial Day - all county facilities closed.
- 29 West Central School Graduation
- 30 Last day of in-person classes for Early Childhood center-based programs and West Central Schools



FCBDD Community Star Awards Nomination Form

Do you know someone who should be recognized for extraordinary accomplishments or service supporting individuals with developmental disabilities?



If so, please take a moment to complete and return this nomination form. Nominations will be accepted until **Monday, June 10, 2024**. All nominations will be considered by an Award Committee, and winners in each category will be recognized at the FCBDD Community Star Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. **Please submit this nomination to: Awards Committee, c/o Amy Magginis, 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219.**

(PLEASE PRINT)

1. Name of Nominee: _____ Daytime Phone# _____
Home Address: _____

2. Please complete one nomination per form and check the category for which this person or organization is nominated. Nominees are not required to be staff members or affiliated with FCBDD.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person Receiving Services/Self-Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood/School Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Service Professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provider Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/Supervisory/Administrative Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer/Good Neighbor | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Coordination Department Staff |

3. Why should this nominee be recognized? _____

4. Please describe any other achievements or information regarding this person or organization to support this nomination: _____

Nominated by: **(Please Print)** _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/Daytime Phone # _____

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