

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

DD Caucus established

Senators Andrew Brenner (Powell) and Nickie Antonio (Lakewood) have established the Ohio Developmental Disabilities (DD) Caucus to focus on issues supporting people with developmental disabilities.

According to Senator Brenner, this is a bipartisan effort, that "aims to bring many partners together to find innovative ways to better serve those with disabilities and their families."

The Caucus held its first meeting on April 16, 2019, where representatives of the General Assembly, state officials and advocates received an overview of the developmental disability system in Ohio.

Senator Antonio stated, "as a former special education teacher and advocate for the disability community, I am happy to join my colleague, Senator Brenner, in this new caucus. People who make up the disability community are an important part of the fabric of our society."



Legislators and representatives of advocacy groups representing the newly formed DD Caucus. From left: Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio; Marge Barnheiser, Director of Public Policy & Adult Services, Down Syndrome Association of the Central Ohio; Dana Charlton, Executive Director, Ohio Self Determination Association; Carolyn Knight, Executive Director, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; Senator Nickie Antonio (D-Cuyahoga County); Senator Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware County); Erich Bittner, Director of Government Relations, OACB; Christine Touvelle, Policy Analyst, OPRA; Melissa Bacon, Director of Government Relations and Stakeholder Engagement, OCALI.

Photo credit: Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB)

Spotlight on the MUI Department by Jack Beatty

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has had responsibility for the investigation of major unusual incidents (MUI) since 1985. The current department consists of seven Investigative Agents, one Manager, and one Secretary.

Investigative Agents must be certified through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) which means completing the basic, state required training and then maintaining the credential through periodic in-service updates. Further, staff voluntarily complete course work at the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy in report writing and interview techniques. They are seasoned, dedicated professionals and most have been doing this work for more than fifteen years.



*FCBDD MUI Department,
Investigative Agent
Coordinator*

Their investigative responsibilities are prescribed by a state rule (OAC 5123-17-02) which defines the various types of incidents and then describes how the administrative investigation must be conducted and documented by staff. The purpose of these investigations is to work with providers of service to gather and analyze information related to major unusual incidents so that actions can be taken to address any harm or risk to the individual and to prevent recurrence.

Generally, the process begins with a phone call (614-464-2743). Basic information regarding the incident is collected and immediate action is taken to ensure individual safety. The case is promptly assigned to an Investigative Agent who quickly arranges interviews with key people. Investigations are usually completed within thirty days. A summary report including a prevention plan is then sent to the individual/guardian, the provider, and the assigned Service Coordinator. Any allegations of a criminal nature are referred at the outset to the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

These staff do critical work which results in better, safer services for individuals in Franklin County which is everyone's goal. But this work is not done in isolation and requires fostering good cooperation with providers of service. Regular email updates to agencies are planned to enhance communication as well as collaboration.

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ProviderGuidePlus.com

ProviderGuidePlus.com is a web site for Ohio families, guardians and people with developmental disabilities to find information, read anonymous reviews and search for agency providers in Ohio.

Individual or family reviews are intended to help others who are seeking services. It's first year, ProviderGuidePlus has been viewed by more than 30,000 people. The web site is easy to use.

If questions, one can always click on the HELP button on the website. Just click on **ProviderGuidePlus.com** for more details.



To search for a provider:

To find an agency provider, follow these steps:

1. Enter **ProviderGuidePlus.com** in the browser.
2. On the home page, click Search by Service.
3. Select your county, funding type and the service needed in the boxes provided.
4. Click the blue Search button.
5. On the search results page, agencies currently providing those services in your county will be listed beginning with the highest-ranked provider.
6. Click on a provider name to learn more about the agency and to read anonymous reviews.
7. You can save your favorite search results when you click Add to Favorites then follow the instructions to create a free account.

To rate and review a provider:

To submit a review, follow these steps:

1. Enter **ProviderGuidePlus.com** in the browser.
2. On the home page, click Find, Rate, or Review Provider.
3. Enter the county and agency provider's name in the boxes.
4. Click the blue Search button.
5. From the agency provider's page, click on the green box, Add an anonymous review.
6. Follow the instructions to create an account, or log in if you have an account.
7. On the review page, enter star ratings and say a few words about your experience with the agency provider.

Spotlight on the MUI Department *continued from page 1*

With an emphasis on prevention, data is collected on MUI trends and patterns. It is reviewed yearly by a broad based committee composed of individuals, guardians, county board staff, and other stakeholders. Based on their assessment/discussion of the data, recommendations are made to improve the system and reduce the incidence of various major unusual incidents. The MUI Department is responsible for making certain that the recommendations are implemented.

Training is also a major focus. The MUI Rule requires that all staff receive training annually. This is particularly important this year as the MUI Rule was recently revised. Training is available on-line through the DODD website but the MUI staff also provide some live training opportunities. They also plan to produce a new video that will be made widely available.



Pictured from left to right: Cindy Ashmore, Investigative Agent; Heather Legg, Secretary; Cameron Underdown, Investigative Agent; Toby Paine, Investigative Agent; Carleen Nye, Investigative Agent; Jaqueline Garver, Investigative Agent; David McCluney, Investigative Agent and Tom DeFlorio, Investigative Agent.

Summer plans underway

It will be a busy summer with services continuing for early childhood and school-age children.

The Early Childhood Summer Center will be held at the Early Childhood Education and Family Center from June 17 through July 18, 2019 with sessions provided in the morning and afternoon. For details on the Early Childhood Summer Center, call 614-475-0564.

School-age students will participate in one of three options. The West Central Summer Center will operate from June 10 through July 3, 2019. The Transition to Work program will operate from July 5 through August 2, 2019. Career Camp will again be held thanks to collaborative efforts of Columbus Schools and ARC Industries. All other services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities - adult habilitation, employment and residential services operate all 12 months of the year.

For details on these programs, contact Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Services at jack.brownley@fcbdd.org or call 614-342-5960.



Estate Planning Guide provides insights for Ohioans with Disabilities

Editor's note: The following story is reprinted with permission of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) has released a new book designed to improve understanding of the different strategies available for estate and special needs planning for individuals with disabilities, their families and others.

Planning for Bright Tomorrows: Estate and Future Planning for Ohioans with Disabilities and Those Who Love Them was authored by Dublin attorneys Logan K. Philipps and William K. Root. The book provides a complete overview of the different estate planning options available to families and individuals who have a disability.

Programs that people with disabilities rely on, such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), include strict income and asset limits. According to Philipps, naming a loved one with a disability in a will or trust can upset the balance of income or assets available to that individual and may cause them more harm than good.

"Proper estate planning is important for the disability community. If done incorrectly, government benefits can be lost," said Philipps, who is an attorney at Resch, Root, Philipps, & Graham, an estate planning firm with a focus on helping people with disabilities and their families.

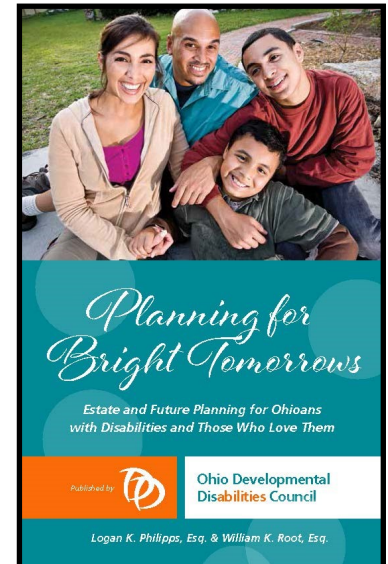
The book is an update and overhaul on a previous book released by the Ohio DD Council and includes changes to Medicaid, Trusts, and incorporates the new STABLE Account option available to individuals with disabilities.

"The goal of the book is to provide a non-technical explanation of what benefits are out there and to ensure how the individual or family member can keep them," added Root, who is also a parent of child with a disability.

Carolyn Knight, executive director of the Ohio DD Council, said the book was important because it illustrates how a lack of a plan can cause problems for a loved one with a disability.

"Every time a person with a disability or a family member is asked about a new program, their first question is always, 'how will this affect my current benefits'," said Knight. "Logan and Bill have done a masterful job of explaining these complex options in a way that families and individuals can understand."

Copies of Planning for Bright Tomorrows: Estate and Future Planning for Ohioans with Disabilities and Those Who Love Them can be obtained by contacting the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council at www.ddc.ohio.gov or 614-466-5205. Electronic versions of the book are also available on the Council's website.



STABLE accounts available

Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprauge continues to educate people on the value of Stable Accounts, which allow individuals with disabilities to save and invest without losing benefits such as Medicaid or SSI.

Individuals who developed disabilities before the age of 26 may be eligible to open an account. Funds can be put into five different saving and investment options, and investment earnings are tax-free when used to pay for qualified expenses. Qualified expenses include assistive technology, housing, basic living expenses, transportation, employment training, etc.

Accounts can be opened with as little as \$50 and accounts can be opened online by going to www.stableaccount.com. Participants can request a Stable Card that can be used to spend Stable funds and track expenses.

For more details on STABLE accounts, visit stableaccount.com or call 1-800-439-1653.



ECLC Art Show

The Early Childhood Learning Community (ECLC) had 'An Evening with the Arts' the evening of May 3rd with over 200 in attendance. The children's art show and silent auction were held to celebrate the creativity and work of the children.

This is the 25th year for this event. Not only do current students and families attend, many who have attended ECLC in the past join in the fun. Special credit goes to all the ECLC staff and Creative Arts Specialists for making this such a special event.

Funds raised at this event are used to support the Outdoor Learning Environment at ECLC.



Some pictures from the ECLC Art Show help to demonstrate the fun.

Special Olympics happenings

June will be a busy month for Franklin County Special Olympics.

On June 3rd Morgan Stanley will host their annual golf fundraiser, with all proceeds going to Franklin County Special Olympics. The event will be at North Star Golf Club.

The Ohio Special Olympics State Games will be held at The Ohio State University on June 28-30. A delegation of close to 150 Special Olympians, coaches and volunteers will be on hand to compete and enjoy the weekend.



And a special event is planned to secure sporting equipment for athletes. Land-Grant Brewing Company and the Franklin County Flyers are hosting "Donate Gear and Have a Beer" at Land-Grant Brewing Co. (424 W. Town St.) on June 9th from 1pm to 5pm with requests that those attending bring new or gently used equipment for the athletes. Baseball gloves, tennis balls, golf balls, golf clubs and basketballs are just some examples of equipment that will be accepted.

Ryan Phillips, Special Olympics Coordinator stated "June is always a particularly busy and fun month. Our Special Olympians are so grateful for all our volunteers."

For more details on Franklin County Special Olympics, call 614-342-5984.

Thanks to retirees

As another school year ends, we say good-bye to some wonderful staff who have decided to retire.

Special thanks to the Early Childhood, School and Transportation staff who have given their time and talents.

Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison stated "when we think about this group of retirees and recognize all they have done to impact the lives of so many, it is frankly amazing. We thank them all!!"



Diana McClain, Intervention Specialist at Rose Hill Elementary retires after 39 years of service.



Early Childhood Education retirees: Nancy Ealy, Instructor with 22 years of service (left) and Chris Andrews, Parent Group Leader with 42 years of service (right).



Retirees from West Central School (from left to right): Marianne Westbrook, Physical Therapist, Susan Clark, Instructor Assistant and Amy Hipple, Art Instructor.



Bus Driver Richard Kannard

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Special thanks to Tracey Crawford, Karin Crabbe, Larry Macintosh, Lee Childs and staff for excellent work coordinating the State Accreditation process.

Congratulations to Derek Graham, Attorney with Resch, Root, Philipps & Graham, LLC, for being selected as one of the Columbus Business First '40 Under 40' recipients. Derek has been a strong supporter of individuals with disabilities including his service as President of the Board of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO).



Congratulations to Dr. Angela Ray, Director of Psychology, for excellent presentations to staff of Disability Rights Ohio (DRO).

Congratulations to Paula Rabidoux, Associate Director of the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center for being the recipient of the 2019 Nisonger Champion Award. Well deserved!



Congratulations to Sean Patterson, Service Coordinator for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for being selected to provide the keynote address for the Ohio University Eastern Honors Convocation in May. Sean is a graduate of Ohio University and has been recognized for his contributions to the community through the 411 Foundation and his volunteer work with several organizations and shelters.

Special thanks to all the Early Childhood, School and Transportation staff for another excellent year. Best wishes with summer programs.

Congratulations to Sherri Madak-Rodgers, Physical Therapist working with the Early Childhood Education Department, for winning the March Madness Bracket Challenge to benefit Operation Feed. Sherri had the best bracket of all entrants in the contest and received a customized trophy to enjoy year-long bragging rights. Thank you to Darren Thompson, Assistant Director in ECE, for designing the trophy and to Sherri and all participants for your contributions to Operation Feed.





Congratulations to Christine Brown, Self-Advocate and member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council, for being selected as one of the Business First '40 Under 40' recipients for 2019.

Career Milestones

5 Year

Kathleen Ettinger
Aprill Jamison

10 Year

Aziza Long

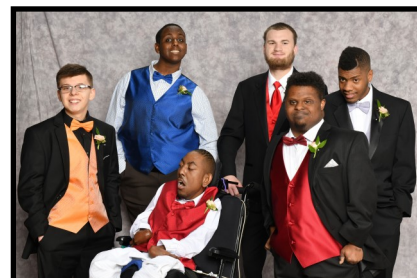


Congratulations to Allison Zuhosky, LISW, for her award as the Field Instructor of the Year from The OSU College of Social Work. Allison is an Education Coordinator for Social Work Field Placement at the FCBDD Service Coordination Department. She was nominated by Kyla Beecham and Renee Buchele. Allison (left) is pictured with Renee, MSW student.



Congratulations to graduates of West Central School and Transition Services on completing your school program

Special thanks, once again to Men's Wearhouse for providing tuxedos for the West Central School prom.



Did you know?

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following regarding screen time:

18 months and younger:

Avoid screen time, other than video chatting.

18 to 24 months:

Parents and caregivers may introduce some educational digital programming.

2 to 5 years:

Limit screen use to one hour per day.

6 years and older:

Set consistent limits on media use to ensure children have time for other healthy activities.



Dateline

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

Carl Scott **Amy Magginis**
Jack Beatty **Jennifer Cunningham**

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

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO
2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219
(614) 475-6440 FAX (614) 342-5001
e-mail: jed.morison@fcbdd.org

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

www.fcbdd.org

Calendar

June, 2019

- 7 Guardianship 6-Hour Training, 2879 Johnstown Road, 8:30 a.m., contact Angie Franke at 614-342-5972 for details
- 10 School-age Summer Center begins, West Central School.
- 13 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 17 ECE Summer Center begins, 2879 Johnstown Rd.
- 19 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.
- 28-30 Ohio Special Olympics, The Ohio State University. Please call Andrea Stonebraker at 614-342-5989 for details.

July, 2019

- 3 School-age Summer Center programs end.
- 4 Independence Day Celebrated - all county facilities closed.
- 5 School-age Transition to Work Summer program begins.
- 17 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 18 ECE Summer Center programs end.
- 25 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 25 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

August, 2019

- 2 School-age Transition to Work Summer Programs end.
- 19, 20 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/ Development Days.
- 21 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 21-23 ECE Program Service Days – Parent Visitation (No Transportation).
- 26 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

The next issue of 'Dateline' will be the July/August issue published in late July, 2019