

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

Dean Fadel appointed to board

Probate Court Judge Lawrence Belskis has appointed Dean Fadel a member of the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. He succeeds Dr. Raymond Horn who died February 2nd.

Mr. Fadel is a Principal with Public Affairs Advocates, a consulting firm that provides services aimed at impacting Ohio's legislative, regulatory and rule making processes. He is also Vice

President for Government Relations of the Ohio Insurance Institute.

The brother of an individual served by FCBMRDD, Mr. Fadel is a volunteer with the Next Chapter Book Clubs.

A resident of Blacklick, he has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio University.

Board President Ben Hale has named Mr. Fadel to the Finance Committee.



West Central library opens

On April 3rd, students James Fann, Zach Buffer and Lizzie Lusk cut a ribbon, officially opening the new library at West Central School. The library holds donated books and materials that were contributed by parents, staff and friends of the school.

Over the course of this school year, school staff had been working to build the library

to serve the needs of students. The main-

tenance department prepared the new space by painting the walls in bright blue, orange and yellow. Posters and pictures were hung and shelves were installed.

Generous financial contributions were given by both individuals and organizations, including: the Knights of Columbus, the Prader-Willi Association, Lambda Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, Sunny95 radio station and Half-Priced Books.

Students also collected books on their own. Lizzie Lusk collected over a hundred. In addition, at least one local public school, Slate Hill Elementary School in Worthington, held a service project to help.

Contacted by the parents of West Central student Skye B., whose sister attends Slate Hill, the Student Council decided that the price



The Library Committee of West Central.

of admission to their Holiday Jingle Jam last December was a donation of at least one item to the collection of books and tapes.

"We invite you to visit our library and would welcome additional donations of books as well as financial contributions," said Barbara Michael-Jones, West Central's Principal. She may be contacted at 276-8231 (Ext. 5282).



Patty Huff and her sister Mary Anne Ledinsky were on hand for the opening.

Positive teaching strategies

by Karen Laub

G. K. Chesterton commented, "Half of what the social sciences teach us everyone always knew and the other half is wrong." I actually like half of this comment.

When we talk about behavioral treatment, some people are afraid that we are going to suggest doing something well-intentioned persons might not ordinarily know about and do. Actually, effective teaching strategies are frequently those which everyone always knew. However, when an agency program participant needs to be taught what others seem to learn without specific instruction or when a participant presents with a challenging behavior, we sometimes forget to use what we know. Indeed, we may do a task so automatically that we are not even aware of the cues we use.

Now, to the part about being wrong: I usually find that parents or staff were on the right track at some point in time before they got frustrated enough to consult me, but the strategy needed to be tweaked in some way.

Shaping is one positive teaching strategy. This strategy is a lot like the

old game of saying "cold," "hotter," "colder," "really hot" to guide someone to a certain place. The teacher accepts an approximation of the desired behavior and then gradually requires better approximations.

Let's say you are trying to teach the word "more" to a nonverbal child. You've noticed that the child squeals when you rock him vigorously in your arms. You rock him and model "more." When he squeals, you rock him some more. When he's silent, you quit rocking him for a brief time. Later, you rock him and, when his squeal sounds just a bit like "more," you rock him some more. When he's silent or doesn't sound at all like "more," you quit rocking him for a brief time. Later still, you only keep rocking him when what he says is even more like "more."

Let's say you are trying to teach someone to throw a ball to another person. You stand very close to the person with your hands open to receive the ball. You say, "Throw the ball." and, if necessary, gently lift his hands to toss the ball your way or stroke the back of his hands to prompt release. You plop

a ball cap on his head and say, "Great throw!" Then, taking the cap, you say, "Let's see you earn that cap again. Throw the ball." After the drop or toss into your hands is well-established, little by little you get further away.

Let's say you are trying to teach someone to respect social distance. You start by extending your arm when he approaches you to hug you and, using your arm to hold him away, you say, "Shake my hand." You do this over and over until you see that he's approaching you as if he's going to shake your hand. You say, "That's right. We show that we like each other by shaking hands." If he is coming too close in the process, you use your arm to define the distance and say, "Thanks for giving me a little room. I need that." If he stops at a correct distance from you, say, "That's right. You gave me the room I need."

(Karen Laub is a psychology services supervisor for FCBMRDD. Her Ph.D. is in developmental and child psychology from the University of Kansas.)

Antonio Smith visits Bixby

Antonio Smith, the former Ohio State football standout and Beechcroft High School graduate, paid a visit to the Bixby Living Skills Center April 16th.

Antonio got an enthusiastic reception as he toured the building, chatted with participants and staff, and signed a lot of autographs.

"I was afraid he'd get writer's cramp due to signing so many times," said Dave Tisdale, Director of Bixby.

Antonio is expecting to receive an engineering degree from Ohio State in June. He is engaged to a niece of Bixby staff member Michelle Moxley, who invited him to visit the facility.



Darren Roberts, Jackie Suver and Michelle Moxley join Buckeye star Antonio Smith in the gym.

Last season, the cornerback tied for second on the team with 71 tackles. He also had 2 interceptions and 2 sacks.

In preparing for the visit, Bixby staff members decorated the gym for photo opportunities.

County boards to host Spring Conference

The Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD will hold its 2007 Spring Conference on Tuesday, May 22nd and Wednesday, May 23rd at the Dublin Embassy Suites Hotel.

For further information, please call the association at 431-0616 or visit www.oacbmrdd.org.

Good For You

Notable Achievements in the FCBMRDD Community

Career Milestones

Congratulations to **Susan McCrary**, a social worker with Franklin County Residential Services and a parent of an individual served by FCBMRDD. She has been appointed a member of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Susan is serving on the Council's Community Living and Public Policy committees.

ARC Industries West Production Manager **Nick Gulyassy** has donated a U.S. flag for use at FCBMRDD's administrative offices. The large flag previously belonged to Nick's father, who was given it in 1975 by then Governor John Gilligan. A political activist, Nick's father worked for former U.S. Representative Charles Vanik, and served as an aide to President John F. Kennedy.

Photo by David McCarthy.

The stork made a delivery recently to Administration staff member **Wendy Abel**. On April 11th, she welcomed a healthy baby boy, Grayson Allen-Thomas Abel. Congratulations!

Ohio State University's **Steven Reiss**, long-serving Director of the Nisonger Center, has announced plans to retire from that post in September, 2007. Dr. Reiss will continue in the role of Professor of Psychology.



20 Years

Karen Goldman-Moseley
Toss Horton

15 Years

Nancy Braun
Barbara Lambert-Moore
Jay Marlowe
Tracey Triplett

10 Years

Michael Doran
Rachel Kreidler

5 Years

Michael Beachler
Concetta Deloss
Susan Taylor
Joshua Weisel

ARC West develops new group

by Nancy West

As part of their continuing effort to meet the diverse needs of individuals enrolled at the facility, ARC Industries West staff have formed a new habilitation group -- persons with dementia-related disorders.

Over the course of several months, staff were given the opportunity to refer individuals who display symptoms such as disorientation, personality changes, loss of speech, a change in language skills, a decline in self-care skills or who were receiving medication for a dementia-related disorder. As a result of the referrals, a group was formed, a mission statement created, and a menu of activities developed.

Some individuals referred continue to follow their established workshop schedules as they have done for many years and therefore participate in the group on a part-time basis, while others have joined the group as full-time members. Either way, the

person-centered approach focuses on maintaining individual skills, preserving dignity and fostering a sense of well-being.

Sample activities offered include: music, memory games, individual activities, crafts, gardening and simple food preparation. Training Specialists William Fann and Brad Zubovich oversee the group with assistance from Senior Companion Charles Ross.



New room features soft lighting and 2 fire-

Did you know?

Experts say that it is important to take additional measures to help ensure that one's retirement years are more comfortable, especially with regard to future income needs.

The Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program is a voluntary supplemental retirement plan that provides for tax-deferred contributions above and beyond those associated with Ohio's public retirement systems. Please contact them at 1-877-644-6457 or visit on the web at www.ohio457.org for more information.

Now is time to nominate for awards

What do Marshall's department stores, ECE staff member Susan Gibson, parent Don Wire, and ARC West's Can-Do Players, all have in common?

If you answered that they have been recipients of FCBMRDD's Community Star Awards, you would be correct.

None of these or any other recipients would have been so honored, however, had they not been nominated. This is where you come in!

If you know an individual or organization whom you believe worthy of consideration, please complete a nomination form and send it to Frank New, Star Awards Committee Chairman, at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

The deadline for nominations is June 30th. A nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Dateline*.

Begun in 2003, the Community Star Awards are intended to recognize individuals and organizations who demonstrate outstanding support of FCBMRDD's mission. The awards are given in 14 categories.

For further details, please call Frank at 342-5972.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ben W. Hale, Jr.
Jerry Saunders
Mildred Blumenfeld
Bruce Burns
Paul S. Coppel
Dean Fadel
Helen Ninos

Superintendent Jed W. Morison

FCBMRDD does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

The following FCBMRDD staff contribute to the monthly publication and distribution of *Dateline*.

Jed W. Morison	Carl Scott	Mary Linden
Michael Davis	Amy Magginnis	Martin Kerscher
Jennifer Cunningham		

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

2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 475-6440 FAX 342-5001

Bone up on marrow donation

Every day thousands of individuals who need a life-saving bone marrow transplant wait and hope for a donor. You could be the one a patient needs.

Only 30% of patients find a suitable donor from within their families. The other 70% must find an unrelated donor whose tissue type matches theirs.

The National Marrow Donor Program will hold an informational event at FCBMRDD's Administration Building, 2879 Johnstown Road, on Tuesday May 15th. The event, which will be ongoing from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be held in conference rooms B, C, and D.

"If you would like to learn the basics about marrow donation, please drop by," said Michaela Rodgers, Administration staff member and coordinator of the event. You may contact Michaela at 342-5967 for more details.

Calendar

May, 2007

- 8 Franklin County Residential Services Board of Trustees meeting, 1021 Checkrein Ave., 11 a.m.
- 13 Mother's Day
- 15 Bone Marrow Donor Program Informational Event, 2879 Johnstown Road, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- 16 FCBMRDD Human Resources Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4:30 p.m.
- 16 Parent League meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 9:30 a.m.
- 21 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Holiday Inn On-the-Lane, 11:30 a.m.
- 22-23 OACBMRDD 2007 Spring Conference, Embassy Suites, Dublin. Call 341-0616 for details.
- 24 FCBMRDD Finance Committee meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 24 FCBMRDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28 Memorial Day observance - all county facilities closed.

"Quotable quote"

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

— John Wesley

Information about FCBMRDD is always available on the internet at:
www.fcbmrdd.org