

Beth Savage elected president

Beth Savage has been elected President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, replacing John Bickley who has served as President for the past two years.

Ms. Savage was initially appointed to the Board by Judge Robert Montgomery in 2012 and recently re-appointed to another four-year term. She comes to this position with significant experience, including serving on the Boards of DSACO (Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio), Best Buddies, and Marburn Academy. She is a parent of two children, including one teen-age daughter who is served by the Board.

About her service, Ms. Savage stated that she is "humbled and honored to serve with an excellent Board and staff." For the past several years, she has served as Vice President of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee. Her leadership has resulted in an extensive review of fiscal practices to guarantee that security and procedures are up to date. In her profession, Ms. Savage is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and serves as Forensics Director for PriceWaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services, LLC.



Beth Savage, newly elected FCBDD Board President

Marie Crawford, Board member since 2013, was elected Vice President and Michael Underwood, member since 2018 was elected Secretary. Ms. Crawford has served as Chair of the Board's Ethics Committee and member of Finance and Mr. Underwood has served as Chair of Human Resources and member of the Ethics Committee.

Other Board members who continue on the Board are Linda Craig, Renée Stein, and John Bickley, who have all served terms as President. William Wilkins, previous Board member from 1987-1996 attended his first meeting with this Board since his re-appointment in December by Judge Montgomery.

Board members serve four-year terms and can be re-appointed twice. They receive no compensation and at least three of the Board members are required to be family members of individuals served or eligible for service.

Project Life at Franklin Heights

Editor's Note: This is the first school year that the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and South-Western City Schools have collaborated on a classroom called Project Life. We asked Bobby Emberley, Instructor of the classroom to write this description. Congratulations to Bobby and Assistants Brigida Alcaraz, Gretchen Haag and Evan Jobes and the 12 students who are in the class.

Project Life is a new FCBDD collaborative classroom at Franklin Heights High School focused on building the foundational skills students need for success in future employment.

Students receive classroom instruction as well as ten hours a week of community-based job training experience. So far, it's been a great success.

This year students visit job sites at HomeGoods, Life Care Alliance, Mt. Carmel Hospital, and Hampton Inn. Each intern has made progress in developing their employability skills. The class has also managed to fit in some fun activities, including field trips to West Central School to swim, a local bowling alley, and a metro park nature center.



From left to right: Project Life Instructor Bobby Emberley and Assistants Evan Jobes, Gretchen Haag and Brigida Alcaraz.



Project Life students participate in internships at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Homemaker Personal Care rate increase

Editor's note: This past year, the Ohio Legislature, Governor Michael DeWine, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities all agreed to increase pay rates for personal care. Recently the Ohio Association of County Boards, the ARC of Ohio, Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Waiver Network and the Ohio Health Care Association released the following statement. We thought our 'Dateline' readers would be interested.

BACKGROUND

A Historic Investment: In 2019 the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), State Legislature, and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities made a historic investment to increase rates for “**Residential**” Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) services. DODD will raise Medicaid payment rates to providers for HPC on January 1, 2020 and again on January 1, 2021. The intent of these rate increases is to provide additional compensation to direct support professional staff delivering HPC services.

The Rate Applies to Residential HPC Services: The rate change only applies to those who provide residential HPC services. Advocacy efforts to ensure rate increases for other DD services are currently being organized.

IMPLEMENTATION

Varied Implementation of the Rate Increase: Providers will have the opportunity to implement the rate change in ways that best benefits their DSPs. The additional money may be applied to wages, bonuses, benefits and overtime.

Wage Verification: A team of stakeholders representing a variety of organizations are working together to ensure the HPC rate is handled appropriately and improves total compensation* for Direct Support Professionals (DSP). The organizations include Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA), Ohio Waiver Network (OWN), The Arc of Ohio and the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

A New Wage Verification Tool: A tool is being developed that will help providers identify the appropriate wage, bonus, and benefits data to meet the requirements of what needs to be submitted to DODD. The tool is in the process of being finalized and we anticipate it will be available to providers early in 2020.

Ensuring Transparency: The rate increase requires all HPC providers to submit data to DODD in an effort to show the rate was applied to benefit the DSP. The new data collection process will replace the NCI Staff Stability survey in 2020.

OUTCOMES

Statewide Average: Every HPC Provider in Ohio will be required to submit data on their wages, overtime, and employee-related expenses to DODD. The data will be used to show how each provider improved compensation for DSPs. The data also will be used to calculate statewide averages. It is anticipated the statewide average will improve over time.

Lessons learned from Special Olympians

Editor's note: Recently, Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International, wrote an article discussing world politics and how we can learn from the example of Special Olympics. Below we have quoted some of the article.

Special Olympics can't solve the political or cultural challenges of our time, but it can offer some lessons worth learning.

First, have faith, not necessarily in a particular religion or creed but in the goodness within every person. Choose to believe that everyone has something valuable and beautiful to offer. A deeply felt faith in the goodness within each person was the first step in healing the vicious prejudices against people with intellectual disabilities.

Second, meet the person you have excluded. Look for common ground. In Special Olympics, ours is the playing field, where we laugh and cheer and compete. There are winners and losers at our games, but the real action is in our hearts, where fears are being overcome, barriers are disappearing, and, most importantly, common humanity is being revealed and relationships of respect are launched.

Third, celebrate gifts. In Special Olympics, we give medals to competitors at all ability levels when they enter the arena and give their best. Rather than emphasizing a contrast between strengths and weaknesses, our medal stands are places where we showcase the wide variety of human gifts.

Fourth and last, with hearts opened and relationships begun, start the work of trying to live with the inevitable pain and tension of life from a place of truth and love. We are each vulnerable, starving for connection and searching for a way to be of service to each other. We solve problems best when we solve them together.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Katrina McGlothlin, Belinda Shope, Michael Rash, Donna Baran, Robin Rexroad, Scott Armstrong and Jeanette Klopfenstein for being recognized by the ARC Advisory Council with 2019 Staff Appreciation Awards. Pictured are staff who were recognized and ARC Advisory Council members.



Career Milestones

20 years

Christy Ramin

15 Years

Dotti Ellingsworth
Eyvonne White

Kimberlee Bell-Westcamp





Gary Tonks,
ARC of Ohio
Director

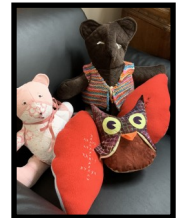
Special thanks to ARC of Ohio for coordinating a toy and gift drive and presenting gifts to close to 1000 children affiliated with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Childhood Centers. Special thanks to Director Gary Tonks, Dave Lewis, Coordinator of the drive and the wonderful partners from Branham Sign Company, Jackson Township Fire Department, employees of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and tenants at the Riversedge Office Park.



Dave Lewis,
ARC of Ohio
Operations
Officer

ARC of Ohio (www.thearcofohio.org) has made many, many children very happy! Thank you!!!

Many thanks to the following organizations who provided joy to hundreds of families and children in Early Childhood during the holidays through gift-giving, monetary donations, warm clothing and handmade dolls: The Unity Presbyterian Church, The Nisonger Center, The Arc of Ohio, and The University Women's Club of The Ohio State University.



Save the Date for Provider Fair - April 8, 2020

Over 100 Providers are expected to be in attendance for the 2020 Provider Fair to be held at The Ohio State Fairgrounds, Lausche Building on April 8, 2020.

It's a real happening where people can get information about different Providers and other resources, while meeting up with new and old friends. The Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and free parking and refreshments will be available.

2020 Franklin County Provider Fair

Your Provider Your Choice

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Lausche Building
17th Avenue at I-71
Ohio State Fairgrounds

FREE PARKING!

Among other resources, representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau are expected to be present to answer questions about the 2020 Census. Franklin County's Complete the Count Committee, chaired by Mayor Ginther and Commissioner Boyce, are encouraging everyone to be counted to assure Franklin County gets its fair share of federal funds for the next decade.

For details on the Provider Fair or to register as a provider, call Joni Sparks at 614-342-5964.

Nisonger Center recruiting participants

The Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University is recruiting applicants who have developmental disabilities to serve as Self-Advocate Trainees with the LEND Program (Leadership Education in Neuro-developmental Disabilities).

Participants will learn about disabilities, participate in classes and complete a leadership project. Trainees are paid \$1500. For details, email: christine.brown@osumc.edu.

Nisonger is also recruiting individuals who have developmental disabilities to serve on the Consumer Advisory Committee, which includes quarterly meetings and other input into the operations of the Center. For details, email Darlene Byer: darlene.byler@osumc.edu.

CENSUS REMINDER

In just one month, the United States Census Bureau will be sending instructions to each household to complete census information.

The Census is completed every 10 years and helps determine how federal funds are dispersed. Franklin County and Ohio receive significant funding, including Medicaid funds for individuals with disabilities, so it is very important that everyone is counted.

Initially, the Census Bureau is requesting that the census forms be completed online. However, if that is not possible, Census forms can be provided or Census workers will go to individual homes. All census information is confidential.

Representatives from the Census Bureau will be at the Provider Fair to be held on April 9 at the Fairgrounds, Lausche building on 17th Avenue.



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Beth Savage, President
Marie Crawford, Vice President
Michael Underwood, Secretary
John Bickley
Linda Craig
Renée Stein
William W. Wilkins

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

Self-Advocate Advisory Council

The Self-Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities recently completed another good year of service.

The Council meets quarterly with Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison and again initiated important activities in 2019. The Legislative Advocacy Day was held in March to bring local legislators together to learn about services provided and to hear input from self-advocates. Over 200 were in attendance.

The Council also recommended that the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities sponsor Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) training, which was held in November. And, a Self-Advocate Conference, focused on Major Unusual Incidents training was held in the Fall of 2019.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "we have outstanding representation on our Council, including individuals working in the community, at Workshops and representing others on state-wide Boards or Committees." Current council members: Elizabeth Beu, Ethan Boerner, Christine Brown, Jennifer Cunningham, Brian Jude, Barb Rice, Mary Stark, Marci Straughter, Amy Tracey, and Vaness Witcher.

Calendar

February, 2020

- 1 Dancing with Our Stars Gala hosted by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) at the Archie M. Griffin Grand Ball Room at The Ohio Union, 1739 N. High Street. For more information, please go to www.dsaco.net/gala.
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 17 Presidents' Day - all county facilities closed.
- 19 Family Support, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Human Resources and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 5 p.m.