

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

Remote-support responders help balance independence and safety

As a service coordinator at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Kerrie Wise noticed that some of the most difficult behaviors seemed to occur when people wanted to be left alone.

Having providers in the home, oftentimes around the clock, was piling on the stress. The person receiving services would become agitated. The provider would then feel threatened – or worse, face physical aggression. “No one wants that,” Wise said.

She left FCBDD last year to become the new Columbus program manager for THS Remote Support Services, working to help people with disabilities increase their independence and reduce reliance on in-home providers through the use of two-way cameras, sensors and other real-time communication devices.

“I just love to see individuals who have been surrounded all their lives being able to enjoy time on their own,” Wise said. “I have one individual – I’m so proud of him – who has gone from having 24-7 staff to all-remote. He comes and goes as he pleases, takes his medicine, responds to our calls. And he is doing excellent.”

Wise and other remote-support responders know it can be difficult for families to envision the ways technology can safely support their loved ones. Getting that message out is key to state and county efforts to increase the use of remote support and ease pressure on the struggling direct-care system.

Lauren Gastineau and Taylor Kaeser, Ohio State University biomedical engineering students who work as remote support associates for Ohio at Home Health Care, are heading up a community engagement project that aims to spread the word.

“We’re trying to help people learn what’s out there,” Kaeser said. “It’s so individualized. What you do for one isn’t necessarily what you do for someone else.”

Options are vast and growing. Remote-support responders scan two-way cameras, sensors and all kinds of detectors. There are devices that monitor motion, relay diabetes readings, detect seizures, shut off the stove and lock the door.

Responders listen for out-of-the-norm sounds, monitor movement patterns, and address concerns or questions. They can connect with 911 in a flash or call a provider or family member to stop by. “Every few seconds, I’m checking, taking notes if need be,” Gastineau said. “Sounds are probably one of the most important things.”

Remote support isn’t appropriate for everyone, Wise said. But for many, it’s life changing. One man who had “gone through 27 providers” is now thriving with remote support, dramatically reducing his in-home staffing needs, she said.

And two sisters who live next door to each other are finally enjoying some time apart. The sister who does not have disabilities “likes to go to the gym, and she hadn’t been able to,” Wise said. “Now we can say, ‘Go to the gym. We’ve got her.’”



Lauren Gastineau of Ohio at Home Health Care writes a message on an Amazon Glow device.



Remote-support responders man the monitoring center at THS Remote Support Services in Hamilton County.

People served by FCBDD who give remote support a try may be eligible for up to \$50 a month to pay for internet service.

For more information,

[email - remotesupport@fcbdd.org](mailto:remotesupport@fcbdd.org)

ARC, Honeywell grow opportunities for workers with disabilities

For nearly a decade, Honeywell has partnered with ARC Industries to employ people with developmental disabilities. The crew started with six people, has grown to 24 and now makes up the largest on-site crew in ARC's group employment program.

Paula Daugherty heads up value-added services at Honeywell's PPE distribution center in Groveport, where the ARC crew works. They repackaged large numbers of N-95 masks for shipping during the pandemic, taking pride in helping to make the world safer at a time of crisis.

Daugherty said she's especially pleased by the way all employees – those with and without disabilities – respect and learn from each other.



What are some of the benefits of having such a diverse workforce?

I love the way everyone can look at everybody the same here. That's just the way it is. People with disabilities need to have jobs, to make money, just like anyone else.

How about the ARC crew's performance?

It's great! They take pride in their job, even more so than a lot of typical employees. These crews don't like to disappoint.

Sounds like you would encourage other employers to forge these kinds of relationships.

I think if they tried it, they would be surprised at how well it works. These crews do a lot. We've got enough different work here that there's a fit for everyone. If someone doesn't count well, they can make the box instead of counting the material going in it. That box is just as important.

Do you have any personal connections to the disability community?

I have a cousin who has Down syndrome; that kind of opens your eyes a little. My daughter's 14. She works with special-needs kids in school now, and she wants to be a special-needs nurse. I like to think that comes down to being raised by a parent who works with people with disabilities. The more we see, the more we understand.

West Central pool open to families, staff on Mondays

The aquatics center at West Central School is a wonderful resource, and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities is again making it available to people served by the board, their families and FCBDD employees.

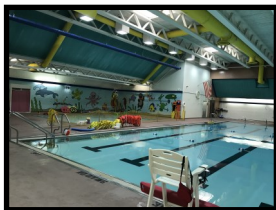
The Monday Night Swim event had been on pause most of the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's back from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every Monday at West Central School and Transition Services, 1481 W. Town St.

"It's for anyone who receives services from the county board, and their families," said Bob Helber, West Central aquatics instructor. "And if a person comes with their provider, the provider can get in, too."

Helber said the one-time charge is nominal -- \$10 covers an entire family and is good for the whole school year. Lifeguards are on duty; however, people who need assistance in the pool must have a family member or provider in the water with them.

The heated pool ranges from 3 to 5 feet deep, with a diving area that is 10 feet deep. A lift is available for non-ambulatory access. The aquatics center also includes a baby pool.

During the school day, West Central students use the pool for therapy, swimming instruction or recreation. "It's a hidden jewel, one that we'd like to see more people be aware of and be able to take advantage of," said Jack Brownley, FCBDD director of schools and special services. For more information, call 614-342-5265.



Guardianship board seeks holiday gifts for clients

The Franklin County Guardianship Service Board (GSB) has prepared its annual holiday wish list in hopes that the community will help make sure that every client receives a gift this year.



The GSB serves as the guardian of last resort to roughly 450 people, most of whom receive just \$35 to \$50 a month in discretionary spending. Many have developmental disabilities, mental illness or both; some have no close family or friends to provide support.

Instead of posting the annual wish list only on Amazon, the GSB is including Target and Walmart. The board also is hosting a gift drive on Dec. 8 and 10 so that donors can deliver items in person.

"Last year our list was pretty basic. We've revamped how we do it and we're trying to get creative," said Aimee Somerville, GSB business operations assistant. "As a person who has donated to other organizations myself, I know it's fun to be able to be more personalized."

For wish list links, suggested items and gift-drive details, go www.guardian.franklincountyohio.gov

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to Farrah Langlois, who recently was named an assistant director in the Service Coordination Department. Farrah replaces Lindsay Holt, who left FCBDD in September. We wish Farrah all the best in her new role.





We appreciate all the efforts of department coordinators to boost participation in our agency's Combined Charitable Campaign. Service Coordination had a hit with its chili cook-off and bake sale; West Central School helped spur donations with drawings and prizes. If you haven't given yet, there are still a few days left!

Career Milestones

30 Years

Peggy Cotton
Anna Oscar

20 Years

Dot Yeager

15 Years

Felicia Sowell Moon

10 Years

Todd Lilley
Leora Williams



It was great to see so many come out to support the 2022 Columbus Buddy Walk, which benefits the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO). More than \$530,000 had been raised by mid-October, with donations collected through the end of the month. And more than 12,000 people joined in the festivities, DSACO said. Way to go!



Thanks to the staff members who helped to provide informative presentations during professional development day (Oct. 14), when early education and school classes were closed: Rebecca Holthaus and Deb Viney, West Central; Patrick Keenist, Psychology; Amy Kulow and Billy Evoy, Transportation; and Becky Love, Darren Thompson, Joanne Holcombe, Danielle Norman, Adrienne Harvey, Jessica McCain and Sarah Gillilan, Early Childhood.

Oldest Special Olympics bowler still knockin' down the pins

As far as Murriel Thompson is concerned, bum knees and senior status are no reason to hang up her bowling shoes. "To see people – that's what I like," she said. "And I'm pretty good, right?"

Thompson definitely is a good bowler. And at 78, she's also the oldest female athlete actively competing as a Franklin County Flyer.

"People often think of Special Olympics athletes as being in a certain age group, but that's not the case," said Ryan Phillips, director of Special Olympics, community recreation and aquatics at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"The fact that we have someone who's knockin' on 80 and still having fun out here is pretty cool," he said. "And it's a great example for our other athletes."

Thompson has made a few concessions to age in recent years, switching to a ball ramp. The ramp allows her to roll the ball toward the pins by releasing it at the top of the ramp. Most important, the modest piece of adaptive equipment makes it easy for her to keep enjoying her favorite sport.

"I started in the recreation department in about 1990, and Murriel was with us then," said Mike Butchko of the Franklin County Special Olympics staff. "We had Friday night dances and Saturday morning bowling. She's very sociable."

Bowling is wildly popular among Franklin County athletes. Phillips thinks that's because it offers great opportunities for social interaction as well as friendly competition. "It's a lifelong activity that people can do from the time they're young, with lane bumpers, on up to Murriel's age," he said.

The Flyers just wrapped up fall bowling; Thompson will keep her game up through Franklin County Recreation during the winter. "Murriel loves to be on the go," said her support provider, Amy Thomas. "She's very sweet, very kind-hearted – and very competitive."



Murriel Thompson hits the lanes at Columbus Square Bowling Palace.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities will conduct a public hearing on *Monday, December 5, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.* 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 public hearing will be held in-person at 2879 Johnstown Road, or virtually on Zoom.

To connect to the hearing by phone, please call 1-929-205-6099. The Zoom meeting ID is 488 125 2353 and the passcode is [fcbdd2020](#).

FREE DRIVE THROUGH PRODUCE MARKETS *at our school*

Please join the FCBDD Early Childhood Education Partnership and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to **STOP HUNGER** with more FREE produce giveaways!

DATES TO SAVE:

- OCTOBER 20
- NOVEMBER 17
- DECEMBER 15
- JANUARY 19
- FEBRUARY 16
- MARCH 16
- APRIL 20
- MAY 18

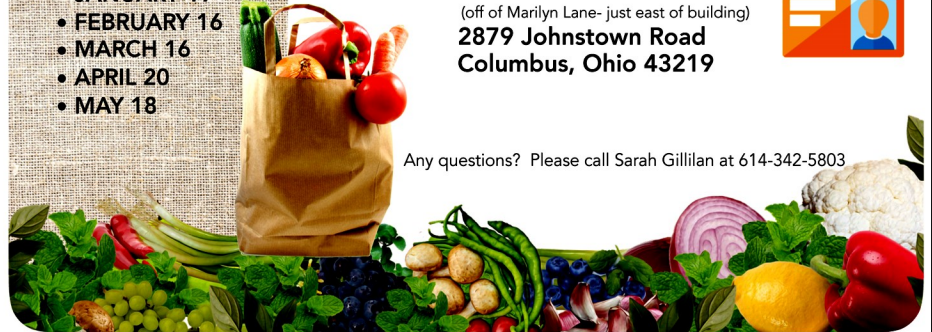
When: 5:30 - 7:30pm

Where: ECEFC Bus Lane

(off of Marilyn Lane- just east of building)
2879 Johnstown Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219



Any questions? Please call Sarah Gillilan at 614-342-5803



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Please visit us at: www.fcbdd.org/ece

Dateline

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

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, 2022

- 8 Election Day
- 11 Veteran's Day - all county facilities closed.
- 16 Family Support meeting, via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.

[Family Support Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)

- 17 FCBDD Early Childhood Education and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Produce Drive Through from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the ECEFC Bus Lane (accessed via Marilyn Lane). For more details, contact Sarah Gillilan at 614-342-5803.
- 23 West Central and Early Childhood Education Parent / Teacher Conference Day
- 24 Thanksgiving Day - all county facilities closed.
- 25 Thanksgiving Recess - Early Childhood and school classes and offices of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities closed.