

# Dateline

November 2020

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

## School starts finally!!

After over 6 months of virtual services, Preschool and West Central School students returned to the classroom for in-person services beginning on September 28, 2020. Since March, 2020, services have been provided virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities stated that "our Early Childhood, School and Transportation leadership and entire staff have done a terrific job of preparing for the children to return with safety measures in place."

Beginning with Transportation, Bus Drivers or Assistants take the temperature of all students before they board the bus. Then seats are assigned to maintain as much social/physical distance as possible. Bus staff wear face coverings and Transportation staff have regular protocols to sanitize the buses after each trip with electrostatic mist sprayers.



**Children enrolled in our Early Childhood Education program spend extra time utilizing outdoor learning environments!**

On arrival to school, students begin the day with hand washing and again efforts to maintain social/physical distance as much as possible are implemented. Sanitizing efforts continue with all staff. No more than nine students per class in preschool and eight students per class at West Central are assigned. In some cases, parents have opted for continued remote/virtual learning due to their child's medical challenges or disability.

While at school, teachers and therapists will schedule and utilize school spaces such as gymnasiums, outdoor learning areas, art rooms and other areas to help maintain social/physical distancing wherever possible. Where possible and appropriate, face coverings are worn by students. All staff wear face coverings when with students.



**West Central School students learn yoga while observing social/physical distance and utilizing the outdoor learning space.**

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## Mom publishes children's book - 'Jakobi and Me'

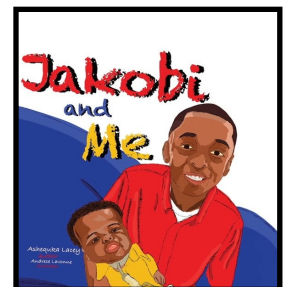
'Jakobi and Me' is the name of a book recently published by Ashequka Lacey, parent of Jakobi who is served by the Early Childhood Education Department of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The children's book is written from big brother Ameir's perspective and it shares the story of what it is like to have a sibling who has a rare form of dwarfism.

Ameir tells about his first visit to the hospital to see Jakobi and how having a sibling that is different from others makes him feel special saying "my baby brother is one of a kind." He goes on to say his "life has changed in the best way since Jakobi has been home."

Illustrated by Andrese Lavonne, the book is a great story for all children, including siblings of children who are "differently-able." It also brings awareness to a rare form of dwarfism called Thanotophoric Skeletal Dysplasia.

'Jakobi and Me' can be purchased online at [jakobiandmebook.com](http://jakobiandmebook.com). It would make a great holiday gift for a child's bookshelf!



# County Boards of DD agree to pay for second year of HPC rate increase to support DSPs

*Editor's note: The following article was jointly written by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "we are pleased to be able to support Direct Service Professionals in this way and appreciate the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (EFMAP) that has allowed us greater flexibility."*

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and OACB are pleased to announce an agreement to ensure a second year of historic investment in reimbursement rates for homemaker personal care services. The intent of this investment is to increase the overall compensation of direct support professionals (DSPs), who are essential to supporting Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.

In response to the financial situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio's 88 county boards of developmental disabilities have agreed to pay for the second year of the increase.

"The coronavirus pandemic could never have been anticipated when this phased-in rate increase was approved in last year's budget," said OACB Executive Director Bridget Gargan. "DSPs are now working harder than ever on the front lines of a global pandemic. County boards acted swiftly to ensure this long-overdue increase would continue as planned."

"County boards are staunch supporters of local providers in our communities because they maintain the health and safety of the people we serve," said Miami DD Superintendent Brian Green, president of the county board superintendents' association. "We have to stick together now more than ever, and county boards are committed to doing our part."

"DODD is grateful for county boards of developmental disabilities rising to the occasion in support of providers and DSPs," said DODD Director Jeff Davis. "We are happy to announce this news as we celebrate the valued work of DSPs during DSP Recognition Week."

"The collaboration with county boards of developmental disabilities made this historic investment possible in the state budget," Davis continued. "This investment in providers and DSPs is critical to the on the ground foundational supports they provide. Their service is even more important today as they serve on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic."

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## School finally starts!! *continued from page 1*

West Central School students are able to attend school five days per week because of the lower numbers of students per class and the size of the school (54,000 square feet). Preschool students are on an A-B type schedule, where the two groups alternate weeks with no more than nine students per class.

Governor DeWine has stated that school populations are a reflection of the community and even with the best safety precautions, it is possible that some may test positive with the virus. If this happens, appropriate notifications are made to parents, staff and local health authorities. Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine protocols will be followed per Health Department guidelines. If there are significant increases in confirmed cases, it is possible that entire classes or buildings will be quarantined to stop the spread of the virus.

Congratulations to students, families and staff on the safe return to school. While there was no playbook for how this would work, everyone has worked together cooperatively and learned more in the past several months to allow for students to again receive in-person services with opportunities to interact with their peers and staff.



**West Central School students use the outdoor learning space to make buckeye necklaces and do their physical therapy.**



**ECE students can be found doing many activities in various outdoor learning spaces.**

# County Commissioners/ Health Commissioners meet daily

Since March, 2020, daily calls have been hosted by the Franklin County Commissioners with updates from Franklin County Public Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola.

The regular calls began seven days a week in March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Over 100 County elected officials and agency Directors or staff participate on the calls to hear updates from the Health Department on COVID-19 case counts, orders from the Health Department and other measures being taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

Commissioners Kevin Boyce, Marilyn Brown and John O'Grady participate in all the calls with questions, comments and daily encouragement to the residents and county staff supporting people during this unprecedented time.

Meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, Tuesdays with Elected Officials and on Thursdays, the Health Department provides a thorough update for the public in coordination with the Commissioners. Recently the Friday meeting has been suspended until further notice.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO and Dot Yeager, Chief Business Officer, participate in the daily meetings. Jed Morison stated, "the meetings have been very helpful as we work through the details of this Pandemic. We don't have a playbook, so we learn from each other. And, we have learned much about other county operations at the same time."

## Enhanced reimbursement for Adult Day Providers

*Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities "Memo Monday" electronic newsletter. According to Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "we are pleased we are able to support Adult Providers in this way."*

Due to the recommended limitation of no more than ten people in congregate groups in response to the public health emergency, which translated in smaller staff to person ratios in Adult Day Support and Vocational Habilitation (ADS/Voc Hab) settings, county boards of developmental disabilities agreed to temporarily fund the state match needed to support the Acuity "C" rate for all ADS/Voc Hab services starting in July of this year.

Since that time, the decision to continue the enhanced reimbursement has been evaluated on a monthly basis. As the result of extensive discussions last week between superintendents, business managers, and OACB staff, county boards of developmental disabilities have conditionally agreed to support the current, universal Acuity C payment structure for providers of ADS/Voc Hab services until December 31, 2020. This agreement, which has been accepted by DODD, will allow providers to continue receiving the Acuity C rate for all program participants for the remainder of the current calendar year.

This final extension gives DODD, county boards of developmental disabilities, and provider representatives time to plan for the safe expansion of ADS/Voc Hab options next year. All parties have agreed to begin these formal discussions no later than the first week of October.

## *In memoriam*

*Dr. Willard Fernald*

*Madeline Elaine Trouten*

We are saddened to report that two pioneers in the field of developmental disabilities passed away in September 2020.

Dr. Willard Fernald, was a well-regarded Pediatrician in our community and also served as the medical Director at the Heinzerling Community. Dr. Fernald was the first Medical Director in 1959 and held that position until 2015. Dr. Fernald passed away on September 15 at the age of 97.

Madeline Elaine Trouten, parent and former staff member for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, passed away on September 16 at the age of 92. Elaine worked at Northeast School for many years. She was also a loyal supporter of services and one of the early pioneers who supported the establishment of services in Franklin County. Elaine's son, Steve, was a long time recipient of services from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Our condolences go out to the Fernald and Trouten families.



# Interacting with police

The University of Cincinnati UCEDD and LEND Program has developed a new brochure: "A Guide to Interacting with Police for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities."

People with intellectual, cognitive or developmental disabilities get involved as both victims and suspects/offenders with law enforcement and with the criminal justice system. The police are ready to help in many different ways to help us feel safe. To download the brochure, click on the following link:

## [Interacting with Police Brochure](#)

If you are interested in receiving printed copies of these materials, please contact Erica Coleman at [Erica.Coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:Erica.Coleman@cchmc.org). Please note limited quantities are available.



## **Things to remember when meeting police:**

1. **Keep your hands to yourself and do not touch their badge or body.**
2. **Do not touch any of the Equipment the police use to do their job.**
3. **NEVER touch a police officer's gun or any other weapon.**

## **Telling the police about your disability**

When you meet a police officer you can let them know you have a disability and any special needs you have. If you have a card in your wallet that explains your disability or special needs you can ask the officer to show it to them.

# Family Support meeting on Zoom

Family Support meetings for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities are now being held using the Zoom platform due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Board stated "while we would much prefer to see people in person, it is nice to connect with additional people on zoom who are otherwise unable to travel to the Johnstown Road building."

The meetings are now scheduled every other month, with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. An announcement and link to Zoom will be sent out through "NewsBits." (To sign up for updates on "NewsBits" go to [www.fcbdd.org](http://www.fcbdd.org)).

If questions on how to participate in the Family Support Meeting, contact Amy Magginis at [amy.magginis@fcbdd.org](mailto:amy.magginis@fcbdd.org) or 614-342-5950. Parents or family members can participate with their computer with video access or on the telephone. All are welcome to hear updates from the Superintendent and provide feedback or suggestions on services.

# OACB Conference pivots

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards will be held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The convention, which is normally held over a three-day period in late November or early December, will be held through zoom.

Plans call for sessions to be spread out over three different weeks. One-hour sessions, costing \$25/each will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on November 17-19; December 1-3 and December 8-10. Up to 4 sessions will be scheduled each day. By spreading the sessions out over time, attendees won't be required to attend sessions on zoom, looking at a computer screen more than 4 hours on any day!

For details on the convention or to register, go to [www.oacbdd.org/convention](http://www.oacbdd.org/convention).



# Good For You

*Notable achievements in the FCBDD community*

Special thanks to Larry Macintosh, Lee Childs and staffs for extra work preparing for Accreditation visit from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

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Thank you to ARC Industries CEO Bob Gaston (left) and Chief Finance and Strategy Officer Anthony Hartley (right) for supporting FCBDD Bus Drivers by coordinating a collaborative effort.



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Congratulations to Keena Smith, Deputy County Administrator for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, for outstanding leadership with the 2020 Census Count. The Census Count ended on October 31, 2020.

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Congratulations and thanks to Dot Yeager, Anna Osgard, David Ott and the Wellness committee for completing the Wellness Center in space above the Transportation Offices.

Special thanks also to the Transportation staff for flexibility in allowing this to happen.



**Pictured from left to right are: Anna Osgard, Peg Rittler, Jen Bowen, David Ott and Dot Yeager**

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Very special thanks to Jen Bowen, Peg Rittler and United HealthCare for donating all the equipment for the new Wellness Center.



# Career Milestones

## 30 Years

Keith Ogle  
Bill Ryan

## 15 Years

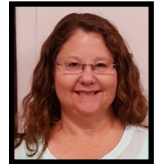
Farrah Langlois

## 5 Years

Timika Boyd  
Corrina Hyde  
Javonne Wood



Congratulations to Patty Jordan for more than 30 years of public service. Patty has served individuals through Adult Services and Service Coordination.



Thanks for your terrific service and best wishes on your retirement!

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Congratulations to the Studio Staff of the Early Childhood Education Department for the outstanding job of preparing the Outdoor Learning Environments at the Early Childhood Education and Family center on Johnstown Road and the Early Childhood Learning Community on Rudy Road.

Children will be spending extra time in the outdoor learning spaces as part of social distancing strategy.

Pictured below are:  
Theri Brady (top left),  
AJ Heckman (top right),  
Sharron McJannet (bottom left)  
and Danielle Norman (bottom right)



# Reminder to vote on November 3

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020**



For those who have not voted with an absentee ballot, the polls will be open.

In addition to the Presidential election, all Ohio House of Representatives seats are on the ballot and half of the State Senate seats.

For Franklin County voters, Issue 24 will be decided. Issue 24 is the ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health) renewal levy and increase levy.

In their September meeting, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities endorsed Issue 24.

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

## 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.**

### November

- 3 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day celebrated - all county facilities closed.
- 18 Family Support meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Meeting is open to all family members.
- 19 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 11:30 a.m.
- 26 Thanksgiving Day - all county facilities closed.
- 27 Thanksgiving Recess - Early Childhood and school classes and offices of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities closed.
- 30 FCBDD Public Hearing on the Annual Action/Strategic Plan and IDEA. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.



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## Public Hearing scheduled

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will conduct a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2020 at Noon to seek comments on the Board's Annual Action/ Strategic Plan.

The hearing will also accept public comments on funding provided by the federal government from the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The hearing will be held virtually on Zoom.

To connect to the hearing, call  
1-929-205-6099  
or click on the following link:

**[FCBDD Public Hearing Annual Action/Strategic Plan & IDEA](#)**