

Dateline

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

Celebrate 50!

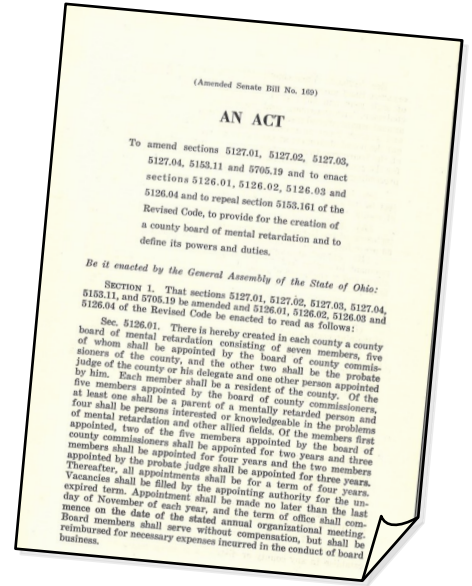
In 2017, County Boards will celebrate 50 years of service!

It was 1967 that County Boards of Developmental Disabilities were established with passage of Amended Senate Bill 169. At that time, Boards were called County Boards of Mental Retardation. In 1980, the name was changed to County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and in 2009, the term "Mental Retardation" was dropped and the name changed again to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

Am. S.B. 169 passed the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives on July 18, 1967, was signed by Governor Rhodes on July 26, 1967 and became effective on October 25, 1967.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities plans to recognize the 50th Anniversary in October during the Community Star Awards. According to Superintendent/ CEO Jed Morison, "we plan to remind people of our journey over these past 50 years with special recognition to parents and other family members who started services and continue to be valuable partners as we continue to help people live, learn and work in the community."

Let's 'Celebrate 50' all year!



CARF gives highest rating

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has given the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) and ARC Industries its highest rating with a 3 year accreditation.

CARF surveyors visited ARC Industries in September to review compliance with 961 best practice standards.

The three year accreditation applies to the following services:

- Community Employment Services
- Community Integration
- Employment Planning Services
- Organizational Employment Services
- Transition Services

The official report highlighted 25 strengths, including the following statements:

"Staff members are dedicated professionals that function as a cohesive, effective team."

"The participants and their families express high levels of satisfaction."

"FCBDD is commended for its community participation."

"FCBDD maintains attractive and well-appointed physical facilities."

"It is evident that FCBDD is a respected organization in the community."

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CARF gives highest rating *(continued from page 1)*

In addition to highlighting strengths, the report provided additional consultations and recommendations including:

- Consolidate numerous compliance documents into one.
- Conduct annual review of policies.
- Conduct health and safety self-inspections at least semi-annually.
- Review and update job descriptions annually.
- Consider building upon Project STIR self-advocacy activity by adding peer support and training of police and fire departments.

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison stated "we are very pleased with this recognition which validates the excellent work of our entire Adult Services staff. Congratulations to ARC Industries CEO Bob Gaston and his entire staff."

For further details on the complete report, contact Bob Gaston at ARC Industries or call (614) 475-7007.



Bob Gaston,
ARC Industries CEO

FCBDD Website accessibility project

Editor's note: The following article was written by Chris Martin, Project Manager for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Special thanks to Chris and the entire team for these enhancements to the FCBDD website. (www.fcbdd.org)

FCBDD recently chartered a technology project to enhance accessibility and responsiveness of the FCBDD website.

As a result, information and services are now more accessible to people with visual impairments who utilize screen readers or screen magnifiers to navigate the site. Additionally, the website is now "responsive", meaning that people can more effectively read and navigate the site using mobile devices.

From a compliance standpoint, the project achieved a level of compliance that exceeds minimum technology standards associated with the American Disabilities Act.

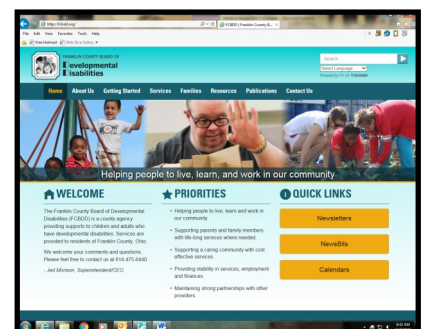
Work done by individuals and teams on the project went far above and beyond expectations. Leading the project's screen reader testing was Toi-Lin Van Horn, a Job Development Specialist at ARC North with proficiency in screen readers and an understanding of how people navigate websites with these tools. In the second phase of accessibility testing, Toi included Troy Sullivan, to help test using a different screen reader and provide his own input and recommendations.

To understand how people can best use screen magnifier tools with the site, Lynn Rutledge, an Occupational Therapist, facilitated screen magnifier testing at ARC West with Brett Dupuy who shared valuable feedback and a better understanding of how people use magnifiers with websites. During this testing activity, Andrew Holmquist, a Tactile Interpreter from the Deaf Services Center, interpreted questions from the project leads, using signing in hands and audible communication.

Contracted to perform the technology updates was Rampart Hosting, who hosts the FCBDD website. The Rampart team included President Rick Hulse and Senior Developer Dave Matheny who made the necessary coding changes and performed preliminary testing of the site before FCBDD staff tested and validated effectiveness of the site enhancements.

In addition to the efforts of those individuals who helped so much with the accessibility testing, a core group of staff were engaged throughout the project to help test the responsive design enhancements and participate in project updates through completion. This group included Dot Yeager, Marcy Samuel, Gwynn Kinsel, Linda Fleming, Quinten Wilson, Emmanuel Owusu-Boadi Jr. and Travis Sherick.

Finally, the 'Webbers' group and managers supporting the project team all contributed toward the successful project results. In 2017, additional enhancements will be made to further enhance accessibility to the FCBDD website.



Director Martin urges Ohio to #StartTalking

DODD Director John Martin joined London Mitchell on his radio program to discuss the 'Start Talking!' Initiative to build a drug-free culture.

Director Martin spoke about the website starttalking.ohio.gov, and reviewed some of the ideas offered by the site related to speaking to others about drug and alcohol use.

"It's hard to naturally work it into the conversation, yet it's so critical. It's probably one of the cheapest, most effective forms of drug control," the director said, pointing to studies that show that children of parents who talk to their teens about drugs are up to 50 percent less likely to use.

Speaking about his nearly 40 years in the field, Director Martin described how the landscape has changed in that time: "When I first came into the field we had a fair amount of kids in the system with fetal alcohol syndrome. We saw the devastating impact of that addiction on those kids."

Now, with the opiate crisis consuming much of today's addiction concerns, the director conceded it can be especially hard on Ohioans with disabilities.

"Children born addicted to opiates has increased five times in the last six or seven years. We are seeing an increase in kids being referred to early intervention in part, according to stories we hear from staff working in those environments, connected to this opiate crisis."

For more information on Ohio's #starttalking Initiative, visit starttalking.ohio.gov.



Medicaid managed care is optional

The Ohio Department of Medicaid has announced that individuals who are enrolled in a home and community based services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver now have the option to enroll in 'Managed Care' instead of the traditional fee-for-service program.

Enrollment is 100% optional and this will not change HCBS waiver services. The Managed Care plan will be used for primary/ acute medically necessary services.

Ohio has five Managed Care Companies/ Plans who contract with the Ohio Department of Medicaid. People can select one of the five plans and can receive assistance in selecting a plan by calling the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at (800) 324-8680. Some plans offer extra services, such as additional transportation, vision or dental services. Once enrolled in Managed Care, a Case Manager will be assigned to assist the person.

It is important for people to decide which option (Fee for Service or Managed Care) best fits their health care needs.

FCBDD Service Coordinators can provide additional clarification.

Winter weather options

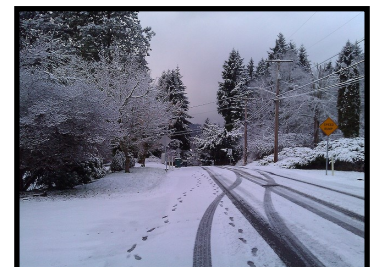
The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) Transportation Department has an automatic call system for use on inclement weather days when transportation is cancelled.

Individuals who sign up will receive a text or email when the decision to cancel transportation is made, generally at approximately 5:00 a.m. Messages will also be given to television and radio stations. Individuals served, parents, guardians, providers or others may sign up for this service at no charge.

If interested in being added to the FCBDD notification list or to opt out, please email your email address or cell phone number (with area code) and Carrier (e.g. Verizon, Sprint, etc.) to: transadmin@fcbdd.org. FCBDD staff members are asked to indicate if they are a staff member as separate notification lists are maintained.

On days when FCBDD transportation is cancelled, Administrative, Service Coordination and Adult Services locations remain open so people can provide their own transportation to these sites. However, always be certain to call the building in advance just to be sure.

Individuals, family members and providers are also reminded that they can always decide not to send an individual even if the FCBDD buses are operating. Conditions may vary in different areas of the county. Individual circumstances and health considerations may require that people stay home to be safe.



Recreation Camping Club enjoys first campout

by Becky Niles, Program Manager

Five members of the Franklin County Recreation Camping Club enjoyed their first campout this Fall at Alum Creek State Park.

Campers began planning for the campout in June, with a skills day. There they learned how to pitch a tent, build different types of campfires, cook over the fire, pack a backpack and roll a sleeping bag. They then put their skills to the test in September.

Each camper helped to put up tents at camp sites. They then built a fire and prepared dinner over the fire.



After dinner, everyone was entertained by volunteer Bob Penry as he played guitar and led the group in singing around the campfire. Some campers also played cards.

It began to rain overnight, so everyone woke to wet surroundings. But spirits weren't dampened as campers made breakfast of pancakes, sausage and fruit, with the help of volunteer Rob Niles. Then they cleaned up and broke down the camp.

The camping club is planning their next trip to Hocking Hills in March, 2017. For more information about supporting or getting involved with Camping Club, contact Becky Niles at bniles@addohio.org.

OACB files motion in lawsuit

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) has filed a motion to intervene as a Defendant in Ball v. Kasich, a proposed class-action lawsuit currently before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

The purpose of this motion is to request that the court permit OACB to formally join the lawsuit as a named party and to act in future proceedings as the single legal representative of Ohio's 88 county boards of developmental disabilities.

OACB has not taken a formal position in any court filings on the arguments raised thus far by either plaintiffs or defendants. By filing a motion to intervene, county boards are simply asking the court to grant them a seat at the table in conversations about the future of Ohio's DD service delivery system.

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) filed the lawsuit in March, 2016 against the Governor and the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Community Connections offers dancing

ADD's Community Connections program for adults served by FCBDD, continues to offer community activities, including a recent ballroom dancing class at Angela Young Dance Studio.

Community Connections brought groups to participate in the fall showcase with the Dancing instructor, Will Young. The class began by learning basic footing and steps to the dances. After developing these skills, the group then paired their newly learned dance moves with music and partners.

Wearing Hawaiian themed skirts and leis, the group successfully performed each song at the fall showcase for their friends, family, and fellow classmates. Following the performance, an open dance was held.



Did you know?

Former State Representative Barbara Sears (Lucas County) has replaced John McCarthy as the Director of Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Coleman Ritterback, Mousa Moreb and DeAngelo Mills** for your performance with the Central Crossing High School choir in the 'Concert for Understanding'.



Congratulations to **Darnell Cummings** and **Kylee Wentz** who recently attended an OSU Pep Rally at ARC West.



Congratulations to **Kurt Smith, Robin Rexroad, Mel Rhoads and David Small**, for presenting on the Integrated Community Supports Grant at the Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB).

Special thanks to **Scotts Miracle-Gro** for awarding a Community Garden Academy Grant to the FCBDD Early Childhood Education Department to support the gardening curriculum at the two Early Childhood Centers.



Congratulations to **Northeast Center** for the partnership with the City of Gahanna. "Art is For Everyone" is the theme of the partnership. Gahanna City Hall displayed inspiring works of Northeast Center artists throughout the month of December and on January 11th, Northeast will host a classroom on creating pinch pot planters from clay, through the Teach/Reach program, in which artists with different abilities share their skills.



Mayor Kneeland of Gahanna joins Northeast Artists.

Congratulations to Joyce **Barrowman**, Transportation Director, for presenting at the Ohio Association of County Boards Annual Convention (OACB).

Dean Fadel, member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and President of the Ohio Association of County Boards, has been re-elected to another term on the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Marinko-Shrivers**, for serving as Co-Chair of the Ohio Partners in Justice.

Career Milestones

30 years
Laura Billingham

25 years
Bennie Hill

20 years
Jessica Siebold
Janice Tartell

15 years
Eric Kinney

10 years
Virginia Abbott
Jack Akin
Patsy Gayle
Dana Johnson
Darren Thompson

5 Years
Marlene Eloissaint

Early Intervention in Ohio/ Intervencion Temprana en Ohio

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has published a 5 minute video on Evidence Based Early Intervention services for children age 0 to 3. The video is also translated in Spanish.



To view the video, go to the following link:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/IndividualFamilies/MYday/Pages/Education-and-Development.aspx>

In Memoriam

Don Wire

We are sorry to report that Colonel Donald C. Wire, passed away on November 25, 2016.

Colonel Wire was a long-time leader in the developmental disabilities field. For many years he served on an advisory committee for Columbus Developmental Center and he served as President and a member of the Board of Franklin County Residential Services, Inc.

Colonel Wire was a strong advocate for his son and others who have disabilities. He was 88 years old.

Transition night planned

West Central School will host "Transition Night" on Monday, February 6th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The evening will provide participants with information about adult recreation opportunities, summer options for students age 14 and older and adult community engagement and employment options.

For additional details, contact Lilian Beck, Transition Coordinator, at (614) 342-5272 or lilian.beck@fcbdd.org.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

Superintendent/CEO **Jed W. Morison**

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

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

January, 2017

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 New Year's celebrated -- all county facilities closed.
- 3 FCBDD adult programs resume.
- 3 FCBDD early childhood and schools resume.
- 7 12th Annual "For the Fun of It" bowling event, Columbus Square Bowling Palace, 5707 Forest Hills Blvd. 1:30 p.m.
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 23 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 26 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Annual Organizational Board meeting and regular meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

Calendars proposed

Program year calendars for the 2017-2018 year have been drafted and will be considered by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities at their January 26, 2017 meeting.



The calendars are for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. The proposed calendars have early childhood and school staff returning from Summer Recess on August 21, 2017, with school students beginning on August 23, 2017. Preschool student schedules will be communicated by early childhood staff.

Under the proposal, Winter Recess for ECE and Schools would be from December 22, 2017 through January 2, 2018 and Spring Break would be from April 2 to April 6, 2018.

Comments on the proposed calendar can be sent to amy.magginis@fcbdd.org.