

Dateline

March 2020

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

Columbus Counts! 2020 Census begins

Beginning in March 2020, households will receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. This happens every 10 years.

Make sure you are counted to help shape the future of Columbus and Franklin County. Completing the Census helps keep important resources in our county, including support for Medicaid, schools, services for children and more. The more people are counted, the more federal funds will come to Ohio and we will have better representation in Congress.

It is particularly important to count all children and adults, including individuals with disabilities. Reminders will be sent to each household and if no response, census takers will visit the homes. All information reported is confidential.

Additional Census information will be provided at the Provider Fair at the Ohio State Fairgrounds on April 8 and at all Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities facilities. It just takes a few minutes to answer the 9 questions/each, for everyone in a household.



March is Awareness month

March has been designated Developmental Disabilities Awareness month to celebrate the contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make to our communities.

The month will begin with a celebration at the Statehouse on March 4, 2020. After presentations in the morning, participants will meet with legislators. Legislative advocacy to secure laws that support individuals with disabilities is enhanced when lawmakers hear personal success stories and areas of needed improvement.

The month will also include other efforts by individuals and organizations to increase awareness through posters, open houses and other events. Thanks to Carl Scott, Print Shop Coordinator for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, all central Ohio libraries will have D.D. Awareness bookmarks to hand out to visitors.



March is the month for Operation Feed



Operation Feed provides fresh, healthy food for local families struggling with hunger and is coordinated by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. One in six Ohioans is food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal is coming from.

One hundred percent of every dollar raised through Operation Feed is used to provide food for local families via food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

FCBDD staff, individuals served and families have long opened their hearts to provide strong support of Operation Feed. We look forward to many fun events to support this great cause!

DRO names director

Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) has named Kerstin Sjoberg its new Executive Director, replacing Michael Kirkman who is retiring after almost 40 years of advocacy for people with disabilities.

As DRO's Assistant Executive Director, Kerstin Sjoberg has been actively engaged in the agency's administration and management, including financial planning, oversight and resource development. As its Director of Advocacy, she has expanded DRO's work in this realm by utilizing both class action lawsuits and public policy campaigns.



Kerstin Sjoberg has also served as an Adjunct Professor at the Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University, and previously was an associate at Jones Day in Columbus.

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 of Disability Rights Ohio is to advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio. DRO provides legal advocacy and rights protection to a wide range of people with disabilities in Ohio.

OSDA to learn about Census

The Central Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) will meet on March 11, 2020 to learn about the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census.

Beginning in March, households will receive mail asking them to go online to fill out census information for everyone in that household. If people are not able to complete the information online, they will be given paper forms to complete. Beginning in April, Census Takers will visit all households that have not responded.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a Census count every 10 years. Federal funds and representatives in Congress are all influenced by the Census, so it is very important that everyone is counted. Many people in Ohio have Medicaid waivers, which are partially funded by the federal government.

The OSDA meeting will be held at the Bixby Center, 4200 Bixby Road, Groveport, Ohio, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Senior Care Act introduced

Representative Joyce Beatty, Representative Steve Stivers and Senator Rob Portman have introduced legislation that will allow for people age 65 and older to continue to work and maintain their Medicaid coverage.

H.R. 5429 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives and S. 3010 was introduced in the United States Senate in December 2019. The legislation is called the SENIOR CARE ACT (Supporting and Empowering the Nation to Improve Outcomes that Reaffirm Careers, Activities, and Recreation for the Elderly Act.)

Senator Portman said, "I believe every disabled American over age 65 should have the opportunity to work and maintain Medicaid coverage." If passed, the bills will allow individuals to continue to receive Medicaid for daily long-term care services that most employer-sponsored insurance plans do not cover.

The Senior Care Act would remove the current age limit of 65.

STABLE Accounts update

Editor's note: Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague recently announced that STABLE Accounts in Ohio are leading the country with a 40% increase in the past year. STABLE Accounts allow individuals to save money without losing their Medicaid benefits. Signing up is easy by visiting www.stableaccount.com. Below are excerpts from a recent fact sheet from Treasurer Sprague.

STABLE accounts are the premier ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) program in the country, and more than one in four ABLE accounts are STABLE accounts. Since taking office one year ago, our team has made it a priority to grow the program even further and create innovative partnerships that are establishing STABLE accounts as a mainstream financial tool.

The STABLE Account program saw unprecedented growth and success in 2019. Our national presence was cemented in February with the opening of the 10,000th active account. By year's end, we surpassed 14,000 active accounts, effectively growing overall participation by more than 40 percent. This great news continued into November when STABLE reached \$100 million in total participant contributions.

Through the STABLE Account program, we are improving and empowering lives, while also helping to alleviate the financial burdens felt by families across the Buckeye State and nationwide.

Franklin County Recreation Dances pass the 30-year Milestone

by Jack Brownley

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) Recreation program has sponsored dances at West Central School for more than 30 years and continues to be a proud tradition for more than 100 participants each month.

The FCBDD Recreation program is now operated through a partnership with Add, A Hattie Larlham Co.

Dances are scheduled on Friday evenings, two times per month and are open to any person served by FCBDD. One dance per month has a theme that encourages costumes, music & decorations. Themes include Valentines Day, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day and Sports Teams.

If you can't dance, come & learn, socialize with friends, or just enjoy the fun.

For more details, please contact Franklin County Recreation at 614-607-7751.



Transition Bootcamp

"Transition Bootcamp" is the name of a series of presentations providing information on the transition from high school to adult life for youth with disabilities.

The year long series of presentations began in September 2019 and will continue through May. Future sessions and topics are as follows:

Housing
March 9, 2020

**Self-Advocacy Training
and Opportunities**
April 13, 2020

**Self-Care for
parents/caregivers**
May 11, 2020

Lilian Beck, Transition Resources Coordinator for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is one of the planning partners for this series.

All sessions are held at Clark Hall, 380 Granville Street, Gahanna, Ohio 43230 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Contact Lynne Fogel at Lynne.Fogel@cchmc.org or 513-814-9181 for details. Visit www.ohio2f.org to register.

'Smart Home Discovery Place' Open House

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center will have an open house of their 'Smart Home Discovery Place' on March 30, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The space is designed to look like a one room apartment and will be outfitted with diverse technologies to demonstrate ways that individuals, family members and providers can use technology to enhance independence and safety.

Visitors will be able to touch, explore and learn in a practical, hands-on environment. Just some of the technologies that will be on display include remote support; smart doorbell; door and bed sensors; smart thermostat; television and lamp; induction stovetop; motion detector; smart watch; medication dispenser; seizure detection bracelet and more.

Nisonger Center is located on the OSU Campus, McCampbell Hall, 1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210. The 'Smart Home Discovery Place' is located in Room 286 on the second floor.



Freezin' for a Reason

by Jack Brownley

On February 8th, nearly 50 Franklin County Flyers plunged into freezing cold waters to raise money for their Special Olympics program.

Coaches, athletes, fans, and FCBDD staff jumped in the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser. This year's theme was "Halloween in Hawaii" where costumes and wonderfully terrible Hawaiian shirts were encouraged!

The Flyers won top fundraiser, best individual costume, and best group costume!

With the help of fundraisers at The Kitchen and Granville Brewing Co., along with premier partner, Feazel Inc., Franklin County Special Olympics raised over \$27,000.



Ryan Phillips, Franklin County Special Olympics Coordinator takes the Polar Plunge!



Franklin County Flyers Special Olympics Group won Best Costume.

DSACO bike camp

Registration for DSACO (Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio) 2020 will open in March.

The camp is for those at least 8 years old who have a disability and want to learn how to ride a bike. Participants go from adaptive roller bikes to two-wheelers in 5 days. The camp will be held from June 1-5, 2020 at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

For details or to be placed on a wait list, call Caitlyn Lowe at 614-263-6020 (ext. 1020) or email clowe@dsaco.net.



Preschool memory boxes opened

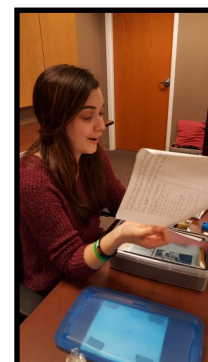
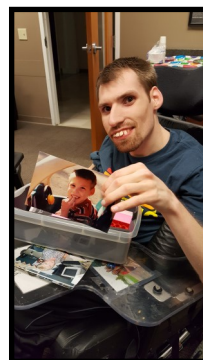


It was twenty years ago that Early Childhood Instructor Cathy Gordon had her preschool students prepare memory boxes to be opened in 2020.

Each child was given a plastic box with instructions to fill the boxes with their favorite things. Parents and teachers also helped.

The boxes were opened by the students and their now retired teacher on January 1, 2020. According to Cathy Gordon, the students, who are now in their 20s, and families had an amazing time with lots of laughs. They reviewed old photos, snack menus, artwork, Lego blocks and more. They listened to the music they used to play at 'Circle' and told lots of stories.

Two former preschool students are now working for the Early Childhood Department of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Pictured are some who joined in the fun.



Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to David Ott, on recognition by the Franklin County Combined Charitable Campaign leadership and for outstanding service with the 2019 Campaign. Co-chairs Clark Kellogg, Commissioner John O’Grady, and Lynne Morris recognized David and the Board of Developmental Disabilities staff, for exceeding their goal and raising close to \$60,000.





Congratulations to Special Olympian Patty Bryant who recently won 'best costume' at the Ohio Special Olympics Polar Plunge.

Thank you to Transportation Staff for your patience while building renovations are underway.



Career Milestones

25 years

**Theresa Brady
Marva Mosier
Lora Rinehart**

15 years

**Jack Brownley
Meredith Lawther-Merryman**

5 Years

**Susan Davis
Artholia Heath
Gwynn Kinsel
Steven Yarnell**

Thank you to Amy Magginis and Carl Scott for the layout and printing of the 2019 Annual Report for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Dis-abilities. For a copy, contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 or by email at amy.magginis@fcbdd.org.

Congratulations to Jennifer Cunningham for being reappointed to the STABLE Account Advisory Board by Governor DeWine beginning January 2020 through December 2023.



Congratulations to Doug Murray, City of Columbus and Keena Smith, Franklin County Commissioners Office, for excellent work on the 2020 Columbus Counts Census Committee.

World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day will be celebrated on March 21, 2020.

The Celebration and Fashion Show will be held at Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, Ohio 43240. Sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO), the event will feature the “Proud to Be Me Fashion Show,” food and fun.

For more information, go to <http://dsaco.net/event/wdsd/>.



In 'Sights' photo contest



Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University is again sponsoring a photography contest with chances to win cash.

This year's theme is 'Sports and Play Activities'. Photos must be submitted online for your chance to win \$500, \$300, or \$100.

The deadline is March 31, 2020. A maximum of 4 photographs can be submitted.

To submit photos online, go to <http://nisonger.osu.edu/photocontest>. For more information, contact Tamara Hager at 614-685-3196 or tamara.hager@osumc.edu.

Guardianship Training offered

Approved training for guardians will be held on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio.

This three-hour training has been approved by the Ohio Judicial College to meet the annual 3 hour requirement for guardians. The topic is "Alzheimer's and Dementia."

To register for the training, contact Angie Franke at 614-342-5972 or email angela.franke@fcbdd.org. There is no charge and seats will be reserved on a first come first serve basis.



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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John Bickley
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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

March, 2020

- 4 Developmental Disability Awareness and Advocacy Day at Ohio Statehouse, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 10 a.m.
- 17 Primary Election Day
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day Celebration, Polaris Fashion Place, 1500 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240. For more information, go to www.dsaco.net or call (614) 263-6020.
- 26 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Human Resources, Ethics and Finance Committee meetings, 2879 Johnstown Road, 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Road, 5:00 p.m.



Calendars approved for 2020/2021

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities has approved calendars for the 2020/2021 program year.

Preschool and School staff will return from summer recess on August 24, 2020 with classes starting at West Central School on August 26, 2020. Winter recess for preschool and school programs will be from December 23, 2020 to January 1, 2021 and Spring Recess will be from April 5-9, 2021.

The school year will end on June 4, 2021.

If per chance Columbus Public schools calendars for the 2020/2021 school year indicate a different schedule, the calendar will be revised.

The approved calendars can be downloaded at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities website at <https://fcbdd.org/publications/calendars/>.

