

Governor, Director speak on leadership

Governor Mike DeWine and Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, opened the Ohio Association of County Boards annual conference in December with reflections on leadership and customer experience.

The Governor spoke of the lessons he has learned from his Grandmother, 8 children and 24 grandchildren on the importance of being a good listener. "The culture we strive for at the state is to be 'good listeners' as we gather different people and perspectives together to develop plans and solutions for tough problems."

Director Davis commended the Governor on his focus and support of services to children, wages for direct service personnel and jobs for people with disabilities. The Director expressed optimism for the talent of professionals in the field and the good work happening all around the state.

About leadership, the Governor emphasized the need to have a sense of urgency and a passion for your work. "Passion trumps smarts and we need to be excited about what we are doing."

The Governor stated that his goal is for everyone, regardless of disability to "help all to live up to their God given potential." The recipe for happiness is to find something where one can be passionate and do well.

Governor DeWine and Director Davis also spoke of the important role technology can play in the lives of individuals with disabilities and stated that now there are great opportunities for businesses to hire people with disabilities. On the day he was sworn in, the Governor signed an executive order supporting employment for individuals with disabilities.

This was the 36th Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). The theme for this year's conference was the "Customer Experience."



Governor Mike DeWine and Director Jeff Davis at the 36th Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards.

Bill Wilkins appointed to the Board

Probate Judge Robert Montgomery has appointed William W. Wilkins to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, effective in January, 2020.

Bill Wilkins replaces Dean Fadel who could not be reappointed because he has served three full terms. Judge Robert Montgomery also re-appointed Beth Savage, current Vice President of the Board to another term.



Bill Wilkins

Mr. Wilkins previously served on the Board from 1987 to 1996 and was instrumental in establishing Creative Housing, Inc. in 1991, where he recently served as a Board member. Currently, Bill serves as a board member for UMCH Family Services and he was a charter member of the Franklin County Guardianship Services Board. Bill and his wife, Karen, have three children, one of whom is served by the Board.

In the private sector, Bill served as the CEO of Ohio Health and President/CEO of Grant Medical Center. His previous public employment includes service as the Director of the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and Director of the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Board terms are for four years and Board members can be re-appointed twice. Mr. Wilkins will attend his first meeting on January 23, 2020.

Adult Services/ ARC Industries transition successful

2019 began with one of the more significant changes in the history of services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Due to a change in federal rule related to "Conflict Free Case Management," ARC Industries transitioned to become an independent organization, including a change in adult transportation services from school buses to the use of vans.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO, "the transition was a success thanks to the good work of ARC Industries and the FCBDD Administrative team that worked together to make it happen."

There were no layoffs and quality services continued. In fact, ARC Industries renewed a three year CARF Accreditation (the highest rating possible) and received zero citations in a recent compliance review from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Bob Gaston, CEO of ARC Industries, credits his staff at all levels. He stated that "without the complete

cooperation and forward looking attitudes of our staff, I'm not sure this would have been possible."

This change was required due to a ruling of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that required all County Boards to have "conflict free case management," meaning services funded partially by Medicaid Waivers administered by County Boards cannot be provided by the same organization.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities continues to partner with ARC Industries for non-Medicaid funded services.

Congratulations to ARC Industries!



Director Davis visits



*DODD Director
Jeff Davis*

Jeff Davis, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, will meet with the Senior Management staff of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities on January 28, 2020.

According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "the Director has offered to visit all County Boards in Ohio. We are delighted to have him join us to hear about some of the unique and quality ways people are served in Franklin County." Throughout the course of the year, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities touches the lives of over 20,000 children or adults.

Director Davis was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in 2019. He previously served as CEO of OPRA (Ohio Provider Resource Association) and worked several years with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In January, he finished his term as a member of Grove City Council.

Following his meeting with staff, Director Davis will visit the Early Childhood Education and Family Center.



Board Annual Organizational Meeting

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) will hold its Annual Organizational Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

At this meeting the Board will elect officers for the 2020 year and will welcome Bill Wilkins to the Board. The Board typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at 2879 Johnstown Road and the meetings are open to the public.

The Board consists of seven members appointed by the County Commissioners or Probate Judge and at least three of the Board members are required to be family members of individuals served or eligible for services from the Board.



Nisonger researchers recruiting adults

"Researchers" or "staff" at The Ohio State University (OSU) Nisonger Center want to talk to adults with intellectual disabilities (ID) to learn how they feel about their health and health care.

Nisonger staff would also like to interview support persons, family, friends, and care providers who know the adult with ID well. Both people will get a gift card for their time (up to \$75 each). The OSU team member can meet people at the Nisonger Center or their homes.

Sample questions about health include: (1) Are you happy with the health care you receive? (2) In the last two weeks, did your health make it hard to do things? and, (3) Do you feel sad a lot of the time, or do you feel sad only a little of the time?

Listening to people with ID talk about health is key to making health care better for the whole community.

- Learn more about Nisonger's work at: <https://www.rrtcnisonger.org/>
- Watch a video about the "Can You Hear Me Now?" study: <https://go.osu.edu/HearMe>
- Contact the Nisonger team at: 614-688-8148 or rrtcnisonger@osumc.edu

This study is funded by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Grant #90RTHF0002.



Annual Action Plan

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will consider approval of the 2020 Annual Action Plan in their January meeting.

The plan was presented to the Board in their November meeting and was reviewed in the November Family Support meeting, the December Self-Advocacy Advisory Council meeting and in a Public Hearing held on December 9, 2019.

This plan is developed annually and is consistent with the Board's Long-Term Strategic plan with updates. This year's plan includes an approved resolution of the Board, indicating the current number of people on a Current Needs Waiting List is 153. The resolution also states the Board plans to provide home and community based waivers for an additional 200 individuals, bringing the total to 5900.

Other sections of the plan include the Board's organizational chart and details regarding services, projected needs and goals for the year. For a copy of the draft, contact Amy Magginis at amy.magginis@fcbdd.org. Comments can be directed to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison at jed.morison@fcbdd.org.

Michael Kirkman retires

Michael Kirkman, Director of Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) has announced his retirement after 12 years as Executive Director.

Among his accomplishments, Michael transitioned Ohio Legal Rights Service, a state-run organization to Disability Rights Ohio, a non-profit private organization. DRO has been involved with several major court cases and has intervened for many individuals with their specific legal requests.



Michael Kirkman, Director of DRO.

Disability Rights Ohio is designated under federal law as the Protection and Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program for the State of Ohio. The mission is to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities.

About his service, Jennilee Mohler, DRO Board President said "the growth in this organization has been astounding - and Michael's ability to visualize change and diligence in making it happen - has been inspiring."

At *Dateline's* deadline, a replacement had not been announced. Disability Rights Ohio is conducting a national search for the new Director.

Toby Paine receives specialized training

Editor's Note: Recently Toby Paine, MUI Investigator, was honored to be selected by the Columbus Police Department to travel to Washington D.C. to receive specialized training. Toby does excellent work as liaison from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities MUI Department to the Columbus Police. We asked Toby to write up an article regarding her experience.

On October 16, 2019 I was honored to travel with Chief Kim Jacobs (Retired), Chief Thomas Quinlan and several other officers from The Columbus Police Department to Washington DC.

This trip was funded by the Columbus Police Foundation and other donors who invested with the goal of providing quality training experiences to police personnel to improve the ability to effectively interact with our community, especially by learning lessons from the past. The training experience was to give division personnel an opportunity to absorb the gravity of the civil rights and human rights atrocities that were allowed and/or facilitated by police officers in other countries and within our borders. By studying the role of the police during these time periods, attendees gained a better understanding of police responsibilities in protecting the constitutional rights of all and the consequences of governmental tyranny.

We first stopped by the Flight 93 memorial to pay tribute to thirty seven passengers that became American heroes on 9/11. The following day we toured the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and met with a survivor followed by a meeting with the Anti-Defamation League. This trip was especially memorable to me as I have relatives that are Holocaust survivors. What I saw and learned that day had an incredibly deep meaning to me that is very difficult to express into words.

That evening after dinner we paid tribute to officers who have lost their lives by visiting the Law Enforcement Memorial. As we looked up our friends that have passed in the line of duty, there wasn't a dry eye in our group.

We were also given the opportunity to visit several other places, including The White House, WWI and WWII Memorials, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. The trip ended with a tour of the African American History and Culture Museum.

To say that I am humbled that I was chosen to attend this trip is an understatement. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity.



Retired Police Chief Kim Jacobs (left) and Toby Paine, FCBDD MUI Investigator (right).

Charbeth Cooke retires

Charbeth Cooke, LPN at West Central School has retired after 28 years of service working in a number of different capacities.

About her employment, Charbeth says she "has been blessed beyond her wildest dreams, meeting so many and working with people and families on numerous levels."

Her experience has included work in private homes, with the Parent Directed Program and with residential services at the Morse, Dierker and McDowell Intermediate Care Facilities. And, Charbeth had a long history of working with and supporting Franklin County Flyers Special Olympics.



Charbeth states she has many wonderful memories, lifelong friends and lots of stories from over the years.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO said, "Charbeth has positively impacted the lives of so many children and adults in her long tenure with our Board. She will be missed."

Best wishes to Charbeth Cooke!

Tobacco law changes

For those under age 21, with or without disabilities, laws related to tobacco have changed.

On October 17, 2019, Ohio law (O.R.C.2927.02) changed to make it illegal to give, sell, or otherwise distribute cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products like e-cigarette/vaping products to any person under the age of 21.

Specific to the developmental disabilities field, providers of services to people with developmental disabilities cannot give, sell, or distribute cigarettes, etc., to people under the age of 21. The law applies in all settings and circumstances. This prohibition includes driving an underage person across state lines to purchase or receive tobacco.

With questions, contact the Office of System Support and Standards at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities at 614-466-6670.



Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Thank you to Bob Thomas, Service Coordinator Supervisor for nearly 40 years of service with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD). Bob's tenure includes service at ARC Industries South and he has taken responsibility to coordinate an annual holiday party for people served by FCBDD, who otherwise may not have had a holiday celebration. Bob's retirement is effective in January, 2020. Best wishes to Bob and congratulations!



Congratulations to the recipients of educational scholarships sponsored by ARC Industries and presented in memory of John Siebold, former member of the Adult Services management staff of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you to the staff of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for another excellent year in 2019. Services were provided to over 20,000 children, adults and family members in our community. 2019 was the first year of collection on the Board's 10 year levy and services were provided within budget and consistent with the long term stability/levy plan. Congratulations to all staff.



Congratulations to Marci Straughter for her recent appointment to the APSI (Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc.) Board.

Congratulations to ARC Industries on a recent compliance review from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, in which there were zero citations.

Thank you to Tanya Goolsby, Account Clerk 3, with over 21 years of service with the Franklin County Board of Developmental disabilities. Tanya will retire at the end of January. Congratulations and best wishes!



Thank you to Commissioner Kevin Boyce and Mayor Andrew Ginther, for chairing the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, to emphasize the importance of having everyone in Franklin County counted in the 10 year census, so that Franklin County gets its fair share of federal funding and representation in Congress.

Thanks to Angie Franke, Paralegal with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for coordinating training for approximately 150 guardians in Franklin County, over the course of 3 trainings held in April, June and December of 2019.



Career Milestones

30 Years

Eileen Steele

20 years

Carrie Schatz

15 Years

Stephanie Miller

10 Years

Susan Sittler

5 Years

Tracy Boyd

Keyana Jackson-Rash
Melissa Longworth-Crisp
Nicholas Mynatt
Kathleen Roshon

Denial Ohio

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities continues to support the Opioid Education Alliance.

You have probably seen the ads called 'Denial Ohio', educating people that opioid abuse happens anywhere and we are all encouraged to talk to our kids and grandkids about the dangers of drugs.

Statistics show that it can take as little as 5 minutes, but parents talking to their kids about drugs can reduce chances of using drugs by 50%. And, we are encouraged to dispose of pills in our medicine cabinets that are no longer needed.

Follow the @OhioOpioidEdu and visit DontLiveinDenial.org to find tips on how to talk to your kids and loved ones about opioids.

#DontLiveinDenial



Dancing with the stars

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) will hold their Dancing with the Stars Gala event on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

This year's event will be at a **new location**: The Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom at The Ohio Union, 1739 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

The event will feature 40 adults with Down Syndrome performing professionally choreographed dance routines. Guests are treated to hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing, while raising funds for DSACO's programs.

For details, visit dsaco.net/gala or contact Evanthia Brillhart at ebrillhart@dsaco.net or at 614-263-6020 (ext. 1015).



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

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.

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

Carl Scott **Amy Magginis**
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

REMEMBER CENSUS 2020

Editor's Note: Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities serves as the Chair of the Disability Committee for the Complete Census Count. To increase awareness and encourage everyone to be counted, we will put reminders in 'Dateline' until the Census count is complete.

Complete your census form in March 2020 to benefit people in Franklin County.

- **Funding:** census information is used to distribute federal funding for affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, education, transit, roads, Medicaid and more.
- **Representatives:** census information is used to draw local, state and federal voting districts.

The census is confidential. By law, personal information cannot be shared with law enforcement, landlords, credit agencies, or anyone else outside the Census Bureau.

Calendar

January, 2020

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 FCBDD early childhood and schools resume.
- 15 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10 a.m.
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed -- all county facilities closed.
- 23 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance, Human Resources and Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 23 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Annual Organizational Board meeting and regular meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.

