

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

Changing tables key to fully accessible restrooms, communities

For many people with physical disabilities, the path to true community inclusion often stops at the bathroom door. That's because there are hardly any public places with accessible restrooms that also include an adult-size changing table.

"It makes you isolated, even more than you already feel as a person with a disability," said Kim Boulter, a central Ohio mom whose 9-year-old son has cerebral palsy.

Boulter first began working to address "the bathroom barrier" in her Delaware County community. She now advocates through Changing Spaces Ohio, part of a nationwide campaign to get more restrooms equipped with universal changing tables.

In the Columbus area, it's very difficult to find a public bathroom that accommodates an older child or adult who cannot safely use a toilet. The Columbus airport, City Hall, Franklin County offices and the Statehouse all lack large changing tables, as do venues such as Ohio Stadium, the Schottenstein Center, Nationwide Arena and the Ohio Theatre.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is preparing to place a universal changing table in a main-offices restroom, and will make it available to the public. "We appreciate the advocacy of Changing Spaces," FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison said. "We hope our restroom can be a model for other facilities."

Mark Hagen, director of public policy at California-based Momentum Innovative Disability Services, said bathroom accessibility can severely limit time away from home. "There's been this move to create independence by using technology in the home, and believe me, I am all for that," he said. "But very little is being done to make it easier to get people out in the community."

In addition to calling for changing tables, the organization is rolling out mobile restrooms called "Momentum Refresh" that can be rented. Such vans also should be part of public disaster planning for people with mobility issues, Hagen said.



When Kim Boulter can't find a public restroom with a universal changing table, such as this adjustable-height model at Nationwide Children's Hospital, she is forced to tend to her son's hygiene needs in the back of a vehicle or on the floor.

"I would like to ask Columbus City Council to purchase one to be used at festivals and outdoor events around central Ohio," Boulter said. "It could also be rented by other cities in Ohio."

So far, only a few states and municipalities are beginning to require universal changing tables in specific places, such as rest areas. But changing-table specifications have been added to the 2024 international building code, which is good news because it represents best practices, Boulter said.

The Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities has two restrooms with adult-size changing tables, and the agency has awarded accessibility grants to help other public entities install them, spokesman Chase Waits said. Orange Township received a grant and is adding a changing table at a park that happens to be a Boulter family favorite.

"I always try to envision the future, which is very difficult when you're on the path less traveled," Boulter said. "But I know that people with disabilities should not have to be changed on the floor, or exposed in the back of a vehicle. They deserve privacy and dignity, just like anyone else."



Changing Spaces Ohio is part of a nationwide initiative calling for more adult-size changing tables in public restrooms:

www.changingspacescampaign.com

Husband-and-wife DSPs have heart for service

When Alhaji Tunkara and Samuella Dyer first began working as direct-support professionals, they had much to learn. Both had come to the United States from Sierra Leone, a poor, war-scarred nation in West Africa with few services for people with disabilities.



Samuella Dyer and her husband, Alhaji Tunkara

But Tunkara and Dyer quickly excelled, and are highly respected by colleagues and by the individuals and families they serve in Franklin County. “What it comes down to is, if you love people, you’re going to do this job well,” said Cinnamon Edgerton, regional vice president of operations for Minamyer Residential Care Services/Beacon, where Tunkara and Dyer work.

“Samuella and Alhaji meet those qualifications – so much so that it brings me to tears every day,” she said. “They are beautiful people.”

Tunkara and Dyer, who met after arriving in the United States and married here in 2019, are among the many immigrants working as DSPs in Ohio. Without those workers, Edgerton said, “the system would have completely collapsed” due to an ongoing staffing shortage.

“These are hard-working people who aren’t afraid to tend to people’s hygiene needs, to help manage behaviors,” Edgerton said. “They want to give the help that’s needed, give it well, and change their livelihoods.”

Tunkara, a teacher in Sierra Leone, came to America through a U.S. visa lottery. “I was so excited,” he said. “I wanted to try the American dream. And I don’t regret it. I have a job, a home, and I can help people.”

Dyer, whose aunt sponsored her immigration, said she has embraced opportunities in the Columbus area. “If you focus, know where you came from, you can succeed here,” she said. “And we are helping people in need. When I am with my individuals, I have peace.”

The couple are now home managers for Minamyer and supervise other staff. Edgerton, an advocate for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates, said she hopes that, one day, DSPs “are given the value they’re due monetarily.”

Dyer said she would recommend her job to others and feels that at Minamyer, employees are like family. “We need more people in this field,” she said. “We need the right people.”

Boundless opens remodeled health center

Boundless Health is welcoming patients to a newly renovated facility that will serve as a hub for primary, dental and behavioral-health care for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

“We are going to be one of only a few organizations in the entire country who provide this unique care,” Dr. Patrick Maynard, president and CEO of Boundless, said during a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month.

He thanked the community for supporting the project, which received significant funding from the state and from corporate donors.

The building at 445 E. Dublin Granville Rd. houses 15 primary care exam rooms, a dental floor with six chairs and exam rooms, an on-site lab, speech therapy and counseling rooms, an administration wing and – soon – a pharmacy with a dedicated, on-premises pharmacist for more coordinated, personalized care.

Boundless opened the building for tours during the ribbon-cutting event. Guests also gathered outside to hear from Maynard; state Rep. Beth Liston; state Rep. and Minority Leader Allison Russo; Sue Zazon, president of Huntington Bank’s central Ohio region; and Boundless patient Mac Smith, who has autism.

“Boundless Health is like a family, and family sticks together,” Smith said. “Boundless Health helps me with my social skills, independence and life. I am much more than my labels.”



Boundless patient Mac Smith, center with headphones, celebrates with (from left to right) state Rep. Allison Russo, Boundless President and CEO Patrick Maynard and Sue Zazon of Huntington Bank.

2022 Community Star Awards gala and winners announced

After a two-year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Community Star Awards event is back this year with 12 new recipients who will be honored for their support of Franklin County residents with developmental disabilities.

More than 400 people are expected to attend the dinner celebration, which is set for Oct. 26 at Villa Milano. Marcus Thorpe will again be the master of ceremonies and the Dave Powers Trio is providing entertainment.

This issue of *Dateline* includes a registration form to attend as an individual, to cover the cost of a table for eight, or to donate. Funds help support the Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.



“It’s such a nice gathering – almost like a family gathering, in my view,” said Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. “We love it.”

The long-running event began in 1987 as a “Salute” to one person who had made significant contributions to the FCBDD mission, Morison said. It eventually transitioned to a multi-winner format and has been known as the Community Star Awards since 2003.

Nomination categories reflect people receiving FCBDD services, staff members, provider agencies, family members, volunteers and more. A committee selected the winners.



2022
Community Star
Award Winners

Ethan Boerner <i>Self-Advocate</i>	Barb Heretta <i>Family Member/Guardian</i>	Debbie Charles, RN <i>School Staff</i>
ARC Industries <i>Provider Organization</i>		Fred Cloppert <i>Volunteer/Good Neighbor</i>
Carrie Vamos <i>Adult Services Staff</i>	Scott Vawter <i>Transportation Staff</i>	
Danielle Norman <i>Early Childhood Staff</i>	Mike Butchko <i>Direct Service Professional</i>	Larry Macintosh <i>Management Staff</i>
	Carla Daniels <i>Inclusion/Community Leader</i>	LaTonya Johnson <i>Service Coordination Staff</i>

CONGRATULATIONS!

Compliance manager Tracey Crawford wraps up 26 years with FCBDD



As manager of provider compliance at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Tracey Crawford works to make sure providers follow the rules and do right by the people they are paid to serve – or else.

Her straightforward approach led to a nickname. “We refer to her as the velvet hammer,” said Larry Macintosh, FCBDD director of administrative and support services. “She first tries to nurture people to do the right thing. But if they don’t, the hammer comes down.”

Crawford, who is retiring at the end of October after 26 years with FCBDD, doesn’t mind the description. “I took it as quite a compliment,” she said.

Most service providers, of course, want to succeed and Crawford is happiest when she helps that happen. “The most fun is getting a provider turned around and getting them to where they are delivering good-quality services to people,” she said. “I love that.”

With nearly 1,500 provider agencies and independent providers operating in Franklin County, oversight is complex. Crawford feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to help create the compliance manager position at FCBDD, allowing her to blend her passions.

Crawford first worked as a special education teacher in northeast Ohio and then became a service coordinator at FCBDD. “I’m grateful that I had that boots-on-the-ground experience, because that’s really important,” she said. “I’m retiring having done things I love, and not everyone gets to say that. I’m blessed.”

FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison said Crawford worked closely with staff, providers and with the state, which reviews county board compliance findings and can issue sanctions or suspensions if warranted. “Tracey’s great,” Morison said. “She’s always looking to support good, solid services.”

Crawford said she has no immediate plans other than to enjoy some down time. “It’s been a great ride,” she said. “I’m going to snuggle with a couple of dogs for the winter and stay warm. I’ll enjoy watching the snow instead of driving in it.”

Service Coordination Assistant Director Lindsay Holt follows her heart south

As a college student, direct-support professional, service coordinator and, eventually, a department manager at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Lindsay Holt always kept to a highly structured and stable routine.

“There was never a time that I thought I’d make a decision like this,” she said, smiling. “I have a conflict between my heart and my mind. But this time I’m listening to my heart.”

Holt stepped down as an assistant director of the Service Coordination Department at the end of September after 16 years at FCBDD. She and her husband recently sold their Westerville area home, packed up their 27-foot camper and headed to Columbia, South Carolina, where they will be closer to family. And the weather, Holt said, is bound to be better.

Colleagues gathered recently to wish her well and to thank her for her dedication. “It has been a pleasure to have her on our management team,” Service Coordination Director Lee Childs said. “Lindsay is passionate about her work, passionate about the people we serve, passionate about her staff.”

Holt is proud to have worked to improve the diversity of the service coordination staff. Equity efforts still have a way to go, she said, but compared to when she first arrived at FCBDD, “We look so much more like the people we serve.”

She was happy with accomplishments of any size, and loved the opportunity to build upon them. “Lee had asked me what was my biggest success,” Holt said. “It was just that I mattered to people. Even if it was something as simple as having the answer to a simple question.”

Holt is thrilled that she’ll be just a few hours away from her daughter, who plays soccer for her college team in Wilmington, N.C. “It’s been two years since I’ve seen a live game,” she said. “We just want to be closer to the people we love, and have the weather that allows us to do the things we like to do.”

Colleagues say she will be deeply missed. “Lindsay’s always smiling,” Childs said. “She’s been such a role model.”



Lindsay Holt, center, with colleagues (from left to right) Shawn Riggins, David McCluney, Jose Bennett and Sean Patterson.

FCBDD staff spotlight

On the job and as a role model, Emma Snailham shines

Bill Ryan admits to being skeptical about hiring Emma Snailham as a bus assistant for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. After so many surgeries on her hands, he worried she wouldn't have the dexterity to safely secure a wheelchair.

Ryan may never have been so happily wrong. Not only could Snailham handle the wheelchairs, but the handwriting on her job application was flawless.

"I haven't seen anything yet that she can't do," said Ryan, FCBDD transportation director. "She does an excellent job, and she always has a good attitude. I would take a whole lot of Emmas."

Snailham, who now has worked at FCBDD for 15 years, attended the agency's early childhood education program as a young child. She was born with Apert syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes fusion of the skull, hands and feet bones. "Having a disability myself, I've always wanted to be with others and to be helpful," Snailham said. "It can be hard to have people not treat you well. So I just want to provide that support."

She is there for students on her bus, and she enjoys occasional shifts at the front desk or on the mail route, making deliveries to FCBDD facilities and to other county offices in Downtown Columbus. Snailham's late mother also worked for FCBDD, driving a bus for many years.

"Her mom, like Emma, also stood out," Ryan said. "After driving to one of our facilities, her mom would be outside the bus waiting, wiping it down. She must have had the cleanest bus in the county."

Snailham's parents wanted her to be a good driver despite her disability, so her dad first began teaching her on a golf cart. Her mother and father had moved to the United States from London, where it was relatively easy to use public transportation. Central Ohio is different, they told her.

"My mom had a hard work ethic, and she and my dad taught me to be a good role model," the 35-year-old said. "I love what I do, definitely. It's so nice to see students come on the school bus, see those wonderful smiles, and know that you can help them have the best day."

Snailham lives with her father in a house they built near Hoover Dam. In addition to renovation and building projects, she enjoys organizing, decorating and watching HGTV.

"I just think in a lot of ways, she's the face of this agency," Ryan said. "Emma's out there getting it done, living her life. We're lucky to have her."



Try remote support, get \$50 a month for internet

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Creative Housing are continuing to offer incentives for people to try remote support, which can increase privacy and safely reduce the need for on-site staff.

People served by FCBDD and who have a Medicaid waiver can receive up to \$50 a month for 12 months to pay for internet and WiFi if they try out a remote-services option for eight weeks, at a minimum of eight hours a week. Creative Housing residency is not required.

Remote support allows an off-site service provider to monitor and respond to health, safety and other needs using live, two-way communication, much like Skype or FaceTime.

For details or to learn more, send an email to remotesupport@fcbdd.org

Registration open for Project STIR training

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is paying for a limited number of people to attend the Project STIR training event Oct 25-27 at the Crown Plaza Hotel-Columbus North.

Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) is leadership training taught by and for people with disabilities, and an ally. Participants learn to advocate for themselves, connect with others and gain leadership skills.

Registration fee is \$550 for Ohio Self Determination Association members and \$650 for non-members, and includes all materials but not the hotel room.

Franklin County residents seeking sponsorship should contact Crystal.Schneider@fcbdd.org



For additional information, email osda2011@gmail.com

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Andrea Nadolny, daughter of Dave Nadolny (fiscal), for being named an Everyday Hero by the *Columbus Dispatch*. Andrea, a student at Ohio State University, was recognized for developing a suicide awareness and prevention infographic called "You Are Not Alone" for her Girl Scout Gold Award project after a good friend died by suicide.

Happy trails to Dale Aberegg (service coordination), who was with FCBDD for 28 years and retired at the end of September. "Dale is the most humble and caring of people, someone who deeply views his work as a service to others," said his former supervisor, Lynne Johansson. "He'd consistently help an individual or co-worker without hesitation and does so with graciousness." Thanks for all you did, Dale.

Thanks to Whitehall City Schools Superintendent Dr. Sharee Wells for visiting us last month. We're always glad to show off our wonderful early childhood education program.



Pictured: Whitehall Superintendent Dr. Sharee Wells (center) with FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison and Early Childhood Education Director Becky Love



Dateline

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Information about the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is always available on the internet at:

www.fcbdd.org

Career Milestones

30 Years

Kim Allen-Green
Dorothy Moore

25 Years

Nancy Mills-Jones

20 Years

Deborah Etienne
Alethea Holz
Diana Montgomery
Amy Morse

15 Years

Mandy Holland
Gertrude Woods

10 Years

Matthew Giesler

5 Years

Alicia Crum
Michele Lynn
Erin Shoemaker
Jessica Vera-Bennett
Christine Weaver

The FCBDD Combined Charitable Campaign is being led by Jack Brownley, director of schools and special services. Staff members are encouraged to donate via payroll to help us meet our agency goal of \$57,200.

Department campaign coordinators can provide information and answer questions:

Jack Brownley (administration/insurance/legal/schools/Special Olympics); Larry Macintosh (administrative support services); Sarah Gillilan (ECEFC); Gretchen Uhl (ECLC); Mandy Holland (fiscal); David Ott (human resources); Travis Sherick (IT); Mike Boyce (maintenance); Randy Cuenot (psychology); Nicole Nawman (service coordination); Jane Pickens and Amy Kulow (transportation); Kelly Bowers (West Central School).

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.

October, 2022

- 25-27 Project STIR training at Crown Plaza Hotel - Columbus North. For details, please email osda2011@gmail.com
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Finance and Human Resources & Ethics Committees meeting, 2879 Johnstown Rd., 4 p.m.
- 27 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting at 5:00 p.m., 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio, via Zoom for the public. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details or click on the following link to connect:

[FCBDD Board Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)



COMMUNITY STAR AWARDS BANQUET

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

Villa Milano • 1630 Schrock Road

Social Hour (Cash Bar) • 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Lasagna Dinner & Awards Presentation • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

\$40.00/ Person • \$320.00/ Table of Eight

Please join us for an opportunity to recognize some outstanding people who contribute to our community and to celebrate their achievements and visit with friends.

STAR AWARDS BANQUET

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY OCTOBER, 15, 2022

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

(Please Print)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

- Enclosed is **\$40.00** per person to help support Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.
- Enclosed is **\$320.00** for a table of eight (8) to help support Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.
- I cannot attend, however, I have enclosed a donation for this event.

Make checks payable to: Citizens Committee for Persons with DD

**Send to: Community Star Awards
Attn: Amy Magginis
2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, OH 43219**