

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

Register to attend Salute/Reunion for Jed Morison and our pandemic heroes

More than 500 guests are expected to attend a salute to Jed Morison and community "pandemic heroes" on Oct. 25 at Villa Milano.

Jed Morison, Superintendent/CEO of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, is retiring on Dec. 31 after 54 years of public service. The gathering will be a reunion of friends, people served by the agency, family members, current and former staff, and elected officials.

The evening also will include recognition of local leaders who helped guide FCBDD and the broader community through the COVID-19 pandemic: Franklin County Public Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola, Columbus Public Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika Roberts, Franklin County Commissioners Kevin Boyce, Erica Crawley and John O'Grady, and Beth Savage, who will end her tenure on the Board in January 2024.

Following recognition of the commissioners, several speakers will offer remarks – both serious and light-hearted – on Morison and his long career. "I am looking forward to seeing everyone and will appreciate the chance to thank all those who have helped along the way," he said. "It will be bittersweet."

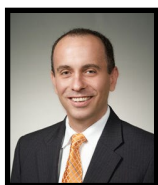
Scheduled speakers are Becky Love, FCBDD Early Childhood Education Director; former FCBDD board member Dean Fadel; self-advocate and public speaker Adam Helbling; FCBDD Chief Business Officer Dot Yeager; state Sen. Hearcel Craig; and Dr. Luke Henn, Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Mercy Health in Youngstown and a former athlete on Bexley youth teams that Morison coached.

Marcus Thorpe, formerly of NBC4 WCMH-TV, will serve as master of ceremonies and the Dave Powers Trio will provide entertainment. A cash bar social hour kicks off at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Included in this issue of *Dateline* is a form to register for the event, which benefits the Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. For additional details, email Amy Magginis at amy.magginis@fcbdd.org or call her at 614-342-5950.



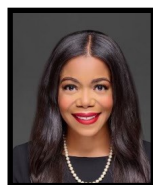
Columbus Public Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika Roberts



Franklin County Public Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola



Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady



Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley



Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce



FCBDD Board Member Beth Savage



FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison

School resumes for young children, transition-age students



Early-childhood and school programs at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities are kicking off the 2023-24 school year with new students, staff members and plans for lots of learning and fun.

"We're super excited about the new year," said Rebecca Holthaus, principal at West Central School and Transition Services. "We're opening two new classrooms here, and adding a collaborative class at Finland Elementary in South-Western schools."

Enrollment at West Central is at 96 students, up from about 78 the previous year, she said.

The Early Childhood Education program at FCBDD also is busy and growing, with 379 children enrolled in the agency's two centers, 153 in the Bridge program and 902 families receiving home-based services.

Watch *Dateline* for upcoming stories about Early Childhood Education Director Rebecca Love, who is retiring at the end of the year, and Kathy Lawton, who will succeed Love in January.

Open Door art exhibition celebrates life, work of Wallace Peck

Drawing and painting make Wallace Peck happy. His art makes other people happy, too. Sometimes so much so that they laugh *and* cry.

Peck notices this, of course. But he's more likely to take the emotional reactions in stride than to puzzle over them. Peck just enjoys basking in the connections between him, his viewers and his work.

"I like drawing and I like people looking at my drawings," he says with a grin. "That's what I do for a living."

Peck has long been one of the most prolific and successful artists at Open Door Art Studio & Gallery, a day program that provides creative support services and representation to artists with disabilities throughout central Ohio.



The studio is hosting what it calls his "diamond jubilee" exhibition from Sept. 16 to Oct. 6, celebrating both Peck's 60th birthday and his talent. An opening reception is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 16 at the studio, 1050 Goodale Blvd.

"He definitely has his own style," Tabitha Lower, program coordinator at Open Door studio, said of the distinctive portraits – generally people and animals – that Peck favors. "It's joyful."

His art has been featured on a Short North mural, in a solo exhibition at the Lindsay Gallery, at the Columbus Arts Festival and as inspiration for former Ohio First Lady Karen Kasich, who chose Peck's work to kick off an Ohio artist spotlight program at the governor's residence in 2013.

Duff Lindsay, whose Lindsay Gallery specializes in self-taught and folk art, said "consistency of vision" is an important hallmark of Peck's work.

"I'll be honest: There are plenty of art-school grads who have no consistency of vision. They're all over the place," Lindsay said. "Wallace knows what his vision is. It's a view of how he reacts to the way the person is, and it's consistent. You know a Wallace Peck when you see it."

Peck struggled mightily on the way to stability and success, enduring years of loneliness and poor health after everyone in his immediate family passed away. He eventually found friendship and a sense of belonging at Gladden House, a Franklinton nonprofit whose staff provided Peck with the drawing materials that seemed to soothe him.

They also helped him on a path to new services, a safe and supported home, and a cherished place at Open Door.

Peck looks forward to his art exhibitions and receptions. "I like having people looking at them and seeing how famous I am," he said of his art. He also loves listening to music, fishing outings and relaxing at home, where he likes to take a break from creating.

"People often make the mistake of thinking that the work of self-taught artists is random, and it can be," Lindsay said. "But Wallace knows who he is as an artist."

Dental clinic celebrates 20 years of smiles

Our Johnstown Road Dental Clinic, a part of the Ohio State University Nisonger Center, just celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The clinic opened in July 2003 in the Early Childhood Education and Family Center at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Since then, the clinic has logged 64,000 patient visits, trained 2,000 OSU dental students and won numerous national, state and local awards and grants.

FCBDD partners with Nisonger and helps to fund the busy clinic, which serves many low-income and immigrant families. A sliding-fee scale guarantees that no child, with or without disabilities, goes without care due to ability to pay.



Combined Charitable Campaign launches in September

Jennifer Schueneman, agency controller, will lead the 2023 Combined Charitable Campaign for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The campaign starts Sept. 11 and ends in early November.

All staff will soon receive messages about how to support the charity fundraiser, which provides critical funding to local nonprofit organizations that help area residents in need.

FCBDD has long been a top participant among county agencies and last year raised more than \$58,000.

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to the Columbus-based Adult Advocacy Centers, which has been granted special consultative status by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council. As consultants to the UN, the Adult Advocacy Centers will be able to learn, collaborate and share information about issues facing crime victims with disabilities around the world.

We were happy to attend the pandemic-delayed dedication of the Franklin County Forensic Science Center, which opened in 2020. Dr. Nathaniel Overmire, Franklin County coroner, said employees worked hard to help create a facility that can meet the needs of the growing region.



Congrats to DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Coordinator Sean Patterson on his interview with *Bold Journey* magazine. He spoke about resilience, grief and the nonprofit foundation he launched in memory of his father.

Cheers to Goodwill Columbus – and its many supporters – on the new retail store, donation center and job training center now open at 5300 N. High St. in Clintonville.



Career Milestones

20 Years

Janet Brunson
Robert Helber

15 Years

Kathrin Baldrige
Cortney Dalton
Betsy Selbe

10 Years

Shelly Brokaw
Sara Martin

Staff spotlight

Mechanic happy to jumpstart career with FCBDD

Dashaun Washington couldn't help but notice how often his neighbor seemed to be out helping people, lending a hand or offering guidance. And if he wasn't helping someone, James Leonard likely was working.

"He's a good man," Washington said of Leonard, Transportation Director at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "A good, hardworking man."

Leonard also is straightforward, punctual "and doesn't play," Washington said with a smile. "So when he said there was a place for me, I had to be ready."

Washington joined FCBDD as a bus mechanic last year. He's part of the small, close-knit crew that keeps the agency's fleet in top condition and ready to safely transport children and adults with developmental disabilities.



How do you like the job so far?

I like it a lot. I've always loved fixing stuff, ever since I was a kid. First it was Legos, then gas motors, now diesel engines and propane buses.

Before you came to FCBDD, you were a mechanic at a relative's business. Did you have any experience with the disability community?

Not really. Now I've gotten to know the guys (from ARC Industries) who help clean the buses, and they're my buddies. I understand that people might not have the same abilities, but we all have feelings. We're all different, and we all need each other.

Your boss jokes that because you live nearby, he'll know whether you're late or not.

I am not a morning person! That's why I start at 10 a.m.

Do your kids think it's pretty cool that you fix school buses?

They've never been on one. My daughter is still young, and I drop my son off at school. But my daughter loves school buses.

You not only fix buses, but you can drive them, too.

I was the first mechanic here who also had to have a bus license. I had to take the driver's class and test. The (state) rules changed just when I got here.

Anything so far you haven't been able to figure out?

I don't want to admit to being stumped. Because I always win in the end.

Register soon to attend Synergy 2023 conference

Registration remains open for Synergy 2023, a three-day conference featuring a wide variety of disability-focused information, discussion, entertainment and vendors.

The popular event takes place Oct. 4-6 at Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky, Ohio. Cost is \$299 for the full conference and \$199 for a one-day pass. The block rate for a standard hotel room (two queen beds) is \$157 per night. Other rooms also are available.

"I love networking with people," said Marci Straughter, a member of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "I love going to the vendor booths and learning about things and taking it back to my county and talking about it."

Straughter, the first person with developmental disabilities to serve on the Franklin County board, will be part of a training on "The Other R Word" at Synergy. The training aims to foster discussion about race, racism and the impact on the disability community.

For more information or to register, go to

<https://synergyohio.org>



Free zoo gathering for DSPs during recognition week

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week takes place Sept. 10-16, and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities encourages everyone to give thanks to the workforce that serves as the heart and soul of support services for people with disabilities.

FCBDD also is supporting the 2023 DSP Recognition Event hosted by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

The free event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Africa Event Center at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. The gathering features entertainment, socializing, games, prizes, a lunchtime meal and more. It is for DSPs to relax and have fun away from the day-to-day routine, organizers say, so DSPs are asked not to bring the people they support.

Registration closes Sept. 8, or whenever the event reaches capacity. Go to www.oadsp.org for information.

Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Michael Underwood, President

Marie Crawford, Vice President

William W. Wilkins, Secretary

John Bickley

Samuel Davis

Beth Savage

Marci Straughter

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

Calendar

September, 2023

- 4 Labor Day – Early Childhood, School classes and offices of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities closed.
- 13 Family Support meeting, via Zoom, 10 a.m. Meeting is open to all family members.
FCBDD Family Support Link:
<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>
- 14 Self-Advocate Advisory Council via Zoom, 10 a.m.
- 21 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.
- 28 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) at 2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, Ohio, via Zoom for the public. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.

FCBDD Board Meeting Link:

<https://bit.ly/3JvZSUJ>



SALUTE TO JED MORISON AND OUR PANDEMIC HEROES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

**Villa Milano • 1630 Schrock Road
Social Hour (Cash Bar) • 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Lasagna Dinner & Salute • 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
\$20.00/ Person • \$160.00/ Table of Eight**

We will salute **Jed Morison**, who will retire as Superintendent/CEO for the Board of Developmental Disabilities on December 31, 2023 after 54 years of public service.

And, we will also salute our Health Commissioners **Joe Mazzola** and **Dr. Mysheika Roberts** and County Commissioners **Kevin Boyce**, **Erica Crawley**, and **John O'Grady** and Board Past President **Beth Savage** for all they did to get us through the Pandemic.

Please join us for an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and enjoy a reunion with friends.

Call 614-342-5950 if questions.

SALUTE TO OUR HEROES

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER, 29, 2023

Name(s): _____ Address: _____
(Please Print)

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

- I need a gluten-free/vegetarian option for my meal.
- Enclosed is \$20.00 per person to help support Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.
- Enclosed is \$160.00 for a table of eight* (8) to help support Citizens Committee for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. *Please include the names of the eight (8) attendees for your table.
- I cannot attend, however, I have enclosed a donation for this event.
- I have accessibility concerns and need use of a ramp.

Make checks payable to: Citizens Committee for Persons with DD

Send to: SALUTE
Attn: Amy Magginis
2879 Johnstown Road, Columbus, OH 43219