

Franklin County Board to get 5-year accreditation

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) has received word from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) that it will receive accreditation for five years as a result of the recent review of board programs and services conducted by DODD. That is the longest accreditation period the state offers for county boards.

A team of DODD surveyors visited FCBDD from January 28th through 30th. All board programs and services were reviewed other than those which fall under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Department of Education.

"We're thrilled to receive this positive recognition of the quality of services provided," said FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison. "It is a great credit to our staff and their strong commitment to their work."

Included in DODD's review were FCBDD's role as a provider of Early Intervention Services for the "Help Me Grow" program, its role as a direct provider of Medicaid Waiver Services, Adult Services, and Transportation Services, and its separate and independent role as Service Coordinator and Local Medicaid Administrative Authority for Waiver Services.

The new accreditation period will run from June 1st to May 31, 2019.

Project managers for the accreditation review were Tracey Crawford and Larry Macintosh of the Administrative and Support Services Department and Karin Crabbe of Service Coordination.



Tracey Crawford, Larry Macintosh, Karin Crabbe

Beautiful Natural Life wins Best in Show by Lorena Loaiza



Front: Jill Davis; Back: Shawnda Osswald, Stephanie Spencer, Wendi Olszewski. (Photo by Margo Crabtree.)

A collaborative, mixed media painting by three Sunapple Studio artists won the Best in Show honor at the Accessible Expressions Ohio 2014 Art Exhibit on March 8th. Sponsored by VSA Ohio, the State Organization on Arts and Disability, the event took place at the Westerville Community Center.

The painting, formally known as *Beautiful Natural Life - where everyone would like to be*, was created by artists Wendi Olszewski, Stephanie Spencer and Shawnda Osswald.

Other works by Franklin County artists accepted for the show were *Comfortable Looking at Flowers* by Stephanie Spencer and Jill Davis, and *Everything I Want Is Around Me* by Wendi Olszewski.

VSA Ohio inspires and encourages people with disabilities to express themselves through the arts. Since 1996, the Accessible Expressions Art Exhibit has given artists the opportunity to create, exhibit and sell their work. The exhibit travels throughout Ohio through December.

Christine Brown speaks at DD awareness, advocacy program

Franklin County was well represented at the state's annual DD Awareness and Advocacy kick-off held at the Statehouse Atrium on March 4th. A large contingent from the county attended and self-advocate Christine Brown was one of eight speakers to address the audience of over 400.

She called on state lawmakers to increase the Medicaid Asset Limit, noting that the limit of \$1,500 has remained the same for forty years. The only Medicaid recipients subject to this asset limit are those falling under the aged, blind or disabled (ABD) program.

Other speakers at the kick-off included John Martin, Director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities, and Renee Ward of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.



Christine Brown receives congratulations from board members Linda Craig and Dean Fadel following her speech at the Statehouse.

OACB plans spring conference

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) will hold their Annual Spring Conference on May 22-23rd at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris.

The first day of the conference will feature state and national speakers on the topic of integrated employment and service provision. The second day will consist of traditional breakout sessions focusing on pursuing integration.

For more information, please contact Ann Neu at 431-0616 or by e-mail at aneu@oacbdds.org.



In other OACB news, the association has contracted with Dr. Terry Ryan, former Superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, to help coordinate the association's strategic direction on issues related to community employment and waiver settings.

Students learn how to use iPad by Michael Ross

Students at West Central and Northeast Schools are learning how to use the iPad with Bluetooth and adapted switches. Switch accessibility is a type of assistive technology that enables people with physical or cognitive disabilities to access an iPad. There are a wide variety of switches as well as many different ways to activate them. However, a switch cannot be directly plugged into an iPad. In order to use a switch, one must have switch interfaces, which bridge the connection between the switch and the iPad.

The switch in use currently is the Bluetooth cordless switch interface from RJ Cooper. It works through Bluetooth settings on the iPad and has a range of over 50 feet. This allows the user to use any app on the iPad that is switch accessible.

Three options are built into the iPad and iPod under accessibility. One can choose from using the screen as a switch, using head movement or an external switch. Here, Ashley Marshall, a senior-level student in a collaborative classroom at Central Crossing High School, is using her head switch connected to Bluetooth to scan through songs in her music library. She then uses her hand to select the song she wants.



Children go for gold at ECE Olympics

Although the 2014 Winter Olympics were held in Sochi, Russia, the children attending FCBDD's Early Childhood program didn't have far to travel to get in on the fun.

Classrooms at both the Johnstown Road and Rudy Road locations chose countries for which to compete and then spent a week examining their country's geography, culture and agriculture.

They next staged an opening ceremony which included a parade of countries passing through Olympic arches. Olympic events followed, including bobsledding, skiing, ice skating, the luge, downhill sledding and hockey. All those participating received gold medals.

The overlap between the Early Childhood games and the televised Olympics in Sochi reportedly resulted in a surprising question by one child to his mother. "How did they know we were having the Olympics at our school?"



Lighting the Olympic flame at the opening ceremony.



The most important thing is not winning but taking part.



Go U.S.A. !!!



The parade of nations included Mexico.

Columbus Children's Theatre visits Northeast



The cast of "Hansel and Gretel" including Eric Palmer (center).

Four professional actors from Columbus Children's Theatre brought the theater to life at Northeast School on March 7th. Their performance of "Hansel and Gretel" captured the imaginations of students and adults alike.

Audience members were encouraged to participate in the performance by providing sound effects for scenes in the forest and at the gingerbread house. One student, Eric Palmer, was chosen to participate in the performance as a crumb-stealing bird. His performance was delightful!

Members of the touring company gave Eric high praise.

Northeast School staff and students are looking forward to welcoming Columbus Children's Theatre again.

From Sunapple Studio by Lorena Loaiza

We have the good fortune to be surrounded by talented artists with great personalities and unique skills. One of these artists is Wendi Olszewski, an Ohio native who loves reading Judy Blume and enjoys drawing animals.

With the guidance of her instructor, Wendi has created a beautiful coloring book containing drawings of all the animals she loves.

Faith Rechel, the marketing director of Chick-Fil-A, invited Wendi to participate in a traditional family night event at the restaurant at 6051 Sawmill Rd.

This event took place on Tuesday, March 11th from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Guests had the opportunity to meet Wendi and buy an autographed copy of her book.

A coloring contest for all ages was held. Wendi announced the winners who received free ice cream or milk shakes.

Thanks to all who came to support this event. We are looking forward to the next one.



Wendi Olszewski

Paint-A-Palooza planned

Absolute Care invites you to join them for *Paint-A-Palooza 2014* on Saturday, April 26th from 12 to 6 p.m. at 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd., Worthington. This is a day to demonstrate that individuals with disabilities can do anything! Please visit www.absolutecare.org for more details or contact Caitlin Weasel at cweasel@absolutecare.org. Just prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza, Absolute Care will host a "Walk for Wounded Warrior Project." The walk starts at 10:30 a.m. at Absolute Care. Funds raised will go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Provider Fair set for May 14

FCBDD's Service Coordination Department is hosting another provider fair which will be held at the Aladdin Shrine Center at 3850 Steltzer Road on Wednesday, May 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then later that same day from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Due to space limitations this fair will be limited to providers of adult services and nonmedical transportation.

Last November, FCBDD hosted a well attended provider fair at the same location.

Interested providers who have not yet registered can contact Joni Sparks by phone at 342-5964 or by e-mail at Joni.Sparks@fcbdd.org.

Consumers and parents with questions should contact their Service Coordinator or Lilian Beck at 342-5599 or at Lilian.Beck@fcbdd.org, or Anne Watson at 342-5574 or at Anne.Watson@fcbdd.org.

ORA Conference set for May 15

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association (ORA) will hold its 60th anniversary celebration and annual training conference May 15 through May 17th.

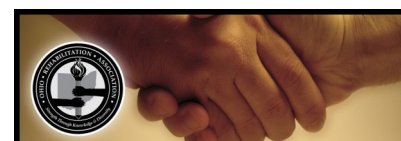
Service Coordinator Brittany Neuenschwander and On-the-Job training Specialist Pat Batdorf, both of whom are current board members of the group, will co-chair conference registration.



Pat Batdorf,
Brittany Neuenschwander

ORA is under the umbrella of National Rehabilitation Association which promotes ethical and state-of-the-art practice in rehabilitation in order to advance personal and economic independence of persons with disabilities.

This conference will run from Thursday evening through Saturday. The conference will be held at North Pointe Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center.



Good for you

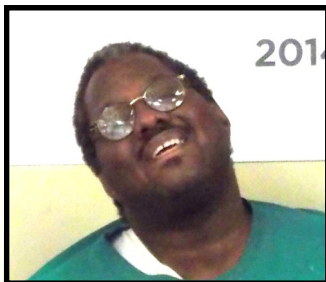
Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

The Board of Trustees of **Creative Housing** has elected former FCBDD Board President **Jerry Saunders** to serve on their board. He is the President/ CEO of **Africentric Personal Development Shop Inc.**, a nonprofit organization that provides personal, family, and community development programs. His community service record includes chairing the board of 100 Black Men of Central Ohio.

Pat Batdorf of FCBDD's Placement Services Department is spreading the word about two individuals who have achieved notable anniversaries in their employment. Both **Ron Morris**, who is a file clerk at **Mt. Carmel Hospital**, and **John Witcher**, a cookie maker at **Cheryl's Cookies**, have completed 25 years of continuous employment. Congratulations, men!



Ron Morris



John Witcher

Creative Housing/ Creative Renovations has received a \$15,000 grant from **The Columbus Foundation** to support its efforts to broaden home accessibility for area seniors. Creative's CEO **Pat Rafter** hopes to "highlight to public policymakers the importance of robust home renovation programs serving as a deterrent to placing seniors in long-term care facilities."

Three staff members of FCBDD's Transportation Department took part recently in the creation of a video by **Clean Fuel, Ohio**. The subject was the agency's successful pilot project in using a propane-fueled schoolbus. Driver **George Barnette**, Service Manager **Eric Kinney**, and Transportation Director **Paul Chenderlin** represented themselves and the agency well. Can Hollywood careers be far off?

Next Chapter Book Clubs were highlighted in *Woman's Day* magazine's April issue. Started by **Dr. Tom Fish** of the **Nisonger Center**, the network of clubs offers weekly opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to read books and talk about them. Over 250 clubs have been established across the U.S. and Canada.

The 2014 season has been an exciting one for fans of the **Columbus Blue Jackets**, including Greeter **Gerald Spinks** and Creative Housing's CEO **Pat Rafter**. A longtime tenant of Creative, Gerald reportedly turned down Pat's request for a deal on potential playoff tickets.

Career Milestones

30 years
Angela Wright

25 years
Kurt Schmitter
Deborah Seeds

20 years
William Aberegg
Andrew Cole

15 years
Leonard Amicone
Angel Hawkins
Terry Kellenberger

10 years
Phyllis McKinney
Winston Tidwell
Jennifer Turner
Sherry Wade
Marsha Whitehead

5 years
Donna Dabney
Allison Grimes
Susan Hedges
Katrina McGlothlin
Robert Piper
Scott Smith

"Quotable quote"

"As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

-- Audrey Hepburn



Pat Rafter and Gerald Spinks

Calendar

April, 2014

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 Family Advocates for Adult Children (FAAC) monthly meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 11 a.m.
- 8 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 11 Staff Development Day
- 14-18 Spring Recess for ECE, Northeast, and West Central Schools
- 15 U.S. income tax deadline
- 15 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 24 FCBDD Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Fawcett Center, 11:30 a.m.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

Superintendent / C.E.O. **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.

The following staff contribute to the monthly *Dateline*:

Martin Kerscher **Carl Scott** **Linda Fleming**
Amy Magginis **Jennifer Cunningham**

News releases, story ideas, and suggestions should be sent to:

Martin Kerscher, Editor
2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 475-6440 FAX (614) 342-5001
e-mail: marty.kerscher@fcbdd.org

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

www.fcbdd.org

Summer program offered

A high school summer program for children with developmental disabilities ages 15 to 18 will be offered from June 20th through August 15th by Learning Never Ends, LLC. "Camp LNE" will offer weekly nature trail exploration, games, adaptive sports and recreation, educational and volunteer activities. For more information, please contact Amanda Kennedy at 888-8486 (Ext. 100) or by e-mail at akennedy.lne@gmail.com.

The green spot by Brenda Toney

*"In the spring, at the end of the day,
you should smell like dirt."*
-- Margaret Atwood



This spring, participants in FCBDD Adult Services and their partner agencies will have fun making Margaret's words ring true. April starts the greening of raised bed gardens at Arc East and West as well as Bixby and Hague.

Other gardeners from FCBDD locations have been doing volunteer gardening at Hoover Educational Gardens, and farming raised beds at Franklin Park Conservatory. This project provides education in farming and nutrition, as well as a way to earn money and donate to the community.

"There's nothing more green than growing green," notes ARC West Director Jan Montgomery. All the plants grown in the gardens are grown without chemicals and with only natural methods of pest control. In addition, the seeds and seedlings planted are of the non-genetically modified variety. Nutrients are added to the soil naturally through composting. Weeds are eradicated by a combination of mulching and frequent weeding.

Much of the gardening success can be attributed to our partners in farming and distribution of food. A nonprofit organization dedicated to making healthy and sustainably grown food accessible, Local Matters has provided our gardens with seeds and seedlings, as well as providing education to our gardeners. In turn, we share our storage space with them.

Produce from the gardens is sold to Black Creek Bistro in Old Towne East. Herbs, such as thyme and basil, are grown for local bakery Bake Me Happy. ARC East contributes to the Gahanna Residents In Need food pantry. ARC West partners with the Clintonville Resource Center.

If eating delicious food and helping to feed the community isn't enough of an incentive to grow green, many ARC gardeners see benefits in mood. Spending time outside and digging in the dirt has had a decompressing effect on many participants. Gardening provides a creative outlet for others and a feeling of accomplishment.