

# Dateline

September 2020

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

## Schools start virtually

Preschool and School programs of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will begin the school year in a virtual mode due to the COVID-19 virus.

The decision to begin virtually was made in August after consultation with the Columbus and Franklin County Health Departments. The current plan calls for services to be provided virtually until at least September 28, 2020, with assurances that data on the virus will be reviewed regularly with the Health Departments. At the time of the decision to start virtually, Franklin County was still experiencing community spread of the virus, as indicated by the number of people contracting the virus and the positivity rate of those being tested.

Preschool and School staff returned from Summer recess on August 24 and plan to begin providing virtual services on August 31.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO "we will continue to work with the Health Departments and plan to provide at least two week notice of plans to return to in-person classes."

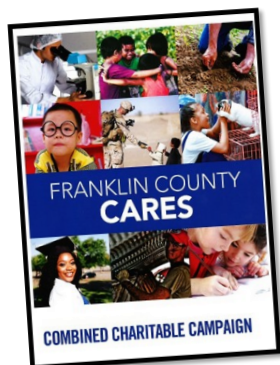
Rebecca Love, Director of Early Childhood Education for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, stated that her staff "will continue to provide individualized support services for children enrolled, utilizing technology to connect with children and coach parents on learning activities." When the children return to the Early Childhood Centers, they will alternate weeks of attendance with no more than nine students per class. By lowering the number of students per class, social/physical distancing and individualized instruction and therapy will be enhanced.

Jack Brownley, Director of Schools and Special Services explained that students will have a "Virtual Plus" option until in-person classes resume. The "Plus" indicates that efforts will be made for individual students to visit the school at least once per week for direct access to instruction, therapy and specialist experiences, including aquatics. This contact will serve as the basis for follow-up activities that can be done at home. When students resume in-person classes on a full time basis, classes will have no more than eight students. Students served in collaborative classes located in Reynoldsburg and Southwestern City Schools buildings will follow schedules of those school districts.

Further details on preschool and school programs operated by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be provided by staff and the Directors of Early Childhood and School Programs.

## Dr. Angela Ray to head up Combined Charitable Campaign

Dr. Angela Ray, Director of Psychology for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) will head up the 2020 Combined Charitable Campaign for staff of the Board.



This year's theme is "Franklin County Cares" and the goal for FCBDD staff to contribute is \$56,985. According to Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison, "We should have an outstanding campaign. Our staff sees the needs people have in their work every day and Angela and her team will do an excellent job." Dr. Ray coordinated the campaign in 2015 and staff donations exceeded the goal that year.

The Combined Charitable campaign allows staff to choose from hundreds of charitable causes for their donations. Payroll deductions make it easy to contribute. Coordinators from each Department will provide the leadership for the campaign.

Franklin County Auditor Michael Stinziano will coordinate the overall county campaign with a goal of \$273,000.

The virtual kick-off for the campaign is scheduled for September 17. More details will be forthcoming.



*Dr. Angela Ray,  
Director  
of Psychology*

# Board supports DSP wage increase

In their July meeting, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities passed a resolution in support of the wage increase for Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) in 2021.

In the 2019-2021 State of Ohio biennium budget approved by the Legislature and the Governor, there was a provision to increase wages of DSPs in 2020 and 2021. DSPs are those independent contractors or employees who work for Providers, providing direct homemaker personal care services in people's homes, as well as day services and employment supports.

Funding for Providers, who hire Direct Service Professionals, is based on the needs of individuals who have Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers. Each individual has a funding level based on an assessment called the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) and individuals have an Individual Service Plan (ISP) to meet their needs.

Providers are paid directly by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Federal Medicaid funds are matched with state and local funds.

The original agreement was for the State, Federal Government and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to share in this additional cost. This agreement still holds true. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, State funding has been limited to only essential spending, meaning that County Boards will need to contribute more towards Medicaid match to ensure new initiatives move forward. Funds to support this initiative include reduced match obligations due to the enhanced FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage), as approved by the Federal government in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, passed in March, 2020.

The Board's resolution confirms the Board's support of this wage increase for DSPs. According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "Direct Service Professionals provide invaluable services every day and have provided excellent support for people in the community during this COVID-19 Pandemic."

This support is also consistent with the Franklin County Commissioners "Rise Together" Blueprint to reduce poverty. In June, 2019, the Board of Developmental Disabilities passed a resolution for their own staff to increase the minimum, entry-level wage for regular staff positions to \$15.00 per hour, consistent with the Commissioners' initiatives.

## CENSUS Reminder

It's not too late to complete your Census Form so you can be counted in the 2020 Census.



For every person who is counted in Ohio, our state will receive more federal money for important services such as Medicaid. Every person who has a Medicaid waiver benefits from federal funds. And, the more Ohio responds, the more representation Ohio will have in Congress.

Every household in the state is asked to complete the Census form. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the deadline has been extended to October 31, 2020.

For those who have not completed the form, Census Takers will be visiting households to record the information. Census information is confidential by law and cannot be shared with other agencies, landlords, courts or other public officials.

To complete the Census form online, go to [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). It's not too late and a few minutes of your time will help all Ohioans.

## Jackie Teny-Miller retires

Jackie Teny-Miller, former Director of ARC Industries West and recent Coordinator of the Columbus State Community College Human Services Certificate Program has announced her retirement.

According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/ CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "Jackie has done excellent work in our field for many years, including the implementation of the certificate program -- one of the few college programs in the country designed to enroll students with developmental disabilities who graduate and work in the human services field."

The certificate programs will continue at CSCC under Mandy Memedakis' guidance, she has worked with Jackie for the past five years and will continue the work of this great program.



Jackie Teny-Miller

Jackie indicates she will spend more time with her grandchildren and traveling in her retirement.

Congratulations to Jackie Teny-Miller and thanks for your contributions for so many!



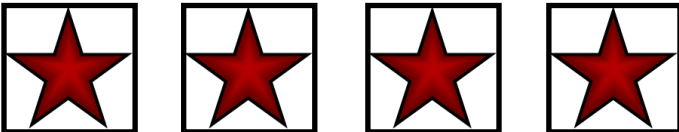
## REMINDER:

### 2020 Community Star Awards cancelled



**Due to the  
COVID-19 Pandemic,  
the Community Star  
Awards have been  
cancelled for 2020.**

**Plans are already  
beginning  
for 2021.**



## Research study has final push for participants

*Editor's Note: Please note that this is the final recruitment push for OSU Nisonger's research study on the health of adults with intellectual disabilities.*

### HELP US HEAR YOUR VOICE!

Research study on the health of adults with  
Intellectual Disability (ID)

For this research,  
we want to listen to  
**adults with ID**



We want to know  
how you feel about  
**YOUR** health

#### What will you do?

- You and your support person will answer questions about your health in **two interviews**.
- The interviews can be completed from the safety of your home (online, by phone, and/or in-person).

#### How long will this take?

- 2-4 hours per interview.

#### Who is a support person?

- A family member, friend, or caregiver that knows you well.
- They will be your study partner.

#### Want to know more?

Call us:

**833-678-7782**

Email us:

**rrtcnisonger@osumc.edu**

**In the 1st interview**, you and your support person will each earn a \$25 gift card.

**In the 2nd interview**, you and your support person will each earn a \$50 gift card.

Follow #RRTCnisonger for updates!  
[go.osu.edu/RRTC](http://go.osu.edu/RRTC)



## Dr. Bozyski retires

Congratulations and thanks to Edward R. Bozyski, a long-time psychologist in the field of developmental disabilities who retired at the end of August after 59 years in the field.

Ed initially provided psychology and management services at Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) in the early 1960's where he later became Director of Psychology.

After retiring from the State of Ohio, Ed was one of the founding members of Overbrook Clinic where he provided psychology services through contracts with DD support agencies and various County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

Ed enjoyed interacting with the folks he served and maintained decades long professional relationships with agencies and clients. He was often willing to respond to requests for emergency evaluations to help folks for many reasons, including placements, eligibility for support services, guardianships, and Medicaid waivers.



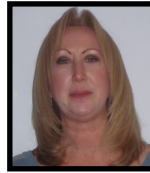
*Edward R. Bozyski*

His dedication and commitment will be missed.

# Good For You

*Notable achievements in the FCBDD community*

Congratulations and thanks to Nancy O'Neal on her retirement. Nancy has served individuals through her 28 years at ARC North and Service Coordination. Best to Nancy O'Neal!



\*\*\*\*\*

## ***Thank you ...***

***Thank you*** to all the individuals served and families for doing all you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and for your patience and flexibility.

***Thank you*** to all the staff who have transitioned to remote work and now mostly back to the work locations and for your excellent and creative adjustments to work since March, 2020 when the COVID-19 Pandemic shutdowns began.

***Thank you*** to all the Providers and Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) for your front line, outstanding services to individuals in their homes, work sites or adult day settings.

***Thank you*** to Health Department officials, Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton for helping us all to navigate these unprecedented times.

***Thank you*** to State officials from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Education for revising rules to allow for services to continue and for your ongoing support and leadership.

***Thank you*** to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Administration for your consistent and daily leadership related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

***Thank you*** to Board members of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities for supporting initiatives that allow for emergency and other services during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

***Thank you*** to our Franklin County Emergency Management Association (EMA) for being there for us all, especially with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for those in need.

***Thank you*** to the many volunteers who have assisted people during this Pandemic, for calling those who may be isolated to making and donating face masks and so much more.

***Thank you*** to the first responders, health care professionals and others, including the Columbus Center for Human Services, for caring for those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus.

***Thank you*** to Legislators for passing laws to support those who have been hurt by the Pandemic.

## ***Thank you all***

## ***- we will get through this!***



# Career Milestones

## **40 Years**

Kathleen Ahlers  
Diana McClain

## **30 Years**

Regina Rhoads  
Sally Robinson

## **20 Years**

Tiffany Anderson

## **15 years**

Erin Bowlin  
Andrea Evans  
Carla Maynard  
Brenda Mickey  
Terri Thompson

## **10 Years**

Amy Infante  
Ta'Mika McCluney

## **5 Years**

Debra Bailey  
Robin Fraley-Ridgeway  
Evan Jobes  
Chris Martin

# Calendar

**Editor's Note: The following calendar is tentative due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Call 614-342-5950 before attending any meeting to see if it is still scheduled.**

## September

- 7 Labor Day – Early Childhood, School services and offices of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities closed.
- 24 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., Please call 614-342-5950 for details.



# 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.*

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

**Carl Scott**   **Amy Magginis**  
**Jennifer Cunningham**   **Carolyn Earnhardt**

**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](http://www.fcbdd.org)

# Poll workers needed on Election Day

**Franklin County Board of Elections**

## A CALL TO SERVE

**BE A POLLWORKER**   **SERVE**   **SIGN UP**   **DO YOUR PART**

**For your service, you will receive:**

- Paid training from the Board of Elections on Election Day procedures
- Compensation of at least \$148 for training and Election Day service. Additional compensation is available through:
  - Supplemental training
  - Location set-up on Mon, Nov. 2

**To qualify for this opportunity, you must:**

- Be a U.S. citizen and a registered voter in Franklin County
- Have transportation to the polls on Election Day
- Serve from 5:30 AM to at least 8:00 PM on Election Day

Call 614.525.5393 or visit: [WORKELECTIONDAY.COM](http://WORKELECTIONDAY.COM)

*Your Community Needs You Now, More Than Ever*

# Synergy Conference cancelled

The 2020 Synergy Conference, scheduled for October, has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Synergy is an annual conference that connects individuals with disabilities and professionals with varied learning opportunities.

According to the planning partners, "Synergy is much more than a training opportunity... it's a side by side experience for people. To keep us all safe, we have decided to focus all efforts on the 2021 Synergy celebration."

Synergy partners include PAR (Professionals, Associates, Resources), OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association) and OADSP (Ohio Alliance of Direct Service Professionals).

