

Ohio is first state to launch STABLE accounts

Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced recently the nationwide launch of STABLE Accounts, making Ohio the first state in the country to offer enrollment for eligible individuals living with disabilities.

STABLE Accounts are made possible by the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience ("ABLE") Act passed by Congress in 2014. STABLE Accounts allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid, SSI or SSDI. Earnings in STABLE Accounts are not subject to federal income tax, so long as funds are spent on qualified disability expenses.

"As Treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," said Treasurer Mandel. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."



Jennifer Cunningham, pictured to left of STABLE account sign, was the second Ohioan to establish a STABLE account. Jennifer is employed by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

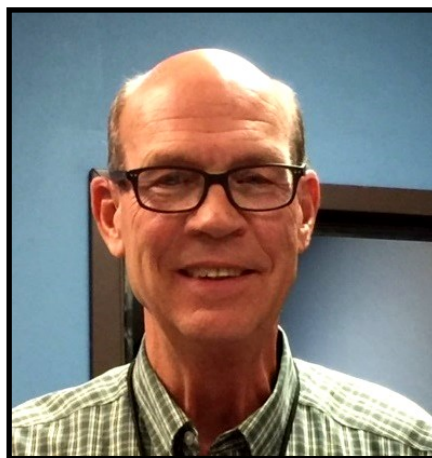
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Rick Grawemeyer to retire

Rick Grawemeyer, a steady and well respected leader for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities since 1973, has announced he will retire at the end of July.

Rick began his career as a Production and Training Supervisor at what was then called ARCraft East. His service extended to positions of Adjustment Counselor, Rehabilitation Supervisor and eventually Director of ARCraft North on Indianola.

In 1980, Rick led the effort to move from ARCraft North to the current ARC Industries North, where he continued service as Director until 1989. It was Rick Grawemeyer who managed the renovation and opening of ARC Industries North, the first workshop owned by the county.



Rick Grawemeyer

In 1989, when technology began to play an important role in the delivery and management of services, Rick was asked to join Tom Bilodeau to develop our technology infrastructure. Among other things, Rick has directed all telecommunications for the agency for years.

Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer, recalled Rick's "tireless dedication as he assisted with the renovation of the Watermark Building to make it attractive, functional space for our front line Service Coordinators."

Jed Morison, Superintendent and CEO stated that "Rick has done outstanding work in so many areas. He has always been there to lead and support in any way, regardless if it was in his job description."

While Rick says he is not sure what the future holds, he knows he will spend more time on the golf course, traveling, and with his two daughters and family friends.

Special thanks to Rick Grawemeyer and best wishes on a well-deserved retirement!

The next issue of 'Dateline' will be the September issue, published on September 1st.

Board to consider 'Conflict Free'/ Privatization proposal

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) will consider the 'Conflict Free Case Management'/ Privatization proposal in their July 28th meeting.

The proposal is in response to the 'Conflict Free Case Management' ruling of the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This ruling states that if organizations provide case management (Service Coordination), they cannot provide Medicaid funded 'home and community based' services. Currently the County Boards in Ohio provide both so a transition is required.

The Board's proposed plan is to transition adult services staff, effective in January, 2019. At that time, the plan is for Adult Services employees of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities to become employees of ARC Industries. The ARC Industries Board will also formally consider this proposal and has indicated their desire to accept this responsibility to allow for greater stability in services and staffing.

Plans related to transportation are still being considered. Adult transportation services are also considered 'home and community based services' funded by Medicaid waivers.

The proposed resolution that the Board will consider is on the FCBDD website at www.fcbdd.org.

Save the Date
2016 Community Star Awards
Wednesday, October 5th
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Villa Milano

State Transition Plan approved

The Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid and Aging have received notice that they are one of only three states to achieve initial approval for their statewide home and community based services (HCBS) transition plan.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the initial approval and indicated that final approval will follow completion of several activities required in the plan. This includes assessment of HCBS settings and a remediation strategy to resolve any site-specific issues.

This follows two years of work after CMS implemented new regulations to ensure that individuals have full access to community living through the Medicaid HCBS programs. Ohio was required to submit a transition plan that described the actions the state will take to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

Ohio's Transition Plan can be viewed by going to the following link:
<http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=f8g7SCy4WQ4%3d&tabid=125>

STABLE accounts *cont'd from page 1*

STABLE Accounts have similar features to normal bank accounts, but are also investment accounts, similar to 529 college savings accounts or 401(k) retirement accounts. When a participant deposits money into their STABLE Account, the money can be invested in different options chosen by the participants. While participants can still withdraw and spend money as needed, a STABLE Account also allows money to grow and to save long-term for disability expenses.

Eligible individuals can set up their STABLE Account for free at www.stableaccount.com. An initial contribution of at least \$50 is required in order to set up an account.

These tax-advantaged savings accounts allow families to set aside money to use on qualified expenses such as education, healthcare, housing and transportation. Earnings and distributions from an ABL Account for qualified disability expenses do not count as taxable income of the contributor or eligible beneficiary.

There are minimal costs associated with maintaining a STABLE Account. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month (\$30 annually) to maintain their accounts. Residents of other states will pay \$5.00 per month (\$60 annually) to maintain their accounts. Ohio residents will also have a small asset-based fee of between 0.19% and 0.34%, depending on their chosen Investment Options. Similarly, non-Ohio residents will have an asset-based fee of between 0.45% and 0.60%, depending on their chosen Investment Options.

Under the Federal ABL legislation, which was signed into law on December 19, 2014 with strong bipartisan support, each state is responsible for establishing and operating ABL accounts. On July 16, 2015, Governor John Kasich signed into law HB 155, which passed unanimously by both the Ohio House and Senate, authorizing the Treasurer's Office to open and administer these accounts.

For more information please visit www.stableaccount.com.

Marriage rules discussed

Marriage and Social Security rules were the topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Central Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA).

Bill Adams and Sherri Daniel, from Scioto County shared their story, explaining that they want to get married; however the marriage would cause them to lose part of their Social Security benefits.

Bill has cerebral palsy and receives Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and Sherri has achondroplasia and spinal stenosis and receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Together their work and Social Security income would allow for a modest standard of living. If one income is reduced significantly they would not be able to get by. Sherri works as a Project STIR trainer. Bill is a Self-Advocacy Specialist and an Elder of his church.



Sherri Daniel and Bill Adams

Sherri stated "the only disability that Bill and I have is physical. We want our marriage to be legal and in the eyes of God. If the government takes away my SSI, we aren't able to get married."

Sherri and Bill need some assistance with personal needs. Ironically, if Bill and Sherri are able to marry and live together, their support costs will decrease because they will be able to share staff and they can help each other.

Bill and Sherri have presented to several groups in an effort to highlight the issue for federal legislators. They hope one of our United States Senators or Congressional Representatives will study the issue to see how Social Security rules can be revised to allow people to get married and maintain their benefits.

In an effort to draw attention to the issue, Bill and Sherri have started a petition with www.change.org, titled "Marriage for Disabled Individuals." Those who log on the web site can add their name to the petition.

As Sherri and Bill say "Why can't people like us get married too?"

Sunapple Art featured

'The Ladder of Hopes and Dreams', Sunapple Studio's winning submission for the Columbus Arts Festival and Shadowbox, explores the connections between personal challenges, forward movement, relationships with others, and establishing creative strategies to move towards ones' dreams.

The artwork was displayed at recent performances at Bicentennial Park and Shadowbox along with a multi-media performance.

Consulting Art Educator Marge Mitcham noticed a wonderful quote in a poem by Katherine Berry called 'The Ladder': 'At last the ladder, which had been built slowly, one hope at a time, reached up to the clouds, and the dreamer began to climb'.

With Mitcham providing support, 'The Ladder of Hopes and Dreams' became a physical expression of these artists' desires to identify their life goals, receive and give support as valued artists and contributors, and to move forward and climb at their own pace in harmony with the rest of their community.

Congratulations to Sunapple Artists, located at ARC Industries West on another winning art installation.



'The Ladder of Hopes and Dreams'.

Multi-System youth project

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) has approved their contribution to a partnership to serve youth who require services from more than one public agency.

The proposed 'Pilot Project Serving Multi-System Youth' is to establish residential services for up to four Franklin County youth, age 16-21, who cannot be served in their natural home and who require specialized services supported by multiple public systems.

The proposal will now require approval from several other Boards or agencies and, if approved, will serve as a model for other communities in Ohio. Proposed partners include:

- *Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD)*
- *Franklin County Children Services Board (FCCS)*
- *Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board (ADAMH)*
- *Creative Housing, Inc.*
- *Nisonger Center, OSU*
- *Franklin County Family and Children First Council*
- *State of Ohio*

For a copy of the proposal pilot project, call 614-342-5950.

Northeast artist Justin Martin co-leads art class for Head Start students

by Robyn Norman, Northeast Center Training Supervisor

An inter-generational, integrated art program is now operational at the Northeast Center in collaboration with Head Start.

Head Start has a program housed in the same building as Northeast Center. Recently Northeast Center began using this opportunity to plan intergenerational, integrated art activities between the Head Start children and Northeast participants.

Artist Lisa Culp facilitates weekly art classes for participants at Northeast Center. Lisa works with participants of all ability levels to create individual and collaborative pieces using a variety of media types. Six Northeast Center participants also work as Sunapple Studio employees and get paid an hourly wage for the ceramic Handscapes they create.



Justin Martin co-leads art class for Head Start at Northeast Center.

Northeast participant Justin Martin is one of Lisa's Sunapple artists and recently Justin had the opportunity to assist Lisa with teaching a class to the Head Start children. The students were painting clay pieces they had made the week before with Northeast Center participants. Justin helped talk to the children about colors and demonstrated how to mix colors and paint their pieces. The children also had a chance to ask Justin questions about his art career and being a paid artist.

After school program successful

Central Crossing High School and FCBDD collaborative students successfully completed the first Transition After School Program this year.

Eighteen students spent 5 weeks learning about Employability skills, Self-Advocacy and created Ohio Means Jobs profiles. Tom Hess from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities taught the students about the Ohio Means Jobs website, and then returned to speak with the parents at the closing ceremony about Ohio's Employment First initiatives and transition planning for employment success. The students learned about Self-Advocacy from Elizabeth Beu who is not only a Project STIR trainer, but also works as a Fitness instructor with the YMCA.

The After School Program was started by Erin Henschen, Intervention Specialist at Central Crossing High School, inspired by her experiences with the FCBDD Transition to Work Summer Program. The program was also led by Mackenzie Johnson, Intervention Specialist with FCBDD Collaborative unit at Central Crossing, and Jill Hicks and Kirk Wilmer, Transition Resources Specialists with FCBDD.

According to Lillian Beck, Transition Coordinator "we hope to continue this collaborative, innovative program at Central Crossing and Franklin Heights High School next year."



Participants in the first ever Transition After School Program.

Career Milestones

35 years

Marcia Backus

30 years

Charles Skeen
Jacqueline Suver
Robert Reardon
Kathleen Rudolph

25 years

Patricia Bean
Malinda McKinley
Gregory Smith
Dionne Cox
Ronda Gilliam

20 years

Sree Aswath
Jeri Jude
Anne Russell
Deborah Schafer
Rhonda Amburgey
Dee Finnell

15 years

Freda Kendrick
Cathy Miller
Michaela Rodgers
Tracy Benjamin
Laura Demaria
Sarah Gillilan
Samuel Lamboi
Terrie Little
Mary Martin
Kristin Coble
Carol Owens
Gretchen Shevelow
Davina Wilcox
Kenneth Yusko

10 years

Lisa Bowman
Carolyn Furr
Brian Hill
Lindsay Holt
Jennifer Baird
Bonny Francisco
Sara McMullen
Lisa Lewis
Ryan Mitchem
Dawn Parrish
Jessica Robenstine
Michael Ross
Emma Snailham
Holley Wiseman

5 years

Caitlyn Browning
Rhonda Carter
Erica Graff
Chelsea Henson
Elizabeth Hosler
Christine Hunter
Meaghan Wilson

Good for you

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to **Jonathan Zuhosky** on the excellent presentation at the Ohio Association of County Boards Spring Conference. Jonathan presented with attorney **Frank Hickman** on the topic of HIPAA.



Congratulations to **Marci Straughter** for being elected Secretary of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and serving as Technology Chair.

Congratulations to the FCBDD Operation Feed team, led by **Berni Thurn**, on a most successful campaign. FCBDD staff contributed more than any other county agency, including over \$20,000 and 20,000 pounds of food.

Special thanks to the Early Childhood staff for their outstanding work over the years, best wishes on retirement! Pictured in the front from left to right is **Donna Hulse**, Instructor Assistant; **Mary Roth**, Language Development Specialist, and **Nancy Karr**, Occupational Therapist. In the back row (left to right) is **Carol Huntzinger**, Instructor Assistant, **Marcia Backus**, Language Development Specialist and **Laura Roberts**, Home Based Specialist. (not pictured is **Nancy Rossel**, Home Based Specialist).



Congratulations to **Grace 'Bunni' Fair**, Habilitation Assistant at Bixby Center, on your retirement. Thanks 'Bunni' for all your great work, including all the extra events and special contributions you have made over the years. Best Wishes.



Special thanks to **Toss Horton**, Safety and Training Coordinator for Transportation for many years of excellent service. Toss retired in June, 2016. Best wishes on a well-deserved retirement.



Congratulations to Jan **Ross**, Bus Driver on retirement, effective August 31st. Thank you for your excellent service.



Congratulations to over 100 Franklin County Special Olympians and close to 50 coaches on another successful year at the Ohio Special Olympics held on June 24-26th at the Ohio State University. Athletes participated in tennis, roller skating, powerlifting, bocce, volleyball, bowling and track and field.



Congratulations to Sunapple Studio artists for having 'The Ladder of Hopes and Dreams' selected as another art installation for Shadowbox and Columbus Art's Festival.

Congratulations to 'the Dream team' for winning the Operation Feed Volleyball tournament and for all others that participated. Thanks to **Todd Lilley** for organizing the event.



Front row from left to right: **Chandra Woods**, **Blake Colopy**, **Jeff Smiley**, **Amy Blair**. Back row: **Logan Burnside**.

Special Olympics golf outing

Special thanks to **Morgan Stanley and Graystone Consulting**, lead sponsors of the Special Olympics Golf Outing and to Jim and Ellen Tressel for participating in the event.



Pictured are Jim Tressel, Ryan Phillips, Special Olympics Director and Special Olympians.

Did you know?

The Ohio DD Council's Bidder's Conference is coming in August! Are you interested in applying for a DD Council grant?

If so, register for one of two Bidder's Conferences to be held in Columbus and Byesville Ohio.

To register and learn more about the grants, please go to the following link: <http://ddc.ohio.gov/>

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

July, 2016

- 15 School-age Summer Center programs end.
- 18 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 28 FCBDD Finance and Human Resources Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 28 FCBDD Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 29 Transition to Work Program ends.

August, 2016

- 12 Staff Development Day for Adult Services and Transportation staff. All adult facilities closed.
- 15 ARC Industries Board of Trustees meeting, Kemba Financial in Gahanna, 11:30 a.m.
- 22-23 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/Development Day.
- 24 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 29 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

DISCOVER *your* ABILITIES

5K

proceeds benefit
**FRANKLIN COUNTY
SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

September 11th, 2016
9am
John F Kennedy Park
7232 E Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

\$20 Entry Fee
 \$10 Race Entry for anyone eligible to receive services from FCBDD
 First 350 guaranteed to receive: Official Race T-shirt, Unique Finisher Medal & Goodie Bag
 Register: premieraces.com