

Pipeline

2010 Archive



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Volume 4, Issue 1

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Happy New Year!

As we step into the new year, remember ...

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough."

-Mario Andretti, race car driver

1. Open Letter From Director Martin – On Optimism

So what might the New Year bring and why am I optimistic? My optimism comes not from knowing something about the economy no one else knows. It is not that I expect that we will not experience tremendous challenges in the coming year, or that our work will be easy. Rather, my optimism comes from observations of behavior, and reflections on some reading I have been doing. Let me explain.

I always use some of the time between Christmas and New Year's to do a couple of things such as clean my office (completed), step off the treadmill, and reflect a bit. I have been reading *The Fifth Discipline* by Peter Senge, and also some work Daniel H. Kim has done based on the writings of Senge and others. Kim lays out what he calls the 'Reinforcing Engine of Success.' He states,

"As the quality of relationships rises, the quality of thinking improves, leading to an increase in the quality of actions and results. Achieving high-quality results has a positive effect on the quality of relationships, creating a reinforcing engine of success."

Let me cite a few examples of what I mean when I say that I am optimistic.

- Over the past few months, we have been working with a group of system leaders on the sustainability of our waiver system. Thirteen of us grappled with complex information and meaningful issues, meeting some 14 hours over four days. Despite significant diversity of opinion, frank discussions occurred with mutual respect demonstrated by listening and respectfully challenging each other's ideas. The quality of the thinking of the group, from my observation, was some of the best I have observed in meetings where such diversity of opinions existed. Important direction came from those meetings (yet to be tested with the broader community) that, with patience, will lead to quality actions and successful results in the coming months and years.
- On one of my recent outings to escape the confines of the Rhodes State Office Tower, I had the opportunity to listen to a story of a direct service provider who had just completed the PATHS training program. She talked about how a project she completed as a part of her training had deepened the quality of her relationship with the individual she serves, and the positive outcomes that had resulted -- both on her life, as well as that of the individual. If you take the time to listen to persons who have completed the PATHS training, or listen to someone involved in the Michael Smull person-centered planning initiative, or listen to someone involved in the Positive Culture Initiative, you will hear many exciting personal examples of the 'reinforcing engine of success.' (*See PATHS article later in this issue of Pipeline.*)
- This past year I was visiting a county and had met with a few parents of children with autism who were participating in an early intervention program. The program focused on improving the quality of the relationship between the child and the parents and other family members. This structured, developmental approach had resulted in significant improvements in the quality of life for the children and the rest of the family as well. The excitement of the parents and the improvement demonstrated on video provided another example of the 'reinforcing engine of success.'
- People in our system, initially individuals receiving services in Athens County -- through the telling of their stories -- developed relationships with their county board members. These citizens then developed relationships with local legislators, and they, with an army of fellow service recipients leveraged their relationships to *change the law* to remove hurtful words from our system. This was no small effort. They accomplished this not by raising money to spend on lobbying, but through the power of their relationships.

And, as I think back to the Futures Committee, whose work ended some 21 months ago, it was in that work that the seeds of many quality relationships were planted. Ohio's developmental disabilities community's relationships have continued to be enriched as time has progressed. We have faced difficult times *together* -- that's so important -- and found mutually beneficial ways to move forward.

So, as we enter a new year and new decade, my optimism comes from knowing the power of positive relationships and knowing the quality of thinking that is apparent at all levels in our collaborative stakeholder community.

Moving from quality ideas to useful action will provide for hope and opportunity in the face of difficult times. I am confident that the strength of our relationships will sustain us as we create a better future.

Blessings to each of you as you, too, perhaps have had the opportunity to step off the treadmill to reflect, and enjoy family and friends over the holiday season – and maybe clean up your office.

-Respectfully, John Martin



2. Ron Kozlowski to Retire from APSI

After 24 years at the helm, Ron Kozlowski, executive director for Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI), has announced plans to retire effective January 31. Through his leadership, APSI has increased the number of individuals receiving services from approximately 2,900 in 1983 to – this year, nearly 4,750 – and established APSI as an independent, respected partner in the disability community.

Ron describes his years at APSI as,

“A wonderful experience! I sincerely thank the APSI Board and staff, and the many professionals I have worked with – as well as people with disabilities whom we serve – for this great opportunity.”

DODD Director John Martin commented regarding Kozlowski’s upcoming retirement: “I’ve always looked forward to my meetings with Ron, as he is avid reader, and often has a copy of an article from *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or *The New York Times* about some disability-related story to share with me. Ron has a big heart, and cares deeply for the individuals APSI represents. He has a quiet but effective leadership style, and has advocated for some of the system’s most vulnerable individuals.”

Director Martin adds,

“ Ron is a person of integrity, and as the face of APSI for 24 years, he always has been able to attract top-notch individuals to be APSI board members – which is why it is one of the most respected boards in the state. The quality of the APSI board says a lot about Ron. ”

In addition to Ron’s commitment to APSI, he has served on many committees and task forces to prepare legislation and establish public policy to reform guardianship law in Ohio, as well as address issues regarding abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

According to an article by Tom Hemmert, writing in Ohio Legal Rights Services' *Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC)* newsletter, early in his career and prior to APSI, Ron was project director for the Deinstitutionalization Task Force, funded by the ODDC in the mid-1980s. "This work paved the way for moving thousands of Ohioans out of developmental centers and into the community. As a member of Governor Celeste's Community Residential Services Task Force, he helped author the Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities."



Ron Kozlowski and The Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities.
Ron was instrumental in the writing of 'the rights'. (Read it at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rights/>)

What's Next?

Ron notes that self determination and self advocacy have come a long way in the past 24 years, but acknowledges that there is still a lot of work to do. He says, "Self advocates have been strong and influential in their involvement in the passage of Senate Bill 79 – 'The Name Change Bill', and with that momentum as a springboard, I'd like to see self advocates continue to have a greater say in the kinds of services and supports that they receive from the system."

In looking ahead to a "post-Kozlowski APSI," the board has elected to employ a professional executive search firm to interview candidates for the executive director position. If they are lucky, maybe they will find someone who will lead with the same grace and commitment as Ron Kozlowski has done.

*For general information regarding Advocacy and Protective Services Inc., consult this link:
http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/olrs_FAQ_Guardianship.asp*



3. They're SOARing Into Home Ownership in 2010

Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled (LADD) Opens Several Doors

In Cincinnati, Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled (LADD) has started 2010 energized by the continued success of the SOAR program (Services for the Ownership and

Acquisition of Residences). Since its inception, SOAR has supported 22 area individuals with developmental disabilities in the process of becoming homeowners, and three of those new homeowners closed on their residences at the end of 2009 – a record year for SOAR. LADD is pleased to have worked with new homeowners Casey Moore, Jennifer Scurry, and Theresa Biggs, whose self-determination helped them to obtain the ‘American Dream.’

Through the aptly-named ‘American Dream’ grant, LADD has collaborated with Key Bank to provide the opportunity of homeownership through a mortgage product administered by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. LADD staff provides support to people with disabilities by identifying needs and ongoing resources available in the community, related to owning a home. Regular meetings with LADD staff knowledgeable in the SOAR program allow potential homeowners to develop home-ownership skills, and provide pre- and post-purchase counseling.

Through this unique service, LADD assists people to become successful homeowners.

Supports may include:

- Making arrangements for financial assistance;
- Accessing community resources;
- Facilitating the overall process of owning a home;
- Development of a specific plan to own a home;
- Down payment/home modification assistance; and,
- Pre- and post- purchase counseling and follow-up.

Eligibility

People participating in SOAR decide where to live, what type of living arrangement they would like, and whether or not someone will be living with them. Participants must be at least 18 years old and, most often, are eligible for services provided by Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS). People not eligible for HCDDS may be considered for SOAR services on an individual basis, depending on the availability of other necessary resources.

Visit www.laddinc.org and you will be greeted by a most welcoming Website spokesperson.

For more information: Debbie Baker, LADD, Dbaker@LADDInc.org





Keys to their Kingdoms

(From top, down) Theresa Biggs, Casey Moore, and Jennifer Scurry – new homeowners.



4. So you want to become a (licensed) provider?

Sometimes a question well-answered becomes an article that can assist others ...

Last month, an email came our way from an individual asking the question, *“How do I go about opening and obtaining a licensed facility to serve individuals with developmental disabilities?”*

A fairly complete answer was written by Ann Weisent, Review Manager, with the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review, responding in simple terms to the gentleman’s question. We share it here, for others who may have a similar question. The response, below, also points to helpful resources on our Website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/>, and the newly-updated section at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/new.htm> . Thanks to Ann Weisent for this information.

“Hello:

We appreciate your interest in developing a DODD licensed facility to serve individuals with disabilities. By way of background, the state legislature has capped the total number of licensed beds in Ohio. Due to this, DODD is not developing ‘new’ beds. You can, however, develop a new facility if you have access to existing beds. The only way to obtain existing beds is to get them from an agency that already has them, and is willing to sell, transfer, give, or trade the beds to you for development.

Once you obtain existing beds, you may request a development application from DODD. Once the beds are developed, you will need to become certified as a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver provider, as funding for services for the licensed beds is through the Individual Options (IO) Waiver.

As far as housing goes, there are a few options. First, in a licensed facility, the provider may own the home and ‘rent’ it to the individuals they are providing services to through a room and board contract ... or, the individuals may own the home and just have you as the provider come in and provide the services ... or, the individuals may rent a home from a community-based landlord and have you as the provider come in and provide the services.

The local County Board of Developmental Disabilities is typically not involved, although there are a few cases where the County Board has received capital assistance funds to purchase an accessible house and will rent the house to the individuals and contract with a provider to come in and provide the services -- but this typically is not a licensed home.

A license is required only if more than four individuals are going to be served in the home.

An agency also can provide services to four or fewer individuals in a home without the home being licensed. As far as ‘enrolling’ individuals in the home, because funding is through the Medicaid waiver program, we are required to ensure that individuals have *free choice of provider*. That means that once you become certified as a waiver provider, you should notify the County Board in the county or counties in which you want to operate, and inform them that you are now a willing and able waiver provider.

Your agency also will then be added to the DODD website's ‘Provider Search’ page at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/search.htm> . You also may (separately) advertise your business in any way you wish, but the bottom line is that the individuals have to choose you as their provider.

If you obtain existing beds and plan to develop a facility, I would encourage you to have some initial conversations with the County Boards where you want to provide services, to ensure that there are individuals with waivers who are in need of services.

As you can see, there is a lot of information around operating a licensed facility! You can find more information on our DODD website by clicking on the ‘Rules and Laws’ link at the top of our homepage, and then clicking on ‘Rules in Effect’ at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/>. This will

take you to a list of DODD rules. Those which apply to licensed facilities are located in section 5123:2-3. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at (614) 949-8792.”
- Sincerely, Ann L. Weisent, DODD Review Manager



5. 'PATHS' Continues to Wind Its Way Across the State



PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Last month, PATHS (Professional Advancement Through Training and Education in Human Services) graduations were celebrated across Ohio – including one on December 10, 2009, in Lucas County, attended by DODD Director John Martin. At this celebration there were 16 Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) graduates representing the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and several Independent Provider Agencies.

PATHS graduates receive critical training in a set of skills that helps them understand the importance of their work in helping people lead lives of their own choosing.

The Lucas County graduates are: Marcia Coley, Linda Holley, Jan Koralewski, and Cathy Smith, Lucas County Board; Sue Osenbaugh, LLC; Robert Williams, Luxury Care Homes; Peppi Bell and Gloria Wright, individual providers; Mike Kosinski and Latoya Frazier, Wiley Homes; Joyce Granger, Iletha Gee, Shirley Roosevelt, and Debbie Fulgham, Granger Homes; and, Margie Boone and Cathy Harrison, Triad Residential Solutions. (*see photo*)



The Graduates, PLUS! – (back row, far left) Mary Lou Wilhem, John Trunk, and DODD Director John Martin, join the PATHS grads. Mary Lou is a Lucas County DD Board member, and John Trunk is the Lucas County DD Superintendent. Graduates who attended the event are shown, and all grads are listed in this article.

Candidates for PATHS credentials must complete 60 hours of classroom instruction, work closely with a skill mentor, create a portfolio that includes a professional development statement, demonstrate competencies in real life work situations, and submit a recommendation from a person with a disability or family members.

Director Martin -- a long-time proponent of PATHS credentialing courses, and, in general, of the further education of Ohio's direct care workforce -- was the keynote speaker at the Lucas County graduation. He recognized each of the PATHS graduates stating, "You are to be congratulated on your significant accomplishments!"

In 2010, PATHS will be presenting coursework on the Positive Culture Initiative as part of the growing curriculum. The DODD provides information on this subject at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm> .

PATHS has been awarded the highest level of recognition by the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, and is the only statewide program to receive this honor. PATHS courses are offered throughout Ohio, in a geographic configuration comprising eight regions (see map at <http://www.ohiopath.org/Regional.html> .)

Along with a two-tiered certification program, PATHS offers specialized classes in Front Line Supervision, Mentoring, PATHS Instructor Certification, and Autism. And, as noted earlier, PATHS soon will be offering classes on the Positive Culture Initiative.

"The best things in life are nearest: Breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of right just before you ..." - Robert Louis Stevenson

Visit the PATHS website at www.ohiopath.org
For more information contact Amy Gerowitz at agerowitz@ohiopath.org or 513-484-2772.



6. Medicaid Managed Care Plans' Pharmacy Changes Noted

Information below is provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).

Beginning on February 1, 2010, prescription drug coverage for members of Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs) will transfer to the Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.

This change means that all consumers of Medicaid-funded MCPs will have the same list of covered drugs and same prior authorization policy. Medicaid MCPs are no longer responsible for prescription drug coverage for their members.

This change is only for prescription drugs that are administered in the patient's home, and not for any drugs that are administered in a provider setting such as a physician office, hospital outpatient department, clinic, dialysis center, or infusion center. Some medical supplies will be billable only by pharmacies, and no longer will be covered when billed by Durable Medical Equipment (DME) dealers. Examples of such supplies include:

- Diabetic testing supplies;
- Supplies for injection of insulin and other drugs;
- Inhaler spacers; and,
- Peak flow meters.

It is suggested that individuals and caregivers plan now to talk with their pharmacist and durable medical supply provider to determine how this may affect getting their specific prescriptions reimbursed.

Under the new plan, individuals may be required to pay co-payments. The amounts are a \$2.00 co-payment for most trade name prescriptions, and a \$3.00 co-payment for drugs requiring prior authorization. Examples for which there is no co-payment include generic drugs that do not require prior authorization. Also, no co-payment may be assessed if the person is under age 21, pregnant or in the post-partum period, lives in a nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR, legal language), or is receiving hospice care.

In addition, medications that are administered to a consumer in a 'provider setting' such as a physician's office, hospital outpatient department, clinic, dialysis center, or infusion center do not have co-payments.

Individuals subject to co-payments may indicate that they are unable to pay their co-payment at the time their medication is dispensed, and still obtain it, however they remain liable for the co-payment. The pharmacy provider may bill the individual for the co-payment.

If an individual is planning to be out-of-state and will need medications while away, he or she should refill the needed prescriptions before leaving. Most pharmacies outside Ohio do not accept Ohio Medicaid.

For more information: Visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bmhc/>. MCP members with questions about the change to their pharmacy benefit also may call the Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680. The provider notice is posted at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bhpp/meddrug.stm>.



7. Breathing Easier in Tuscarawas and Highland Counties

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Tuscarawas and Highland counties became the first to receive *Ohio EPA Clean Diesel School Bus Retrofit* grants. Money awarded will be used to outfit buses with up-to-date pollution control equipment to help protect children from diesel pollutants that can lead to asthma and bronchitis, and which may be linked to an increased risk of other illnesses.

The program has been effective in improving public school bus emissions for three years, and now, a provision in Ohio's 2009 budget has allowed County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to be eligible to apply as well.

Deadlines for the 2010 grants are March 1 and September 1, and application materials are available at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oef/schoolbus.aspx>.

The Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities will receive a grant totalling slightly more than \$33,600 to retrofit pollution control equipment on five buses. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that this will realize a pollution reduction each year of approximately 32.6% considering the elimination of the following:

- 22.3 pounds of fine particles (soot);
- 42.6 pounds of carbon monoxide; and,
- 20.4 pounds of hydrocarbons.

The Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities will receive a grant of slightly more than \$54,000 to retrofit eight buses. The Ohio EPA estimates that this will result in an annual reduction of 37.2 pounds of fine particulates, for an overall pollution reduction of 50% from these buses.

Natalie Lupi, Superintendent for the Tuscarawas County Board, noted that applying for the grants took some time, but that the agency is happy to have the opportunity to improve emissions coming from its buses. She also explained,

“We are very excited about this opportunity to do our small part in improving the air quality for residents of our county. We are always seeking alternative funding sources as we embrace our mission of improving the quality of life for eligible individuals by providing high quality services. We believe our mission extends to all aspects of life in our county, and recognize the value added by giving back to the community that has consistently supported our mission.”



*For more information about these grants: Heather Lauer, Ohio EPA
(614) 728-0039; Heather.Lauer@epa.state.oh.us*



8. Conference to Underscore Value of Social Roles

On January 28 and 29 a conference devoted to the concept known as ‘Social Role Valorization,’ (and its precursor, ‘Normalization’) will focus on providing supports to individuals with developmental disabilities that can improve the perception of their roles in the community.

Conference Topic: Social Role Valorization

Sponsored by: ADD – The Association for the Developmentally Disabled (ADDOhio.org)

Where: The Embassy Suites Hotel, 2700 Corporate Exchange Drive, Columbus

Cost: \$250 per person – includes both days, all sessions, materials, continental breakfast and lunch.

CEU's available.

Registration Deadline: January 15th

To Register: Email Cathy Murray at cmurray@addohio.org – or,
Call Cathy Murray at 614-607-7790

Conference organizer, Pat Camp, notes that Social Role Valorization is, “Not just a theory...not just big words. We will be working with attendees to develop a practical guide that can help individuals with developmental disabilities and the people they interact with on a regular basis – family, staff, and others – improve their day-to-day experiences by better understanding social roles and interactions.” She continues,

“The reality is that not all people are positively valued in our society. And for those who are not, things like dignity, respect, and opportunities to have a voice and participate in their community are often beyond reach.”

Noted presenter, Jo Massarelli, will review the principles of Social Role Valorization and discuss strategies for shaping services and implementing practical actions. Continuing education credits are available, and space is limited to 40 participants for this two-day workshop.

Reduced rates at the Embassy Suites are available to conference-goers for a limited time. Call the hotel at 614-890-8600.

For other registration details about this unique conference, call 614-607-7790.



9. Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks Input

How can you can help the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) develop its next five-year State Plan for People with Developmental Disabilities?

ODDC would like to receive your ideas regarding how to tackle issues that individuals with disabilities experience in the following areas:

- Education;
- Early Intervention;
- Child care;
- Housing;
- Employment;
- Transportation;
- Health care;
- Self advocacy; and,
- Reaching out to unserved and underserved populations, including minorities and people with low-incidence disabilities.

The ODDC also welcomes ideas regarding how to educate the general public, as well as legislators and other policymakers, on issues affecting public policy.

In addition, the ODDC welcomes your ideas regarding other issues not contained in the above listing, but relevant to Ohio's disability community.

Input must be received by February 1, 2010.

Your idea should be creative and innovative ... something that has not been tried before. Submit your ideas by sending a two-paragraph 'abstract' – a brief description that explains your proposed solution – via U.S. Mail, email, or fax, by February 1, 2010, to:

*Fatica Diana Ayers, ODDC, 8 East Long Street, Suite 1200, Columbus, Ohio 43215,
Fatica.Ayers@dodd.ohio.gov, Fax: (614) 466-0298*

Think about it! – Your idea just might become a funded grant project that improves the lives of people with disabilities and their families.



Mark Your Calendars!

10. DD Awareness Month, Kickoff Event at Statehouse, March 4



The DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* (March) *Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, on March 4, 2010. *Pipeline* will provide updated program information as it develops. Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD. sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 644-0262.

Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Several DODD handbooks and other publications have been updated ...

On our website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/public.htm> several updated or revised publications and handbooks have been added. Dates of posting on the website are shown with the item listing. Thanks to the Henry County Board of DD for reminding us to remind *Pipeline* readers of this important resource!

2. The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellowship Program 2010-2011

This Foundation is seeking exemplary professionals and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, D.C. *Application deadline is March 5, 2010.* This link opens a PDF document. For more information, click on the links below:

<http://www.disability.gov/clickTrack/confirm/12492050?external=true&parentFolderId=7209&linkId=358722>

http://www.jpkf.org/Fellowship_guidelines/PublicPolicyFellowshipAnnouncement2010-2011.pdf

3. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

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Volume 4, Issue 2

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Pipeline Postscripts at the end of each issue include timely news briefs and calendar items.

1. 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative



The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fourth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The County Collaborative Project

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *The County Collaborative* is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress’, in partnership with ‘Region V’ Superintendents. Within this region, the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) Council of Government includes the following 18 counties: Knox, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Noble, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson, Harrison, and Carroll.

Region V leadership will deploy the resources of their Council of Government (MEORC) as a vehicle for coordination and support for the County Collaborative. This Region has a long-standing history of collaborating together through their Council of Government by sharing ideas

and resources, as well as developing shared-service models that are beneficial to individuals and families in the areas served.

During the biennial budget process, the DODD identified resource-sharing within targeted geographic groups as an important element in providing future service options and allowing County Boards and other service providers to serve people within a network -- rather than a set of individual entities in which service eligibility and availability could vary.

According to DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Kevin Aldridge, Region V, through their utilization of MEORC, had already begun the groundwork for this type of collaboration within their 18-county area.

“Region V and their use of MEORC was an excellent fit as we looked at what our stakeholders wanted to do. The synergy was already there to work together to conduct an inventory of what services or resources were available county-to-county, and what service gaps there might be.”

Nancy Neely, who was Region V President at the outset of the planning in 2009, and is Superintendent for the Licking County Board of DD, notes that a great deal of time and energy was invested in the adoption of the group’s Vision, which is defined as:

“Voluntary regional collaboration through shared processes, and human and financial resources, that results in increased efficiency and effectiveness of service outcomes – without the loss of identity for local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.”

She adds, “It was important to us to get all 18 counties in Region V on-board with what could be accomplished, and engage them all in supporting this process.”

Tuscarawas County Board of DD Superintendent Natalie Lupi is Vice President of MEORC and a long-standing MEORC Board member. She had this to say about the County Collaborative:

“What an exciting opportunity to be a part of the Region V Collaborative project, which will be analyzing our current processes and redesigning them for the purpose of eliminating waste in the system. The collaboration of the 18 county boards, in partnership with DODD, provides the opportunity to focus on efficient and effective processes that can have ‘value added’ outcomes for improving services affecting the individuals and families we serve.”

MEORC Executive Director Tim Spitzer commented regarding Region V leadership and their long history of sharing and collaborating, echoing Kevin Aldridge’s assessment of the County Collaborative initiative’s perfect fit with the region. He explains,

“ We are very enthusiastic about being a part of the support team in developing this initiative. There exists a rich history of collaboration in Region V for the benefit of those individuals and families being served. In the fiscal environment we currently face, with limited resources, finding opportunities to collaborate is critically important to improving services.”

Some of the specific elements of the County Collaborative project’s efforts include:

- Developing a single process for individuals and families to access services (intake), including screening and eligibility determination;
- Developing and implementing a model for transition planning that results in improved employment outcomes for young adults; and,
- Identifying and implementing strategies that result in the maintenance of a regional network of quality service providers.

The County Collaborative Project and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

The scope and goals of the County Collaborative Project are in development during 2010, for implementation in 2011. Look for more about this planning model in the future, at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/soon.htm> .

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part V, in a February issue of Pipeline.



2. Priority Work Plan, Quarterly Status Report

A quarterly status report on the DODD Priority Work Plan was presented to the members of the Policy Leadership Roundtable* by Director John Martin on January 13, fulfilling a goal set by the group to regularly measure and track progress on the ten priority areas, as described in [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#).

The quarterly report will be posted on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov and includes a snapshot of the action steps taken on the major issues defined by the collective recommendations of stakeholders throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Director Martin commented on the work accomplished to-date, stating,

“ I appreciate the progress that has been made on the ten Priority Work Plan areas, knowing that it has involved the collaboration of many DODD staff members and system stakeholders. I am especially impressed by the demonstrated commitment that I have seen by all parties, to move forward with this important work and tackle some major issues within our current system. ”

The Roundtable will continue to meet regularly to discuss progress and provide feedback on each of the Priority Work Plan areas, during 2010 and 2011.

**Policy Leadership Roundtable members support the work of implementing the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, and include system partners from: The ARC of Ohio; Autism Society of Ohio; Family Advisory Council; Ohio Association of County Boards; Ohio “League”; Ohio Provider Resource Association; Ohio Superintendents of County Boards; and, People First of Ohio.*



3. 'WE GO to Work' Grants Fund Opportunities, Statewide

The DODD announced in the summer of 2009 that funds were available to implement creative, competitive solutions to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities. These funds were made available through Ohio's 2009-10 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to address employment for people with disabilities.

Following a Request for Proposals, the DODD selected 17 'Work Exploration Grant Opportunities' (*WE GO to Work* proposals) to receive funding via the \$500,000 grant which began January 1, 2010. Funded activities include: demonstration, training, advocacy, and research, and will demonstrate successful alternatives to traditional employment services.

For a listing of the 17 projects, visit www.dodd.ohio.gov , "WE GO to Work Projects."

An example of how the funding was used is a grant of just under \$10,000 to RTC Industries, Inc. in Logan County. The grant funds a collaboration between RTC Industries, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, the Logan County Board of DD, and a new local business – 'Chattan Loch' -- an upscale restaurant in Bellefontaine. The recently-opened business employs 16 people with developmental disabilities and a nearly equal number of individuals without disabilities.* The funding will provide skills training to help individuals be successful in specific jobs at the restaurant, as well as prepare them for other customer service-related jobs in Logan County.

In addition, the establishment is utilizing assistive technology to help individuals manage various tasks more effectively.

The RTC Industries grant proposal indicated,

"In a town that has recently lost many jobs due to factory closings and layoffs, the creation of new jobs is very exciting. RTC is excited to have a business that is eager to embrace individuals with developmental disabilities and that recognizes the many possibilities with this population."

According to Leslie Paull, DODD Manager of Economic and Employment Development, "Ohio's MIG grant will improve employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities by providing more seamless transition services from the education system to either ... a job ... the support to acquire a job ... or the means to produce income using customized employment and/or cross-agency collaborative funding." She adds,

"What's most exciting is that these young people are going to make money and gain real work experience."

Look for more about Logan County's Chattan Loch restaurant employees and the mission of this unique business in a future issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*.

**Chattan Loch was featured January 15, 2010, in the Columbus Dispatch. Read it at:
http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/15/GOODHELP.ART_ART_01-15-10_B1_I6GABIK.html*



4. Improving Transition Experiences for Wood County Youth

Partnering with RSC

Wood Lane/ Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities is partnering with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) to begin a new program named "*Bridges to Transition*." The program's focus is to assist local youth with developmental disabilities to acquire the needed skills to obtain employment upon graduation from high school.

National statistics indicate that many youth with disabilities have significant challenges transitioning from high school to the demands of adult life. Wood Lane Employment Services coordinator Vic Gable, comments,

"A student with a disability has less than a 20% chance of ever being employed in adult life if he or she does not have a job upon high school graduation. 'Bridges' is intended to change that outcome in Wood County."



According to RSC, *Bridges to Transition* will generate new, quality transition assistance programs, expand services to young people with disabilities, and maximize federal match funding for Ohio's vocational rehabilitation program.

Wood Lane/Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities took the lead in the Wood County area and contributed \$71,400 in local funds to generate more than \$263,466 in federal vocational rehabilitation funds for the *Bridges to Transition* program.

Staff hired through this grant will provide specific transition assistance in the form of vocational training and community employment, as well as supports and guidance for independent living. Eligible for the program are youth between the ages of 14 and 22 who have a developmental disability. They also need to be receiving special education services and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

To identify youth who can benefit from the program, RSC and Wood Lane are working with the Perrysburg, Bowling Green, North Baltimore, Eastwood, Elmwood, Otsego, Rossford, Northwood and Lake school districts, and, the Wood County Educational Service Center, Penta Career Center, and Ohio's State Support Team, Region 1.

According to Ann Okuley, RSC's north region manager, "*Bridges to Transition* will help young people who have developmental disabilities in the Wood County community to gain a competitive edge as they prepare for the workforce." She adds,

"The program is designed to ensure that youth have a community job upon graduation from school, and that supports are available for a successful transition from school to work."

While transition services are by no means brand new to Wood Lane -- and local school districts have worked for more than 10 years to improve transition services for youth -- all participants are looking forward to the increased opportunities for success presented by the *Bridges to Transition* program.

A part of Ohio RSC's Pathways projects

Statewide, local entities have contributed a total of \$5.8 million through a variety of Pathways projects, of which *Bridges to Transition* is one. These projects have helped RSC maintain federal vocational rehabilitation funding and generated \$27.6 million to serve Ohioans with disabilities. Funding for the projects and programs comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is a state agency serving Ohioans with disabilities. Visit them at www.rsc.ohio.gov, or call toll-free 800-282-4536.

For more information about Wood Lane/Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities, visit www.woodlane.us



5. DHN Requests Model Housing Plans

Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, as well as Housing Corporations, are invited to submit Model County Housing Plans to DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell at stevefarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org by January 31.



The Disability Housing Network (DHN) is committed to analyzing housing plans, identifying common themes, and then presenting collective findings that can be shared and possibly

replicated elsewhere. The DHN Spring Conference on Wednesday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide just such an opportunity.

Attendees at DHN's Fall Conference in December heard one such Model Housing Plan presented by Belmont County, which generated a great deal of interest, and prompted additional conversation regarding the growing need for and interest in such specifically-developed plans.

According to DHN's Farrell, "Just as we have coordinated with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, the Disability Housing Network now is joining with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) in coordinating our spring conferences and content. The DHN Spring Conference will be the 'housing track' on March 24, the second day of OPRA's two-day conference." He adds that housing session details are still in the works.

More details on this exciting two-day conference and the DHN session will be forthcoming in *Pipeline* as they are finalized. Please [click here](#) to see preliminary hotel and accommodation information.

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

<http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/Default2.aspx>



6. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event to Showcase Advocacy and Empowerment Efforts

The DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) along with other stakeholder organizations, are pleased to note that the March 4th *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus will showcase several advocacy and empowerment efforts from across the state.

The featured program, from 10:00 a.m. – noon, will include short presentations by several small groups and individuals who have made significant strides in their communities, both personally and professionally.

Each year, the program includes comments from key members of the General Assembly, and welcomes individuals and groups that have been active in promoting positive perceptions of people with disabilities in Ohio. According to Lon Mitchell, president of Ohio Public Images (OPI), an information and advocacy organization, "Again this year, Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to speak, and we are hopeful that his busy schedule may permit his participation in the program, as he was able to do last year."

"*Just Like You*", the statewide theme for this year's Awareness Month activities, encourages people to think about the similarities people have, rather than the differences, and encourages everyone to welcome people with disabilities into their communities as equal partners.

In 2009 the event hosted more than 300 participants. Attendance is free, and open to anyone with an interest in the statewide Developmental Disabilities community.

Pipeline will provide updated program information as it develops. Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 644-0262.



Reminder

7. Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks Input

You can help the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) develop its next five-year State Plan for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Input must be received by February 1, 2010.

The ODDC would like to receive your ideas regarding how to tackle issues that individuals with disabilities experience, and welcomes ideas regarding how to educate legislators and other policymakers on issues affecting public policy. In addition, the ODDC welcomes your ideas regarding other issues relevant to Ohio's disability community.

Ideas should be creative and innovative and should be submitted by sending a two-paragraph 'abstract' – a brief description that explains your proposed solution – via U.S. Mail, email, or fax, by February 1, 2010, to:

*Fatica Diana Ayers, ODDC, 8 East Long Street, Suite 1200, Columbus, Ohio 43215,
Fatica.Ayers@dodd.ohio.gov, Fax: (614) 466-0298*



Correction: In the article titled, “*PATHS Continues to Wind Its Way Across the State*” in **Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 1, January 6, 2010**, PATHS graduate, Debbie Fulgham, was identified as being employed by Granger Homes. Debbie is employed by Rainbow Homes.

Pipeline PostScripts

Note: Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on ‘calendar’ at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, Reports to the President

The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities recently completed scanning and posting all of its past Reports to the President, published between 1967 and 2004. The earliest (1967) is titled, “A First Report to the President on the Nation’s Progress and Remaining Great Needs in the Campaign to Combat Mental Retardation,” and a recent report (2009) is titled, “Dignity Through Employment.”

Nearly 30 reports are now available at
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/pcpid/pcpid_public.html

2. Brown Bag Lunchtime Info Session on Domestic Violence & Disability

Geared for service providers, a Brown Bag Information Session is slated for noon – 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25th at the Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, an affiliate of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, 150 East Campus View Blvd., Suite 150, in Columbus.

The agenda will include a presentation by Gay Covell, MA, LSW, regarding a Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services grant project, and policy issues discussion with Co-Convenors Phyllis Carlson-Riehm of ACTION OHIO Coalition For Battered Women, and Kathy Streblo, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio. Meeting Coordinator is Donna Foster-Silanpaa with the Governor’s Council, (614) 438-1394.

RSVP actionohio@sbcglobal.net Attendees are invited to bring lunch or a snack to munch during the meeting. If weather concerns are an issue, call toll free (888) 622-9315 to confirm.

3. The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellowship Program 2010-2011

This Foundation (click on heading above) is seeking exemplary professionals and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, D.C. *Application deadline is March 5, 2010.* This link opens a PDF document. For more information, click on the links below:

<http://www.disability.gov/clickTrack/confirm/12492050?external=true&parentFolderId=7209&linkId=358722>

http://www.jpkf.org/Fellowship_guidelines/PublicPolicyFellowshipAnnouncement2010-2011.pdf

4. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 3

In This Issue ...

- 1. Priority Work Involving Ohio's Ten Developmental Centers
- 2. Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Requests Proposals
- 3. PATHS Winds Its Way to the North Central Region
- 4. Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit, March 8th
- 5. Reader Input: Residency Requirements for Guardians
- 6. Update on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event, March 4th

Pipeline Postscripts at the end of each issue include timely news briefs and calendar items.

View or Read Governor Ted Strickland's 'State of the State' Address,

given on January 26, 2010, at <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

Part V in a Series

1. Priority Work Involving Ohio's Ten Developmental Centers

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fifth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement with Ohio's ten Developmental Centers* is one of the ten priority areas, and already has seen demonstrated progress during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010.*

The two basic strategies that are driving this work are reducing the number of residents ('census') at the Developmental Centers by at least 194 people over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, and expanding community access to all of Ohio's Developmental Center facilities and staff by sharing technical assistance and expertise. Developmental Centers participating in the census reduction include Columbus, Gallipolis, Mount Vernon, Northwest Ohio, Tiffin, and Warrensville.

Action steps that will assist in these efforts and maximize limited financial resources include:

- Working with community partners to develop ways to receive federal matching dollars to serve individuals who do not easily qualify for services through an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR). *Note: This terminology and acronym continue to be the federal legal reference for this kind of facility. 'Intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities' will be the preferred descriptor Pipeline will use whenever possible in conjunction with the ICFMR acronym.*
- Continuing to work with local community partners to determine existing service gaps that Developmental Centers may be able to fill. It always has been a priority for DODD to maintain DC locations throughout the state to provide technical support and assistance 'closer to home' so that individuals can be supported within -- and eventually transition and return to -- their home communities.
- Assessing the need for 'crisis stabilization units' within Developmental Centers. Crisis stabilization units allow for specific populations to be served more appropriately and in crisis situations. An example would be the Warrensville Developmental Center, (Highland Hills) which initiated a specialized behavioral/forensic unit for individuals with developmental disabilities in September 2009.

Progress Shown

There has been demonstrated progress on the census reduction during the first six months of FY 2010 (July – December 2009), with 51 individuals moving to other community-based residential settings and receiving 'follow-along' services. This follow-up activity assists in the transition for individuals and their families or other caregivers, and is provided for approximately one year following a move. Follow-up activity may identify issues that are impeding success for an individual, and allow for appropriate interventions. It also may provide useful information on which to more effectively base future decisions.

According to Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director, Developmental Centers, it is important to note that census reduction is both gradual and incremental, and that when individuals want to move into the community from a DC, a range of supports is provided to meet their specific needs.

" Staff members at our ten Developmental Centers are working closely with their local County Boards to ensure that steps are taken to assure successful residential opportunities for all individuals who are interested in moving out of a DC via these waiver-funded options. Our staff will continue to focus on supporting more people to transition back into their communities, in line with the realities of our budget, and in line with the evolving role of DCs in Ohio and across the nation. "

She adds that in October 2009, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) surveyed agency officials in every state regarding the existence of plans to close or downsize large state-operated institutional programs within their respective states. "The resulting data indicated that 20 states, or approximately 39%, have plans to downsize and reduce the census at their existing facilities," she notes, adding, "One of the recommendations of the (MR)DD Futures Committee in 2008 and 2009 was to encourage the

Department to put a greater emphasis on data-driven decision making, and this a focus that is helping us to gauge our residential service efforts against the national scene.

Following discussions with a broad range of stakeholders on the subject of the census reduction, an approach was developed that allows counties to select one of two options for the allocation of funds for individuals leaving a DC, (or an individual leaving an ICFMR to create a spot for an individual from a DC) who needs an Individual Options (IO) waiver. Briefly, these options are:

- The DODD will provide a set amount of funding per person, which would become a part of the County Board's allocation; OR
- The DODD will pay the non-federal share for the *actual* costs of the person, including day services. This amount would not be included in the County Board's allocation.

Once an option is chosen, it applies to all individuals the County Board might serve in this way.

More on rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

Almost exactly a year ago, DODD Director John Martin toured the state in alliance with various stakeholder organizations, hosting a series of community forums around Ohio, to openly and plainly discuss budget constraints. He asked individuals, families, and service providers to share their thoughts about ways to maximize available financial and other resources while maintaining quality services. Director Martin notes,

“One of the issues that surfaced as a priority in the minds of many of the people we spoke with was the need for Developmental Centers to be places where specialized populations could be served, because they have structure and they have resources. This was excellent feedback, and we needed to hear how people around the state valued our DCs, and hear their ideas about the role DCs can play in supporting needs within their local communities.”

He continued, “People at these forums also were somewhat fearful of DCs closing, and then not having this regional resource. We are mindful of these fears and issues. It's been our experience in the past year that the reduction in census has moved forward with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration from the County Boards in each geographic location. These efforts often require a great deal of work and planning by all involved to assure the health and safety of each individual, as well as that of the community in which they reside. By addressing needed supports for each individual served, members within Ohio's developmental disabilities system can take positive steps that make the best use of limited available resources.”

Ginnie Whisman echoes the benefits of the past year's efforts to rebalance resources and foster community involvement with the Department's Developmental Centers. She comments, “I'm especially excited about the new and different ways that we are reaching out to families, and to the individuals we serve.” She continues,

“We are moving forward with educational sessions that inform our families about waiver options, and about accessing services that they may either not know are available to them, or, that have never been explained to them in a way they fits with their situation. Some of our families have

been in the developmental disabilities system for decades, and a lot has changed just in the past few years that might interest them and provide an option they would want to consider.”

Whisman adds, “We want to provide services that allow individuals to stay in their community settings and prevent long-term DC admissions. Partnering with other agencies and stakeholders to provide services that stabilize or otherwise assist an individual is so important. We are looking at more of what we call ‘situational assessments’ with the goal being to serve individuals in the least restrictive environment possible while still maintaining their health and safety, along with and that of the larger community.” She explains that elements of the Positive Intervention Culture initiative [Read More](#), will be helpful in this overall effort, and notes,

“ Training staff and families in crisis intervention techniques, and better assessing challenging behaviors so that we can target effective supports for a person who is medically fragile or who needs to manage challenging behaviors – that’s the kind of resource development and sharing that DC’s can offer. Our Developmental Centers are partnering with communities to provide specific services so that individuals can continue to live and work in their own communities – rather than being sent to a DC whenever they experience issues or challenges in their lives. I’m proud of the direction we are going with this approach. ”

The expected outcomes in this priority work area also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s [Flexible Performance Agreement](#), which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

In 2006 there were 1605 individuals living in Ohio’s Developmental Centers community, and in 2009 there were 1423. We’ll take another look at this number again in July 2010.

- Developmental Center Glimpses -



At Gallipolis Developmental Center, (Summer 2008) residents refill the vending machines around the DC campus. The work crew here includes (l. to r.) John, Larry, and Jimmy.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Summer 2008 PDF



Mount Vernon Developmental Center opened its doors to the community in Sept. 2007 for a National Preparedness Month training for service providers. Shown here are representatives from People First of Ohio, sampling the preparedness kits.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2007  PDF

** See the Priority Work Status report at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/PriorityWorkQuarterlyUpdate01-19-10.pdf>*

For more information: National Core Indicators at <http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futuresmore/nci.htm>;

NASDDDS at: <http://www.nasddds.org/index.shtml>;

Developmental Centers: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm>;

Contact Ginnie Whisman at ginnie.whisman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (740) 393-6228.

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part VI, in a March issue of *Pipeline*.



[Improving Employment Opportunities](#)

2. Rehabilitation Services Commission Requests Proposals

Innovative projects to increase employment opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities are the top spending priority for up to \$7.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds invested in the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). RSC is accepting proposals for investing federal stimulus money for the provision of vocational rehabilitation community services and programs. A copy of the request for proposals is available at www.rsc.ohio.gov.

RSC Administrator Michael Rench notes,

"Workers with disabilities have been shown to be gifted with many talents and are, generally, extremely reliable. We are looking for creative, outside-the-box proposals to increase entrepreneurship, access to transportation, and more quality job opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities."

The agency specifically is looking for creative proposals that will target:

- Developing new and innovative entrepreneurial ventures ('microenterprises') that will create employment opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities;
- Developing affordable rural transportation resources to enable people with disabilities served by vocational rehabilitation programs to travel to obtain these services, and get to and from work;
- Vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities who are ex-offenders -- particularly projects that develop collaborations with multiple agencies;
- Vocational rehabilitation services for people with brain injuries, to include common co-occurring conditions such as substance abuse disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, and other mental health conditions. Priority will be given to projects that build partnerships to implement services;
- Specialized vocational rehabilitation services for Spanish-speaking individuals with disabilities;
- Rehabilitation technology services for the visually impaired.

The preferred range of awards for regional projects is \$100,000 to \$500,000 and for statewide projects is \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Interested applicants must submit an 'expression of interest proposal' at <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state>.

Click on "submit your proposal" and choose the program category "Work, Opportunity, and Poverty" and the subprogram "Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)."

**Expressions of interest are to be submitted by Feb. 12, 2010.
In addition, applications must be submitted by Feb. 19, 2010.**

Only projects that have submitted to RSC *both* the *expression of interest proposal* at <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state> by 5 p.m. on February 12, 2010, *and the full proposal* by 5 p.m. February 19, 2010, will be considered for funding. These federal stimulus funds were awarded to RSC through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), a part of the U.S. Department of Education.

*Contacts: Beth Ruth (614) 438-1417 beth.ruth@rsc.state.oh.us
Eileen Corson (614) 438-1476 eileen.corson@rsc.state.oh.us*



3. PATHS Winds Its Way to the North Central Region

PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Continuing the statewide path to enriched opportunities in the direct service field, the North Central Region's first PATHS graduation was celebrated recently by the region known as 'Clearwater COG' (Council of Government), where 14 candidates graduated with a Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

According to Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations, “The candidates that graduated -- along with the skill mentors, instructors and council members -- made the first class very successful. We are very excited to have PATHS in our Clearwater COG region!”

The North Central Region includes the counties of Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot. These nine counties form the Clearwater COG.

The 14 PATHS grads represent the following area agencies: Broken Arrow; Christie Lane Industries; First Choice of Ohio; Marion County Board of DD; Renaissance House Inc.; and, Sandusky County Board of DD.

Congratulations to all on completing what has become a finely-tuned curriculum designed to improve skills and opportunities for direct service professionals, and positively affect the people with developmental disabilities whom they serve.



First Grads of North Central PATHS – The North Central PATHS organization celebrated its first graduating class: (Front row, l. to r.) Joyce Ewing, Susan Janik, Christine Haley, Jennifer Jones, Laura Pendleton. Back row, l. to r.: Susan Wright, Geannie Bollenbacher, Shayla Habernigg, Rachael Jaynes, Dawn Pollock, Sherry Gladieux, Jodi Shaul, Patricia Hartley, Holly Binkley.

*Contact: Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations (567) 262-3151;
jcupp@cleanwatercog.org*



4. Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit, March 8th

White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett will keynote the event on International Women’s Day.

Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland this week announced *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit*, a statewide event to discuss and promote the status of Ohio women and girls in the areas of economics, education, and health.

In making the announcement, Governor Strickland said, “Women have made tremendous strides in recent decades and have become successful leaders in education, politics, athletics, business and other professional disciplines. However, much remains to be done to achieve gender equity in Ohio and around the globe. Momentum 2010 will provide an opportunity for Ohioans to engage with each other and discuss ways to advance the status of women and girls, statewide.”

The Governor’s Office for Women’s Initiatives and Outreach and First Lady Frances Strickland are hosting the forum on March 8, International Women’s Day, at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. The event will be an opportunity for women to network and discuss women’s policy priorities.

First Lady Frances Strickland notes, “I look forward to a day of celebrating Ohio women and their accomplishments, as well as taking a closer look at how we can further strengthen the power of women in today’s society.”

Momentum 2010 will include a series of workshops, panel discussions, and speakers, addressing topics such as access to higher education, women and leadership, violence against women, and the advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. The information focuses on helping women develop strategies to lead healthy, safe, and financially-stable lives.

Momentum 2010 is a timely opportunity to discuss women’s issues, considering:

- It will take place at the same time as the United Nations global conference on women;
- 2010 marks the 90th year since women in the United States gained the right to vote;
- 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day; and,
- March is National Women’s History Month.



Momentum 2010 seeks to engage diverse groups of Ohio women, including those of different ages, regions, race/ethnicity, and those with disabilities. During the afternoon of the March 8th event, a panel addressing challenges and issues of particular interest to women with disabilities is planned, and will be further detailed at www.ohiowomen2010.org as the date approaches.

Speakers will include Governor Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland, Pulitzer Prize winner and *Cleveland Plain Dealer* columnist Connie Schultz, philanthropist Mavis Leno, and diversity authority Audra Bohannon. Valerie Jarrett, White House senior advisor and assistant to President Barack Obama for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, will be the keynote speaker. She also serves as chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls.

In addition to the March 8th Summit, a statewide *Young Women's Summit* for girls ages 12-18 is planned at the Columbus School for Girls, on Sunday, March 7th .

The cost of registration for *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit* is \$25 through February 4, and \$45 after that date. Registration for the Young Women's Summit on March 7 is \$5. Registration and information for both events is at www.ohiowomen2010.org .



5. Reader Input: Residency Requirements for Guardians

Special thanks to Dave Zwyer, Pipeline reader, attorney, and former Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, who sent this information along.

“This past Sunday I attended a meeting of Friends and Family at the Columbus Developmental Center, and the topic of Guardianship came up. Specifically, someone asked me if someone who was resident of another state could serve as a guardian for someone here in Ohio. I replied that the law had changed to allow that in 2008 – and it was surprising to me that this was not more widely known, so I thought it might be helpful to include something in the *Pipeline* to share this information.

Ohio law has long respected the rights of parents to select guardians for their minor children, no matter where the guardians lived. However, not until 2008 was Ohio law changed to allow the parents of adult children with intellectual disabilities (the statute uses the legal term, "incompetent") to name guardians who lived outside Ohio. This nomination can take place in a specific "writing" (including a Will) or in a Durable Power of Attorney. [See Ohio Revised Code Sections 1337.09 (D) and 2111.121.] In addition, now when a guardian moves out of state, the court no longer is required to remove that person as guardian.”

More About Guardianship

This information also is included in the latest edition of the booklet, *Guardianship in Ohio* written by Dave Zwyer, and available on the Developmental Disabilities Council website at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/Pub/Guardianship7-2009.pdf> .

Dave Zwyer may be reached at zwyerd@yahoo.com



6. Update on Annual DD Awareness Month Kickoff Event

Sponsored by the DODD, Ohio Public Images, and the Ohio Association of County Boards, the March 4th *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus is just a scant month away, and will host several presenters from across the state. Among them:

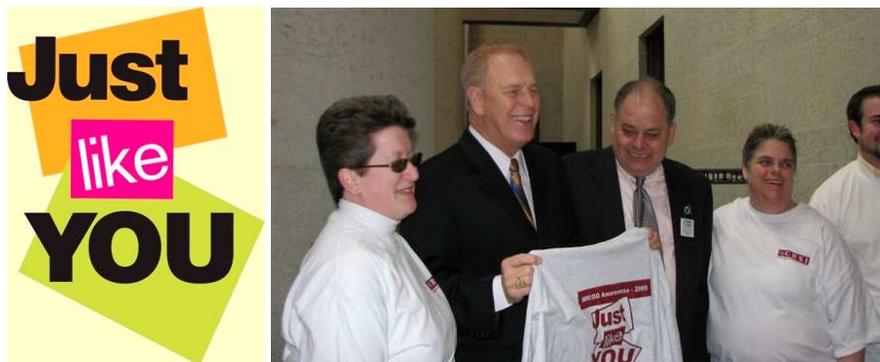
- *People First of Ohio;*
- *Partners in Policymaking;*

- Representatives from Cuyahoga County's first-in-Ohio franchised retail employment opportunity, *Just-A-Buck*;
- Allen County self-advocate, *Joe Vance*;
- The *Ohio Association of County Boards*; and,
- Representatives from *Ohio PATHS*, providing accredited training for direct care staff in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

The program will run from 10:00 a.m. – noon, and will include short presentations by these groups and individuals, who have made significant strides in their communities, both personally and professionally. Also on the program will be welcoming comments from members of Ohio's General Assembly who have been active in legislation affecting the developmental disabilities community.

Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to speak at the DD Awareness Kickoff Event, and participants are hopeful that his busy schedule may permit participation in the program, as was possible last year. In 2009 the event hosted more than 300 attendees.

Individuals and groups will staff several information tables at the event -- including the OSU Nisonger Center's Next Chapter Book Clubs, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio SIBS, The Advocates of Dayton, and many others -- offering venues for attendees to explore new opportunities and network.



Governor Ted Strickland at the 2009 Kickoff Event, flanked by enthusiastic self advocates and members of Champaign Residential Services Inc.

“*Just Like You*,” the theme for this year’s Awareness Month activities, encourages people to think about the similarities among people, rather than their differences. According to Lon Mitchell, president of Ohio Public Images (OPI), a statewide information and advocacy organization involved in developing the annual DD Awareness Month theme and activities, “The theme encourages everyone to welcome people with disabilities into their communities as equal partners. Each year this event builds on this simple concept, and we see individuals and communities across the state positively benefiting from this kind of understanding.”

Attendance is free, and open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's Developmental Disabilities community.

Contact: Sherry Steinman at DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 644-0262.

Pipeline PostScripts

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. 'All Technology All the Time' – A Hands On Experience

'All Technology All the Time' on May 1, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. will offer a half-day of hands on experience with a variety of assistive technology devices for people who are blind or have low vision. Four classrooms at Hagerty Hall on the Ohio State University Campus will be the venue for one-on-one and group demonstrations of products that enlarge, talk, display Braille, or otherwise make print accessible to individuals with vision impairments.

Here, you may learn to use a talking GPS device, get an introduction to Windows 7, discover the ease of using digital book players, and much more.

The event is presented by the American Council of the Blind of Ohio, in collaboration with The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired and The Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office, volunteers from ACB-Ohio will share their knowledge of the use of technology in daily living.

This educational opportunity is free, but pre-registration is required. Requests for demonstrations of specific pieces of equipment are welcome. Contact the ACB-Ohio office at 614.221.6688 or at Mary.hiland@sbcglobal.net.

Reminder

2. Disability Housing Network to Discuss Model Housing Plans

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference on Wednesday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide an opportunity to analyze specific housing plans and identify common themes, and then present collective findings that can be shared and possibly replicated elsewhere.

According to DHN Executive Director, Steve Farrell, "The Disability Housing Network is working with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) in coordinating our spring conferences and content. The DHN Spring Conference will be the 'housing track' on March 24, the second day of OPRA's two-day conference."

Please **[click here](#)** to see preliminary hotel and accommodation information.

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

Contact: DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell, stevefarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org
<http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/Default2.aspx>

3. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262.

The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
The DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 4

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Pipeline Postscripts at the end of each issue include timely news briefs and calendar items.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Look for news and information on the subject at www.dodd.ohio.gov now and throughout March.

1. Governor Strickland Announces New Appointments to Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

Governor Ted Strickland announced earlier this month several appointments to state boards and commissions, including appointments to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. The Council cooperates with the state's employers, both public and private, in locating or developing employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and assists in the creation of committees at the community level.

According to the Council's website at <http://www.gcpd.ohio.gov/>, the Council exists to:

- Advise the Governor and General Assembly on statewide disability issues.
- Educate and advocate for: Partnerships at the local, state, and national level; promotion of equality, access, and independence; and, development of employment opportunities.
- Promote the value of diversity, dignity, and quality of life for people with disabilities.

- Be a catalyst for systemic change promoting awareness of disability-related issues that will ultimately benefit all citizens of Ohio.



New appointments to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities were announced on February 5th, and include:

Linda Oda, of Springboro. Linda Oda has served as the director of communications for the Ohio Association of County Boards of Development Disabilities since 2008. She has also served as a fiscal officer for Clearcreek Township since 2008. Oda previously served as the director of public information for the Springboro Community Schools from 2002-2007. She received a bachelor's degree from Miami University in 1987.

Connie O'Brien, of Xenia. Connie O'Brien previously served as the director of customer service and resource development for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. She also previously served as the manager of the employer services unit for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission from 2000-2006. O'Brien received a bachelor's degree from Wright State University and a master's degree from the University of Dayton.

Matthew Sauer, of Cincinnati. Matthew Sauer has served as the accommodation coordinator for the University of Cincinnati's Department of Disability Services since 2001. He previously served as a consultant for the Mayerson Foundation, and also has served as a guest lecturer for various organizations since 1981. He received a bachelor's degree from Wright State University in 1981, a master's degree from Wright State in 1983, and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in 1995.

Scott Lissner, of Columbus. Scott Lissner has served as the Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator for The Ohio State University since 2000. He previously served as the director of disability support services for Longwood College from 1988-2000. He also serves as a lecturer for the Knowlton College of Architecture and the Moritz College of Law. Lissner received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1978, a master's degree from the City University of New York in 1982, and a doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1988.

Ashley Lemons, of Bryan. Ashley Lemons has served as the director of the housing resource center for the Defiance Satellite Office of the Ability Center of Greater Toledo since 2008. She previously served as the regional accessibility specialist and disability rights advocate for the Ability Center of Greater Toledo from 2002 to 2008. Lemons received an associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force in 1998, and a bachelor's degree from the University of the State of New York in 1999.

Marshall Kimmel, of Bidwell. Marshall Kimmel has served as the director of the department of accessibility at the University of Rio Grande since 1995. Kimmel served in various roles for the

Ohio Rehabilitation Commission from 1968 to 1992. He received a bachelor's degree from Rio Grande College in 1967.

Congratulations to all new appointees to the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. For a complete listing of Council members, visit <http://www.gcpd.ohio.gov/>, and click on "Current Members."



2. Updated State Olmstead Plan to be Reviewed

State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities will be hosting two meetings to provide opportunities for feedback on the updated state Olmstead Plan, titled, "*Balancing and Beyond: A Vision for Community Services and Supports for Individuals with Disabilities*," formerly named, "*The Ohio Access Report*."

When:

February 26, 2010 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Report)

March 19, 2010 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Opportunity to hear regional feedback on the Report and discuss next steps)

Where:

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

400 East Campus View Blvd

Columbus, Ohio 43235

614-438-1200; www.rsc.ohio.gov

Olmstead Background

"In the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Court has ruled that a state violates Title II of the ADA if it segregates a person with a disability in an institution when the person could be served in the community. The court also upheld the legality of the Justice Department's ADA "integration" regulation, which requires states to serve eligible people in the community. A plurality opinion (4 of 9 justices) suggested how states might justify their choices in providing residential services and defend a case, but still requires under most circumstances that the states must take steps to provide community placements for people in institutions if the person is eligible for the services and chooses to move." (*This and other information on the subject may be accessed on the Ohio Legal Rights Service website at http://olrs.ohio.gov/ASP/pub_Olmstead.asp*)

The updated Plan* includes an overview of progress since 2007, strategies utilized to move toward rebalancing Ohio's long-term services and supports system, and balancing initiatives in progress. It was compiled by the Executive Medicaid Management Administration (EMMA) with content provided by:

- Ohio's Single State Medicaid Agency;
- The Ohio Department of Aging;
- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities;
- The Ohio Department of Mental Health;

- The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services;
- The Ohio Department of Health;
- The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission;
- Ohio Department of Education; and,
- Ohio Department of Insurance.

*The entire draft may be reviewed at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/BalancingandBeyond.htm>



3. Public Hearing, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

In the interest of keeping Pipeline readers in the loop on administrative matters, we provide this notice, and refer you to our website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm#pubhearing>.

Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hereby gives notice of its intent to rescind and adopt the following rules of the Administrative Code on a permanent basis on or about May 20, 2010, and to conduct a public hearing thereon. A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held:

March 19, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until all persons in attendance have had an opportunity to testify. The hearing will be held in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration.

Rule 5123:2-9-06 (Rescind) titled "HCBS Waivers - Waiver Reimbursement Methodology" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number.

The rule has been revised to support implementation of the new Cost Projection Tool. The Cost Projection Tool is a web-based analytical tool, developed and administered by DODD, used to project the cost of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) identified in the individual service plans of individuals enrolled on the Individual Options and Level One HCBS waivers.

The rule has been revised to eliminate references to transition to statewide payment rates, which was completed in 2008. Additionally, the rule has been re-ordered to reflect more clearly the chronological sequence of the processes described therein. DODD is developing a new rule, as necessary amendments to the existing rule would affect more than 50% of the rule.

Rule 5123:2-13-07 (Rescind) titled "Individual Options Waiver - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Congregate Settings Where Individuals Share Services" is proposed for rescission and replacement by new rule 5123:2-9-31 (described below).

Rule 5123:2-9-31 (New) titled "HCBS Waivers - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Sites Where Individuals Enrolled on the Individual Options Waiver Share Services" is a new

rule proposed to replace rule 5123:2-13-07. The purpose of the proposed new rule is to establish the payment process for Homemaker/Personal Care when individuals share the services of the same provider at the same site as part of the HCBS Individual Options waiver. The rule establishes a daily billing unit for individuals/sites that qualify, which shall be used instead of the fifteen-minute billing unit established in rule 5123:2-9-06 of the Administrative Code. DODD is developing a new rule so that the rule is renumbered to Chapter 5123:2-9; it is DODD's intent that eventually all DODD rules related to HCBS waivers shall reside in Chapter 5123:2-9 of the Administrative Code.

Streamlining rules is in line with the Department's ten priorities, which include developing a plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Any written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review. Submittal of written comments may be made to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator, by e-mail to becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov ; by fax to (614) 752-8551; or by U.S. Mail to 30 East Broad Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.



*The proposed rules are available on the Register of Ohio website at: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us>
and on the DODD website at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm>.
The proposed rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.*



4. RSC's Café Conversations Will Gather Community Input

Join the Conversation – Employment and Independent Living Services

Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Administrator Michael Rench is mapping a 12-city road trip throughout the state to gather ideas from community members that will help shape future services. The series of meetings – or ‘Café Conversations’ – is planned to engage community members in providing feedback and generating ideas regarding potential RSC service opportunities, and overall agency direction. According to Rench,

“It is estimated that one in six Ohio citizens has a disability. These individuals are our brothers, sisters, children, and neighbors – and our communities need the benefit of their talents and gifts. We want to listen to their voices so we can understand how we can better support them in gaining full participation in their communities. We invite Ohioans to join us in this conversation as we hold twelve town hall meetings around the state.”

According to RSC staff, the casual Café Conversations are designed to stimulate discussion, encourage collective thinking, and generate ideas that will result in updated agency strategies and improved employment opportunities for people with disabilities. As the state agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities specifically to *obtain* or *retain* jobs, and to achieve greater independence, RSC encourages attendees to participate in this process and share their experiences and situations. Rensch notes,

“Public comment is vital to help shape public policy for Ohioans with disabilities. We are seeking input from those who will be most dramatically affected by disability-related policy issues. Participants’ ideas will be used to shape future state services such as employment, vocational rehabilitation, transition youth, and independent living.”

A listing of the 12 meetings across Ohio is available at RSC’s website:

<http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/RSCDocuments/CafeConversations.aspx>

The first meeting is in Cleveland on March 1, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Center for Families and Children, Nancy Lyon Porter Bldg., 4500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH

RSC invites you to call (800) 282-4536 ext. 1470, or email brenda.rhodes@rsc.state.oh.us to RSVP for any of the 12 meetings. Sign language interpreters will be available, as well as other accessibility options and accommodations.



5. DODD Streamlines, Simplifies Security Affidavit Procedure

- Effort moves toward eventual further simplification -

Effective tomorrow, February 18th, DODD Information Technology Services (ITS) will replace the Security Affidavit form with a more user-friendly ‘application.’ Users of the current security affidavit process will notice a more streamlined procedure and simplified approach to gathering the information and acknowledgements necessary to verify access to sensitive data.

Instead of an Adobe PDF form, a new on-line ‘wizard’ will help guide users through filling out the necessary information to apply, change, or terminate access to our on-line data input and data management systems.

Beginning 2-18-10, the on-line ‘wizard’ may be accessed at:
<https://video.mr.state.oh.us/iforms/onlineapp/>

Users of the Security Affidavit still will be required to accept the confidentiality agreement, and will be prompted to print out the form to be signed and either scanned, faxed, emailed or sent via U.S. Mail to the DODD, as noted below.

Scan and email to: security.support@list.dodd.ohio.gov
Fax to: (614) 752-4673, Attn: Security Coordinator
Mail to: Security Coordinator, Division of Information Systems, 30 E Broad St, 12th Floor,
Columbus, OH 43215

ITS notes that in order to assure and maintain improved service under the new and more simplified system, handwritten forms or applications submitted on the old Security Affidavit forms will no longer be accepted after February 18.

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the new on-line security affidavit procedure, please contact: security.support@list.dodd.ohio.gov. Please do not contact individuals by name, as this email address will connect all appropriate parties in order of inquiry receipt.



6. Statewide Celebration of *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* Gears Up for March

The beautiful Ohio Statehouse Atrium again will host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event* in Columbus, March 4, 2010, 10 a.m. - noon. The DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), and the Ohio Association of County Boards -- in collaboration with other statewide organizations -- develops the event each year, spotlighting Ohioans with disabilities around state who are exploring and creating opportunities for success in their communities.

In addition to a short structured program, attendees to this free public event will have an opportunity to visit a variety of information tables, and network with others in the state who are living, working, and learning in their communities as equal citizens. Event organizers also invite attendees to take time to explore the Statehouse and meet their legislators.

Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials (some free, some for purchase) supporting this year's DD Awareness Month theme, "*Just Like You.*"

For event information contact Sherry Steinman, (614) 644-0262, or email sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov.



Belmont County's (2009) eye-catching billboards will be back again this year with more examples of local people with disabilities who are working, learning, and succeeding in their community.

Look for Information about DD Awareness Month celebrations across Ohio in the March issues of *Pipeline* – March 3rd, 17th and 31st.

To submit short articles and/or photos for consideration, send to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov .

Statehouse Notes

Free guided tours are offered at the Statehouse weekdays 'on the hour' from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and weekends from noon to 3 p.m. Tours depart from the Map Room, easily accessible from the Third Street entrance. Groups of ten or more are requested to call in advance to ensure a guide is available. Contact (888) OHIO-123 for more information or to schedule a group tour. For more information about the Ohio Statehouse visit www.ohiostatehouse.org. The Statehouse Museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free.



7. Groundbreaking Best Practices Manual from Major Professional Association ...

The heading above is a live link. Click to view. Acknowledgements to PR Newswire for this information.

Groundbreaking 'Best Practices Manual' from Major Professional Association Replaces 'Mental Retardation' with Term 'Intellectual Disability'

Two pivotal developments in the national disability world seek the common goal of replacing the slang and pejorative label, "mental retardation" with the more respectful terminology, "intellectual disability":

- The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) published the 11th edition of its "Definition Manual", renaming it *Intellectual Disability: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Supports*. In it, the association presents a progressive system of defining and diagnosing intellectual disability as a condition that can be enhanced by providing appropriate supports, rather than a static life-long trait.
- Close on its heels comes *Rosa's Law*, a bill recently introduced by U.S. Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Michael B. Enzi (R-WY) to eliminate the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" from U.S. federal law books.

In discussing these developments, AAIDD president Joanna Pierson, Executive Director of The Arc of Frederick County, Maryland, stated,

"We understand that people with intellectual disabilities face enough challenges every day that they don't need to deal with a hurtful label. And as medical, educational, and legal professionals, we know that intellectual disability is far more complex than a low score on an IQ test."

Intellectual Disability presents an advanced model of defining and diagnosing intellectual disabilities that includes a combination of IQ, age of onset, and adaptive skills of a person.

Rather than look at deficits, the AAIDD system is based on evaluating the *supports* someone needs in life to reduce any mismatch between a person's capabilities and skills development.

That way, every person is better able to participate in all aspects of life, whether it's riding the bus or working in the community.

The 11th edition of *Intellectual Disability* was written by a committee of 18 experts based on seven years of work synthesizing current scientific information and best practices, as well as critiques of the previous edition. To listen to interviews with authors, and for more information about the *Best Practices Manual*, go to www.aaid.org/intellectualdisabilitybook.



8. Census Information Important to Disability Community

Data from the U. S. Census, which is conducted every ten years, is used to draw boundaries for congressional districts, and to determine how to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and local communities.

The 2010 Census Questionnaire will be mailed to all U.S. households beginning in March. The form contains only ten questions. To gather necessary information, census workers will visit households that do not return the forms.

Please support this important statewide and nationwide effort by completing and returning your Census Questionnaire promptly. For more information, please visit www.census.gov .



A complete count = the possibility of more federal dollars for state and local needs.



9. 'Project Vote' Funds Awarded to Ohio Legal Rights Service

Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) has received a *Project Vote* grant to work with People First of Ohio, the Ohio Disability Vote Coalition and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council's Partners in Policymaking.

OLRS is partnering with self-advocates to educate people with disabilities about their voting rights.



Project Vote is training/information designed by people with intellectual disabilities to teach others with disabilities how to exercise their voting rights. OLRs will coordinate a two-day “train-the-trainer” workshop, and will partner with self-advocacy groups that receive the initial training to plan and implement at least three other such trainings based on the *Project Vote* model.

Sadie Hunter, executive director of People First of Ohio, comments,

"The members of People First look forward to participating in *Project Vote* – and are excited about providing training to their peers throughout the state about their rights in the voting process."

The *Project Vote* grant is from the National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access, which assists protection and advocacy systems and organizations such as OLRs to ensure voting access for citizens with cognitive and visual disabilities.

Ohio is one of three states selected to participate in Project Vote in 2010. For more information, visit <http://olrs.ohio.gov/asp/newsletter-jan-10.asp>

Reminder! Deadline to register to vote in the May 4th Primary Election is April 5, 2010.

For more information: Ohio Legal Rights Service, 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1400, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-5923; Telephone 614-466-7264; Toll Free 800-282-9181; TTY 614-728-2553; Toll Free TTY 800-858-3542; Web site: <http://olrs.ohio.gov>.



Pipeline PostScripts

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on ‘calendar’ at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

Reminders

1. Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit, March 8th

Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland have announced *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women’s Summit*, a statewide event to discuss and promote the status of Ohio women and girls in the areas of economics, education, and health. In making the announcement, Governor Strickland said, “Momentum 2010 will provide an opportunity for Ohioans to engage with each other and discuss ways to advance the status of women and girls, statewide.”

The Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach and First Lady Frances Strickland are hosting the forum on March 8, International Women's Day, at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. The event will be an opportunity for women to network and discuss women's policy priorities.

Momentum 2010 will include a series of workshops, panel discussions, and speakers addressing topics such as access to higher education, women and leadership, violence against women, and the advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. Information focuses on helping women develop strategies to lead healthy, safe, and financially-stable lives.

The event seeks to engage diverse groups of Ohio women, including those of different ages, regions, race/ethnicity, and those with disabilities. During the afternoon of the March 8th event, a panel addressing challenges and issues of particular interest to women with disabilities is planned, and will be further detailed at www.ohiowomen2010.org as the date approaches.

In addition to the March 8th Summit, a statewide *Young Women's Summit* for girls ages 12-18 is planned at the Columbus School for Girls, on Sunday, March 7th.

The cost of registration for *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit* is \$25 through February 4, and \$45 after that date. Registration for the Young Women's Summit on March 7 is \$5. Registration and information for both events is at www.ohiowomen2010.org.

2. 'All Technology All the Time' – A Hands On Experience

'All Technology All the Time' on May 1, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. will offer a half-day of hands on experience with a variety of assistive technology devices for people who are blind or have low vision. Four classrooms at Hagerty Hall on the Ohio State University Campus will be the venue for one-on-one and group demonstrations of products that enlarge, talk, display Braille, or otherwise make print accessible to individuals with vision impairments.

Here, you may learn to use a talking GPS device, get an introduction to Windows 7, discover the ease of using digital book players, and much more.

The event is presented by the American Council of the Blind of Ohio, in collaboration with The Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired and The Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office, volunteers from ACB-Ohio will share their knowledge of the use of technology in daily living.

This educational opportunity is free, but pre-registration is required. Requests for demonstrations of specific pieces of equipment are welcome. Contact the ACB-Ohio office at 614.221.6688 or at Mary.hiland@sbcglobal.net.

3. Disability Housing Network to Discuss Model Housing Plans and More

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference on Wednesday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide an opportunity to analyze specific housing plans and identify common themes, and present collective findings that can be shared and possibly replicated elsewhere.

DHN has coordinated with the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) in organizing their spring conferences and content, incorporating the DHN Spring Conference as the 'housing track'

on March 24, the second day of OPRA's two-day conference.

Descriptions for the housing track sessions, which will run from 9:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., are at <http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>. Registration will be available shortly on the OPRA website, at <http://www.opra.org/>.

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

Contact: DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell, stevefarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org
<http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/Default2.aspx>

4. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

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Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 5

In This Issue ...

- 1. Hundreds to Attend Kickoff for Ohio's Celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- 2. DODD Commemorates SB79, Honoring Its Roots
- 3. Awareness Activities Across the State – A Sampling
- 4. Part VI in a Series: Priority Work – HCBS Waiver Services, Public Hearing
- 5. Governor Calls for Elimination of PASSPORT Waiting List
- 6. *People First* to Let Freedom Ring on 'Survivor Island'
- 7. RSC Continues to Gather Community Input
- 8. Updated Olmstead Plan Review Process Continues

Pipeline Postscripts at the end of each issue include timely news briefs and calendar items.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Look for news and information on the subject at www.dodd.ohio.gov throughout March.

It's Tomorrow!

1. Hundreds To Attend Kickoff Event for Statewide Celebration of *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*

An estimated 300 individuals, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community are expected to participate in the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, tomorrow, March 4, 2010, from 10 a.m. - noon. As in years past, the Statehouse Atrium area will welcome people from all across the state – traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties -- who will be leaving their communities early in the morning to gather in Columbus for the annual celebration.

Greater Awareness and Understanding

Each year the DODD hosts the event, in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards -- and we greatly appreciate their collective support, as well as that of several additional stakeholders who will be on-hand staffing information and outreach tables.

This year's program will recognize and celebrate many positive efforts throughout Ohio that afford opportunities for people with disabilities to work, learn, and live successfully in their local communities. The celebration continues the statewide 'awareness' theme well-received in 2009, "*Just Like You*," reinforcing the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just as everyone else does.



Looking Back at 2009



Do you know your rights? DODD Director John Martin was enthusiastically interviewed in 2009 by the zealous Freedom Readers from Belmont County, who quizzed him about his rights. It turned out that the Director did know his rights, and – let there be no doubt – so did the Freedom Readers!



At the March 2009 Kickoff Event, the Ohio Statehouse Atrium was packed with participants. This view is from the upstairs walkway, and contains a little more than half of the Atrium area. We estimate that there were close to 350 people in attendance at one point.

Looking Ahead to Tomorrow



Linda Kunick, self advocate and member of *Partners In Policymaking*, will be a participant in the program during tomorrow's Kickoff event. Here we see her with Governor Ted Strickland last year at the ceremonial signing of SB 79, the 'Name Change Bill'. Linda is, indeed, a partner in policymaking!

Attendees at this free public event will have time to network with others in the state, and to explore the Statehouse and meet their legislators following the program.

Statehouse Notes

Free guided tours are offered at the Statehouse weekdays 'on the hour' from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and weekends from noon to 3 p.m. Tours depart from the Map Room, easily accessible from the Third Street entrance. Groups of ten or more are requested to call in advance to ensure a guide is available. Contact (888) OHIO-123 for more information or to schedule a group tour. For more information about the Ohio Statehouse visit www.ohiostatehouse.org.



Statehouse photo courtesy, Paul Jarvis

Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for materials (some free, some for purchase) supporting this year's DD Awareness Month theme, "Just Like You."



2. DODD Commemorates Senate Bill 79, Honoring Its Roots



RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE STATEHOUSE: As seen in *Pipeline Quarterly* Autumn 2009  **this plaque has been added to the updated signage at DODD Central Office, 30 E. Broad St., in Columbus. It features a Passion Flower made by Passion Works Studio in Athens, Ohio, (shown: Athens artists L. to R. David D., Harry G.) and the engraving reads,**

"Commemorating Senate Bill 79, 'The Name Change Bill.' SB79 dropped the words 'mental retardation' from the name of the state agency and County Boards that serve people with developmental disabilities across Ohio. Signed into law by Governor Ted Strickland, July 2009. This Passion Flower was made in Athens County, Ohio – where it all started – by people with developmental disabilities."

In addition to removing the words 'mental retardation' from the signage at DODD Central Office in Columbus, an artistic element was incorporated in the design. Passion Works Studio artists in Athens County, and ATCO, the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities' adult services center, worked together to create two custom plaques. Because self advocates from Athens spearheaded the efforts ultimately bringing about the name change, it was especially meaningful to DODD to commemorate the historic efforts in this way.

If you're in downtown Columbus for the DD Awareness Month Kickoff Event on March 4, (or anytime!) and would like to see the plaques, visit the DODD offices in the Rhodes State Office Tower, Floors 12 & 13 (they're inside each floor's entrance).



[Awareness Efforts, Statewide](#)

3. Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling

In the interest of glimpsing different offerings planned to promote greater understanding and awareness of people with developmental disabilities across the state, following are a few items *Pipeline* readers have shared so far this month. More in the next issue of *Pipeline*.

[One](#)

Franklin/Fairfield County collaboration – 'Art in the Halls'

What: 'Art in the Halls'

Where: MORPC (Mid-Ohio regional Planning Commission, Columbus)

Briefly: Works from the *Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery* in Columbus, and from *Blue Shoe Arts* in Carroll, Ohio, were shown collectively in a display known as, “*Art in the Halls.*” The showing, which promotes the work of people with disabilities in artistic expression, has presented pieces by more than 85 artists with disabilities since its inception in 1986. The most recent showing at MORPC – carefully displayed throughout the offices -- showed 61 pieces by more than two dozen artists. During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, these artists surely are living the mission set forth by Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery,

“Building independence, quality of life, and income opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers, through creative self-expression.”

And, just as clearly, Blue Shoe Arts’ mission states,

“Helping individuals with disabilities discover their natural talents in the field of visual art, and providing income opportunities to build self-sufficiency and increase self-esteem.”

For More Info: Goodwill Art Studio & Gallery at <http://www.goodwillcolumbus.org/artstudio/> ; Blue Shoe Arts at www.blueshoearts.org .



Sampling ... Blue Shoe Artists
(l to r.) “Doin’ the Swing”, by Amy Nimon;
“Tropicana Tamborina”, by Deena Reichard

Two

Huron County – Christie Lane 5K Walk & Run, March 27

What: *The Christie Lane 5K Walk & Run*

Where: Huron County (Norwalk)

Briefly: At 9 a.m., walkers and runners will take off from Christie Lane School, 306 South Norwalk Road West. Race-day registration is \$20, and begins at 8 a.m. Participants may print a registration form at www.hurondd.org and pre-register for \$15 until March 15. Entrants receive a race T-shirt while supplies last, and awards will be presented. The race is held in conjunction with Christie Lane Industries' *Document Destruction Weekend!* Individuals may bring up to 500 lbs. of personal documents to be destroyed free of charge on March 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and March 27, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Christie Lane Industries is AAA certified by the National Association for Information Destruction.

For More Info: Holly Binkley at (419) 668-8840, ext. 124. (Walk & Run)

For More Info: Deb Bement at (419) 706-4945. (Document Destruction)

Document Destruction? One might say, 'Just Like You', we all have stuff to get rid of, too!



Three

Licking County – Billboard Promotion and Annual Luncheon

What: *Billboards and Events*

Where: Licking County (Newark)

Briefly: See below ...

Featured in this Licking County billboard are Katie Sheets, Cindy Fleming and Lindsay Adkins – roommates who live in Newark and receive some residential supports. They all work at the LICCO Adult Services Center in Heath.

Briefly: Heather Odendahl, Public Information Manager at Licking County DD notes, “We chose the ‘Winning Team’ theme because we are honoring our local ‘Team Up’ baseball team for children with developmental disabilities. Team Up recently was featured in a *SportsTime Ohio* broadcast that details the journey of the Wollenberg family and how Team Up came into existence. We plan to show this broadcast during our annual Awareness Day luncheon event on March 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at E. S. Weiant Center.” She continues,

“The ‘teamwork’ theme is especially appropriate this Awareness Month because we do just about everything with a team approach – local agencies, all components of the LCBDD, caregivers, families, residential providers, local employers, day service providers, LICCO, transportation, etc. – all work together to bring services to people with developmental disabilities. In the billboard, the ladies featured receive many of these services – they perfectly exemplify the teamwork approach.”

For More Info: Heather Odendahl at (740) 349-6588.

Four



Hancock County – The Gliding Stars of Findlay

What: *Annual Ice Show*

Where: Hancock County (Findlay)

Briefly: The Gliding Stars of Findlay will host their ninth annual Ice Show, ‘*Peace, Love, & Skating*’ on March 14 at The Cube, 3430 N. Main St. in Findlay, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Children and adults with disabilities participate in the annual ice show, which this year includes music from the 1970’s. Gliding Stars is an adaptive ice skating program that uses equipment such as walkers and various skates to help individuals with special needs -- the Stars – to perform and skate. Stars participate in weekly lessons and are paired with trained volunteers under the direction of skilled skating instructors. The program boasts 46 Stars from four surrounding counties and the Hancock County area. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance, or at the door the day of the event.

For more info: www.glidingstars.org or contact Cindy Bregel, (419) 423-4536.

Look for More about DD Awareness Month celebrations in *Pipeline* – March 17 and 31.



Pipeline Feedback

To submit short articles and/or photos for consideration, send to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. Due to the large number of events and activities throughout the state, we will endeavor to provide a variety of examples that are representative but not exhaustive of these efforts.

Part VI in a Series: Priority Work

4. Simplifying and Containing Costs of DODD-Administered Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the sixth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (See <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>) *Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services* is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress.’

A Fiscal Plan, and Rules

In conjunction with this priority work, a **Fiscal Plan for Home and Community-Based Waiver Services** was completed and submitted on December 31, 2009, to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 337.30.40 of Amended Substitute House Bill 1 of the 128th General Assembly. The Plan is briefly outlined below. Implementation of one recommendation in this Plan (to harness efficiencies of the new Cost Projection Tool) requires amendments to DODD's administrative rules, a hearing for which is scheduled for March 19.

The Plan

The Fiscal Plan includes recommendations to ensure the fiscal sustainability of Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers administered by the DODD. Specifically, the legislation called for recommendations pertaining to three areas:

- Changing the ranges in the amount Medicaid will pay per individual for HCBS;
- Establishing one or more maximum amounts that Medicaid will pay per individual for HCBS; and,
- Modifying the methodology used in establishing payment rates for providers, including the methodology's component that reflects wages and benefits for persons providing direct care, and the component that reflects training and direct supervision of those persons.

Under the Plan's '*Summary and Recommendations*', item number 8 states,

"Harness efficiencies as new tools become available, particularly the Cost Projection Tool and Daily Rate Application enhancements. Set a goal to realize a 10% improvement in Service and Support Administrator and Program Manager productivity and to reduce waiver administration costs borne by both public and private entities."

The Rules

A public hearing on proposed rule actions necessary to implement the Cost Projection Tool will be conducted on March 19.

Public Hearing, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

For more information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm#pubhearing>

Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hereby provides notice of its intent to rescind and adopt the following rules of the Administrative Code on a permanent basis on or about May 20, 2010, and to conduct a public hearing thereon. A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held March 19, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until all persons in attendance have had an opportunity to testify.

The hearing will be held in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration.

Rule 5123:2-9-06 (Rescind) titled "HCBS Waivers - Waiver Reimbursement Methodology" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number.

The rule has been revised to support implementation of the new Cost Projection Tool. The Cost Projection Tool is a web-based analytical tool, developed and administered by DODD, used to project the cost of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) identified in the individual service plans of individuals enrolled on the Individual Options and Level One HCBS waivers.

The rule has been revised to eliminate references to transition to statewide payment rates, which was completed in 2008. Additionally, the rule has been re-ordered to reflect more clearly the chronological sequence of the processes described therein. DODD has developed a new rule, 5123:2-9-06 (New), as necessary amendments to the existing rule would affect more than 50% of the rule.

Rule 5123:2-13-07 (Rescind) titled "Individual Options Waiver - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Congregate Settings Where Individuals Share Services" is proposed for rescission and replacement by new rule 5123:2-9-31 (described below).

Rule 5123:2-9-31 (New) titled "HCBS Waivers - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Sites Where Individuals Enrolled on the Individual Options Waiver Share Services" is a new rule proposed to replace rule 5123:2-13-07. The purpose of the proposed new rule is to establish the payment process for Homemaker/Personal Care when individuals share the services of the same provider at the same site as part of the HCBS Individual Options waiver. The rule establishes a daily billing unit for individuals/sites that qualify, which shall be used instead of the 15-minute billing unit established in rule 5123:2-9-06 of the Administrative Code. DODD is developing a new rule so that the rule is renumbered to Chapter 5123:2-9. It is DODD's intent that eventually all DODD rules related to HCBS waivers shall reside in Chapter 5123:2-9 of the Administrative Code.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review. Written comments may be submitted to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator; e-mail becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov ; Fax (614) 752-8551; or, U.S. Mail to 30 East Broad Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.

Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services waivers corresponds closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for more about this priority work area at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/FiscalPlanforHCBSWaiverServices12-31-09.pdf> .

Part VII: 2010-2011 Work Plan coming soon, in an April issue of *Pipeline*.



5. Governor Calls for Elimination of PASSPORT Waiting List by Reallocating Existing Funds

The following is summarized from a news release issued by the Governor's Office on February 22, 2010.

Governor Ted Strickland has called for the elimination of the waiting list for the PASSPORT (Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today) program for this fiscal year – as well as for the Assisted Living and PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) programs – by March 31. PASSPORT is a Medicaid waiver program that provides medical care to qualifying seniors in home and community settings, and all three programs are managed by the Ohio Department of Aging.

Currently, 592 Ohioans who need and are eligible for home and community-based services are on a waiting list for these three services.

In calling for the elimination of the waiting lists, Governor Strickland stated,

“We should do our best to support older Ohioans who prefer to live independently in their own homes, but need assistance along the way. We have identified existing funds that will allow us to assist all seniors eligible for home and community-based care, without a wait.”



The Department of Aging implemented waiting lists for these services in order to balance their budget for fiscal years 2010-2011. Waiting lists generally cause the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to incur increased costs from nursing home use and Home First placements.

In light of this, the Governor's action calls for the transfer of resources from ODJFS to the Department of Aging to pay for the elimination of the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and PACE program waiting lists.

For example, \$490,924 in funds can be transferred immediately to pay for Home First placements. (Home First enrollment permits nursing facility consumers to relocate to a certified assisted living facility if they wish to and are able to do so with the funding moving with them.) A transfer of \$4,809,076 to eliminate the waiting list is subject to Ohio's Controlling Board approval.

These transfers will eliminate the waiting lists through the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2010. The Strickland Administration plans to seek additional transfers in fiscal year 2011 to ensure that there are no waiting lists for the remainder of the biennium.

The Governor adds,

“These resources are from existing funds that otherwise would have been spent on more expensive care for a smaller group of people. This change shifts and maximizes limited resources in a way that benefits the most Ohioans.”

Senator John Carey, Senator Dale Miller, Representative Peggy Lehner, and Representative Debbie Newcomb were noted by the Governor’s Office for their individual commitment to the elimination of these waiting lists, and their advocacy for home and community-based care for older Ohioans.



6. People First to Let Freedom Ring on ‘Survivor Island’

People First of Ohio has planned an ambitious schedule for their March 19-21 annual conference at the Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio, complete with a ‘Survivor Island’ search for hidden advocacy treasure chests ... elections for the organization’s officers in ‘Advocacy Alley’, and several presenters, including special guest speaker Bobby Gurek, who will share information about assistive technology and advocacy.

**March 19-21, 2010 ... Roberts Convention Center ... Holiday Inn, 123 Gano Rd., Wilmington OH
Phone: (937) 283-3200 for hotel information**

This year’s conference theme, “*Let Freedom Ring on Survivor Island*,” is all about advocates training other advocates, staff, families, and professionals -- including sessions on emergency preparedness, individual rights, guardianship, and many other subjects that have been requested during the past year.

Known for their innovative and straightforward approach to providing information in an interesting and relevant way, the *People First* staff and officers have planned a solid three-day conference that supports individuals’ interests and provides opportunities for greater involvement in their local communities and within Ohio’s larger developmental disabilities community.

For conference/registration information contact Sadie Hunter at shunter@columbus.rr.com



7. RSC Continues to Gather Community Input

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has completed the first visit in a 12-city road trip throughout the state to gather ideas from community members that will help shape future services. The first meeting was in Cleveland on March 1, at the Center for Families and Children. The series of meetings – or ‘Café Conversations’ – has been designed to engage

community members in providing feedback and generating ideas regarding potential RSC service opportunities, and overall agency direction. A listing of the 12 meetings across Ohio is available at RSC's website:

<http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/RSCDocuments/CafeConversations.aspx>

For further information, or to RSVP for any of the meetings call (800) 282-4536 ext. 1470, or email brenda.rhodes@rsc.state.oh.us. Sign language interpreters will be available, as well as other accessibility options and accommodations.



Reminder

8. Updated State Olmstead Plan Review Process Continues

State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities will be hosting the second of two meetings on March 19, to provide opportunities for feedback on the updated state Olmstead Plan, titled, *“Balancing and Beyond: A Vision for Community Services and Supports for Individuals with Disabilities,”* formerly named, *“The Ohio Access Report.”*

The first meeting on the subject was held on February 26th. Responses to the questions and comments raised at that time will be reported from each region on March 19th and next steps will be discussed regarding the plan.

When: March 19, 2010, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., at five locations

Where: See five locations at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/OlmsteadSaveTheDates.pdf>

Olmstead Background

“In the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Court has ruled that a state violates Title II of the ADA if it segregates a person with a disability in an institution when the person could be served in the community. The court also upheld the legality of the Justice Department's ADA "integration" regulation, which requires states to serve eligible people in the community.

The justices' opinion suggested how states might justify their choices in providing residential services and defend a case, but still requires under most circumstances that the states must take steps to provide community placements for people in institutions if the person is eligible for the services and chooses to move.” (*This and other information on the subject may be accessed on the Ohio Legal Rights Service website at http://olrs.ohio.gov/ASP/pub_Olmstead.asp*)

The updated Plan* includes an overview of progress since 2007, strategies utilized to move toward rebalancing Ohio's long-term services and supports system, and balancing initiatives in progress. It was compiled by the Executive Medicaid Management Administration (EMMA).

***The entire draft may be reviewed at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/BalancingandBeyond.htm>**

For more information: Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; (614) 438-1200; www.rsc.ohio.gov



Pipeline PostScripts

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit, March 8th

Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland have announced *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit*, a statewide event to discuss and promote the status of Ohio women and girls in the areas of economics, education, and health. In making the announcement, Governor Strickland said, "Momentum 2010 will provide an opportunity for Ohioans to engage with each other and discuss ways to advance the status of women and girls, statewide."

The Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach and First Lady Frances Strickland are hosting the forum on March 8, International Women's Day, at the Vern Riffe Center in Columbus. The event will be an opportunity for women to network and discuss women's policy priorities.

The event seeks to engage diverse groups of Ohio women, including those of different ages, regions, race/ethnicity, and those with disabilities. During the afternoon of the March 8th event, a panel addressing challenges and issues of particular interest to women with disabilities is planned. See www.ohiowomen2010.org for an updated schedule.

In addition to the March 8th Summit, a statewide *Young Women's Summit* for girls ages 12-18 is planned at the Columbus School for Girls, on Sunday, March 7th.

The cost of registration for *Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit* is \$45. Registration for the Young Women's Summit on March 7 is \$5. Registration and information for both events is at www.ohiowomen2010.org.

2. Disability Housing Network to Discuss Model Housing Plans and More

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference on Wednesday, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide an opportunity to analyze specific housing plans and identify common themes, and present collective findings that can be shared and possibly replicated elsewhere.

The DHN Spring Conference is the 'housing track' on March 24, from 9:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., on the second day of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) two-day conference. Descriptions for the housing track sessions are at <http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>. Registration is available on the OPRA website, at <http://www.opra.org/>.

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

Contact: DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell, stevefarrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org

3. Census Information Important to Disability Community

Data from the U. S. Census, which is conducted every ten years, is used to draw boundaries for congressional districts, and to determine how to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and local communities. The 2010 Census Questionnaire will be mailed to all U.S. households beginning in March. The form contains only ten questions. To gather necessary information, census workers will visit households that do not return the forms.

Please support this important statewide and nationwide effort by completing and returning your Census Questionnaire promptly. For more information, visit www.census.gov .

4. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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***Pipeline* ... Extra!**

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.

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March 11, 2010

Medicare Ends Contract with Fox Insurance Company Drug Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the following information of interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community and throughout the nation.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today terminated its contract with Fox Insurance Company. After an onsite review of the plan and its services, CMS determined that the plan's significant deficiencies – not meeting Medicare's requirements to provide enrollees with prescription drugs according to recognized standards of care – jeopardized the health and safety of Fox enrollees. CMS found that Fox committed a series of violations, including improperly denying its enrollees coverage of critical HIV, cancer, and seizure medications. The termination of the contract is effective immediately.

Members of the Fox Insurance Company's plan will be provided access to needed drugs while transitioning to new plans.

The termination will not impact or delay access to drugs for the more than 123,000 Medicare beneficiaries, nationwide, who were currently enrolled in Fox plans. Beginning immediately (March 10, 2010), all enrollees will obtain their drugs through LI-NET, a program run by Medicare and administered by Humana, to ensure that beneficiaries receive their Medicare prescription drugs. Fox enrollees will be able to choose a new Medicare prescription drug plan through May 1, 2010. Current enrollees who do not choose a plan will be enrolled into a new plan by Medicare.

According to Daniel M. Berland, Director of Federal Policy, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities services (NASDDDS),

"This is the first time CMS has taken such an action. Most of Fox's enrollees live in California, Florida, New York, and North Carolina*, and as of midnight March 10, 2010, all of these beneficiaries have been switched over to the Limited Income NET Program (LI-NET), a program administered by Humana, and essentially managed by CMS. There is no risk of an interruption in drug coverage. Pharmacists have the ability to use overrides to ensure that these individuals are covered if there is a problem with the transition."

*** States in which the Fox plan was available were: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia.**

According to CMS, the immediate termination of Fox as a Medicare prescription drug plan demonstrates CMS' commitment to protecting the health of some of their most vulnerable enrollees, who would have been prevented from obtaining necessary drugs -- in some cases life-sustaining medicines. CMS will be sending letters to affected enrollees, explaining the steps being taken to ensure that enrollees continue to be able to obtain needed medications.

Background on decision to terminate contract with Fox

CMS issued an enrollment and marketing sanction to Fox on Feb. 26, 2010, because the organization was not following Medicare's rules for providing prescription drug coverage to its enrollees. After an onsite audit between March 2 and March 4, CMS found Fox's problems persisted and that the company continued to subject enrollees to obstacles in getting needed medications. CMS also found that many of the obstacles were in place to limit access to high-cost drugs, which could have led to enrollees' clinical needs not being met. In many cases, Fox enrollees were required to have unnecessary and invasive medical procedures before they were able to obtain drugs. Fox was unable to satisfactorily address these compliance concerns.

CMS encourages Medicare prescription drug plan enrollees who have concerns with access to drug coverage to contact 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or the state health insurance assistance program (SHIP). Medicare enrollees, their families and their caregivers can contact a SHIP near them by visiting: <http://www.medicare.gov/Contacts/staticpages/ships.aspx>



Pipeline Extra ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

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Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 5

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- Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month - Statewide efforts recognize people with developmental disabilities achieving success within their local communities.

Look for news and information on the subject at www.dodd.ohio.gov throughout March.

1. Enthusiastic Participants Gather at Kickoff to Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Celebration

More than 350 participants representing at least 29 counties gathered in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on the morning of March 4, to celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*. Traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties, buses, vans, cars, and various other modes of mobility rolled into the downtown Columbus venue to join in the annual kickoff celebration.

Individuals with disabilities, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community enthusiastically participated in the event, hosted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). The crowd was likely the most diverse and geographically-representative group ever to attend the kickoff, according to OPI Board members.

This year's program (see <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DDAwarenessMonth.htm>) included speakers representing the Ohio General Assembly, governmental agencies serving the developmental

disabilities community, and many people with disabilities, celebrating self-advocacy and the results realized in pursuing abilities and interests with the help of supportive families, staff, and local communities. OPI executive director Lon Mitchell notes, “We extend special thanks to all who took the time to come to Columbus this year and participate in this enthusiastic gathering. It is very exciting to see the energy and the interaction at this event grow stronger each year.”

Quotes and photos tell the rest of the story ...

“ There are many stories to tell across Ohio, of the strides you are making in your communities. And, together, we are creating more of these stories here today, and every day. ”
- Michael Rench, Administrator, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission



Every Picture Tells a Story

The statewide ‘Just Like You’ DD Awareness Month theme was apparent both in clothing choices and in spirit at the Kickoff Event. The theme reinforces the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just like everyone else does.

“ How many of you were active in getting the words ‘mental retardation’ removed from the names of Ohio agencies that serve you? ” - (Above, top) Hands begin to be raised, applause gains momentum.



**Employees of the *Just-A-Buck* Store in Parma take the podium and make one thing perfectly clear ...
 “The most important thing is customer service!”**

Pictured are (front row) John Neal, Theresa Koelliker, Robert Weinbroer and Sara Schultz, Just-A-Buck employees. Second row: Store manager Kim Pritchard and supervisor Rhonda Guddy, along with with Lon Mitchell (far right), executive director of Ohio Public Images, the nonprofit organization that coordinates Ohio’s DD Awareness Month activities.



“I created the Allen County Board’s new logo with this in mind – I wanted to express a sense of community.” – Bonnie Boutin, Allen County self-advocate and artist (at podium)

“ My Life Got Much Better with Assistive Technology.” – Joe Vance, Allen County self-advocate and electronics enthusiast (seated)



There are many PATHS within the Statehouse! (L. to R.) State Representative Barbara Sears and Mark Davis (OPRA), join PATHS representatives Stacey Krohn, Beverly Bradshaw, Jamie Cummins, Barbara Kost, Christy King, and Jeffrey Wright, along with DODD Director John Martin.

“PATHS training helped me think about my job as a career – made me feel good about what I do.”
-Beverly Bradshaw, PATHS graduate

More about DD Awareness Month in *Pipeline Quarterly* winter '09-'10, publishing soon.



2. Awareness Activities Across Ohio, Part II - A Marvelous Mix

As in the March 3 issue of *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 5](#), we share another sampling of the many activities and events celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month across Ohio. We'll wrap up the month with Part III in the March 31 *Pipeline*.

A. ➡ [Ohio Public Images \(OPI\) Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon](#)

What: Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive awareness and understanding of people with developmental disabilities. Each year OPI honors individuals and groups, statewide, who have -- through various events and individual efforts -- shared positive images of the lives of people with developmental disabilities. This year's Awareness Awards Luncheon was March 15.

Where: In Dublin, Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities winter conference.

Briefly: See accompanying photos of self-advocacy awards ...



Self Advocacy Awardees take the spotlight ...

(Top) **Brady Sellet**, representing Hamilton County and Cincinnati Children's Hospital;
(Lower) **PersonnelPlus Advisory & Advocacy Council, and the DD Council Center on Public Policy** –
representing the Athens County Board of DD ... and self advocates around the state.

For More Info: Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org for more about this event, and for materials supporting this year's DD Awareness Month theme, "*Just Like You.*"

B. ➡ [Knox County DD Awareness Month Luncheon Hosted at MVDC](#)

What and Where: Nearly 120 people filled the Great Room at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness on March 4th.

Briefly: The event was co-sponsored by MVDC and the Knox County Board of DD. Attendees included local and state civic leaders, as well as representatives from schools and service providers, and individuals with disabilities and their families. Speakers included family members who shared the importance of services received from the County Board, as well as an individual who lives at MVDC who shared her experiences and plans for the future. Knox County

Commissioner Alan Stockberger presented a proclamation on behalf of the county recognizing DD Awareness Month, and MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer commented,

“The participation at this event clearly demonstrates that the people of Knox County are supportive of services to persons with developmental disabilities in this community. The comments we heard from families of people served by the County Board and by the individual served at MVDC reflect the positive impact those services have made on their lives.”



The MVDC Great Room comes by its name honestly ... and comfortably gathered the local community to enjoy food and fellowship, including a cake sweetly representing this year's DD Awareness Month Theme.

For More Information: Ernie Fischer, Superintendent, Mount Vernon Developmental Center (740) 393-6226; ernie.fischer@dodd.ohio.gov

C. ➡ Stark County – Awareness Signs and Songs

What: HandPrints Sign Choir, in combination with S.I.G.N. Ministry, offered a free public concert on March 13.

Where: Hosted by North Canton Church of Christ, an easily accessible location.

Briefly: HandPrints choir is comprised of 20 adults of varying abilities from throughout Stark County. Some are employed in the community, while others attend the County Board workshop or other private provider facilities. The choir practices their signing skills every week, and performs popular music using sign language. HandPrints was formed in 2008 and performs several times per year. S.I.G.N. Ministry is comprised of 30 individuals with varying abilities, and was formed in 2007. The combined concert was well-received by all.

For more information: HandPrints: Contact Roxanne Korte, (330) 704-0079. S.I.G.N. Ministry: Rebecca Cole, (330) 554-2698. General info: Lisa Parramore, (330)479-7871.

D. ➡ Richland County – Awareness Comes in All Colors

What: Richland Newhope celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by hosting its 17th Annual Richland County Third Grade Coloring Contest Awards Luncheon on March 5.

Where: Richland Newhope Industries.

Briefly: About 75 people attended the event, including Miss Ohio 2009 Erica Gelhaus, and Ms. Wheelchair Ohio 2009 Danielle Brown. All Richland County schools with third grade classes were invited to participate in the contest. Participants were asked to color a picture featuring two children in a classroom, one of whom uses a wheelchair. The picture contained the message,

“They like to be friends, at home and at school.”

Richland Newhope received 583 entries from 17 schools. One winner was selected from each school and the student, along with his or her parents, teacher, and principal, were invited to a pizza luncheon on March 5. The event also included disability awareness simulations.

Each contest winner received a certificate, and other memorabilia including a button designed by individuals served by Newhope. Teachers also received a resource guide about disabilities and how to incorporate lessons into classroom curriculum.



More than a coloring contest ...

Winners all, they learned that everyone needs and wants friends, at home and at school.

For more information: Jane Imbody, Richland Newhope, (419) 774-4215.

E. → Lawrence County –

What: *The Lawrence County Board of DD Balloon Launch* marks the beginning of DD Awareness month for the organization, and has been an ongoing event for more than 10 years. This year’s event was held on March 1.

Where: Open Door School (LCBDD) -- provides services for students, ages 6-21.

Briefly: Every student at Lawrence County Early Childhood Center, and at Open Door School received a helium balloon with a tag attached, including the student’s first name and school address. Each year the students release their balloons into the community and wait to see who

might find their balloon. Individuals who find the balloon tags are encouraged to send a letter to the school. The furthest place a “finder’s” letter has been mailed from was Halifax, VA, approximately 350 miles away from the school. According to Kendra Kelley, Principal at Open Door School (a part of the LCBDD), “When people write back, the children get such a kick out of it.”



A colorful community gathering where children of all ages love to see their balloons drift up into the sky.

For More Information: Tim Nunnery, Lawrence County Board of DD, (740) 532-7401.

Look for more about DD Awareness Month celebrations in the next *Pipeline* – March 31.



[PCI – The Positive Culture Initiative](#)

3. Southeast Ohio Explores ‘Gentle Teaching’

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each brings to those relationships. It is about making the shift (in thinking) away from power, control and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement. Read More...

The evolution of an individual’s ability to be comfortable with himself or herself is an outgrowth of how that person feels about two things, according to Dr. John McGee – “Does that person feel *safe*, and does that person feel *loved*?” He continues,

“Safe and loved. Safe and loved. Those are the keys to mending the heart and building trust. Only when those feelings are present will an individual trust you as a care provider, and only then can a person grow and change.”

The methodology McGee has developed, ‘Gentle Teaching,’ focuses on caregiving within the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) framework – and is an example of a positive approach to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or experiencing other issues.

And so, in Nelsonville, Ohio, last week, nearly 100 direct care and other support staff representing the Southeast Ohio region gathered at the Inn at Hocking College for two days of 'basic training' in the concept of Gentle Teaching. They left with several new tools in their toolboxes. They also learned to use existing tools in different ways, as McGee noted ...

"Your eyes, your hands, your words, your presence – they all can express to individuals that they are valued, they are cared for, and they are safe. You are likely one of many caregivers who has come and gone in their lives. Who knows what a person may have experienced before? But chances are good that you can reach them if they are feeling safe and loved. "

During discussion, it was clear that reaching out to someone who has been fearful of others for any of a variety of reasons takes courage on the part of both people involved – the caregiver and the recipient of the care. However, McGee's videos demonstrating the success of Gentle Teaching techniques -- over time, and with a variety of individuals in many different settings -- spoke volumes.

A major breakthrough, such as a smile where none had been seen before, was worth the 'stretch' ... the effort ... the consistent approach. As McGee so aptly stated,

"I call it a smile. You call it an 'outcome'. Either way, it's a great feeling."



Morgan County, Closed for the Day.

Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain (center, back row, pink shirt) and staff attended the Gentle Teaching training 'en masse'. According to Mary Ann, getting everyone possible to this training was a priority that warranted the organized in-service approach.



Gurus gather...

(L. to R.) John McGee, David Sincoff, and Mike Beaver take a break during lunch. While John is the foremost expert on Gentle Teaching, and literally wrote the book on the subject, David Sincoff and Mike Beaver, Athens County DD, have been long-time proponents of the Positive Culture concept, as well.

NOTE: John McGee is an internationally known speaker who works in many countries to promote the concepts of non-violence. As part of the Positive Culture Initiative, the DODD will continue to offer training on positive strategies utilizing a variety of methodologies and techniques, including Gentle Teaching with John McGee. These training opportunities will be provided in various locations throughout Ohio. Information on such trainings will be posted at https://dodd.state.ohio.gov/apps/internet/reg/ViewREG_Mainmod.asp.

For More Information: Pam Berry, DODD Policy Staff, pam.berry@dodd.ohio.gov; (614) 301-2992; visit <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm>



4. Empowered Group Purchasing – Purchasing with Purpose

The Arc of Ohio (The Arc) and Columbus-based Foundation For the Challenged (FFC) -- with the help of an organization named Pro Op -- have partnered to create *Empowered Group Purchasing*, a new entity that will help individuals, families, nonprofit groups, provider service organizations, government agencies, and others in the developmental disabilities community to realize significant savings on the cost of frequently-purchased goods and services.



Empowered Group Purchasing functions like a discount club without walls. Research and development for *Empowered Group Purchasing* was funded by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and included focus groups that identified the need for a 'group identity' that could lead to group purchasing power for the developmental disabilities community.

What, exactly, is it?

It's an opportunity to shop with clout – save money with a membership card – and purchase needed items at a lower price. Access to Empowered Group Purchasing is available with a membership in The Arc of Ohio, or any local Arc Chapter. Membership starts at \$25 for an individual. After completing an Arc membership application, an Empowered Group Purchasing membership information packet will be provided, explaining how to access vendor discounts.

Membership can be completed online at The Arc of Ohio's website www.TheArcofOhio.org or by calling (800) 875-2723, or a local Arc Chapter office.

According to Gary Tonks, executive director of The Arc of Ohio, "Knowing that people with developmental disabilities often experience economic challenges in meeting basic living expenses, and could be considerably empowered with improved purchasing capabilities, the concept of Empowered Group Purchasing was developed especially to meet this need -- and improve the purchasing environment for this significant consumer market. That's why we call purchasing through this kind of arrangement, 'purchasing with purpose.'

Fran K. Wesseling, Executive Director of the Foundation For the Challenged, notes,

"There are millions of people with disabilities who have buying power, and companies are just beginning to realize their potential as customers. Empowered Group Purchasing gives them a voice and financial leverage. The Group Purchasing network provides members discounts on items including food, medical supplies, insurance products, gasoline and more. It's really very exciting."

Discounts range from 10-60% off retail pricing, and it is estimated that a typical family could save more than \$1,000 annually, depending on frequency and type of purchase.

Wesseling adds, "Beyond the benefit of savings, users of Empowered Group Purchasing will illustrate the purchasing power and consumer value that people with developmental disabilities, their families and support community have -- evoking a new awareness. And, while members are saving, their purchases also will continue to grow advocacy and support programs."

Membership may be completed online at www.TheArcofOhio.org, or by calling (800) 875-2723.



5. OPRA to Introduce New Service Provider Directory

Looking for a Medicaid Waiver or ICFMR provider?

The Ohio Provider Resource Association's (OPRA) new Service Provider Directory will offer vital information for individuals with developmental disabilities, caregivers, and other support professionals, and will be available online at www.opra.org beginning the week of March 22.

Any provider (OPRA member, non-member, agency, or individual) can use the new online directory, and registration is free. Beginning the week of March 22, just click on the State of Ohio icon that you see at www.opra.org, to enter the new Service Directory Area.



This online guide will feature a comprehensive list of resources for individuals, families, and professionals searching for service providers in Ohio's developmental disabilities system. The one-stop tool will enable users to find providers that offer services in the following areas:

- Individual Options Waiver
- Level One Waiver
- Supported Living Services
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFMR)

In addition, the new Service Provider Directory will be helpful to individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members, service and support professionals, and others, in identifying providers of the following services:

- Homemaker Personal Care
- Transportation
- Supported Employment
- Adult Day Services
- Respite Care

According to OPRA staff, the new Service Provider Directory's interactive map of Ohio will include features to help users search for comprehensive listings of individual providers, County Boards, and private providers, and will be searchable by agency, county, city, or services. Providers that wish to be listed in OPRA's new Service Provider Directory, will need to create an account with OPRA online at www.opra.org.

For more information contact OPRA at (614) 224-6772, email opra@opra.org, or visit www.opra.org



6. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks Applicants for Membership, Sets Conference for May 26-27

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council consists of at least 28 members appointed by the Governor. Members are people with developmental disabilities; parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities; representatives from appropriate state agencies; and, nonprofit organizations and local agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities. All members are appointed by the Governor for three year terms.

Seeking Applicants for membership

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) is seeking applicants for membership

terms beginning in October of this year. Applications are due by June 10, 2010. Council membership must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act, and openings this year are:

- Two individuals with a developmental disability;
- One parent or guardian of children with a developmental disability.

All candidates for ODDC membership should:

- Have experience serving on committees, boards, or within organizations;
- Have first-hand knowledge of Ohio's developmental disabilities community;
- Have time to attend six meetings per year and serve on at least two committees.

Serving as a member of Council provides an opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with state and federal policymakers, state and local service providers, and individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The ODDC advocates to improve the system of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and conducts grant activities for the same purpose.

Governor Ted Strickland will appoint new members for three-year terms beginning October 1, 2010, and ending September 30, 2013. Application packets are available from the ODDC office, or download the application at www.ddc.ohio.gov. Applications must be completed and returned to the office by June 1, 2010, and may be requested by U.S. Mail at: ODDC, 8 East Long Street, Suite 1200, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, or by phone at: (614) 466-5205; toll-free (800) 766-7426. Email carla.sykes@dodd.ohio.gov.

If you are leaving a voice message, please spell your name, and provide your address including zip code, as well as your phone number.



Conference Set for May 26-27

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. Conference highlights will include keynote addresses by:

- Steve Gold, attorney and nationally-known Olmstead advocate, Philadelphia;
- Ann O'Hara, Director of TAC Housing Group, Boston;
- Jim Dickson, Vice President/Legislative Affairs, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Washington, DC

In addition, Governor Ted Strickland will present Ohio's 2010 Olmstead Plan, along with directors of appropriate state agencies, including the DODD. Workshops will focus on various subjects, including HOMEChoice, long-term care, waivers, housing, and more. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration also will be part of the conference program.

Thanks to the generosity of event sponsors, people with disabilities and family members (one per family) may attend at no charge. The free registration includes a hotel room for one night, travel, and attendant fees. *All participants will need to register -- no walk-ins.* Details and registration materials will be available soon.

**Sponsors: Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio Olmstead Task Force,
HomeCHOICE project of ODJFS
Co-sponsors: Ohio Legal Rights Service, CareSource, AARP**

Questions? Contact the AXIS Center at AXISCenter@aol.com



7. April is Autism Awareness Month – Rally Set for April 14th

The Autism Society of Ohio estimates that there are more than 58,000 individuals with autism in Ohio. At the sixth annual Autism Rally at the Ohio Statehouse on April 14, participants -- including individuals with autism, advocates, families, and state legislators -- will gather to support legislative action, and encourage the passage of House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available. In addition, the rally will provide a forum for information regarding other issues of interest relating to autism.

The rally will take place on the Statehouse South Lawn, 11 a.m. – noon, Wednesday, April 14.

Speakers will include members of the Ohio General Assembly, and various stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community, as well as self-advocates of all ages. Information tables staffed by representatives of various organizations providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including autism, also will be a part of the event.

Autism Awareness Legislative Reception

During the evening of April 14th there will be an Autism Awareness Legislative Reception from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium. Legislators have been invited to meet with constituents from their districts to learn more about autism and autism supports and services in their area. Department Directors, members of the Interagency Workgroup on Autism and representatives of the Governor's Office also have been invited.

For more information, contact: Barbara Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, (614) 537-4079; askASO@autismohio.org; www.autismohio.org



8. Pipeline PostScripts – Timely News Briefs & Notes

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

1. Arc of Ohio to Host Legislative Event

The Arc of Ohio has named its 2010 Legislators of the Year, advocating for the rights of citizens with developmental disabilities, and this year honoring Senator John Carey, Senator Dale Miller, and Representative Brian G. Williams. This legislative event, celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and honoring members of the 128th Ohio General Assembly will be hosted at:

The Hyatt on Capitol Square
75 East State Street
Columbus, OH 43215
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
R.S.V.P.: The Arc of Ohio
arcoho@trohio.com or (614) 487-4720

2. Disability Housing Network to Discuss Model Housing Plans and More

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Spring Conference, March 24, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will provide an opportunity to analyze specific housing plans and identify common themes, and present findings that can be shared and possibly replicated elsewhere.

The DHN Spring Conference is also the 'housing track' on the morning of the second day of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) two-day conference. Descriptions for the housing track sessions are at <http://www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>. Registration is available on the OPRA website, at <http://www.opra.org/>.

DHN Executive Director, Steve Farrell, notes, "Attendees are invited to submit legal questions on topics faced by housing corporations for consideration by the presenter at next week's session. *Questions should be submitted to steve.farrell@disabilityhousingnetwork.org by March 19.*

Disability Housing Network (DHN) was established to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities by member nonprofit housing development corporations.

3. Census Information Important to Disability Community

Data from the U. S. Census, which is conducted every ten years, is used to draw boundaries for congressional districts, and to determine how to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds to states and local communities. The 2010 Census Questionnaire is being mailed this month to all U.S. households. The form contains only ten questions. To gather necessary information, census workers will visit households that do not return the forms.

Please support this important statewide and nationwide effort by completing and returning your Census Questionnaire promptly. For more information, visit www.census.gov .

4. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>*

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Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 6

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1. Comprehensive Health Care Reform – News of Interest for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities



“ ... I don’t believe the American people are going to put the insurance industry back in the driver’s seat. We’ve been there already and we’re not going back.

This country is ready to move forward. ”

– President Barack Obama

Ohio’s developmental disabilities community has been actively engaged in advocacy at the federal level during the approach to enactment of historic health care reform – and has followed the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee in that effort. Indeed, along with the DODD, a large number of national, state, and local organizations in the developmental disabilities community have worked together to assure that the enactment of meaningful and comprehensive national health care reform included provisions that would positively impact peoples’ lives. Through collaboration, responsibilities have been divided up among organizations so that legislation is carefully reviewed in its entirety, from various perspectives.

Health Care Reform Background

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has released its cost estimate for the bill, stating that the reconciliation bill is projected to cut the deficit by \$138 billion in the first ten years (2010 - 2019), and would extend coverage to 32 million additional people. For this and other reasons, the bill is supported by a broad cross-section of organizations and interests.

In an article noted at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/immediate-benefits>, key provisions of the health care reform that take effect immediately are briefly cited, providing an excellent summary in simplified terms. Also useful as background is an article titled *Support for Caregivers in Health Care Reform*, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/29/support-caregivers-health-care-reform> which speaks specifically to these issues within the direct care community, and the developmental disabilities community, nationwide.

For example, according to Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio,

“The Arc has supported health care reform. A number of our members in Ohio, however, remain somewhat fearful as to what it will mean to them and to their family members. We look forward to more specifics on how it will affect each of us in the coming years.”

Commenting on the Health Care Reform process and package, DODD Director John Martin, observes,

“Our stakeholders have been very actively engaged in the process of putting together the health care reform package. Their focus has been on the provisions that will assist people with developmental disabilities and their families. For example, in improving access and quality of care for older adults and people with disabilities, this legislation includes a proposal to fill the Medicare ‘donut hole’ and end drug co-pays for people who are on both Medicaid and Medicare – this kind of discount drug program for people on Medicare will help more people have access to needed medications.

He continues, “In addition, new provisions will allow more people choices regarding whether they live in an institution or receive services while living in their own home. The package also includes additional funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers to help more people learn about programs and services that are available to them. In all this historic legislation should open doors to several options that will benefit individuals within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.”

In reviewing specific elements of the Health Care Reform legislation, Barb Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, has this to say:

“The Autism Society is pleased that Congress has taken a step in the right direction by passing a health care bill that includes coverage of ‘behavioral health treatments,’ such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, and prohibiting insurers from excluding coverage based on pre-existing conditions – but there is additional work to be done to ensure that families affected by autism have access to appropriate services and supports. The Autism Society will continue to advocate on their behalf.”

And, on March 22, Governor Ted Strickland issued the following statement regarding the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of historic health care reform:

“ ... No longer will insurance companies decide who gets quality health care in this country and who does not. Children with pre-existing conditions will immediately be protected from being denied health care ... I applaud Congress for standing up for Ohioans' right to affordable, quality health care. And I admire President Obama for his leadership in achieving comprehensive health care reform.”

Governor Strickland also stated,

“I support the federal health insurance reform plan because there are approximately 1.3 million uninsured Ohioans today. We estimate this bill will result in approximately 900,000 Ohioans – who don't have insurance today – having health insurance by 2019. In addition, it will make private health insurance more affordable and accessible, it improves health care access and quality for older adults and people with disabilities, and it provides people who are living in poverty access to health insurance. This legislation also will allow people to have improved access to mental health and alcohol and drug addiction services.”

Looking Ahead

The long-term anticipated and likely impacts of this landmark Health Care Reform legislation on individuals with disabilities and their families is currently, and will continue to be, a topic of great interest and speculation within Ohio and throughout the nation. The DODD appreciates the many points of view our stakeholders already have shared, and are hopeful that, through these shared ideas, progress can continue to be made.

Specific information regarding the Health Care Reform Legislation is under the heading 'Health Care Reform' on the homepage at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthCareReformInformation.htm> . Information contained there includes an [interactive graphic](#) prepared by *The New York Times* that explains how different segments of the population will be affected by the health care overhaul.

Some of the information contained in this article has been provided by: Governor Ted Strickland's Office; The Arc of the U.S.; and, as excerpted from various state and national publications.

Additional information: Benefits on Health care reform by Congressional district:

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1924:benefits-of-health-care-reform-district-by-district-impact&catid=169:legislation&Itemid=55



2. DD Awareness Activities Across Ohio, Part III – Wrap Up

The March issues of *Pipeline* archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>, share samplings of the many activities and events celebrating March, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, across Ohio. In this issue, Part III wraps up this series. *Congratulations to all for so many successful ideas and events this year!*

A. ➔ Lake County – Special People, Individual Needs Inc. Earns ‘Make a Difference Day Outstanding Project Award’

What and Where: *Special People, Individual Needs Inc. was among the top ten recipients of the ‘Make a Difference Day’ (Ohio) Outstanding Project Award. Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland and former First Lady Hope Taft honored outstanding Make a Difference Day projects at the annual Awards Ceremony in Columbus, on March 16 at the Hyatt Regency.*

Briefly: Out of 1,100 agency and group participants, Special People, Individual Needs Inc. was among the top ten to receive the Make a Difference Day Outstanding Project Award. A small nonprofit organization in Lake County working with special needs young adults, the organization’s participants were thrilled to receive the award for their *Sharing Gift Baskets & Smiles* project. Connie Janes-Lewis, Director, explained,

“Our special needs young adults shopped for, assembled, and donated Halloween gift baskets to special needs children at Broadmoor School and Deepwood Children’s Residence Center, and donated Fall gift baskets to Seniors at Mentor Way Nursing Home.”

She adds, “How appropriate, too, that we should receive this award in March, *Developmental Disability Awareness Month* in Ohio! I encourage anyone out there with a business to seriously consider employing a special needs young person. Don’t stereotype them ... and don’t forget them when you are looking for volunteers. They represent the epitome of volunteerism – selflessness and smiles.”

The honored award nominees underwent a review process including screening by the Make A Difference Day statewide steering committee and judging panel. Awardees were selected based on impact and innovation.

Janes-Lewis notes, “We are extremely proud of our young people. They have decided to continue this project, and are currently assembling Easter gift baskets to be donated.”



‘Tis Better to Give Than to Receive ... But Both Are Very Rewarding!
Volunteers honored by *Make A Difference Day (Ohio)* from *Special People, Individual Needs Inc.* in Lake County, shown here with gift basket recipients.

For more info: Connie Lewis, Special People, Individual Needs, Inc. (440) 289-0227.

B. ➡ Lucas County – Sunshine Inc. Visits Toledo Museum of Art

What: *Toledo Museum of Art, community inclusion activities, and Sunshine Inc., Maumee, which offers residential supports, day programs, family resources, respite care, and more.*

Where: Toledo Museum of Art.

Briefly: In early March, a group of artists from Sunshine Inc. were invited to the Toledo Museum of Art to participate in a unique community bead-making project. The Museum is working to collect 10,000 beads that will be a part of a large display scheduled to open this November. At the Museum, the artists created clay beads and painted them. They also were allowed to take one bead home for every bead that they contributed to the project. In the end, the group made many unique and beautiful beads, which they are very much looking forward to seeing as a part of the total display. After bead-making, the group toured the Museum, which was greatly enjoyed. The next day, a representative from the Museum came to Sunshine to work with a second group of artists who painted wooden beads for the same project.



(L. to R.) **Jeremy and Bob** are intent on their work and greatly enjoyed the opportunity for artistic expression, as well as the tour of the Toledo Art Museum.

For More Info: At Sunshine Inc., contact Amy Bennett, ABennett@sunshine.org, or Deb Rasmussen at DRasmusson@sunshine.org.

C. ➡ Union County – Boy to Gain Service Dog, Greater Independence

What: *Boy served by Union County Board of DD receives ‘Canine Assistants’ Service Dog.*

Where: Dublin, and Marysville, Ohio.

Briefly: William Ma, age 10, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, has recently learned that he is going to be the recipient of a Canine Assistants service dog. William, a Dublin resident who receives services through the Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities (UCBDD), attended a ceremony at the Dublin Giant Eagle, along with his family. His mother stated,

“Not only is William receiving a service dog and the much needed support from UCBDD, but with the dog we know he will have a new friend.”

A trainer for Canine Assistants noted that William's service dog will be given to him at a Canine Assistants training camp that he will attend this summer, and will be selected and trained to meet his specific needs – providing him greater independence, including help in case of emergency. Training of one of these special dogs takes 18 to 24 months and costs more than \$20,000.



Canine Assistants Dog to be William's New Family Member.

(L to R) Jason Rish, Giant Eagle store manager; Steve Ma, William's father; William; Anita Zhang, William's mother; EreK Bylinowski of Milk-Bone Co.; Karen Casto of Canine Assistants, and Ash, a one-year old retriever. Canine Assistants is a national charitable organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities, at no cost to the recipient. The organization operates on individual and corporate donations, such as Milk-Bone® brand, which partnered this year with Giant Eagle. The sponsorship pays for in-depth training, ongoing support, and veterinary care for Canine Assistants service dogs.

For More Info: Carol Scheiderer, (937) 645.6702, cscheiderer@ucbdd.org; or www.ucbdd.org .

D. ➡ [Licking County DD Hosts Annual Event](#)

What: *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Licking County* -- an event with a 15+ year history -- grows and changes each year to effectively tell the story in their community that, "People with disabilities are people with possibilities."

Where: Venues throughout Licking County, including Eleanor S. Weiant Center, in Newark.

Briefly: This year, the annual event again featured excellent community participation, as 33 community leaders participated in hands-on activities at locations throughout the county, working and learning side-by-side with individuals served by the LCBDD. The day's event culminates in a luncheon. Among the participants there this year was the Wollenberg family, who formed 'Team Up' a baseball team that teams children with and without disabilities in a unique player-partnership, and was recently honored, along with SportsTime Ohio, by Ohio Public Images, for enriching the lives of young people with developmental disabilities.



You don't have to know these people to relate to the constant motion of energetic youth!
Licking County's 'Team Up!' family photo demonstrates real life for this award-winning group.

For More Info: Contact for event information: Heather.Odendahl@lcountydd.org .

Contact for more information about this year's Ohio Public Images 'Awareness Award' winners:
www.publicimagesnetwork.org .

E. ➔ [Defiance County DD Hospital Volunteers Foster Greater Awareness](#)

What and Where: Mercy Hospital, Defiance, Ohio

Briefly: Mercy Hospital of Defiance hosts five individuals from the Good Samaritan Senior Retirement Program, who volunteer their services for several hours each week. They are Rachel Sontchi, David Donley, Juanita Caryer, Dennis Kauffman and Gary Knipp. The director of hospital volunteers notes, "There is a great relationship between the hospital and Good Sam. The volunteers get to see people they know, and they are so helpful and cheerful to the customers at the gift shop." Donley, Caryer, Kauffman, and Knipp work at the gift shop, while Sontchi works in another department sorting and placing health-related pamphlets in folders provided to hospital patients. Chris Palmer, director of the Senior Retirement Program at Good Sam, comments,

"These volunteers are very dependable and have strong work skills. We train them, and they come here with good work skills from previous employment. For example, David worked for 25 years at McDonald's and Dennis was employed by the YMCA."

Palmer described how the Good Sam senior volunteer program started at the hospital. "I was at the clinic and happened to see the gift shop with its many customers and thought, 'We could do this!' I discussed it with the seniors and they said they'd like to volunteer for the hospital. I think it's a natural partnership between the hospital and Good Sam." The program started in October 2009, and has proven once again that, 'People with disabilities are people with possibilities.'

For More Info: Chris Palmer at def_mrdd_cp@nwoca.org

F. ➡ [Cuyahoga County – Just-A-Buck Promotes ‘Just Like You’](#)

What: The annual Cleveland St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Where: The streets of Cleveland.

Briefly: A contingent representing the Cuyahoga County Board of DD marched in the annual Cleveland St. Patrick’s Day parade – including *Bucky* (far left), the store mascot for *Just-A-Buck* – a retail employment and training opportunity for many individuals served by the CCBDD -- as well as a bus carrying individuals of all ages, served by the organization. The bus also served as a mobility option in the event of inclement weather, and to provide a break for individuals who might need a rest from the long parade walking-route. Staff from *Just-A-Buck* carried the 2010 statewide DD Awareness Month message that people with developmental disabilities are ‘*Just Like You*’ – and literally ‘took it to the streets!’



- Taking It to the Streets -

Staff from *Just-A-Buck*, and others, carried the 2010 statewide DD Awareness Month message that people with developmental disabilities are ‘*Just Like You*.’

More about DD Awareness Month in *Pipeline Quarterly* Winter '09-'10 issue, publishing in early April.



Part VII in a Series

3. Priority Work – Energizing Local Participation of Individuals and Families in System Stewardship

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their

families. Here is the seventh installment in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.



Family Chat Encourages Information-Sharing and Networking.
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm>

A Step in the Overall Direction

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress,’ lead by DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and families statewide – in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Several steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, in addition to the Department’s ongoing Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings that, for several years, have drawn attendees from across the state (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>).

For example, according to Peggy, “As a result of the 2008 Futures recommendations and the ‘Empowering People’ implementation team, we have created a ‘discussion listserv’ to encourage communication among families in supporting other families. You can find out more information regarding this discussion listserv, named ‘Family Chat’ -- including instructions to join – by visiting our website at www.dodd.ohio.gov under the ‘For Families’ section on our homepage.” She adds,

“We have more and more people beginning to participate in Family Chat, and we are excited about this additional, new way to communicate. Thanks to County Board Service and Support Administration (SSA) Directors and through regional meetings with families, membership in this participating group is continuing to grow.”

Beyond this newly-implemented approach, another specific element within the Priority Work Area is the establishment and development of localized and/or regional Advisory Councils around the state -- comprised of individuals and families who receive services -- to be operational in 2011. To assist in this effort, Peggy Martin has been meeting with groups of people to gauge their interest and engage their collective energy, as well as assist them in the process of developing a local or regional Council. She notes,

“If you are interested in participating in an Advisory Council at the local or regional level – as a family member or self-advocate, and want to explore this idea in your area, please email me at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. I will be sure to get back with you.”

Also as a part of the efforts to build a stronger grassroots-level family foundation, the DODD will continue to reach out to various advocacy organizations in helping to support the plans for local participation, and coordinate these efforts. Nurturing these kinds of opportunities should foster a stronger network of informed self advocates and families across the state, as well as provide more options for information-sharing without time-consuming travel.

The expected outcomes from *energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas also is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

For more information contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.



4. Ron Kozlowski Honored at OPRA Conference

The Arc of Ohio presented its highest honor, the *Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award*, to Ron Kozlowski, recently-retired Executive Director of Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference last week. The award is named for a former Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, and honors either volunteers or professionals who have provided a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

After 24 years at the helm, Kozlowski retired from APSI at the end of January 2010. It was noted that through his leadership, APSI increased the number of individuals receiving the organization's services from approximately 2900 in 1983 to, now, nearly 4750 – and established APSI as an independent, respected partner in the disability community.

In an earlier interview, Kozlowski described his years at APSI as,

“A wonderful experience! I sincerely thank the APSI Board and staff, and the many professionals I have worked with – as well as people with disabilities whom we serve – for this great opportunity.”

Presenting the award were Judy Murray, Arc of Ohio President, and John Hannah, Vice President. Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, Gary Tonks, expressed appreciation to OPRA board and staff for graciously providing an opportunity for this special award presentation at their conference.



Kozlowski Honored

Presenting the Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award to Ron Kozlowski (right) were Judy Murray, Arc of Ohio President, and John Hannah, Vice President.



Reminder: April is Autism Awareness Month

5. Rally, Reception Slated for April 14 at Ohio Statehouse

During the month of April, Autism Awareness Month, look for a variety of information on the subject in Pipeline, and on the DODD website at dodd.ohio.gov.

At the sixth annual Autism Rally at the Ohio Statehouse on April 14, individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators will gather to support legislative action and encourage passage of House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available. The rally also will provide a forum for information on other issues of interest relating to autism.

The rally will take place on the Statehouse South Lawn, 11 a.m. – noon, Wednesday, April 14.

Speakers will include members of the Ohio General Assembly and various stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community, including DODD Director John L. Martin, as well as many self-advocates of all ages. Information tables representing organizations providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including autism, also will be a part of the rally event.

Autism Awareness Legislative Reception

An Autism Awareness Legislative Reception will be hosted on the same day, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium. Legislators have been invited to meet with constituents from their districts to learn more about autism and autism supports and services in their area. Department Directors, members of the Interagency Workgroup on Autism, and representatives of the Governor's Office also have been invited.

For more information about autism visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov. CDC now estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the U.S have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and is working to discover the risk factors, and raise awareness of the signs to look for in identifying ASDs.

For more information regarding the rally, contact: Barbara Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, (614) 537-4079; askASO@autismohio.org; www.autismohio.org

For more information about the legislative reception: Doug Krinsky at YOG1125@aol.com



[Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#)

6. Rehabilitation Services Commission Launches VRP3 – Enhanced Former ‘Pathways’ Program

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission has posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for VRP3 (formerly ‘Pathways’) programs. The new acronym stands for Vocational Rehabilitation Public and Private Partnerships, and represents a similar concept as the former Pathways, with a focus on collaboration between public and private entities to assist Ohioans with significant disabilities to gain self-sufficiency, independence, and ultimately -- employment opportunities.

RSC is accepting proposals to fund projects that enhance and expand the capacity of the state vocational rehabilitation program, that will help to establish new patterns of targeted services.



Information regarding the program and related RFP at
http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/Funding_Grants/default.aspx



7. 2010 Census and the Disability Community

Census information influences the distribution of more than \$400 billion each year in federal funds for programs in education, health care, community services, and economic development, among other areas.

In fiscal year 2007, the federal government used census information to guide the distribution of approximately \$15 billion in services specifically to people with disabilities.*

The 2010 Census Questionnaire was mailed this month to all U.S. households, and the form contains only ten questions. To gather necessary information, census workers will visit households that do not return the forms.

According to the National Council on Disability, nearly one-third of households in America had at least one member with a disability. This statistic does not include an additional 2.1 million in nursing homes and group homes. In addition to government funding for general federal health care and education programs, the census influences a number of programs that directly serve individuals with disabilities.

Organizations that serve and advocate for people with disabilities can make a difference in accuracy of reporting by helping individuals who may need assistance in completing the census form. Help on filling out the forms also is available toll-free at (866) 872-6868 and TDD (866) 783-2010. Forms also are available in Braille.

Support this important statewide and nationwide effort by completing and returning your Census Questionnaire promptly. For more information, visit www.census.gov .

**Acknowledgments to the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.*



8. Pipeline PostScripts – Timely News Briefs & Notes

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

A. Special Education Law and Advocacy Training

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) is hosting a WrightsLaw presentation, Special Education Law and Advocacy Training with Pete Wright on April 8, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Center, 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell, Ohio.

DSACO is hosting the presentation in collaboration with the Autism Society of Central Ohio, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and the Ohio DD Council. This one-day, 6-hour training focuses on four areas:

- Special education law, rights and responsibilities;
- Tests and measurements to gauge progress & regression;
- SMART IEPs; and,
- Introduction to tactics & strategies for effective advocacy.

Online registration is available at www.dsaco.net. Registration deadline is April 2, 2010.

For more information: Marge Barnheiser, Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, (614) 263.6020 ext. 202

B. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council News

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) consists of at least 28 members appointed by the Governor. Members are people with developmental disabilities; parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities; representatives from appropriate state agencies; and, nonprofit organizations and local agencies providing services to people with developmental disabilities. All members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. The ODDC advocates to improve the system of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and conducts grant activities for the same purpose.

Seeking Applicants for Membership

ODDC is seeking applicants for membership terms beginning in October of this year. *Applications are due by June 1, 2010.* Council membership must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act, and openings this year are for two individuals with a developmental disability, and one parent or guardian of children with a developmental disability.

Serving as a member of Council provides an opportunity to work in a collaborative manner with state and federal policymakers, state and local service providers, and individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Application packets are available from the ODDC office, or download the application at www.ddc.ohio.gov. Applications must be completed and returned to the office by June 1, 2010, and may be requested by U.S. Mail at: ODDC, 8 E. Long St., Suite 1200, Columbus, OH, 43215, or by phone at: (614) 466-5205; toll-free (800) 766-7426. Email: carla.sykes@dodd.ohio.gov.

Conference Set for May 26-27

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. More information on this conference will be available at www.ddc.ohio.gov as the event draws nearer.

C. The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point

The Arc of Ohio *Day at Cedar Point* will be Wednesday, May 26. A brochure describing the day's event may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thearcofohio.org/sites/default/files/Cedar%20Point%20Brochure%202010.doc>

Requests for tickets must be submitted either by FAX or by regular mail by 5 p.m. April 5, using the request form at the above link. A limited number of discount tickets will be available for purchase through The Arc of Ohio, at Cedar Point, before noon on May 26th. *More than 6000 friends of The Arc of Ohio typically attend this event each year!*

D. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board

may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 8

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1. Today's Autism Rally Energizes Participants

During the month of April, Autism Awareness Month, look for a variety of information on the subject in Pipeline, and on the DODD website at dodd.ohio.gov.

At today's sixth annual Autism Rally on the south lawn of the Ohio Statehouse, individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators gathered to encourage the support of Ohio's autism community. The rally also provided a forum for information on other issues of interest relating to autism, including:

- House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available;
- Senate Bill 220, requesting that the Ohio Revised Code be amended to include allowing individuals with autism the authority to use assistance dogs in public places, as needed;
- Other issues assuring availability of quality services, throughout the state.

Several members of the General Assembly attended and spoke at the rally, which attracted well over 200 individuals, families, and groups in support of Ohio's autism community. In addition, organizers of the event, including spokesperson for *Autism Speaks*, Doug Krinsky, included several individuals of all ages as presenters on the program agenda, who spoke to the gathering of their experiences. Rally attendees heard:

“This is so very important that you all are here showing your willingness and your gusto – to support issues that affect the autism community. I am proud to note that long before autism was diagnosed in two of my own family members, I joined Representatives Jon Peterson and Kevin Bacon in supporting legislation such as House Bill 8.”

– Senator Tom Patton

“Person by person, and senator by senator, that’s how we pass good legislation. You have to tell your personal stories.”

– Representative Nancy Garland



Senator Tom Patton



Representative Nancy Garland



Family Advocate Mindy Poist (left) and Oakstone Academy students share their experiences.

“ABA – Applied Behavioral Analysis – the application of those principles of learning and teaching – that’s what helped my son, Jeff. He began to change and grow right before our very eyes. He began to love learning, and came out of that foggy world he was in. But the high cost of ABA is staggering ... we spent countless tens of thousands of dollars over the years to help our son. Families need to be able to afford to care for their children with autism, and help *all children* to reach their potential. – Family Advocate Mindy Poist

DODD Director John Martin spoke to the group of ways the Department is exploring to assist families, given the current lean economic environment. He noted, “We are exploring the development of a specific waiver to assist families in accessing the resources needed to help their family members who are diagnosed with autism. Throughout Ohio, and especially in rural areas of the state, families need to know where they can go, and who they can go to for appropriate assistance.” He continued,

“What I have seen and heard here today illustrates so clearly that people who are on the Autism Spectrum have such incredible gifts ... and they need to be able to cultivate and share those incredible gifts with their families and their communities. We need and want to be able to help them do this, and it is to this end we are working with our stakeholders, and hope to make a difference in the lives of families such as yours.”

– DODD Director John Martin



A large and diverse group of individuals and families from across the state gathered on the South Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse in support of autism issues, and in recognition of the progress to-date on the subject.



Autism Awareness Legislative Reception

An Autism Awareness Legislative Reception will be hosted this evening, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium. Legislators have been invited to meet with constituents from their districts to learn more about autism supports and services in their area. Department Directors, members of the Interagency Workgroup on Autism, and representatives of the Governor's Office also have been invited.

For more information about autism visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov. CDC now estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the U.S have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and is working to discover the risk factors, and raise awareness of the signs to look for in identifying ASDs.

For more information regarding the rally, contact: Barbara Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio, (614) 537-4079; askASO@autismohio.org; www.autismohio.org

*For more information about the legislative reception: Doug Krinsky at YOG1125@aol.com
<http://www.autismspeaks.org/>*



2. Governor Strickland Announces Elimination of PASSPORT and Other Home and Community-Based Service Waitlists

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has announced that the waitlists for home and community-based services funded through the Department of Aging, including PASSPORT, Assisted Living, Choices, and PACE, have been eliminated. He stated,

“Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services. I appreciate the collaboration and hard work of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Doug Lumpkin, and Ohio Department of Aging Director Barbara Riley. Due to their efforts, Ohio senior citizens who prefer to remain in home or community care settings are no longer relegated to waitlists.”

The announcement was made on April 1, and followed the Governor’s request on February 22, calling for the transfer of resources from ODJFS to the Department of Aging to pay for the elimination of the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and PACE program waiting lists. In February, 592 Ohioans were on waitlists – and now, those waitlists are clear.



[Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

3. Public Celebration, Lecture, and Reception - OSU Campus

The Tenth Annual [Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability](#) Conference is slated for April 27, and includes a free public lecture and student poster reception in the ballroom of the Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St., on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University.

The conference continues a decade of community exploration of disability as an individual experience that cuts across typical divisions of education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; race, gender and ethnicity. This year's 32 [concurrent sessions](#), and the [preconference](#) updates on enforcement and rule-making under the recent amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), celebrate the conference's tenth anniversary and the twentieth anniversary of the ADA with the theme "Future History".

[The ten and twenty year milestones provide an opportunity to step back and reflect on how our conceptions of access, inclusion, and disability have broadened our understanding of social justice, diversity, and excellence.](#)

The day of celebration includes the following scheduled events:

- [2:30 – Proclamation Signing](#) hosted by The Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator, Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, and ADA-OHIO. The signing will recognize the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide an opportunity for organizations to affirm their commitment to the spirit of the ADA along with The Ohio State University, City of Columbus, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Columbus State Community College, and others.
- [3:00 –The Ken Campbell Lecture on Disability Policy](#) "Leveraging The Twentieth Anniversary of the ADA to Transform Public Policy" delivered by Andrew Imparato, President of the American Association of People with Disabilities.
- [4:30 to 6:00 – Poster Reception](#) highlighting student work on the subject of disability.

For more information: ADA-OSU@OSU.EDU ; (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty)



4. Nine Ohio County Boards on May 4 Ballot

Looking at the map of Ohio, it appears that the nine County Boards of Developmental Disabilities that have levies on the ballot this May 4 are fairly evenly distributed across the state, except for the southeast, which is not represented this time around. Each of the nine counties has its own community and economic challenges that will affect the results, and that make operating a successful levy campaign a year-around effort needed to 'tell the story, tell it well, and tell it often.' Good luck to all who will be on the ballot next month:

- Clermont County, 0.9 mill, replacement
- Fayette County, 2 mills, renewal
- Hancock County, 1.9 mills, renewal

- Holmes County, 2.5 mills, renewal
- Lake County, 3.4 mills, replacement
- Madison County, 1.3 mills, renewal
- Medina County, 1.12 mills, replacement & .5 mill increase
- Morrow County, 1 mill, additional
- Paulding, 1 mill, renewal

For more information about these ballot issues and other information regarding the May 4 primary election, visit the Ohio Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us .



Health & Safety

5. Health and Well-Being Tops the List of Alerts, Concerns

DODD Health & Safety Alert #51-03-10 was re-issued last month to underscore the importance of several health care ‘basics.’

For several years, the DODD has electronically distributed Health & Safety Alerts via targeted email distribution lists, as well as by posting the information on our website under *Health & Safety* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm>. These Alerts have been generated to provide information to the field on risks and outcomes associated with Major Unusual Incidents (MUI’s). Occasionally, an Alert is updated / revised, and receives repeat distribution. These Alerts have been identified as a priority and will be shared as needed to assure that the issues remain at the forefront of service delivery. New Alerts are generated when a specific pattern or trend is identified, or a specific risk factor comes to light through an MUI investigation and review.

According to Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Registry Unit, such was the case with Alert #51-03-10 which was re-issued last month. He explains,

“Our ‘Statewide Pattern & Trend’ Committee reviews this kind of information, as required via Rule # 5123:2-17-02, which established the requirements for managing incidents adversely affecting health or safety. The Committee’s focus is to implement a continuous quality improvement process to help prevent or reduce the risk of harm to individuals.”

In an ongoing effort to focus on *practical and useful* information that can be *readily accessed and followed in the field by direct care professionals across the state*, the Department takes very seriously the recommendations of the Patterns and Trends Committee, which is comprised of representatives of statewide and local groups including: Advocacy and Protective Services Inc.

(APSI); the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) and the related Superintendents' Association; Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS); The Arc; the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS); and others, including the DODD.

Phillips explains the group's focus:

“For example, we look at Statewide MUI data to identify patterns and trends, and recommend interventions to help prevent future occurrences. We have a tremendous committee of experts who give their time and talents to help protect the health and welfare of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The creation and distribution of Health & Safety Alerts allows risk assessment information to be effectively and efficiently shared with the field.”

What follows is a summary of the *Health and Safety is Priority One Alert*, which may be found in complete form at [#51-03-10](#). *Pipeline* will feature more about the work of the MUI Registry Unit, and the over-arching umbrella of *Health & Safety*, in future issues.

#51-03-10: The Purpose

The purpose of this Alert is to remind all service providers of their responsibility to assure the immediate health and welfare of individuals served. The MUI Unit recently has identified a trend related to the delay in provision of health care services. In the instances identified, family members had asked to be contacted prior to obtaining medical treatment for an individual. In some cases, the delay in contacting family has caused grave outcomes for the individuals served. While providers must be respectful of the wishes of family members, providers also must assure that appropriate medical care and treatment is given to individuals in a timely manner.

What does this mean?

If individuals are exhibiting signs and/or symptoms of a serious medical condition, a phone call to 911 must be made immediately. Family contacts, management calls, and other notifications should be made *after* an assurance that the health and welfare of the individual has been addressed.

Discussion should occur annually at an individual's Individual Service Plan (ISP) meeting regarding emergency medical treatments. In many cases, families and guardians sign *emergency medical consent* forms to assure that immediate medical attention is provided, as needed. These forms may contain the name of the preferred hospital and physician.

Generally speaking, County Boards and other providers should not agree to delay calling 911 until the guardian or family is first notified. If a guardian or family has special concerns regarding medical care, these should be addressed at the ISP meeting and noted in the ISP itself.

The fact that a family member/guardian has asked to be contacted does not relinquish the provider's responsibility to *assure the health and well being of the individual*. Any unnecessary delays in medical treatment can have tremendous negative outcomes up to and including the death of an individual. See [#51-03-10](#) for the remainder of this Health & Safety Alert.

For additional information contact scott.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov.



6. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Relocates Office

March 24 was moving day for the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Office ('DD Council'), formerly located on Long Street in Columbus, and now several blocks to the East at:

**Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
899 E. Broad Street
Suite 203
Columbus, OH 43205**



DD Council Staff (l. to r.) Carla Sykes, Tammy Waller, and Fatica Ayres welcome visitors to their new location.

Staff report that the move went smoothly, and remind *Pipeline* readers that all DD Council staff phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. Please direct all future U.S. Mail correspondence to the new address.

Questions? Contact Tammy Waller or Carla Sykes at (614) 466-5208 or (614) 644-5538.



Training Opportunity & New Initiative

7. Supported Employment, Proven Techniques for Success

Funded through a 2010 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), 'Supported Employment – Proven Techniques for Success' training will be offered three times this year to individuals providing employment services to job seekers with

disabilities, including those with significant disabilities. The trainings will be offered via national trainers, Wilson Resources Inc. (WRI), on April 26-28; May 4-6; and, September 8-10.

Locations and other details are at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/training/> and the registration deadline for the April session is **April 19. There is no charge for the training.**

Leslie Paull, DODD Manager of Economic and Employment Development, notes, “The MIG-funded training provides another opportunity to improve employment outcomes for Ohioans with disabilities. We continue to look for ways to share information with this goal in mind.”

The following topics will be explored:

- Why is Work So Important? Funding Sources, Including the SSA New *Ticket to Work*;
- Career Planning: Exploration, Employment Profiles, Profile Meetings;
- A Network of Friends Building a Career – Roles;
- Marketing and Customer Service – Successfully Working with Employers;
- Interviewing, Assistive Technology, and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Natural Supports, Inclusion, Creative Accommodations, and Training at the Workplace.

Completion of a take-home test must be submitted to the trainer in order to receive a certificate of completion. Eligible to attend are employment service providers, Rehabilitation Services Commission/ vocational rehabilitation counselors and other staff; state agency staff; and others who wish to learn more about helping job-seekers with disabilities become gainfully employed.

Related New Initiative, *Employment First*

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ 2008 Futures Committee recommendations included ‘increasing meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities’ as a priority. The *Employment First Initiative* is aligned with this priority and will offer six interested service providers -- County Boards and/or private providers -- an opportunity to work with national consultants in identifying and assisting individuals who are interested in transitioning to community employment.

Agencies providing services to individuals with disabilities in sheltered work settings, whose leaders agree to specified criteria and commit to transitioning a minimum of five people from their sheltered programs to community jobs, are eligible to participate. Complete application information is at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/training/>, and deadline for application is **April 19, 2010.**

Three days of training will be offered at the six selected agencies’ locations, and participants will receive a certificate of completion and CEUs from the DODD.

For training information and registration information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/training/>; lesliew@wilres.com; Wilson Resources Inc., (941) 729-9673.



8. Private Duty Nursing Authorizations Going Paperless

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has announced that case managers and providers now have the ability to submit requests for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) authorizations electronically. The capability to submit electronic communications became effective March 1, 2010, and the address for submission is PDN_BCSP@jfs.ohio.gov .

According to ODJFS' Bureau of Long-Term Care Services and Supports, all correspondence, including PDN requests and changes, can be submitted to this e-mail address. *Case managers and providers are encouraged to implement appropriate technical security measures to guard against unauthorized access to any electronic protected health information (phi) they transmit over an electronic communications network.*

In addition, ODJFS is now sending all authorizations to case managers and providers, including PA numbers, from PDN_BCSP@jfs.ohio.gov . Therefore, to ensure that timely electronic communication can occur, please include email addresses on future PDN requests.

Only case managers can submit PDN requests for individuals on an Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities- or an Ohio Department of Aging- administered waiver program. PDN services not documented on an individual's All Services Plan are not reimbursable.

A Few Reminders

All PDN services must be authorized before services can be delivered. Providers are responsible for ensuring proper authorization is in place prior to rendering services. Also, providers and case managers now may complete the Private Duty Nursing Services Request (ODJFS form #2374) on-line at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/file.asp?id=56583>. When completed, the form may be printed and/or saved and emailed to PDN_BCSP@jfs.ohio.gov.

Questions? Contact PDN Manager Marilyn Henson, ODJFS Bureau of Long-Term Care Services and Supports, (614) 466-6742.



9. Challenger Football Competition Offers Unique Benefit

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Ohio is teaming up with Ohio State football for the Second Annual Challenger Football Competition. The single-elimination competition will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 2, at the Woody Hayes Athletic Complex in Columbus. Children and young adults with disabilities will have the opportunity to play flag football alongside OSU football players and other Columbus business representatives.

Registration for the UCP of Central Ohio Challenger Football Competition is open through April 20, and is open to youth with a disability. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch, a t-shirt, and a medal. Event proceeds benefit UCP of Central Ohio.



Event sponsors include American Electric Power, Donatos, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Mettler Toledo, Netezza, State Auto, Columbus Young Professionals, Huntington Bank, and the Civitan Club of Columbus.

The Challenger Football Competition allows youth with disabilities to experience the game of football in a fun and different way -- players are teamed with a 'Football Buddy' and play the game under the general rules of flag football, with a few modifications as needed. The unique football competition provides an opportunity to learn good sportsmanship and make new friends, while funds are raised to benefit UCP programs and services.

For additional event information, or to access a registration packet, visit ucpofcentralohio.org or call Gina Ginn at (614) 279-0109 Extension 209; e-mail gginn@ucpofcentralohio.org.



Pipeline Quarterly Winter '09-'10 issue, published electronically last week.
Read it at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm>

10. *Pipeline PostScripts* – Timely News Briefs & Notes

Many events are listed at the DODD website calendar. Click on 'Calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

A. Wyandot County Board of DD on 'Good Morning America,' March 20 Show

Pipeline reader and Wyandot County resident, Candy Messmer – who also happens to work at Tiffin Developmental Center – directs us to this clip: <http://abcnews.go.com/gma/your3words>. Select the 'Your Three Words' segment for *March 20*, featuring Wyandot County Board of DD employees proudly proclaiming, "We Can Create" and, "We Can Work." Very cool!

B. Our Choice: Living in the Community – Conference May 26-27

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. This Annual Event is presented in collaboration with Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Home Choice, CareSource and Ohio Legal Rights Service. For more information and registration visit www.ddc.ohio.gov.

C. The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point

The Arc of Ohio *Day at Cedar Point* will be Wednesday, May 26. A brochure describing the day's event may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thearcofohio.org/sites/default/files/Cedar%20Point%20Brochure%202010.doc>

A limited number of discount tickets will be available for purchase through The Arc of Ohio, at Cedar Point, before noon on May 26th. *More than 6000 friends of The Arc of Ohio typically attend this event each year!*

D. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>*

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Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 9

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[April is Autism Awareness Month](#)

1. Information-Sharing Key to Understanding Autism Issues

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) is pleased to announce the release of a newly-updated Autism Internet Modules (AIM) website.



New modules, including *Visual Supports*, *Assessment for Intervention*, *Time Delay*, *Transitioning Between Activities*, and several others have been posted.

The modules were developed to offer comprehensive, up-to-date, and usable information that is easily accessible and applicable to educators, other professionals, and families who support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Written by experts from across the nation, all online modules are free, and are designed to promote understanding of, respect for, and equality of persons with ASD.

The updated AIM website is designed to help users more easily find the information and support they need. Modules feature videos, charts, pictures, case studies, and a glossary of key terms (

Also, see a glossary of key terms for the overall developmental disabilities field at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/WDS/WDS_Glossary.aspx)

AIM discussion questions and activities are designed to extend learning and provide options outside the online environment. Parent support groups, educators, and professional developers can use these questions and activities in face-to-face trainings. For more information contact shawn_henry@ocali.org.

Did You Know? – A Little History on Autism

Excerpted from the Fairfield County DD newsletter, “Imagine”

While the definitive cause -- or causes -- of autism are not yet clear, it *is* clear that autism is not caused by bad parenting. Dr. Leo Kanner, the psychiatrist who first, in 1943 described autism as a unique condition (<http://www.bestbehaviour.ca/briefhistory.htm>), believed that it was caused by cold, unloving mothers.

Bruno Bettelheim, a renowned professor of child development, perpetuated this misinterpretation of autism. Their promotion of the idea that unloving mothers caused their children's autism created a generation of parents who carried the tremendous burden of guilt for their children's disability.

In the 1960s and 70s, Dr. Bernard Rimland, the father of a son with autism, who later founded both the Autism Society of America and the Autism Research Institute, helped the medical community understand that autism is not caused by cold parents, but rather it is a biological disorder. *We have made some progress, then, since 1943.*

Autism Diagnostic Education Pilot Project

Excerpted from Woodlane News, Wood County Board of DD

For more than a year, the Wood Lane (Wood County Board of DD) Early Intervention program has been involved in *The Autism Diagnostic Education Pilot Project* -- a statewide pilot project - - focusing on the early identification of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The project has three primary goals:

- To increase the supply of primary care professionals who screen for developmental delays such as autism;
- To increase the supply of resources that can evaluate and diagnose children suspected of having autism; and
- To develop and disseminate a public awareness campaign that promotes the importance of addressing developmental concerns early in a child's life.

Wood County is one of five Ohio counties involved in the pilot project, and this spring, approximately 30 additional Ohio counties will be trained to begin the project in their areas.

The Autism Diagnostic Education Pilot Project is managed through the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and is funded by the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention Services.

Wood Lane Early Intervention has partnered with several local agencies to implement the project, including: Wood County Help Me Grow; the Wood County Health Department; Bowling Green City Schools; Wood County Educational Service Center; Wood County Hospital; and, Nationwide Children's Hospital. Wood Lane staffers report that the collaboration has fostered a great deal of enthusiasm for what may be accomplished, statewide, following the pilot efforts.

For more information, visit www.concernedaboutdevelopment.org or contact Joanne Hayward (Wood Lane Early Intervention) at (419) 353-7407, extension 244.



2. Family Advisory Council Chats, Views, and Questions

A documentary film illustrating a story of community inclusion, a chat with DODD Director John Martin, and an update on the subject of Medicaid were the meat of a full Family Advisory Council (FAC) agenda on April 20. Hosted at the OCALI offices in Columbus, approximately 75 people attended -- most of whom were family members from across the state who have sons, daughters, or siblings with developmental disabilities – and some of whom were professionals in the developmental disabilities field. Following are some of the highlights from the meeting.

Director Chats

Director Martin led the agenda with comments regarding the 2010-2011 [DODD Priority Work](#) areas, including exploration of new waiver options currently developing with recommendations from stakeholders and families, and in line with budget realities. In describing a waiver currently being developed to address the needs of families with children who have significant behavioral issues, he noted,

“We are developing this waiver as a flexible support that will allow families to identify and prioritize their needs and the needs of their child, and then work with an individual who they designate as their ‘support broker’ to direct a set amount of dollars toward those needs. There will be a lot of responsibility resting in the hands of the families, and the waiver would be yet another option beyond the Level One or Individual Options (IO) Waivers we currently offer. ”

In further discussing the (currently un-named) waiver under development, Director Martin also noted that DODD would fund 100 of these waiver ‘slots’ specifically for children who have significant behavioral issues, and that a yet to-be-determined number of slots for adults would be identified by local County Boards, to help individuals eligible for and in need of the flexible support framework. He added,

“The timing of this new waiver availability is not known yet, as we are working with the appropriate federal agencies to hammer out the details. We also have looked at waiver options in other states to see what kinds of things have worked for them in similar tight economic environments. We are looking to borrow some of these good ideas if they can efficiently deliver the flexibility and support that individuals and families in Ohio tell us they need.”

Among the questions Family Advisory Council attendees asked of Director Martin, was the question of portability, county-to-county, for waiver options under consideration. As one of the

major issues being considered by waiver crafters, Director Martin noted that the portability characteristic would be a key element for any new waiver to be helpful to families, around the state. He added, “We also are exploring ways to better serve people with developmental disabilities and other behavioral issues who are having difficulty being served effectively in the community. We hope to have an opportunity to work with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council on ways to gather input and data from the field on this.”

“Gahanna Bill”

Following Director Martin was a presentation by and about Bill Withrow – affectionately known as “Gahanna Bill” (Gahanna, Ohio, is in northeastern Franklin County) -- and the documentary of the same name which shares how this community came together to support Bill.

Produced in 2001, *Gahanna Bill* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0396609/>) documents the story of Bill’s family, his attendance and participation in the Gahanna-Jefferson school system, and then growing into adulthood working and living in the community. During his grade school years, Bill was diagnosed with a form of aphasia (a language disorder in which there is an impairment in language usage or comprehension), and was raised with a loving and supportive family.

Following the death of both parents, Bill ultimately needed to reach outside his family for community supports, and was introduced to a variety of services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and others.

Bill’s work ethic over more than 20 years as an employee at a local bottler/distributor of soft drinks, his endless enthusiasm for (and helping to manage) the Gahanna schools athletic teams, along with his positive affect on the people (everyone!) with whom he comes in contact, formed the solid foundation he needed to ‘navigate new waters’ as a middle-aged adult. Throughout this process, it was clear that in Gahanna, everyone knows ... and everyone loves ... Bill Withrow.



It took a minute for “Gahanna Bill” to get warmed up, but he got pretty comfortable after that!
(Left to Right) Gahanna High School Athletic Director Justin Sanford; Bill Withrow – a.k.a. “Gahanna Bill”; Dale Foor, Director of Community Services for Gahanna-Jefferson Schools, introduce the documentary about Bill’s life, simply titled “Gahanna Bill.”
(For more information about the film: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0396609/>)

FAC meeting attendees had many questions and kudos for Bill and his community-wide support team, and noted that Bill’s continuing presence (he now also is employed within the school

system) makes him an excellent role model for students with and without disabilities at the high school level. Said one parent, Cheryl Alikhan, of Strongsville, “Bill has had such a positive affect on the Gahanna community -- it’s clear from seeing the documentary -- and the high school students there have accepted him, welcomed him, and treat him well -- just as he treats others. This is so important, especially now.” She continued,

“I want to share my concern here with all of you about the power of hateful speech, and the bullying that has become epidemic in our schools, nationwide. Bullying in our schools has got to stop, and children with and without disabilities are literally killing themselves over being bullied. Efforts to educate students early and often on this subject, and modeling appropriate interactions, are both so important. We need to get behind efforts to do this.”

Echoing the importance of positive role modeling and inclusion, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin noted, “What’s striking to me is Bill’s commitment to the Gahanna School athletic teams and staff – and that team members and athletic directors and support staff over the years have been so positively impacted by this man and his commitment to the school system. Bill has been a ‘constant’ in the lives of countless thousands of students, and -- just by being himself -- he educated those students about what people with disabilities can do.”

Something to Think About

Over a pizza lunch, courtesy of The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB – thank you!), informal discussions between professionals and parents confirmed an interest in finding ways to reach out to schools with practical information and programs that help students be more aware of and understanding of individuals with disabilities. Any existing organized ‘school outreach’ efforts that may already be ongoing in communities via County Boards or others, also may be explored.

Look for more information as this ‘school outreach’ discussion develops, in future issues of Pipeline. Please contact feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov if you have any input or feedback on this subject.

Medicaid Update

The meeting’s afternoon agenda addressed updates on Medicaid, with information provided by DODD Medicaid Development and Administration Assistant Deputy Director, Tracy Cloud-Thomas. She explained and clarified information regarding amended services for the Individual Options Waiver, including the status of new added services. Tracy also answered questions from the group regarding other topics being addressed by the DODD waiver work group. For more information on this subject, contact tracy.cloud-thomas@dodd.ohio.gov .

Wrapping up the meeting, Peggy Martin invited attendees to mark their calendars for the next FAC meeting June 15, and reminded everyone that, as a result of the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, and the resulting Empowering People implementation team, the DODD has created an electronic discussion listserv to encourage communication/interaction for families, supporting other families. Join the **NEW Family Chat** on the DODD website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm> .

Next Family Advisory Council Meeting: June 15, 2010.

For more information: peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov



Bonus Item

“Inclusion is Not a Place, It is a Feeling”

In Northfield, Vermont, Troy Daniels made this speech to his senior graduating class at Northfield High School in 2002. It has been shared electronically and in print many times since that time, within in the national developmental disabilities community, and we are sharing it in Pipeline today to illustrate one individual’s description of what it means to be included in the community, as is “Gahanna Bill”. The speech is printed here, unedited for grammar or style, and also may be found with additional information at: <http://www.partoparvt.org/02sumDaniels.html>

My name is Troy Daniels, but my friends call me TD. I have Down syndrome. Because my heart is bad I use a wheel chair, I do not speak very good and sometimes I use Libby*.

I am a person with disabilities and when I say "my friends" I mean friends, real friends just like everyone else, I have friends. Most of you think all people have friends but for people with disabilities friends are not always real. I want you to know why I have friends.

Not too long ago people with disabilities could not go to school with other kids, they had to go to "special schools". They could not have real friends; they called people like me "retard". That breaks my heart.

When I came to school there is a law that says all kids go to school in the place they live. I started school right here in Northfield with all of the senior class, we were little kids together. The law says that I can come to school but no law can make me have friends.

But then some kids started to think that I was OK. First it was just one or two kids who were nice to me. They found out that I cared about them and I loved my school. I told them I want to have real friends. Others started to hang out with me and they found out we could be friends.

We started to learn together that in some ways we were different but in some ways we were the same. They called me friend and made sure that I was in everything at school. I cared about them and they cared about me.

I want all people to know and to see that these students I call my friends are the real teachers of life. They are showing you how it should be. They are the teachers for all of you to follow their lead.

Yes I am a person with a disability. The law says that I am included but it is my friends who say...
“TD come sit by me.”

* ‘Libby’ is what Troy calls his communications device.



Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

3. Public Celebration, Lecture, and Reception - OSU Campus

The Tenth Annual [Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability](#) Conference, hosted yesterday at the new Ohio Union on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University, marked a decade of community exploration on the subject of disability as an individual experience, and recognized the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Conference literature described the individual experience as ... “cutting across typical divisions of education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; race, gender and ethnicity.”

Participating in the celebration of the ADA’s 20th anniversary and recommitment to full implementation of the Act were: OSU President E. Gordon Gee; State Attorney General Richard Cordray; Ohio Civil Rights Commission Chair Eddie Harrell, Jr.; Columbus State Community College President Valeriana Moeller; Columbus Community Relations Director Napoleon Bell II; and, Columbus City Council Member Troy Miller, among other dignitaries and officials.

Each of these participants reaffirmed publicly their commitment to equality, social justice, and the spirit of the ADA, during a proclamation-signing ceremony, and we share here a few of the more notable quotes:

“ I remember quite well when the ADA was signed, and it signalled a real commitment here on our campus to assure access and accommodation for every student – every student. Since its passage we have, collectively, done great deeds in support of this commitment, and have much yet to look forward to doing on behalf of education. Now, more than ever, we need full and equal participation in the construction and development of our democracy. ”

- E. Gordon Gee, who has been President of OSU twice – one term including the year 1990 when the ADA was signed, and now.

“ Access is at the core of our philosophy. We have more than 700 students with disabilities pursuing education on our campus, many of whom are realizing their potential in a campus setting for the first time. As a society, we need to develop the potential of everyone.”

- Valeriana Moeller, President of Columbus State Community College

“Sometimes it takes a long time for a law to become a reality. It takes the embrace and the dedication of many people to apply the tenets that make it work, make it part of the spirit of how we do things. The Americans with Disabilities Act is such a commitment, and here today we re-dedicate ourselves to the freedom and access it provides for all citizens.”

- Richard Cordray, Ohio Attorney General

“When we put our hand to this proclamation – when we sign this today – we acknowledge what has been accomplished, and pledge to move forward in accordance with the purpose of the ADA.”

- Troy Miller, Columbus City Council



Brutus Buckeye affirms the new OSU Student Union is accessible even for bronze statuary. The very detailed figure of Brutus Buckeye is located on the ground floor of the new Union building at The Ohio State University – and yes, the facility was built with accessibility, as well as aesthetics, in mind.

Following the proclamation-signing ceremony and comments, Andrew Imparato, President of the American Association of People with Disabilities, delivered *The Ken Campbell Lecture on Disability Policy*, titled “*Leveraging The Twentieth Anniversary of the ADA to Transform Public Policy*” featuring updates on enforcement and rule-making under the recent amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Student and community poster presentations surrounded the perimeter of the Ohio Union Ballroom, displaying information on various subjects of interest, including assistive technology, alternate format textbooks, programs for students with autism, and self-determination. The event content was signed and captioned, and access and accommodation was apparent in the room setup and configuration, no doubt by design.

*For more information: ADA-OSU@OSU.EDU ; (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty)
<http://www.ada.gov>*



[Nine County Boards of DD on Ballot](#)

4. Getting out the Vote on May 4

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities across the state collectively encourage and remind individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers -- as well as other service providers -- to get out to the polls and vote on May 4, or complete an absentee ballot. In particular, nine County Boards -- Clermont, Fayette, Hancock, Holmes, Lake, Madison, Medina, Morrow, and Paulding -- scattered across the state will have ballot issues to be decided in this election (See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 8](#), April 14, 2010.)

Absentee Ballot Information

Because some voters, including people with developmental disabilities, may have difficulty in getting to voting locations, absentee ballots may be especially useful to this group of voters.

There is additional helpful information on the Ohio Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/>, including a link to download an absentee ballot.

Who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot?

Any qualified Ohio voter whose registration information is up to date may request and vote an absentee ballot without stating a reason.



Briefly, absentee voting begins 35 days before the day of a primary or general election. (*Exception:* presidential primary election, for which absentee voting begins 25 days before the day of that election.) Except for voters hospitalized due to emergencies, absentee voting ends the day before the election.

Any eligible voter may receive and return an absentee ballot in person at the county's Board of Elections office (or, if a Board of Elections has designated another location as its absentee voting site, in person at that designated location), or via U.S. Mail.

Good luck to all County Boards of DD that will be on the ballot next month.

For more information about these ballot issues and other information regarding the May 4 primary election, visit the Ohio Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us.



5. Advocacy Leadership Network – All About Access!

Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) reports that on April 14, the Hamilton County Commissioners adopted a resolution to remove the word 'handicapped' from all county signage erected or replaced from this point forward. Instead of signs reading, "Handicapped Accessible," signs will include only the wheelchair logo and the word "Accessible".

The local effort was led by self advocate Diana Mairose, one of Hamilton County's most active *Partners in Policymaking* and *Advocacy Leadership Network* members. She and several other advocates were present for the signing of the Commissioners' proclamation, which, in part, states:

"This Resolution is adopted this 14th day of April, 2010, for the purpose of establishing a new policy in Hamilton County, Ohio, to eliminate the use of the word "Handicapped" from all new signage on all county projects, including without reservation, The Banks Riverfront Development Project, and also in such cases where such signs are scheduled to be replaced as a consequence of maintenance and repair."

Diana also shared several photographs of related signs at locations throughout the community that she had taken, illustrating good examples of respectful language.



Mairose on the Move! Diana Mairose (left) with Essie Pederson (Partners in Policymaking) at the 2010 DD Awareness Month Kickoff event last month in Columbus, is now tackling new challenges in Cincinnati.



HCDDS Superintendent Cheryl Phipps noted at the proclamation signing ceremony, “We’ve all heard the old saying that goes something like, ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me,’ -- but words do hurt. Using ‘*accessible*’ instead of ‘*handicapped*’ is a small but mighty change, and we thank you.”



6. Ohio Department of Mental Health Launches New Website

The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) is celebrating the launch this month of a new website, www.ResiliencyOhio.org, designed to help young people with mental health challenges and their families.

The new website features a wealth of information and resources with the goal of strengthening individuals’ paths to mental wellness, and includes a 9-minute video capturing Ohio youth and families speaking about the role of *resiliency* in their lives, and the importance of having a ‘resiliency perspective’ for mental wellness.

resilient: rapidly recovering strength, spirits, etc. ; buoyant.
-Webster’s New World Collegiate Dictionary

The concepts, ideas and materials for the new website were developed by *Resiliency Leadership Ohio*, comprised of youth with serious emotional challenges and their family members, and co-facilitated by the Center of Innovative Practices (CIP) at the Institute for the Study and

Prevention of Violence at Kent State University (KSU), and the Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health, with the support of ODMH. This group seeks to educate others on mental health issues, alleviate stigma, and connect Ohioans to helpful resources. Ongoing technical support and management of the web site is provided by KSU.



7. APSI Launches First Website

Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), a private, non-profit agency that contracts with the DODD to provide guardianship and protective services to individuals age 18 or older, has launched its first website at <http://www.apsiohio.org/ao/>.

According to APSI interim director, Karla Rinto, "We are very excited about getting information about our organization into an electronic format that can be readily accessed by people who need our services. The new website has been a long time in development, and we look forward to the opportunities it will provide in helping us to communicate with the statewide developmental disabilities community."

APSI Facts: There are ten regional offices throughout the state and a Central Office in Columbus. APSI has 79 Protective Service Representatives, with an average caseload of 60 individuals. Approximately 4660 individuals are represented by APSI.



Pipeline Quarterly

Winter '09-'10 issue, published electronically this month.
Read it at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm>

8. *Pipeline PostScripts* – Timely News Briefs & Notes

See also the DODD website calendar. Click on 'Calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

Targeted Information for Individuals with Disabilities

A. CDC Adds New H1N1 Information to Website

Although the flu season is winding down, the H1N1 influenza virus continues to be active in several areas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently has updated its website to include new information for people with disabilities regarding the H1N1 influenza. The new pages contain advice and information for individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.

For more information go to: [Five Things People with Disabilities Need To Know About the Flu and 5 Things Caregivers of People with Disabilities Need To Know About the Flu.](#)

B. Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley – Focus on Assistive Technology

Assistive technology, including hands-on demonstrations, will be the focus of an event sponsored by Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley on May 27, 2010, from 2:00-7:30 p.m., at Assistive Technology Services, 1133 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Suite 370, Dayton, OH 45417. The event will include:

- Several vendors
- Hands-on Technology Zone
- Adaptive Wii baseball competition
- Adaptive Bingo games
- Facility tour
- Appetizers/refreshments
- Entertainment
- Free handouts and information

Two presentations of special interest are the, “How to Train your Dragon (Naturally Speaking adaptive software)” demonstration by Dragon experts at 2:00 p.m., and a workshop titled, "How Assistive Technology can level the playing field for individuals with disabilities." For more information or to register, click [Register Now!](#)

C. Family Caregiver Alliance Posts Health Care Reform Information Online FCA Posts Information about Health Care Reform and Family Caregivers

http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2397

The National Center on Caregiving at Family Caregiver Alliance has posted new information online about health care reform and its impact on family caregivers. It includes links to resources such as the Campaign for Better Care's "Top Ten Things to Know About Health Care Reform" and Families USA's "State Advocates' To-Do List" for the first 90 days of health care reform implementation.

Reminder

D. Our Choice: Living in the Community – Conference May 26-27

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. This Annual Event is presented in collaboration with Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Home Choice, CareSource and Ohio Legal Rights Service. For more information and registration visit www.ddc.ohio.gov.

Reminder

E. The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point

The Arc of Ohio *Day at Cedar Point* will be Wednesday, May 26. A brochure describing the day's event may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thearcofohio.org/sites/default/files/Cedar%20Point%20Brochure%202010.doc>

A limited number of discount tickets will be available for purchase through The Arc of Ohio, at Cedar Point, before noon on May 26th. *More than 6000 friends of The Arc of Ohio typically attend this event each year!*

F. DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

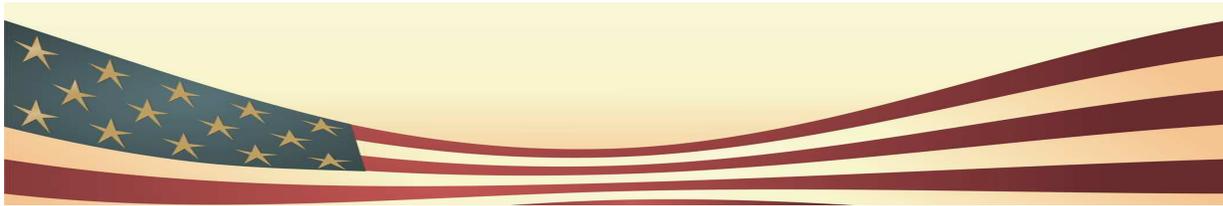
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

A *Pipeline* EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

May 5, 2010

Results of the May 4, 2010 Election County Boards of DD Levies, Statewide



The results are unofficial and will be certified by the respective county Board of Elections offices and the Secretary of State's office later this month.

Of the ten Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities that had levies on the ballot yesterday, eight passed and two failed. Results are as follows:

- Clermont County, 0.9 mill, replacement – PASSED, 51.2% FOR
- Fayette County, 2 mills, renewal – PASSED, 69.5% FOR
- Hancock County, 1.9 mills, renewal – PASSED, 70.6% FOR
- Holmes County, 2.5 mills, renewal – PASSED, 61.4% FOR
- Lake County, 3.4 mills, replacement – PASSED, 64.2% FOR
- Madison County, 1.3 mills, renewal – PASSED, 64.8% FOR
- Medina County, 1.12 mills, replacement & .5 mill increase – FAILED, 52.3% AGAINST
- Morrow County, 1 mill, additional – FAILED, 58% AGAINST
- Paulding County, 1 mill, renewal – PASSED, 63% FOR
- Ross County, 3 mills replacement & .8 mill increase- PASSED, 58.2% FOR

Congratulations to all who passed a levy ...

... And to those whose did not, we appreciate how much work was involved in your efforts.

More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website at: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>



Pipeline Extra ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

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Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 10

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- 5. LifeBuilders Adult Day Program, Reaching Out to Schools
- 6. Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), Division of Legal & Oversight, 2009 Report
- 7. *Pipeline PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Notes

Project STIR

1. Leadership Training via the Ohio Self Determination Assn.

Traveling from 12 counties in Ohio (*Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Huron, Marion, Medina, Richland, Scioto, Seneca and Wyandot*) to the University Plaza Inn in Columbus, 25 self advocates and several of their friends and caregivers participated in 18 hours of self-advocacy training in mid-April, known as *Project STIR* (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility). The training was organized by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA).

In addition to the 25 self advocates, OSDA invited the *Center for Development and Learning* at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, to participate. It was the second year for this collaborative effort.

As a result of completing last year's *Project STIR* 'train-the-trainer' learning opportunity, five self advocacy leaders conducted part of this year's training. According to OSDA Executive Director, Dana Charlton, "...It was clear that they had learned so much, and were eager to pass on their knowledge."

Following this initial training, the twenty new participants then learned by working in small groups, using flip charts to document their discussions and report to the full group at the end of each activity. Everyone had the opportunity to 'use their voice.' Charlton explains,

“Project STIR training is designed to provide individuals with the tools to speak for themselves, mobilize others to advocate with them, and gain leadership experience. And as always, experience for the participants was the key!”



Active participation is a hallmark of OSDA events.
Here, each group prepares to share their knowledge in their own way.

Activities included setting rules to be followed during the training, such as being punctual, and not talking when someone else is talking. The group also identified famous people who have spoken up for themselves, and discussed advocacy concepts including:

- Knowing yourself;
- Listening to others;
- Negotiating with others;
- Problem solving; and,
- Rights and responsibilities.



More fun than ‘Money Follows the Person?’
‘Follow the Money’ was an activity demonstrated before the entire group by a few volunteers, illustrating the positive aspects of individual budgets and self-directed services.

Project STIR participants also prepared a colorfully-charted ‘path’ stretching along one wall, outlining their goals in advocating for desired changes in system supports, and in communities throughout Ohio. In addition, small groups of participants who resided in the same county identified steps to take locally to initiate specific changes. Each individual wrote down steps to take during the next month to speak up for themselves.

Wrapping up their work, the newly-trained group of self advocates decided to meet twice during the next year to follow up on the progress they have made individually ... as a local group working together ... and, as a strategic network of self advocates across Ohio.

For example, participants from Northwest Ohio will use what they have learned by employing policy advocacy as part of a strategic advocacy network known as the *OSDA Center for Public Policy*, funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.



A STIRring finale ...

Project STIR participants gather at the end of the April training to congratulate each other on a job well-done, and plan for future opportunities to advocate successfully for themselves and others.

Upcoming OSDA Conference

Opportunities to meet as a strategic network of self advocates are planned as part of the upcoming annual OSDA conference September 20 - 21, as well as in coordination with the self advocate track planned for the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities’ Winter Conference, in December.

More ‘STIRring’

In late April, DODD Director John Martin spoke with members of the OSDA Northwest Center for Public Policy at Tiffin University. This enthusiastic group of participants actively engaged Director Martin, and asked several questions.

Cynthia Morrison, Director of Consumer Advocacy and Supports at Seneca County Board of DD noted, “Director Martin did a great job of connecting with self advocates and discussing barriers in their lives. He answered several questions the participants had, including how the state might

be more helpful to them. It was especially positive to see so many individuals actively involved in the discussion.”



Just one of the crowd – DODD Director John Martin (front row, fourth from right) met with members of OSDA’s Northwest Region last month at Tiffin University. According to one participant, “We had so much fun, and asked him a lot of questions.” (He does look a little worn out.)

Commenting on the day in Tiffin, Director Martin added,

“I really enjoyed my time with the self advocates in Tiffin. They were very patient and kind as they helped me understand the barriers they struggle with as they attempt to have greater freedom and control in their everyday lives. It is clear to me that a growing number of people with developmental disabilities are making it a point to learn about how they can access services that they need, and how they can learn more skills that enable greater independence. Talking with groups such as the one in Tiffin is energizing, and helps to keep me focused on what people want and need to live successfully in their communities.”

For more information about the OSDA Center for Public Policy, Project STIR or the Ohio Self Determination Association, check the website at www.ohiosda.org, email OSDA at osda@ohiosda.org, or call (614) 563-0788.



Part VIII in a Series

2. Priority Work – Improve Processes and Outcomes of the Service and Support Administration Function

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the eighth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22, October 28, 2009](#), The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) function is one of the ten priority areas, where work on a number of the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations has come together. Over the years, changes in service delivery, financing, and oversight roles have affected how Service and Support Administrators and provider program managers do their daily work.

Several separate-but-connected projects are underway, led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI), and other stakeholders. In addition, the work of the County Collaborative [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2, January 20, 2010](#), is part of several efforts affecting this Priority Work Area, including the development of an online Individual Service Plan (ISP), and examining best practices.

Patrick Lanahan notes that individuals and families are spotlighting what is important to them in working with an SSA. He relates,

“When individuals and families talk about having a great SSA or program manager, we are asking, ‘What makes that person so valuable to you?’ And often we hear in response, ‘I can depend on her to keep it all together for my family member, and to solve problems when they come up.’ It’s a commitment to service that’s so appreciated.”

Also key to improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function, DODD Family Advocate, [Peggy Martin](#), is working closely with SSA’s throughout the state, gathering their input, and discussing opportunities for inter-county collaboration.

Peggy explains,

“In talking with SSA’s around the state, what I’m hearing is that it’s so important for a Service and Support Administrator to establish a strong relationship with the families served – one that is based on understanding and trust. If the SSA is a supportive *partner*, for example, in working with individuals and families preparing an ISP, the Plan will be a much more realistic and successful guide, and reflect that process of really thinking things through.”

Increasing family involvement and buy-in to the ISP process, and providing information regarding alternative resources and service opportunities in their local communities, is part of the important role played by SSA’s across the state, with an added emphasis on effective management of limited financial resources.

Looking at the work currently underway in this Priority Work Area, Peggy Martin notes that in conversations with Department staff, it’s clear that the DODD is learning a great deal from the field as the work gets underway. For example, Peggy has been visiting counties across the state,

and is most appreciative of the time County Board staff have taken to sit down and talk about issues and ideas. She concludes,

“We’re paying attention to the trends and patterns in the calls I get from individuals and families – and we’ve seen that some issues are more universal than others, and may be managed more easily by a County Board if just a little more information is available. That’s why our online information at *NEW Family Chat* and *How to Get Help* is constantly being updated and added to. Online and in person, we’re looking at any way we can to assist the SSA’s in their work.”

Having specific educational and operational tools more widely available to support SSA’s and program managers will benefit everyone in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. In particular, the development of the DODD Cost Projection Tool and online ISP will help to reduce paperwork and improve data collection and retrieval.

It’s a tall order, to be sure, and through the collaborative efforts of the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, and Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc., best practices and program management functions are being reviewed with an eye toward applicability both locally and statewide. Funded by the DODD, the work of this stakeholder group is identifying training and other recommendations to support SSA’s and program managers. According to DODD Director John Martin,

“In reality, the Department is looking at any way we can to assist these professionals in their work.”

The expected outcomes from *improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and will be posted on our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm> tomorrow. The report is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.



3. New Funds Bolster Summer Youth Employment Options

Approximately \$45 million will be available to County Department of Job and Family Services agencies across the state for a Summer Youth Employment Program, funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) /American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA)

Emergency Funds. These funds will establish or enhance summer youth employment options, and according to the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development,

“These dollars will enable county agencies to enhance existing programs, or begin new programs that enable low income TANF-eligible Ohio youth to gain valuable skills and work experience, and act as a stepping stone on the path to unsubsidized employment.”

The program will operate for three months beginning June 1 through August 31, 2010.

The purpose of this program is two-fold:

- To provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or the homes of relatives;
- To end dependence of needy parents on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, employment, and strong family relationships.

ODJFS explains that agencies can partner with their local county offices to help youth access this program by contacting local county DJFS offices and asking to be added to the potential employer work site list, and by working with eligible individuals who may be interested in the program. TANF-eligible individuals that may be served in this summer program are:

- Youth ages 14-18, as long as the youth is a minor child in a needy family.*
- Youth ages 19- 21, as long as they are in a needy family that also has a minor child.*
- Youth ages 19 -21, who have a minor child and are in a needy family.

** For purposes of this program, a youth also may be a family of one.*

This program will have different requirements than similar past programs, including the TANF summer youth employment program implemented in 2000, and the Workforce Investment Act programs. For example, reimbursements for wages shall not exceed the state minimum wage. And, funding will not be available for other types of activities such as training, transportation, benefits, health insurance, and administration.

For a clickable map (by county) including county DJFS Directors’ names, visit

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntypro/index.stm>

For information on ODJFS One-Stop Centers: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>



Jobs Program

4. Huron, Ottawa Counties Launch ‘Bridges to Transition’

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Huron and Ottawa counties have partnered to launch a jobs training program, *Bridges to Transition*, which works with students beginning at age 14 to find successful career paths. The Huron/Ottawa partnership is one of seven *Bridges to Transition* programs, statewide.

According to Kim Linkinhoker, Associate Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD), some participating counties are operating the program

as single county enterprises, while others are grouped. Those operating singly are: Wood, Warren, Belmont, and Jefferson. Participating as partners are: Logan/Miami/Champaign; Ottawa/Huron; and, Hocking/Fairfield/Perry.

The *Bridges to Transition* program is a project jointly developed by local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), with state-wide coordination by the OACBDD.

Linkinhoker continues, "'Bridges' is a great opportunity for the Huron and Ottawa county boards to be an integral part of the school and work transition puzzle. The project provides additional resources and a local focus on making sure young people who finish school move into jobs within their community."

Gretchen Millard, who recently joined Huron/Ottawa *Bridges to Transition* as Program Coordinator, explains further:

"The overall goal of our *Bridges to Transition* program is to enhance career exploration options and increase employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities. It's an opportunity for students and families to take a fresh look at what's available in the world of work."

Linkinhoker paints the bigger picture prompting the need for programs such as 'Bridges,' noting, "Often, county boards do not begin employment exploration or training until an individual's final year in high school. *Bridges to Transition* will help coordinate vocational services for students between ages 14 and 22, allowing the individual and their family more time to discuss and explore various career options."

John Schwartz, Adult Services Director with the Huron County Board of DD, elaborates,

"System-wide, it's always been a difficult area – getting individuals and families to think more about options other than the traditional workshop setting. However, programs like 'Bridges' can make that difference, where the whole family is collectively thinking about the person's potential, and what their community might offer. It's really pretty exciting."

Making these strides happen locally in Huron and Ottawa counties, Millard is contacting school districts in both counties to introduce and discuss *Bridges to Transition*. Referrals also will be accepted from parents, guardians, and friends of individuals with developmental disabilities. "We're spreading the word so that people are aware this resource is available to them," stated Millard.

Melinda Slusser, Superintendent of the Ottawa County Board of DD, shared that their organization is excited about offering this opportunity to youth, and added that the Huron County Board leadership staff have been very supportive and enthusiastic in spearheading the program locally. She comments,

"The Huron County staff has been just great to work with. We see this as a long-term commitment to our youth, and are excited about moving ahead with the program."

Huron/Ottawa *Bridges to Transition* currently is organizing a paid summer work experience for students at least 16 years old with at least one year of high school remaining. The 10-week program begins June 14 and is limited to 30 participants from the two counties. *For more information: Gretchen Millard at 419.706.2975; gretchen.millard@rsc.state.oh.us.*



5. LifeBuilders Adult Day Program Reaching Out to Schools

Pipeline had an opportunity to visit Wilder Elementary School in Westerville early this month for an upcoming feature in the Spring issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*. There, we found several individuals from LifeBuilders Adult Day Program mentoring the children in Julie Everhart's special-needs classroom.

The LifeBuilders group presented a puppet show written by one of their own participants – Destiny Hawkins – and acted and directed by several other LifeBuilders members. Following the rousing and music-filled show, the mentoring continued with one-to-one reading activities ... a combination that worked well for all involved.

As mentors and role models, the participants in LifeBuilders Adult Day program had a lot to say about their experiences, and how they could help the children with developmental disabilities in Miss Everhart's classroom.

[Read more about it in the next *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing at the end of June!](#)





Top left: Destiny Hawkins (at right) reads to a student at Wilder Elementary School.
Top Right: Bradley Williamson (foreground) 'gives it his all' during the singing portion of the puppet show.
Above: Miss Everhart's classroom and the LifeBuilders mentors. (Miss Everhart is at the far left)



6. OPSR Posts 2009 Annual Report Online

The DODD *Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR)*, *Division of Legal & Oversight*, has posted its Annual Report for the 2009 calendar year online at [OPSR 2009 Report](#). Each year, the OPSR (formerly known as 'Community Services') prepares this detailed report addressing the following three major reporting areas:

- Licensure
- Provider Compliance
- Accreditation

Within these broad areas of oversight, information is provided on such subjects as: the types of licensure reviews; findings and citations; processes; and, specific actions. OPSR staff members encourage individuals, families, and stakeholders within Ohio's developmental disabilities community to access the [OPSR 2009 Report](#) for a wealth of information in both chart and narrative formats.

For more information: provider.support@list.dodd.ohio.gov or <http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/2009OPSRAnnualReport.pdf>



7. Pipeline PostScripts – Timely News Briefs & Notes

See also the DODD website calendar. Click on 'Calendar' at the lower bar of the homepage, at https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/evcs/EVCS_View.aspx

⇒ National Disability Rights Network Releases Updated Report

"School is Not Supposed to Hurt: Investigative Report on Abusive Restraint and Seclusion in Schools" has been published by the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and is posted at: [http://www.ndrn.org/sr/srjan10/Schoo-%20is-Not-Supposed-to-Hurt-\(NDRN\).pdf](http://www.ndrn.org/sr/srjan10/Schoo-%20is-Not-Supposed-to-Hurt-(NDRN).pdf) .

The report is the result of a year of intense advocacy work, family support, and action by lawmakers to regulate restraint and seclusion in schools. It follows a January 2009 report by the NDRN titled, *School is Not Supposed to Hurt*. The 2009 report revealed that students in every region of the country were being injured, and even killed, by being abusively restrained and secluded in school settings.

When the initial report was released there were no federal laws to prevent or reduce restraint or seclusion of school children, and many states had no laws or policies. During the past year, Congress requested a Government Accountability Office report on restraint and seclusion in schools, held a hearing, and introduced legislation (*HR 4247 and S. 2860*). According to Curtis Decker, NDRN Executive Director, "With continued support from lawmakers and constant pressure at the grassroots level, we look forward to a future where *school no longer hurts*."

Survey

⇒ New ADA Ohio Survey

How do people with disabilities in Ohio rate their community's implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act? ADA-OHIO, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Disability Business Technical Assistance Center, is conducting 'The ADA in Your Community' survey to gather information and answers to this question. Since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, progress has been made as communities remove physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers that hinder people with disabilities. However, there is still a need for improved compliance. This survey asks citizens to identify how they view their community's current implementation, and offer ideas about how accessibility can be improved.

Complete the ADA Survey online: <HTTP://www.TheADASurvey.org>. Print copies and alternative formats are available on request. *To request the ADA Survey in an alternative format, or for additional information, contact L. Scott Lissner by phone: (614) 292-6207 or e-mail: lissner.2@osu.edu.*

⇒ Very Special Arts Festival

The Wright State University Student Union will host the 28th Annual Miami Valley Very Special Arts (VSA) Festival on May 14 and 15, featuring two days of musical performances, workshops and hands-on arts experiences. From 9:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. on May 14, and 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. May 15th, the activities are open to all interested guests with and without disabilities. VSA is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the creative power of people with disabilities through a diverse collection of artistic programming initiatives. Contributing sponsors for the VSA Festival include: Montgomery and Greene County Boards of Developmental Disabilities Services, Wright State University, The Brighter Tomorrow

Foundation, VSArts of Ohio, Gorman-Hewitt-Ayars Foundation, Sinclair Community College, and the Office of Disabilities at Wright State University.

⇒ **Family Caregiver Alliance Posts Health Care Reform Information Online**

http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2397

The National Center on Caregiving at Family Caregiver Alliance has posted new information online about health care reform and its impact on family caregivers. It includes links to resources such as the Campaign for Better Care's "Top Ten Things to Know About Health Care Reform" and Families USA's "State Advocates' To-Do List" for the first 90 days of health care reform implementation.

Reminder

⇒ **Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley – Focus on Assistive Technology**

Assistive technology, including hands-on demonstrations, will be the focus of an event sponsored by Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley on May 27, 2010, from 2:00-7:30 p.m., at Assistive Technology Services, 1133 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Suite 370, Dayton, OH 45417.

Two presentations of special interest are the, "How to Train your Dragon (Naturally Speaking adaptive software)" demonstration by Dragon experts at 2:00 p.m., and a workshop titled, "How Assistive Technology can level the playing field for individuals with disabilities." For more information or to register, click **Register Now!**

Reminder

⇒ **Our Choice: Living in the Community – Conference May 26-27**

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates will be held May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus. This Annual Event is presented in collaboration with Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Home Choice, CareSource and Ohio Legal Rights Service. For more information and registration visit www.ddc.ohio.gov.

Reminder

⇒ **The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point**

The Arc of Ohio *Day at Cedar Point* will be Wednesday, May 26. A brochure describing the day's event may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.thearcofohio.org/sites/default/files/Cedar%20Point%20Brochure%202010.doc>

A limited number of discount tickets will be available for purchase through The Arc of Ohio, at Cedar Point, before noon on May 26th. *More than 6000 friends of The Arc of Ohio typically attend this event each year!*

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board

may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, May 26, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 11

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[Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities \(OACB\)](#)

1. Governor Ted Strickland Kicks Off OACB Conference with Message of Thanks for Collaborative Statewide Efforts

Governor Ted Strickland enthusiastically addressed opening comments to the more than 300 attendees at this year's Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) spring conference May 20th at the Columbus Marriott Northwest (Dublin), stating, "I am here to thank you for the work you do to assure quality of life for Ohioans with disabilities and their families. Through difficult times you have maintained quality services with limited resources." He continued,

"And, I am especially pleased that today, DODD Director John Martin will share with you some just-released statistics that show you how Ohio stacks up with other states in the nation regarding services for people with developmental disabilities. And we stack up well. Very well. My sincere thanks to you all for the work you do."

The Governor's comments also touched on the importance of maintaining strong stakeholder relationships within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, as well as the importance of using research-based data -- such as the National Core Indicators* (NCI) -- that assess how Ohio compares to other states regarding quality of services provided, as perceived by service recipients. He stated, "Clearly, we have a lot to be proud of as we look at Ohio's performance in this new research."

Speaking on the subject of specific efforts the administration is making that will positively affect developmental disability services, Governor Strickland noted,

“I also am pleased to note that some funds to support services have been made available for infants and toddlers who have special needs – namely, the Ohio Department of Health has earmarked approximately \$600,000 of stimulus funds to be directed to this critical service area.”



Governor Ted Strickland addresses the OACB Spring Conference attendees in Dublin last week.

Citing indicators that point toward a slow but perceptible economic recovery within the state, Governor Strickland shared some encouraging signs of this recovery in several cities across Ohio, and concluded,

“I believe that the best days are ahead of us, and the worst times are over – thank you for your continued commitment to Ohioans with disabilities, and be assured that your work is appreciated.”

Following the Governor’s comments were presentations by OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler, and DODD Director John Martin, each of whom addressed in various ways the conference theme, *“Efficient Practices, Quality Outcomes.”* Director Martin supplied data gathered by Ohio’s participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) most recent research, which compares 26 participating states (see <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/nci.htm>) and provides demographic information as well as reports responses to specific survey questions.

Director Martin noted,

“NCI research shows us that in Ohio, when people are asked questions regarding quality of life – such as, ‘Do you have friends who are not staff or relatives?’ ... or, ‘Do you feel that you are treated with respect?’ ... or, ‘Do you feel that you have enough help in working out problems that may occur?’ – in those areas, Ohio is stronger than the national norm. Consistently, the measure of responsiveness and customer service by Direct Support Professionals in Ohio is better than the national norm. This is something all of us can be very proud of.”

Director Martin’s OACB presentation will be online this week at www.dodd.ohio.gov

In line with the DODD Priority Work Areas (online at [DODD Priority Work](#)) tools such as the NCI research will be helpful in identifying and understanding trends and patterns in the service system, as well as perceptions thereof.

Director Martin adds,

“We’ll look at the research results in a variety of ways to learn how we can put it to work toward more efficient practices and quality outcomes. A lot of how good we look, nationally, is due to the hard work done at the County level – ‘on the front lines.’ At the Department, we greatly appreciate your willingness to work with us on behalf of Ohio’s more than 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities.”

In addition to the NCI data presentation, Director Martin shared that the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has generously agreed to fund a grant that will enable our state to begin using the Support Intensity Scale – an assessment tool that is used by 14 other states. The Support Intensity Scale will help develop service profiles of populations within the DD system, including individuals residing in Developmental Centers, and individuals who have mental health issues as well as a developmental disability and/or who may be incarcerated.

“The Support Intensity Scale will help us to get a handle on resource utilization in Ohio, and how we can make better use of our existing resources,” said Director Martin. Similarly, he noted that The Ohio State University Nisonger Center <http://nisonger.osu.edu/> -- a designated University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities -- has agreed to help evaluate the data obtained from the Support Intensity Scale project, and further our efforts to define more efficient practices and quality outcomes. He added,

“We are indebted to partnerships such as this one with The Nisonger Center to help us make the most practical and effective use of available information, and make good decisions.”

The OACB conference <http://www.oacbdds.org/> also included several timely seminars and tracks designed to help County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and related stakeholders to explore and employ new technologies and planning models to make the best use of limited resources and maintain service excellence.

**The National Core Indicators, a collaboration between National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS) members and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), is a systematic approach to performance and outcome measurement. Participating states pool resources and knowledge to create performance monitoring systems, identify common performance indicators, and share results.*



Announcement: Advocacy and Protective Services Inc.

2. APSI Names Ginger Young Executive Director

Virginia (Ginger) M. Young, MA, LSW, has been named Executive Director of Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) -- a private, non-profit agency that contracts with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide guardianship and protective services to individuals age 18 or older. Effective June 28, 2010, Young will replace former Executive Director Ron Kozlowski, who retired earlier this year, following 24 years in that post.

As Executive Director, Young will oversee ten regional offices throughout the state and a Central Office in Columbus, where she will be located (see <http://www.apsiohio.org/ao/>.) The independent organization has long advocated for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Young notes that her collective background, including Vice President of Clinical Operations at *St. Vincent Family Centers* (March 2005-present) has prepared her for this new challenge. At St. Vincent -- which provides services for children with behavioral and mental health challenges -- she has been responsible for the development, service coordination, marketing, documentation, and outcomes for the agency's clinical programs, as well as budgeting and grant proposal development, among other duties.

Prior to the position at St. Vincent, Young was employed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) as Consumer Advocate (2001-2005), acting as liaison to stakeholders statewide. Her educational background includes a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management from The Ohio State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ohio Dominican University. In addition, she has earned an Associate of Applied Science in Interpreting and Transliterating from Columbus State Community College.

She explains,

“It feels to me as if all of my prior work experience and my educational background has led me to APSI. My entire career has included a strong commitment to the deaf community, and to populations that have specific challenges. I always have my ‘advocacy hat’ on! Quite frankly, I was impressed when I interviewed for the APSI position. I saw a very healthy environment with supportive staff and a strong Board that all shared a passion for their work. I am really looking forward to this new opportunity, and to working with all of the stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community.”



Ginger Young

Nevalyn Neval, APSI Board President, and long-time advocate, comments, “As President of the Board, I know I speak for all of us when I say that we are extremely excited about bringing Ginger to this leadership position.” She continues,

“We couldn’t be more enthusiastic about her skills, her range of talents, and the solid experience that she will bring to the APSI organization. Her passion shows – you can see it, and you can hear it in her voice. After a very thorough interview process, it is exciting and rewarding to know that we will be moving forward with Ginger’s leadership.”

About APSI

Approximately 4660 individuals are represented by APSI. The agency is appointed guardian by the Probate Court throughout Ohio. APSI utilizes the ‘Best Interest’ Standard in decision making for individuals served. APSI Program staff act on behalf of the agency to provide informed consent, and to advocate for appropriate services and supports.

“Great organizations are fueled by people who love what they do, largely because they love who they do it with ... and who they do it for.”

- Jim Collins, noted author on the subject of business success



Part IX in a Series

3. Priority Work – Reducing Lifelong Impacts of Disability for Families by Responding More Effectively to Their Needs

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the ninth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families’ needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress,’ led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- Usage of \$600,000 in stimulus funds specifically earmarked by the Ohio Department of Health (see *Pipeline* article #1, in this issue) for services to infants and toddlers with special needs. Specifically, the funds will be used to provide supports for families of eligible children ages zero to three;
- Collaborative efforts with entities such as West CON, a network of Ohio counties that is exploring ways to effectively provide consistent and specific services across county lines for very young children with developmental disabilities, including autism;
- Exploring intake and screening processes and workable timelines to help address an individual's needs as he or she is deemed eligible. This is being explored primarily via the

County Collaborative group (See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2, January 20, 2010](#), Priority Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative);

- Continuing to develop waivers that are more flexible and self-directed;
- Partnering with other agencies to share resources;
- Enhancing methods for responding to families' needs sooner, so individuals can avoid more costly interventions later in life (i.e., identifying and meeting interim or incremental needs, if not the ultimate goal);
- Establishing a process for *annual contact* with individuals and families on waiting lists to identify any current needs that could be met; and,
- Encouraging an evolution from facility-based to family home-centered early intervention, school age, and transition-to-work practices. In this area, a focus will be on sharing best practices and new ideas that may be replicated successfully.

Setting the Stage to Respond More Flexibly to Families' Needs

Participants in the 18-county County Collaborative Network [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), are inventorying existing processes with goals of developing a single process for intake, screening, and eligibility determination, and for integrating assessment, service planning, fiscal planning, monitoring, and quality assurance into a single web-based system that results in online availability of individual service plans.

Participants in the County Collaborative Network also are testing new strategies for waiting list management. The goals are to enhance methods for responding to families' needs sooner, and to establish a process and plan for annual contact with individuals and families on waiting lists.

In discussing this section of the Priority Work Plan, DODD Director John Martin explains,

“Anything we can do to reduce the reliance on waiting lists, and provide at least some needed assistance to an individual or family, is what we are working to do in this Priority area. I have been impressed with efforts in some counties to explore creative and practical ways to provide at least some needed services to those on waiting lists. The collaboration I am seeing in this area is very exciting, and I believe we will be seeing good progress in the long run, because of it.”

The expected outcomes from *reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families' needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and is posted on our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>. The report

is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.



4. PATHS MidEast Region Celebrates Ten New Graduates

The Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) Credentialing Program, MidEast Region, recently celebrated its second graduating class, where ten Direct Support Professionals earned *Certificates of Initial Proficiency*. The PATHS MidEast Regional Council consists of MEORC (the MidEast Ohio Regional Council), Region V County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and provider agencies in the geographical area.



PATHS MidEast Region, shaded in blue.

Receiving certificates were:

- Stacy Arbaugh – Mount Aloysius, Perry County
- Brent Brannon – Mount Aloysius, Perry County
- Darla Channel – Perry County Board of DD – PerCo, Perry County
- Tammy Heck – Newark Resident Homes, Licking County
- Lisa McGee – Muskingum Residentials Inc., Muskingum County
- Kim McNabb – RHDD, Washington County
- Amanda Swisher -- Newark Resident Homes, Licking County
- Anne Triplett -- Newark Resident Homes, Licking County
- Bethany Toledo -- Muskingum Residentials Inc., Muskingum County
- Sheila Valentine -- Perry County Board of DD – PerCo, Perry County

MEORC congratulates the graduates on completing what has become a very thorough and challenging curriculum designed to improve skills and opportunities for Direct Service Professionals, and also positively affects the individuals with developmental disabilities whom they serve.

The PATHS curriculum's Certificate of Initial Proficiency includes 60 hours of classroom instruction in a variety of topics including, but not limited to: community living skills and supports; service facilitation; self determination; documentation; advocacy; and, personal ethics. In addition, students complete an extensive portfolio that includes a collection of work samples that demonstrate their skills.

Professional Development Statements by recent Ohio PATHS graduates exemplify this commitment to excellence. In Southeast Ohio last year, PATHS graduate Erin Pearson wrote,

“Constructing this portfolio has given me the ability to know my strengths and weaknesses. It has given me the tools I need to be more professional, by making me think before I act. I am much more aware of the fact that the people I work with have choices and abilities than I was before I started my portfolio, and PATHS.”



- Recent Mideast Region graduates of the PATHS Credentialing Program -
Front row from left: Lisa McGee, Bethany Toledo, and Amanda Swisher;
Back row from left: Kim McNabb, Darla Channel, Brent Brannon, Sheila Valentine, and Anne Triplett.
Not pictured: Stacy Arbaugh, Tammy Heck.



PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

For more information on PATHS, Mideast Region: http://www.ohiopaths.org/Region_Mideast.html



Ohio Olmstead Task Force

5. Establishing a *HOME* Choice Consumer Advisory Council

“Confinement in an Institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment.”

– Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court of the United States, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 1999



The Ohio Olmstead Task Force and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council invite interested individuals to apply for membership on the new *HOME Choice* Consumer Advisory Council. As Ohio embarks on system reform to balance the long term services and supports delivery system -- Medicaid and non-Medicaid -- input and support from persons who are directly impacted by the system is important and necessary.

Deadline for receipt of applications to participate on the Council is June 1, 2010.

In an effort to build a Consumer Advisory Council that is representative of all persons, the Olmstead Task Force is seeking representatives from the following populations:

- Persons with developmental disabilities;
- Persons who are elderly;
- Persons with physical disabilities;
- Family and/or legal representatives of a child with a disability;
- Persons with mental health disabilities;
- Persons with traumatic brain injury; and,
- Persons in active recovery from alcohol and/or other drug addiction/abuse.

The New Council's Charge

The charge of the *HOME Choice* Consumer Advisory Council is to provide a forum for input, education, and development of consensus on principles, standards, and policy initiatives that impact the long term services and supports system. The Council will advise state agencies, General Assembly members, and other interested parties on these subjects.

It is envisioned that the Council will address issues including: access and entry into the delivery system; services and supports design and redesign; housing; workforce development; and, unified budget. In addition, the Council will encourage expanded advocacy across disability groups, and provide support and guidance to local advocacy efforts. An initial meeting will be scheduled for late Summer/Fall 2010. For a membership form and more information, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm> and submit electronically by *June 1, 2010*, or contact:

Shelley Papenfuse
Ohio Olmstead Taskforce/Chair
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
5605 Monroe St., Sylvania, OH 43560
shelley@abilitycenter.org

A Little History

The Ohio Olmstead Task Force is a grass roots coalition of people with disabilities of all ages, their family members, and other organizations advocating together for the right to live, work, and participate fully in their communities. Visit <http://www.ohioolmstead.org/> for more information.

“The Olmstead ruling was a critical step forward for our nation, articulating one of the most fundamental rights of Americans with disabilities: having the choice to live independently. I am proud to launch this initiative to reaffirm my Administration's commitment to vigorous enforcement of civil rights for Americans with disabilities and to ensuring the fullest inclusion of all people in the life of our nation.”

- President Barack Obama, June 22, 2009, “The Year of Community Living”



Two State Agencies Partner to Get the Word Out...

6. Take Action: Protect Yourself from Fraud!

Ohio's Department of Insurance and Department of Aging Team Up on New Initiative

Last week two state agencies launched a new initiative, *“Take Action: Protect Yourself from Fraud,”* that educates Ohioans about insurance fraud and financial exploitation. Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI) Director Mary Jo Hudson, explained, “There are growing trends that show, for example, that insurance and annuities fraud are especially targeted at older people. This initiative is a proactive step to arm *all Ohioans* with knowledge to help them avoid financial exploitation. It also serves as a resource so people know where to go to report fraud.” She added,

“Together, the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Aging can arm consumers with information to help them protect themselves and allow us to garner the information we need to track down the perpetrators.”

Dottie Howe, ODI Fraud Protection Program Coordinator, notes that it is very important for people who are caregivers and/or guardians for people with developmental disabilities and other especially vulnerable populations to be on the alert for fraudulent schemes and deceptive practices that could affect these individuals. She explains, “Our program is perfect for caregivers and guardians who handle financial decisions for others.” She continues,

“When you're making important choices for others, involving medical or life insurance – or any financial investment – use our online guide at www.takeaction.ohio.gov to assist you, or just give us a call. If we can't answer your question, we'll direct you to someone who can. There's also a section on the website that states, 'ASK DOTTIE by-email at takeaction@ins.state.oh.us', and that's where people can share scam stories, make comments, or just get advice.”

Howe noted that people are reluctant to report being swindled, often out of embarrassment or shame -- especially senior citizens, who under-report these events because they don't want family members to know. “Anyone at any age can be scammed if a con artist or unscrupulous sales agent is convincing enough. There's nothing to be ashamed of if someone takes advantage of you. Studies indicate that the profile of victims of investment fraud are men over age 55 who are financially savvy and smart. Still, they can get scammed.”

Free Consumer Guide

The new, free consumer guide at www.takeaction.ohio.gov provides background facts on areas in which people can be exploited, and serves as a workbook listing important questions to ask. As noted by Dottie Howe, the interactive website is filled with tips on how to recognize, avoid, and report fraud.

Take Action focuses on alerting consumers to types of deceptive sales practices and schemes occurring in the areas of: annuities; living trusts; stranger-originated life insurance; reverse mortgages; medicare sales; and, health care fraud.

Take Action also assists Ohioans in safeguarding personal online information and warding off unwanted telemarketers and ‘spammers.’

According to the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Aging, “The best weapon people can use to protect themselves from fraud is to recognize it when they see it – before their money lines somebody else’s pocket.”

Ohio Department of Aging Director Barbara Riley comments, “We want Ohioans to know that when it comes to consumer issues, this means being your own advocate. Know what you want, what to look out for, and where to turn for help, should you need it.”

Speakers Available

Representatives from the Ohio Department of Insurance, the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Commerce, the Office of Attorney General Richard Cordray, the Office of State Treasurer Kevin Boyce and the Ohio Consumers’ Counsel also will be available to participate on informational panels. Groups focusing on seniors, people with developmental disabilities, and other especially vulnerable populations can request a speaker for a workshop, or ask for a panel of experts to talk about fraud. (See contact information below.)

Statistics show that senior citizens attract 30% of reported fraud, and are three times more likely to become fraud victims. The Baby Boomer generation will reach 71 million over the next several decades – a huge population ripe for financial exploitation.

Visit www.takeaction.ohio.gov to read or order copies of the Take Action consumer guide. Email program coordinator, Dottie Howe, at takeaction@ins.state.oh.us. Consumers with specific insurance questions and complaints may call the Ohio Department of Insurance consumer hotline at 1-800-686-1526.



May 26-27 at Hyatt Regency, Columbus

7. Our Choice: Living in the Community, Conference Provides Information and Inspiration

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates, began today’s program with a rousing keynote address by Samuel Bagenstos, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, who stated clearly and often that the right of people with disabilities to live in the community is a core principle of civil rights, which must be protected and reinforced. He stated,

“When my son asks me, ‘What does a disability rights lawyer do?’ I tell him that at the U. S. Department of Justice, what we are about is the right to live in this world, and to live in it as our Constitution promises.”

Bagenstos’ comments and others during the morning session of the two-day conference, today and tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, were supported by rulings such as the Olmstead Decision (updated Ohio information: [Strickland Olmstead Plan](#)) that protect the civil rights of *all individuals*. The event is presented by the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, HOME Choice, CareSource and the Ohio Legal Rights Service. Workshops on these and other subjects, and a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are also slated.

Organizations participating in the conference were mindful of supporting the *Our Choice: Living in the Community* theme, and included relevant information and activities. Always an innovative group, *People First of Ohio* invited conference attendees to, “Share what you think about living in the community,” by hosting a table filled with materials to help interested individuals create artwork that depicts what they feel they need and want to live successfully in the community.



People First of Ohio's interactive information table was a hub of activity as individuals artistically created 'their community.' Overheard: "I'll need a mailbox for sure. I'll be getting lots of mail."

The conference program’s welcoming comments set the tone for what should be a very successful two days: “We hope you will find this event to be an enlightening and valuable experience. It’s been more than ten years since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that people with disabilities have the right to live in a community-based setting rather than be hidden away in a segregated institution such as a nursing home.” It continued,

“States must provide community-based programs and services when living in a community setting is an individual’s choice ... Keep the promise of the Olmstead Decision alive by coming together and advocating for its full implementation throughout the United States.”

For more information visit www.ddc.ohio.gov.



Correction

In the story titled, “*Huron, Ottawa Counties Launch Bridges to Transition*,” in the [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 10, May 12, 2010](#), the following information was inadvertently omitted: Crawford, Marion and Wyandot counties also are currently involved in the *Bridges to Transition* program, bringing the statewide total of participating counties to fifteen. *Pipeline* thanks reader, Judy Enders, Business Manager, Crawford County Board of DD, for this information.

8. Pipeline PostScripts

To see the DODD website calendar, click on ‘Calendar’ at the lower bar of the homepage, www.dodd.ohio.gov

⇒ Survey Re: *The ADA in Your Community*

ADA-OHIO, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Disability Business Technical Assistance Center, is conducting a survey titled, ‘*The ADA in Your Community*.’ Since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, communities have made progress as physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers that hinder people with disabilities are removed. And yet, there is still a need for improved compliance. This survey asks citizens to identify how they view their community’s current implementation, and offer ideas about how accessibility can be improved. Complete the ADA Survey online at: [HTTP://www.TheADASurvey.org](http://www.TheADASurvey.org). Print copies and alternative formats are available. *To request an alternative format, or for additional information, contact L. Scott Lissner by phone: (614) 292-6207 or e-mail: lissner.2@osu.edu.*

⇒ DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI’s call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>*

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Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 12

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[In Fairfield County](#)

1. Successful Transition Collaborative Gets the Job Done!

Among the noteworthy programs on Central Ohio’s employment scene targeting the end-of-high school ‘transitional’ age group, and preparing young people with developmental disabilities for jobs in the community, two have resulted from the work of the *Fairfield Transition Collaborative*. The Collaborative has grown from its ‘task force’ beginnings to become an established entity adhering to a strategic plan, about which we’ll share more in a moment.

The two highly successful transitional programs are:

- *Project SEARCH* -- New to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) in 2009, this program is a joint effort among the FCBDD, Fairfield Medical Center, and the Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Center, with assistance via the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). *Project SEARCH* initially has provided work experience for six high school seniors from Fairfield County who have developmental disabilities.
- *LIFEWorks* -- A joint effort linking the County Board in Fairfield County with those in Franklin, Licking, Hocking, and Union counties, as well as with Goodwill of Columbus, and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, students

participating in LIFEWorks gain job training experience during three six-week internships, with the goal of being hired by the end of the internships.

Effectively entering the workforce after high school is what the transitional programs are all about.



Project SEARCH Intern Ian Baustian carefully folding surgical towels in the Surgical Sterilization Department at Fairfield Medical Center. Following the internship, Ian has been hired by the facility.

FCBDD Superintendent John Pekar notes that the two most important elements in getting these employment programs off the ground last year were *funding* and *partnerships*. He explains, “The LIFEWorks grant was through the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and allowed us to fund a fairly broad partnership with the intent of improving employment opportunities for young people with disabilities who are entering the workforce after high school. Often, during this transitional period, the responsibilities between school districts and the various agencies and services available locally are not as clearly defined as they could be.”

He added, “It took us about a year and a half to pull together a transitional collaborative group comprised of service providers and school districts, focusing on transition planning. The goal was to prepare *a formal agreement* in terms of services -- signed by all parties -- that delineates 'who's responsible for what' in helping young people with developmental disabilities gain work skills and opportunities in the community.”

According to Pekar, the agreement is a commitment between local community partners that seek to improve communication, coordination, and services for these students ... so when they graduate from high school there are real alternatives to the traditional workshop setting.

Superintendent Pekar emphasized,

“ Formalizing a transition agreement was a huge plus for us. We could then move forward with a unified direction. The Fairfield County Transition Task Force agreement is referred to as, 'The Fairfield County Transition Initiative – Local Interagency Agreement,' and its purpose is to improve the coordination of services for students with disabilities transitioning from education to adulthood. This area is leading the state in terms of transition services, and we're very excited to tell people about what we are doing.”

Specifically, the agreement/plan identifies the following important elements:

- Quality Indicators;
- Overview of Transition Services;
- 2010 -2012 Goals;
- 2010 -2012 Special Projects;
- Terms of the Agreement; and,
- Participating Agency Commitments to the task force.

Outcomes – a.k.a. Getting the Job Done!

Project SEARCH will end the 2009-2010 school year with three of the six participating Fairfield County high school seniors gaining employment -- Fairfield Medical Center has added Project SEARCH students Ian Baustian, Elizabeth Burgoon, and Carla Jackson to the hospital staff.

Melissa McCrady, Project SEARCH Job Coach, noted, “We’re proud of each of our graduates, and are very excited that these three already have jobs at the hospital. I’m pretty confident that all six of the students will secure positions as the school year draws to a close.” Ian was hired as a Clerical Assistant in the hospital’s lab, Elizabeth has been hired in the dietary department, and Carla will be part of the patient transport team.

In addition, building on Project SEARCH’s first-year success, next year’s class has grown to include ten students from around the county.

More Building on the Positives

Katina Karoulis, a consultant working with the Fairfield County Board of DD, as well as with the Lucas County Board of DD, looks ahead to similar training and employment opportunities such as these, targeted to assist transition-age students with developmental disabilities. She notes,

“ There are so many exciting employment initiatives going on in the Fairfield County area, and we are looking at the outcomes there as building blocks for other such programs and collaborative efforts. In particular, the Lucas County Board of DD is participating in an Urban Youth Works grant funded by the Department of Job and Family Services, called the ‘Internships that Work Initiative.’ The purpose of this grant is to implement a Customized Employment Process and apply it to the development of paid internship sites for 25 students/young adults by December 31, 2010.”

She continues, “The grant opportunity was awarded to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), in collaboration with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), who trained staff and are providing technical assistance to Lucas County and its project partners. We are attempting to ‘braid’ funding so that a variety of funding sources can help pay for the services needed, per individual.”

Karoulis adds, “In fact, both the Fairfield and Lucas County Boards are building upon Customized Employment practices – Lucas, through the Internships the Work Initiative (IWI) grant, and Fairfield, by hiring a Customized Employment Coordinator who works with the Transition Coordinator. Together, they match transitioning students' skills, interests, and preferences with appropriate employment sites.” She concludes,

“The emphasis is on the importance of matching the needs of the students to employers who diversify their worksites by hiring people with various skills and talents who just happen to have a

disability. In Fairfield and Lucas counties they have really embraced this approach to providing transition services, and it is making a positive difference in peoples' lives."

Looking Ahead

In addition, Karoulis and other collaborators on the Lucas County project have applied for consideration as a demonstration site for a Microenterprise Grant (see information at http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/Funding_Grants/default.aspx) via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). She notes, "When I heard about the Microenterprise grant opportunity funded by RSC, I was elated! How wonderful it would be to continue the work we have started in Lucas County as a demonstration site involved with that grant. We look forward to being among those considered for this opportunity and hope to include Fairfield County as a participant, as well."

Look for more on the subject of targeted employment opportunities for transition-age students throughout Ohio in future issues of *Pipeline*.

Acknowledgements to the Fairfield County DD website at www.fairfieldddd.com and their Imagine newsletter, May 2010.

For more information: Pipeline Quarterly, Autumn 2009 , pp. 4-5.

Additional contact: Katina Karoulis kkaroulis@lucasdd.org



Legislative Update

2. Signing of House Bill 398, Expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions; Prospects Regarding an Extension of E-FMAP

House Bill 398

Last week, Governor Ted Strickland signed House Bill 398, expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions and allowing Ohioans in 'imminent risk' of entering a nursing facility to have access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) without first having to spend 24 hours in a nursing home facility. This change in law simplifies enrollment for waiver services from a practical standpoint, as stated by Governor Strickland in early April:

"Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services."

State Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Peggy Lehner were the sponsors of HB 398 which will assist all Ohioans, including those with developmental disabilities and those with aging conditions, in having more community-based choices under the law. The full text of the bill, is at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_398.

Prospects Regarding an Extension of E-FMAP

According to reports published during the past week, including a front page story in *The New York Times*: www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/us/08medicaid.htm, Ohioans will lose access to critical health and welfare services, unless Congress grants a six-month extension of the current,

higher Medicaid funding for states under of the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (E-FMAP) provision. Using economic stimulus money, the federal had government increased its share of the funding to 74%, up from 64%, but that plan is scheduled to end Dec. 31, unless Congress approves a six-month extension.

According to a letter signed by Governor Ted Strickland, dated May 26, 2010,

“Ohioans have benefited greatly from the inclusion of E-FMAP in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This increased federal Medicaid match has allowed Ohio to maintain core services during our national recession. I write to ask you for your full commitment to protect critical services and maintain healthcare jobs in Ohio by extending E-FMAP for two additional quarters.”

The letter also states, “The increased federal match allows the state to cover the one million children in Medicaid at a lower cost, as well as provide services for those with chronic conditions and long-term care needs. Additionally, E-FMAP dollars are being used directly at the county level to provide mental health services to the escalating number of children, adults, and families experiencing mental illness across Ohio.”

Estimates are that the extension of E-FMAP – the formula for splitting costs between the states and federal government – from January through June 2011, would bring Ohio more than \$750 million in additional Medicaid funding, according to the Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future, a coalition of human services groups.

In addition, loss of the additional E-FMAP funding would mean the elimination of optional services that the federal government does not mandate states to provide.

According to Daniel M. Berland, Director of Federal Policy for the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), in correspondence to members this week, “ ... Increased action from governors is a positive development ... while there is a fairly strong sense that the Senate will pass the provision, advocates are anticipating a difficult struggle with the House. One key to success is the level of pressure governors exert for passage.”

Without an Extension, Some States Would be Scrambling to Fill the Gap

Additionally, *The New York Times* article noted earlier reported, “The Medicaid provision, which would extend assistance first granted in last year’s [stimulus package](#), was considered such a sure bet by many governors and legislative leaders that they prematurely included the money in their budgeting. But ... House leaders in late May eliminated \$24 billion in aid to states from a tax and jobs bill that was approved and forwarded to the Senate.” (Editors Note: Ohio *did not* include or ‘count on’ this money in the current biennial budget.)



Part X in a Series

3. Priority Work – Plan for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the tenth and final installment in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas. In July, Pipeline will carry an overview and progress report.

Next Month in Pipeline: The Ten Priority Work Areas, Review At-a-Glance

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (Details in [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Planning for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System is one of the ten priority areas and is led by DODD Director John Martin, along with Deputy Director for Fiscal Administration, Ann Rengert. Working in partnership with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- The Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has agreed to a revised *tax equity formula*, based on tax valuations, taking into consideration that funding formulas for counties may be based on tax valuations that have changed since their inception several years ago. Tax equity funds are to be used for waiver match, and the total amount of funding affected is approximately \$14 million. With the formula having been agreed upon within the Workgroup, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) now is researching appropriate legislation to carry the formula and language, targeting a beginning phase-in timeframe of June-July 2011, with full implementation by July 2019.
- The Workgroup also has gathered information to support an *increase in revenues to be generated via the Targeted Case Management (TCM) Medicaid funding stream*. By the end of June 2010, information gathered with the assistance of Ohio’s 88 County Boards of DD will be complete, and the next step will be to work with the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) on possible implementation of an increase in TCM funding.
- The Workgroup is developing an administrative rule and structure for assisting financially-distressed County Boards. The rule has been disseminated for stakeholder review and comment. The rule and structure would provide a system by which a county board could continue to operate following failure of a levy that results in a lack of operating funds to meet basic service requirements.

- Workgroup members are reviewing structural funding models for the County Board Subsidy to determine if there is a better way to distribute money to County Boards.

According to Ann Rengert,

“On the subject of tax equity, we are hopeful that by using a revised tax equity formula, County Boards that have been struggling due to old, outdated formulas will gain a stronger footing, and be able to access matching funds to benefit their waiver recipients.”

She adds, “As noted in our latest [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#), we are looking at an incremental implementation of the revised tax equity formula over a period of about eight years. And, it is important to note that the Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has seen a great deal of cooperation from Ohio’s County Boards throughout this process. The OACB is now taking the next steps toward the goal of legislation that will allow the new formula by July 2011. We are very appreciative of their collaborative efforts.”

Additional Considerations in this Priority Area

Commenting on additional considerations for the Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup, DODD Director John Martin added,

“I’d like to emphasize that with the overall strategy and action steps that this Workgroup has undertaken, we have tried to maintain a strong focus on making progress in specific areas of our system that will have the most positive fiscal impact within the framework of limited resources. The members of this Workgroup collected and reviewed a great deal of useful data from across the state in order to build a foundation for good discussions and good decisions.”

Further commenting on the stakeholder involvement in this Priority Work Area, Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain explains,

“What especially struck me in working with this group was that everyone had opportunities to bring their ideas to the table – to listen and learn from others – and the information was readily shared for open discussion. I think we all felt included and informed in the process. It was clear that the intent was to develop agreement among stakeholders as to what was going to make the most effective impact, and everyone understood that. In the area of fiscal sustainability, we asked ourselves many tough questions and, let’s face it – the task at hand was, and is, to make the most of what is available.”

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and is posted on our website at [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#). The report is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.



4. Oral Histories of Self Advocates Added to University of California, Berkeley Library Collection

- Two Ohio Self Advocates Add Their Voices -

The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, has announced the addition of a collection of oral histories of leaders in the self-advocacy movement. The University's announcement noted,

“The self-advocacy movement is a civil and human rights movement led by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Despite its widespread existence nationally and internationally, few works have explored the rich history, culture, and significance of this movement. The new collection helps fill this void through documenting the life stories of thirteen leaders from across the country, many of whom founded the movement at local, state, and national levels.”

Ohio self advocates *Linda Kunich* and *Marvin Moss*, both of whom are founding members of the *People First* organization in Hamilton County, engage others with their personal stories on subjects such as: experiences in school; becoming a self advocate; relationships with family members; and, volunteering in the community. Both Kunich and Moss are well known for ‘Telling it like it is,’ and paving the way for others to do the same. Participating in the Oral Histories project provided another fine opportunity to increase understanding of self advocates as ... well ... as people, first.



Marvin Moss and Linda Kunich share their stories within a unique collection of oral histories, online.

Access the collection of leaders in the self-advocacy movement at http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/ics_movements/self_advocacy.html In addition to interview transcripts, the collection contains captioned video-taped excerpts which make it accessible to a broader audience, including individuals who may have difficulty reading.

According to Tamar Heller, President of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, “As a whole, the U.C. Berkeley collection is perhaps the most in-depth exploration of the transformative impact and cultural meaning of the self advocacy movement. Spanning more than six decades, the life stories of self advocates document how far we have come as a society while reminding us how much further we still must go.”

Chairman of the National Council on Disability, Jonathan Young, comments, “Future generations will look back on the passage of the ADA as a watershed moment in public policy. It is critical for young people with disabilities to have a strong sense of history, identity, and pride. The use of technology to share these stories of self advocates will have powerful impacts on our community and the next generation of leaders, just as the ADA did for this generation.”

Special thanks to Essie Pederson, statewide coordinator for Ohio’s Partners in Policymaking, for bringing this information to the attention of Pipeline, and congratulations to Linda Kunich and Marvin Moss on yet another accomplishment in their continuing advocacy work.

*To access an additional disability rights and independent living movement collection:
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/drilm/index.html>*



Breathing Easier Across Ohio

5. Four County Boards of DD Awarded New EPA Grant Funds

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Allen, Carroll, Portage, and Richland counties each will be receiving a new grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s *Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund*. The four counties join Tuscarawas and Highland counties, which, late last year, were the first County Boards to receive *Ohio EPA Clean Diesel School Bus Retrofit* grants.

Money awarded will be used to outfit buses with up-to-date pollution control equipment to help protect children from diesel pollutants that can lead to asthma and bronchitis, and which may be linked to an increased risk of other illnesses.

The program has been shown to be effective in improving public school bus emissions for three years, and a provision in Ohio’s 2009 budget allowed County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to be eligible to apply as well as public school systems.

Carolyn Watkins, Administrator of the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund operated by the EPA Office of Environmental Education, states,

“We encourage all Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to consider applying for these grants. The next application deadline is September 1, and they can contact me via email at carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us with any questions.”

**Application materials are available at
<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/schoolbus.aspx>**



Natalie Lupi, Superintendent for the Tuscarawas County Board, noted last year that applying for the grants took some initiative and some time, but that the result of improved air quality for county residents is well worth the effort. She explained,

“Our mission extends to all aspects of life in our county, and we recognize the value added by giving back to the community that has consistently supported our mission. Seeking alternative funding sources, such as this one, is part of embracing our agency’s mission to improve the quality of life for eligible individuals.”

During the Spring 2010 grant cycle, which ended in March, Ohio EPA awarded a total of 15 grants to school districts and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Collectively, the \$520,127.86 in funding will install pollution control technology on a total of 191 Ohio buses, and achieve an estimated annual emission reduction of 370.7 pounds of particulates, 3671 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 1553.4 pounds of hydrocarbons.

That’s a lot of particulates!

Specifically, the newly-funded County Board projects include:

- **Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, Allen County, \$19,343.40 to retrofit *10 buses* with diesel oxidation catalysts and closed crankcase filtration systems.
Contact: Susie Howell, showell@acbdds.org or (419) 221-1330.
- **Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, Carroll County, \$8,830.00 to retrofit *two buses* with diesel oxidation catalysts and closed crankcase filtration systems, and *three buses* with diesel oxidation catalysts.
Contact: Sharon Bellamy, sbellamy@carrollhills.com or (330) 627-5524.
- **Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, Portage County, \$26,623.44 to retrofit *12 buses* with diesel oxidation catalysts and closed crankcase filtration systems.
Contact: Jennifer Weaver, jenniferw@portagedd.org or (330) 297-6462.
- **Richland County Board of Developmental Disabilities**, Richland County, \$6,255.00 to retrofit *three buses* with diesel oxidation catalysts and closed crankcase filtration systems.
Contact: Chris Jones, cjones@rnewhope.org or (419) 774-4209.

The grants are supported with a combination of funds from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of Ohio’s environmental protection laws, and from a federal Clean Diesel Grant awarded to Ohio EPA from the U.S. EPA.

*Contact: Ohio EPA, Office of Environmental Education; Phone (614) 644-2873;
Email oeef@epa.state.oh.us; <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/schoolbus.aspx>*



6. Two New Websites Will Provide Improved Access to Information for Specific Populations

Ohio’s *Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA)*, whose purpose is to identify

opportunities to coordinate state agency efforts that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families, will be launching a new website to help connect people to the autism-related information they want and need. The website is currently in test/review mode, and by June 30, the DODD homepage at www.dodd.ohio.gov will include a direct access link to that site, as well as to a new Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence (MIDD/ CCOE) website.

The MIDD/CCOE site is completing testing at www.midd.ohio.gov and will provide a new avenue to communicate with counties, providers, and constituents on the subject of MIDD ‘dual diagnosis’ in Ohio. The IWGA website -- in test, and currently not accessible by link-- has been developed collaboratively between the DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to serve as a hub of autism-specific information for families and the autism community, representing the efforts of multiple agencies involved with the [Interagency Work Group on Autism](#).

The MIDD CCOE website has been similarly developed between the DODD and CCOE, to provide helpful information such as a map of dual diagnosis ‘intensive treatment teams’ across the state; listings showing where to find dual diagnosis assessments and consultations; specific educational material, and more.

In announcing the launch of these sites, DODD staff Jody Fisher (Project Manager, representing the efforts of IWGA) and Lara Palay (Project Manager, representing the efforts of CCOE) note that Ohio is positioned to be one of the national leaders in expertise, scholarship, practices, and supports for the dually diagnosed population, as well as for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. They agree,

“We have been blessed to have the collaboration and the expertise of our stakeholders in developing these two new websites, and their launch will help us address several of the specifically-identified DODD Priority Work areas, as well as to share innovative practices and approaches.”



Take A Look!

www.midd.ohio.gov

According to Lara Palay, “Stakeholders involved in the two projects have been working diligently for more than a year to serve the needs of service providers, families, and others through a focused and expanded use of information technology.” She adds,

“State agency partners have opened broader lines of communication to more closely coordinate efforts, and have identified concrete objectives in a work plan, shaping the direction of system improvements. We are extremely excited about the launch of this new ‘dual diagnosis’ website and look forward to it being a strong resource for users.”

DODD Director John Martin notes,

“The Interagency Work Group on Autism was convened in January 2008, comprised of various state agency partners and priorities, and has focused its work to assure coordination among state partners. This focus has guided the progress on all IWGA projects.”

He continues, “The IWGA also has provided an avenue to help assure a flow of autism-related information to and from families and the field. And similarly, our Department’s work with the Coordinating Centers of Excellence in dual diagnosis will provide a direct connection to information that individuals and providers in the mental health *and* the developmental disabilities communities need to be aware of, and are looking for.”

*Resources: MIDD/CCOE – Lara Palay at (614) 301-3557; lara.palay@dodd.ohio.gov
DODD/OCALI – Jody Fisher, (614)466-7317; jody.fisher@dodd.ohio.gov*



There’s Dancing ... and then there’s *The Ballet!*

7. Canton Ballet Welcomes Stark County DD to the Ultimate Dance Community

About 40 children with developmental disabilities took the stage on May 26 for a spring production of ‘*The Little Mermaid.*’ But this was no ordinary production – the performance was the result of a unique partnership between the Canton Ballet and the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and was staged at the County Board’s Rebecca Stallman Southgate School, in Canton.



Of course they’re ... The Jellyfish!



None other than ...The Little Mermaid and attending Royalty.

The Canton Ballet received an “It’s a Great Idea” project grant from Arts in Stark to fund the production. School of Canton Ballet faculty members choreographed, produced, and directed the movement-based performance. The cast was comprised of students with varying abilities. Several of the actors, including the star mermaid, Ariel, used wheelchairs to perform.

The project also included teaching the Southgate students music appreciation, and performance values awareness. Plus, students helped create the costumes and props with the help of school staff. Myrna Blosser, Southgate School principal, comments,

“This has been a wonderful experience for our students, and we were very excited to see the full production with music and choreography from the faculty of the Canton Ballet, with costumes and scenery created by our staff and students.”

According to Jeanne Coen, Canton Ballet Marketing Director, “This is the first time the Canton Ballet has joined with the Stark County Board on a project, and we hope to continue working with individuals with developmental disabilities in the future.”

For more information: Lisa Parramore, (330) 479-7871 or email: parramorel@starkmrdd.org

See the full story and more photos in *Pipeline Quarterly* feature publication, Spring issue publishing soon.

8. *Pipeline PostScripts*

⇒ **Wood Lane to Dedicate Homes Honoring Five Influential Individuals ...** On June 16 at 4:30 p.m., a ceremony will be held at 541 Pearl Street in Bowling Green (Wood County), dedicating five existing homes to five influential individuals who have helped carry out the mission of Wood Lane Residential Services Inc. and Wood Lane Residential Properties Inc. The homes are being re-named from more traditional location-based names to the following: The Delbert Brown Home (formerly ‘Sandridge’); The Jane Quinn Home (‘Middleton Pike’); The Ellen Williams Home (‘Weston’); The Larry Klein Home (‘Bourgogne’); and, The Doug McVey Home (‘Bobel’). The public is invited.

Delbert Brown, Jane Quinn, and Ellen Williams are valued Wood County Board Members; Larry Klein was a strong local advocate for individuals with disabilities; and, Doug McVey was Superintendent of the Wood County Board of DD from 1976-1998. *For more information: Liz Sheets, lsheets@woodlane.us.*

Statewide, naming buildings, meeting space, and other public areas after 'people of distinction' in a particular field is becoming increasingly popular. It is a notable way to honor people – living, or no longer living – who have positively influenced that field.

⇒ **Visions Revealed, 2010: Sixth Annual Art Exhibit ...** June 18-July 16, the Ernsthausen Performing Arts Center Gallery at Norwalk High School, 350 Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk, will host the sixth annual 'Visions Revealed' Art Exhibit. Opening reception is 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.. Participating artists include Artists' Open Studio, North Coast Cancer Care and many local artists. Sponsoring agencies include Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Christie Lane, and others. For more information contact Lynda Stoneham at l.stoneham@hurond.com or (419) 668-8840 ext. 141.

⇒ **Survey Re: The ADA in Your Community...** ADA-OHIO, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Disability Business Technical Assistance Center, is conducting a survey titled, 'The ADA in Your Community.' Since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, communities have made progress as physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers that hinder people with disabilities are removed. And yet, there is still a need for improved compliance. This survey asks citizens to identify how they view their community's current implementation, and offer ideas about how accessibility can be improved. Complete the ADA Survey online at: www.TheADASurvey.org. Print copies and alternative formats are available. *To request an alternative format, or for additional information, contact L. Scott Lissner by phone: (614) 292-6207 or e-mail: lissner.2@osu.edu.*

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**
To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. To subscribe to Pipeline or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>*

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 12

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DODD Family Advisory Council

1. Empowerment Through Information – Service Monitoring, Building a Positive Culture, Group Purchasing, and More

“Positive Culture is not a project – it’s a way of life. It’s a never-wavering and disciplined focus on quality of life, including all of our conversations and actions. It can make a positive difference in all care relationships.”

- Willie Jones, Ohio Association of County Boards

DODD Family Advisory Council members gathered last week in Columbus to participate in another packed agenda, kicked off by DODD Director John Martin. The regularly-featured ‘Director’s Chat’ focused on information gathered via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (see [National Core Indicators Report 2008-2009](#).) Director Martin also shared his “Chat Time” with presenters Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn, who, from their own experiences with family members, discussed advocacy with the accent on persistence – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

During his presentation, Director Martin noted that the data in the most recently-compiled NCI report is intended to provide states across the nation a look at how questions were responded to concerning services -- and perceptions of services -- compared to all others participating in the initiative. “We’re very interested in keying in on areas where we can make a positive impact for individuals and families as we review and share this information.” He adds,

“One thing we know for sure is that families staying as involved as possible as partners in the DD community will help Ohio’s developmental disabilities system identify and maintain the quality elements that are most important to individuals served.”

Families Staying Involved

And, ‘families staying as involved as possible’ is exactly what Cleveland-based advocates Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn so enthusiastically presented next. Sharing the experience of forming a ‘monitoring committee’ comprised of family members and others in their former home state of Michigan, the Alikahns have applied the concept in Ohio. While the monitoring teams are somewhat informal, they follow strict guidelines as to what to look for in community placement situations -- with the over-riding desired outcome of ensuring that the best possible care is given to individuals with developmental disabilities who are living in the community.

Cheryl explained, “We look for things like ... Is there fresh food in the house and not just a bunch of canned or frozen meals? ... Are service providers living up to what they told you they would do? ... Are diet, general cleanliness, care, and safety their main concerns, as family members would wish them to be? We also make it clear that this is not a review to see if paperwork is in order – or an opportunity to gossip about service personnel – but an assessment designed to assure quality care and look out for the best interests of people served.” Visits to service providers are coordinated collaboratively with County Boards.



Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn

From their own experiences with family members, Saadi and Cheryl focused on advocacy with an accent on persistence to gain results – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

“Families staying involved with their family members – it’s so important!”

Saadi and Cheryl also shared with FAC members several examples of excellent care, along with a few less than satisfactory reports, noting, “This is another ‘check and balance’ type of thing, in addition to state (Medicaid) and self-monitoring evaluations that organization may have. It gives us another tool, as families, to feel comfortable that we know more of what’s going on with our family members when they are no longer living with us.”

Further echoing these concerns, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, added,

“The number one thing parents are concerned about – and I talk with a lot of people! – is, ‘What’s going to happen to my (adult) child when I’m gone?’ It’s a parent’s number one concern, especially as the years go by.”

Positive Culture

Willie Jones, representing the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), next addressed FAC members regarding the statewide growth of the Positive Culture Initiative ([read more](#)). He noted,

“A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.”

Jones provided several examples of how thinking situations through in different ways can produce positive results. An example: Redirecting a person’s anxiety over routine fire drills, explaining that when a staff member shifted the focus from the noise and collective movement that was anxiety-producing, to a calm invitation to ‘walk outside together for a few minutes,’ the individual responded favorably. He explained, “By observing carefully and making even small changes in how we treat people, many positive outcomes can be reached.”

Health & Safety

Also on the packed FAC agenda, DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips presented an energetic and information-filled program on the subject of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations, within the overall realm of assuring individuals’ health and safety. He stressed the following two points:

- The timely reporting of MUIs allows for immediate action to occur, notifications to be made, a thorough investigation be completed, and an effective prevention plan developed. Families, providers, and County Boards, in cooperation with the DODD, have embraced these efforts to protect Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- MUI investigations in Ohio have -- through procedures that are both thorough and consistently applied -- shown steady improvement over time. That improvement is characterized by an increase in the identification of a situation’s causes and contributing factors during the investigation, allowing more detailed and comprehensive prevention plans to be developed.

More Purchasing Power

FAC meeting attendees also learned more about Empowered Group Purchasing, presented by The Arc of Ohio’s Executive Director Gary Tonks, and Fran Wesseling, Executive Director of the Columbus-based Foundation For the Challenged (FFC).

The Arc and FFC have partnered to create *Empowered Group Purchasing*, a new entity that will help individuals, families, nonprofit groups, provider service organizations, government agencies, and others in the developmental disabilities community to realize significant savings on the cost of frequently-purchased goods and services. (See article #4 in [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 6](#), March 17, 2010)

To benefit from and join this new program, membership can be completed online at The Arc of Ohio’s website www.TheArcofOhio.org or by calling (800) 875-2723, or a local Arc Chapter office.

Wesseling explained, “Empowered Group Purchasing functions like a discount club without walls. Research and development for the concept was funded by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and identified the need for a ‘group identity’ that could lead to purchasing power for the developmental disabilities community.”

The Next Family Advisory Council meeting is August 31. All meetings welcome new attendees!

NOTE: FAC meetings are generally hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy that we greatly appreciate! Any meeting location changes to accommodate needs will be announced well in advance.

For more information on FAC contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov



At Montgomery Developmental Center ...

2. Supt. Greg Darling to Retire After 34 Years of Service

Superintendent Greg Darling is closing the book on 34 years of service in Ohio’s Developmental Centers. Effective July 31, he’ll be retired – and missed!

In a letter to staff this month, Greg stated,

“For the past 34+ years I have worked in Ohio’s Developmental Centers. I feel extremely fortunate to have had an incredible journey serving the men and women entrusted to our care. My first position in 1976 was at Apple Creek Developmental Center*, and then my journey took me through Youngstown as part of that Center’s opening team. Next it was back to my youth home in Cleveland ... then to Broadview DC* before coming to Montgomery Developmental Center in 1989.”

*** (since closed)**

He adds, “Before my working career I began volunteering in 1967 at Cleveland State Hospital and Gallipolis State Institute, as they were called then. I learned so much from everyone I worked with. And for the past 21 years I am proud to say I have called Montgomery Developmental Center my home. In those many years -- the past seven as your superintendent -- I have found this family to be very much a part of the fabric of my life; a part of me ... I have to tell you, the opportunity to see this staff develop, improving your skills, bringing your passions to our clients and your co-workers – is what has brought me to work every day.”



Greg Darling: Alone, and with friends, Sheila and Luke, at Montgomery Developmental Center.



Greg, flanked by MDC residents, Tom (left) and Bradley (with dog) volunteering at a local animal shelter.

The letter to staff concluded, “Simply put, I have loved being a part of this family ... Now it is time for me to go. That said, I am hereby today announcing my retirement effective July 31. As soon as I know more about transition plans I will, of course, share them.”

Looking back over a career spanning 34 years, Greg also notes that the ‘blending’ of Springview DC into Montgomery DC in July 2005 was a multi-faceted two-year effort, involving many residents, staff, and the local community. “That whole process of how everyone worked together stands out to me as something I look back on and feel pretty good about.”

A Positive Impact

On the subject of Greg’s retirement, DODD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, Ginnie Whisman comments,

“Greg has dedicated his entire career – and his life – to serving individuals with developmental disabilities. He volunteered at two Developmental Centers before working for Applecreek DC in 1976, and worked at several Centers throughout the state. Greg has had a positive impact every where he went. His commitment and dedication to the State of Ohio and the Developmental Centers is remarkable.”

She continues, “Greg is known for his quick wit and sense of humor even in the face of adversity. He will be missed by the individuals, staff, families, and all of his colleagues throughout the DD community.”

Discussing ‘what’s next’ after July 31, Greg Darling thoughtfully responds, “There’s never a perfect time to retire – everything’s always in motion. MDC is a busy place *all* the time and I think we are in very solid shape right now. I feel good about my decision, and we have a dynamic staff with lots of positive energy and ideas to keep things moving forward.” Apparently that energy comes from the top.

If you’d like to wish Greg Darling well, there will be events to attend in his honor during July. Contact Lisa Hutchison Lisa.Hutchison@dodd.ohio.gov for more information. To send a message to Greg: Gregory.Darling@dodd.ohio.gov.



Following Up In Wood County

3. Re-Dedication Event Underscores Meaning of 'Home'

Sometimes an event becomes something greater than the sum of its parts. Such was the case last week in Bowling Green.

As noted in [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 12](#), (June 9, 2010) in a news brief titled, "*Wood Lane to Dedicate Homes Honoring Five Influential Individuals*," a ceremony was held on June 16 in Bowling Green (Wood County), dedicating five existing homes to five influential individuals who have helped carry out the mission of Wood Lane Residential Services Inc. and Wood Lane Residential Properties Inc..

The homes were re-named from more traditional location-based names to the following:

- The Delbert Brown Home (formerly 'Sandridge');
- The Jane Quinn Home ('Middleton Pike');
- The Ellen Williams Home ('Weston');
- The Larry Klein Home ('Bourgogne'); and,
- The Doug McVey Home ('Bobel')

It sounds simple and straightforward, but because 'there's no place like home' the event meant much more to attendees than just the names changing. Delbert Brown, Jane Quinn, and Ellen Williams are valued Wood County Board Members; Dr. Larry Klein was a strong local advocate for individuals with disabilities; and, Doug McVey was Superintendent of the Wood County Board of DD from 1976-1998.

Further illustrating the meaningfulness of 'home' is an excerpt from an article written by Dr. Klein, which has been published online at "This I Believe" <http://thisibelieve.org/essay/11159/>, in which he shared what 'home' meant to him (below). Dr. Klein, who had multiple sclerosis, has since passed away. However, attending the re-naming event was of great importance to his daughters, who traveled to Ohio from Chicago and Ann Arbor, and his sisters, who came from Flint, and Farmington Hills, Michigan. In addition, Dr. Klein's fiancée traveled from Windsor, Ontario, to attend the home dedication.

Excerpt from An Article by Dr. Larry Klein

"Like Dorothy in *'The Wizard of Oz*,' I know that 'There's no place like home.' Nothing ever made that clearer than a recent, prolonged absence...

While I lay idle in hospital and nursing home for nearly a year, my real home seemed so far away. I had lost a lot of linkage to the world. A ventilator did my breathing for me. A tracheotomy prevented me from speaking for months on end. I was fed through a tube inserted into my stomach, and a bed sore ironically prevented me from leaving bed. Quadriplegic as a result of multiple sclerosis, I feared what else might I lose?

Home was the place where I continued to work despite my illness, still striving to contribute. Home was the place where a voice recognition computer enabled me to read and write when my hands could neither turn a page, nor hold a pen. Home was the place adaptive technology and transportation made it possible for me to join my family and friends in vibrant pursuits in repose and away. Fortunately, my job as a clinical psychologist does not require any heavy lifting. So, the satisfaction of a good day's work could yet enliven the spirit in a depreciated vessel.

My heroes: Michael J. Fox; Stephen Hawking; Dominique Bauby; Christopher Reeve; Rebecca Campbell -- all neurologically impaired individuals who would not be halted -- each of them contributing mightily to the welfare of others. I wanted in my own way to continue on that path. Getting home was a necessary requirement.

The final roadblock was the bed sore ... some legitimate wizardry was required. A gifted plastic surgeon performed a skin graft, and as though with the clink of a pair of ruby slippers I was home again.

Dorothy's simple truth is affirmed by my sense of good fortune at being restored to a life I love. A tender corner of my heart is reserved for this, my own Kansas. Since returning I've resumed my practice. Now and then, I have the honor of making a real difference in the lives of the people whom I serve. Unexpectedly, I've been able to get off the ventilator and had my trache removed. It's not a rainbow exactly, but from this place like no other, I am able to see a future I look forward to." - *Dr. Larry Klein*

Sometimes an event becomes something greater than imagined when planned. Such was the case last week in Bowling Green.



A Very Personal Honor: (left to right) Delbert Brown with James Mercer; Jane Quinn with Jesse Fitch. James and Jesse live in the homes now named after Delbert and Jane.



Dr. Larry Klein
(photo courtesy, the Klein family)

For more information: Liz Sheets, lsheets@woodlane.us.



4. OCALI Staff Earn ‘Autism Champion’ Award

The National Autism Society has named Director Shawn Henry and the staff of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) as one of this year’s 2010 Autism Champions. An excerpt from the prestigious award announcement letter reads:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Autism Society, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to inform you that you and your colleagues at OCALI have been awarded a 2010 Autism Champion award by the Autism Society. Autism Champion awards are given by the Society for organizations or persons who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of those affected by autism. The leadership of OCALI has played a critical role in creating top quality programs in technical assistance, training and support to children with autism in Ohio – service that is emulated around the country thanks to your organization’s example.”

The letter goes on to note, “Through OCALI’s long-time membership in, and support of NATTAP – the National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Project – the members of NATTAP were able to convene, share best practices, and develop leading-edge educational programming that would not have been possible without your support and participation. For your agency’s leadership and commitment to bringing the educational standards and practices for those affected by autism to the highest level, the Autism Society salutes you.”

In earning the award, OCALI joins the company of five other Autism Champion recipients: Dr. Gary Mesibov, former director of ‘Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication-challenged Children (TEACH)’; Anna Hundley, Director of the Autism Treatment Center; Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.; U.S. Representative George Miller (D-CA), and author Rupert Isaacson.

Autism Champion awards will be presented at the Autism Society 41st National Conference in Dallas, Texas, July 9.

Congratulations to OCALI on earning this prestigious and well-deserved recognition of their ongoing work to improve the lives of families living with autism every day.

For more information: <http://www.resnaprojects.org/nattap/> and http://www.autism-society.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=16230&news_iv_ctrl=1882



For Direct Support Professionals

5. PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has announced a new PATHS Specialized Certificate Course, “Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Direct Support Professional.” The new, four-session course is offered for professionals who have completed the PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP). Course instructor is Jan Cline, an expert in the field of autism, and the course will include:

- Four on-site class sessions;
- Review of a variety of websites and written materials so that candidates can learn at their own pace;
- Completion of independent study questions and activities;
- Completion of a portfolio, including three work samples that reflect integration and application of learned information; and,
- Communication with a mentor knowledgeable in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Course tuition is \$250. The four class sessions will be held at the Columbus Center for Human Services, 540 Industrial Mile Rd., Columbus, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m..
Class dates are: July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19.**



To register, or for more information, contact Scott Osterfeld: sosterfeld@cinci.rr.com or (513) 300-7038, or see registration details in the ‘Breaking News’ section at <http://ohiopaths.org/>



6. Two Ohio County Boards Earn National Achievement Awards Recognizing Exemplary, Innovative Programs

The National Association of Counties (NACo) promotes efficient, responsive county management and administration. Founded in 1935, it is the only national organization that represents the 3068

county governments in the United States. The organization advances issues before the federal government with a unified voice, improves public understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save taxpayers money.



Achievement Awards

Begun in 1970, the NACo annual Achievement Award recognizes innovative county government programs. Awards are given in a broad range of program categories, including: arts and historic preservation; children and youth services; community and economic development; emergency management; environmental protection; and health and human services.

Among the 2010 Achievement Award winners this year are two Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities – Hamilton and Montgomery. In Hamilton County, six projects were awarded (three of which were submitted by the County Board) and in Montgomery County, one project - submitted by the County Board - was awarded. Information regarding the Ohio awardees is listed in the table below.

OH	Hamilton County	Convention and Visitors Bureau Performance Matrix
OH	Hamilton County	Co-Occurring Resource Group (County Board)
OH	Hamilton County	Greater Cincinnati Emergency Preparedness Initiative (County Board)
OH	Hamilton County	One-on-one Chats
OH	Hamilton County	Social Media Strategy
OH	Hamilton County	Vision 2014 (County Board)
OH	Montgomery County	Mental Health Supports and Services Program in Partnership with the ADAMHS Board

As an example, Hamilton County’s Co-Occurring Resource Group is a unique partnership of human service professionals, successfully filling gaps in a challenging area of service delivery for individuals served by various agencies who have a disability diagnosis and behavioral health challenges -- or ‘co-occurring’ diagnoses. The group, through Hamilton County DD Services, has developed a cross-disciplinary team of skilled professionals working in multiple agencies across the county that serve people with co-occurring diagnoses.

The team’s purpose is to strengthen the interest, willingness, and ability of local health and mental health care staff to effectively support identified individuals. Team representatives include staff from Hamilton County DD Services, as well as from the local offices of Job and Family Services, Legal Aid, Hamilton County Schools, Juvenile Court, Mental Health and Recovery Services, and Ohio’s Coordinating Center for Excellence in Dual Diagnosis -- supported by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Wright State University, and The Ohio State University.

According to Hamilton County DD Services Communications Director, Jenny Dexter,

“Seriously, I cannot tell you how thrilled we are about these NACo awards. The staff members attached to these efforts are phenomenal, both within our agency and within the dozens of other agencies in the county – plus some highly-skilled and professional volunteers! It’s great to see them recognized on a national level for the vast number of cooperative, professional efforts going on throughout our community to support what matters most for individuals with disabilities and their families in Hamilton County.”

And in Montgomery County, the County Board’s *Mental Health Supports and Services Program* -- in Partnership with the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, and Wright State University -- was awarded a NACo Achievement Award recognizing an effective and innovative program that was established to address mental health treatment for individuals with the diagnosis of mental retardation and a mental illness (‘dual diagnosis’).

While the original program had been effective in serving more than 1000 people with dual diagnosis, the local partnership to deliver services through mental health clinics had been somewhat difficult to maintain. Due, in part, to some individuals requiring in-home services and not typical in-office sessions, the Montgomery County Board of DD Services had been bearing the majority of the financial burden. “With a change in the way the funding is handled, appropriate services are now available, and a more effective system has been created,” according to Tim Pfister, Montgomery County Board of DD Services’ Community Relations Specialist.

Congratulations to all of the 2010 Achievement Award winners! For a nationwide list of winning programs, please click [here](#). Additional information at <http://www.naco.org/>

More on the Subject of ‘Dual Diagnosis’

Meeting the needs of individuals who have been dually-diagnosed* with a mental illness and a co-occurring developmental disability was the subject of a recent teleconference sponsored by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). State strategies for meeting the various needs of this population were shared with participants, nationwide, focusing on efforts in the states of Washington and Ohio. At the invitation of NASDDDS, Kevin Aldridge and Lara Palay, representing the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support, discussed critical issues in serving dually-diagnosed individuals, and responded to questions regarding treatment, support, community living, and funding. According to Aldridge, Ohio’s participation was requested as a leader in the subject area. We are pleased to be included in, and learn from, this ongoing conversation.

**Editor’s Note: ‘Dual diagnosis’ and ‘co-occurring diagnosis’ are terms that mean essentially the same thing. In Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, the terms generally refer to a diagnosis of both mental illness and a developmental disability.*



It’s Great to be Outdoors in the Summer, but ...

7. “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”

Governor Ted Strickland recognizes June 20-26 as ‘Lightning Safety Awareness Week.’

In a coordinated effort with the National Weather Service and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, Governor Ted Strickland has recognized June 20-26 as, ‘Lightning Safety

Awareness Week,' encouraging all Ohioans to practice lightning safety and storm preparedness during this week, and throughout the summer.

The National Weather Service notes that lightning is one of nature's most dangerous weather phenomena. In 2009, there were 34 reported fatalities caused by lightning strikes in the United States. And, while Ohio had no lightning-caused fatalities for that year, to-date in 2010, of the five national fatalities, one was an Ohio man.

All Ohioans, including individuals who live in the community in congregate settings and those who care for them, are encouraged to learn more about lightning safety and storm preparedness tips, and know how to protect themselves during thunder and lightning storms.

Have a severe weather safety plan. Check weather forecasts daily, and plan outdoor activities accordingly. Remember ... 'When thunder roars, go indoors.'

For additional information on lightning safety, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov and www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

During an electrical storm, don't take shelter under a tree!



At Downsize Farm in Woodstock, Ohio, there's not a storm cloud to be seen on this beautiful May day. Read more about Downsize Farm Support Services in...

Pipeline Quarterly DODD's feature publication, Spring 2010 issue coming soon!
If you receive the regular *Pipeline* via email, you will automatically receive this publication, as well.

8. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! An ADA 20th Anniversary Celebration, July 26 ...** Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature the

creation of an art mural on-site, and coordinated by VSA Ohio. The public is invited to attend, and more information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline*. Contact for the event is Eileen Corson, (614) 438-1476, Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.

⇒ **SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...**

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Association of County Boards, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is being planned for September 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!

Knowing how difficult it is to schedule time away from work, sponsors are encouraging Ohio's DSP's to *plan now* to attend this first annual Recognition Event. It will be *free* to all DSPs, and will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, as well as speakers including DODD Director John Martin. Also on the program will be comments by Direct Support Professionals – live, and via video. More information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline* as plans develop. Contact for the event is Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **Coshocton County Board of DD Plans 'Freedom Fest' ...** Mark your calendar for July 7th if you think you'd enjoy a good old fashioned patriotic event that features live music, a cake auction, vintage car show, wood crafts, comments by dynamic self advocates .. and much more! Senator Jimmy Stewart is also expected to be on board around noon. Freedom Fest will be at the Hopewell Industries parking lot in Coshocton, 637 Chestnut St., from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information: Bob Nicholson, Director of Adult Services, Coshocton County Board of DD, (740) 622-3563, or visit <http://coshdd.org>.

⇒ **What Is the Parent Information and Resource Center? ...** PIRCs are the only federally-funded programs that provide information on the subject of parental involvement, as well as offer related training and support to families and schools. PIRCs were funded initially by the Department of Education in 1995, and bring together families and schools to reform and improve education.

The mission of the Ohio Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) is to empower all parents and families by providing information, resources, and training to support children's learning and enhance the environments in which they grow.

Ohio PIRC's 'family engagement' strategy provides parents with access to information and support through a toll-free information line at 1-888-OHPIRC9 -- with trained call specialists available 24/7 -- and through a wealth of on-line resources at www.ohiopirc.org.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

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feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Wednesday, July 7, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 14

In This Issue ...

- 1. Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week Receives Unanimous Vote in U.S. Senate
- 2. "My Son's Quality of Life," A Parent's Story
- 3. Hilgeman Retiring from Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities and SOCOG
- 4. Approaching the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), July 26
- 5. Home Energy Assistance Summer Program Available
- 6. OSDA Calls for ESDY Award Nominations
- 7. Partners In Justice and Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Offer Free Conference, July 16
- 8. *Pipeline PostScripts*: ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrations and Other Timely News Briefs

Looking Back ... One Year Ago, Today

Governor Strickland Signed SB 79, 'The Name Change Bill'

On July 7, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79, a bill sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart, that changed the name of Ohio's *Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as changed the names of local Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) boards to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The bill also removed the term 'mental retardation' from the titles of other state and county entities, councils, commissions, and various funds that use the term. The bill became effective 90 days following signature.

See article #6 below for a related photo.

1. Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week Receives Unanimous Vote in U.S. Senate

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) Reports Bi-Partisan Support for September DSP Recognition Week

In a strong show of support, and for the third consecutive year, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating the week beginning the second full week in September (September 12, 2010) as, "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week." Bi-partisan support was lead by sponsor, Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). Senate Resolution 558 recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for their, "... commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages."

Senator Nelson was joined by Senators Brown (D-OH), Kerry (D-MA), Brownback (R-KS),

Dodd (D-CT), Bingaman (D-NM), Johanns (R-NE), Collins (R-ME), Bunning (R-ME), Carper (D-DE), and Udall (D-CO) as co-sponsors of the bill.

This acknowledgment by the Senate is significant to the ANCOR National Advocacy Campaign, as work continues to secure increased funding for DSPs and improve supports and services for people with disabilities.

"We are proud that the U.S. Senate has bestowed this recognition, honoring the direct support workforce and the tremendous impact they have in communities across the country," said Renee Pietrangolo, CEO of ANCOR. She adds,

"National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is a significant and public way to demonstrate gratitude for what direct support professionals unselfishly do each day, for so many."

In Ohio, Chief Executive Officer of Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), Than Johnson – also active in ANCOR -- noted that this recognition offers another fine opportunity to highlight the important contributions made by Ohio's dedicated Direct Service Professionals. He notes that well-known Ohio self advocate, John Hannah, also played a role in helping to obtain Senator Brown's sponsorship. Says Johnson, "We appreciate Senator Brown's support, and the work involved in bringing this recognition opportunity into the spotlight."

DODD Director John Martin comments,

"As I talk with individuals and families across the state, it is always clear to me that the impact Direct Service Professionals have on individual lives is huge. Providing quality service and support in sometimes challenging situations is so important for individuals and their families. We salute their daily efforts."

As the week of September 12 approaches, Pipeline will carry additional information on this subject. More resources are at www.ancor.org



At Northwest Ohio Developmental Center

2. "My Son's Quality of Life" – A Parent's Story

Brent Baer, Superintendent at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center (NODC) in Toledo, shared the following recent correspondence from the family of NODC resident, Colin Soper, after obtaining their approval. It is reprinted below exactly as received, except for some clarifications in terminology and format. Special thanks to the Soper family for allowing their story to be shared.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for NODC staff. During Colin's routine follow-up appointment with an area glaucoma specialist, the physician casually stated that he wasn't going to treat my son's right eye any more because he had lost his vision. The QMRP*, Robin Dufresne, was present. She called me immediately, as NODC had no records relating to Colin's loss of vision.

Her outstanding advocacy for my son resulted in a series of events that culminated with saving the vision in his other eye.

Of note, the physician involved saw my son twice during the eight-week period when he lost his vision. He did not refer to a fellow specialist. Nor did he contact Dr. Larry Johnson at NODC.

I believe that he saw my son not as a person, but as a diagnosis; autistic, deaf, and partially sighted, i.e. a marginal citizen at best.

With assistance from my family (long-time advocates and professionals with experience in rehabilitation and developmental disabilities), we contacted BSVI/RSC** in Columbus for information and referral. Within one week Colin was scheduled to see a specialist at Retina Vitreous Associates, in Toledo.

The new physician walked into the room and said, "Just because you are deaf and autistic, doesn't mean that you do not have a right to the best vision possible."

Colin's surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo took nearly three and a half hours. The doctor performed extensive repair work on the right eye, with the hope of a 75% recovery. Of note also, Colin's left eye was already in bad shape and the doctor was able to do laser repair work and save the sight in that eye.

The last several weeks have been emotionally straining. Having an adult child with significant disabilities sometimes leaves us parents as 'the walking wounded.' In Colin's case we had dealt with years of professional wrongs and (in some cases) denial of services. Colin is 42 years old, and, it is only in more recent years that the field has truly recognized the importance of quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as the importance of supporting families. NODC gives credence to both.

Throughout this recent experience, I was humbled by the care my son received from NODC staff. I was humbled, as well, by the support they offered me.

In addition to Robin Dufresne, whose quiet strength belies her passionate advocacy, I'd like to commend the following individuals: Kahy Nino, Jessica Cisneros, and Kristine Kuebler, who gently supported Colin during the whole process (pre- and post- surgical); the NODC Clinic staff who graciously listened to me and moved quickly and professionally to secure appropriate care; and, Regina Matlock and Fred Bodmer, RNs who no longer work directly with Colin but who both supported us during the surgery. Regina signed, and Fred 'garbed up' to accompany Colin into surgery. And lastly, thanks to Tanya Meyers, who was at one time Colin's Behavior Support Specialist, and is now his caring House Manager. He loves Tanya!

On a closing note, my husband and I were well-supported through the surgical process and were surrounded with staff who truly cared about Colin. Typically, after surgery a nurse will alert the family that, 'The doctor is ready to meet with them.' Well ...

When the nurse called out, "Soper family!" my heart was warmed with the size of Colin's family!

Thank you – Nancy Soper

**QMRP stands for 'Qualified Mental Retardation Professional,' and the terminology is in statute in the Code of Federal Regulations, referring to a staff person who has certain credentials specific to the delivery of services to people with developmental disabilities.*

***BSVI/RSC stands for the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired/ Ohio Rehabilitative Services Commission.*



For more articles highlighting individuals and families served in Ohio's DD system, see the Spring 2010 issue of the DODD's feature publication, *Pipeline Quarterly*, published July 1. It may be accessed at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm>

In Fayette County

3. Hilgeman to Follow New Path – Retiring from SOCOG Board, Fayette County Board of DD

The Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) recognized a departing board member at its July 1st Board Meeting. Steve Hilgeman, retiring Superintendent of the Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) in Washington Court House, was presented an appreciation plaque by Kyle Lewis, Superintendent of the Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Chair of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG). Hilgeman has been an active member on the SOCOG Board since 1998, and has served as FCBDD Superintendent since 1997.

Hilgeman, who has been attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary part-time for the past five years, is retiring from FCBDD on August 27, at which time he will complete two additional years of training at the Seminary including a one-year internship. As an apprentice, he currently preaches part-time at St. John's in London, Ohio, and conducts three to four services each month for individuals with developmental disabilities and their care providers.

Ohio's developmental disabilities community wishes all the best for Steve Hilgeman as he moves along this new, chosen path.



Steve Hilgeman (right), retiring Superintendent of the Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities, receives an appreciation plaque from Kyle Lewis, Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent, and Chair of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) at the July 1st SOCOG board meeting.

Contact: Lori Lippert, Southern Ohio Council of Government (740) 775-5030; llippert@socog.org



4. Approaching the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, July 26

For more information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), visit <http://www.ada.gov/>

The 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), July 26, is fast approaching! The Great Lakes ADA Center, in conjunction with the National Network of ADA Centers, has launched an initiative titled, '2010 in 2010' -- an effort to encourage two thousand and ten state and local governments to issue proclamations in recognition of the Anniversary, and to re-commit to the full implementation of the ADA.

Many local and state governments have already acknowledged the anniversary by issuing proclamations of re-commitment to fully implement the ADA in their communities. The 2010 initiative strives to 'focus on the positive'.

To become part of a nation-wide effort to proclaim a recommitment to the vision and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act ... full inclusion of people with disabilities in American life ... visit <http://www.2010anniversary.org/> for sample proclamations, suggested activities, and events related to the anniversary.

Free Informational Materials

The U.S. Department of Justice provides *free* ADA materials. Printed materials may be ordered by calling the [ADA Information Line](tel:1-800-514-0301) at 1-800-514-0301 (Voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD). This service is available 24-hours a day for recorded information and to order publications.

Note: Publications are available in standard print as well as large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disk.

See the [*Pipeline PostScripts*](#) section of this newsletter for more information about Ohio's ADA-related celebrations. To share news of your events in the July 21 or August 4 issues of *Pipeline*, email sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov with your information.



5. Home Energy Assistance Summer Program Available

Funding to assist eligible households with summer cooling costs through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program is available July 1 - August 31.

The HEAP Summer Crisis Program, administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Community Development Division, provides assistance to low-income households with a family member age 60 years or older, or households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health.

Qualifying households are eligible for electric bill payment assistance of up to \$175, and these households also may wish to contact local community action agencies, departments of Job and Family Services, and faith-based organizations for additional assistance.

Last year, more than 42,000 Ohio families were assisted through HEAP's Summer Crisis Program.



It's been pretty hot!

For information regarding household income eligibility and other qualifying information, visit the HEAP Summer Crisis Program website at www.energyhelp.ohio.gov or call the toll-free HEAP hotline at (800) 282-0880. Individuals with hearing impairments may dial (800) 686-1557 for assistance.



6. OSDA Calls for ESDY Award Nominations

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) offers an opportunity to honor self advocates, parents or family members, and/or professional staff who have gone 'above and beyond' in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of Self Determination. An ESDY Award is presented to those who have played a vital role in advancing the concepts of self

determination -- including the following elements in the lives of people with developmental disabilities -- freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation.

The ESDY Awards will be presented at this year's OSDA conference,
"Celebrate the Fire Within,"
September 20 and 21,
Doubletree Hotel, Worthington
More information at <http://www.ohiosda.org/> as the event draws nearer.

Deadline for receipt of ESDY nominations is August 30.
Send your nomination to Sharon Travis at stravis@eriebrdd.org

About the ESDY Awards

We don't explain what the acronym 'ESDY' means, because it simply is a written representation of the letters 'SD' for Self Determination! Take some time to think about people and agencies in your community that have done an exceptionally good job advancing the concepts of self-determination, noted above and detailed in links at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm> . Nominations should be specific as to how the nominee has supported the principles of self-determination, and any contributions made toward overall systems change. It's an honor to be nominated ... and a great honor to be selected.



In 2009 ... Winners of OSDA's coveted 'Steven Cooley Self Determination Award', Athens County self advocates gathered for a group photo. The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities representatives earned the award by being persistent and clear in their desire to have the words 'mental retardation' dropped from the names of Ohio agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities. Their work was rewarded with the eventual passage and signing of Senate Bill 79 – the 'Name Change Bill'.



7. Partners In Justice, DD Council to Offer Free Conference

Partners In Justice, in conjunction with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, will host a free conference titled, '*Court Issues with the DD Population*' on July 16, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Ohio Department of Transportation training room, 1980 W. Broad St., in Columbus. Presenters will cover a variety of topics including:

- The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) process and the courts;
- Navigating the system as a service coordinator;
- Re-entry issues from prison;
- Developing partnerships; and,
- Public defender insights.

If you have questions such as, “ What special accommodations are made in court for clients with developmental disabilities, and does it differ from other special populations?,” this course will benefit you!

Application has been made for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for developmental disabilities training hours and social work hours. *Pre-registration is recommended* due to space limitations. For pre-registration, contact Moseneice Thomas, DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support, (614) 466-6690; email moseneice.thomas@dodd.ohio.gov. This training is also posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/training/>.

Training is developed by the Adult Subcommittee of the statewide Partners in Justice team, which is partially funded and supported by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Additional information at <http://www.ohiopartnersinjustice.org/contenta2c9.html>

8. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

Several events will be hosted this month honoring the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), July 26.
Pipeline will keep you posted.

⇒ **In Cleveland ...** Along with many local agencies serving people with disabilities, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD is participating in and helping to sponsor a celebration in Cleveland on the anniversary date, July 26. The noontime event on ‘Mall A’ downtown will include the East Cleveland Venture Crew as color guard and St. Augustine’s Deaf Choir. Advocate and musician Jeff Moyer will be performing the ADA Anthem via video. There will be an afternoon conference at the downtown Marriott immediately following the Mall A event, and conference scholarships are available for individuals with disabilities. At the end of the day, Dancing Wheels and the national champion Wheelchair Cavaliers will perform. *For more information, call LEAP at (216) 696-2716.*

⇒ **In Columbus ...** Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature the creation of an art mural on-site, and coordinated by VSA Ohio. The public is invited to attend, and more information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline*. Contact for the event is Eileen Corson, (614) 438-1476, Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.

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⇒ **PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism ...** The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has announced a new PATHS Specialized Certificate Course, 'Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Direct Support Professional.' The new, four-session course is offered for professionals who have completed the PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP). Course tuition is \$250.

**The four class sessions will be held at the Columbus Center for Human Services,
540 Industrial Mile Rd., Columbus, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m..**

Class dates are: July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19.

To register, or for more information, contact Scott Osterfeld: sosterfeld@cinci.rr.com or (513) 300-7038, or see registration details in the 'Breaking News' section at <http://ohiopath.org/>

⇒ **The Next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is August 31...** All meetings welcome new attendees! FAC meetings are generally hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy that we greatly appreciate. Any meeting location changes to accommodate needs will be announced well in advance. For more information on FAC contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

⇒ **What Is the Parent Information and Resource Center? ...** PIRCs are the only federally-funded programs that provide information on the subject of parental involvement, as well as offer related training and support to families and schools. PIRCs were funded initially by the Department of Education in 1995, and bring together families and schools to reform and improve education. Ohio PIRC's 'family engagement' strategy provides parents with access to information and support through a toll-free information line at 1-888-OHPIRC9 -- with trained call specialists available 24/7 -- and through a wealth of on-line resources at www.ohiopirc.org.

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Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 15

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- 1. DODD Priority Work: Overview & Progress
- 2. Coshocton County's Freedom Festival – "A Picnic with a Purpose"
- 3. Developmental Centers as Community Resources: John's Experience at Tiffin DC
- 4. Health & Safety: Keeping Children Safe During 'Trauma Season'
- 5. Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) Website Now Live
- 6. Creative Housing Inc. Earns HUD Grant for Accessible Housing
- 7. Reminder: OSDA Calls for ESDY Award Nominations
- 8. *PostScripts*: ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrations and Other Timely News Briefs

July 26 is the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

See *PostScripts* at the end of this issue for information on celebrations, statewide.



Free Informational Materials Available

The U.S. Department of Justice provides *free* ADA materials. Printed materials may be ordered by calling the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (Voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD). This service is available 24 hours a day for recorded information and to order publications. The publications are available in standard print, as well as large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disk.

1. Priority Work: Overview & Progress

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in line with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. This overview of the Priority Work Areas follows the final installment in a series of *Pipeline* articles, archived at dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm, and includes highlights of recent progress. An updated Progress Report will be posted online later this month, at the archive location.

A Brief Review of the Ten Priority Areas

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers; (*see related article #3 in this issue of Pipeline*)
- Create a 'Positive Culture' within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

Action steps that address these Priority Work Areas have yielded some specific results, and have begun to positively impact service delivery and stakeholder involvement across the state. Progress made through March 31 is detailed in the most recent report at [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#) and will be updated through June 30 later this month. The report is in a grid format in which action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

A Few Examples

As work moves forward, more than one Priority Work Area may be affected by various action steps and accomplishments. These include the following:

- A formula to provide tax-poor counties with match for waivers is being revised. In order to put a revised formula in place, the Ohio Association of County Boards is researching the most appropriate and logical legislative avenue to pursue.
- In June, the Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver Amendment was formally submitted to the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. It is anticipated that the amendment then will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in early August. This amendment will create four new services for the I.O. Waiver: remote monitoring; adult family living; emergency response systems; and, community respite.
- An event that will focus on various elements comprising the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#) will be held in Columbus on August 3. The day of training and hands-on activities will feature 'real-time' positive culture experiences. People supported by services, family members, direct support professionals, and others engaged in creating positive and responsive services and supports are encouraged to attend. More information at : [NEW Posipalooza - A Positive Culture Event](#) .

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.



In Coshocton County

2. The Freedom Festival – “A Picnic with a Purpose”

“I liked that the community was here to support us. I’m glad we had the chance to tell everyone we’re part of the community.”

Rita – Attends Hopewell Industries Day Program

“The speakers were great. They helped me remember that there others like me.”

Susan – Attends Lafayette Meadows Day Program

“I moved to Coshocton from Elmira, New York, a year ago. I have never been part of something like the Freedom Celebration! The speakers were good, and they did a good job telling everyone how they felt about living with a disability.”

Christine – Attends Hopewell Industries Day Program



Self Advocate Cindy delivers an emotional speech.

At the Hopewell Industries parking lot in Coshocton, the second annual Freedom Festival sponsored by Hopewell Industries Employee Council hosted a large and enthusiastic crowd of individuals, family members, staff, and others in the developmental disabilities community who shared and celebrated stories of independence. Bob Nicholson, Adult Services Director for the Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities, called it “A picnic with a purpose.” He explained, “We purposely plan this celebration during the month of July because of the deep significance independence has to *all* citizens.”

Missy Hahn is one such citizen. She says, "I can do what I want ... when I want. And, I can work where I want, visit friends and family, and go on vacation – when I want to."

Hahn was in an auto accident when she was 14 years old and almost died. She shared that when she came out of a coma, she was unable to walk or feed herself. Hahn spent a year in a nursing home receiving rehabilitation, and then was able to move to her own apartment and receive continuous care with the local Residential Home for the Developmentally Disabled.

"Receiving help from them, I learned how to walk, feed and bathe myself, and – most of all – how to deal with my short-term memory," Hahn said. "Now I'm standing here in front of you, taking care of myself, buying my own groceries."



Festival participants Scott and Verna, forefront, join a large crowd for the event program, complete with music, awards, and of course, great food!

Sharing a little about her personal story, Cindy McConnell related that she was born with an open spine and lived with her parents for more than 39 years. A few years ago, she was able to get her own apartment at Riverside Towers. She noted, "Now, I can sit outside my apartment without someone telling me when to come in."

The Coshocton County Commissioners and State Sen. Jimmy Stewart attended the event, as well. Senator Stewart stated that much of what people with disabilities have earned they've earned themselves. He commented,

"Although I helped sponsor the bill that changed the names of state and county developmental disability agencies, it was self advocates and those close to them who explained and testified before legislative committees that made the difference."



It's 101 degrees outside, but they look pretty cool!

Senator Jimmy Stewart (back row, fourth from left), joins Coshocton County Commissioners and County Board Employee Council members in the celebration of freedom.

And, since the planning of this year's event was very much a product of the Employee Council, they get the last word! ...

"I learned a lot from the people who spoke, and what they have gone through living with a disability. It was a great day."

Shon - President of the Hopewell Employee Council.

Photo acknowledgements to Bob Nicholson, Coshocton County Board of DD. For more information, (740) 622-3563, or visit <http://coshdd.org>

Additional acknowledgements to "Celebrating What Life Has to Offer" - article in Coshocton Tribune, July 8, 2010.



[Developmental Centers as Regional Resources](#)

3. Tiffin Developmental Center, John's Experience

In line with one of the ten Priority Work areas (see article #1, this issue), Ohio's state-operated Developmental Centers are re-balancing resources and fostering stronger community involvement. In so doing, several individual success stories have emerged, a few of which have been shared in previous Pipeline publications, including Pipeline Quarterly [Spring 2010](#) . This one was submitted by Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) in Seneca County.

John is a likable, active, and friendly young man who enjoys riding his bike, singing, and swimming. He is close to his mother (his guardian), father, and eight siblings. John lived at home until 2006, when he moved to a group home setting utilizing an Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver. He had been doing well in school for the past few years -- however, at times, John's developmental disabilities presented certain challenges.

Needing a Change

During late autumn 2009, John began showing increased agitation, self-injurious behavior, and aggression following a medication change. He was admitted to a local hospital and then was transferred to another hospital for more specific care.

At that time, John's mother, along with his service provider and Support Services Administrator agreed that John would benefit from a short-term stay at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) to assess and stabilize his medications and behavioral issues.

John left the hospital and moved to TDC shortly after that. While there, he adjusted to his new home environment and medication changes, and was encouraged to gain independence with a variety of tasks. Because John still was enrolled in school, his education specialist came to TDC Monday through Friday to continue working with John on his skills. Eventually, he resumed his previous schedule and attended classes at his school.

John was making many friends at TDC and gained an additional support system for himself and his family. He enjoyed interacting with others, and was willing to try new activities when offered.



The Garza Building at TDC – John's home when he resided there.

During this period, John's mother, the local County Board of DD, and his service provider continued working with TDC regarding updates on his progress, noting his strengths, needs, and supports. In preparation for John's discharge from TDC following the short-term stay, this continued connection and partnership was very important.

Re-entering the Community-based Environment

Approximately six weeks after John's initial move to TDC he returned to his home for a visit with the intention that he would then leave TDC, depending on his observed reactions and readiness. During a Christmas party at John's home, he became very upset. Several alternatives were considered in order to best manage the situation and it was decided that John would return to TDC. Transportation was provided, and he returned for about a month.

Following the additional month at TDC, John returned to his community-based home and left TDC early in 2010. According to his family, John has made a good adjustment following the plans and care taken to assist him.

Talking with TDC staff about a month after leaving the Developmental Center, John's mother noted, "John is doing well at home. He has had a few incidents that are not so positive, but the home staff has handled these situations well and he has been fine again afterward. John has seen his doctor and has had his medications reviewed and adjusted again recently."

She continues,

“I saw John’s teacher at school for a conference last week and she said he is doing very well and seems cooperative and happy to be there – which is like his ‘old self.’ So, it looks like he has adjusted well to being back home and back to his normal routine and surroundings. I am pleased with that.”



Doing pretty well now ... John (right) and one of his service providers, Randy.

Success Often Arrives in Steps

Everyone -- whether or not they have a developmental disability -- has to adjust to changes in their lives, and difficult feelings and challenges that come along. As indicated in John’s story, getting help from community resources and reaching out to widen one’s circle of support is not often an instant success, but success can be attained with some patience, persistence, and creativity.

Learn more about Ohio’s Developmental Centers at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm>



Health & Safety

4. Keeping Children Safe During ‘Trauma Season’

The office of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations within the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight offers this seasonal article as a summer reminder, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health. Additional topical information is available at www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/ under ‘Health & Safety Alerts’ and ‘Information Notices.’

According to the Ohio Department of Health, across the country, children age 14 years and younger will be rushed to emergency rooms for treatment of injuries nearly three million times from May through August.

Summertime is often referred to as ‘trauma season’ by healthcare professionals working in emergency departments. The summer months offer more time and longer days for play, and there are many opportunities for children to become injured. In fact, injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for children and youth. The majority of unintentional injury deaths and

traumatic brain injuries during the May through August timeframe involve drowning, biking, falls, motor vehicle accidents, and pedestrian incidents. Statistics tell the story:

- Thirty-five Ohio children between the ages of 1-19 drown each year, and 77% of these deaths occur between May and August;
- Each year, about 200 Ohio children between ages 5 and 15 are admitted to hospitals for injuries received while riding a bicycle. Thousands more are treated in emergency rooms;
- Motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of death for Ohioans between the ages of 5 and 20. On average, 80 Ohioans in this age range lose their lives each year as occupants in motor and recreational vehicles;
- An average of 20 Ohio children lose their lives each year in pedestrian-related incidents;
- Falls are the overall leading cause of injury-related emergency room visits and hospital admissions among Ohioans younger than 14.

It is important to supervise children when engaging in summertime activities. Also, make sure that children wear well-fitting safety equipment – such as a lifejacket or bike helmet – and, make sure that play sites have age-appropriate equipment and are safely designed.



At Gallipolis Developmental Center, pool safety and supervision are top priorities during water therapy.

Parents, guardians, and caretakers play a key role in protecting children from injury. Therefore, while playing with children it is important for adults to model proper safety behavior. Research shows that children are more likely to follow safety rules when they see adults doing so.

According to Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigation Unit,

"The MUI/Registry Unit has issued Summertime Health and Safety Alerts based on MUI case reviews, outlining precautions to take when enjoying the summer season. Injuries typically seen during the summer months include: sunburns; falls on uneven surfaces; dehydration; bug bites and infections; water-related injuries; and, burns from barbecue grills and fireworks. We hope that our stakeholders will reference our Health and Safety Alerts* in addition to checking the Ohio Department of Health website at www.odh.ohio.gov to help make this summer safe and enjoyable for everyone."

***Alerts are posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm>**

See more helpful resources online at www.odh.ohio.gov, click on 'Summer Safety', and at www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm, click on 'Keeping Safe in the Summer' Parts I and II.



www.autism.ohio.gov

5. Interagency Work Group on Autism Website Now Live

Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) has launched its new website at www.autism.ohio.gov, facilitated by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The new site introduces users to the IWGA partnership of state agencies on the subject of autism spectrum disorders. The IWGA members include representatives from the Governor's Office, Executive Medicaid Management Administration, Office of Budget and Management, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Rehabilitation Services Commission, and the Ohio Departments of: Developmental Disabilities; Health; Education; Mental Health; and, Job & Family Services.

We all have gifts and talents. We all have wishes and needs. The Interagency Work Group on Autism, convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, is coordinating efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with autism spectrum disorders are recognized, valued, and addressed.

According to Jody Fisher, DODD Project Manager, the new site will allow visitors to follow progress made by the IWGA and provide opportunities for input toward the group's work. "We are very excited to have the partnership online, sharing information that can help people who have autism and their family members. It will be a place to host a variety of useful information for both families and practitioners, and connect them to many public resources."

The new site's features include specific sections for users to:

- Learn about autism spectrum disorders;
- Keep up-to-date on emerging state initiatives;
- Find public resources that can assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families across the lifespan;
- Keep informed of autism-related legislation and national news highlights; and,
- Stay current on autism-related training and professional development opportunities.



The new website features information that may be accessed according to age groups: Babies to Toddlers; Pre-School; School Age; and, Adult.

Fisher adds, “A guiding principle of Ohio’s Interagency Work Group on Autism is, *‘Information sharing and open communication build collective wisdom.’* This new site will provide that opportunity! On behalf of all of the IWGA partners, we hope users will find the website at www.autism.ohio.gov to be helpful ... will share the link with others ... and will provide input to us via the interactive tools online.”

According to the software tracking activity on the new website:

During the first two days following the launch of this IWGA site, 28 states accessed information!



6. Creative Housing Earns HUD Grant for Accessible Housing



Artist's rendering of accessible apartments slated for Grove City.

Creative Housing, Inc. has been selected for a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant of \$977,800 for the construction of accessible apartments. This marks the sixth consecutive year that Creative Housing has received funding from the highly competitive ‘HUD 811 Program’ (Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities), bringing the six-year total in committed federal funds to approximately \$6 million.

Patrick Rafter, CEO of Creative Housing, Inc. and Creative Renovations, Inc., notes that the planned apartments exceed the minimum square footage requirements prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). “This really helps individuals in motorized wheelchairs who need more space to maneuver,” he added, also explaining that all units will have emergency call systems, and remote power door openers will be provided for tenants that need them.

Creative Housing has been working in conjunction with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) on a multi-year plan to develop fully-accessible apartments on scattered sites throughout Franklin County. This year’s grant will be used to build apartments in Grove City. The site is currently under development by Creative Housing and is in close proximity to accessible stores and restaurants, and recreational and employment opportunities.

According to FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison,

“Creative Housing has done a terrific job of working with HUD and our Board to secure these grants. We also appreciate the support of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in granting waivers to support the people who live in these accessible and well-designed homes.”

For a related article on accessible housing and renovations see, “*Creative Renovations are Declarations of Independence*,” featured in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2009  .

For more information: www.creativehousing.org



Reminder from OSDA

7. ESDY Award Nominations Due August 30

It's an honor to be nominated ... and a great honor to be selected.

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) reminds *Pipeline* readers of an upcoming opportunity to honor self advocates, family members, and/or professional staff who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of Self Determination*. An ESDY Award is presented to those who have played a vital role in advancing self determination in the lives of people with developmental disabilities -- including the elements of freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation.

Deadline for receipt of ESDY nominations is August 30.
Send your nomination to Sharon Travis at stravis@eriecbdd.org

The ESDY Awards will be presented at this year's OSDA conference,
“Celebrate the Fire Within,”
September 20 and 21,
Doubletree Hotel, Worthington
More information at <http://www.ohiosda.org/> as the event draws nearer.

Nominations should be specific as to how the nominee has supported the principles of Self Determination, and any contributions made toward overall systems change.

For more about Self Determination: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm>

8. *Pipeline PostScripts* – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

There are many celebrations across Ohio this month celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA!
Information listed below is courtesy of the **Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission**
The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission is the state agency charged with partnering with Ohioans with disabilities to obtain or retain jobs, achieve independence and Social Security disability determination outcomes. The Commission accomplishes its mission through partnerships with community rehabilitation programs and vocational rehabilitation professionals across the state. More information at www.rsc.ohio.gov.
For more information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), visit <http://www.ada.gov/>

Of special note, below, is this 'YouTube' link to a song written by self advocate Jeff Moyer in 1988 for the movement for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. "The ADA Anthem" also was performed at a Senate reception following the ADA's signing, July 26, 1990. This 20th Anniversary production maybe used for ADA anniversary events. An open captioned version is being produced.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bw2e-acBKc> Contact: Jeff Moyer, (216) 371-5773; www.jeffmoyer.com

⇒ **July 26, at the Ohio Statehouse ...** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. – (Central) ADA Celebration on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse. The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature the ADA mural* and photo projects by Ohioans with disabilities. To reserve an information table for your organization (fee is \$40), please visit www.vsao.org or call (614) 241-5325. For more information: RSC Office of Communications (800) 282-4536 (ext. 1470) or visit www.rsc.ohio.gov.

More about the Mural

A 6 ft. x 30 ft. mural (assembled in six panels) celebrating access, inclusion, and advancements under ADA legislation will be unveiled. Thirteen artists with disabilities representing Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Lancaster, New Albany, Toledo, and Yellow Springs will work together to create the mural from July 23 - July 25 at the office of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in Columbus. The completed mural will be presented during the July 26 event. Rain venue is the Statehouse Atrium.

⇒ **July 26, 'Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential' (LEAP) ...** (Northeast) LEAP, in conjunction with community partners, will celebrate the ADA anniversary with a public proclamation and festivities at Mall A in downtown Cleveland, at noon. Following will be a luncheon and program at the Marriott Hotel, Key Center, from 1 - 5 p.m. Registration required for lunch and program. Closing with cake, and a performance by Dancing Wheels. Call LEAP at (216) 696-2716. Transportation available on a first come/first served basis from the Elyria office, (440) 324-3444 (ext. 22).

⇒ **July 26, Center for Independent Living Options ...** (Southwest) ADA celebration at Fountain Square, Fifth & Vine Sts., Cincinnati, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.. Call (513) 241-2600 for more information.

⇒ **July 26-27, Access Center for Independent Living ...** (West) A two-day Community Living Expo with vendors and other activities, in Dayton. For more information, visit www.acils.com or call (937) 341-5202.

⇒ **July 26-27, Ability Center of Greater Toledo ...** (Northwest -- includes satellite offices in Defiance and Port Clinton) - Hosting the annual Zoo Day at the Toledo Zoo, which will include vendors and other disability-related organizations on July 26. For more information, visit www.abilitycenter.org or call (419) 885-5733.

⇒ **REMINDER: The Next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is August 31...** All meetings welcome new attendees! FAC meetings are generally hosted by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy that we greatly appreciate. Any meeting location changes to accommodate needs will be announced well in advance. For more information on FAC contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov .

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...**
This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio Association of County Boards, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is being planned for September 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

Knowing how difficult it is to schedule time away from work, sponsors are encouraging Ohio's DSP's to *plan now* to attend this first annual Recognition Event. It will be *free* to all DSPs, and will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, as well as speakers including DODD Director John Martin. Also on the program will be comments by Direct Support Professionals – live, and via video. More information will be forthcoming in *Pipeline* as plans develop. Contact for the event is Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **SAVE THESE DATES, TOO! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (the “SIBS” conference) organizers have announced that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference, and will be November 5-6, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel in Columbus. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Wednesday, August 4, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 16

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- 2. Special Feature: ADA 20th Anniversary, Celebration Across the State
- 3. Posipalooza! -- A Total Positive Culture Experience
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- 5. Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Announces ARRA Funding for Targeted Projects
- 6. Health & Safety: Food Safety All the More Important During Picnic Season
- 7. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items

BREAKING NEWS: The U.S. Senate just passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

Look for more information in a Pipeline Extra to be published shortly.

1. ADA 20th Anniversary Commemorated, Across the Nation

**-July 26 was the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)-
President Barack Obama Issued Executive Order July 26, 2010
Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities
> [Read the Executive Order](#)**

Excerpt: "By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to establish the Federal Government as a model employer of individuals with disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. Approximately 54 million Americans are living with a disability. The Federal Government has an important interest in reducing discrimination against Americans living with a disability, in eliminating the stigma associated with disability, and in encouraging Americans with disabilities to seek employment in the Federal workforce. Yet, Americans with disabilities have an employment rate far lower than that of Americans without disabilities, and they are under-represented in the Federal workforce. Individuals with disabilities currently represent just over 5% of the nearly 2.5 million people in the Federal workforce, and individuals with targeted disabilities (as defined below) currently represent less than 1% of that workforce.

On July 26, 2000, in the final year of his administration, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13163, calling for an additional 100,000 individuals with disabilities to be employed by the Federal Government over 5 years. Yet few steps were taken to implement that Executive Order in subsequent years.

As the Nation's largest employer, the Federal Government must become a model for the employment of individuals with disabilities. Executive departments and agencies must improve their efforts to employ workers with disabilities through increased recruitment, hiring, and retention of these individuals.”

“My Administration is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in the Federal workforce through compliance with Executive Order 13163 and achievement of the goals set forth therein over five years, including specific goals for hiring individuals with targeted disabilities.”

[Continue reading> The Executive Order](#)

Secretary of Health & Human Services: Affordable Care Act Builds on Gains Made Via ADA

CMS Announces \$2.25 Billion in Grants to Extend ‘Money Follows the Person’ Rebalancing Demonstration. Grants Support Community-Based Alternatives to Institutional Long Term Care

According to a news release issued July 26, 2010, by Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius, Americans with disabilities will have more help to live independently and remain in their homes and communities instead of in institutional long term care facilities - such as nursing homes - through the availability of \$2.25 billion in grants to states. The new grant solicitation, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) encourages states not yet part of the *Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration* to apply for grant funds. In addition ...

... With passage of the Affordable Care Act, states already participating are afforded the opportunity to expand and extend their MFP grant program.

Due to the *HHS Community Living Initiative*, and resources made available through the Affordable Care Act, more people with disabilities and chronic care needs will have greater opportunities to live in their communities and achieve their goals. Secretary Sebelius explains,

“The Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration has been critical to our efforts to deliver on the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act and expand access to community living services.”

Letter Sent to Governors

In a letter sent to Governors celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, Secretary Sebelius encouraged states to take advantage of the numerous community initiatives within the Affordable Care Act <http://www.hhs.gov/od/> and leverage those options through participation in the MFP demonstration. The letter notes, “The Affordable Care Act offers numerous opportunities for people with disabilities, including new options for states to deliver on the promise of the ADA and adhere to the principles of the Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision.” Further, the letter states,

“The Affordable Care Act expands coverage and improves healthcare for millions of Americans, and has paved the way for the creation of insurance plans to provide transitional health coverage to uninsured people until the law that prohibits health insurance discrimination on the basis of disability is effective in 2014.” (More at <http://www.hhs.gov/>)

Under the MFP demonstration, states will receive an enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for one year for each individual they transition from an institution to a qualified home and community-based program. States will be able to transition population groups including the elderly; people with developmental or physical disabilities; and, people who have a mental illness or who have a dual diagnosis. The enhanced FMAP funding then may be used by states to expand services and supports, and states receiving a grant award will focus on re-balancing their longterm care systems by increasing the use of home and community-based services and decreasing the use of institutional care.

On August 11, 2010, 2:00- 4:00 p.m. (Eastern), CMS will facilitate a national call for all interested MFP demonstration applicants. In September, CMS will offer a series of technical assistance calls and training webinars to provide instruction to states on grant application development.

To apply for the “FY2010 Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Grant Demonstration,” including application forms and information concerning the national call, go to www.grants.gov.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Focuses On: A World In Which People With Disabilities Have Unlimited Employment Opportunities

DOL’s Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Signing of the ADA was held July 30 at the agency’s Frances Perkins Building in Washington, D.C.. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis and Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy Kathleen Martinez led the celebration. Keynote speaker was former United States Congressman Tony Coelho, an author and sponsor of the ADA and Board Chair of the American Association of People with Disabilities.

The highlight of the event was the induction of *Justin Dart, Jr.* and *Helen Keller* into the Department's *Labor Hall of Fame*. Justin Dart, Jr.* was a leader of the international disability rights movement and a renowned human rights activist who died in 2002. He was widely recognized as ‘the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act’ and was on the dias on the White House lawn when the ADA was signed into law in July 1990. He stated,

“I call for solidarity among all who love justice, all who love life, to create a revolution that will empower every single human being to govern his or her life, to govern the society and to be fully productive of life quality for self and for all.”

Helen Keller** became blind and deaf as a result of a high fever at age 19 months. She eventually became one of the most well-known individuals with disabilities during her lifetime (1880-1968) as she learned to read (Braille) and speak with the help of devoted teacher, Anne Sullivan, and shared her amazing story with thousands of others, worldwide.

*More about Justin Dart at http://www.abilitymagazine.com/JustinDart_remembered.html;

**More about Helen Keller at <http://gardenofpraise.com/ibdkell.htm>

2. ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrated, Across Ohio

What the Mural Says, So Beautifully ... “Liberty, Justice, and Access for ... All”

There were many events across Ohio last month, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA. In Columbus, at the Ohio Statehouse on July 26, spearheaded by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the celebration unveiled a very exciting mural – and the unveiling ceremony, itself, was more than a little exciting! Photos accompanying this article say it well ... and, at the end, say it ... ‘All.’

The July 26 unveiling of a 6 ft. high x 30 ft. long (180 sq. ft.) mural at the celebration on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse was a ceremony large in scale, and equal to the enthusiasm for the ADA 20th Anniversary, as demonstrated by several state dignitaries and officials.

Speakers included Ohio’s First Lady Frances Strickland, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, RSC Chairperson David Williams and others, all of whom generated excitement toward the ultimate unveiling of Ohio’s ADA mural -- organized in cooperation with VSA Arts of Ohio and dozens of Ohio artists with disabilities.



“I support disability rights” ...

On T-shirts and at the microphone, the diverse crowd that gathered in downtown Columbus strongly supported disability rights. One participant proudly displayed a T-shirt stating, “I support disability rights ... and I vote!” At right, RSC Administrator Michael Rench welcomes Ohio’s First Lady Frances Strickland to the podium where she spoke of the need to continue positive efforts in line with the ADA, noting, “Investing dollars in employment opportunities for people with disabilities such as Medicaid Buy-In is important in any economy – and all the more important in a difficult one such as we are experiencing now.”

Mrs. Strickland shared her enthusiasm for seeing the combined talents of *all citizens* involved in making Ohio strong. She highlighted the talents of many participating in the day’s event, including band members with the Columbus School for the Blind, who also capably marched and played in the most recent Rose Bowl Parade. She said, “You have represented us well, and made Ohio very proud. Keep on keepin’ on!”

RSC Chair David Williams also addressed the gathering, noting,

“We are on a journey that’s not over yet. The signing of the ADA 20 years ago was the result of the work of many pioneers – some of whom are no longer with us, and some of whom are getting a

little too far along in years to lead the charge. We need young people to carry on with us and for us ... to turn the full promise of the ADA into reality. I urge you to get involved and advocate!"

Shortly before the unveiling of the mural, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Eric Brown took his turn at the podium and stated,

"Thank you for reminding us that the work is not over. Public art reminds us of what is important. The ADA is important to everyone – to all Americans. Each citizen is encouraged to participate fully in their communities – and enjoy and protect their rights."

Unveiling the mural -- the collective design of which was overseen by noted muralist, Kong Ho from the University of Pittsburgh -- was a fitting finale to the celebration. Assembled in six panels recognizing access, inclusion, and advancements under ADA legislation, the mural is the work of many Ohio artists with disabilities whose work represents Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Lancaster, New Albany, Toledo, and Yellow Springs. When the tarps were removed it immediately was clear that as Chief Justice Brown had said,

"Public art reminds us of what is important."



The Unveiling. Cheers and applause erupted from the crowd.



The Viewing. Wait! Liberty, Justice, and Access for Whom?



The Answer. Liberty, Justice, and Access for All.



The Finale. A candid handshake (center) says it ... All.

The mural was walked by event participants from the Statehouse Lawn to the Vern Riffe Center, across the street, where it first will be exhibited. From there it will be displayed at sites around the state.

For more information: www.vsaohio.org; www.rsc.ohio.gov; and, <http://www.ada.gov/>

More ADA Celebrations Across Ohio

In Cuyahoga County on July 26, 'Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential' (LEAP)

LEAP, in conjunction with community partners, celebrated the ADA anniversary with a public proclamation and festivities at Mall A in downtown Cleveland. Following the noon celebration, in which several individuals with disabilities were key participants (see photos), a luncheon and program included a performance by the Dancing Wheels.



At Cleveland's ADA event ...

(1, 2, 3 from left) 1 – CCBDD participant Donald Cunningham carries a flag provided by Senator Voinovich that flew over the U.S. Capitol on July 4, 2010, walking up a ramp and onto the stage of Mall A in downtown Cleveland. The Mall's 'Fountain of Eternal Life', also known as the 'War Memorial Fountain,' in background. 2 - Boy Scout Troop 338 from Avon Lake, and Venture Crew 550 from the East Cleveland Adult Activities Center, present the flag to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. 3 - Melanie Hogan, executive director of LEAP, with CCBDD participant Roy Williams, rockin' to the Glee Crew's "Don't Stop Believing," performed by the St. Augustine Deaf Choir. *Photos: Courtesy of Lisa Stevens, Lula Holt-Robertson, CCBDD.*

For more information: robertson.lula@CuyahogaBDD.org

In Montgomery County, Four Counties Partner to Present Advocacy Conference

"We've Come a Long Way – What's Next?" That was the provocative question posed by Butler, Delaware, Hamilton, and Montgomery Counties' collaborative conference, July 23-25 at Wright State University in Dayton, recognizing 20 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sponsored by advocates and self advocates from the four counties, the event attracted about 100 participants, and featured speakers and breakout sessions on subjects including employment opportunities; mentoring high school students; starting an advocacy leadership network, and volunteering.

Invited speakers included Senator Fred Strahorn; DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth, and many advocates and self advocates from across Ohio. Several self advocates also shared their talents as entertainers during the weekend agenda, demonstrating no shortage of 'stage presence.'



"This was our sixth conference, and in many ways I would have to say it was the best one yet!"

Diana Mairose, with Hamilton County's Advocacy Leadership Network, shown here at an ADA Celebration on Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati on July 26 – the day after the three-day Wright State conference where she was a presenter. This woman is definitely on the move, all the time!

Photo: Courtesy of Jenny Dexter, Hamilton County DD Services

Conference speaker Mark Seifarth noted, “It was exciting opening the conference at Wright State University and working with nearly 100 participants who seemed very ready for the next 20 years of moving forward with the spirit of the ADA.” He continued,

“ I'd have to say that I had almost as much fun there, working with them in Dayton, as I did at the White House (see photo below) later in the month– it was very exciting, and the group's interaction and energy was great.”



At the White House Celebration of the ADA 20th Anniversary...

DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth was just a few feet away from President Barack Obama before this photo was taken at the South Lawn entrance in Washington D.C. Mark was in D.C. attending the National Summit on Disability Policy 2010.

According to several participants, “*We’ve Come a Long Way – What’s Next?*” focused more on the “*What’s Next*” than the “*Long Way*,” and it’s clear that Ohio’s self advocates are no laggards when it comes to keeping the forward motion ... in motion.

In Knox County, there is such a thing as a Free Ride!

Could you call this “MOTAvational”?

Knox County advocates celebrated the ADA 20th Anniversary by giving back to the community. More specifically – giving free rides on Mid-Ohio Transit Authority (MOTA). People First of Ohio, People First’s Knox County Chapter, the Knox County Board of DD, and MTVarts sponsored more than 250 free rides. The Knox County group donated rides in memory of a past MOTA driver, Gary Dement, who went beyond the call of duty and showed kindness and respect for people with disabilities who use MOTA on a daily basis.



250 free MOTA rides is a great way to celebrate freedom to be mobile!

Sadie Hunter, Executive Director of People First of Ohio stated, “This community has supported persons with disabilities in so many ways – enabling them to join organizations, be employed, and participate in community activities so they can have their voices heard and be an active part of their community.”

And, illustrating just how much a part of the Knox County community they are, Janis Stone, producer for a local MTVarts stage production of “Annie,” remarked,

“I am hesitant to say that people with disabilities worked with us this year, because – frankly – we didn’t notice. I know we had members of our cast and crew with sight, hearing, physical, and developmental challenges, but they were such a natural part of things that it was hard to identify them. I love that – you couldn’t tell the difference.”

*For more information about People First of Ohio: Sadie Hunter: shunter@columbus.rr.com.
Acknowledgements to the Mount Vernon News, article July 26, 2010, “ADA Celebrates with Free Rides.”*

And, In the ‘Great Lakes Region’

- That’s Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota-

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, the Great Lakes ADA Center conducted a poll to learn more about perceptions of people with disabilities, their family members and individuals who work with people with disabilities, regarding ADA implementation in their communities.

More than 3500 individuals took the ‘ADA In Your Community Poll’ across all six states served by the Great Lakes ADA Center -- Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota. Overall, respondents indicated that while they saw progress over the past 20 years, there still is a long way to go.

Individuals ranked their communities lowest in the area of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Ohio Notes

Ohio’s report card indicates that 537 individuals with disabilities, family members, and advocates participated in this survey. Ohio’s overall grade was a ‘C’, the same grade earned by all states in the region (Minnesota earned a C+).

View the Region and State-by-State report cards online at www.adareportcard.org/ReportCard

Top Priorities for Action

The report indicates the following priorities for action:

- More employment opportunities for people with disabilities;
- Providing accommodations for employment;
- Accessible transportation; and,
- Educating businesses and government officials about their rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

The Great Lakes ADA Center encourages community leaders, advocates, government officials and others to utilize the information gathered through the poll in future planning.

More information at: adata@adagreatlakes.org



3. Posipalooza: A Total Positive Culture Experience

“The Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) is a vision to shift the culture of how we all work together.”
Pam Berry, DODD Senior Policy Advisor, and lead on the statewide initiative

Described as a ‘day-long, real-time positive culture experience’ -- involving about 250 people supported by developmental disabilities services, family members, direct support professionals, and others engaged in creating positive and responsive services and supports -- yesterday’s premiere ‘Posipalooza’ event, at the Xenos complex in Columbus, was a day to remember for shaking up the way we do things in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

Hosted by the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#) Conveners Group and the Ohio Association of County Boards, and sponsored by more than two dozen related agencies and organizations ([Posipalooza - A Positive Culture Event](#)), the day began with some personal reflections by DODD Director John Martin about the importance of the Positive Culture concept. He observed,

"What is going on here today is some of the most important work that we can do. My hope is that we all figure out new ways to understand others – to see things from another’s perspective. If we expect people to respond to or learn from something, we have to find ways for them to first be aware of it, and then be interested in it. "



Positive Glimpses

(left to right) DODD Director John Martin gets positively descriptive in his introductory comments; Creating images of what positive culture means to participants at the create-a-mural area was something unique to everyone; "What's Your Story?" was a scrapbook-style venue where several individuals took the 'life-mapping' approach, and learned about themselves in the process.

Following the introductory remarks, twelve 'breakout' sessions included many opportunities to engage in positive conversations, thoughtful exercises, and other approaches designed to be interactive and participatory. The free-flowing format allowed for greater flexibility than the usual 'conference style' approach to learning according to facilitator Jo Krippenstapel, who invited attendees to sample as many different venues as desired.

Along with several art-related efforts, some breakout groups focused on discussions of subjects that may seem, on the surface, to be simplistic -- yet built toward a greater understanding of something larger. For example, "The Good Day Café" facilitator Sally Berger encouraged the group's participants to really think about what 'having a good day' means to them. Some found that 'starting off with a great cup of coffee' was important ... others indicated that sunny weather or a hug from a person they care about was 'right up there' with that morning coffee.



At The Good Day Café

Participants created placemats illustrating individual and shared visions of what makes 'a good day'.

The Posipalooza's closing session was led by consultant and songwriter Peter Leidy – and was a musical, whimsical finale to what one attendee described as a 'Positively Worthwhile' day!

" At the core of the Positive Culture approach is to view every other person as someone of value and to seek to understand them."

DODD Director, John Martin

" Only those who respect the personality of others can be of real use to them."

Albert Schweitzer, 1952 Nobel Peace Prize

Learn more about the Positive Culture Initiative at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm>

-More about the Posipalooza the next *Pipeline Quarterly*, September 2010-



AG's Office: Request for Proposals

4. Community Small Grant Program to Award Projects Benefiting People with Disabilities and Others

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray has announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Community Small Grant Program, which will support Ohio nonprofit (501c3) organizations. Grants from \$2000 - \$10,000 will be awarded for innovative projects that address local needs related to youth and families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and others.



These funds are generated primarily through legal settlements to which the Attorney General is a party. They have been used in the past for a variety of projects, such as community holiday meals for families who are homeless, adult day services for senior citizens, summer camping and mentoring programs for youth, and outdoor rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities.

RFP application deadline is 4 p.m. Sept. 15, 2010. Complete applications must be submitted online at AGOGGrants@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Program Specifics

Projects submitted via the RFP process should keep in mind the following:

- The project period is for 12 months, and begins in November 2010.
- A total of \$200,000 is available for this funding round.
- Awardees will be asked to sign grant agreements that spell out reporting requirements.
- Funds are intended for specific projects rather than ongoing operational costs.
- Funds must not supplant current project funds.
- Funds *cannot be* used for:
 - Political campaigns or promotion of candidates for public office;
 - Advancement of endowment or capital campaigns;
 - Purchase of vehicles;
 - Fundraising event sponsorship;
 - Scholarships that fund individual students;
 - Supporting organizations that discriminate on the basis of age, disability, religion, ethnic origin, gender, or sexual orientation; or,
 - Sports or athletic competitions.

All funding decisions are the sole discretion of the Ohio Attorney General.

*Questions about this opportunity should be sent to: AGOGGrants@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.
[Download the proposal cover sheet.](#); [Download the scoring rubric.](#)*



Benefiting Ohioans with Disabilities

5. Ohio RSC Announces Four Projects Funded by the ARRA

More than \$2 million in stimulus funding will boost projects that benefit Ohioans with disabilities.

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the selection of four projects that will receive money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). According to RSC Administrator Michael Rench,

“ARRA funds are being invested in projects that will create self-employment opportunities, deliver technology training, and support transportation projects. These investments will build wealth and increase community access for Ohioans with the most significant disabilities.”

The four projects are:

- **Griffin-Hammis Associates** was awarded \$1.3 million to work with 48-60 Ohio entrepreneurs with disabilities to start their own businesses. The agency will provide training for up to 900 RSC staff and community partners to assist Ohio’s disability services network in creating self-employment opportunities for Ohioans with the most significant disabilities;
- **Vocational Services Unlimited**, in partnership with LakeTran & Lake Co. Board of DD, was awarded \$355,000 to provide alternative transportation services to 200 Lake County RSC customers to help eliminate the negative impact that reliance on current public transportation system can have in obtaining and maintaining employment;
- **MJT Engineering Services LLC** was awarded \$244,000 to identify and engage five to ten Ohio businesses — focusing on Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, Akron, Columbus, and Toledo — that offer ongoing job opportunities. The funds will help to ensure that opportunities are extended to individuals with the most significant disabilities who are blind or visually impaired. In addition, MJT will provide computer programming and/or scripting to accommodate screen reading technology, and place 15 or more individuals in jobs that require a computer, as well as providing training and support;
- **Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, in partnership with the **Clovernook Center for the Blind**, was awarded \$167,000 to provide a call center training program for up to 18 individuals, with subsequent job placement for those successfully completing the program.

According to a press release issued by the organization, in federal fiscal year 2009, RSC helped 7322 Ohioans with disabilities obtain or retain competitive employment.

For more information: <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/default.htm>



Health & Safety

6. Food Safety All the More Important During Picnic Season

The Tiffin Developmental Center Newsletter, 'TDC Tidbits' ran a food safety item recently and prompted Pipeline to follow suit and add to it as a reminder to all direct care staff and families who may be too busy to remember these tips all the time ... that's just about everyone, these days! Thanks to Karen Barney, RD/LD at Tiffin DC for this information. (Read it all at www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/tdc.htm)

See More Health & Safety Information Online at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm>

Health scares seem to be more and more in the news these days. Polluted lakes and water supplies, bedbug infestations, blood-borne illnesses ... and food-borne illnesses that are all the more possible during the summer cookout and picnic season. Follow these simple rules, and you could prevent yourself and others from getting sick from a foodborne illness.



Have a nice summer picnic without worrying about foodborne illnesses.

- Always, always, always wash hands *and* food preparation areas before preparing foods;
- Cook foods in plenty of time or allow them to cool properly before eating;
- Pack foods directly from the refrigerator into a cooler;
- Do not put a cooler in the trunk. Carry coolers in an air-conditioned car. When at an outdoor event, keep cooler in the shade and refill ice often.
- Pack food and drinks in separate coolers.
- Pack raw meats/seafood at the bottom of the cooler to prevent them from dripping onto other foods. Pack coolers as full as possible – food will stay cooler longer.
- Do not put cooked meat on the same plate you used when the meat was raw, unless the plate was appropriately cleaned and sanitized between uses.

The 'Two Hour Rule'

Do not leave perishable food un-refrigerated for more than two hours. Put perishable foods back in the cooler or refrigerator as soon as you finish eating. And remember, regarding freshness ...

When in Doubt – Throw it Out!

See more helpful resources online at www.odh.ohio.gov, click on 'Summer Safety', and at www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm, click on 'Keeping Safe in the Summer' Parts I and II.

In line with one of the DODD's Ten Priority Work areas, Ohio's state-operated Developmental Centers are re-balancing resources and fostering stronger community involvement, resulting in several individual success stories -- a few of which have been shared in previous Pipeline publications, including Pipeline Quarterly Spring 2010 . Read more about Ohio's Developmental Centers at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm>*

7. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ REMINDER: ESDY Award Nominations Deadline is August 30 ...

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) reminds readers of an opportunity to honor self advocates, family members, and/or professional staff who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of Self Determination. An ESDY Award is presented to those who have played a vital role in advancing self determination for people with developmental disabilities -- including the elements of freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation.

Send your nomination to Sharon Travis at stravis@eriecbdd.org – deadline, August 30!
The ESDY Awards will be presented at this year’s OSDA conference,
“Celebrate the Fire Within,”
September 20 and 21,
Doubletree Hotel, Worthington
More information at <http://www.ohiosda.org/>.

Nominations should be specific as to how the nominee has supported the principles of Self Determination, and any contributions made toward overall systems change.

For more about Self Determination: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm>

⇒ MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is Aug. 31 ...

All meetings welcome new attendees! Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings are usually hosted at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy we greatly appreciate.

The August 31 meeting location has changed to the Columbus Developmental Center training room at 1601 W. Broad Street in Columbus, to accommodate attendees in an air conditioned meeting space. Meetings begin promptly at 10:00 and end at approximately 3:00.

For more information about the FAC, contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

⇒ SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards – and a growing list of additional organizations, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is planned for September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

This will be Ohio’s first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!
A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals will include films featuring people with developmental disabilities, and will be educational and entertaining.

The event will be *free to all DSPs*, and will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, and many speakers. Also on the program will be comments by Direct Support Professionals – live, and via video. Contact is Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772, agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **SAVE THESE DATES, TOO! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (“SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. The Ninth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference will be November 5-6, at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

A Pipeline EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

August 4, 2010

The U.S. Senate has passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

House Resolution 1586, the legislation containing language to extend the current Medicaid match - 'Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP)' – paid by Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities was passed today. The six month extension passed with a vote of 61 to 38, and continues the funding which would have expired at the end of December 2010.

The bill itself still needs a final Senate vote and agreement by the U.S. House before it can go to the President for signing.

County Boards typically pay 40 cents for every waiver dollar, while the federal Medicaid system pays 60 cents. As part of the stimulus program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal government earlier this year had agreed to pick up 70 cents for every Medicaid dollar for states. According to the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), the extra 10 cents on the dollar has helped offset a \$94 million budget cut that County Boards of Developmental Disabilities received during the 2009-2011 biennium budget.

DODD Director John Martin comments,

"With Ohio's current budget outlook, it is imperative to secure as many federal dollars as possible in order to continue to meet the needs of Ohio's more than 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. It is particularly gratifying to note that Ohio's stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community were strongly advocating for this extension, and through these efforts, played an active role in its passage."

Pipeline Extra ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

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Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 17

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1. President Barack Obama Signs Bill Extending FMAP Enhancement

Supports Medicaid Services, Protects Healthcare and Education Jobs

As reported in [Pipeline Extra! August 4 , 2010](#), The U.S. Senate passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) on August 4, from which Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011. It was then signed into law by President Barack Obama on August 10, as [H.R.1586](#), following its passage in the House.

The legislation contains language to extend the current Medicaid match formula, or 'Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP)', paid for waiver services administered through Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities for six-months. This continues the funding which would have expired at the end of December 2010. County Boards typically pay 40 cents for every waiver dollar, while the federal Medicaid system pays 60 cents. As part of the stimulus program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal government earlier this year had agreed to pick up 70 cents for every Medicaid dollar for states.

According to the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), the extra 10 cents on the dollar has helped offset a \$94 million budget cut that County Boards of Developmental Disabilities received during the 2009-2011 biennium budget.

According to a statement issued by Governor Ted Strickland, the U.S. Congress' passage of the \$26 billion jobs bill will help support Medicaid services for Ohioans in need, and protect healthcare and education jobs in Ohio and the nation. He noted,

“Across Ohio, I've fought to create Ohio jobs and strengthen Ohio's workforce. I want to thank our Congressional leaders and the members of Ohio's Congressional delegation for returning to Washington to stand with us in that fight. As states are emerging from the recession, this legislation will create and save education and health care jobs throughout the country and right here in Ohio.”

It is important to note that Ohio, unlike many other states, had not included the federal extension of Medicaid funding in its calculations to balance the current fiscal year budget (FY 2011), and therefore provides an infusion of additional needed dollars.

For Ohioans with developmental disabilities in Ohio, positive impacts of this legislation extending eFMAP include access to a range of waiver services that are more fully funded, as well as ensuring continuity of services.

Key constituent leadership in Ohio advocating for passage of this legislation included work by many stakeholders, individuals, and groups within the developmental disabilities community, and focused on the strength of one message. Among the many organized advocacy efforts was the OACB's 'Call2Action' e-mailed requests, asking for support for passage of the legislation during four key timeframes. According to OACB staff, the response was overwhelming. Linda Oda, OACB Director of Advocacy Services, comments,

“Many people e-mailed us at OACB and shared responses they received from Senators Voinovich and Brown, as well as those from members of Congress. Certainly, legislators knew how the folks back home felt before they made their votes. Additionally, professionals at County Boards of Developmental Disabilities across the state spoke to their Congressional delegates about the need for federal assistance, based on Ohio's current financial outlook. It was a strong grassroots effort.”

More information at: [News for hr 1586](#)



2. Governor Ted Strickland Endorses Efforts of Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework* 'Provides Clear Path'

***Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf**

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a

Council established via one of the Governor's first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*. In a letter of support dated August 9, 2010, Governor Strickland noted,

“Safe and affordable housing leads to stable families and increased participation in the workforce. This, in turn, saves taxpayer dollars by assisting the most vulnerable Ohioans to participate successfully in community life.”

The letter continues, “After reviewing the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework and the actions of the Interagency Council over the course of my administration, I believe you have done an excellent job developing an ambitious yet attainable goal, along with a clear path forward to meet that goal.”

The Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing incorporated hundreds of stakeholders in producing an inclusive framework which recognizes that it will take federal, state, and local collaboration to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness and advancing community integration for people with disabilities. More than 275 individuals and organizations, representing interests from around the state, were involved with the vetting process for the Framework document.

According to DODD Director John Martin,

“This united effort to provide housing opportunities for those in need will result in an overall economy of scale, and can provide affordable housing that would otherwise be impossible via a single agency in an economically difficult environment, statewide.”

Governor Strickland's letter of support concluded, “This work is truly important to our state and I look forward to assisting with the implementation of the Council's recommendations.”

ICHAH Mission

“To unite key state agencies to formulate policies and programs that address affordable housing issues and the needs of Ohioans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”



Read more about the Council at:

http://jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/R89218010/Anti-Poverty%20Taskforce-%20ICHAH%20append%20B_1.pdf



From the Office of Provider Standards & Review

3. New Review Process “Hits the Road”

In response to recommendations from the 2008 Futures Committee, and supporting the [DODD Priority Work](#), the Office of Provider Standards & Review (OPSR) has focused on streamlining review processes to develop *a single review process* that measures outcomes for individuals regardless of the setting in which services are provided. According to DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller,

“OPSR staff viewed this as the keystone for all of the recommendations regarding quality of services from the Futures group. It was the most important thing to focus on accomplishing, and upon which the other recommendations would depend.”

The OPSR, a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, is responsible for completing reviews of all entities providing services to Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. This includes waiver-funded services, services provided by County Boards of DD, and services provided in licensed residential facilities including Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Mental Retardation (*ICFsMR*, *legal terminology*).

Five Specific Objectives

Entities scheduled for a Licensure, Accreditation, or Provider Compliance review this year will notice some changes, and according to OPSR Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Miller, “In developing the new process, it was our goal to meet five specific objectives.” They are:

- Decrease the amount of time necessary to complete a review by focusing on key measures;
- Decrease the number of reviewers required to complete a review;
- Decrease the amount of time a provider and their staff must commit to the review process;
- Structure the DODD compliance review process to give providers a comprehensive report that identifies best practices, positive outcomes for individuals, and identifies areas of non-compliance; and,
- Offer DODD resources and assistance to providers who may be struggling to meet standards. (Examples could include sharing best practices, providing technical assistance, and obtaining specific training.)

Also a part of the overall change in the review process, providers will be notified approximately 30 days prior to the review. Providers then are asked to share basic information regarding staff and individuals, which allows OPSR staff to better prepare for and focus the review prior to arriving on-site.

In developing the new *single review process*, the Office of Provider Standards & Review received valuable advice from those involved in directly providing services. Miller notes, “We really appreciate the assistance the provider community has offered in developing this new approach, and believe that it is going to be a significant improvement.” She adds,

“OPSR staff looks forward to implementing the new review process, statewide. It is our sincere hope that the process will be not only less cumbersome for providers and County Boards – but that it affords a continued assurance that individuals receiving services will be positively affected, and receive the best care available, using the best methods possible.”

From the field, comments regarding the new process have been favorable as it begins to roll out across the state. For example, in a feedback questionnaire completed following a recent review, Kris Frye of the Residential Home Association of Marion (RHAM) noted, “The new packet provided to us before the review was very helpful to us when gathering all the information in advance that’s needed for the review. The new tool seems to be working very well.”

*For more information on the Office of Provider Standards & Review:
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/2009OPSRAnnualReport.pdf>*



In Line with DODD Priority Work

4. Agreement Signed, Funding Project to Enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) Processes and Outcomes **Project to examine best practices and training for key staff functions.**

Last week an agreement was signed to address a priority area identified within the **DODD Priority Work** plan. Through the agreement, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will fund a \$100,000 project to enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) and Program Management processes and outcomes within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

In early 2008, the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards (OSCB) and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) formed an Improving Relationships Steering Committee to foster better working relationships and improved communications between County Boards and private providers on the local level. Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) also was invited to join the Committee because so much of APSI’s work is done on the local level. Representatives from APSI, OSCB and OPRA have met regularly since then, with Mark Davis from OPRA and Cheryl Phipps from OSCB chairing the group.

According to Mark Davis,

“Our ‘Improving Relationships Steering Committee’ has recognized that one of the most critical relationships in our system is at the local level – between the provider’s Program Manager and the County Board’s Service and Support Administrator. The structure and nature of this relationship impacts many areas, from the quality of services and outcomes for individuals, to the administrative impact on providers and County Boards. We look forward to enhancing outcomes for people with disabilities and sharing efficient business practices through this grant award.”

Several projects have been undertaken by the Steering Committee. Two Collaboration Symposiums were held, mini-grants were awarded to support local efforts to better work

together, and joint priorities were developed and recommended to DODD. The group's philosophy is that Ohio's DD system will be best served by speaking with one collective voice to ensure ongoing support for services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

According to DODD Director John Martin, "As a result of the accomplishments of the Steering Committee, the Department feels strongly that they are uniquely qualified to conduct this project. Identifying best practices in Services and Support Administration and Program Management, recommending enhancements to professional development of staff, and assuring positive outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities is important work that will go a long way toward system improvement."



Preparing to sign the agreement...

(left to right) DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Provider Resource Association Director Mark Davis, and Cheryl Phipps, Ohio Superintendents of County Boards.

The formal agreement sets the project in motion, and in addition to the \$100,000 in funding, project partners also will contribute in-kind resources. As noted by OSCB's Cheryl Phipps,

"We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Improving Relationships Steering Committee. Relationships between County Boards, residential providers, and APSI have become stronger as a result of our partnering efforts, and we appreciate the vote of confidence from Director Martin in awarding the contract for the SSA-Program Management Project."

The scope of work will include many elements identified since the Steering Committee began meeting in early 2008, including guidelines for significant individual and family engagement.

For more information: Cheryl.Phipps@hamiltondds.org; mdavis@opra.org



5. Ohio HOME Choice Program Earns National Recognition

A unique partnership between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is garnering national acclaim for helping Ohioans move out of nursing facilities and back into the community. The partnering entities

each received an award at a recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Fair Housing Policy conference for their efforts to help people in long-term care facilities move back into their communities and homes.

The partnership between ODJFS and CMHA is part of the statewide HOME Choice program, which helps Ohioans who are elderly or who have disabilities and live in long-term care facilities to locate housing, set up an affordable and accessible new living arrangement, and connect to necessary community services. The partnership already has helped 12 individuals in Cuyahoga County transition to the community, and is currently working with six more individuals.



<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/homechoice.stm>

ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin commented, “Partnerships like this are an integral part of the HOME Choice program, which has given hundreds of Ohioans the opportunity to move out of long-term care facilities and back into the community.” In fact, since 2008, HOME Choice has transitioned more than 600 Ohioans out of long-term care facilities and into their own homes.

At the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Mary-Jo Allen, residential services coordinator explains,

“Since 2008, the Cuyahoga County Board of DD has been able to assist almost 50 individuals in accessing the benefits of the HOME Choice Program. Many of these individuals have moved out of nursing facilities, ICFs/MR* and Developmental Centers and are enjoying a new life in one of our many supported living homes located in communities throughout the county. The process for accessing Home Choice has been easy for the case managers and the Home Choice staff have been accessible and wonderful to work with. This continues to be a very beneficial program for the individuals receiving residential services in Cuyahoga County.”

The HOME Choice program began in 2008 as part of the federal Money Follows the Person project, and enacted as part of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Ohio is one of 29 states participating in the program, funded with a federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This demonstration grant allows states to shift Medicaid long-term care spending away from a facility-based system to a more community-based orientation.

For more information about HOME Choice, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm>.

**ICFMR is the acronym representing ‘Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded’: A Medicaid-funded residential facility that teaches living skills to help people live in less restrictive environments. The terminology is the current legal description.*



6. Legislative Advocacy Day Slated for September 14th

To register to attend this event, please go to the following link:

<http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration>

Registration Deadline: September 8th



The Ohio Statehouse, Columbus
photo courtesy, Paul Jarvis

Legislative Advocacy Day, September 14, 10:30 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, will be an especially good opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families, including continuing funding for long-term services and supports in the community. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day will include a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward.

Speakers will include Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Event organizers, including lead planner and Franklin County self advocate Carmen Shelton, note that registration for the event is very important. She explains, "I am coordinating the legislative visits, and it is most important that people register so that they can get an opportunity to speak with their legislators – in the legislative offices that serve them." She continues,

"This is a great opportunity to talk to your legislators about the need for increased funding for home and community-based services in preparation for the next state budget – and about why living in the community is important for individuals with disabilities."

Unique organization

Shelton has traveled throughout the state this year, gathering momentum for Legislative Advocacy Day, and working with a group of statewide team captains preparing for the event. Team captains are located in Lancaster, Cleveland, Youngstown, Cincinnati, and the Southeast Ohio region, with headquarters in Columbus - Shelton's home base.

The DD Council grant funding Legislative Advocacy Day provides the resources necessary for what is described as a, "First-ever, stand-alone advocacy day," according to DD Council Legislative Liaison Paul Jarvis. He adds,

"We are really excited about how well the statewide network of team captains is working together. Our goal is to schedule legislative appointments for four individuals representing each one of Ohio's 99 legislative districts. That would be an impressive total of 396 participants speaking with their legislators! The message our self advocates, providers, family members, and others within the DD

community will be taking to the Statehouse is exactly what they're telling us – that long term community-based care is needed, and that needed waivers must be funded and available.”

Because September 14 is expected to be one of only two days that legislators are in session this autumn, carpooling, or making other transportation arrangements to alleviate parking issues in downtown Columbus, is recommended.

As of today's date more than 75 people have registered at
<http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration>
Registration Deadline: September 8th

For more information: Carmen Shelton at c_shelton@ameritech.net or (740)505-8337.



'Call Center' at DODD Central Office

7. New Support Center Manages Phones, Live!

More than 2450 calls were fielded in the first five weeks – since the Support Center began taking calls on June 25.

The phone number is 1-800-617-6733.

The DODD has established a new Support Center to provide improved service to callers. When calling the Support Center, located at the DODD Central Office on the 13th Floor of the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, you will be speaking with DODD staff, instead of receiving a recorded voice mail message.

The Support Center is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on state holidays. (However, you may leave a voice mail if you call after hours. Someone will return your call.)



Kris Renner – on the job at the new DODD Call Center.

When you call the Support Center, you will be given a list of five options. Based on the option you select, a knowledgeable staff person will assist you. The options are:

- Option 1: Reporting Abuse or Neglect -- these calls are routed directly to the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) investigation office;
- Option 2: Claims Services and Billing;

- Option 3: Provider Certification;
- Option 4: Security -- system access, passwords resets, etc.;
- Option 5: All other calls -- examples include Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR), prior authorization, legal, Medicaid policy, Director's Office, etc.)

Speaking on behalf of Support Center staff, Assistant Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Tracy Cloud notes that *all calls* are welcome and important, including callers with frequently-asked questions from County Board staff, providers, families, guardians, and other state agencies, as well as the general public.

The new system has been well received, and according to Cloud, "Sometimes people are very surprised to hear a live voice answering the phone." She adds,

"In fact, we've already had one lady who was so surprised to hear a live voice answering the phone that she forgot her reason for calling!"



8. Videoconference Series Focuses on Dual Diagnosis

A videoconference series on the subject of 'dual diagnosis' – when an individual has a diagnosis of both mental illness and mental retardation as co-existing conditions – is being sponsored and hosted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). The series has been planned by the Mental Illness/ Developmental Disabilities (MIDD) Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE), and is the first time this type of informational series has been planned collaboratively.

The series was started earlier this summer, and continues with:

Upcoming Topics and Presentations

- 9/1 Dr. Betsey Benson, Nisonger Center: "Behavior Supports and MIDD Dual Diagnosis"
- 9/15 Dr. Julie Gentile, M.D., Wright State University: "Bio-Psycho Social Formulation in Addressing Grief and Loss"
- 9/28 Dr. William Klykylo, M.D., Wright State University: "Current Controversies in Autism."

Registration: https://dodd.ohio.gov/apps/internet/reg/ViewREG_Mainmod.asp

Hosting locations for the MIDD/CCOE series are all ten DODD Development Centers (see www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm) and ODMH locations noted below:

Ohio Department of Mental Health
30 E Broad, 8th floor library (823)
Columbus, OH 43215
Capacity: 15

Summit Behavioral Health, Auditorium
1101 Summit Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45237
Capacity: 100

Heartland Behavioral Health
3000 Erie St. South, Room 249
Massillon, OH 44646
Capacity: 20

Also on the subject of Dual Diagnosis: A unique conference September 28-29
For more information: www.thenadd.org/pages/conferences/092810/brochure.pdf

*For more information: Lara Palay, LISW-S lara.palay@dodd.ohio.gov
Project Manager, Mental Illness/Developmental Disability Coordinating Center of Excellence*

On a Similar Subject

The following information is provided by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio on the subject of coverage for Ohioans with pre-existing conditions:

The new federal health care reform law requires states to set up a temporary health insurance program – or “high-risk pool” – for uninsured people with pre-existing health conditions, including several mental illnesses. This program will last until 2014, when full federal reforms will take effect. Ohio has designated Medical Mutual of Ohio as the non-profit entity to administer the high risk pool program for the state.

Applications now are available at www.ohiohighriskpool.com or, call 1 (877) 730-1117 to request a written application form and instructions. Paper application packets also are available at One-Stop and Benefit Bank sites across the state.

It is important to note that there are sufficient funds only to cover approximately 5500 Ohioans, and it is estimated that five times as many people may be eligible. Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

*To learn more about the program, the Ohio Department of Insurance Frequently Asked Questions:
www.insurance.ohio.gov/Documents/07-22-10HighRiskPoolFAQs.pdf*



Ticket to Work

9. Helping Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choose Work

**-Helping Social Security Beneficiaries with Disabilities Choose Work-
A Ticket to Work Partners Training in Cleveland, August 31 – September 1
Embassy Suites, 5800 Rockside Woods Boulevard, Independence, Ohio**

To register, visit www.cessi.net/ttw and click on the ‘Choose Work’ Tour icon.

The Ticket to Work ('Ticket') program's national, state, and local partners sponsoring the training noted above, report that nearly 475,000 Tickets have been issued to people receiving Social Security Administration disability benefits in Ohio. More than 31,000 of those Ticket holders have a recent work history and are of prime working age. In addition, there are currently 59 Employment Networks working with more than 1000 Ticket holders at 80 locations throughout Ohio, demonstrating that there are many individuals interested in going to work and looking for assistance in doing so.

Who should attend?

Organizations that help Social Security disability beneficiaries connect to work and careers, and current Employment Networks would find the training useful. 'Choose Work' objectives include:

- Expanding the number of Employment Networks serving a community;
- Assisting current Employment Networks to help more Ticket holders, through technical assistance, training, sharing best practices, and Work Incentives training;
- Furthering the development of existing partnerships in the community, and
- Creating new partnerships in the community.

Ohio has been chosen as one of only ten states to host a Social Security Administration 'Ticket to Work' training on this subject.



We Are Pleased to Share this Item from *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 9

City to phase out 'handicapped' signs

"New signs in Cincinnati-owned buildings will no longer include the word "handicapped." Instead, they'll say "accessible" or just show the familiar symbol of a stick figure in a wheelchair. The difference is significant, advocates for the change say, because it helps remove any stigma associated with the word.

Robert Harris, a Cincinnati Human Relations Commission board member who uses a wheelchair, testified before City Council on behalf of the change, as did several other area self advocates.* City Council members voted unanimously last week to make the change. Current signs won't be immediately replaced, but replaced as needed. Hamilton County commissioners approved the same change in the spring.

"We heard from people of the community, about how they felt offended," said Cheryl Meadows, commission director. It's expected, she said, that the first use of the new signs might be facilities at The Banks riverfront development."

*From the Hamilton County Board of DD Services newsletter, 'Reflections'

"Members of the Advocacy Leadership Network, specifically Diana Mairose, were successful in helping to convince the Hamilton County Commissioners to officially resolve to use the word "accessible" in place of the outdated word "handicapped." Diana collected pictures of poor and good examples of signs that she shared with the Commissioners during her presentation. The presentation

opportunity developed when Diana informally talked with Commissioner Todd Portune a week earlier at another community event both attended.”

Now, That's What You Call Advocacy Leadership!



Details on this colorful collage, and more about the "Posipalooza" Positive Culture event in *Pipeline Quarterly* -September 2010-

10. *Pipeline PostScripts* – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **VSA Ohio launches new, accessible website ... www.vsao.org** was re-launched July 24th and is more accessible and useful than ever. Up-to-date program information, resources, opportunities, and easy to use Arts & Disability in Ohio event calendar are now available.

⇒ **REMINDER: ESDY Award Nominations Deadline, August 30 ...**

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) reminds readers of an opportunity to honor self advocates, family members, and/or professional staff who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in supporting individuals or agencies in furthering the philosophy of Self Determination. An ESDY Award is presented to those who have played a vital role in advancing self determination for people with developmental disabilities -- including the elements of freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation.

Send your nomination to Sharon Travis at stravis@eriecbdd.org – deadline, August 30!
The ESDY Awards will be presented at this year's OSDA conference, "Celebrate the Fire Within,"
September 20 and 21, Doubletree Hotel, Worthington
More information at <http://www.ohiosda.org/>.

Nominations should be specific as to how the nominee has supported the principles of Self Determination, and any contributions made toward overall systems change.

For more about Self Determination: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm>

⇒ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is Aug. 31 ...**

All meetings welcome new attendees! Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings are usually hosted at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus – a courtesy we greatly appreciate.

The August 31 meeting location has changed to the Columbus Developmental Center training room, 1601 W. Broad Street in Columbus, to accommodate attendees in an air conditioned meeting space. Meetings begin promptly at 10:00 and end at approximately 3:00.

For more information about the FAC, contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, Sept. 15 ...**

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Association of County Boards – and a growing list of additional organizations, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is planned for September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

**This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically focusing on DSPs!
A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals will include films featuring people with developmental disabilities, and will be educational and entertaining.**

The event will feature The Sprout Touring Film Festival, many speakers, and comments by Direct Support Professionals. Contact Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772, agerowitz@outlooks.us.

⇒ **SAVE THESE DATES, TOO! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ninth Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (“SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. More information will be shared as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, September 1, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 18

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- 1. National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins September 12th
- 2. Ohio Self Determination Association Conference September 20-21, "Celebrate the Fire Within"
- 3. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention & Awareness Month
- 4. National Preparedness Month: 'Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed'
- 5. DODD Family Advisory Council: The Movers & Shakers Gather Once Again at CDC
- 6. Legislative Advocacy Day, September 14th
- 7. Montgomery Developmental Center Welcomes New Superintendent, Nancy Banks
- 8. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items

September is One Busy Month! For Example ...
National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 12th;
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Month;
National Emergency Preparedness Month;
Several Exciting Conferences, and More!!

National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 12

1. Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others

This year, the week of September 12 is designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation. The designation also provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role Direct Support Professionals play every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce. *(And on that subject, see the reminder (article #6) in this issue of Pipeline.)*

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) notes that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recognized the month with a proclamation spotlighting,

“... the dedication and vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages ...” (Full text at www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/dsp-recognition-week-2010_ohio.pdf)

Around the state there are many examples illustrating the positive impact of direct support professionals within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, which includes people who work ‘behind-the-scenes,’ but are in the forefront of peoples’ lives.

Direct support professionals variously have described their interpersonal relationships as ‘mutually reinforcing’, ‘sometimes challenging’, and ‘often rewarding’. Many have taken Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services courses (PATHS – www.ohiopaths.org), also supported and encouraged within the DODD Priority Work Plan (DODD Priority Work), and feel more prepared and empowered after completing the program.

For example, following completion of such a training opportunity last year, Ohio PATHS graduate, Carla Hugenburg noted,

“PATHS participation has made me more conscious of how staff need to do less for individuals and spend more time teaching them to do for themselves, and to have more full lives. That is what we are here for – to help individuals have full, and meaningful, and happier lives.”



www.ohiopaths.org

Following Up in Guernsey County ...

Further illustrating the role and importance of the Direct Support Professional in the lives of people with disabilities is this item from 2009, and a 2010 follow-up to it:

In September 2009, from Janice Hall, Executive Director at Guernsey Residential, DODD received a great photo and this short note ... “On August 12, 2009, when Guernsey Residential, Inc. staff member, Rob May, decided to ‘pop the question’ to his girlfriend, Morgan Neuhart, he enlisted the help of his friends – Vaughn, Randy, David, and Charlie (pictured below).

Because the Guernsey Residential, Inc. direct support staff work seven days on and seven days off, the schedule promotes a family style atmosphere. All four of ‘the guys’ were very excited to invite Morgan to be a part of their family.

Morgan tells everyone ‘how sweet’ the proposal was and that she has ‘five fiancés.’ Rob wanted to include ‘his family’ in this because, as he stated, “I spend so much time with the guys that it was important to me that they be involved.”

Rob and Morgan tied the knot on September 5, 2009, following a very original proposal...”



Vaughn (WILL), Randy (YOU), David (MARRY) and Charlie (ME). Note the open engagement ring box, skillfully displayed.

About a year later ...

Morgan and Rob now are the proud parents of baby girl Sophie Ann, and ‘The Uncles’ – Vaughn, Randy, David, and Charlie, all dote on her!



The May Family – Rob, Morgan, and Sophie Ann.

There are lots of pictures of Sophie around the house, and The Uncles proudly point her out to any and all visitors. Rob says there isn't a day that goes by that they don't ask about Sophie, and just this past Friday night, Rob, Morgan, Sophie, and The Uncles had a ‘family’ wiener roast at the May household. According to Janice Hall, “The guys love spending time with their extended family, and the feeling is mutual.”

Comments and stories like these help to capture the essence of how much Direct Support Professionals and the people they serve can mean to each other. More about this in the September 15 issue of *Pipeline*.

And Now, A Premiere Special Event!

ACTION! DSPs Make it Happen: 2010 DSP Recognition Event and Film Festival, September 15, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- This event is free for Ohio Direct Support Professionals -

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) – and a long list of additional organizations, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is planned for September 15, 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

This will be Ohio's first major recognition event specifically celebrating the work of DSPs. A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals will include several short films featuring people with developmental disabilities, as featured in The Sprout Touring Film Festival, along with many speakers, and comments by Direct Support Professionals, themselves.

According to Lisa Barnes, OADSP event chairperson, excitement about the event is growing. She explains, "We asked providers and agencies from around the state for donations to help support the event, and we have raised nearly \$10,000! We also asked vendors and agencies for door prizes and items for novelty bags for attendees and have received so many nice things -- including a free night and dinner at a resort; grocery store gift cards; art produced by self advocates; shirts; hats; coupons; pens, and much more!" She adds,

"The highlight of this event, though, will be The Sprout Touring Film Festival, with some excellent films featuring people with developmental disabilities. [Click here for Sprout poster](#). There is no charge for DSP's to attend the event, and well over 100 people have registered to attend already!"

[Click here for DSP event flyer and registration.](#)

*For more information: <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>
Lisa Barnes at oadsp1@yahoo.com; Amy Gerowitz at agerowitz@outlooks.us*

And, for DSPs in Southwest Ohio ...

Southwest Ohio PATHS has published the next schedule of courses for the Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) classes, beginning September 22. The CIP course includes 60 hours of classroom instruction, including training in self-determination, living skills and supports, service facilitation, organizational participation, documentation, advocacy, and personal ethics. Further information is at http://ohiopaths.org/documents/SW%20schedule_fall2010.pdf . Recent graduates of PATHS courses say it best ...

"The CIP Path classes have given me the confidence I needed to begin a career in a new field. With a great teacher, I have been given so many valuable tools to use in my day-to-day interaction with those I serve. I can honestly say that I came away with valuable information from each and every class."

[Penny Coffey, Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled \(LADD\)](#)

“After taking the fourth CIP class, I noticed that my entire professional attitude became enhanced. I was more able to see the DSP/individual relationship through the lens of the individual. And, as an agency owner, I understood more clearly what was and is expected of me by my staff, the County Board, the State, the individuals and their families. It was wonderful and fun experience.”

Ben-Collins Uwaezuoke, Amen Medicare LLC

Visit www.ohiopath.org for further information about PATHS.



DSPs and self advocates alike will be at the Ohio Self Determination Assn. Conference, Sept. 20-21

2. OSDA Conference to “Celebrate the Fire Within”

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will be making history, empowering participants, energizing statewide self advocacy efforts, and sharing exciting individual stories this September 20th and 21st at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. The OSDA annual conference, always known for its ‘accent on action’ will continue that theme this year, with an agenda that will be hard to beat next time around!

The Anatomy of (Naming) A Waiver

At this conference, attendees will learn about the proposed new self-directed ‘flexible support’ waiver, and, by invitation of the DODD, naming the new waiver will be a part of the action in the two-day conference agenda. It will be an historic – and spirited – event, to be sure!

Featured speakers will include Nick Scott -- professional bodybuilder, ballroom dancer, and motivational speaker (how’s that for having a ‘Fire Within?!’); Tyson Gentry, OSU Graduate and former Buckeyes Football Team member; and Sue Thomas, famed FBI agent who worked undercover for the FBI as an agent specializing in reading lips. In and amongst all of that talent, there will be the additional talents of many Ohio self-advocates sharing their stories of success and challenge, as well as noted professionals in the developmental disabilities community offering information and support on many subjects.

According to OSDA President, Lee Wedemeyer, “Professionals who attend this conference -- and intently listen to what people who have developmental disabilities have to say -- will go away with a unique and stronger perspective on how supports should be developed to enable a quality life in the community.”

More about the upcoming OSDA Conference in the next issue of *Pipeline*, September 15.

For additional program and agenda information go to www.ohiosda.org



3. Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention/Awareness



This baby is pleased to report that Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is focused on raising awareness that *no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy*, and that help is available for those families already affected.



For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and other alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery, Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio.

FASD is an ‘umbrella term’ describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

FASD is 100 percent preventable!

Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading cause of *preventable* birth defects, learning disabilities, attention deficits, mental retardation, and behavior disorders.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary disabilities such as substance abuse issues and disrupted school experiences, and help families better understand and cope.

The DODD works closely with the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) in support of Ohio’s FASD Initiative to promote a message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies. In recognition of FASD Awareness Month, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities programs serving children will receive from the DODD a copy of the Governor’s Proclamation to use in supporting and promoting these efforts.

Under ODADAS' leadership, several state agencies including DODD have formed the Statewide FASD Steering Committee. The Committee's primary goals are public awareness and specific education and training for agencies, organizations, and professionals. The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from nine state agencies, providers, and parents. Its mission is to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address and prevent FASD.

Each year, across the nation, as many as 40,000 babies are born with FASD, costing the nation about \$4 billion, according to the FASD Center for Excellence.

<http://www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>

"Stop and think. If you're pregnant, don't drink."

In Ohio, Department of Health officials estimate that FASD affects approximately one in 100 births at an annual cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300 million for providing special services for education, juvenile justice, medical and mental health services, foster care, and unemployment.*

According to an *Institute of Medicine Report to Congress*, "Of all of the substances of abuse, alcohol produces by far the most serious neuro-behavioral effects in the fetus. This is due to the ability of alcohol's tiny molecules to pass freely through the blood-brain barrier. The developing brain is highly vulnerable to the effects of alcohol at all stages of pregnancy."

**Larry Burd, PhD., noted FASD expert from the University of North Dakota has developed an FASD Prevalence and Cost Calculator for states based on 18 years of research. Using Ohio's population and the number of live births, the 1 in 100 figure and \$300 million/year cost were calculated.*

Source: www.online-clinic.com/Content/Materials/calculator.asp



[Get a Kit ... Make a Plan ... Be Informed](#)

4. National Preparedness Month Efforts, Statewide

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The overall effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The DODD is among those agencies supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations. At www.ready.gov go to the 'People with Disabilities' button and it will lead you to a menu of information for 'People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.'



Preparedness opportunities for residents living at the ten Department-operated, community-based Developmental Centers will be emphasized as part of ongoing health and safety efforts, and provider-sponsored safety and preparedness efforts also will be encouraged.

Trainings for staff, individuals, and families via the national *Ready* campaign include activities that encourage individuals to *have an emergency supply kit*, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them.

In Particular

A booklet developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the National Organization on Disability, titled [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special ...](#) can help prepare an emergency plan to protect these individuals, their families, caregivers and others in their support network in the event of an emergency.

Visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for this and other free materials.



Family Advisory Council

5. 'The Movers & Shakers' Gather Once Again at CDC

Family and Civic Engagement are Key.

Looking around the Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) training room yesterday, as Family Advisory Council (FAC) participants arrived in the streaming sunshine, it clearly was a good idea to have relocated this meeting to the air conditioned facility. Taking a break from the usual (uncooled) location at the OCALI* offices in Clintonville, the group of approximately fifty family members and professionals from around the state dove into a busy agenda, kicked off by DODD Director John Martin.

Following Director Martin's comments on subjects ranging from upcoming budget scenarios to state agency collaborative efforts, family members took the spotlight and responded to his request for input from their perspectives, around the state. Comments included the need for making training available to parents so that they can more effectively work with Service and Support Administrators (SSA's) and other key staff in the DD system to help their family members access services and supports. We heard:

"Our County Board is there for us, we know that – but they can't do it all. We need to be able to ask the right questions, and know where to go to get information ourselves. Attending these Family Advisory meetings is very helpful, and accessing more training online would be helpful, too."

"We need to preserve and manage our waivers – they are so important to families! Drawing down federal match money for these services is also important from a budget standpoint. We need to take a look at how we can improve in that area."

"Our County Board workshop has become more of a 'work center' now. They've changed it up a lot, and my daughter is a lot happier and busier there now. I feel that she is learning some skills that might help to prepare her for when the job market improves. We have to look to the future."

Recurring themes also included an appreciation for the waivers that are available, and the acknowledgment that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) work hard all hours of the day, and should be paid appropriately for the important work they do. One suggestion, from John Hannah of Champaign Residential Services Inc., was to employ robotics and other emerging technologies for certain tasks that may be repetitive and labor-intensive, such as lifting. “That could help eliminate some of the physical stress that DSP’s and family members may encounter as part of caring for individuals,” he noted.

Discussions included several comments on the subject of making paperwork requirements easier, including online access via the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov and other agency sites. This area of interest and concern was addressed later in the meeting, as DODD Information Technology Services (ITS) staff, Bryant Young and Kathy Casagrande, surveyed FAC members on the subject of the DODD website and asked for feedback on their experiences as site users.

Internet-based access to information -- especially the need to access and complete forms -- was cited by family members as very important. DODD staff members representing ITS, as well as the Office of Policy and Constituent Support, noted that several major projects are well underway to improve the information that is currently online, and make it easier to access. Director Martin noted that resources have been made available to address this critical area and meet those needs.

Look for more information about improvements and updates to the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov in future issues of *Pipeline*, including specific areas for families, county boards, and other providers of services.

The DODD-hosted and newly-launched websites [Coordinating Center of Excellence Site](#) and [Interagency Work Group on Autism Site](#) also were reviewed with FAC members to gain feedback and ideas.

Angela Sausser Short, Director of the Ohio Family and Children First Council (FCFC) addressed the group as well, presenting highlights from their Family Engagement Committee’s recently published Strategic Planning Report. She noted that improved family engagement with various state agencies, and youth in transition years from high school to young adulthood, are two main areas the FCFC is focusing on, as recommended in the Strategic Plan. She stated,

“Ohio is rich in agency resources, and we need to minimize duplication or fragmentation of services that can keep our systems from working as well as they can for families. We’re taking a look at the suggestions Ohio families have made, in order to help address issues and better support them.”



Lots of new faces, new ideas at FAC this month.

Susan (left) from Warren County, and Leah from Meigs County – first-time attendees to a Family Advisory Council meeting – take time to get acquainted during a break. Both agreed that family members need to speak up and ask questions so that they can make the most of opportunities and options for their family members with developmental disabilities. DODD Director John Martin was definitely in the listening mode as Susan, Leah, and many others provided ideas on what services are most important to them, and where budget dollars are most needed, from their perspectives.

**The next Family Advisory Council meeting will be October 26. New participants are welcome!
Contact: Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov**

**OCALI = Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.*

For more information about Family Advisory Council <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>



Reminder

6. Legislative Advocacy Day, September 14th

'Last Call' to register to attend this event! Please go to the following link:

<http://www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration>

Registration Deadline: September 8th

Legislative Advocacy Day, September 14, 10:30 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, will be a great opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their families, including continuing funding for long-term services and supports in the community. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day will include a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward.

Speakers will include Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Lead planner for the event is Franklin County self advocate Carmen Shelton. She explains, “It is most important that people register so that they can get an opportunity to speak with their legislators – in the legislative offices that serve them.” She continues,

“This is a great opportunity to talk to your legislators about why living in the community is so important for individuals with disabilities.”

The DD Council grant funding Legislative Advocacy Day provides the resources necessary for what is described as a, ‘First-ever, stand-alone advocacy day.’

For more information: Carmen Shelton at c_shelton@ameritech.net or (740)505-8337.



[Following Retirement of Former Superintendent Greg Darling ...](#)

7. Montgomery Developmental Center Welcomes New Superintendent, Nancy Banks

Nancy Banks has been named Superintendent of Montgomery Developmental Center (MDC) effective August 1, 2010. Nancy has many years of experience working in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF), including her most recent position at MDC as Program Director, beginning in October 2009. Prior to that, Nancy’s career spanned several years at Stillwater Center, a Private ICF in Montgomery County, where she served in many roles, including Professional Services Manager. Nancy succeeds former Superintendent Greg Darling, who retired earlier this summer. (See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 13, June 23, 2010](#))



Nancy Banks

According to Ginnie Whisman, DODD Deputy Director for Developmental Centers, Nancy brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the job of Superintendent. In addition to her work experience, Nancy has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology/Sociology and Social

Work from Miami University, and a Master's Degree in Management from Antioch University, McGregor. Ginnie comments,

“Although Nancy has worked at Montgomery Developmental Center for just 10 months, she has a wealth of knowledge about working with individuals with developmental disabilities and the staff who provide services. I feel very fortunate to have her on my team, and am honored to work with such a dedicated and caring professional.”

During her first few weeks on the job as Superintendent, Nancy reflects,

“All of the staff here have been extremely supportive as I begin to work in this role, and I would like to express my gratefulness and appreciation to them for this welcoming environment. I am also really proud of what I have observed here at MDC – the caring staff, and their thoughtful approach to serving the needs of residents and their families.”

*Contact: Nancy Banks, Montgomery Developmental Center, (937) 233-8108,
nancy.banks@dodd.ohio.gov*



Who are these people? They're some of the members of the DODD Mortality Review Committee! Find out more in a future issue of *Pipeline*.

8. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ Work continues on Lott Industries Documentary

A proposed documentary by filmmaker Victor Buhler about Lott Industries, the Adult Services arm of the Lucas County Board of DD, was one one of eight *social issues documentaries* selected for the second annual 'Good Pitch' recently. As part of a documentary festival in Washington, D.C., the eight films were selected from a field of 150! Buhler is in Toledo again to resume work on the project. A preview for the project, has been shown at the new downtown Toledo studio for Lott Industries' "Shared Lives", and can be viewed now at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=2062>. For more information: Lon Mitchell at lmitchell@lucasdd.org.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking Training Opportunity – ‘Imagine the Possibilities’ ...**

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2011. The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities, and for parents of children who are under age 12 and have a disability. The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets are available online at http://www.thearcofgreatercleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm, by calling The Arc of Greater Cleveland at (216) 622-0755 or email cnorwood@thearcofgreatercleveland.org for more information.

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ninth Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (“SIBS” conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. More information will be shared in *Pipeline* as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI’s call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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***Pipeline* ... Extra!**

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

A Pipeline EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.
Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

September 2, 2010

Just released from the Governor's Office ...

Governor Designates Federal Medicaid Funding to Protect Health Care Jobs, Services

Columbus, OH – Governor Ted Strickland today announced initial designations of dollars made available as a result of increased federal reimbursement for Medicaid. Investments will be made in hospitals, mental health services, and Ohio's HIV/AIDS assistance program to protect health care jobs and critical health services for Ohioans.

“As Ohioans are fighting our way out of the Wall Street recession, this additional support could not have come at a more critical time for our hospitals and mental health system. These investments will protect Ohio jobs and help us provide health services for Ohioans in need,” Strickland said. “I want to thank President Obama and Ohio's Congressional leaders for supporting Ohio jobs and services.”

Medicaid is a state and federal partnership with shared financial responsibility. Medicaid expenses are partially reimbursed by the federal government. In the Recovery Act, the federal government increased its share of the financial responsibility for Medicaid, also known as FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages), providing economic relief to states. This enhanced FMAP was set to expire on December 31, 2010 but was extended for six months at a reduced rate by federal legislation passed in August.

Ohio's enhanced FMAP reimbursement allocation is projected to be \$518.6 million.

As designated by federal law, approximately \$73.3 million will be distributed through the following state agencies, and in many cases passed through to local partners, in proportion to their financial contribution to the Medicaid program:

- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services: \$2.4 million
- Ohio Department of Education: \$845,801
- Ohio Department of Aging: \$12.6 million

- Ohio Department of Mental Health: \$15.6 million
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities: \$41.7 million

Also designated by federal law is the distribution of approximately \$24.7 million for Medicare Part D and \$13.3 million for IV-E, which supports foster care and adoption services provided through county agencies.

The remainder, approximately \$407.2 million, flows through the main Medicaid funding line item (the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Medicaid 525 line) and associated Medicaid Non-GRF lines. Strickland today designated less than half of these enhanced reimbursements for the following investments:

- **Ohio hospitals** will benefit from \$150 million in relief from the hospital assessment to protect health care jobs and critical services for patients. The additional resources will help benefit every hospital throughout the state to retain or add jobs. (The state budget impact of the reduced hospital assessment will only be \$118 million, after accounting for the net effect of other factors related to hospitals in the Medicaid budget. Those factors include better than estimated performance of the hospital assessment and reduced spending in the Upper Payment Limit program.)
- **Ohio's mental health system** will receive \$32.6 million to help provide critical treatment for adults and children with mental illness and preserve jobs in the mental health system. Approximately \$30.6 million will be distributed to county boards on a per capita basis to help fund services and protect jobs; the remaining \$2 million will be used to fund programs that specifically benefit children with mental health issues.
- **Ohio's Ryan White Part B/Ohio Drug Assistance Program**, which provides assistance to eligible Ohioans living with HIV/AIDS, will receive \$12.8 million. The program implemented cost containment measures in July because of a combination of decreasing resources, increasing enrollment, and rising costs of health insurance premiums and medications. This assistance will sustain the program at its current levels through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Strickland said he would like to gather input and information from the legislature and stakeholders before designating the balance of the state's allocation, which is approximately \$243.8 million.

"It is important to exercise fiscal restraint and look beyond our immediate priorities so we are positioned to address needs that may arise in the coming months. That is how we will maximize these resources and help the greatest number of Ohioans," Strickland said. "Just because the state has received additional federal resources does not mean all of those resources must be spent immediately."

Pipeline Extra ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities

community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov , phone (614) 644-0262.

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Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 19

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September continues our focus on ...

National Direct Support Professionals Week Sept. 12 - 18
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD);
National Emergency Preparedness;
Several Exciting Conferences, and More!!

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week

1. ACTION! DSP’s Make It Happen – A Premiere Special Event

“This is your day, and it’s been a long time coming.”

-Scott Osterfield, OADSP Operations Coordinator

Today marked the very first event of its kind in Ohio – the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event, “*ACTION! DSP’s Make It Happen*” -- hosted from 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus. Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) – and many other organizations, the event was – in one participant’s words -- “Way more than I expected!”

Recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation, more than 300 participants attended Ohio’s first major recognition event specifically celebrating the work of DSPs.

Governor Ted Strickland issued a proclamation spotlighting the dedication and vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages. (Full text at www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/dsp-recognition-week-2010_ohio.pdf)

Opening with remarks by OADSP Operations Coordinator Scott Osterfield, and DODD Director John Martin, it was immediately clear that the day would be totally focused on DSPs as the stars and the drivers of all the action. And there was plenty of action!

Director Martin prefaced the presentation of Governor Strickland's proclamation recognizing and applauding the efforts of Ohio's DSPs, with a few words from the poet Robert Frost. Taken from the poem, "Death of the Hired Man,"* Director Martin suggested that two main concepts seem to jump out as most important. He stated,

"The two main themes that I think apply so strongly to the work that you do as Direct Support Professionals are these ... that it all depends on what a person thinks of as 'home' – a place where you don't have to do anything to 'deserve' being there; and also, the concern for others that allows one to, 'look back with pride and forward with hope.' So the poem struck me as being particularly meaningful for us here today."



In the world of film-making ...

"Elvis" was amazed to see how many DSPs filed in to get a photo taken with him in the 'studio' – including Terrence, who was un-fazed by Elvis' presence. DSPs definitely were the real stars of the day.



Wall-to-Wall Talent ...

Even the ample space at the Xenos complex in Columbus may not be enough for next year's event! This year, the first-time celebration of DSP's drew well over 300 people from around the state.

A Film Festival honoring Direct Support Professionals included The Sprout Touring Film Festival, consisting of several short films featuring people with developmental disabilities [Click here for Sprout poster](#). The films ran the gamut of emotions and stylistic approaches, and included several that drew spontaneous cheers and applause from the audience. The group was audibly appreciative of the honest and unique depictions of people with developmental disabilities and their roles within those lives.

According to Lisa Barnes, OADSP event chairperson, a contest encouraging Ohio DSP's and related provider agencies to submit videos depicting their work built a great deal of excitement online, and provided a spirited competition between eight finalists at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OADSP>. The video competition was yet another way to express the positive impact of direct support professionals on peoples' lives within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Each of the eight submissions was honored. She noted,

"We were overwhelmed by the response to this event and to the video competition, itself. It was an outstanding first-time experience for us."

ANCOR Recognizes Addie Moore, ResCare

Addie Moore, a senior direct support professional who provides services at the ResCare Dillon Circle Home in Fostoria, Ohio, recently was recognized for her outstanding contribution in support of individuals with disabilities by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) -- a national organization that supports advocacy and promotes legislation on behalf of people with disabilities.

Moore's selection by ANCOR as Ohio's 2010 Direct Support Professional was made following a nomination spotlighting her work in assisting one of individuals she supports in completing

dialysis treatments at a local hospital, despite concerns that the woman would have difficulty enduring the lengthy procedure three times a week. According to the nomination letter,

“Addie Moore’s continual encouragement and involvement in the dialysis procedures with this individual allowed hospital personnel to more successfully communicate with their patient as she was completing the dialysis regime. Moore’s commitment and care is a true example of the strong relationship that can exist between Direct Support Professionals and the people they serve.”

In celebration of her selection by ANCOR, a reception was held in Fostoria, in Moore’s honor, attended by many of her family and friends, Seneca Residential’s Board President, Paul Myers, and the Mayor of Fostoria, John Davoli. Active in several organizations within the Fostoria community, Addie Moore’s selection as Ohio’s DSP culminates a career of 20 years of service, working with individuals with disabilities. This week she attended an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. during ANCOR’s recognition of Direct Care Professionals, honoring all state winners from the national competition.



Way to Go, Addie!

Addie Moore (center) is flanked by Raberta Walthour (left), Operations Manager for several ResCare Ohio facilities, including the location at which Addie is employed, Dillon Circle. At right is Melinda Perry, Executive Director for ResCare, Western Ohio.

An excerpt from ResCare’s nomination letter to ANCOR ...

“One might think after nearly 20 years, your attitude might become less than enthusiastic with the daily routine and the similarity of challenges. But you do not come away with that feeling when you meet Addie. She is by nature, a highly optimistic person. And she overwhelms others with her attitude. You cannot resist sharing a smile and a laugh with Addie.

Recently, one of her residents found out that she was to begin kidney dialysis. This of course is a daunting experience for anyone. But for someone who is both physically and verbally impaired, the thought of spending eight hours -- three times a week -- getting hooked up to a dialysis machine with virtual strangers around you, is undoubtedly frightening.

Of all of the staff, it was Addie, who our resident chose to go with her on her visits to the hospital. She is an obvious choice. Addie showed her own spirit of determination as she faced her own personal health challenges a few years ago. Addie quickly agreed to be beside her client every step of the way."

Support for the work of Direct Support Professionals is ingrained in the DODD Priority Work Plan ([DODD Priority Work](#)), including support for specific training courses such as those offered via Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) courses. (More about PATHS at www.ohiopath.org).

Acknowledgements:

**http://www.internal.org/Robert_Frost/The_Death_of_the_Hired_Man*

Thanks to Missy Craddock, OPRA, for her assistance in pulling together information for this article.

For more information: <http://www.ancor.org/documents/SRes228DirectSupportProfWeek.pdf>;

Lisa Barnes at oadsp1@yahoo.com; Amy Gerowitz at agerowitz@outlooks.us



2. Legislative Advocacy Day, Both Spirited and Collaborative

" I feel powerful because of what I have learned I can do!"

-Overheard at the event-

Legislative Advocacy Day, yesterday, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, provided an outstanding and organized opportunity for self advocates, family members, and others to meet with legislators and discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities.

Chief among those topics was funding for continued long-term services and supports in the community, and, specifically, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. Event speakers included Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities – each of whom had a personal insight to share with the group of at least 300 attendees.



**Legislative Advocacy Day Attendees were psyched ...
... and ready to connect with legislators immediately following the brief program at the Statehouse Atrium.
As Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director stated,
“This effort is not going to fail for lack of energy!”**



**Lead event organizer and self-advocate Carmen Shelton (right)
enjoys the fruits of her labor in the audience before stepping up to the podium at Legislative Advocacy Day.**

Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (‘DD Council’) and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day included a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward. As stated by Senator John Carey, and echoed by others, “Tell your story! We want to hear what you have to say. Only one person can tell your story ... and that’s you!”

Look for more following up on this event at www.nisonger.osu.edu/legislativeregistration



Priority Work: Reinforcing Ohio's Developmental Centers as Regional Resources

3. Gallipolis Developmental Center Hosts Congressman Charlie Wilson

Ohio Congressman Charlie Wilson represents the 6th Congressional District* which includes Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC), one of Ohio's ten DODD-operated Developmental Centers. Last week Congressman Wilson had the opportunity to be in the GDC area, and visited with staff and residents there.

During the tour, Congressman Wilson was interested in the history of the Developmental Center, and GDC's plans for the future, as a part of the [DODD Priority Work](#). He remarked,

“ What you all do here is so important to the community and to Ohio. I am proud to travel around the 6th District and see how your services impact the lives of so many Ohioans.”

GDC staff and residents warmly welcomed Congressman Wilson, whose family includes an individual with developmental disabilities who resides and receives services in another state. He has been interested in learning more about DD services in Ohio -- in particular, within the area he represents.

In conversations with GDC Superintendent Kevin Davis, and Program Director Jennifer Goodwin, the Congressman and his staff learned more about Ohio's developmental centers as regional resources -- including collaborative efforts with other service agencies in the local community. DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth, and Communications Coordinator Aaron Powell, both representing DODD Central Office, were on-hand at GDC as well. Seifarth remarked, “Mr. Wilson and his staff asked excellent, thoughtful questions – I think everyone learned a great deal.”



GDC provides excellent weather for all Congressional visits!

Congressman Charlie Wilson (second from left) pauses for a photo with others touring GDC, including Gallia County Commissioner Justin Fallon (far left); GDC Superintendent Kevin Davis (second from right); and, DODD Legislative Liaison Mark Seifarth (seated).



Congressman Charlie Wilson and resident, Jackie Purpura, obviously enjoyed meeting each other at GDC!

Gallipolis Developmental Center currently is home for 195 individuals with developmental disabilities, who reside in 10 comfortable, home-like living units. The Center provides a wide variety of professional services. The majority of people who reside at GDC need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The Center serves the 'Region 3' counties of Fayette, Pickaway, Ross, Pike, Vinton, Jackson, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto.

**The 6th Congressional District of Ohio starts in the Mahoning Valley in the north and stretches for 325 miles along the Ohio River through 12 counties. From north to south the district begins with the Youngstown suburbs of Canfield, Boardman and part of Poland. The district then curves south along the river to reach Marietta, and on down to Ironton. It then extends to the city limits of Portsmouth, not quite in the Cincinnati metropolitan area, where the Scioto River empties into the Ohio.*

Map at: www.charliewilson.house.gov/index.php?option=com_google_maps_vision&Itemid=45

More about GDC at www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/gdc.htm

Also featured in Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2008



They're Getting a Kit ... Making a Plan ... Being Informed

4. National Preparedness Month Efforts, Around the State

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. In particular, congregate settings provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about taking charge and being prepared for emergencies where they live, work, and play.

County Boards and other service providers around the state are planning numerous preparedness-related events, holding fire and other evacuation drills, and otherwise making sure that individuals with disabilities are better prepared to quickly pick up what they need and get out the door safely in the event of an emergency. Staying calm in such situations is easier when certain procedures are understood and practiced – and staying calm is a big part of staying safe!

Weighing in on the subject, County Boards and other agencies, as well as Ohio's ten Developmental Centers are putting the accent on *safety* during National Preparedness Month. Here are a few examples of these efforts:

Getting a Kit ... Making a Plan ... Being Informed ... in Ashtabula County

There's nothing like a trip to Ashtabula County to find out what's going on in Northeast Ohio, and County Board Superintendent Anne Zeitler is just the person to put things in perspective during National Preparedness Month. She notes, "We have partnered with Emergency Management and several other area agencies, to establish a comprehensive special needs shelter here at our Happy Hearts School, to be used in the event of a major emergency." She continues,

"We also are partnering with the Ashtabula County Department of Health and others to establish a 'Closed Pod Dispensing Site' in order to distribute preventative medication quickly, in a contained and organized area – for the individuals we serve and their families/caregivers, as well as our employees – in the event of a catastrophic public health emergency."

The scope of the preparedness effort in Ashtabula County is far-reaching, and will be studied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a 'best practices' plan this month, according to George Sabo, Director of the Ashtabula County EMA. "We're very excited about the depth of the plan we have here, and the commitment we have seen from everyone involved."

This commitment to serving the special needs population in a comprehensive fashion is echoed by Marlene Sartini, Director of Community Support Services for the local County Board. She underscored the fact that the grassroots initiative has grown exponentially as agency partners came on board with the plan. "We feel very good about how receptive everyone has been, and are feeling confident that we have all the necessary organizations actively involved to provide the care and the action needed in an emergency."

**More about Ashtabula County's comprehensive preparedness plan, and how it all has come together, in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon.
(Archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm)**

Specially Equipped Shelter

Last year, the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities cooperated with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus to develop a Red Cross Shelter equipped and staffed to accommodate persons with developmental disabilities in the Central Ohio area in the event of a disaster that requires temporary shelter and assistance.

Through a grant from The Columbus Foundation, three facilities operated by FCBDD were identified and equipped to serve as potential shelter locations. The grant has enabled them to purchase and install an electric generator at the West Central School location, allowing that location to be used as a shelter in the event of mass electric outages -- one of a very few shelter locations of any kind in Columbus equipped with electric generator capability.

Staff members from FCBDD serve as volunteers at the shelters, bringing with them specific experience and skills to support the individuals served. For more information, contact Jack

Brownley, FCBDD Director of Schools and Special Programs, (614) 342-5960, or email jack.brownley@fcbdd.org.

According to FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison, “In addition to Jack's work related to our clients, Human Resources Director Dan Darling and his staff participate with the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency in preparedness activities for the county.” He adds,

“We recently participated in a 'Meta Leadership' summit at The Ohio State University related to leadership during an emergency or crisis (sponsored by the Center for Disease Control) and Dan is participating in Franklin County with what is called the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – a comprehensive approach to incident management and communication related to local, state, and federal preparedness.”

- See also: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/-

Helpful Materials Available

In addition to the preparedness information offered through The Ohio Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other sponsors of National Preparedness Month, many local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are providing materials encouraging individuals served locally to prepare for emergencies in their homes and workplaces.

For example, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services offers a one-page Emergency Preparedness flyer which may be accessed online at '[Be Prepared](#)' and serves as a guide and reminder – including simple text and clean graphics. In addition, they remind individuals to ...

“... Keep these items in a “Grab and Go” bag near your bed:

First aid kit, flashlight, radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned goods/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of your medical conditions, and emergency contact phone numbers. If you need to leave your home, take a one week supply of medications with you.”



At www.ready.gov go to the ‘People with Disabilities’ button and it will lead you to a menu of information for ‘People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.’

Also, a booklet developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in coordination with the National Organization on Disability, titled [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special ...](#) can help prepare an emergency plan to protect individuals, their families, caregivers, and others in their support network in an emergency.

In training for staff working in the developmental disabilities community over the past few years, the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review, also has supported activities that encourage County Board and other provider staff to talk with individuals and their families about preparedness. One staff member explained at a training last year,

“It’s so important to talk about these things when you’re preparing a person’s Individual Service Plan with them – so that everyone involved in that person’s circle of support has the same information, and knows it’s been discussed.”

For more information, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for free materials.



September 20-21

5. OSDA Conference Will “Celebrate the Fire Within”

- The Anatomy of (Naming) A Waiver -

At this conference, attendees will learn about the proposed new self-directed ‘flexible support’ waiver, and, by invitation of the DODD, naming the new waiver will be a part of the action in the two-day conference agenda. It will be an historic – and spirited – event, to be sure!

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will be making history, empowering participants, energizing statewide self advocacy efforts, and sharing individual stories this September 20th and 21st at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. OSDA’s annual conference, with its ‘accent on action,’ will feature speakers from around the nation and state, and spotlight the many talents of Ohio self advocates sharing stories of success and challenge.

For specific program and agenda information go to www.ohiosda.org

According to the very enthusiastic OSDA Director, Dana Charlton,

“Our line-up of speakers will spark the passion to be self determined that lies inside each of us, and will motivate us to join together to ‘celebrate the fire within’! Added to these personal stories, participants (currently 239!) can expect facilitated, participant-driven work sessions to name the new Medicaid waiver proposed by the Department of Developmental Disabilities. There is still time to register at www.ohiosda.org .”

At last year’s conference...

Perhaps most noteworthy at last year’s conference was not any single presentation – they all were great -- but it was the general friendliness, respect, and courtesy shown by conference attendees as they visited vendor information tables and socialized. Conversations overheard included good-natured teasing (“You’re gonna ruin your lunch with all those snacks!”) and lots of networking (“I work at a Kroger, too! Which one are you at?) In addition, there was recognition and celebration of positive action (see photo below).



2009 winners of the coveted Steven Cooley Self Determination Award – Athens County self advocates gathered for a group photo. The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities representatives earned the award by being persistent and clear in their desire to have the words 'mental retardation' dropped from the names of Ohio agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities. Judging from last year's passage of SB79, the 'Name Change Bill', and according to OSDA participants, "It worked! We did it."

The next issue of *Pipeline*, September 29, will report on the OSDA Conference.



Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

6. Recognition of FASD Characteristics and Consequences

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention & Awareness Month

During September, Pipeline will provide information in support of FASD awareness and prevention, including resources and articles from around the state and nation.

(See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 18](#) September 1, 2010.)

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and other alcohol and drug addiction treatment and recovery, Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. Similarly, states across the nation are focusing efforts on providing information to stem the tide of this growing and 100% preventable health issue. FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible life-long implications.

The Cost to Society

According to an article in the *Houston Chronicle* [Fetal alcohol disorders costly to children, taxpayers](#) educating mothers to not drink while trying to become pregnant or during pregnancy will result in an increase in healthier children, and a decrease in social services taxpayers must provide. It states, "The Harris County Intellectual and Development Disabilities Needs Counsel's online brochure at www.mrnc.hctx.net informs taxpayers that each affected child may cost about \$5 million over a lifetime."

And, the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities noted that, “A diagnosis of FASD can be hard to make unless a mother discusses her drinking with her doctor or the child's doctor. Some children may be mis-diagnosed as having autism, ADHD, oppositional defiant or conduct disorder, pervasive developmental delay, learning disabilities, emotional/behavior problems, reactive attachment disorder, and other conditions. Or, they are never diagnosed at all. Many adoptive families struggle with a child's problems, never knowing the causes or successful interventions to help them.”

Some of the most common characteristics of alcohol-related brain damage include: poor impulse control and poor problem solving skills, difficulty linking actions to consequences, poor social communication, limited abstract reasoning and lack of trial and error learning. People with FASD have difficulty internalizing values, feelings and laws, and may develop inappropriate social, sexual and sociopathic behaviors.

In Ohio, OCALI and Others Broaden the Reach

Several state agencies, including DODD, have formed Ohio’s Statewide FASD Steering Committee, under the leadership of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS). The Steering Committee partnership includes representatives from nine state agencies, providers, and parents. Its mission is to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services, and augmentation of available resources to address and prevent FASD.

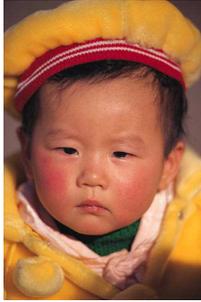
According to Melinda Norman, FASD State Coordinator, due to the nature of FASD, it is ‘everybody’s issue.’ She states, “The importance of getting information out and educating people cannot be overstated. The Steering Committee has been in existence since 2004, and we have had excellent representation in terms of membership, including the Family and Children First Council.” She continues,

“Our volunteer members are passionate about the FASD initiative, and that’s the key to the sustainability of our efforts, and their success, long term.”

According to Amy Bixler Coffin, of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), a collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), has yielded an updated website (www.ocali.org) with the latest information, links and resources on prevention, intervention and treatment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). The site features an overview of FASD, a comprehensive list of available assistance for individuals living with FASD, and FASD research and resources.

In addition, a series of webcasts include ‘FASD 101’ and a first-person testimony about living with FASD. The ‘Classroom Prevention Education’ area features strategies for both educators and school administrators. Additional information about Ohio’s statewide FASD initiative is also included along with contact information for parent network representatives.

"Stop and think. If you're pregnant, don't drink."



“Due to the nature of FASD, it is everybody’s issue.”
Melinda Norman, Ohio FASD State Coordinator

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org and <http://www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>

*Additional resources: Amy Bixler Coffin, OCALI, amy_bixler@ocali.org;
Melinda Norman, FASD, (614) 644-8318;
Tina Evans, DODD (614) 752-9028*



Following Up on the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework **7. ICHAH Efforts Exemplify ‘Infused Policy Development’...**

-How services are developed with counties across various lines-

In **Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 17, August 18, 2010**, Governor Ted Strickland’s endorsement of the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework*, proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH), was spotlighted. Following is additional information on the subject from DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Kevin Aldridge.

*Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a Council established via one of the Governor’s first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*.

The ICHAH incorporated hundreds of stakeholders in producing an inclusive framework which recognizes that it will take federal, state, and local collaboration to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness and advancing community integration for people with disabilities. More than 275 individuals and organizations, representing interests from around the state, were involved with the vetting process for the Framework document.

6000 New Opportunities

The PSH Policy Framework endorsed by the Governor established the rather ambitious goal -- as stated in the Framework document’s introduction -- of, “Creating 6000 new PSH housing opportunities over the next five years to help address high-priority permanent housing and supportive services needs for the most vulnerable households with serious and long-term disabilities.” It also was very ambitious on another front.

“This Policy Framework represents a key leverage point through which Ohio’s housing policy can be transformed in the coming years,” DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge said of the work. He continued,

“For Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, this Policy Framework represents a watershed moment.”

Specifically, Aldridge highlights the Policy Framework’s clear recognition of the needs of Ohioans dealing with challenges our service systems have traditionally had trouble supporting ... those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and those dealing with developmental disabilities and a co-occurring mental illness (‘dually-diagnosed’).

According to DODD Director John Martin, both of these groups were identified in the DODD’s 2008 Futures Committee work as needing particular attention, and both of these issues represent high priority policy work at the Department. In fact, the Governor asked DODD to facilitate the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), and both the DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health have worked together to re-energize the Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence.

In Section Three of the Framework, the State of Ohio identified, “Criteria and target populations for participation in PSH to ensure leveraging of federal resources to the greatest extent possible.” Listed among these target populations are households with serious intellectual or developmental disabilities acquired before the age of 22 including those with co-occurring mental illness and developmental disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorders, who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness or institutionalization.”

Advocates for people with autism, and other self advocates, consistently have identified available, accessible, and safe housing as an emerging and long-term need.

“This Policy Framework, embraced by multiple state agencies and the Governor’s Office, gives voice to those individuals and their families,” said Jody Fisher, DODD Project Manager for the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA). And on that same note, Lara Palay, DODD Project Manager for the Mental Illness/Developmental Dual Diagnosis Coordinating Center of Excellence -- a collaborative venture of the DODD and the Department of Mental Health -- added, “The original recommendations for Permanent Supportive Housing called for the development of trans-disability housing opportunities. This Policy Framework moves us clearly in that direction.”

Steve Matas, Manager of the Community Capital Assistance Program at the Department, comments that the level of interagency cooperation and coordination over the last year is unprecedented. He explains, “We are working together, asking new questions, and seeking innovative answers.”

Addressing the overall Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework, Director Martin emphasizes,

“This kind of work allows us to forge new ways of developing policy. By infusing policy development we are better able to address clearly identified areas of need. We look for simple solutions for multiple problems.”



Reminder

8. Register NOW to Vote in the November General Election

Thanks to Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) for the following reminder. If you are in a position to help someone with a disability register to vote, or otherwise understand their voting rights, please keep this information in mind:

In order to vote in the upcoming Ohio general election, individuals must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election. The deadline to register for the November 2nd general election is *October 4, 2010*. For citizens already registered, early voting begins September 28.

The OLRS website at <http://www.olrs.ohio.gov/vote-register> features general information regarding voting rights, and includes a link to the [Voter Registration Form](#). If you have other questions, you also may contact the Ohio Legal Rights Service Intake Department at (voice) 614-466-7264 or 1-800-282-9181; (TTY) 614-728-2553 or 1-800-858-3542.



9. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **Ohio Public Images (OPI) Plans Training on Usage of Social Media on October 4th ...**

A Social Media seminar, designed to address the subject from a basic, novice standpoint, and sponsored by Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Southwest Ohio Council of Government (COG), is slated for October 4, from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) complex, 1980 W. Broad St. in Columbus. Complete information and registration is posted at publicimagesnetwork.org/SocialMediaRegistration.htm. This seminar will help dispell myths and fears of social media usage, and review case histories of organizations and professionals in the DD field using this new communications tool. Registration information posted on the OPI website includes a link to PayPal if credit card registration is desired.

⇒ **Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 6 at the Ohio Statehouse *Increasing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities throughout Ohio***

Celebrate the gifts and talents of Ohio's workers with disabilities October 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with music by the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Panthers and information tables representing employers, business owners with disabilities, disability organizations and service providers from around the state. The event is sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD). For more information contact Eileen Courson, RSC, at Eileen.Courson@rsc.state.oh.us.

⇒ **PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) Conference, October 6-8 – ‘Get Connected!’ ...**

Click here for registration and information!

Online registration is now available at www.par-ohio.org for the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. Low rates for family members and individuals. 'Get Connected' is the theme for this 42nd Annual Convention.

The mission of PAR is to offer quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). To carry out the mission, PAR relies on the support and volunteer efforts of many dedicated people, working together to improve the manner in which individuals with developmental disabilities are provided personal care and assistance. Professionals from within the DD community share their knowledge and expertise with one another to achieve a common goal. The annual PAR Convention is the keystone of these efforts, as professionals gather together to share their talents, skills, knowledge, and visions.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking 6th Annual Gathering, October 22-23, in Columbus ...**

Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) is planning their 6th Annual Gathering on October 22-23, 2010 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square, in Columbus. About 150 graduates of PIP are expected to attend. The gathering's overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates.

Partners in Policymaking is an internationally-recognized leadership program that prepares adults with developmental disabilities, parents and other family members to advocate effectively and knowledgeable with policy- and decision-makers on local, state and national levels.

Advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the forefront of public policy decisions. For more information about PIP or the Annual Gathering, contact Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhcorp.org.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking Training Opportunity – 'Imagine the Possibilities' ...**

The Arc of Greater Cleveland is facilitating a Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Program from January-May 2011. *The program is an internationally-recognized training series designed for adults with disabilities and parents of young children, under the age of 12, with disabilities.* The PIP Leadership Training Program is about creating, working toward, and achieving a vision of shared values. Training application packets online at http://www.thearcofgreatercleveland.org/Partners_In_Policymaking.htm; or, call The Arc of Greater Cleveland at (216) 622-0755; or, email cnorwood@thearcofgreatercleveland.org for more information.

⇒ **SAVE THE DATE! Ohio Adult Siblings Conference (SIBS), Nov. 5-6 ...** The Ninth Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ("SIBS" conference) organizers note that event information is now available at www.ohiosibs.com. More information will be shared in *Pipeline* as the event draws nearer.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information

affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, September 29, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 20

In This Issue ...

- 1. Ohio Self Determination Association Conference: Celebrating the Fire Within!
- 2. *People First* Begins 60th Chapter in Licking County
- 3. A Look Back at Direct Support Professionals Week, Statewide
- 4. County Board Levies on November 2 Ballots Across Ohio
- 5. Annual Down Syndrome Association *Buddy Walks*
- 6. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- 7. Department of Job & Family Services Provides Updated Private Duty Nursing Information
- 8. A Quick Look at the Affordable Care Act
- 9. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items – Several new ones!

As September draws to a close and we look at October...

We look back at the History-Making OSDA Conference, Direct Support Professionals Week, and other September highlights ...

and we look ahead to National Disability Employment Awareness Month and other important October events.



[We May Need a Fire Extinguisher!](#)

1. Ohio Self Determination Assn. 'Celebrates the Fire Within'

"I want to thank you for all the work you have done to show society what you can do when given the opportunities you need. Our society needs each and every one of you to continue to advocate for what you need and want – to be an integral part of your community."

- Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland, addressing OSDA conference participants

The enthusiasm generated by "Celebrating the Fire Within," the theme of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference September 20-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington, definitely fired-up the nearly 300 participants in attendance during the two-day event, and may have prompted those with September's heightened sense of preparedness (it's National Preparedness Month – www.ready.gov) to make sure there were fire extinguishers ready to be deployed if need be... because this group was super-charged!

Not only was the conference a venue for several spirited and positive motivational speakers – including Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland -- but it was the forum for a history-making process of naming the new DODD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver submitted last week for consideration by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

First, a Little Background

The Medicaid HCBS waiver is authorized in §1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The regulations permit a state to offer an array of home and community-based services that assist Medicaid beneficiaries to live in the community and avoid institutionalization. The state has broad discretion to design its waiver program to address the needs of the waiver’s target population. Waiver services complement and/or supplement the services that are available to participants through the Medicaid state plan and other federal, state, and local programs, as well as the supports that families and communities provide.

The design and operational features of a waiver will vary depending on the specific needs of the target population, the resources available to the state, service delivery system structure, state goals and objectives, and other factors. (See **NEW Flexible Supports Waiver**),

The state has the latitude to design a waiver that is cost-effective and employs a variety of service delivery approaches, including participant direction of services.

How Do You Name a Waiver?

Given this background, DODD Director John Martin invited OSDA to lead the effort to involve all 2010 OSDA conference participants in brainstorming, discussing, refining, and then voting on a name that would accurately and appropriately identify the waiver -- and be meaningful to those for whom it has been developed. That is precisely what was accomplished.

Understanding the language in the proposed waiver description is important, and was part of the conference’s participant education efforts. With that foundation, it was equally important to empower people and energize statewide advocacy efforts through the waiver-naming process.

Out of the 164 name ideas initially brainstormed, the list was narrowed to nine. Then, following a ‘sales pitch’ by self-advocates and other supporters of each of the nine ideas, a final vote was taken, yielding the selected name:

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF)



Five Principles of Self-Determination: Authority, Confirmation, Support, Freedom, Responsibility
More about self determination at: dodd.ohio.gov/families/self.htm

As noted in the official waiver submission description, *“The waiver will offer participant-direction of services and supports, and will embrace an individualized planning and budgeting approach.”* The name selected could not have been more appropriate or descriptive.

Observing hundreds of individuals, family members, and professionals involved in the naming process was a strong testament to the democratic system. The process was detailed and organized, yet provided ample opportunity for individuals to express themselves, have fun, air questions and concerns, show enthusiasm for what the waiver might do for them personally, and be a part of something that had never been done before in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community ... Take some of the bureaucracy out of waiver development, and empower the individuals ultimately to be served!

“The Ohio Self Determination Association does not just represent self advocates. OSDA represents them, yes – and all of the people affected by developmental disabilities services in Ohio ... families, County Board staff and other service providers, and friends. It’s about all of us, working together, having a voice together.”

- Dana Charlton, Director OSDA

Acknowledging the staff at OSDA and partnering agencies in the waiver-naming process, DODD Deputy Director Patrick Lanahan noted, “A special thank you to the board and members of OSDA, to staff and members of People First of Ohio, to staff of County Boards and other provider organizations – and especially to all of you self advocates! We are close to making this dream a reality, and we thank you for helping to make this happen.” He added,

“ This is definitely the first Home and Community-Based Services waiver that doesn't sound like it was named by a bureaucrat. And that's because it wasn't! ”

OSDA President Lee Wedemeyer, Past President Annette Davis-Kramp, and Vice President Jeanne Stuntz, as well as OSDA Director Dana Charlton, assured that the waiver-naming activity was involving and meaningful for all. “We know you are excited about the options that will be made available to you with the way this proposed waiver is structured,” said Stuntz, as she rallied the collective energy of self advocates and others before the final vote. She continued,

“Are you ready to make history?”



Lining up to continue the democratic process.

Self Advocates and support staff prepare to tell their stories as to why the waiver they name they like best should be chosen as 'the one!' 'Self Empowered Life Funding' was the final choice.

Other Conference Highlights

In addition to the lively waiver-naming activity, OSDA's conference honored the 2010 ESDY Award winners – self advocates Cindy Carpenter, Mike Riggle, Brady Sellet, and Brad Whitmoyer, (more about ESDY awards at www.ohiosda.org), and honored Fatica Ayers, Policy Analyst with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, with the annual Steven R. Cooley Award, kept secret until the conference presentation. Featured speakers from around the nation and state added to the exciting agenda. It would be difficult to imagine a more interesting and informative two days to help ignite and 'celebrate the fire within' every participant.

In fact, Sue Thomas, an internationally-known speaker with hearing and speech challenges who was the inspiration for the television program, "*Sue Thomas, F.B. Eye*," literally threw (a small cup of) cold water on a couple of conference participants, playfully chiding them, and saying,

"Don't let anyone throw cold water on your flame. Don't let anyone put out your personal fire!"



Sue Thomas playfully 'surprises' Clyde Yoder with a little cold water. It did not dampen Clyde's 'Fire Within'!



Below we share additional glimpses of this historic conference. More will be added periodically at www.dodd.ohio.gov and at www.ohiosda.org in the coming weeks as DODD and OSDA update their respective websites with additional follow-up material.

"I had hoped when we put this conference together, that we would spark the passion to be self determined that lies inside each one of us, and motivate everyone to 'celebrate the fire within'! From our feedback I believe we accomplished this. We have reached out to many who have not been reached out to in this way before."

- OSDA Director, Dana Charlton



Self advocates mingle with Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland and DODD Director John Martin during a break. Joe, Clyde, Amy, and others complimented the First Lady on the guitar-playing skills she displayed as she lead the group in a few spirited songs earlier in the program.



Talk about 'reaching out to your audience'!

Nick Scott's reach was a long one and a strong one, as he delivered his motivational message to a very receptive group. Nick (black T-shirt, third from left) uses a wheelchair following a traffic accident resulting in paraplegia when he was 16 years old.

**"Focus every day on being the best you can be. Turn those 'shoulds' into 'musts'."
-Nick Scott, motivational speaker and award-winning powerlifting champion**



In the OSDA vendor area, it was 'standing room only' at the Dan's Sunglasses table during a morning break.

“How can this waiver help me? How can it help me in my business?”
 - Self advocate and business operator, Gloria, of Gloria's T-Shirts, and Dan Schoonover of Dan's Sunglasses



She's Got the Artistic Fire...

Drucilla Manuel's self portrait was on display at the OSDA conference, and, it also was chosen by ANCOR*, to be on display at *The Smithsonian American Art Museum National Portrait Gallery* earlier this month in Washington D.C. Dru attended the OSDA conference as a vendor. According to Kathy K. Rader, Champaign Residential Services Inc., Dru actively participates in CRSI Urbana's Adult Day Services program.

*ANCOR: American Network of Community Options and Resources - the national organization for providers of developmental disability services.



2. Sixty Chapters, and Counting ... People First!

As a person who has a developmental disability, Shena Lemons has much to say about improving the lives of other Licking County residents with developmental disabilities. She explains, "I want people to know how to help people with disabilities in the workplace, in church, and in the community." According to a September 24 article in *The Newark Advocate** Lemons and others have jumped at the chance to join *People First of Ohio*, a self advocacy

group, whose local chapter – the 60th in Ohio – will be sponsored by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD).



Shawna Winterbotham, of Newark, creates a campaign sign for her entry as secretary of the new Licking County Chapter of *People First*, sponsored by the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Photo courtesy, Matthew Berry, The Advocate

The Board conducted introductory informational meetings last week at its Service Coordination office in Heath, and more than 30 people attended.

The original *People First* chapter in Ohio was started in 1998 after a group of people with developmental disabilities came together to make their voices heard, according to Sadie Hunter, Executive Director of *People First of Ohio*. Originally, the group received funding from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

Every chapter is run by its members, who are people with developmental disabilities. *People First of Ohio* provides training for each chapter so members can learn how to run their meetings, and express themselves effectively as self advocates.

Hunter notes, "The goal is for people with developmental disabilities to learn about their rights and responsibilities, learn about laws that affect their lives, and advocate for family and friends." According to chapter organizers, it will be up to the members of the Licking County chapter of *People First* to decide what their focus will be. Hunter emphasized, "A lot of people with disabilities are used to people telling them what to do," she said. "But this is theirs."

Officers for the new chapter will decide when the group will meet, and choose advisers from the LCBDD to assist them with projects and activities. LCBDD Superintendent Nancy Neely, who opened the first meeting last week, told the group of potential "People First" participants,

"I am really, really excited about this. I think it will make you stronger people because you'll have a voice – your own voice. And when you become stronger people, we'll be a stronger organization (the LCBDD) and you'll make Licking County a better place."

*For more information: Diana Shannon, LCBDD, (740) 349-1420.
www.newarkadvocate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20109240356
www.peoplefirstohio.org*



3. Looking Back at DSP Recognition Week, Across the State

Recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation, this month Governor Ted Strickland issued a proclamation* spotlighting the dedication and vital role played by Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages, and proclaiming Ohio's DSP Recognition Week, September 12-18.

*(Full text at www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/dsp-recognition-week-2010_ohio.pdf)

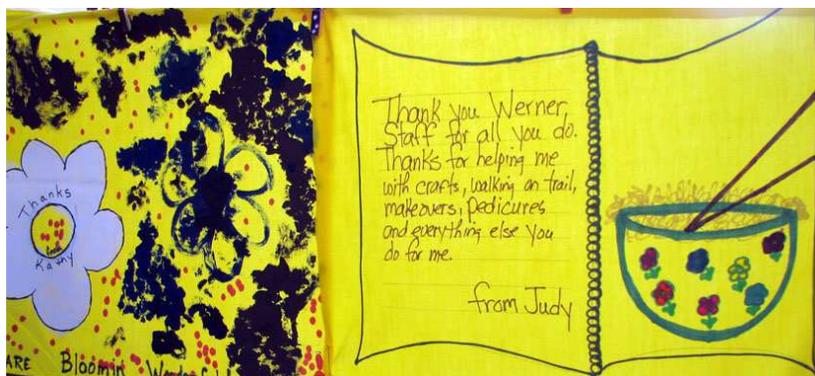
In the most recent *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 19](#) we reported on Ohio's first major recognition event celebrating the work of DSPs ("ACTION! Direct Support Professionals Make It Happen A Premiere Special Event") -- and as we look back at the month, we now take a brief look at some recognition efforts around the state on a smaller scale, but no less important.

In Wood County

Thanks to Debbie Leibig, Wood Lane Residential Services (WLRS), for this information:

"Many individuals who receive services through Wood Lane Residential Services helped decorate yellow flags thanking DSPs. These flags (more than 120 of them!) were displayed at the Wood County Courthouse Atrium, along with the proclamation from Governor Strickland, and an explanation about the display. Visitors to the Courthouse frequently stopped to look at the many colorful and interesting flags. Several Wood Lane DSPs also visited the display, and for those who could not make it to the Courthouse, Wood Lane showed the flags for a week at our offices, where many of our staff meetings and Board meetings occur.

We also had a 'Thank you card' designed by one of the men who receives services from WLRS and printed by *Real Ink*, a small art studio supported by the Wood County Board of DD. To the card, which was signed by our administrators and given to each DSP, we attached a puzzle-piece pin stating, 'You're A Vital Piece.' More photos are at www.woodlaneresidential.org." Contact: dleibig@woodlaneresidential.org.





More than 120 handmade yellow flags honoring DSP's were displayed at the Wood County Courthouse Atrium, along with the DSP Week proclamation from Governor Strickland.

(NOTE: Next to the top upper right flag, "Thank you for cheese!" was one stating, "Thank you for pop!")

In Guernsey County

Thanks to Missy Craddock, Ohio Provider Resource Assn. (OPRA), for this information: In recognition of Direct Support Professionals Week, Guernsey Residential's Executive Director Janice Hall, hosted a cornhole tournament (with prizes) and picnic lunch at her home for all staff. There was a great deal of good-natured competition. A photo board now hangs in the office to commemorate the day, showing that DSPs are #1 with Guernsey Residential. Two little children attending the event and pictured smiling on the photo board were dubbed, "Future DSP's!"
Contact: Missy Craddock, mcraddock@opra.org, or Janice Hall, gueres@mail.jadeinc.com

Also In Guernsey County, at Cambridge Developmental Center

Thanks to Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) Superintendent Troy McCollister, for this information, as reported in the CaDC newsletter, The Cambridge Compass: "As I have said before, every day, somewhere on this campus, something special happens for someone. Those special moments are rewarding for those involved, and offer a private reinforcement for the efforts put forward every day. However, every now and then, a special event, activity, play (see photo below) -- or simply working together with a common purpose -- aggregates many special moments all at once, and the result is nearly magical. It is those joint efforts for the good of others, and the hard work to make them happen, that brings pride to our facility. Thank you all for creating a true home and family for the residents here, and take pride in the fact that the smile on a face that you see is there because of you."

Contact: Troy.Mcollister@dodd.ohio.gov, or visit dodd.ohio.gov/residential/cadc.htm.



**“Just Desserts” cast members include CaDC residents and staff.
Photo courtesy, Sue Sprang, CaDC**

**Read more about this original theatrical production in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*,
reporting on Summer 2010 ... coming soon!**

In Hamilton County

Thanks to Mary Beth Poulimenos, Resident Home Corporation (RHC) for this information:
RHC celebrated Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week at their Monfort Heights campus. RHC employs 130 DSPs, and recognized their hard work with a cookout and car wash. Washing their cars and throwing a good old fashioned cookout ended up being a great idea, as we can see from the photos provided!

Contact: Mary Beth Poulimenos, mbpoulimenos@rhcorp.org.



**DSPs employed by Resident Home Corporation enjoy the simple pleasures of cotton candy,
cookouts, and clean cars.**

**Shown l to r: RHC employees David Levine and Brittney Rodgers delight in their cotton candy, and RHC
President Patrick Maynard, and HR Director Larry Mullins, ready to wash employees' cars.**

REM – In Counties Throughout Ohio

Thanks to Carla Parker, with REM Ohio for this information: REM Ohio celebrates outstanding DSPs throughout the state all year long. Those recognized by REM as Outstanding 2010 Direct Support Professionals go beyond the typical DSP job description and contribute to the lives of individuals with DD in unique ways. From sixty employees nominated during the year, the REM Ohio Leadership team selected six to receive further recognition during National DSP week. They were: *Diane Goodwin, Ashlee Jackson, Karen Smith, Misty Bowman, Danny Greenwade, and Thomas Tucker*. The chosen employees were personally interviewed, and their stories published in local community newspapers including *The West Side Leader, The Southside Leader, Austintown Crier, This Week Reynoldsburg, The Daily Jeffersonian, and Amherst News Times*. Contact: Carla Parker, Carla.Parker@TheMentorNetwork.com.



Reader Request – “We want info on the upcoming DD levies!”

4. County Board Levies on November 2 Ballots Across Ohio

“Could you please put in the next issue of *Pipeline* the upcoming levies for County Boards? I think that information should be in soon so that all of the self advocates know what’s going on as soon as possible.”

– self advocate Christine Brown



Franklin County self advocates stoke the fires within! Participants in the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) Self Advocate Advisory Council meeting on September 16 included self advocates, staff, and DODD Director John Martin (back row, center, with beard). *Pipeline* reader, Christine Brown (flowered blouse, front row) requested early levy info for the benefit of all in Ohio’s DD community.

In preparation for important events such as the November elections, self advocates around the state have been meeting in groups both formal and informal, to discuss issues of interest to them, their families and friends. While the calendar says Election Day is Nov. 2, early voting in Ohio

started yesterday, September 28, launching a 35-day 'voting window.' And, according to the Ohio Secretary of State's Office, an increasing number of Ohioans have voted absentee, either in person or by mail, since the state adopted "no-fault" absentee voting in 2005. Elections officials have been promoting early voting not only as a convenience for voters, but as a way to ease congestion at the polls on Election Day.

Your vote is very important!

Ballot issues in the upcoming election affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community include those in the following counties:

- *Athens*: 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.65 million annually for eight years.
- *Defiance*: 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$200,000 per year. First time on the ballot as a replacement.
- *Mahoning*: 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$11.9 million annually for five years.
- *Medina*: 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. Second attempt.
- *Montgomery*: 6.03 mill Replacement Levy. \$4.5 million new money to offset losses in tangible personal property and CAT tax dollars. (NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children's Services, Elderly support, etc.)
- *Portage*: 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$3.9 million for five years.
- *Putnam*: .5 Replacement Levy. To generate \$322,727 each year for 10 years.
- *Vinton*: 2 mill Renewal Levy. For five years.

The Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information, and will post more about the November 2 election as it draws closer. See additional information at [Voters With Disabilities](#).

Register Now to Vote in the November General Election

The deadline to register for the November 2nd general election is October 4, 2010.

The OLRs website at <http://www.ohio.gov/vote-register> features general information regarding voting rights, and includes a link to the [Voter Registration Form](#). If you have other questions, you also may contact the Ohio Legal Rights Service Intake Department at (614) 466-7264 or 1 (800) 282-9181; (TTY) 614-728-2553 or 1-800-858-3542.



October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

5. 'Buddy Walks' Across Ohio

You can 'take steps' to improve the lives of persons with Down syndrome while getting exercise and having fun at the Buddy Walks throughout Ohio in early October. Central Ohio's traditionally well-attended Buddy Walk will take place on Sunday, October 3, at Columbus Crew Stadium. The one-mile walk will begin at 10 a.m., and registration begins at 9 a.m..

The Buddy Walk is sponsored by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) in order to promote acceptance and inclusion, and celebrate the accomplishments of persons with Down syndrome. DSACO hopes to raise \$200,000 through the walk this year. After the walk, a wide range of entertainment will be available.



For more information regarding the Buddy Walk, please contact DSACO at 263-6020 or go to www.columbusbuddywalk.org.

Related News from the Northwest Ohio/Greater Toledo area

From Liz Sheets at the Wood County Board of DD we learn that, “The National Down Syndrome Awareness Video features Dylan Schuh of Perrysburg! Schuh appeared in the National Down Syndrome Society's (NDSS) video production on Saturday, September 25, on the larger-than-life MTV plasma screen, located in the heart of Times Square. The Schuh family all went to New York to see the debut of the video, and were very excited about it!”

According to Sheets, Dylan's photo was selected to be among 225 photos chosen from more than 1000 entries in the NDSS worldwide ‘call for photos.’ The photos in the video presentation illustrate young children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome working, playing, and learning with friends and family. The Perrysburg resident is pictured on a park bench with his arms wide open for a hug. The video will be posted at buddywalk.org/, click on "events" at the top of the home page.

The Times Square video production kicks off National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, which includes the 2010 Buddy Walks across the country. In Northwest Ohio/Greater Toledo the walk also will be on October 3. For more information, contact information@dsagt.org or (419) 536-4321. The group's website is www.dsagt.org.

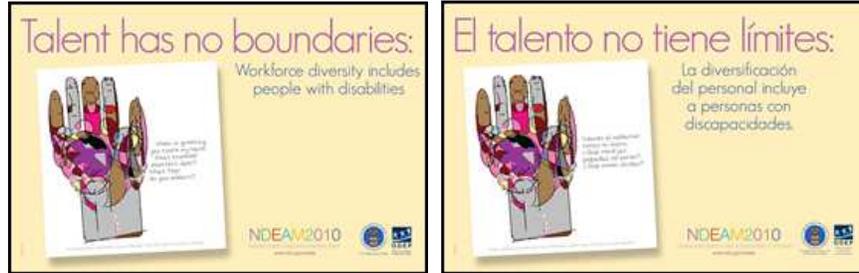


October is ...

6. National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The 2010 National Disability Employment Awareness month poster is now available to order online at www.dol.gov/odep/. For the first time, the posters also are available as downloadable versions in English and Spanish, as well as in six additional languages: Arabic, Chinese, Russian, French, and two Native American languages: Navajo, Lakota.

“Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities.”



2010 National Disability Employment Awareness Month Posters Available to Order
[Click here to read about the poster and how to order.](#)

The 2010 theme emphasizes the diversity and talent that workers with disabilities bring to the workplace. According to Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, "Our diversity of talent is a wellspring of innovation and creativity in the workforce."

About the Artist

The 2010 poster highlights the talents of artist and writer, Laura Hershey. Through the medium of computer generated art, she created a figure of a hand including many colors and shapes, and a verse that reaches out in friendship to dispel the fears and misconceptions often associated with disabilities. Hershey is one of many artists featured by VSA, (formerly 'Very Special Arts') the International Organization on Arts and Disability, on their website: [VSA's Website](#).

Coming in October Issues of Pipeline

Focusing on the subject in October -- National Disability Employment Awareness Month -- the October 13 and 27 issues of *Pipeline* will feature employment options, programs, and initiatives within the state and national business community, as well as within the developmental disabilities system.



[From the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services \(ODJFS\) ...](#)

7. Updated Private Duty Nursing Information

This information is provided by ODJFS to clarify this important service component.

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) is a Medicaid State Plan service that provides in-home skilled nursing care to Medicaid clients of any age who require continuous nursing services beyond the Medicaid State Plan Home Health benefit.

The purpose of Private Duty Nursing is to provide continuous skilled nursing care for individuals with complex medical needs, if the skilled care can be provided safely in the person's residence.

The Medicaid State Plan also provides home health services for individuals who have a medical need for part-time intermittent skilled nursing or aide care and therapies. A person enrolled in the Medicaid State Plan Hospice benefit cannot access State Plan Home Health or PDN services.

When individuals elect to receive hospice care they agree to waive Medicaid services that are equivalent to hospice care. Hospice election by a person younger than age 21 does not constitute a waiver of any rights of the person to be provided 'curative services' related to the treatment of a terminal condition.

In order to be eligible for Private Duty Nursing services, the individual must:

- Be Medicaid eligible;
- Require continuous skilled nursing services; and,
- Have a comparable institutional level of care.

*For more information about PDN: jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/PrivateDutyNursing.stm
Contact: Susan McKinley, Susan.McKinley@jfs.ohio.gov*



8. A Quick Look at the Affordable Care Act

Last week marked the six month anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In recognition of the six month anniversary of the ACA, the White House has launched a new health care website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/>, which provides a great deal of information about the Act, including state-specific information.

In Ohio, the Affordable Care Act is currently being analyzed to determine next steps, so that the state takes full advantage of all of the opportunities that will benefit Ohioans. State 'team leads' have been designated for every provision of the bill, and will work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as further guidance and regulations are crafted. Earlier this year, Ohio launched a website to keep people informed about various healthcare reform activities, at <http://healthcarereform.ohio.gov>.

A recent poll conducted by the Associated Press indicates that many Americans are uncertain about what the ACA will and will not do.* In an effort to inform, The White House website includes a "Myths & Facts" section about the ACA, as well as state-by-state reports that detail how the Act is affecting the health care system in different states. The site also features stories from individuals and employers in every state.

The DODD also has posted a web page devoted to keeping Ohio's DD community updated on ACA progress. Visit the DODD site at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HealthCareReformInformation.htm>.

**(<http://surveys.ap.org/data/KnowledgeNetworks/Health%20Reform%20Topline%20for%20Posting.pdf>).*



9. Pipeline PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ Ohio Public Images (OPI) Training on Usage of Social Media, October 4

A Social Media seminar, addressing the subject from a basic, novice standpoint, and sponsored by Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Southwest Ohio Council of Government (COG), is slated for October 4, from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) complex, 1980 W. Broad St. in Columbus. Registration information is at publicimagesnetwork.org/SocialMediaRegistration.htm. This seminar will help dispell myths and fears of social media usage, and review case histories of organizations and professionals in the DD field using this communications tool.

⇒ Belmont County Board of DD to Host Kathie Snow, 'Disability is Natural'

"Awesome change is possible when we think differently about developmental disabilities!"

Learn how to think differently at an evening with parent advocate, author, and trainer Kathie Snow, on Thursday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville -- presented by the Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities. *Public Invited! Free Admission!* Kathie is the author and creator of *Disability is Natural*, a respected source for new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities. Learn more at www.disabilityisnatural.com. Contact: Pamela McCort, pmccort@bcbdd.org.

⇒ Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 6 at the Ohio Statehouse

Celebrate the gifts and talents of Ohio's workers with disabilities October 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with music by the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Panthers and information tables representing employers, business owners with disabilities, disability organizations, and service providers from around the state. The event is sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD). For more information contact Eileen Corson, RSC, at Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.

⇒ PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) Conference, October 6-8 – 'Get Connected'!

Click here for registration and information!

Register online at www.par-ohio.org for the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. 'Get Connected' is the theme. The mission of PAR is to offer quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). PAR relies on the support and volunteer efforts of many dedicated people working together to improve the manner in which individuals with developmental disabilities are provided personal care and assistance. Professionals from throughout the DD community share knowledge and expertise to achieve common goals. The annual PAR Convention is the keystone event for these efforts.

⇒ Social Capital and Community-Building Workshop, October 14

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission invites you to attend a half-day training on Social Capital. This workshop focuses on the concept of social capital and community building. Many organizations have learned that one of the most important aspects to overall life success is social capital and relationships. Studies show that people who have important relationships in their lives are healthier, happier, safer, advance more quickly, and achieve more in life.

When: October 14, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Marcus Cincemas, 200 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus

Contact Chris Glover: chris.glover@rsc.state.oh.us

Registration: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/socialcapitaloct14>

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking 6th Annual Gathering, October 22-23, in Columbus**

Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) will host their 6th Annual Gathering on October 22-23, at the Hyatt on Capital Square, Columbus. About 150 graduates of PIP are expected to attend the gathering, whose overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates.

Partners in Policymaking is an internationally-recognized leadership program that prepares adults with developmental disabilities, parents, and other family members to advocate effectively and knowledgeably with decision-makers on local, state and national levels. Advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the forefront of public policy decisions. Contact: Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhcorp.org.

⇒ **Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) Conference, Nov. 5-6**

The Ohio SIBS Conference is a great opportunity for siblings to learn about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. The conference also allows adult siblings to meet each other, share their stories, and enjoy being with others who can identify with each others' experiences in growing up. To register for the November 5-6 Conference at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel, go to www.ohiosibs.com. *Deadline for conference registration is Monday, October 25th.* Contact: Michelle Truby, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, truby.5@osu.edu.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

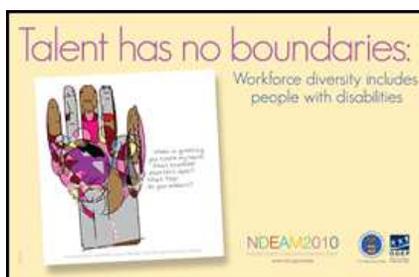
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- 3. ViaQuest Honors Bill Withrow, 'Gahanna Bill'
- 4. PAR Conference Honors Gary Tonks with Lifetime Achievement Award
- 5. National Core Indicators (NCI) Initiative Begins Third Year
- 6. Northwest Ohio Continues Exploration of 'Gentle Teaching'
- 7. UCP of Central Ohio to Merge with Goodwill Columbus
- 8. *Repeated by Request*: County Board Levy Issues on the November 2 Ballot
- 8. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items – Several new ones!

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

"Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities."



Stories and photos illustrating this month's theme abound in this issue of *Pipeline*.

On Ohio's Employment Scene...

1. Commemorating 40 Years, 75 Years, and 90 Years

Gathering to commemorate 40 years of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), 75 years of the Social Security Administration, and 90 years of public Vocational Rehabilitation, a crowd of about 300 people gathered on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse October 6th to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and celebrate a special related announcement. On hand for the announcement were representatives from RSC, the Ohio

Department of Development, Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the Social Security Administration, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and others.

The Announcement

Announcing a partnership between RSC and the Ohio Department of Development that will benefit small business owners with disabilities, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, and Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel unveiled a symbolic billboard for the initiative ... *OhioAbilities: Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth*.



OhioAbilities, Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth –
The new partnership's logo is unveiled from beneath the blue draping.

OhioAbilities will support small business owners and entrepreneurs with disabilities as they start, sustain, and grow their businesses. The effort provides enhanced opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities to explore self-employment and microenterprise. Through the agreement, Small Business Development Centers will provide funding grants, self-employment and business counseling, marketing and technical assistance to Ohioans who receive RSC services.

According to the partners involved, OhioAbilities has the promise of launching at least 40 start-up businesses in Ohio, and is being piloted in Akron, Columbus, Marietta, Toledo, and Youngstown. The \$2 million project invests \$1.1 million in support funding and \$883,000 in grants.

Funding for OhioAbilities comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in February 2009. ARRA dollars invested in RSC were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information about this partnership: www.rsc.ohio.gov/ohioabilities/

Also Noteworthy

Live music for the celebratory event included a rousing 'Braille Script Ohio' performed by the Ohio State School for the Blind's 'Marching Panthers,' and the Pledge of Allegiance led by

students of the Ohio State School for the Deaf. Their renditions of each selection were met with enthusiastic participation and applause from the appreciative crowd.



Signing the National Anthem – Students from the Columbus School for the Deaf ably lead event participants in the National Anthem, with vocal accompaniment by attendees. Below, following the performance, the students spend a few thoughtful moments as a natural part of their community.





Play On! Known for their excellent sense of timing and musicianship at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, the Ohio State School for the Blind rocked several stirring numbers.

A number of notable comments were made by those on the podium on the subjects of employment ... people with disabilities ... and various connections between the two. They included this from Michael Rench:

“What we do through partnerships like this is ‘Johnny Appleseed’ work. We just plant the seeds.”

Rench noted that he was paraphrasing John McGee – proponent of ‘gentle teaching,’ known in the developmental disabilities community as an approach to working with people in a non-judgemental atmosphere that allows people to feel safe and loved, no matter what their circumstances. (See article #6 in this issue of *Pipeline*).

DODD Director John Martin spoke of the useful employment-related data gathered from the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm>), now in its third year of providing information on individual perceptions and programmatic comparisons across more than 25 states:

“The NCI data has shown us that when people with disabilities are employed in their communities, those employers and friends from work are like an extra set of community eyes on individuals that help them to feel safe, and to actually be safer in their environment. This feeling of safety is kind of a secondary but very important benefit of employment.”

In addition, both Director Martin and Michael Rench commented on the *Bridges to Transition* programs currently sprouting up across the state – now in 39 counties, and focused on improving the lives of hundreds of Ohio’s young adults with disabilities, paving the way for real change in their economic futures. Director of Development Director McDaniel added that it is through specific and targeted programs such as Bridges, and the new OhioAbilities connections that real change in the employment scene for Ohioans with disabilities will be realized. She stated,

“We salute the many businesses around the state that have stepped up to participate in programs such as these, and we continue to look for more ways to support these efforts.”

For more information on RSC contact Eileen Corson at Eileen.Corson@rsc.state.oh.us.



Continuing on the Subject of Employment

2. A Potpourri of Progress, and Steps Toward Improvement

In Hocking & Perry Counties – The Employment Connection Solving Workforce Needs with Human Potential.

The Employment Connection (TEC), a division of The Hocking & Perry County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, has developed two programs; *Bridges to Transition*, for adolescents ages 14-22, and *LIFEWORKS*, serving adults with disabilities. TEC is a CARF-certified (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) program designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities obtain and maintain community employment.

To ensure that a comprehensive and successful employment plan is developed for each individual, TEC staff works closely with other agencies, including the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Job and Family Services (JFS), and others.

Bridges to Transition services include educating individuals, families, and the Hocking and Perry County School Districts about training and employment options for individuals who have a developmental disability. A Transition Specialist develops a plan of employment that fits each individual's needs, and monitors the individual's progress as they learn skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

The over-riding purpose of the partnership is to provide a successful transition from school to work with appropriate supports in place to achieve realistic and measurable goals, and community employment upon graduation.

LIFEWORKS is a BVR grant-funded program designed to assist individuals ages 18 and older in obtaining community employment. Individuals in the six-week class are taught appropriate workplace conduct, problem-solving skills and other work-related skills necessary to be successful in their jobs. Class participants then receive on-the-job training for three separate six-week paid internships. Following the internships, participants are assisted in job searches, building a resume, and interviewing for jobs in areas that interest them.

LIFEWORKS currently is serving nine individuals in Hocking and Perry Counties. TEC works closely with many businesses in both counties, and is always looking for more! The program is offered at no cost to employers.

For more information about The Employment Connection of Hocking and Perry Counties contact a team member at (740) 342- 5156 or (740)385-4371 ext. 246.

Education Leading to Employment **The Education Connection at Columbus State**

In the Spring of 2008, *Pipeline Quarterly* featured Columbus State Community College's (CSCC) Community/ Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program. The [Spring 2008 PDF](#) cover story subject is now in its fourth year -- and what a four years it's been!

Since its inception, 31 Central Ohio students have completed the one-year certificate program, and 13 students currently are in the program, which is designed for individuals who have a developmental disability and want to work in the human services field. Students attend college classes at CSCC for one year, obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to become a Community/ Habilitation Assistant. Students complete three academic quarters of practical experience at area schools, preschools, adult day and older adult programs as part of their education, where they practice skills and techniques learned in the classroom.

Jackie Teny-Miller, Program Coordinator, explains,

“The Community/Habilitation Assistant Program has been a tremendous success in more ways than I could have imagined. Students who never thought they would attend college are enjoying the college experience, making friends with folks they never would have met, and securing jobs in the field.”

Students are referred to the CSCC program by County Board of DD Service Coordinators, public school districts, transition coordinators, BVR counselors, employment services, parents, and friends. The students are enrolled in college classes, and pay the same fees as all CSCC students. Admittance criteria include that students must:

- Have a developmental disability;
- Have earned a high school diploma or GED;
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have a 5th Grade reading level;
- Have an interest in helping others;
- Have the ability to ‘look outside of themselves’; and,
- Be willing to commit to going to school for four quarters.

Of the 31 students completing the program, 19 are currently working in the human services field. Individuals are employed as Assistants and/or Advocates in programs that serve children and adults with developmental disabilities.

For example, Brian Zuefle completed the program in June 2008 and is working as an Assistant at ARC Industries West in Franklin County. Brian comments on his CSCC experience,

“It was great! I never thought I could go to college, and this program showed me that I could. Now I really enjoy going to work – I get to give people one-on-one attention. I never felt that personal closeness with people in previous jobs. My job is fantastic.”



"I was skeptical, at first ..."

(Above, top) In 2008, Brian Zuefle explains that he was nervous upon joining the class at Columbus State Community College, and classmates Amber and Wally note that he is now much more relaxed and social. (Now) Brian works 35 hours per week assisting in a habilitation room providing support to older adults with a developmental disability or dementia.

Linda Monroe, Director of Bixby Living Skills Center in Franklin County has hired two students who have completed the Community/ Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program. They work as assistants providing one-on-one care and attention to the participants. Linda stated, "They are fantastic young workers. They come to work with a smile, full of energy and eager to do anything asked of them. They run a weekly social group, assist in the sensory room and are an extra pair of hands on community activities." She adds,

"Our participants greatly benefit from the individual attention they so willingly provide."

Kathy Cook, CEO of *All R Friends* Adult Day program has hired three students who have completed the CSCC program. They work as assistants providing support to individuals enrolled. Kathy acknowledges that, “The Columbus State Program gives students the basics, so we can build up from there.”

Jackie Teny-Miller concludes,

“The reality for many of the students participating in this innovative education-to-employment curriculum is that they were the client, and now they are the employee. Students are learning and obtaining meaningful jobs ... and human service agencies are employing dedicated, committed employees.”

For more information, contact Jackie Teny-Miller at (614) 287-2544, or Jackie Teny at jteny@csc.edu

County Board Celebrations
Local faces, local places tell the story ...



Richland Newhope spotlights local faces in their October employment billboards.

This billboard features Richland Newhope Industries' 2009 Employees of the Year – Kandi Takacs, Guy Adkins, and Jeff Pfeleiderer. Kandi and Jeff were recognized as the facility-based Employees of the Year (they work at one of two RNI facilities) and Guy was the community-based Employee of the Year. He works at Kroger. The 2010 Employees of the Year will be honored at a breakfast October 28.

In Richland County

Richland Newhope Industries, Inc. (RNI) hosts its annual Employer Recognition Breakfast later this month, honoring community businesses that employ individuals with developmental disabilities, including those that contract with RNI. Naming the Employer of the Year, along with the facility-based and community-based Employees of the Year, are highlights of the event. The breakfast will be held October 28, at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield.

According to Amanda South, Richland Newhope's Director of Adult Services, “Richland Newhope is not only committed to linking qualified, skilled, and dedicated employees to the needs of local employers, but we also work continuously to educate the community about the abilities of employees with disabilities to break down barriers and open real opportunities for this under-utilized workforce.”

Contact Jane Imbody, Newhope Director of Community Relations, at 419-774-4215 or jimbody@rnewhope.org.

More about Employment in the next issue of *Pipeline*, October 27.

Featuring ... strong programs in Hancock and Athens Counties, and elsewhere.

Information welcomed! – Send to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov



3. ViaQuest Honors Bill Withrow – ‘Gahanna Bill’

“You are kidding me!”

-Bill Withrow, as his former bosses emerged from behind the velvet curtain, one by one

It would be difficult to imagine a more exciting moment for Bill Withrow ... or anyone else for that matter! In a thoroughly well-planned ‘life tribute’ format, service provider ViaQuest* stepped out of the usual routine of spotlighting a nationally-known speaker at their annual conference last week at the Hyatt on Capital Square in Columbus, and instead highlighted one of Ohio’s true originals – Gahanna Bill.

Stepping back in time, briefly ...

Bill Withrow – affectionately known as “Gahanna Bill” (Gahanna is in northeastern Franklin County) is a gentleman, an avid sports fan, and the subject of a documentary of the same name which shares how this community came together to support Bill.

Produced in 2001, *Gahanna Bill* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0396609/>) documents the story of Bill’s family, his attendance and participation in the Gahanna-Jefferson school system, and then growing into adulthood working and living in the community. During his grade school years, Bill was diagnosed with a form of aphasia (a language disorder in which there is an impairment in language usage or comprehension), and was raised with a loving and supportive family.

Following the death of both parents, Bill ultimately needed to reach outside his family for community supports, and was introduced to a variety of services provided by the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and others, including ViaQuest.

Bill’s work ethic over more than 20 years as an employee at a local bottler/distributor of soft drinks, and his endless enthusiasm for (and helping to manage) the Gahanna schools athletic teams, along with his positive affect on the people (everyone!) with whom he comes in contact, formed the solid foundation he needed to ‘navigate new waters’ as a middle-aged adult.

Fast Forward to October 7, 2010

Bill may have been a little curious about being invited to the ViaQuest conference, but he’s used to a little positive attention, especially since the 2001 video. However at the conference on October 7th, when the Gahanna High School marching band showed up in full dress, he may have become a little more curious. Then, being called up to the stage to be seated in a special throne-like chair in front of a backdrop illuminating the theme “Angels Among Us” made it pretty clear that the program would be something special.



Gahanna Bill Holds Court.

Above and below: Bill Withrow graciously and enthusiastically accepts the accolades and enjoys the comments delivered by family, friends, and co-workers.



Surprise! A unique Gahanna Lincoln School athletic jersey is under glass and in the spotlight.

And special it was, as Bill's positive impact on people throughout his life was 'brought home' over and over again via friends, family, and former bosses appearing from behind a 'This is Your Life'-style velvet curtain. Each was met with Bill's extremely enthusiastic hugs. More than one longtime friend proclaimed,

"You haven't been bear-hugged until you've been hugged by Bill Withrow!"

The nearly 300 conference attendees laughed and cried, as, according to ViaQuest's Director of Education Art Miller, "Bill was appropriately honored and nicely surprised." ViaQuest President Rich Johnson added,

"Bill has been a student, teacher, coach, mentor, and friend – what he has done with his abilities - and with deeds, not words - is why we are honoring him here today. What Bill Withrow has done with his life is very powerful."

Thanks to Bill Withrow for being Bill Withrow -- and to ViaQuest for recognizing that, as one former Gahanna Lincoln High School athletic coach said ...

"People ... well, they just don't come any better than Bill."

**ViaQuest services include behavioral health, mental health, home health care, day habilitation, vocational, nursing, hospice, developmental disabilities, and supported living.*

For more information: <http://www.viaquestinc.com/>:



4. PAR Conference Honors Tonks for Lifetime Achievement

At the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, several awards were presented, including the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, earned by Gary Tonks, Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio. PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) surprised Tonks with the award and his gracious acceptance included these remarks,

"I want to thank PAR for this honor, and also want to thank those children, adults, dedicated professionals, moms, dads, and fellow advocates who speak up when others around them are silent or cannot speak; roll up their sleeves and do what needs to be done; and, will not rest until the job is completed."



Gary Tonks – Congratulations!

Tonks has been the Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio since 1997, and also has served The Arc as Executive Director in Pennsylvania, Alabama, and California. He has fulfilled many other roles, including volunteer, Direct Support Professional, and teacher, and is best known for his advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

DODD Director John Martin congratulates Tonks on the award, noting,

“It is great to see this award going to Gary. He has worked tirelessly over the years as an advocate for families and individuals with developmental disabilities. His ‘real world’ experience brings a perspective to his advocacy that shapes his straightforward style and approach. This, coupled with his inherent kindness, has made him an extremely effective advocate. It’s a well- deserved honor.”

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, PAR presented the following:

- The second annual *You Make a Difference Award* was presented to Robin Trocki from the cast of the TV program, Glee. This award was presented for the first time last year, to DODD Director John Martin.
- The PAR Memorial Scholarship - presented to Dolly Brumage and Wendy Gorrell, Morgan County Board of DD. This is a \$200.00 scholarship, sponsored by Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI).
- PAR Members of the Year - presented to Anna Markley and Lynn Franklin, Lucas County Board of DD.
- The “PAR’ tnering Award,” given to an individual or organization that collaborates with PAR and supports its mission - Leeda NE Inc., Winnie Hosking, Owner.
- PAR Individual of the Year Award - Christine Brown, self advocate
- “PAR for Excellence” Award - Nancy Richards, Executive Director, Clearwater COG



Robin Trocki and friends, from the cast of the TV program, Glee.

The mission of PAR is to offer quality training, professional development, and networking opportunities to enhance services to individuals with developmental disabilities. PAR relies on the support and volunteer efforts of many dedicated people working together to improve the manner in which individuals are provided personal care and assistance. Professionals from throughout the developmental disabilities community share knowledge and expertise to achieve these common goals, and the annual PAR Convention is the keystone event for these efforts.

For more information: <http://www.par-ohio.org/>



5. National Core Indicators Begins Third Year

The DODD is pleased to announce the beginning of our third year of participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. We also are pleased to have the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) administering the NCI surveys for the project again this year. CMOR will be completing 400 adult individual face-to-face interviews, and 1200 family surveys via telephone. They will be surveying families who have children, and adults who live at home with families, as well as individuals who live outside the home in an alternative setting.

CMOR soon will be connecting with staff at Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to begin coordinating the survey process.



Data for Decision-Making

Ohio currently is using the data report from the 2008-2009 surveys, and soon will be receiving the data report for 2009-2010. Never before has the Department had this level of reliable and valid statewide data directly from individuals we serve and their families. It will enable us to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of the state's service delivery system, and will assist us in developing plans to improve the quality of life for the more than 80,000 Ohioans receiving services. According to Tina Evans, DODD Project Manager, "We are looking forward to digging deeper into the data and to comparing results from year to year. This NCI project will be a catalyst for great changes within our system."

DODD Director John Martin has been a proponent of data-driven decision-making since the beginning of the Administration in early 2007, and strongly supports such initiatives. He comments,

"The National Core Indicators initiative is an important part of the future of our service system. Not only does it put us in a much better position to develop data-informed policy, it also will help to identify specific ways to improve how we support Ohioans with developmental disabilities."

A Little History

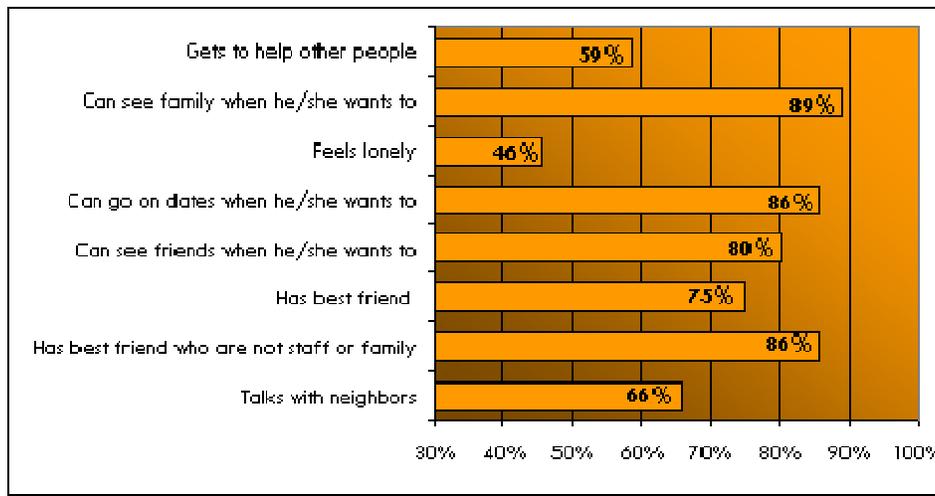
The National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative began in 1997 as a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The goal of the new program was to encourage and support NASDDDS member agencies to develop a standard set of performance measures that could be used by states to manage quality, and across states for making comparisons and setting benchmarks.

Fifteen states initially stepped forward to work on the 'Core Indicators Project', as it was originally known, and pooled their resources to develop valid and reliable data collection protocols. Over time, NCI has become an integral piece of the quality management systems of

more than half the states in the nation, and aligns with basic requirements for assuring quality in Home and Community-Based (HCBS) waivers.

NCI states and project partners continue to work toward the vision of utilizing NCI data not only to improve practice at the state level but also to add knowledge to the field, to influence state and national policy, and to inform strategic planning initiatives for NASDDDS.

Example: Ohio NCI Data on Relationships
(from 2008 -2009 report)



Visit the DODD website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/documents/OhioNCIStateReport2008-09.pdf> to view Ohio's 2008-2009 NCI data report.

According to DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge, “The prospects we are seeing with the NCI initiative are very exciting. A single year's data already has had a significant impact on how we think about best supporting peoples’ needs, as well as how we think about supporting communities.”

Contact: Tina Evans at tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov or (614) 752-9028



6. Northwest Ohio Continues Exploration of ‘Gentle Teaching’

As part of the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) -- which has proven during the past two years to be a fascinating journey toward a statewide shift to a more positive culture within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community – DODD has been offering training on positive strategies utilizing various methodologies and techniques. Most recently, John McGee, Ph.D., an internationally-known speaker who continues to do hands-on work in many countries to promote the concepts of non-violence, recently shared his Gentle Teaching Methodology at the University of Findlay.

This training included an introduction to the Positive Culture Initiative by Pam Berry, DODD Sr. Policy Advisor (see related information at www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/pci.htm). Dr. McGee’s

presentation focused on caregiving within the PCI framework and included positive techniques and approaches to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or who are experiencing other behavioral issues.

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships. It is about making the shift (in thinking) away from power, control and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement.

According to Dr. John McGee, the evolution of an individual's ability to be comfortable with himself or herself is an outgrowth of how that person feels about two things. He asks, "Does that person feel *safe*, and does that person feel *loved*?" He continues,

"Safe and loved. Safe and loved. Those are the keys to mending the heart and building trust. Only when those feelings are present will an individual trust you as a care provider, and only then can a person grow and change."

Pam Berry notes, "Dr. John McGee travels the world bringing hope to those who are most marginalized. We are very fortunate to have him in Ohio teaching us how to create a culture of gentleness within our communities. Participants are always so inspired by John McGee's message that they leave ready to make dramatic shifts in the way they interact with people within their organizations, and even their own families. We want to keep this enthusiasm going by offering follow-up training and organizing network groups through the PCI that can support lasting change."



photo courtesy Dottie Bowes, Marion County

Talk about inspired!

Staff from Marion County's Residential Home Association of Marion, Inc. (RHAM) attend training in Northwest Ohio and take a break with Dr. John McGee (front, left). Says RHAM's Dottie Bowes,

" The training was really inspiring. John McGee is truly a wealth of knowledge, and it was amazing to spend the day with him. I encourage everyone who needs an energy boost to go spend the day with him! Thank you for investing in the culture of life in Marion County."



7. UCP of Central Ohio to Merge with Goodwill Columbus

On September 30th the Board of Directors for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Ohio and Goodwill Columbus signed a merger agreement that will unite the two closely-aligned mission-driven agencies and bring more than 75 participants from UCP to Goodwill Columbus programs and services. The transition will begin January 3, 2011.

Both Goodwill and UCP have a long-standing history of serving people with disabilities in Central Ohio. According to Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, UCP of Ohio,

“The consolidation of these two organizations will increase the sustainability and success of the programs, and provide the community with a more comprehensive range of services to address the needs of individuals with disabilities.”

“It’s a partnership that we’ve been talking about for more than a year,” said Diane Dierna, chair of the Board of Directors of UCP, noting that an inability to secure more funding sources to fully sustain the non-profit agency during challenging economic times led to a lengthy search for a compatible partner. She added, “We have worked very closely with Goodwill Columbus through a structured due diligence process, and are confident that they are the best local partner.”

To determine the viability of the new partnership, UCP was awarded a grant for \$75,000 from The Columbus Foundation’s Fund for Financial Restructuring. Goodwill Columbus also received a \$15,000 Capacity-Building grant from United Way of Central Ohio. Both grant-issuing agencies encourage non-profits with similar missions to partner for sustainability and success.

*Contact: Kathy Streblo, Executive Director, UCP of Central Ohio (614) 279-0109 ext. 208
For more information: www.ucpofcentralohio.org*



[Information repeated by request ...](#)

8. County Board Levy Issues, Across the State

Ballot issues on November 2 election ballots affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community include those in the following counties:

- *Athens:* 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.65 million annually for eight years.
- *Defiance:* 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$200,000 per year. First time on the ballot as a replacement.
- *Mahoning:* 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$11.9 million annually for five years.
- *Medina:* 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. Second attempt.
- *Montgomery:* 6.03 mill Replacement Levy. \$4.5 million new money to offset losses in tangible personal property and CAT tax dollars. (NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children’s Services, Elderly support, etc.)
- *Portage:* 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$3.9 million for five years.
- *Putnam:* .5 Replacement Levy. To generate \$322,727 each year for 10 years.
- *Vinton:* 2 mill Renewal Levy. For five years.

The Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information, and will post more about the election as it draws closer. See additional information at [Voters With Disabilities](#).

Your vote is very important!



Pipeline Quarterly

Will be publishing this week! Reporting on Summer 2010 ... look for it in your email Inbox.

9. PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **OPRA Annual Fall Conference October 19-20**



ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

For the Fall Conference registration brochure, **Click Here!** For more information, visit www.opra.org.

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Annual Fall Conference attracts more than 300 attendees and 25 exhibitors - providing opportunities to interact with hundreds of executives, direct support staff, and other professionals in the developmental disabilities community. It's an opportunity to make important professional contacts and gather vital information. Each year, the program provides a high-level learning opportunity that will enable professional growth and success. This year's event is at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Dublin, OH. [Click Here](#) to reserve your room online or call the Embassy Suites Hotel directly at 1-800-Embassy. Download a copy of the [2010 Fall Conference Brochure](#).

⇒ **OACB Annual Fall Conference, December 1-3**

The Ohio Association of County Boards Annual Convention will be held December 1 - 3, at the Hilton Easton, Columbus. A variety of tracks will enable participants to attend many interesting and diverse sessions during each of the three days. More information on the event coming soon at <http://www.oacbmdd.org/>. Contact: Ann Neu, (614) 431-0616 or email: aneu@oacbdd.org.

Note: The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Track is the third option for Wednesday, December 1.

⇒ **Belmont County Board of DD to Host Kathie Snow, 'Disability is Natural'**

"Awesome change is possible when we think differently about developmental disabilities!"

Learn how to think differently at an evening with parent advocate, author, and trainer Kathie Snow, on Thursday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville -- presented by the Belmont

County Board of Developmental Disabilities. *Public Invited! Free Admission!* Kathie is the author and creator of *Disability is Natural*, a respected source for new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities. Learn more at www.disabilityisnatural.com. Contact: Pamela McCort, pmccort@bcbdd.org.

⇒ **Partners in Policymaking 6th Annual Gathering, October 22-23, in Columbus**

Ohio Partners in Policymaking (PIP) will host their 6th Annual Gathering on October 22-23, at the Hyatt on Capital Square, Columbus. About 150 graduates of PIP are expected to attend the gathering, whose overall purpose is to bring graduates of *Partners in Policymaking* together for updates on legislative issues and best practices, share their advocacy experiences since graduation, re-energize efforts, and network with new graduates. Partners in Policymaking is an internationally-recognized leadership program that prepares adults with developmental disabilities, parents, and other family members to advocate effectively and knowledgeably with decision-makers on local, state and national levels. Advocacy efforts are critical to keep the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the forefront of public policy decisions. Contact: Essie Pederson, epederson@cinci.rr.com or Linda Kunick, lkunick@rhc corp.org.

⇒ **Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) Conference, Nov. 5-6**

The Ohio SIBS Conference is a great opportunity for siblings to learn about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. The conference also allows adult siblings to meet each other, share their stories, and enjoy being with others who can identify with each others' experiences in growing up. To register for the November 5-6 Conference at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel, go to www.ohiosibs.com. *Deadline for conference registration is Monday, October 25th.* Contact: Michelle Truby, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, truby.5@osu.edu.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact Sherry Steinman, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.* To subscribe to *Pipeline* or add a new address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline* or remove an old address, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Pipeline is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Volume 4, Issue 22

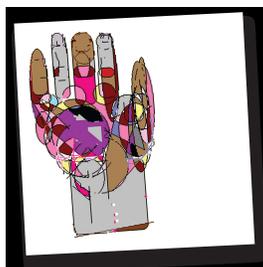
In This Issue ...

- 1. Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver Submitted to CMS Today
- 2. National Disability Employment Awareness Month – Potpourri of Progress & Work Yet to be Done
- 3. Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Conference Reflects Partnership Approach
- 4. OSU Nisonger Center Receives \$2.5 Million Grant to Benefit Students
- 5. Belmont County Hosts Kathie Snow, “Disability is Natural” Program
- 6. Tuscarawas County to Take Ownership, Consolidate Campus
- 7. DODD Website Upgrades to Enhance Interaction, Access
- 8. Election Information in Preparation for November 2
- 9. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items

Note: The Third Annual *Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline* will publish November 23, 2010. In this issue we will highlight a few of the many things for which we, at the DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us YOU are thankful. We invite you to submit items for consideration -- Please send to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov by 11-16-10.

A short paragraph and a photo, if it's appropriate, would be best. Thank you!
Here's what last year's issue included: [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 24](#), November 24, 2009

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Poster available to order online at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm>

“Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities.”

“When in greeting you touch my hand. What knuckled shutters open? What fear do you unlearn?”

The 2010 National Disability Employment Awareness Month Poster art and poetry was created by Laura Hershey, who has spinal muscular atrophy. Through computer-generated art, she created the figure of a hand using many colors and shapes. The hand reaches out in friendship to dispel the fears and misconceptions often associated with disabilities.

1. Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Submitted to CMS Today

As described in the September 29, 2010 issue of Pipeline ([Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 20](#)) the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, which was named by self advocates at last month's Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference, today was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. The review of the proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is the next step in the waiver approval process.

According to DODD Director John Martin,

“This waiver originated with the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, and was propelled by strong advocacy and self-advocacy, including many autism advocates, statewide. The development of this unique waiver is a testament to our stakeholders' positive relationships in working together, and demonstrating a willingness to use more contemporary approaches to waiver services in order to further empower Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”

Director Martin noted that the work of a core stakeholder ‘waiver sustainability group’ was instrumental in spearheading the efforts leading to successful completion of the waiver application. This waiver is an extension of the new flexible waiver, proposed in the previous biennium, for 100 children with intensive behavioral needs. It now will serve adults and children, with current predictions estimating at least 500 individuals would be using the waiver the first year it is in effect, and 2000 individuals using the waiver by the third year it is in effect.

The DODD's commitment to serving 100 children with intensive behavioral needs will continue to be state-funded. The new flexible waiver will be self-directed by the people served, which offers individuals freedom to select the package of services that best suits their needs, within a capped budget. The Department hopes to have this waiver in effect during FY 2012.



[During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we share...](#)

2. A Potpourri of Progress, and Work Yet to be Done

Pipeline readers are a wonderful mix of about 3300 individuals, families, County Board staff members and other service providers, and representatives of various government agencies – all across the state and nation. We know there are many exciting employment-related efforts for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, and we understand there is still much yet to be done to improve the employment scene, overall. In this issue of Pipeline we will take a look at this subject from a broad perspective. Thanks to all who have taken the time to contact us via feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov with your thoughts and information.

PersonnelPlus Hosts Business/Employment Event at Ohio University, Athens 2010 'Building Business Partnerships' Banquet and Recognition Celebration Honors Many

**“ Our Keynote Speaker, Angela Mackey, is the embodiment of the message she brings to us –
'We control our reality – we do – no one else'. ”**
-Doug Mitchell, Director, PersonnelPlus

PersonnelPlus, the supported employment arm of the Athens County Board of DD hosted a Business/Employee recognition event at Ohio University on October 21, and it was no ordinary evening. A significant occasion for PersonnelPlus, more than the anticipated 300 people attended – including many local business and community leaders, employees with developmental disabilities, transition-age youth, and Ohio University leadership.

Guest speaker Angela Mackey, represented the Walgreens Distribution Center in Anderson, South Carolina, and shared how the Walgreens Corporation has filled 40% (188 of 463) of the Distribution Center's workforce with workers who have disabilities, using new approaches and applied technology. The story of the Walgreens/Anderson Distribution Center has been featured on ABC News, the Lifetime Network, and in *The Wall Street Journal*, among other national media outlets.

See the Walgreens success story at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2akb4v2cUQ>

Mackey noted that the Anderson Distribution Center's original goal a few years ago -- to staff 30% of its workforce with workers who have disabilities -- was met with some doubters who expressed concerns regarding perceived negative affects on the Center's productivity and efficiency. According to Mackey, ...

“This just has not been the case at the Anderson Distribution site! In fact, it is the second-most efficient Walgreens distribution site out of all nineteen.”



**Angela Mackey on persistence during an employment search:
“Once we have the opportunity, well, you'd better watch out!”**

She continues, “Randy Lewis, (Senior Vice President of Distribution and Logistics for the Walgreens Distribution Center in Anderson, SC) knew what he wanted to do – he just didn’t know how to do it. That’s why they hired me! His son has autism, and Randy knew the difficulty involved in getting a job when you are perceived as different.”

Mackey related her educational background, which includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and a Master’s Degree in Counseling from Clemson University, and said that she has had her share of trials and tribulations while job-hunting. She noted, “Having cerebral palsy, which affects my speech and how I walk, was not a ‘plus’ when I was interviewing for jobs.”

Her sense of humor came through consistently during the keynote address, along with a slight and sweet Southern drawl that charmed event attendees. She shared,

“Fortunately, I never really hushed-up until they agreed to hire me. I just kept telling them to give me a chance at this job, and now I’ve been there 5 years – and we’ve more than exceeded our goals for hiring and retention.”

Awards and Accolades

The Personnel*Plus* awards ceremony honored several area employers and employees who have helped to make the Athens County area one of the strongest locations in the state for successfully employing people with developmental disabilities (see www.personnelplus.org/).

The Personnel*Plus* Business Advisory Council, and the Personnel*Plus* Advocacy and Advisory Council joined forces to honor individuals and employers who participated in We Go to Work (more at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/WEGotoWorkProjects.htm>) opportunities this year, as well as various community employment options, Summer Youth Training and Employment for transition-age young adults, and other employment partnerships.



The always-enthusiastic Jason Licht ‘tells it like it is’ as he accepts the *David Welsh Award*, honoring entrepreneurial advocacy efforts. Says Jason,

“ Last year, during the testimony for the DODD name change at the Statehouse in Columbus, I made so many trips there I considered having my address changed to ‘Capital Square!’ ”

Work yet to be done? ... PersonnelPlus Executive Director Doug Mitchell says, "We always have work yet to be done! Until all the individuals in Athens County who have a developmental disability and want to work in the community have jobs, PersonnelPlus will have work to be done!"

For more information: Doug Mitchell at dougm@athenscbmrdd.org ; <http://www.athenscbmrdd.org/>



Lowe's Grows Employment Opportunities in Hancock County \$250K grant will help train people with disabilities for jobs.



Representatives of national home improvement products retailer Lowe's, along with the National Organization on Disability (NOD) and the Kessler Foundation* were asked to help ring the symbolic 'closing bell' of the New York stock exchange on October 21 – along with Hancock County Board of DD Superintendent Connie Ament, representing a unique partnership and collective commitment to employing people with disabilities. The symbolic gesture is offered to non-profit organizations, according to time-honored selection criteria related to the business environment.

See streaming video link at <http://www.blanchardvalley.org/>
(Note: Connie Ament is directly to the left behind the gentleman in the center.)

As part of the Lowe's commitment, the company currently is working with Hancock County Board of DD's Blanchard Valley Center and the NOD on employment programs for eligible individuals at three of its distribution centers, including Findlay OH, Rockford IL, and Statesville NC. (Note: The Lowe's concept is modeled similarly to Walgreens', noted in above article.)

Mark Stewart, general manager of Lowe's Findlay Distribution Center comments,

"We are honored to be a part of this project. Pursuing the best, most qualified and diverse employees has always been important to Lowe's. This is why Lowe's has created a focus on recruiting and hiring people with disabilities. We understand that everyone has something to contribute."

Jenny Ferguson, Community Employment Manager for the HCBDD explains, "Seeing individuals with disabilities make the decision to work at Lowe's, complete their training, and then become a part of the Lowe's family has been absolutely amazing. This is the most rewarding job I have ever had! We hope it is just the beginning of a future with terrific local opportunities for individuals with disabilities."

In addition to Ferguson, HCBDD hired five full-time Job Coaches to train people on-site, in the community, and recently received word that the agency has earned a \$250,000 Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) grant toward the project. HCBDD works with the RSC to help Hancock County citizens with disabilities find community employment and gain independence, and the grant will specifically assist in these efforts.

HCBD Superintendent Ament explained that the board already had decided to expand job-coaching efforts prior to learning that it would receive the grant. She noted, "Our board took a leap of faith and decided to fund initial efforts for this program and move forward with it, so we're very pleased that now we have received some additional funding that will help us continue and expand these employment efforts. The additional employment-focused services have proved to be a real blessing to the individuals we're serving."

Guidelines for the grant require that the recipient use the funds to help people find and retain competitive employment. The board learned it was receiving the grant in August, and the funds became available October 1. It is a one-year grant.

Ament explains, "We (Blanchard Valley Center) participate as the service provider that links Lowe's with individuals with disabilities, and provide services including referral, job coaching, and follow up." The customized approach allows job coaches from Blanchard Valley Center to learn the specific requirements and responsibilities of each job. They work side-by-side with trainees at the worksite teaching skills, safety, and appropriate work behavior.

Twenty-five people with developmental disabilities currently are working in the community via HCBDD, and six additional people are now in job training at Lowe's. Recently, the company approached Blanchard Valley Center about hiring another 20 individuals. Ament adds, "These individuals will be learning new skills, becoming more independent, making new friends, and gaining self-confidence."

Meg O'Connell, Director of the National Organization on Disability, notes that NOD chose to partner with Blanchard Valley Center due to its progressive approach in helping people with disabilities identify opportunities to obtain community employment.

The National Organization on Disability has asked the HCBDD to assist in setting standards for other service providers in locations around the nation, due to the success of the Lowe's partnership.



At a recent HCBDD Board Meeting, Matt Reed and Dan Rickard were honored as Employees of the Month at BVI*, and the Lowe's Distribution Center received the Community Star award. (L. to R., back row): Alan Cox, local Lowe's Manager; Mark Stewart, local Lowe's General Manager; **Matt Reed**, BVI participant; Mike Kin, BVI job coach; (next individual obscured); Jenny Ferguson, BVC* Community Employment Manager; Janet Grim, Lowe's Job Coach. (L. to R., front row) John Shumaker, Lowe's team member; Kathy Adkins, Lowe's team member; Amanda Young BVI job coach; **Daniel Rickard**, BVI participant. *(BVI= Blanchard Valley Industries; BVC=Blanchard Valley Center)

About Dan Rickard: Dan said from the beginning that he wants this job so that he can give his son, Jayden, the great life he deserves. Dan is kind, compassionate, respectful, and hard-working.

About Matt Reed: Matt is a light-hearted and kind person who anyone would be proud to work with. It's the little things; like being polite, and showing respect for the people he works with. On his second or third day in the shipping department his trainer, Eric Green, stated, "He's teaching me to work hard. He is an extremely hard worker! I am trying to keep up."

About Lowe's: Lowe's Regional Distribution Center was named the HCBDD's September 'Community Star' due to their outstanding commitment to employing local individuals with disabilities. The entire Lowe's team has embraced and supported employing these individuals from the outset.

Work yet to be done? According to Connie Ament, the Lowe's Outreach Project is significant because it represents a strong commitment by a 'Fortune 500' company to hire individuals with disabilities. The National Organization on Disability has agreed to gather data about the project and will use what is learned to replicate these successful approaches among other Lowe's Distribution Centers, and with other employers. **Work yet to be done includes the review and sharing of best practices.**

**<http://www.kesslerfoundation.org/>*

Acknowledgements to: The Findlay Courier, October 20, 2010 – "Job Training Program to Get Ringing Endorsement" and to HCBDD's 'The Star' newsletter – Aug.- Sept. 2010 issue.

Contact: Jenny Ferguson, HCBDD, (567) 429-9376.



Jeffco Workshop Completes Largest Order Ever

“Quite honestly, when we invested \$4 million in upgrading the Parks System over the past year, we were investing in our community in a way that we felt all citizens could benefit from and enjoy. The purchase of the needed outdoor furniture through Jeffco was a major part of this, and has been a really positive investment from the outset.”

-Domenick Mucci, Mayor of Steubenville

The Jefferson County Board of DD's Jeffco Workshop Inc. recently completed their largest individual order ever for picnic tables and other lawn furniture. The order was completed for the City of Steubenville and consisted of 25 picnic tables, 8 park benches, and 6 'tete-a-tetes' – which are side-by-side chairs connected by a center table (see photo). The order was completed and delivered during Summer 2010 and was part of a major renovation project upgrading the City of Steubenville's two parks.



The yellow splatter-paint chair is not part of the traditional (white) 'tete-a-tete', but it's pretty cool !
Steubenville Mayor, Domenick Mucci (center, behind yellow chair) stopped by the Jeffco workshop to thank the employees responsible for building dozens of pieces of furniture now gracing the local Parks system. Delivered 'on time and with a smile', the order was the largest single order ever produced by Jeffco.
(Back row, L. to R.): Frank Backel; Mayor Mucci; Everett Skinner; Dustin Smith.
(Seated, L. to R.): Gary Harding; Bill Dandrea.

According to Steubenville Mayor Domenick Mucci, “The city decided last year to invest approximately \$4 million in upgrades at Belleview and Jim Wood parks. After the parks were improved, the city administration and city council were unanimous in the decision to ask the Jeffco Workshop to supply us with the furniture. It was the perfect decision to place this order because of the quality of the work, and the history we have in working collaboratively with Superintendent Mike Mehalik.” He continued,

"Halfway through the order timeframe, the decision was made to increase the furniture order. Mike never hesitated, and the workers came through on time. I can tell you that the citizens of our community really appreciate the furniture. It's an ongoing testament to the work they do at Jeffco."

Jeffco began providing work opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in 1973 -- the same year they produced and sold their first picnic table. According to Jefferson County Board of DD Superintendent Mike Mehalik, "Over the years, the product line has expanded to include a variety of benches, chairs, gliders, swings, tables, and a line of 'splash-painted' children's furniture. Special orders of other wood products also may be built to customer specifications. Today, approximately 300 pieces are built annually."

He continues, "In the early years of production most of the picnic tables and other lawn furniture were made of pine, and stained. The expected useful life-span of the items was 6-8 years. Today, most items are made of treated lumber and can be expected to last 15-20 years. The production of picnic tables and lawn furniture is, for the most part, non-stop during the spring, summer, and early fall." Mehalik adds,

"Nine individuals and a supervisor are busy five hours each day building and delivering tables within a 40-mile radius of Steubenville. Customers include private citizens, local cities and townships, parks and recreation areas, private lakes, schools, volunteer fire departments, and local businesses. The Jeffco product line is well known in Eastern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and the Northern panhandle of West Virginia."

(Jefferson County is on the eastern border of Ohio.)

Marketing Brings More Opportunities

During winter months when production of the picnic tables and lawn furniture slows or stops, these employees become a part of Jeffco's subcontracting department where they work in packaging and small parts assembly for various customers. The employees say they, "... look forward to returning to their 'real jobs' when spring returns!" One such employee is Gary Harding, who has worked at Jeffco since 1983. He highlights his specialty -- "I operate the saw, and make sure we are following safety rules like wearing eye protection and that sort of thing."

Expansion of the market area outside Jefferson County has been accomplished via full-page ads in the *Steubenville Herald Star* and *Weirton Daily Times*, purchasing radio advertising, and by attending Home & Garden Shows in Steubenville, Wheeling WV, and Weirton WV. Today, Jeffco sells as many picnic tables and pieces of lawn furniture in West Virginia and Pennsylvania as they do in Ohio!

Work yet to be done? ... The Jefferson County Board of DD is looking to further expand community employment opportunities in the Steubenville area with private employers, while maintaining a strong business at the Jeffco Workshop. The Jefferson County Board of DD believes both options, sheltered employment and community employment, are important in their efforts to offer a comprehensive array of services for adults with developmental disabilities.



"Instant Replay" Celebrates Grand Opening in Logan County

OK sports fans – How many times have you wished for an Instant Replay ... and there isn't one?

Wishing and waiting for an instant replay and there isn't one? RTC Employment Services in Logan County has it covered – they've opened "Instant Replay" in Bellefontaine ... a second-hand sporting goods store at 334 E. Columbus Ave., and the first store of its kind in Logan County. The Grand Opening was October 14.

Here, customers can buy used athletic equipment including protective gear, golf clubs, skis, snowboards, trampolines, cleats, bats and balls, exercise equipment, and more. Opening the new retail business will help employees at the Logan County Board of DD's RTC Industries, learn valuable skills. According to Logan County DD staffer, Pam Hickman,

"While shoppers can get a good deal on sporting goods, the primary purpose of us opening the store is to teach individuals employed there the skills necessary to work in a retail environment."

And, Logan County DD Employment Services Director Tonya Reed, adds, "Employees at Instant Replay learn customer service skills including answering customer questions on the telephone, operating the cash register, stocking shelves, and performing custodial work."

Instant Replay employees also were involved in extensively remodeling the area. Seven individuals have been trained to work at the store, and another four are in the process of training. Merchandise is donated by community members, including Logan County Board of DD staff.

Through this experience, RTC participant Kate Hemphill hopes she might be able to get a job working at another retail store in the Logan County area, and participant Bryan Hudson would like to realize his goal of working in a coffee shop.



Instant Replay employee Kate Hemphill notes that what she likes most about working there is seeing and meeting the customers. She especially enjoys cashiering, and balancing the cash drawer at the end of the day.

Work yet to be done? ... The Jefferson County Board of DD is hopeful that the concept of the Instant Replay retail store will be successful in the Logan County community, and is looking forward to learning from the experience and building on concepts like it in the future. In addition, merchandise donations will be encouraged via various marketing efforts.

Contact: Amy Berger, (937) 592-0534 or phickman@logancbdd.org; visit www.logancbdd.org/adults.htm



Ohio Provider Resource Association

3. OPRA Conference Reflects Partnership Approach

“Developmental Disabilities systems in states with mature stakeholder relationships that understand how to work together function much better than those in states where this is not the case.”

-Quote from George Jesien, Ph.D., as shared by DODD Director John Martin

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Annual Fall Conference, October 19-20 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin attracted more than 500 professionals in the developmental disabilities community. Each year, the program provides a diverse learning opportunity for service providers, fostering and enabling professional growth and success, and encouraging strong stakeholder partnerships.

“Together We ...”

The two-day conference included several presentations on subjects such as health care reform, remote monitoring, principles and practices of an effective direct support professional, waiver reimbursement, and facilitating and supporting community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. DODD Director John Martin’s presentation focused on progress regarding several projects with which OPRA has partnered, noting that, “Together we have made some very good progress and done some very good work, including managing three sets of budget cuts, and increasing waiver availability by 30%.”

In addition, Director Martin noted that there is still work to be done in the face of a difficult economy. He added, “A casualty of the nationwide financial crisis as it applies to Ohio’s DD community has been a failure to increase wages of Direct Support Professionals. This is something we all continue to struggle with. Our system needs to find ways to improve the environment for these care providers who are so critical to the health and well-being of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”

Director Martin also shared that among the Priority Work areas the Department is focusing on in tandem with service providers are issues that have been identified via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (see www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm). He stated,

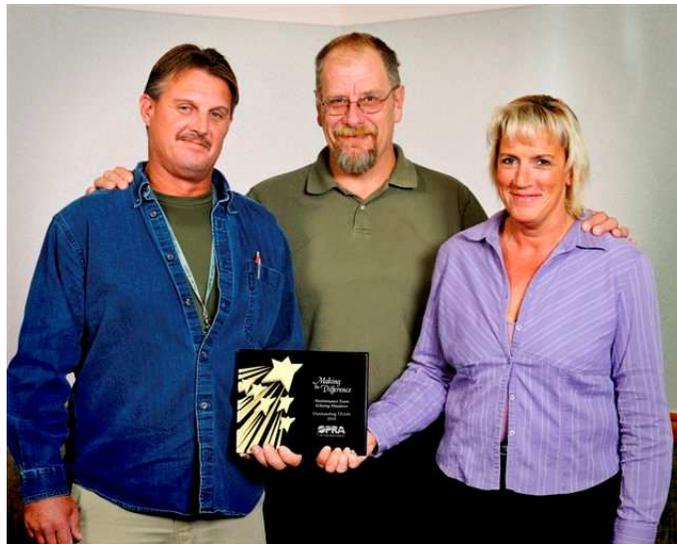
“Perceptions of safety within an individual’s home and neighborhood, as well as understanding issues affecting an individual’s budget are two areas Ohio needs to improve upon. Everyone wants to feel safe, and feel that they have some control and understanding of funds available.”

Awards & Honors

On the second day of the conference, the annual OPRA Appreciation Luncheon, “*Making the Difference,*” honored several groups, individuals, and teams -- in both professional and volunteer roles. Award categories included those for: Direct Support Professionals (8); Frontline Supervisor (8); Outstanding Volunteer (2); Outstanding Team (3); Behind the Scenes (4); and, the Maureen Corcoran Award honoring a PATHS-Credentialed Direct Support Professional (1).



Recognized for her work 'Behind the Scenes.'
Self Advocate and employee of Resident Home Corporation (RHC) in Hamilton County for 36 years, **Linda Kunick** is once again in the spotlight earning an award, proudly displayed.



An Outstanding Team: The **Maintenance Team at Echoing Meadows** includes three members, (L. to R.) **William Bell, Brent Wright and Lisa Grubbs.**
According to their nomination letter, "What especially sets this team apart is the extraordinary job they do with tasks that fall entirely outside their official job descriptions, interacting directly with residents to ensure memorable and positive experiences for all."

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities congratulates all OPRA Honorees!

Special thanks to Missy Craddock and Teri Derry at OPRA -- For more information: www.opra.org



4. OSU Nisonger Center Receives \$2.5 Million Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded The Ohio State University Nisonger Center a five-year, \$2.5 million grant as part of two new federal programs that create opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to attend classes and succeed in higher education.

The Nisonger Center is one of 27 grant recipients through Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. The goal of the pilot project is to develop, test, and refine a statewide model that delivers inclusive post-secondary options -- including participation in college classes, internships, housing, and social experiences -- that result in improved academic, employment, and residential outcomes.

Approximately 100 students ages 18 - 26 who have intellectual disabilities will be served at The Ohio State University, North Central State College, the University of Toledo, and Xavier University. Working with these students at each of these educational facilities will be college students in peer roles, who are majoring in disability-related disciplines. All of the students involved will gain authentic experiences that will enhance their academic, and, ultimately, professional growth.

The multi-site collaborative project will provide transition, employment, and housing services for eligible students, as well as utilize assistive technology and other related resources. The grant-funded project also will convene a statewide planning group including the OSU Nisonger Center and the University of Cincinnati, as well as Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Council, Rehabilitation Services Commission, and Department of Developmental Disabilities, plus representatives from the participating universities, along with consumer advocacy groups.

Project SEARCH

In a related one-year grant, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has awarded the OSU Nisonger Center \$69,739 to provide vocational rehabilitation services for young adults with significant disabilities through a post-secondary Project SEARCH model. The Vocational Rehabilitation Public-Private Partnership (VP3) is in alliance with Goodwill Columbus, and an inter-disciplinary team of faculty and graduate students from OSU's School of Allied Medical Professions, and the College of Education and Human Ecology. The grant term began on October 1, 2010.

Six young adults with significant disabilities who are eligible for RSC services will receive intensive and individualized services, including career assessments, internships, job development preparation for regular employment, participation in college academic courses, and participation in health and wellness classes.

According to Margo Vreeburg Izzo, OSU's principal lead for both of the grants, "These two grants will open doors for a diverse group of students who dream about a college experience and will take an important step toward increasing the diversity of our campus."

A Little History

The Nisonger Center, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, is part of The Ohio State University Medical Center and was founded in 1966 to provide assistance to people with disabilities, families, service providers and organizations by promoting inclusion of people with disabilities in education, health, employment, and community settings.

For more information about these and other grants related to transition for people with disabilities, contact Margo Izzo at izzo.1@osu.edu or 614-292-9218.



5. Belmont County Hosts Kathie Snow, ‘Disability is Natural’

**“Awesome change is possible when we think differently about developmental disabilities!”
- Kathie Snow, parent advocate**

How many people learned to “think differently” at two presentations by parent advocate, author, and trainer Kathie Snow, last week at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville? While about 75 individuals and families, educators, and agencies attended a presentation on October 21, and approximately 185 Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities (BCBDD) staff and service providers attended a presentation the following day, the better answer to the question is probably not a number. According to BCBDD hosts, the answer is “Quite a few ... and exponentially, thereafter, as those people shared their thoughts with others!”

Snow is the author and creator of *Disability is Natural*, an online (www.disabilityisnatural.com/) and in-print source for new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities and the people who live with them. For more than 20 years, Kathie Snow has been an outspoken parent-advocate who has challenged individuals with disabilities and their families to, “Never deny a diagnosis, but always deny a negative prognosis.”

She explains that when her son was a young child, the therapy approaches for him were very difficult for him to deal with, and ... “Basically, he hated therapy sessions. The more we pushed, the more upset he’d get, until it became exhausting.” She continues, “My son, who has cerebral palsy and is now 23 years old, has taught me so much ...

“In fact, once we started incorporating therapy and other learning activities incrementally, into regular daily life, he started making progress. I always say that the day we left the typical ‘Disability World’ including more highly-structured or less natural ways of approaching things, was the day our whole family started making progress. Inclusion is the natural state.”

While there were several reasons for hosting the Disability is Natural presentations, Belmont County Board of DD especially was interested in opening the door to new ideas and ways to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that they may not otherwise have thought about exploring. Staff from throughout the agency, and attendees from local adult services provider agencies and individual private providers were invited to take a fresh look at their perceptions and expectations.

Kathie Snow shared that early on, as her Disability is Natural philosophy was taking shape, she spoke with many adults who have developmental disabilities to find out how they felt about and defined their quality of life. She explains,

“When I asked adults with disabilities how they felt about their lives as I was looking for guidance when my son was younger, what I heard most often was that they measured their quality of life by their *relationships* and their *experiences*. Relationships and experiences were most important to them – not whether or not they could hold a pencil the same way I do, or drive a car.”



Leaving her message behind ...
It's all in how you look at things!

“Electric lights are assistive technology for people who have sight.”

That's Kathie Snow, paraphrasing a presenter who is blind who turned off the lights during a presentation in a packed auditorium to 'level the playing field.'

Belmont County staffer Holly Weatherson summed up the response to the two days of thought-provoking presentations like this: “The most notable comment I received was after Thursday evening’s presentation. A grandmother of a small child with a disability approached me to thank us. She said that she was so grateful to have had the opportunity to hear Kathie’s message. She said that Kathie’s presentation changes everything about the way she plans to approach caring for her grandchild. It’s opened a completely new door.”

Learn more at www.disabilityisnatural.com. Belmont County contact: Pamela McCort, pmccort@cbdd.org



6. Tuscarawas Co. to Take Ownership, Consolidate Campus

For the first time, the Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TCBDD) will own the land and buildings used for its programs. County commissioners this month approved a resolution to transfer ownership of the properties from the county to the board. Tuscarawas County is one of the first in Ohio to transfer ownership.

TCBDD Superintendent Natalie Lupi explains, “At the 2010 Spring Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference there was a session on legal updates, with Steve Postalakis and Frank Hickman discussing County Board of DD property ownership. We learned that the Ohio Revised Code – specifically RC 307.10 (B) -- permits the Board of Commissioners by resolution to approve the transfer of real property belonging to the county, to a County Board of DD. I took this information to the property committee members of the TCBDD Board and discussed the matter with them. They concurred that we should see if this could be accomplished.” She added,

“Our local Prosecuting Attorney's Office was contacted to discuss the matter and they, too, concurred that it made perfect sense for this to occur. A meeting was held with the County Commissioners, Prosecuting Attorney, and myself to discuss the option of a County Board real estate transfer. It made perfect sense to all parties, and allowed for more efficiency in operations since the properties had been purchased and improved solely by County Board of DD funds.”

Construction of a Service and Support Center on the campus of Starlight School and Workshop at New Philadelphia is on schedule for completion early in 2011. The Center will allow for consolidating all of the agency’s services at a single campus, offering easier access and improved efficiencies. Once the Center is completed, the agency no longer will need to rent space elsewhere in New Philadelphia and can sell the agency’s building on Fair Ave.

The consolidation is expected to result in saving a total of about \$3.3 million over 20 years.

The transfer also is in line with a community survey in 2008, which found that the citizens of Tuscarawas County were not sure where to go if they needed services, in part because the agency was scattered at several locations.

Acknowledgements to the Times Reporter, October 19, 2010.



7. DODD Website Upgrades to Enhance Interaction, Access

As noted by DODD Director John Martin in the most recent *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2010*,* our website address at www.dodd.ohio.gov has existed for roughly one year, as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) ‘name change’ occurred in October 2009. He states, “Within the span of one year, a great deal of work has gone into making the information on the site more accessible by users of adaptive tools and technology, more easily navigated and 'searched' by users, and easier to understand from a general content standpoint.”

Director Martin continues,

“Our success in these endeavors is gauged largely by user feedback, and from the data gained by reviewing information gathered by analytical system tools. We continue to support the improvement of Information Technology Systems as part of our DODD Priority Work.”

More at: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>

Perhaps most exciting is the work now underway to improve our interaction and presence with service providers. The 'provider portal' -- point of entry for service provider information and related forms -- will be relaunching soon, in a more user-friendly format. The revision will streamline many online inquiries and transactions, and allow providers to 'do business with us' in a more user-friendly way.

Feedback from providers throughout the development phase of this site upgrade has been most helpful and encouraging. According to the team working on the 'provider portal' project, the online upgrade is expected to be in place within the next few months.

Also as part of the continuous upgrading and updating of the DODD website, a new art and photo gallery was launched last week, enabling the Department to begin featuring more visual images of events and artists/artwork from around the state. DODD has featured Ohio artists with developmental disabilities on the website's homepage for the past three years, and is now pleased to take this format a step further.

Click On: [More Art & Photo Gallery](#)

During the next several months, we will continue to add more interactive features, and will increase our capacity via newer technology to serve the needs and interests of site users -- including utilization of social media. According to staff within the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support,

The increase in online capacity and capability will be gradual, will be consistent with available resources, and will be in line with Ohio Office of Information Technology (OIT) recommendations and guidelines. OIT governs state agency internet policy and standards development, lifecycle investment planning, and privacy and security management.

To provide feedback regarding online resources at www.dodd.ohio.gov, simply click on 'webmaster' at the bottom of the homepage, or send an email to webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for using our website as a helpful resource.

*Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2010 at: *Summer 2010  PDF; Contact: webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov*



8. Accessibility and Voting on November 2

Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner reminds Ohio voters that Election Day is a day to make our voices heard through our votes. A core message of the currently-running Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign on the subject is to empower voters with disabilities to exercise their right to vote. The ad campaign was funded through federal Health and Human Services dollars, and uses footage from a poll worker training video created to educate more than 45,000 Ohio poll workers on the importance of assisting voters with disabilities. A portion of this funding is designated for education and outreach activities.

Links to all versions of the "I Vote and So Should You" PSA may be accessed at:
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/PSAs.aspx>

Early voting in Ohio continues through Saturday, October 30. Voters may complete an absentee ballot request form on line at www.avoidtheline.org <<http://www.avoidtheline.org>> , then print, sign, and mail it to the local county board of elections.

Voting absentee in-person also is an option for voters through noon on October 30. This link: <<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/mapsEV.aspx?page=361>> illustrates locations by county.

LRS Voter Hotline

Ohio Legal Rights Service (LRS) was created to protect the rights of Ohioans with disabilities, and that includes protecting the basic right to vote. On November 2, if your voting rights are challenged based on disability, or your polling location is not accessible, call the LRS Voter Hotline between 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. at (614) 466-7264 or 1-800-282-9181; TTY (614) 728-2553 or 1-800-858-3542. Choose option #4 to reach the Voter Hotline.

County Board Levy Issues, Across the State

Here's one last look at ballot issues on November 2 affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- *Athens*: 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$1.65 million annually for eight years.
- *Defiance*: 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. To generate \$200,000 per year. First time on the ballot as a replacement.
- *Mahoning*: 3 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$11.9 million annually for five years.
- *Medina*: 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. Second attempt.
- *Montgomery*: 6.03 mill Replacement Levy. \$4.5 million new money to offset losses in tangible personal property and CAT tax dollars. (NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children's Services, Elderly support, etc.)
- *Portage*: 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. To generate \$3.9 million for five years.
- *Putnam*: .5 Replacement Levy. To generate \$322,727 each year for 10 years.
- *Vinton*: 2 mill Renewal Levy. For five years.

The Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information. In particular, see [Voters With Disabilities](#).

On November 3, 2010, a *Pipeline Extra* will carry the results of these important levies. Good luck to all.

9. PostScripts – News Briefs & Calendar Notes

⇒ **OACB Annual Fall Conference, December 1-3**

The Ohio Association of County Boards Annual Convention will be held December 1 - 3, at the Hilton Easton, Columbus. A variety of tracks will enable participants to attend many interesting and diverse

sessions during each of the three days. More information on the event coming soon at <http://www.oacbmdd.org/>. Contact: Ann Neu, (614) 431-0616 or email: aneu@oacbdd.org.

Note: The Disability Housing Network (DHN) Track is the third option for Wednesday, December 1.

⇒ **Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio sponsors presentation November 19 & 20**

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio will present two dynamic nationally-recognized speakers addressing topics that are often viewed as challenging in education today ... inclusive classrooms and behavioral interventions. Patrick Schwarz, Ph.D. and Stacy Taylor, MA, B.C.B.A. will share their wealth of knowledge with teachers, family members and specialists on November 19 & 20. Join us for their powerful presentations and learn how to turn a challenging situation into a successful experience for all. [Click here to learn more.](#)

⇒ **Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) Conference, Nov. 5-6**

The Ohio SIBS Conference is a great opportunity for siblings to learn about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. The conference also allows adult siblings to meet each other, share their stories, and enjoy being with others who can identify with each others' experiences in growing up. For more information on this November 5-6 Conference at the Columbus Marriott Airport Hotel, go to www.ohiosibs.com.

⇒ **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA will be published as needed to cover hot news.

Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

November 3, 2010

- Results of November 2 Election - County Board Levy Issues, Across the State



Results are unofficial and will be certified by respective County Boards of Elections at a later date.

More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>

Ashtabula: 1.3 mill Renewal Levy. **PASSED, 62%**

Athens: 1.8 mill Replacement Levy. **PASSED, 69%**

Defiance: 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. **PASSED, 64%**

Mahoning: 3 mill Renewal Levy. **PASSED, 70%**

Marion: 3 mill Renewal Levy. **PASSED, 59%**

Medina: 1.12 mill Replacement Levy. **PASSED, 60%**

Montgomery: 6.03 mill Replacement Levy.* **PASSED, 70%**

Portage: 1.8 mill Renewal Levy. **PASSED, 65%**

Putnam: .5 Replacement Levy. **PASSED, 62%**

Vinton: 2 mill Renewal Levy. **PASSED, 55%**

Williams: 2.5 mill Replacement Levy. **PASSED, 53%**

-Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number-

*NOTE: Montgomery County operates a Human Services Levy and is a combination of DD, ADAMHS, Children's Services, Elderly support, etc.

Congratulations to all!

Pipeline Extra ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the statewide developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov , phone (614) 644-0262.

Editor's Note: DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. *In the event of a public records request, however, the DODD would comply with all applicable Public Records Laws. Please also note the Privacy information at the DODD website, at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/> .*

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Wednesday, November 10, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 23

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- 1. National Family Caregivers Month Honors Many
- 2. Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS Conference Draws Diverse Group, Celebrates Progress
- 3. DODD Priority Work Plan, Progress Report & Update
- 4. Disability Housing Network Launches Housing Corporation Self Assessment
- 5. Ohio Public Images Announces Developmental Disabilities Awareness Events for 2011
- 6. *PostScripts*: Timely News Briefs and Calendar Items

Next in *Pipeline*, November 23 ... Annual Thanksgiving Issue!

Again this year we invite YOU to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit information to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov by 11-18-09. Thank you.

See the 2009 issue at [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 24](#), November 24, 2009.

1. National Family Caregivers Month Honors Many

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November to be *National Family Caregivers Month*, in support of family caregivers in the workplace who balance work and family caregiving responsibilities. The official Proclamation* states,

“During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor the millions of Americans who give endlessly of themselves to provide for the health and well-being of a beloved family member. Through their countless hours of service to their families and communities, they are shining examples of our Nation's great capacity to care for each other.”

The Proclamation also notes, "Caregivers often look after multiple generations of family members. Their efforts are vital to the quality of life of countless American seniors, bringing comfort and friendship to these treasured citizens. However, this labor of love can result in physical, psychological, and financial hardship for caregivers, and research suggests they often put their own health and well-being at risk while assisting loved ones."

It is estimated that 50 million Americans provide care for family members who live with chronic ailments, disabilities, or issues due to aging conditions. And, according to *Ascribe*, a public interest newsletter, family caregivers provide more than 80% of all long-term care in America, with services valued at approximately \$375 billion annually.

Family Advisory Council

In Ohio, the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC)** meets regularly to discuss such issues. For example, in January 2009, family caregivers from the Dayton area shared their stories. Meeting attendees viewed, *'The Advocates Video Diary.'* It started the meeting with a solid dose of in-your-living-room reality. Wynema Mebane, parent advocate and long-time FAC member, brought Dayton area family members with her to the meeting, and they spoke compellingly on the subject of family caregivers, following the documentary-style video. *(For more information about this video, contact The Advocates at TADV110@sbcglobal.net)*

The next meeting of the Family Advisory Council is November 16th.
Contact Michele Kanode at Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov for details.



April Plummer and son, JC (in 2009)

April illustrates the fact that she and JC are a matched set when it comes to fashion, as well as lots of other more important things ... like his future.



Wynema Mebane and son, Todd (in 2009)

Wynema Mebane and Todd, movers and shakers in the Dayton area, reminded advocates around the state ...

“Use your gifts to help other people! Our work as advocates must reach people who can make a difference – who can change what needs to be changed.”

National Family Caregivers Month honors Americans who juggle work, family, and financial responsibilities every day. According to the President's Proclamation, the nation has made important progress in this area of need with the Affordable Care Act, which provides the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Program. This voluntary insurance program will help individuals with long-term care needs to maintain independent living, as well as compensate family caregivers for their work.

CLASS provides assistance with long-term care, defined as supervision or assistance with everyday activities such as bathing and dressing, and general mobility. National statistics indicate that almost 11 million people living in communities across the country need this kind of care, and about half of these individuals have one or more disabling conditions and are younger than age 65.

**Read the official Whitehouse Proclamation:*

www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/29/presidential-proclamation-national-family-caregivers-month

***More about the DODD Family Advisory Council at www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm*

And speaking of family caregivers ... what about Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters ... SIBS!



[Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters](#)

2. Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS Conference Celebrates Progress

“More than anything I am optimistic. SIBS has had ten years of experience as an organization, and we are on the precipice of being able to meet the real needs of siblings who may become primary caregivers for brothers or sisters, or who already have stepped up to do so ... especially in families with elderly parents.”

-Tom Fish, Ph.D., The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

The tenth annual Ohio SIBS Conference (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) always is a great opportunity for siblings to learn more about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. This year's November 5-6 conference in Columbus provided a focused venue for adult siblings from across the state to meet one another, share their stories, and enjoy being with people who can identify with many experiences while growing up.

A Little History

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center has offered support groups for family members of people who have disabilities for almost 30 years. Under the guidance of Tom Fish, Ph.D., Director of Family and Employment Services, these groups have helped hundreds of siblings share their concerns, gain information, and connect with others experiencing similar life circumstances. As siblings become adolescents and adults, their concerns and family circumstances change. And, as stated on the Ohio SIBS website at www.ohiosibs.com:

“Clearly, issues concerning an 8 year-old brother are not the same as those concerning a 48 year-old brother. New issues such as the long-term care of their sibling, their sibling’s eligibility for programs, and availability of support services are more prominent in the minds of adolescent and adult siblings.”

In November 2001, Dr. Fish organized a statewide conference in Columbus to begin to assist adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities. There, adult siblings and disability professionals gathered at the first Ohio Adult Sibling Conference. Recognizing that adult siblings could greatly impact not only their brother’s or sister’s quality of life, but the entire family’s life, Dr. Fish and a small group of volunteers set out to establish Ohio SIBS and build an organization dedicated to serving the needs of adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities.

Ohio SIBS was one of the first organizations of its kind in the country to focus singularly on the needs of adult siblings, and has served as a model for other state programs across the country, and around the world.

Ten years later ...

Nearly 100 attendees participated in the Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS Conference, representing 26 counties and even a few family members from out-of-state. DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin noted, for example, that her daughters -- Tiffany Knaul from Chicago, and Jaime Waterfield from Wisconsin -- attended for the first time together this year, in support of their sister, Jennifer. Peggy explained, “This year’s conference was very special for our family because, while Jennifer’s sisters have attended separately before, this is the first year they were both able to attend with her. They came to broaden their knowledge about Ohio’s resources, and learn about what they need to know in the future to keep services in place for their sister. It was very exciting for Jennifer, and a wonderful experience for our whole family.”



Jennifer, Jaime, and Tiffany enjoy a break at the Ohio SIBS Conference. Jennifer’s sister, Jaime, comments, “I really enjoyed the social aspect of the SIBS conference, and listening to individuals tell their personal stories. I attended the Future Planning discussion with David Zwyer and took away some very beneficial information on trusts and guardianship.”

Several speakers addressed current and emerging issues directly affecting conference participants. One such speaker, Cynthia Chambers, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of

Special Education at East Tennessee State University, discussed her research efforts on various sibling-related issues across the life-span. And, speaker Judy Karasik, co-author of the book, *The Ride Together: A Brother and Sister's Memoir of Autism in the Family*, with her brother -- novelist Paul Karasik -- shared her family's experiences with her brother, David, who has autism. Each of the many speakers, including self advocates, enriched the event with their personal perspectives on life as it is ... as it was ... and as it could be in the future.

Honoring Service to SIBS

Several individuals received special recognition for efforts pertaining to sibling issues and the Ohio SIBS organization. In particular, Dean Fadel and Tom Fish each received a certificate of recognition from the DODD -- Fadel for being an outstandingly supportive sibling to his brother Jeff, as well as for his commitment to the Ohio SIBS network, and Fish for his tireless efforts in promoting Ohio SIBS for the past 10 years. *(Photos below – featuring beautiful natural scenery - were not taken at the recent Ohio SIBS conference!)*



Dr. Tom Fish received a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the DODD for his tireless efforts in promoting Ohio SIBS for the past ten years. He is the Director of Social Work and Family Support Services at the OSU Nisonger Center, and is a board member of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio, as well as a founder of Ohio SIBS. In addition, Dr. Fish is a founder of the Next Chapter Book Clubs – a community literacy and friendship program with more 80 clubs throughout the country.



Dean Fadel (left) and brother Jeff. Fadel also received a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the DODD for his many years of sharing and caring about sibling issues, and Ohio's developmental disabilities community in general. Fadel founded Public Affairs Advocates, a

government consulting firm based in Columbus. He has been active in grassroots development and coordination of several successful statewide and regional issue-oriented coalitions, and in 2007 was appointed to the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Fadel also was elected to serve on the board of the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, and recently was elected vice president. His younger brother, Jeffery, lives semi-independently in Gahanna, Ohio.

The SIBS conference is unique in its focus, and after ten years of growth is now a strong voice for Ohio families. Through the sharing of information and experiences, family members learn from each other, and make the most of opportunities available to them through Ohio's system of developmental disabilities services. As Tom Fish noted, "We are making progress, and I can see that over the years. However, there is still much to do when you ask, "How many people are Medicaid providers for their family member?" and about one-third of the group raises their hands. That's encouraging ... but not quite 'there' yet." He adds,

"One thing's for sure, though – after ten years, Ohio SIBS is here to stay!"

The Mission of Ohio SIBS is to be recognized as the unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Ohio SIBS will provide advocacy, education, leadership and supports that will promote enhanced quality of life, improved public policy and increased services and supports for adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families.



Ohio SIBS

Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters

For more information: <http://www.ohiosibs.com/>



3. DODD Priority Work Plan, Progress Report 1st Q, FY '11

"Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship."

-One of the ten Priority Work Areas

A quarterly report noting progress on the DODD Priority Work Plan has been posted at www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm and includes several updates. The Priority Work Plan is a framework to impact specific priority issues in line with budgetary constraints, and is designed to help us work more effectively -- in partnership with other system stakeholders -- to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.

Priority Work includes ten areas of concentration (see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, *The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas*), several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. A few highlights from the most recent report include:

- *In the area of assuring quality of services:* For the third consecutive year, DODD is participating in the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative – a systematic

approach to outcome-based performance measurement. The Center for Marketing and Opinion Research has been awarded a contract to conduct the comprehensive Ohio survey which provides benchmarks by which to evaluate service effectiveness from the perspective of the service recipient, and compared to similar entities across the nation. (*More at www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm)*

- *In the area of upgrading information systems:* A pilot test of the new Cost Projection Tool (see www.dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/medicaid.htm) is being conducted in Delaware County to provide critical user input prior to statewide deployment.
- *In the area of rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement in Ohio's Developmental Centers:* Moving toward the goal of reducing the overall census of residents at Ohio's ten Developmental Centers, a total of 32 individuals have successfully transitioned this Quarter, to different community-based settings with appropriate supports via community partners.
- *In the area of improving processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) function:* DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin has provided training to SSA's representing approximately 50 counties, specifically focused on increasing awareness of families' needs, and the importance of family involvement in the planning process, in partnership with SSA's.

The full report at www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm is in a grid format, wherein action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily. The Department is committed to reporting on and working through each of these Priority areas in a timely, consistent, and transparent manner. In addition to the information posted on the DODD website, *Pipeline* will continue to update progress on the overall Priority Work Plan.



4. DHN Launches Housing Corporation Self-Assessment

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to support the implementation of a technical assistance project focused on guiding housing corporations through a self-assessment process. The self-assessment involves topics such as financial management, board governance, property inspection, and planning. The grant continues through September 2011, and may be renewed through September 2012.



DisabilityHousingNetwork.org

Supporting housing corporations
that provide safe and affordable housing
for individuals with disabilities

A Voluntary Opportunity

The Self-Assessment Project is a voluntary opportunity for housing corporations to participate in a comprehensive organizational assessment, focusing on policies and procedures that will make nonprofit organizations more effective. The County Housing Planning process that counties have been asked to complete by January 31, 2011, is one component of the Project, along with implementing best practices.

In announcing the Self-Assessment Project, DHN Executive Director Steve Farrell noted, “I also am pleased to note that Cathy Allen has been named contractor and Training Director for the term of the grant. Cathy resides in Ottawa County, and has extensive board development experience with nonprofit organizations. She also is the sibling of an individual with a developmental disability.” He adds,

“This is an opportunity for Housing Corporations across the state to get free help toward improving their Board governance policies, maintenance procedures, and organizational planning through the use of best practices and proven successful policies. We hope Housing Corporations will use Training Director Cathy Allen's experience and knowledge to strengthen their organizational structure and – in the end – provide higher quality homes for people with disabilities.”

The first step of the Self Assessment Project is a short survey of all housing corporations in Ohio. The results from the survey will help DHN to more effectively administer the grant during the next ten months. Says Farrell, “We are extremely grateful to the DD Council for their support of this important work.”

Note: A Disability Housing Network (DHN) Track is the third option for sessions on December 1 at the Ohio Association of County Boards Annual Convention, December 1 - 3, at the Hilton Easton, Columbus. A variety of tracks will enable participants to attend many interesting and diverse sessions during each of the three days. More information on the event at <http://www.oacbddd.org/>.

*For more information: Steve Farrell, Executive Director, Disability Housing Network, (614) 586-5855
www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org*



5. Ohio Public Images Announces DD Awareness Events

Ohio Public Images, Inc.(OPI), an information and advocacy group encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 2011 ‘Call for Entries’* for their annual Media and Awareness Awards for the period from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe.



**The ‘Call for Entries’ is posted on the OPI website at
<http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>**

The awards nominations and competition will honor individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through their exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates and elected officials who champion the causes of people with developmental disabilities.

New 'Outstanding Employer' Category

The Call for Entries details 21 categories for award nominations, and includes a new Special Awards category for Employers. Outstanding efforts in this area could include but are not limited to: Those that foster a positive environment for individuals with disabilities in the workplace; unique or exceptional efforts to train and hire individuals with developmental disabilities for specific employment opportunities; and/or, employers who have partnered successfully with agencies in the community that serve people with developmental disabilities to provide successful employment outcomes.

The OPI awards will be presented at a luncheon on March 21, 2011, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference.

SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011.

In addition, OPI will again organize Ohio's statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month kickoff event at the Ohio Statehouse. The 2011 event will be held on Thursday, March 3.

Details as the date draws nearer, in future issues of *Pipeline*.

At the 2010 Event ...



Who are these illustrious 2010 event participants?

Perhaps you've seen them around the state – self advocates and staff from Southwestern Ohio – they're never idle, and always looking for others who can share their enthusiasm!

The Public Images Network, and its parent organization, Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. For more information, visit www.ohiopublicimagesnetwork.org .



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Tuesday, November 23, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 24

In This Issue ...

- 1. Interagency Autism Coordinating Council Draws on Ohio Expertise
- 2. Family Advisory Council Members Look Ahead to 2011
- 3. Special Feature: Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State



[Spotlight on the Interagency Work Group on Autism](#)

1. Interagency Autism Coordinating Council Draws on Ohio Expertise

DODD Director John Martin recently was asked to address the federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IACC). Much of his presentation highlighted the efforts of Ohio's Interagency Workgroup on Autism (IWGA). More about the IWGA at www.iwg-autism.org/

The federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Services Subcommittee held a workshop in Rockville, Maryland in early November titled, "Building a Seamless System of Quality Services & Supports Across the Lifespan." The workshop focused on policy issues related to the system of services and supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Attending the workshop were parents, educators, medical professionals, researchers, and ... presenters including DODD Director John Martin.

Building the foundation for the workshop were Nancy Thaler of the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services](#) (NASDDDS), Bill East of the [National Association of State Directors of Special Education](#), and K. Charlie Lakin of the [University of Minnesota](#) who painted a broad-brush picture of the current status of autism services across the nation. They noted that while services have progressed during recent years, families still need help with accessing service providers and support agencies who can meet their needs.

They also noted concerns regarding the increasing demand for autism services, and the fiscal challenges many states are facing in funding these services. Among the topics addressed at the workshop were:

- *Self-direction care programs*, which offer people with autism more power over deciding how to use public funds to fit their individual needs. Some states have secured federal waivers that give individuals with autism a budget and the authority to choose how to spend that money among a selection of services and supports.
- *A standardized way to assess each person's needs* in order to deliver the most appropriate services possible – this was discussed by Donald Clintsman from the [Washington State Department of Social and Health Services](#).
- *Training for professionals who work with people who have autism* was a key topic for three speakers who presented training strategies that prevent and reduce the use of seclusion and restraint, and foster the prevention of conflict escalation while encouraging positive support – as is recommended within the DODD's Positive Culture Initiative ([Read More](#)).

Streamlining Services

DODD Director John Martin highlighted the need for coordinating the many service agencies within each state, describing strategies such as those employed by Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) for integrating government systems that provide autism-related services. He reiterated a statement noted in an earlier discussion on the subject:

"We all have gifts and talents. We all have wishes and needs. The Interagency Work Group on Autism, convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, coordinates efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with autism spectrum disorders are recognized, valued, and addressed."

For more information about the [IACC Services Subcommittee](#), and their efforts to build a more efficient system of services and supports for people with ASD visit www.iwg-autism.org/.



Spotlight on the Family Advisory Council

2. FAC Members Look Ahead to 2011

One of the ten Priority Work Areas of the DODD is to energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

The Family Advisory Council (FAC) provides opportunities for families to provide input to policy makers, and offers family members a venue in which to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to people who have developmental disabilities and their families. It also is hoped that the resulting family network will reach many other Ohio families, and provide them with information and education regarding our system. Participants in the FAC also share what resources have been developed in their area that could benefit others. More at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

The November 16 meeting of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) addressed members' requests for information about many subjects -- including budget considerations, the status of the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver which has been submitted for review to the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and general thoughts about progress made within the past few years.

During the traditional 'Director's Chat' portion of the meeting, DODD Director John Martin responded to several questions, including one regarding what things he envisioned as being especially important considerations as the Department moves forward into 2011. He stated that while a number of initiatives and priority areas come to mind, assistive technology, and new technology in general, would be key in helping to enable and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and help them do the things they need and want to do. He explained,

"We are on the threshold of being able to employ some very exciting and creative options that will help people in a number of ways. Exploring these options, being open to them, and using them responsibly is going to be very important. Here in Ohio, we have a lot of reasons to be hopeful."

The November 16 meeting also included presentations by Carol Igoe of The ARC and parent advocate Michelle Akins on the subject of, "What all parents need to know about lead poisoning"; Educational Consultant Sue Bitsko, discussed the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process; Peggy Martin reported on the subject of training outcomes from the statewide focus on Service and Support Administrators (SSA's) working collaboratively with families; and, Dana Charlton, Director of the Ohio Self Determination Association, presented general information about the OSDA (www.ohiosda.org/).



Encouraging Winter Safety Awareness

The Family Advisory Council provides the following useful information in recognition of *Winter Safety Awareness Week, which was November 14-20*. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) is encouraging all Ohioans to prepare their homes and safety plans for the upcoming cold months.

In a coordinated effort with OCSWA, Governor Ted Strickland proclaimed Winter Safety Awareness Week to help encourage households, schools, businesses, and organizations to plan and prepare for severe winter weather. The following suggestions are recommended:

- *Prepare your home for winter.* Remove dead tree branches. Ice, snow, and strong winds can cause tree limbs to break and fall. Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Review your homeowner's insurance policy.
- *Prepare winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle.* Refresh nonperishable foods and bottled water stored in your winter emergency kits. They should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, a battery-operated or hand-crank radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water (one gallon per person, per day) to sustain each

family member for at least three days. Have food, water, and supplies for pets, too. Maintain a least a tank half-full of fuel in vehicles to lessen the risk of fuel line freeze-up.

- *Invest in a Public Alert/Weather Radio.* Every home, school and business should have a tone-alert weather radio with a battery back-up. Weather and public alert radios are programmed to automatically sound an alert during public safety and severe weather events. Click on www.weather.gov/nwr/ for more information.
- *Update disaster preparedness plans.* Every home, school, business, and organization should have written plans for disasters. Review plans with family or staff. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, a flood, or fire. Practice drills that require sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Update emergency contact lists.

For additional information on winter weather safety and severe weather preparedness, the Family Advisory Council suggests a visit to OCSWA's site at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

The Family Advisory Council meets every other month. More information is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

Contact: *Peggy Martin* at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov; (614) 466-8706



3. Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State Includes Reader Input & an Original Bonus Item

In this issue closest to the observance of Thanksgiving, we highlight a few of the many things for which we, at the DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful. *Pipeline* also takes this opportunity to thank you, our readers, for your feedback and comments during the year. Many articles are the result of reader input.



Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by DODD Director John Martin

A few months ago I had the privilege of spending some time in the home of a family who had a preschool child with significant behavioral challenges. It was interesting to watch the family dynamics as the child's constant energy impacted every interaction in the household. It was not hard to imagine the challenges this family faced as they attempted to do things other families

routinely do -- going out to eat, going on vacation, and the like. Their good-natured recounting of family experiences as they went out in the community reinforced what I was thinking.

What I was most impressed with was the love that embodied the family's interactions, and the warmth I felt just being apart of that family for the short time I was in the house.

As we all look at what we are thankful for this holiday season, many of us reflect upon our own families and what they mean and have meant to us. As I think about Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and the many families we depend upon as the backbone of our service delivery system, I deeply appreciate that commitment -- and the wonderful, warm, and nurturing environments each of you create.

I know some of you experience frustration as you face challenges in your family situations, yet I hope that on Thanksgiving Day, your family environment is filled with meaning and warmth -- and if you face challenges during the holiday season, I hope that others in your community will reach out to help. May each of you have a relaxing and meaningful Thanksgiving holiday.

– *John Martin*

Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others

Providers from around the state share their thoughts ...

From: Nancy Chafin, Provider [mailto:njchafin@live.com]

Nancy writes: “After spending 20 years in the investment industry, I recently re-entered the work force as a provider. My husband was back to work and our kids were all in school. At the suggestion of a friend, I became certified to provide services for her 9 year-old son, Nick. The certification process seemed very complex, and I can honestly say that a few times I thought I'd just quit. But my friend, Nick's mother, had prepared a daily checklist for me, and it appealed to my Operations Manager past.

I assist with Nick's daily medications, and he requires assistance to eat and to get dressed. Her checklist is very helpful, and I know without it *I would forget!* Nick, however, knows what to do. When we reach the end of his driveway where we wait for the bus, he closes his eyes and looks to the sun. It's a look of pure peace and he is so happy to be alive! The 'bus waiting' procedure is literally written on the checklist *for me*. Sometimes I am so caught up in our daily duties that the miracle of life which sits next to me must be thinking, “Why isn't she listening?”

Nick hears and knows exactly what to do, and one morning I captured 'the look' on my cell phone camera. You can see it in the picture below, and it's forever in my heart. Nick's message is, “What a blessing it is to be alive.” I am thankful for the constant reminders and checklists from Nick and his family. We help each other with grateful hearts to find joy and peace.

–*Happy Thanksgiving to all -- with inspiration from the Buscani family*



“It’s a look of pure peace and he is so happy to be alive.” Nancy, on Nick

From: REM Ohio

The Opportunities Social Center celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. The Center opened originally to serve the needs of individuals with disabilities who were retirement age. Due to participants’ age, programs at the Center were tailored to provide a variety of social and recreational activities to keep individuals engaged. Programs at the Center have since evolved to include activities for adults of all ages who are looking for a smaller, community-based program. Participants and staff are thankful for the opportunity to attend and work at a great place that offers ways to remain connected with others.

REM Ohio’s ‘Ready, Fit, and Able’ program is in year two of providing health education and fitness classes to adults with disabilities, within the community. This year, the agency has contracted with the Akron Area YMCA to provide and train class instructors at the Center. By bringing the classes directly to the Center, REM Ohio can ensure that those most interested in the classes are able to participate twice a week. Center staff say, “We are thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our friends and instructors at the YMCA for working to keep us healthy!”



(Above and Below) Thankful to be healthy!



REM Ohio also is thankful for Foster Mentors such as Barbara Watters. The four people who have lived with the Watters family (during the 22 years they have been mentors) have become more than ‘clients’-- they are family. “Barbara’s devotion and willingness to allow other people to live with her family is one of the reasons she was named *2010 Foster Mentor of the Year* for Lorain County,” said REM Regional Director Janice McNamara.

Barbara said she and her family will continue to open their home to people who need them as long they are able to do so. REM Ohio is thankful for families that welcome others into their homes and lives everyday.



Barbara Watters, 2010 Foster Mentor of the Year, Lorain County.

Blossom Hill, Inc., a Cuyahoga County Service Provider, shares this:

“As a provider, we are thankful for the continued privilege and opportunity to share our days with the people we serve. We are thankful for their wisdom, and the many gifts they provide to us each day.

We are mindful that our jobs and responsibilities directly impact the lives of others, and we are grateful for the simplicity and joy that comes with each milestone and achievement.

We often marvel at displays of courage, patience and reserve that our individuals display when faced with medical and emotional challenges. We are grateful for the excitement that comes with each holiday and special occasion. We are thankful for our co-workers who support individuals, and provide support and strength for each of us. We are grateful for the parents and family members who have trusted us, and allow us to share in the lives of their loved ones. And, we appreciate each new day, and offer thanks for continued strength, vision, and courage.”

From Echoing Hills Village, Coshocton County:

“Camp is a time of respite for families. We realize that families need a break from the daily demands of raising a child or children with disabilities. Camp – whether for a weekend or a whole week – gives families a time to relax and recharge! We are thankful to offer this opportunity to many families. Here’s what two family members have shared:

“Camp gives us relief away from the stress and frustrations that autism brings to us as a family. It gives us an opportunity to focus on our other three boys, and what they would enjoy doing. Usually, our entire family routine is dictated by what might work best for our child who has autism ... which often robs our other children of experiences they might like to have. Camp also gives my husband and I vital time to relax and enjoy each other.” - Cherie

“This camp means so much to us! A full night’s sleep. Time to read, take a hot bath, do crafts, or just sit! It is undivided time for my daughter. It is lunch after church with my parents. And, a date night or a chance to be with friends. It is a reminder of the truly wonderful people in the world who would do this for others – God Bless You!” - Jen



Two Views of Camp Echoing Hills respite weekends – Festival of Lights, and Summer Fun.

Photos submitted by Heather Armstrong, www.echoinghillsvillage.org

From the Stark County Board of DD – Thankful for New Technology

At the Rebecca Stallman Southgate School – Teacher Jennifer Libby uses the Nintendo Wii game system often with her class of students, ages 10-12. “The academic and social skills in my class range from below preschool to about kindergarten level,” said Libby. “The Wii has helped bridge the gap for social interaction with their peers. With some games, players can feel the vibration of the remote, so they feel that they are making it happen, and that’s important,” she added.

Libby also noted that she has had some interesting responses from students and families since the Wii and a TV (kept on a cart) have been moving from classroom to classroom. When teachers

started telling families about the reactions they have gotten from students while playing with the Wii, families were amazed and thrilled. According to Libby, “Many of the families said they had the Wii at home and their child has been watching other family members playing, but they never even thought to have their child with a disability try playing!”



Joe Jett 'hits one out of the ballpark' ... while playing the Nintendo Wii at the end of a school day. Joe uses a wheelchair for mobility, and has found that if he lays on a mat and holds the sensor remote between his feet to play along with his friends, he can 'beat them at their own game' quite regularly .

- photo courtesy, Lisa Parramore, Stark County DD

More on the subject of technology in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Fall 2010, and publishing in late December.

From Champaign Residential Services Inc., (serving several counties) – Thankful for the Smiles Staff at Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI) are thankful for the Adult Day Services program, which offers individuals a daily routine of vocational training or recreation and leisure, at the corporate office in Urbana. According to Linda Smith, Public Relations Director, “The daily presence of a representative few of the nearly 800 individuals we serve within 30 Ohio counties is a reminder of the mission and philosophy of CRSI, and the reason for the services we provide. We are greeted daily with smiles and enthusiasm, and the kind of warmth that is sometimes hard to come by in other work environments. The individuals we serve bring us joy!”



“Ronnie Kaufman, a participant in CRSI’s Adult Day Services program, peeking his smiling face around an office doorway, a daily morning ritual.” *–photo courtesy, Linda Smith, CRSI*

From Central Ohio Group Homes –‘Thankful for the Llamas’ www.centralohiogrouphomes.com/
Residents of Central Ohio Group Homes (representing four counties) recently competed in their Second Annual Llama Show. They competed in the area of ‘Showmanship’ with the help of many, including Robinson Valley Run Inc., who also sponsored the animals for a fun day at the 2010 Hartford Fair in Croton. Residents greatly enjoyed participating with others who are a part of the Alpaca Llama Show Association (ALSA) and the International Llama Registry, as is evident in the submitted photo, below.



Is this Llama smiling?

Taking a cue from the Central Ohio Group Homes residents, it appears that this llama actually is grinning!
Photo courtesy, Eugene Robinson, Eugene@rvr1.com.

From Coshocton County – Thankful to be Buckeyes! www.coshdd.org

“O-H-I-O” ... almost can be heard echoing in the Coshocton County cornfield shown below, as these faithful Buckeyes demonstrate their team spirit. Coshocton County DD’s newsletter, “Hopewell Happenings,” notes that a group of individuals recently enjoyed a sunny day at McDonald’s farm in Zanesville, including a hayride and navigating through a Script Ohio corn maze. Special thanks to the McDonald family for providing a wide variety of fun activities.



Thankful to be Buckeyes!

(Left to Right): Annette, Troy, Chris, and Bobby pose with ‘Script O-H-I-O’.

From Midwest Innovations, Stark County – Thankful for great employees like Edwin!

Midwest Innovations recently has opened a new adult services location in the Stark County area, in collaboration with the Stark County Board of DD, and located in the Carnation City Mall in Alliance. An article in the local newspaper, *The Review*, noted several interesting points about the new location and highlighted a few of the employees there, including Edwin Blasiman (see photo below). While Edwin is an excellent employee, what is especially impressive is that he took it upon himself to write a list of the *Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments* for all employees to keep in mind! Thank, you, Edwin -- and Midwest Innovations' Tom Rickels -- for bringing these to our attention:

Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments for Employees (unedited)

1. Decide before you enter the building to have a nice day;
2. If I make a mess, I'll clean it up;
3. 'Sorry' is a virtue only if you mean it;
4. Don't bother the boss if she's working or talking;
5. Keep working;
6. Show respect to self and others;
7. Show honesty;
8. Be careful to be honest even when you're upset;
9. Help when asked – not only when you want to;
10. Trust goes a long way!



Edwin, practicing what he preaches ...
Edwin is practicing Midwest Innovations' Commandment #5.

Thankful for the Opportunity to be Community Resources

Ohio Developmental Centers Support Their Communities

From Tim Perna at Northwest Ohio Developmental Center (NODC)

From up here in Toledo (dodd.ohio.gov/residential/nodc.htm) we share a couple of thoughts from NODC staff:

“I am very thankful for my family who is loving and supportive -- including my children -- they have been great, and they help out so much. I am thankful that I have a good job that I enjoy doing, and hope to be doing for a long time. My health is very important too -- I have to be healthy to be able to work to take care of my family. I am especially thankful for a wonderful husband who is loving, thoughtful, and amazing! - Kathy Nino, Northwest Ohio Developmental Center

*“In these uncertain times, yes I can find lots of things I am thankful for. I am thankful for the job that I have had for 29 years and the people at my job. I work in the payroll office and find that I learn something new every day. I realize how caring and thoughtful the employees at NODC are. When someone is in need, they always pull together and help their fellow employees. We truly are one big family that cares. And we care about the individuals we serve! Because, let's face it, if it wasn't for them there would not be an NODC. Yes, I am thankful, always!! May everyone have a blessed Thanksgiving.”
- Cindy Schafer, Northwest Ohio Developmental Center*

From John Trevelline at Youngstown Developmental Center (YDC)

“Youngstown Developmental Center staff are thankful for the special friendship between the congregation of Grace Ridge Bible Church (Mineral Ridge) and the Center. The church congregation has been very active in supporting individuals living at YDC, and they are always invited to participate in and attend their Sunday services. Members of the church also have volunteered at YDC in several ways, including assisting with an outdoor spring cleanup. The church's friendship and involvement in the lives of residents at YDC has been nothing but a blessing!”

The Story of Marcia B. – Thankful for Her Home in the Community

Marcia's story starts many years ago. She moved to the Youngstown Developmental Center in 1983. For many years, she had one goal in mind -- to move to a home in the community – a 'group home' as she called it. As time passed, Marcia remained patient and focused on this goal. As one of the more vocal individuals who lived at YDC, Marcia wasn't shy about sharing her plans with staff and friends.

In fact, for several staff at YDC, a work day usually got started off with a phone call from Marcia sharing a 'friendly reminder' about her desire to move to a home in the community.

In the spring of 2009, Marcia was pleased to learn that her dream of moving finally was going to take place. A Medicaid waiver funded via the *Martin v. Strickland* settlement (a 'Martin Waiver') would enable this to happen. A few months later, Marcia made the big move, and she's been living in a residential neighborhood in Girard, Ohio (Trumbull County) ever since. Among the home's features are an enclosed back porch which is adjacent to the local high school's football stadium. Marcia shares her home with two female friends.



Marcia B. in her element – “I like it here.”

More about ‘Marcia’s Story’ in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Fall 2010, and publishing in late December.

From Sue Sprang, Cambridge Developmental Center – Thankful for Good Health

“Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) staff and individuals from Steele Cottage created a Pink M&M Scarecrow for CaDC’s annual Fall Festival. The scarecrow was donated to a local physician’s office for display through October, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. At CaDC we are thankful for our creative staff and residents, and most of all, for good health. Pictured below are staff and residents definitely feeling ‘in the pink!’”



Feeling ‘In the Pink!’

(Left to Right): Belinda Taylor, Misty Kuczmariski, Joe Saloiye, Paul Malich, Danielle Smith and John Funk.
Photo courtesy, Sue Sprang, CaDC

Thankful for Artistic Talent

Artists Across Ohio Create in Studios, Galleries, and Homes

Special thanks to the hundreds -- maybe thousands -- of artists with disabilities throughout the state who share their talents with their communities, and elsewhere around the state. At DODD

we are thankful that the opportunities to do so are growing, and we encourage support of the many art and craft fairs sponsored by County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and others in Ohio's disability services community. There is much to be enjoyed at such events, (see the OACB event in *Pipeline PostScripts*, below) and in many cases attendees have opportunities to meet the interesting and talented artists who have created the original work.

From Rendville ... to Granville ... to Grandview!

For example, once again this year, the Rendville Art Works artists drove north in November to Granville, Ohio, to display their work -- drawing a jam-packed gallery at Bryn Du Mansion. There's no prettier venue to stage an art show! Director of the Rendville Art Works, Joel Yeager, explained that they opened the doors on Friday night, the first day of a two-day show, to a crowd of several hundred people, and sold most of the work that first night! As he has said, "What else can we aspire to? This place is wonderful, and every year it just keeps getting better. We hope to come back again next year for our sixth year in a row." All proceeds from art purchases go to the Rendville artists, themselves. (*These talented artists were featured in the Spring 2008 issue of Pipeline Quarterly at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/quarterly.htm*)



From the 2008 show – Homer and Marge, by Rendville artist, Ron
Larger-than-life renditions of TV characters, Homer and Marge Simpson, were painted on wood, and gave this spacious room at the Bryn Du Mansion (Granville) a trendy attitude.

And in Grandview, Open Door Art Studio is bringing out the talent in studio participants such as Brandon Boggs ...



At Open Door Studio in Grandview, Brandon Boggs' talent is "Flying High" ...

At left is Brandon Boggs, artist, about two weeks before completing his masterpiece, "Flying High." The completed piece at right was featured in *614 Magazine** and now Brandon's talent is much less a secret than it was before!

*<http://614columbus.com/magazine/10-01-2010/an-opened-door>

Artwork by Brandon Boggs and many other Ohioans with disabilities is featured regularly on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov. To submit art and artists for consideration in this ongoing effort, contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov.

**"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."
~Thornton Wilder**

Personal Glimpses from Families who are Thankful ...

From Autism Advocates Across the State – Thankful for Organized Advocacy Efforts

In early October, 425 teams and more than 18,000 individuals gathered to support the 2010 *Columbus Walk Now for Autism Speaks* at Value City Arena. Together, the organization has raised more than \$550,000. Because of these and other similar efforts, awareness about autism is spreading throughout Central Ohio, and bringing together more families than ever before.



**Columbus Walk Now for Autism Speaks
October 10, 2010, Value City Arena, Columbus**

Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band Members – Thankful for Musical Talent

Congratulations to the *Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band!* The talented group recently received a National Citation from Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity*. The award recognizes the program for: “Providing an unparalleled experience to musical students; Serving as an example to others by recognizing the value of music even when facing extreme challenges; Bestowing confidence and trust, and providing a musical bond among peers; Sharing their talents with thousands of people during the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade; and, for creating high standards of excellence for persons with disabilities.”

**More about the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity:* It was started in 1898 at the New England Conservatory in Boston. The objective of the Fraternity is stated to be, “For the development of the best and truest fraternal spirit; the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students; the advancement of music in America; and, a loyalty to the *Alma Mater.*” Receiving a National Citation from this organization is quite a prestigious honor!



Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band Members ...
Preparing to perform at the Ohio Statehouse earlier this year.

From the Noonan Family – Thankful for Ryan

Traci Noonan writes, “I am thankful that my son, Ryan, has been seizure-free for six months. His medication has been reduced, and his quality of life has significantly improved. I am thankful for the smile he radiates every day!” – *Traci Noonan tanoonan@fuse.net*

From the Cole Family – Thankful for their Blessings

So many blessings to be thankful for ... but what comes to my mind first is our disabilities and our abilities -- for disabilities reveal real blessings in life – and life itself is a blessing. We are so thankful for continued growth and learning, and the unconditional love we receive is beyond measure and happiness. Blessings to all ... - *Jennifer and Megan Cole jlcole@vorys.com*

From the Frank Family – Thankful for their Improved Health

“We are thankful for our good health this year! Disability without sickness is deeply appreciated! Our wish to all is for good health this Thanksgiving season. (Note: Last year Pam Frank shared that 2009 had been medically challenging for she and her husband, and that it had been quite an adjustment for her son, Doug, to not always be at the center of the medical attention!)

-*Pam Frank Pam@frankbci.com*



Pam and Doug Frank

From DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan – Thankful for Ohio's DD Community

I am thankful for the opportunity to support the collaborative work of Ohio's developmental disabilities community – including several exciting initiatives: the County Collaborative Project involving 18 counties working together to make the most of scarce resources; the PLAY project, in which nine counties have come together to provide in-home interventions and training for families affected by autism; and, the work of the Ohio Association of County Boards along with the Superintendents' Association, The ARC, and Advocacy and Protective Services Inc., who have pulled together a Service and Support Administration (SSA) Best Practices Initiative. I also am thankful for the staff at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, who continue each day to support our agency's Mission -- continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.



An Original Story for Pipeline

The Cat That Gave Thanks

by Sherry Steinman

Cats rarely are swayed from the world revolving around ... them. Rascal joined our family about five years ago, and over time has developed a reputation for laziness, interrupted briefly by moments of intense play with furry fake mice toys, followed by planting himself wherever desired in order to preen in the light of a sunbeam, or fix his yellow-eyed gaze on whatever attracts him at the moment. He never has been known to speak, and even the sound of a meow is rare. Aside from me, the rest of the family thinks he is rather insolent. Exactly – he is a cat! And, no one ever has thought him to be thankful.

Earning His Reputation

True to form, year after year, Rascal can be depended upon to do next to nothing. He seems perpetually ready to attend a formal dinner in his shiny black tuxedo, and his bright white chest forms the exact shape of a shirt peeking out from a dinner jacket. The dinners must be held in our back yard, for that's all the further he goes, once let out.

“Rascal, would you please go downstairs and take care of that mouse that's been scratching around in the basement?” I've asked him that on occasion, and he yawns and stretches.

However, the furry toy mice are a weakness for which he will spring into action. After flinging them up in the air with his paws, he bats them around the house and makes sure they lodge in places he can't get at himself. Way under the stove. Behind the piano. In the toe of a shoe, beyond view.

It's pretty predictable that after a new package of four such mice are presented, all will disappear within a day, after play. Somehow they lose their allure and gather dust after that, until a new supply arrives – usually via my cat-loving friends who think he has no toys to play with.

At Once, A Surprise

And yet, there was last year. Last year, as Thanksgiving approached, Rascal continued to not respond to requests made of him ... continued his years of never speaking ... continued to not be productive in any way. Indeed, he had attained the very essence of feline excellence!

We always have a nice family dinner for Thanksgiving, at which Rascal basks in additional attention. One day, while shopping at Kroger, purchasing bags of stuffing, cans of cranberry sauce, and jars of olives, I saw a crazy little blue cat toy that I'd never seen before, and bought it on impulse. I put it away at home, in the cupboard with the stuffing and cranberry sauce, and decided to bring it out as the occasion drew nearer. Rascal was preening in the living room as the groceries disappeared into the cupboards.

I looked around the corner and asked him, "What are *you* thankful for, Rascal?"

He yawned and showed me his sharp little teeth.

The day before Thanksgiving, dinner preparations had begun in earnest, and I pulled out the new cat toy. It was a hit. He self-pitched it with the enthusiasm of a Little League player, and batted it expertly around the kitchen for about six minutes, until he hit a line drive straight under the stove. It was way back there.

He tried to lengthen his 'arms' to reach the thing, but to no avail.

I shook my head and said, "Rascal, you are something else! Now you'll have to wait until I can get the back scratcher to reach under there and get it for you."

He immediately set about cleaning his tail.

Giving Thanks

On Thanksgiving morning, I was in the throes of pre-dinner preparation and decided to get out the back scratcher – the best retrieval device we have. I pulled out the new cat toy and placed it prominently in the living room for Rascal to find when he woke up from his nap.

Where all the old furry mice toys were I had no clue, but at least he'd have this to play with when company arrived to adore and appreciate him.

A while later, I spied Rascal trying to cram himself behind the piano. Being rather robust in size, he was not having much success. I continued my Thanksgiving preparations and later walked into the bedroom to get a Kleenex. There was Rascal diving into an athletic shoe with great enthusiasm. It was fun to watch, but seemed rather pointless.

Back in the kitchen I busied myself about the dinner and then heard a squeaky meow. It was ever so slight and squeaky, especially coming from this rather robust cat.

I turned to see him sitting up very straight in his best formal dinner apparel, and looking rather pleased with himself.

He had answered my question of the other day ... "What are *you* thankful for, Rascal?"

For beside him were four old furry mice toys, and the new blue toy, assembled on the kitchen floor. These are what he was thankful for, and he had gone to great lengths to retrieve them and bring them to my attention.

In the Cat World of Communication, Rascal had said it all. Not needing to speak, he had given thanks. He rubbed my ankle with his side and walked away to preen in the light of a sunbeam.

Thank you, Rascal.



A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.
~Cicero

Pipeline PostScripts

Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Convention, December 1 - 3

The annual OACB Convention is December 1-3 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton, in Columbus. A variety of informational and professional development tracks are scheduled and may be reviewed at www.oacbdd.org. Conference-goers will attend many interesting and diverse sessions, including the Disability Housing Network session on December 1.

Again this year, the Association will hold a Vendor Show & Sale, displaying products made by individuals with developmental disabilities from around the state. The Show & Sale will be after sessions are over on Thursday, December 2 -- a great time to shop for holiday gifts while enjoying the company of other conference attendees. Conference registration is on-line, and when the space is full, registration will close and the on-line option will no longer operate. For more information: www.oacbdd.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Statehouse Kickoff Event, DD Awareness Month, March 3, 2011

Ohio Public Images (OPI), the DODD, and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* (March) *Kickoff Event* at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, on March 3, 2011. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date gets closer. Contact for the event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed approximately twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share your questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or phone Sherry Steinman at (614) 644-0262.

The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

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Tuesday, December 8, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 25

In This Issue ...

- 1. Ohio Association of County Boards Conference Looks to 2011, Sharpens Focus
- 2. Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) Celebrates 25 Years of Service
- 3. Department of Aging Requesting Caregiver Stories
- 4. Ohio Public Images Announces 2011 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Theme, "Together ..."
- 5. *PostScripts* – Noteworthy News Briefs & Calendar Items

In the Next Issue of *Pipeline*, December 22, 2010

2010 – Year in Review

The *Year in Review* issue will take a quick look through 2010 from the *Pipeline* perspective and highlight some recurring themes in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Ohio Association of County Boards

1. OACB Winter Conference Looks to 2011, Sharpens Focus

"We must always be ready to change ... to evolve. We need to find new efficiencies. And, we need to plan beyond funding and day-to-day operations to determine how we can continuously improve the lives of the more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities."

–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

At the 27th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference last week at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, the three-day agenda focused on information that would help attendees find ways to do the things that OACB Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments, above – ways to change, to evolve, find new efficiencies, and continuously improve. And there was plenty of interest from across the state ... as OACB Event Manager Ann Neu reported that the total number of people attending the three-day conference topped 850!

Presentations on dozens of topics ranging from national healthcare reform ... to self-administered waivers ... to how Ohio families creatively use resources to help their children build skills ... were attended by staff members from County Boards and other service providers, DODD staff, and others with an interest in learning more about the outlook for system change in 2011, both in Ohio and across the nation.

Setting the stage for the conference were speakers including DODD Director John Martin, and Dr. Ron Manderscheid, one of the nation's foremost experts on national healthcare reform from the Washington, D.C. area. In particular, he noted various aspects of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act and provided an overview of this historic bill and its primary components. Dr. Manderscheid also is the Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors. The presentation and other related information is posted online at www.nacbhdd.org:

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THIS PRESENTATION](#)

DODD Director John Martin noted several points in his presentation, under the general umbrella of 'change,' and indicated that to prepare for change is to act constructively. He cited a quote from Robert Greenleaf,* a proponent of servant leadership:

"To live well is to have changed often."
<http://www.greenleaf.org/>

Director Martin also addressed general areas of concern within the developmental disabilities community, including 'money is tight,' and, 'families waiting for services need support.' He noted that while these are very important and compelling issues, the key thing to remember is the core of what Ohio's disability services community is all about. He stated,

"Interactions of compassion, gentleness, and kindness toward individuals with developmental disabilities are really what our system is all about. The daily interactions with people provided by families and support staff – that's what it's all about. The harshness of funding issues is always there, yet the reality of care – good care – is what's most important."

OACB Board President Dean Fadel echoed this theme in his welcoming comments, stating that his brother, Jeff, who receives adult services in Franklin County - and who always has been a guiding light in his life – illustrates every day the importance of relationships and experiences being most important. He explains, "He'll look over at me in the car when we're ready to go somewhere, and simply say,

"Brother, I'm happy. I love my life!"

Awards and Honors

OACB recognized numerous individuals during the conference, including three members of County Boards across the state who have provided exemplary leadership. Distinguished Service Award recipients were: *Bill Ginter*, with the County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board; *Bill Heidlebaugh*, with the Hancock County Board of DD; and, *DeEtte Zimmerman*, with the Huron County Board of DD.

In addition, the Betty Macintosh Award was presented to DODD Director *John Martin*. The award is presented annually to a professional in the DD service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities. And the Kenneth J. Legats Award was presented to *Robert Morgan*, Superintendent of the Delaware County Board of DD. This award is presented annually to an executive who has

been nominated by the OACB Board of Trustees and who, during a career of more than 20 years, has demonstrated high ideals, vision, and moral leadership in the administration of programs for people with developmental disabilities.

The Partners In Excellence Award -- presented annually to County Board of DD staff members who demonstrate exemplary service in offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the County Board system as a whole -- was presented to *Bill Angel*, Director of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations at the Montgomery County Board of DD, and *Bob Davis*, Personnel Director for the Miami County Board of DD.

Legislators of the Year

Awards also were presented to the 2010 Legislators of the Year -- Senator Shannon Jones, and Representative Debbie Phillips. Jones was chosen for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and accessibility to people who have developmental disabilities. She served four years in the Ohio House of Representatives before being appointed to the Ohio Senate in 2009. During that time, she has supported numerous legislative issues on behalf of constituents with developmental disabilities.



Senator Shannon Jones



Representative Debbie Phillips

State Representative Debbie Phillips also was honored for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and accessibility to people who have developmental disabilities. Representative Phillips is completing her first term in the Ohio House of Representatives. Among her accomplishments during that time, she co-sponsored legislation that ultimately removed the words “mental retardation” from the name of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and from all Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. (See [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 14](#), July 8, 2009, Governor Strickland Signs Senate Bill 79 – ‘The Name Change Bill.’)

Variety of Informative Tracks

Discussion regarding new Individual Options (IO) waiver services including remote monitoring, adult family living, and respite; recent changes to the DODD’s County Board accreditation process; and, a Disability Housing Network session on the subject of the 2011-12 Capital Budget, were among the sessions that brought services often seen on-paper and on-screen into the sharper focus of individual real life situations.

On that subject, comments heard during the course of the conference included,

“ What is the word for unlonely? How about ‘Friendly’? Yes, I’d like to feel Friendly! ”
- A boy with Asperger’s syndrome muses during the movie, “The Boy Inside,” shared by the Sprout Film Festival conference session.

“We can have a profound impact on the the quality of life of the people in our communities. As a Board Member, that is both exciting and compelling.”
- Summit County Board Member, Bill Ginter

“Think about what you already have going on in your life and how you can make it work for your family member. Find a way to make it work. Sometimes it’s that simple.”
-Dr. Audrey Todd, parent advocate in the ‘Beyond Input’ conference session, presenting her family bakery business concept, and how it became a successful employment opportunity.

“The dreaded ‘Transition IEP’ was upon us, and Alex and I did not feel good about the prospects or outlook for the future. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is hard enough to put together, and at the high school transition age, it’s especially difficult. We wanted more for Alex – and Alex wanted more for Alex! So this is what we did ...”
-Greg Short, on deciding to start a company that employs his son, Alex. (See photos below)



Alex Short (left) and his Dad, Greg, discuss earning a paycheck.
The duo shared their experiences in starting up a small business, "Alex Industries." The company was formed for its Chairman, Alex Short, as an alternative to participation in a sheltered workshop. The company makes and distributes a range of products for landscaping and other related uses (See www.alexindustries.org).



Alex at work.
Photo courtesy, www.alexindustries.org

Looking back at the 27th Annual OACB conference, it was stated by one participant that, "Hundreds of people representing thousands of people attended to learn new things, share ideas, and leave better-informed." Gatherings such as these continue to prepare us to greet 2011 with a little more knowledge ... a little more empowerment ... and a sharper focus on the future.

**"You cannot create experience. You must undergo it."
– Albert Camus, writer and philosopher**

For more information:

**<http://www.greenleaf.org/>; www.DisabilityHousingNetwork.org; OACB conference, www.oacbdd.org*



2. SODC Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community

“Take care of those entrusted to you. Watch over them – not because you must, but because you are willing and eager to serve.”

- Dr Samuel Gridley Howe, physician and philanthropist

On December 1, 2010, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary as a residential rehabilitation facility. SODC borders the village of Batavia, near Cincinnati. The Center serves approximately 117 residents, ranging in age from 18 to 75 years. The majority of individuals who reside at SODC receive extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development.

SODC serves the following eight counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren.

According to SODC Superintendent James Krumer, “We have been honored to serve more than 300 adults with disabilities during the past 25 years. Our staff is dedicated to effectively serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom have challenging health issues, and many of whom have been with us for many years.” He adds,

“Empowering the residents to participate in choices that affect all aspects of their lives is something we work diligently to do. We are proud of the strides our residents have made over these 25 years, and appreciate the support of the local community in that process.”



At the SODC Anniversary celebration, Don and Bev, two of the nineteen ‘25-year’ employees.

Krumer also notes that SODC opened on December 1, 1985 as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) to provide services to individuals in need of a broad range of medical, behavioral, and psychiatric treatment. He adds, “Over the years, we have provided physical therapy, individual and family services, recreational activities, language development, and more. We have established an array of services necessary to meet the needs of the people we serve.”

A variety of opportunities are available to residents of SODC, many of which are made possible through partnering with local county boards of developmental disabilities and other community relationships. These opportunities include community job placement and work crews, workshop and other adult learning that may emphasize work readiness, and various creative activities. SODC also provides a full range of health services for residents.

Jared Weeks, one of the 19 employees who have been at the Center since 1985, commented at the anniversary event, “I have come to call SODC my second family – and that includes fellow employees and residents. This Center has been a big part of my life for the past 25 years, and I have enjoyed every minute.”

The DODD Division of Developmental Centers provides quality services and choice-driven opportunities to approximately 1300 Ohioans with varying levels of developmental disabilities. Ohio’s Developmental Centers are integrated into their respective communities, and located in regional service areas across the state. (See www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm)

More about SODC at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/residential/sodc.htm>

More about the SODC 25th year anniversary in DODD’s quarterly feature magazine, [Pipeline Quarterly](#), Autumn 2010 issue, publishing electronically later this month.



[From the Ohio Department of Aging](#)

3. An Invitation to Caregivers to Share Stories

Help to empower others! The Ohio Department of Aging, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and other human services agencies, is asking Ohio residents of all ages to, “... submit their stories of caregivers’ love and devotion” to the *Family Caregiving Story Project*. Caregivers, and those who receive such assistance from family and friends, are encouraged to submit their personal accounts of the challenges and triumphs that are a part of all caregiving relationships.

The project marks the kickoff of the state's observance of the 2011 'National Year of the Family Caregiver' and is a follow-up to the Department of Aging's former 'Great Depression Story Project.'
(See www.celebratingfamilycaregivers.org)

Stories must be received by Dec. 31, 2010, to be part of the project.

Submissions should be approximately 500 words in length and include the author's name, location, and current age. The Ohio Department of Aging will include the submissions in its publications and public outreach materials throughout the year, and a collection of excerpts will be posted on the agency's website at <http://aging.ohio.gov/home/> in the spring of 2011.

Stories may be e-mailed to: caregivingstories@age.state.oh.us

Or, mail stories to: Ohio Department of Aging
Attn: Communications Division
50 W. Broad St., 9th Floor
Columbus OH, 43215-3363

DODD Family Advisory Council members encourage families in Ohio's developmental disabilities community to share their stories from the unique perspective of older family members providing care to adult children. The Department of Aging has noted that it will welcome this perspective and insight, and adds the following:

“More than 90% of family caregivers become more proactive about seeking the resources and skills they need to assist their care recipient after they have self-identified as caregivers.”
— National Family Caregivers Association, Survey of Self-Identified Family Caregivers, 2001



4. Ohio Public Images 2010 Campaign Theme, ‘Together ...’

Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) again will collaborate with other statewide organizations to host the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on March 3, 2011, from 10 a.m. – noon.

“*Together ...*” the statewide theme for 2011, focuses this event and other awareness efforts on peoples' similarities rather than differences. OPI will employ various media to depict the many ways in which people with developmental disabilities are participating, together with all people, in their communities. The awareness event will spotlight many opportunities that are emerging in this spirit around the state, and is expected to draw more than 300 attendees.



Sample art, 2011 poster.

“Life is Great’ is just one of several concepts that the ‘Together’ theme will employ in 2011. Others include, “Learning is Better” and, “The Future is Brighter.” Photo courtesy, OPI.

Theme materials soon will be available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

In 2011, self advocates again will be a major part of the program and share their individual and unique experiences. Lon Mitchell, OPI Executive Director, noted this about the annual Statehouse event and kickoff to March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month:

"The camaraderie exhibited by the various presenters – together with the individuals and families who attend this event – is always very energizing. And there, I've said 'together' without even thinking about it!"

Contact for the Statehouse event is Sherry Steinman at DODD; sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (614) 644-0262. *Pipeline* will provide updated information as the date draws nearer.

'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 7, 2011

Also looking ahead to March, the OPI annual Media and Awareness Awards entry deadline is January 7, 2011. The awards will be presented on March 21, as part of the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon.

**Complete 'Call for Entries' Information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>
Click on 'Call for Entries'**

The awards program will honor individuals and organizations across Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2010. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates and elected officials who champion efforts that assist people with developmental disabilities.

New in 2011, OPI also will spotlight employers who have made unique and exceptional efforts in training and/or employing individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Public Images Network and parent organization Ohio Public Images, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, were established in 1983 to promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. For more information, contact Mary Pat Riker at (419) 380-4049, or e-mail: MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org



***Pipeline PostScripts***



Solidarity 2011! A leading Ohio conference for and by people with disabilities

Mark your calendars for *April 26-28* to attend one of Ohio's Leading Conferences for and by People with Disabilities, *Solidarity!* Registration materials will be available via U.S. Mail and on the DNOS website after January 1, 2011. A limited number of scholarships will be available to eligible participants. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street in Columbus, and will include:

- Employment Information
- A Job Fair
- A Statehouse Visit

Visit www.dnos.org for more information, or contact: SOLIDARITY 2011 at (800) 863-0344; email: DNOS@the-meeting-connection.com; Website: www.dnos.org.

The updated DHN website is now live at www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) has developed a more user-friendly website that makes it easier to access resources, find contact information, and view materials.

Visit www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org and see many new features including:

- Enhanced [membership information and map](#);
- Expanded [resource page](#);
- Comprehensive [overview of all DHN conferences](#);
- List of [conversations from the DHN listserv](#), with opportunities to contribute comments, directly on the website;
- A special needs housing version of ‘Angie’s List’, named [Steve’s List](#), providing members an opportunity to make recommendations about vendors, contractors, and other specialists; and,
- An easy-to-use, [Google-powered search function](#) at the top left of each page.

Registration Deadline, December 22

Project STIR Training, January 24 – 27, 2011

Steps To Independence & Responsibility – “Project STIR” – announces the first training opportunity for 2011, January 24 – 27, at Mohican State Park Lodge, in Loudonville, OH. Project STIR is training for self advocates designed to provide helpful tools to advocate for oneself, connect with others in a spirit of advocacy, and gain leadership experience. The training is sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA). For details and cost information about the January training go to www.ohiosda.org/ or contact Dana Charlton at dcharlto@columbus.rr.com, phone (614) 563-0788.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI’s call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

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Wednesday, December 22, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 26

In This Issue ...

- 1. Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) Names Karla Rinto Executive Director
- 2. Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Brenda Benson Retires
- 3. *Special Feature: 2010 – The Year in Review, Month to Month*

First, A Wish for Safe & Happy Holidays

... From 'All R Friends' Youth Choral group, who performed at the Ohio Statehouse on Dec. 10, and brought to The Peoples' House a great deal of holiday spirit and enthusiasm.

To view, click on this: [12-10-2010 : All R Friends Young Adult Choir](#)



The 'All R Friends' females belt out a Holiday song, and are then joined by the 'All R Friends' males, who do the same, while bringing along several colorful musical instruments.

For more information about 'All R friends': [Kathy Cook](#); Kathy@allrfriends.com

[Announcement from Advocacy and Protective Services Inc.](#)

1. APSI Names Karla Rinto Executive Director

Karla Rinto has been named Executive Director of Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), effective January 1, 2011. APSI is a private, non-profit agency that contracts with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to provide guardianship and protective services to individuals age 18 or older. Rinto has most recently served as the agency's Acting Executive

Director, following the retirement earlier in 2010 of Ron Kozlowski, who retired from the post after 24 years of service.

As Executive Director, Rinto will oversee ten regional offices throughout the state and a Central Office in Columbus, where she will be located (see <http://www.apsiohio.org/ao/>.) The independent organization has long advocated for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Rinto's entire professional career has been in the Developmental Disabilities field, beginning in 1982. She had served as Program Director at APSI for twelve years, as well as serving as Project Director for the Self Determination grant, "Removing the Mask" through the Ohio DD Planning Council. In addition, Rinto has more than 15 years of experience with three County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.



Karla Rinto

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio State University, and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Dayton. She comments,

"I am honored to lead APSI. I believe strongly in our Mission and look forward to working with our staff, our Board and our DD system partners on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities."

Nevalyn Frische-Nevel, APSI Board President and long-time advocate, notes,

"During Karla's term as Acting Executive Director, she has proven to be an outstanding leader. She has focused on increasing efficiency and developing collaborative relationships that will prepare APSI for future challenges. On behalf of the Board, I am delighted that Karla has accepted the position of Executive Director, effective January 1st."

Approximately 4600 individuals are represented by APSI. The agency is appointed guardian by the Probate Court throughout Ohio. APSI utilizes the 'Best Interest' Standard in decision making for individuals served. APSI Program staff act on behalf of the agency to provide informed consent, and to advocate for appropriate services and supports.

Scioto County Board of DD & SOCOG Announce...

2. Brenda Benson Retires as Superintendent in Scioto Co.

Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Brenda Benson is retiring at the end of December, following 30 years of service with the agency. During her career, Brenda has held numerous positions, including Early Intervention Specialist, Special Project Coordinator, Director of the Early Childhood program at Carousel Center, Principal of Vern Riffe School, and ultimately, Superintendent of the Scioto County Board for the past five years. A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, Brenda has said that she knew at age 16 that she wanted to work in the area of serving people who have developmental disabilities.

An excerpt from an SCBDD Board of Directors' honorary Proclamation adds more insight into Brenda's career:

“ Whereas, since taking up the challenging role of superintendent, she has privatized transportation, initiated a fiscally responsible health insurance, redesigned employee compensation, and weathered other thorny issues;

Therefore Be It Proclaimed, that the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities hereby honors Mrs. Brenda Lee Benson for her years of sacrifice and devoted service, commends her for her generous heart and brave leadership, and wishes her a future full of success and joy.”

Taking a step in a new direction after 30 years, Brenda notes that she plans to pursue a career as a stained glass artist. And, as her love of working with individuals who have developmental disabilities has never diminished, her staff says she promises to return as a volunteer.



30 Years of Service to Scioto County individuals with disabilities...

Brenda Benson, Superintendent of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, receives a plaque from Kyle Lewis, Superintendent of the Clinton County Board of DD, and President of the Southern Ohio Council of Governments' Board (SOCOG), in recognition of her membership on SOCOG and her service to people with developmental disabilities.



3. Special Feature **2010 Year in Review**

The *2010 Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals and key issues within the state's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD – including the Department's ten Priority Work Areas. Here, we take a look at the progress and challenges that have marked 2010 via *shortened versions of selected articles*, representing each month. The complete version of each issue is archived at www.dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm

- January -

Pipeline, January 6, 2010

Open Letter From Director Martin – On Optimism

So what might the New Year bring and why am I optimistic? My optimism comes not from knowing something about the economy no one else knows. It is not that I expect that we will not experience tremendous challenges in the coming year, or that our work will be easy. Rather, my optimism comes from observations of behavior, and reflections on some reading I have been doing. Let me explain.

I always use some of the time between Christmas and New Year's to do a couple of things such as clean my office (completed), step off the treadmill, and reflect a bit. I have been reading *The Fifth Discipline* by Peter Senge, and also some work Daniel H. Kim has done based on the writings of Senge and others. Kim states what he calls the 'Reinforcing Engine of Success:'

“As the quality of relationships rises, the quality of thinking improves, leading to an increase in the quality of actions and results. Achieving high-quality results has a positive effect on the quality of relationships, creating a reinforcing engine of success.”

Let me cite a couple of examples of what I mean when I say that I am optimistic.

- Over the past few months, we have been working with a group of system leaders on the sustainability of our waiver system. Thirteen of us grappled with complex information and meaningful issues, meeting many hours over four days. Despite significant diversity of opinion, frank discussions occurred with mutual respect demonstrated by listening and respectfully challenging ideas. The quality of the group's thinking, from my observation, was some of the best I have seen where such diversity of opinions existed. Direction came from those meetings (yet to be tested with the broader community) that, with patience, will lead to quality actions and good results in the coming months and years.
- On one of my recent outings to escape the confines of the Rhodes State Office Tower, I had the opportunity to listen to a story of a direct service provider who had just completed the PATHS training program. She talked about how a project she completed as a part of her training had deepened the quality of her relationship with the individual she serves, and the positive outcomes that had resulted -- both in her life, as well as that of the individual. If you take the time to listen to persons who have completed PATHS

training ... or listen to someone involved in the Positive Culture Initiative, you will hear many exciting personal examples of the ‘reinforcing engine of success.’

... So, as we enter a new year and new decade, my optimism comes from knowing the power of positive relationships and knowing the quality of thinking that is apparent at all levels in our collaborative stakeholder community. Blessings to each of you as you, too, perhaps have had the opportunity to step off the treadmill to reflect, and enjoy family and friends over the holiday season – and maybe clean up your office. *-Respectfully, John Martin*

[Pipeline, January 20, 2010](#)

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fourth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *The County Collaborative* is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress’, in partnership with ‘Region V’ Superintendents. Within this region, the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) Council of Government includes the following 18 counties: Knox, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Noble, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson, Harrison, and Carroll.

Region V leadership will deploy the resources of their Council of Government (MEORC) as a vehicle for coordination and support for the County Collaborative. During the biennial budget process, the DODD identified resource-sharing within targeted geographic groups as an important element in providing future service options and allowing County Boards and other service providers to serve people within a network -- rather than a set of individual entities in which service eligibility and availability could vary.

The scope and goals of the County Collaborative Project are in development during 2010, for implementation in 2011.

[In the same issue ...](#)

WE GO to Work’ Grants Fund Opportunities, Statewide

The DODD announced in the summer of 2009 that funds were available to implement creative, competitive solutions to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities. These funds were made available through Ohio’s 2009-10 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to address employment for people with disabilities.

Following a Request for Proposals, the DODD selected 17 ‘Work Exploration Grant Opportunities’ (*WE GO to Work* proposals) to receive funding via the \$500,000 grant which began January 1, 2010. Funded activities include: demonstration, training, advocacy, and research, and will demonstrate successful alternatives to traditional employment services.

For a listing of the 17 projects, visit www.dodd.ohio.gov, search “WE GO to Work Projects.”

- February -

[Pipeline, February 3, 2010](#)

View Governor Ted Strickland’s ‘State of the State’ Address,
given January 26, 2010, at <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

[Part V in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan](#)

Priority Work Involving Ohio’s Ten Developmental Centers

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement with Ohio’s ten Developmental Centers* is one of the ten priority areas, and already has seen demonstrated progress during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010).

The two basic strategies that are driving this work are reducing the number of residents (‘census’) at the Developmental Centers by at least 194 people over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, and expanding community access to all of Ohio’s Developmental Center facilities and staff by sharing technical assistance and expertise. Developmental Centers participating in the census reduction include Columbus, Gallipolis, Mount Vernon, Northwest Ohio, Tiffin, and Warrensville.

There has been demonstrated progress on the census reduction during the first six months of FY 2010 (July – December 2009), with 51 individuals moving to other community-based residential settings and receiving ‘follow-along’ services. This follow-up activity assists in the transition for individuals and their families or other caregivers, and is provided for approximately one year following a move. Follow-up activity may identify issues that are impeding success for an individual, and allow for appropriate interventions. It also may provide useful information on which to more effectively base future decisions.

Almost exactly a year ago, DODD Director John Martin toured the state in alliance with various stakeholder organizations, hosting a series of community forums around Ohio, to openly and plainly discuss budget constraints. He asked individuals, families, and service providers to share their thoughts about ways to maximize available financial and other resources while maintaining quality services. Director Martin notes,

“One of the issues that surfaced as a priority in the minds of many of the people we spoke with was the need for Developmental Centers to be places where specialized populations could be served, because they have structure and they have resources. This was excellent feedback, and we needed to hear how people around the state valued our DCs, and hear their ideas about the role DCs can play in supporting needs within their local communities.”

In the same issue ...

PATHS Winds Its Way to the North Central Region

PATHS is the credentialing program offered by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals.

Continuing the statewide path to enriched opportunities in the direct service field, the North Central Region's first PATHS graduation was celebrated recently by the region known as 'Clearwater COG' (Council of Government), where 14 candidates graduated with a Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

According to Julie Cupp, Clearwater Manager of Program Operations, "The candidates that graduated -- along with the skill mentors, instructors and council members -- made the first class very successful. We are very excited to have PATHS in our Clearwater COG region!"

The North Central Region includes the counties of Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot. These nine counties form the Clearwater COG.

Pipeline, February 17, 2010

Public Hearing, Home and Community Based Services Waivers

In the interest of keeping Pipeline readers in the loop on administrative matters, we provide this notice, and refer you to our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/rules.htm>

Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hereby gives notice of its intent to rescind and adopt the following rules of the Administrative Code on a permanent basis on or about May 20, 2010, and to conduct a public hearing thereon. A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held on March 19, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until all persons in attendance have had an opportunity to testify. The hearing will be held in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration:

Rule 5123:2-9-06 (Rescind) titled "HCBS Waivers - Waiver Reimbursement Methodology" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number. The rule has been revised to support implementation of the new Cost Projection Tool. The Cost Projection Tool is a web-based analytical tool, developed and administered by DODD, used to project the cost of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) identified in the individual service plans of individuals enrolled on the Individual Options and Level One HCBS waivers.

Rule 5123:2-13-07 (Rescind) titled "Individual Options Waiver - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Congregate Settings Where Individuals Share Services" is proposed for rescission and replacement by new rule 5123:2-9-31 (described below).

Rule 5123:2-9-31 (New) titled "HCBS Waivers - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Sites Where Individuals Enrolled on the Individual Options Waiver Share Services" is a new rule proposed to replace rule 5123:2-13-07. The purpose of the proposed new rule is to establish the payment process for Homemaker/Personal Care when individuals share the services of the same provider at the same site as part of the HCBS Individual Options waiver. The rule establishes a daily billing unit for individuals/sites that qualify, which shall be used instead of the fifteen-minute billing unit established in rule 5123:2-9-06 of the Administrative Code. DODD is

developing a new rule so that the rule is renumbered to Chapter 5123:2-9; it is DODD's intent that eventually all DODD rules related to HCBS waivers shall reside in Chapter 5123:2-9.

Streamlining rules is in line with the Department's Ten Priority Work Areas, which include developing a plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

- March -

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Pipeline, March 3, 2010

Hundreds To Attend Kickoff Event for Statewide Celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

An estimated 300 individuals, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community are expected to participate in the annual *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff Event* at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, tomorrow, March 4, 2010, from 10 a.m. - noon. As in years past, the Statehouse Atrium area will welcome people from all across the state – traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties.

Each year the DODD hosts the event, in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards -- and we greatly appreciate their collective support, as well as that of several additional stakeholders who will be on-hand staffing information and outreach tables. This year's program will recognize and celebrate many positive efforts throughout Ohio that afford opportunities for people with disabilities to work, learn, and live successfully in their local communities. The celebration continues the statewide 'awareness' theme well-received in 2009, "*Just Like You*," reinforcing the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just as everyone else does.

In the same issue ...

Part VI in a Series: 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Simplifying and Containing Costs of DODD-Administered Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (See dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm) *Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress.'

In conjunction with this priority work, a Fiscal Plan for Home and Community-Based Waiver Services was completed and submitted on December 31, 2009, to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 337.30.40 of

Amended Substitute House Bill 1 of the 128th General Assembly. Implementation of one recommendation in this Plan (to harness efficiencies of the new Cost Projection Tool) requires amendments to DODD's administrative rules, a hearing for which is scheduled for March 19.

Note: This article then builds on the information provided in the February 17 issue of Pipeline.

In the same issue ...

Governor Calls for Elimination of PASSPORT Waiting List by Reallocating Existing Funds

Summarized from a news release issued by the Governor's Office on February 22, 2010.

Governor Ted Strickland has called for the elimination of the waiting list for the PASSPORT (Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today) program for this fiscal year – as well as for the Assisted Living and PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) programs – by March 31. PASSPORT is a Medicaid waiver program that provides medical care to qualifying seniors in home and community settings, and all three programs are managed by the Ohio Department of Aging.

Currently, 592 Ohioans who need and are eligible for home and community-based services are on a waiting list for these three services.

In calling for the elimination of the waiting lists, Governor Strickland stated,

“We should do our best to support older Ohioans who prefer to live independently in their own homes, but need assistance along the way. We have identified existing funds that will allow us to assist all seniors eligible for home and community-based care, without a wait.”

Pipeline EXTRA, March 11, 2010

Medicare Ends Contract with Fox Insurance Company Drug Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the following information of interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community and throughout the nation.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today terminated its contract with Fox Insurance Company. After an onsite review of the plan and its services, CMS determined that the plan's significant deficiencies – not meeting Medicare's requirements to provide enrollees with prescription drugs according to recognized standards of care – jeopardized the health and safety of Fox enrollees. CMS found that Fox committed a series of violations, including improperly denying its enrollees coverage of critical HIV, cancer, and seizure medications. The termination of the contract is effective immediately.

Members of the Fox Insurance Company's plan will be provided access to needed drugs while transitioning to new plans.

Pipeline, March 17, 2010

Enthusiastic Participants Gather at Kickoff to Ohio's *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month* Celebration

More than 350 participants representing at least 29 counties gathered in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus on the morning of March 4, to celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*. Traveling from as far away as Lucas, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton counties, buses, vans, cars, and various other modes of mobility rolled into the downtown Columbus venue to join in the annual kickoff celebration.

Individuals with disabilities, family members, staff, service providers, legislators, and other stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community enthusiastically participated in the event, hosted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in cooperation with Ohio Public Images (OPI) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). The crowd was likely the most diverse and geographically-representative group ever to attend the kickoff, according to OPI Board members.

This year's program included speakers representing the Ohio General Assembly, governmental agencies serving the developmental disabilities community, and many people with disabilities -- celebrating self-advocacy and the results realized in pursuing abilities and interests with the help of supportive families, staff, and local communities. Quotes and photos tell the rest of the story:

“ There are many stories to tell across Ohio, of the strides you are making in your communities. And, together, we are creating more of these stories here today, and every day. ”

- Michael Rench, Administrator, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission



Every Picture Tells a Story

The statewide '*Just Like You*' DD Awareness Month theme was apparent both in clothing choices and in spirit at the Kickoff Event. The theme reinforces the fact that people with disabilities have individual interests, desires, and feelings, just like everyone else does.

In the same issue ...

Awareness Activities Across Ohio

As in the March 3 issue of *Pipeline*, [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 5](#), we share another sampling of the many activities and events celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month...

A. ➡ [Ohio Public Images \(OPI\) Annual Awareness Awards Luncheon](#)

What: Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive awareness and understanding of people with developmental disabilities. Each year OPI honors individuals and groups, statewide, who have -- through various events and individual efforts -- shared positive images of the lives of people with developmental disabilities. This year's Awareness Awards Luncheon was March 15.

Where: In Dublin, Ohio, in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities winter conference.

Briefly: See accompanying photos of self-advocacy awards ...



Self Advocacy Awardees take the spotlight ...

(Left) **Brady Sellet**, representing Hamilton County and Cincinnati Children's Hospital;
(Right) **PersonnelPlus Advisory & Advocacy Council**, and the **DD Council Center on Public Policy** – representing the Athens County Board of DD ... and self advocates around the state.

For More Info: Visit the Ohio Public Images website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

In the same issue ...

PCI – The Positive Culture Initiative

Southeast Ohio Explores ‘Gentle Teaching’

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each brings to those relationships.

The evolution of an individual's ability to be comfortable with himself or herself is an outgrowth of how that person feels about two things, according to Dr. John McGee – “Does that person feel *safe*, and does that person feel *loved*?” He continues,

“Safe and loved. Safe and loved. Those are the keys to mending the heart and building trust. Only when those feelings are present will an individual trust you as a care provider, and only then can a person grow and change.”

The methodology McGee has developed, ‘Gentle Teaching,’ focuses on caregiving within the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) framework – and is an example of a positive approach to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or experiencing other issues.

And so, in Nelsonville, Ohio, last week, nearly 100 direct care and other support staff representing the Southeast Ohio region gathered at the Inn at Hocking College for two days of 'basic training' in the concept of Gentle Teaching. They left with several new tools in their toolboxes. They also learned to use existing tools in different ways, as McGee noted ...

"I call it a smile. You call it an 'outcome.' Either way, it's a great feeling."

Pipeline, March 31, 2010

Comprehensive Health Care Reform – News of Interest for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

Ohio's developmental disabilities community has been actively engaged in advocacy at the federal level during the approach to enactment of historic health care reform – and has followed the recommendations of the 2008 Futures Committee in that effort. Along with the DODD, a large number of national, state, and local organizations in the developmental disabilities community have worked together to assure that the enactment of meaningful and comprehensive national health care reform included provisions that would positively impact peoples' lives.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has released its cost estimate for the bill, stating that the reconciliation bill is projected to cut the deficit by \$138 billion in the first ten years (2010 - 2019), and would extend coverage to 32 million additional people. For this and other reasons, the bill is supported by a broad cross-section of organizations and interests.

The long-term anticipated and likely impacts of this landmark Health Care Reform legislation on individuals with disabilities and their families is currently, and will continue to be, a topic of great interest and speculation within Ohio and throughout the nation. The DODD appreciates the many points of view our stakeholders already have shared, and are hopeful that, through these shared ideas, progress can continue to be made.

For more information: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/immediate-benefits>;
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/29/support-caregivers-health-care-reform>

In the same issue ...

Awareness Efforts, Statewide

Awareness Activities Across Ohio – A Sampling

In the interest of sharing different offerings planned to promote greater understanding and awareness of Ohioans with developmental disabilities, following is a sample from this issue ...

Licking County DD Hosts Annual Event

What: *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day in Licking County* -- an event with a 15+ year history -- grows and changes each year to effectively tell the story in their community that, "People with disabilities are people with possibilities."

Where: Venues throughout Licking County, including Eleanor S. Weiant Center, in Newark.

Briefly: The annual event again featured excellent community involvement, as 33 community leaders participated in hands-on activities at locations throughout the county, working and

learning side-by-side with individuals served by the LCBDD. The day's event culminates in a luncheon. Among the participants there this year was the Wollenberg family, who formed 'Team Up' a baseball team that teams children with and without disabilities in a unique player-partnership, and was recently honored, along with SportsTime Ohio, by Ohio Public Images, for enriching the lives of young people with developmental disabilities.



You don't have to know these people to relate to the constant motion of energetic youth!
Licking County's 'Team Up!' family photo demonstrates real life for this award-winning group.

For More Info: Contact for event information: Heather.Odendahl@lcountydd.org .

In the same issue ...

[Part VII in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan](#) **Energizing Local Participation of Individuals, Families in System Stewardship**

[Family Chat Encourages Information-Sharing and Networking.](http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm)
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm>

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress,' lead by DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and families statewide – in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Several steps in the progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, in addition to the Department's ongoing Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings that have drawn attendees from across the state (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>).

For example, according to Peggy, "As a result of the 2008 Futures recommendations and the 'Empowering People' implementation team, we have created a 'discussion listserv' to encourage communication among families in supporting other families.

Another specific element within this Priority Work Area is the establishment and development of localized and/or regional Advisory Councils around the state -- comprised of individuals and families who receive services -- to be operational in 2011.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

In the same issue ...

Ron Kozlowski Honored at OPRA Conference

The Arc of Ohio presented its highest honor, the *Ray Ferguson Advocacy Award*, to Ron Kozlowski, recently-retired Executive Director of Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference last week. The award is named for a former Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio, and honors either volunteers or professionals who have provided a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

After 24 years at the helm, Kozlowski retired from APSI at the end of January 2010. It was noted that through his leadership, APSI increased the number of individuals receiving the organization's services from approximately 2900 in 1983 to, now, nearly 4750 – and established APSI as an independent, respected partner in the disability community.

- April -

April is Autism Awareness Month

[Pipeline, April 14, 2010](#)

Today's Autism Rally Energizes Participants

At today's sixth annual Autism Rally on the south lawn of the Ohio Statehouse, individuals with autism, advocates, families, and legislators gathered to encourage the support of Ohio's autism community. The rally also provided a forum for information on other issues of interest relating to autism, including:

- House Bill 8, Health Insurance Reform, assuring coverage currently not available;
- Senate Bill 220, requesting that the Ohio Revised Code be amended to include allowing individuals with autism the authority to use assistance dogs in public places, as needed;
- Other issues assuring availability of quality services, throughout the state.

Several members of the General Assembly attended and spoke at the rally, which attracted well over 200 individuals, families, and groups in support of Ohio's autism community. In addition, organizers of the event, including spokesperson for *Autism Speaks*, Doug Krinsky, included several individuals of all ages as presenters on the program agenda, who spoke to the gathering of their experiences.

In the same issue ...

Governor Strickland Announces Elimination of PASSPORT and Other Home and Community-Based Service Waitlists

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has announced that the waitlists for home and community-based services funded through the Department of Aging, including PASSPORT, Assisted Living, Choices, and PACE, have been eliminated. He stated,

“Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services. I appreciate the collaboration and hard work of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Doug Lumpkin, and Ohio Department of Aging Director Barbara Riley. Due to their efforts, Ohio senior citizens who prefer to remain in home or community care settings are no longer relegated to waitlists.”

The announcement was made on April 1, and followed the Governor’s request on February 22, calling for the transfer of resources from ODJFS to the Department of Aging to pay for the elimination of the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and PACE program waiting lists. In February, 592 Ohioans were on waitlists – and now, those waitlists are clear.

In the same issue ...

Training Opportunity & New Initiative

Supported Employment, Proven Techniques for Success

Funded through a 2010 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG), ‘*Supported Employment – Proven Techniques for Success*’ training will be offered three times this year to people providing employment services to job seekers with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities. The trainings will be offered via national trainers, Wilson Resources Inc. (WRI), on April 26-28; May 4-6; and, September 8-10.

Leslie Paull, DODD Manager of Economic and Employment Development, notes, “The MIG-funded training provides another opportunity to improve employment outcomes for Ohioans with disabilities. We continue to look for ways to share information with this goal in mind.”

Pipeline, April 28, 2010

Information-Sharing Key to Understanding Autism Issues

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) is pleased to announce the release of a newly-updated Autism Internet Modules (AIM) website. New modules, including *Visual Supports, Assessment for Intervention, Time Delay, Transitioning Between Activities*, and several others have been posted.

The modules were developed to offer comprehensive, updated, and usable information that is easily accessible and applicable to educators, other professionals, and families who support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Written by experts from across the nation, all online modules are free, and are designed to promote understanding of, respect for, and equality of persons with ASD.

Access AIM at <http://autisminternetmodules.org>

The updated AIM website is designed to help users more easily find the information and support they need. Modules feature videos, charts, pictures, case studies, and a glossary of key terms

[In the same issue ...](#)

Family Advisory Council Chats, Views, and Questions

A documentary film illustrating a story of community inclusion, a chat with DODD Director John Martin, and an update on the subject of Medicaid were the meat of a full Family Advisory Council (FAC) agenda on April 20. Hosted at the OCALI offices in Columbus, approximately 75 people attended -- most of whom were family members from across the state who have sons, daughters, or siblings with developmental disabilities – and some of whom were professionals in the developmental disabilities field.

Director Martin led the agenda with comments regarding the 2010-2011 [DODD Priority Work](#) areas, including exploration of new waiver options currently developing with recommendations from stakeholders and families, and in line with budget realities. In describing a waiver currently being developed to address the needs of families with children who have significant behavioral issues, he noted,

“We are developing this waiver as a flexible support that will allow families to identify and prioritize their needs and the needs of their child, and then work with an individual who they designate as their ‘support broker’ to direct a set amount of dollars toward those needs. There will be a lot of responsibility resting in the hands of the families, and the waiver would be yet another option beyond the Level One or Individual Options (IO) Waivers we currently offer. ”

[In the same issue ...](#)

[Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) **Public Celebration, Lecture, and Reception - OSU Campus**

The Tenth Annual [Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability](#) Conference, hosted yesterday at the new Ohio Union on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University, marked a decade of community exploration on the subject of disability as an individual experience, and recognized the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Conference literature described the individual experience as ... “cutting across typical divisions of education and employment; scholarship and service; business and government; race, gender and ethnicity.”

Participating in the celebration of the ADA’s 20th anniversary and recommitment to full implementation of the Act were: OSU President E. Gordon Gee; State Attorney General Richard Cordray; Ohio Civil Rights Commission Chair Eddie Harrell, Jr.; Columbus State Community College President Valeriana Moeller; Columbus Community Relations Director Napoleon Bell II; and, Columbus City Council Member Troy Miller, among other dignitaries and officials. Each of these participants reaffirmed publicly their commitment to equality, social justice, and the spirit of the ADA, during a proclamation-signing ceremony, including this notable quote:

“ I remember quite well when the ADA was signed, and it signalled a real commitment here on our campus to assure access and accommodation for every student – every student. Since its passage we have, collectively, done great deeds in support of this commitment, and have much yet to look forward to doing on behalf of education. Now, more than ever, we need full and equal participation in the construction and development of our democracy. ”

- E. Gordon Gee, who has been President of OSU twice – one term including the year 1990 when the ADA was signed, and now.

- May -

Pipeline EXTRA, May 5, 2010

Results of the May 4, 2010 Election, County Boards of DD Levies

Of the ten Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities that had levies on the ballot yesterday, eight passed and two failed (Medina and Morrow).

Pipeline, May 12, 2010

Project STIR

Leadership Training via the Ohio Self Determination Assn.

Traveling from 12 counties in Ohio (*Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Huron, Marion, Medina, Richland, Scioto, Seneca and Wyandot*) to the University Plaza Inn in Columbus, 25 self advocates and several of their friends and caregivers participated in 18 hours of self-advocacy training in mid-April, known as *Project STIR* (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility). The training was organized by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA).

As a result of completing last year’s *Project STIR* ‘train-the-trainer’ learning opportunity, five self advocacy leaders conducted part of this year’s training. According to OSDA Executive Director, Dana Charlton, “...It was clear that they had learned so much, and were eager to pass on their knowledge.”

Following this initial training, the twenty new participants then learned by working in small groups, using flip charts to document their discussions and report to the full group at the end of each activity. Everyone had the opportunity to ‘use their voice.’ Charlton explains,

“Project STIR training is designed to provide individuals with the tools to speak for themselves, mobilize others to advocate with them, and gain leadership experience. And as always, experience for the participants was the key!”



A STIRring finale ... Project STIR participants gather at the end of the April training to congratulate each other on a job well-done, and plan for more opportunities to advocate successfully for themselves and others.

In the same issue ...

Part VIII in a Series, Priority Work Plan

Improve Processes and Outcomes of the SSA Function

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) function* is one of the ten priority areas, where work on a number of the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations has come together. Over the years, changes in service delivery, financing, and oversight roles have affected how Service and Support Administrators and provider program managers do their daily work.

Several separate-but-connected projects are underway, led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI), and other stakeholders. In addition, the work of the County Collaborative [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2](#), is part of several efforts affecting this Priority Work Area, including the development of an online Individual Service Plan (ISP), and examining best practices.

DODD Family Advocate [Peggy Martin](#) is working with SSA's throughout the state, gathering their input and discussing opportunities for inter-county collaboration. She explains,

“In talking with SSA's around the state, what I'm hearing is that it's so important for a Service and Support Administrator to establish a strong relationship with the families served – one that is based on understanding and trust. If the SSA is a supportive *partner*, for example, in working with individuals and families preparing an ISP, the Plan will be a much more realistic and successful guide, and reflect that process of really thinking things through.”

In the same issue ...

Huron, Ottawa Counties Launch 'Bridges to Transition'

County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Huron and Ottawa counties have partnered to launch a jobs training program, *Bridges to Transition*, which works with students beginning at age 14 to find successful career paths. The Huron/Ottawa partnership is one of seven *Bridges to Transition* programs, statewide.

According to Kim Linkinhoker, Associate Director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACBDD), some participating counties are operating the program as single county enterprises, while others are grouped. Participating are Wood, Warren, Belmont, Jefferson, Crawford, Marion and Wyandot. Participating as partners are: Logan/Miami/Champaign; Ottawa/Huron; and, Hocking/Fairfield/Perry.

The *Bridges to Transition* program is a project jointly developed by local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), with state-wide coordination by the OACB.

Pipeline, May 26, 2010

Governor Ted Strickland Kicks Off OACB Conference

Governor Ted Strickland enthusiastically addressed opening comments to the more than 300 attendees at this year's Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) spring conference May 20th at the Columbus Marriott Northwest (Dublin), stating, "I am here to thank you for the work you do to assure quality of life for Ohioans with disabilities and their families. Through difficult times you have maintained quality services with limited resources." He continued,

"And, I am especially pleased that today, DODD Director John Martin will share with you some just-released statistics that show you how Ohio stacks up with other states in the nation regarding services for people with developmental disabilities. And we stack up well. Very well. My sincere thanks to you all for the work you do."

The Governor's comments also touched on the importance of maintaining strong stakeholder relationships within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, as well as the importance of using research-based data, such as the National Core Indicators (NCI), that assess how Ohio compares to other states regarding quality of services provided, as perceived by service recipients. He stated, "Clearly, we have a lot to be proud of as we look at Ohio's performance in this new research."

In the same issue ...

Part IX in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Reducing Lifelong Impacts of Disability for Families

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families' needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-

progress,' led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Steps in the progress of this Priority Work Area include:

- Usage of \$600,000 in stimulus funds specifically earmarked by the Ohio Department of Health (see *Pipeline* article #1, in this issue) for services to infants and toddlers with special needs. Specifically, the funds will be used to provide supports for families of eligible children ages zero to three;
- Collaborative efforts with entities such as West CON, a network of Ohio counties that is exploring ways to effectively provide consistent and specific services across county lines for very young children with developmental disabilities, including autism;
- Exploring intake and screening processes and workable timelines to help address an individual's needs as he or she is deemed eligible. This is being explored primarily via the County Collaborative group.

Participants in the 18-county County Collaborative Network [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), are inventorying existing processes with goals of developing a single process for intake, screening, and eligibility determination, and for integrating assessment, service planning, fiscal planning, monitoring, and quality assurance into a single web-based system that results in online availability of individual service plans.

In the same issue ...

[May 26-27 at the Hyatt Regency, Columbus](#)

Our Choice: Living in the Community

Our Choice: Living in the Community, a conference for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates, began today's program with a rousing keynote address by Samuel Bagenstos, Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, who stated clearly and often that the right of people with disabilities to live in the community is a core principle of civil rights, which must be protected and reinforced. He stated,

"When my son asks me, 'What does a disability rights lawyer do?' I tell him that at the U. S. Department of Justice, what we are about is the right to live in this world, and to live in it as our Constitution promises."

Bagenstos' comments and others during the morning session of the two-day conference, today and tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, were supported by rulings such as the Olmstead Decision (updated Ohio information: [Strickland Olmstead Plan](#)) that protect the civil rights of *all individuals*. The event is presented by the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, HOME Choice, CareSource and the Ohio Legal Rights Service. Workshops on these and other subjects, and a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are also slated.

- June -

[Pipeline, June 9, 2010](#)

[In Fairfield County](#)

Successful Transition Collaborative Gets the Job Done!

Among the noteworthy programs on Central Ohio's employment scene targeting the end-of-high school 'transitional' age group, and preparing young people with developmental disabilities for jobs in the community, two have resulted from work done by the *Fairfield Transition Collaborative*. The Collaborative has grown from its 'task force' beginnings to become an established entity adhering to a strategic plan. The two successful transitional programs are:

- *Project SEARCH* -- New to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) in 2009, this program is a joint effort among the FCBDD, Fairfield Medical Center, and the Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Center, with assistance via the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR). *Project SEARCH* initially has provided work experience for six high school seniors from Fairfield County who have developmental disabilities.
- *LIFEWorks* -- A joint effort linking the County Board in Fairfield County with those in Franklin, Licking, Hocking, and Union counties, as well as with Goodwill of Columbus, and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, students participating in LIFEWorks gain job training experience during three six-week internships, with the goal of being hired by the end of the internships.

FCBDD Superintendent John Pekar notes that the two most important elements in getting these employment programs off the ground last year were *funding* and *partnerships*. He explains, "The LIFEWorks grant was through the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), and allowed us to fund a fairly broad partnership with the intent of improving employment opportunities for young people with disabilities who are entering the workforce after high school. Often, during this transitional period, the responsibilities between school districts and the various agencies and services available locally are not as clearly defined as they could be."

[In the same issue ...](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

Signing of House Bill 398, Expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions; Prospects Regarding an Extension of E-FMAP

Last week, Governor Ted Strickland signed House Bill 398, expanding Ohio's 'Home First' Provisions and allowing Ohioans in 'imminent risk' of entering a nursing facility to have access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) without first having to spend 24 hours in a nursing home facility. This change in law simplifies enrollment for waiver services from a practical standpoint, as stated by Governor Strickland in early April:

"Older Ohioans should have access to a spectrum of choices when deciding where they would like to receive medical and personal care services."

State Representatives Deborah Newcomb and Peggy Lehner were the sponsors of HB 398 which will assist all Ohioans, including those with developmental disabilities and those with aging conditions, in having more community-based choices under the law. The full text of the bill is at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_398 .

According to reports published during the past week, including a front page story in *The New York Times*: www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/us/08medicaid.htm, Ohioans will lose access to critical health and welfare services, unless Congress grants a six-month extension of the current, higher Medicaid funding for states under of the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (E-FMAP) provision. Using economic stimulus money, the federal had government increased its share of the funding to 74%, up from 64%, but that plan is scheduled to end Dec. 31, unless Congress approves a six-month extension. According to a letter signed by Governor Ted Strickland, dated May 26, 2010,

“Ohioans have benefited greatly from the inclusion of E-FMAP in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This increased federal Medicaid match has allowed Ohio to maintain core services during our national recession. I write to ask you for your full commitment to protect critical services and maintain healthcare jobs in Ohio by extending E-FMAP for two additional quarters.”

In the same issue ...

Part X in a Series, 2010-2011 Priority Work Plan

Plan for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio's DD Service Delivery System

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Planning for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System* is one of the ten priority areas and is led by DODD Director John Martin, along with Deputy Director for Fiscal Administration, Ann Rengert. Working in partnership with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- The Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has agreed to a revised *tax equity formula* based on tax valuations, taking into consideration that funding formulas for counties may be based on tax valuations that have changed since their inception several years ago. Tax equity funds are to be used for waiver match, and the total amount of funding affected is approximately \$14 million. With the formula having been agreed upon within the Workgroup, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is researching appropriate legislation to carry the formula and language, targeting a beginning phase-in timeframe of June-July 2011, with full implementation by July 2019.
- The Workgroup also has gathered information to support an *increase in revenues to be generated via the Targeted Case Management (TCM) Medicaid funding stream*. By the end of June 2010, information gathered with the assistance of Ohio's 88 County Boards of DD will be complete, and the next step will be to work with the

Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) on possible implementation of an increase in TCM funding.

- The Workgroup is developing an administrative rule and structure for assisting financially-distressed County Boards. The rule has been disseminated for stakeholder review and comment. The rule and structure would provide a system by which a county board could continue to operate following failure of a levy that results in a lack of operating funds to meet basic service requirements.

In the same issue ...

Two New Websites Will Provide Improved Access to Information

Ohio's *Interagency Work Group on Autism* (IWGA), whose purpose is to identify opportunities to coordinate state agency efforts that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families, will be launching a new website to help connect people to the autism-related information they want and need. The website is currently in test/review mode, and by June 30, the DODD homepage at www.dodd.ohio.gov will include a direct access link to that site, as well as to a new Mental Illness/Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Center of Excellence (MIDD/ CCOE) website.

The MIDD/CCOE site is completing testing at www.midd.ohio.gov and will provide a new avenue to communicate with counties, providers, and constituents on the subject of MIDD 'dual diagnosis' in Ohio. The IWGA website -- in test, and currently not accessible by link-- has been developed collaboratively between the DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to serve as a hub of autism-specific information for families and the autism community, representing the efforts of multiple agencies involved with the [Interagency Work Group on Autism](#).

In announcing the launch of these sites, DODD staff Jody Fisher (Project Manager, representing the efforts of IWGA) and Lara Palay (Project Manager, representing the efforts of CCOE) note that Ohio is positioned to be one of the national leaders in expertise, scholarship, practices, and supports for the dually diagnosed population, as well as for individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

[Pipeline, June 23, 2010](#)

DODD Family Advisory Council - Empowerment Through Information

“Positive Culture is not a project – it’s a way of life. It’s a never-wavering and disciplined focus on quality of life, including all of our conversations and actions. It can make a positive difference in all care relationships.”

- Willie Jones, Ohio Association of County Boards

DODD Family Advisory Council members gathered last week in Columbus to participate in another packed agenda, kicked off by DODD Director John Martin. The regularly-featured 'Director's Chat' focused on information gathered via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative (see [National Core Indicators Report 2008-2009](#).) Director Martin also shared his "Chat Time" with presenters Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn, who, from their own experiences with

family members, discussed advocacy with the accent on persistence – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care.

During his presentation, Director Martin noted that the data in the most recently-compiled NCI report is intended to provide states across the nation a look at how questions were responded to concerning services, and perceptions of services, compared to others participating in the initiative. He notes,

“One thing we know for sure is that families staying as involved as possible as partners in the DD community will help Ohio’s developmental disabilities system identify and maintain the quality elements that are most important to individuals served.”

In the same issue ...

[For Direct Support Professionals](#)

PATHS Adds New Specialized Certificate Course on Autism

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has announced a new PATHS Specialized Certificate Course, “Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Direct Support Professional.” The new, four-session course is offered for professionals who have completed the PATHS Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP).

- July -

[Looking Back ... One Year Ago, Today](#)

Governor Strickland Signed SB 79, ‘The Name Change Bill’

On July 7, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 79, a bill sponsored by Senator Jimmy Stewart, that changed the name of Ohio’s *Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* to the *Department of Developmental Disabilities*, as well as changed the names of local Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) boards to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The bill also removed the term ‘mental retardation’ from the titles of other state and county entities, councils, commissions, and various funds that use the term. The bill became effective 90 days following signature.

[Pipeline, July 7, 2010](#)

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week Receives Unanimous Vote in U.S. Senate

In a strong show of support, and for the third consecutive year, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating the week beginning the second full week in September (September 12, 2010) as, "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week." Bi-partisan support was lead by sponsor, Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). Senate Resolution 558 recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for their, "... commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages."

This acknowledgment by the Senate is significant to the ANCOR National Advocacy Campaign, as work continues to secure increased funding for DSPs and improve supports and services for people with disabilities.

Pipeline, July 23, 2010

July 26 is the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

There are many celebrations across Ohio this month celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA! Information listed below is courtesy of the *Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission*

For more information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), visit <http://www.ada.gov/>

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has reserved the Statehouse Atrium and West Lawn on July 26, for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th Anniversary Celebration in Columbus on July 26, 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. In addition to several interesting speakers and a variety of information tables, the event will feature a unique ADA mural and photo projects by Ohioans with disabilities.

A 6 ft. x 30 ft. mural (assembled in six panels) celebrating access, inclusion, and advancements under ADA legislation will be unveiled. Thirteen artists with disabilities representing Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Lancaster, New Albany, Toledo, and Yellow Springs will work together to create the mural from July 23 - July 25 at the office of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in Columbus. The completed mural will be presented during the July 26 event. Rain venue is the Statehouse Atrium.

In the same issue ...

2010-2011 Priority Work Plan: Overview & Progress

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers; (*see related article #3 in this issue of Pipeline*)
- Create a 'Positive Culture' within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

Action steps that address these Priority Work Areas have yielded some specific results, and have begun to positively impact service delivery and stakeholder involvement across the state.

More at: [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#).

In the same issue ...

In Coshocton County

The Freedom Festival – “A Picnic with a Purpose”

“I liked that the community was here to support us. I’m glad we had the chance to tell everyone we’re part of the community.”

Rita – Attends Hopewell Industries Day Program

At the Hopewell Industries parking lot in Coshocton, the second annual Freedom Festival sponsored by Hopewell Industries Employee Council hosted a large and enthusiastic crowd of individuals, family members, staff, and others in the developmental disabilities community who shared and celebrated stories of independence. Bob Nicholson, Adult Services Director for the Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities, called it “A picnic with a purpose.” He explained, “We purposely plan this celebration during the month of July because of the deep significance independence has to *all* citizens.”



Self Advocate Cindy delivers an emotional speech.

- August -

Pipeline, August 4, 2010

BREAKING NEWS: The U.S. Senate just passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

Look for more information in a [Pipeline Extra](#) to be published shortly.

ADA 20th Anniversary Commemorated, Across the Nation

**-July 26 was the 20th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)-
President Barack Obama Issued Executive Order July 26, 2010
Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals with Disabilities**

[> Read the Executive Order](#)

Secretary of Health & Human Services: Affordable Care Act Builds on Gains Made Via ADA

CMS Announces \$2.25 Billion in Grants to Extend 'Money Follows the Person' Rebalancing Demonstration. Grants Support Community-Based Alternatives to Institutional Long Term Care

According to a news release issued July 26, 2010, by Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius, Americans with disabilities will have more help to live independently and remain in their homes and communities instead of in institutional long term care facilities - such as nursing homes - through the availability of \$2.25 billion in grants to states. The new grant solicitation, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) encourages states not yet part of the *Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration* to apply for grant funds. In addition ...

... With passage of the Affordable Care Act, states already participating are afforded the opportunity to expand and extend their MFP grant program.

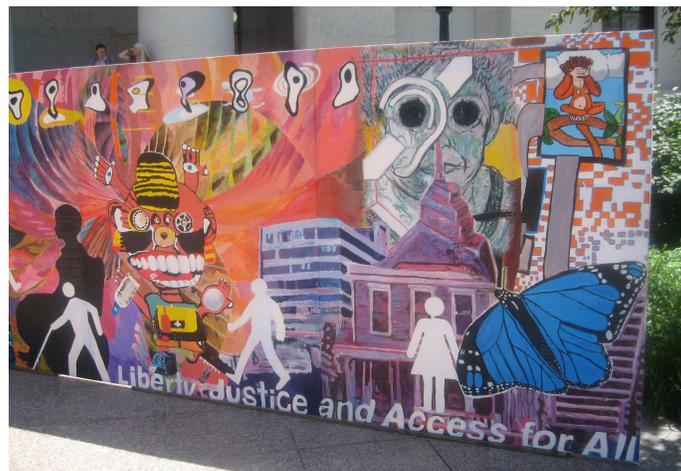
In the same issue ...

ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrated, Across Ohio

What the Mural Says, So Beautifully ... "Liberty, Justice, and Access for ... All"

There were many events across Ohio last month, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ADA. In Columbus, at the Ohio Statehouse on July 26, spearheaded by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the celebration unveiled a very exciting mural ...

The July 26 unveiling of a 6 ft. high x 30 ft. long (180 sq. ft.) mural at the celebration on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse was a ceremony large in scale, and equal to the enthusiasm for the ADA 20th Anniversary, as demonstrated by several state dignitaries and officials. Speakers included Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, RSC Chairperson David Williams and others, all of whom generated excitement toward the ultimate unveiling of Ohio's ADA mural -- organized in cooperation with VSA Arts of Ohio and dozens of Ohio artists with disabilities.



The Mural: Liberty, Justice, and Access for All.

In the same issue ...

Posipalooza: A Total Positive Culture Experience

**"The Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) is a vision to shift the culture of how we all work together."
Pam Berry, DODD Senior Policy Advisor, and lead on the statewide initiative**

Described as a 'day-long, real-time positive culture experience' -- involving about 250 people supported by developmental disabilities services, family members, direct support professionals, and others engaged in creating positive and responsive services and supports -- yesterday's premiere 'Posipalooza' event, at the Xenos complex in Columbus, was a day to remember for shaking up the way we do things in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Hosted by the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#) Conveners Group and the Ohio Association of County Boards, and sponsored by more than two dozen related agencies and organizations ([Posipalooza - A Positive Culture Event](#)), the day began with some personal reflections by DODD Director John Martin about the importance of the Positive Culture concept. He observed,

"What is going on here today is some of the most important work that we can do. My hope is that we all figure out new ways to understand others – to see things from another's perspective. If we expect people to respond to or learn from something, we have to find ways for them to first be aware of it, and then be interested in it. "

Following the introductory remarks, twelve 'breakout' sessions included many opportunities to engage in positive conversations, thoughtful exercises, and other approaches designed to be interactive and participatory.

[Pipeline EXTRA, August 4, 2010](#)

The U.S. Senate has passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP). Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011.

House Resolution 1586, the legislation containing language to extend the current Medicaid match, 'Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP),' paid by Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities was passed today. The six-month extension passed with a vote of 61 to 38, and continues the funding which would have expired December 31, 2010. The bill itself still needs a final Senate vote and agreement by the U.S. House before it can go to the President for signing.

[Pipeline, August 18, 2010](#)

President Barack Obama Signs Bill Extending FMAP Enhancement

Supports Medicaid Services, Protects Healthcare and Education Jobs

As reported in [Pipeline Extra! August 4 , 2010](#), The U.S. Senate passed the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) on August 4, from which Ohio stands to receive about \$513 million from the increased federal match through June 2011. It was then signed into law by President Barack Obama on August 10, as [H.R.1586](#), following its passage in the House.

The legislation contains language to extend the current Medicaid match formula, or ‘Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP)’, paid for waiver services administered through Ohio’s County Boards of Developmental Disabilities for six months. This continues the funding which would have expired at the end of December 2010. County Boards typically pay 40 cents for every waiver dollar, while the federal Medicaid system pays 60 cents. As part of the stimulus program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal government earlier this year had agreed to pick up 70 cents for every Medicaid dollar for states.

[In the same issue ...](#)

[Governor Ted Strickland Endorses Efforts of Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing](#)

[Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework* ‘Provides Clear Path’](#)

[*Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf](http://www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf)

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a Council established via one of the Governor’s first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*. In a letter of support dated August 9, 2010, Governor Strickland noted,

[“Safe and affordable housing leads to stable families and increased participation in the workforce. This, in turn, saves taxpayer dollars by assisting the most vulnerable Ohioans to participate successfully in community life.”](#)

[In the same issue ...](#)

[From the Office of Provider Standards & Review New Review Process “Hits the Road”](#)

In response to recommendations from the 2008 Futures Committee, and supporting the [DODD Priority Work](#), the Office of Provider Standards & Review (OPSR) has focused on streamlining review processes to develop *a single review process* that measures outcomes for individuals regardless of the setting in which services are provided. The new review process is now being used, and according to DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller,

[“OPSR staff viewed this as the keystone for all of the recommendations regarding quality of services from the Futures group. It was the most important thing to focus on accomplishing, and upon which the other recommendations would depend.”](#)

In the same issue ...

[In Line with DODD Priority Work](#)

Agreement Signed, Funding Project to Enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) Processes and Outcomes

Project to examine best practices and training for key staff functions.

Last week an agreement was signed to address a priority area identified within the [DODD Priority Work](#) plan. Through the agreement, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) will fund a \$100,000 project to enhance Service and Support Administration (SSA) and Program Management processes and outcomes within Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

In early 2008, the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards (OSCB) and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) formed an Improving Relationships Steering Committee to foster better working relationships and improved communications between County Boards and private providers on the local level. Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) also was invited to join the Committee because so much of APSI's work is done on the local level. Representatives from APSI, OSCB and OPRA have met regularly since then, with Mark Davis from OPRA and Cheryl Phipps from OSCB chairing the group.

In the same issue ...

['Call Center' at DODD Central Office](#)

New Support Center Manages Phones, Live!

More than 2450 calls were fielded in the first five weeks – since the Support Center began taking calls on June 25.

The phone number is 1-800-617-6733.

The DODD has established a new Support Center to provide improved service to callers. When calling the Support Center, located at the DODD Central Office on the 13th Floor of the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus, you will be speaking with DODD staff, instead of receiving a recorded voice mail message.

- September -

September is One Busy Month!

[Pipeline, September 1, 2010](#)

[National Direct Support Professionals Week Begins Sept. 12](#)

Direct Support Professionals, Empowering Others

This year, the week of September 12 is designated *National Direct Support Professionals Week*, recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation. The designation also provides a specific opportunity to discuss with legislators and others in the disability community the role DSPs play

every day in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, and the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a competitively paid, quality workforce.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) notes that Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has recognized the month with a proclamation spotlighting, "... the dedication and vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages ..." (Full text at www.ancor.org/sites/default/files/dsp-recognition-week-2010_ohio.pdf)

A Premiere Special Event!

**ACTION! DSPs Make it Happen: 2010 DSP Recognition Event and Film Festival,
September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

- This event is free for Ohio Direct Support Professionals -

Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) – and a long list of additional organizations, a Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event is planned for September 15, 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus (<http://www.xenos.org/>).

OSDA Conference to “Celebrate the Fire Within”

The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference will be making history, empowering participants, energizing statewide self advocacy efforts, and sharing exciting individual stories this September 20th and 21st at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. The OSDA annual conference, always known for its ‘accent on action’ will continue that theme this year, with an agenda that will be hard to beat next time around!

The Anatomy of (Naming) A Waiver

At this conference, attendees will learn about the proposed new self-directed ‘flexible support’ waiver, and, by invitation of the DODD, naming the new waiver will be a part of the action in the two-day conference agenda. It will be an historic – and spirited – event, to be sure!

Support Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Prevention/Awareness

**Governor Ted Strickland has designated September as
“National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”**

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month is focused on raising awareness that *no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy*, and that help is available for those families already affected. FASD is an ‘umbrella term’ describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org

National Preparedness Month Efforts, Statewide

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. The overall effort includes a coalition of more than 600 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

The DODD is among the agencies supporting these efforts, and will focus on what we all can do to assist people with disabilities to be better prepared for emergency situations. At www.ready.gov go to the 'People with Disabilities' button and it will lead you to a menu of information for 'People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.'

Pipeline EXTRA, September 2, 2010

Just released from the Governor's Office ...

Governor Designates Federal Medicaid Funding to Protect Health Care Jobs, Services

Governor Ted Strickland today announced initial designations of dollars made available as a result of increased federal reimbursement for Medicaid. Investments will be made in hospitals, mental health services, and Ohio's HIV/AIDS assistance program to protect health care jobs and critical health services for Ohioans.

Medicaid is a state and federal partnership with shared financial responsibility. Medicaid expenses are partially reimbursed by the federal government. In the Recovery Act, the federal government increased its share of the financial responsibility for Medicaid, also known as FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages), providing economic relief to states. This enhanced FMAP was set to expire on December 31, 2010 but was extended for six months at a reduced rate by federal legislation passed in August. *Ohio's enhanced FMAP reimbursement allocation is projected to be \$518.6 million.*

Pipeline, September 15, 2010

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week! ACTION! DSP's Make It Happen – A Premiere Special Event

"This is your day, and it's been a long time coming."

-Scott Osterfield, OADSP Operations Coordinator

Today marked the very first event of its kind in Ohio – the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Event, "*ACTION! DSP's Make It Happen*" -- at the XENOS meeting facility in Columbus. Sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) – and many other organizations, the event was – in one participant's words -- "Way more than I expected!"

Recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day, throughout the nation, more than 300 participants attended Ohio's first major recognition event specifically celebrating the work of DSPs. Opening with remarks by

OADSPP Operations Coordinator Scott Osterfield, and DODD Director John Martin, it was immediately clear that the day would be totally focused on DSPs.

Support for the work of Direct Support Professionals is ingrained in the DODD Priority Work Plan ([DODD Priority Work](#)), including support for specific training courses such as those offered via Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) courses. (More about PATHS at www.ohiopath.org).

In the same issue ...

Legislative Advocacy Day, Both Spirited and Collaborative

“ I feel powerful because of what I have learned I can do!”

-Overheard at the event-

Legislative Advocacy Day, yesterday, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, provided an outstanding and organized opportunity for self advocates, family members, and others to meet with legislators and discuss topics of interest to people with developmental disabilities.

Chief among those topics was funding for continued long-term services and supports in the community, and, specifically, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. Event speakers included Carolyn Knight, DD Council Executive Director; Senator John Carey; Representative Jay Goyal; and Dean Fadel, President, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Each had a personal insight to share with the group of at least 300 attendees.

Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (‘DD Council’) and The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, the day included a brief program, followed by appointments with legislators to discuss subjects of importance directly with those who can move those concerns and ideas forward. As stated by Senator John Carey, and echoed by others, “Tell your story! We want to hear what you have to say. Only one person can tell your story ... and that’s you!”

In the same issue ...

National Preparedness Month Efforts, Around the State

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, sponsors National Preparedness Month and encourages people to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. In particular, congregate settings provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about taking charge and being prepared for emergencies where they live, work, and play.

County Boards and other service providers around the state are planning numerous preparedness-related events, holding fire and other evacuation drills, and otherwise making sure that individuals with disabilities are better prepared to quickly pick up what they need and get out the door safely in the event of an emergency. Staying calm in such situations is easier when certain procedures are understood and practiced – and staying calm is a big part of staying safe!

In addition to the preparedness information offered through The Ohio Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other sponsors of National Preparedness Month, local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are providing materials encouraging individuals served locally to prepare for emergencies in their homes and workplaces.

At www.ready.gov go to the 'People with Disabilities' button and it will lead you to a menu of information for 'People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.'

In the same issue ...

[Following Up on the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework](#) **ICHAH Efforts Exemplify 'Infused Policy Development'...**

In [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 17](#), August 18, 2010, Governor Ted Strickland's endorsement of the Permanent Supportive Housing Policy Framework*, proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH), was spotlighted. Following is additional information on the subject from DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Kevin Aldridge.

*Read it at www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/housing/permanent-supportive-housing-framework.pdf

Governor Ted Strickland has endorsed the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Framework recently proposed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH) – a Council established via one of the Governor's first executive orders in 2007, in an effort to provide *decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Ohioans*.

The ICHAH incorporated hundreds of stakeholders in producing an inclusive framework which recognizes that it will take federal, state, and local collaboration to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness and advancing community integration for people with disabilities. More than 275 individuals and organizations, representing interests from around the state, were involved with the vetting process for the Framework document.

6000 New Opportunities

The PSH Policy Framework endorsed by the Governor established the rather ambitious goal -- as stated in the Framework document's introduction -- of, "Creating 6000 new PSH housing opportunities over the next five years to address high-priority permanent housing and support needs for the most vulnerable households with serious and long-term disabilities."

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kevin Aldridge stated, "This Policy Framework represents a key leverage point through which Ohio's housing policy can be transformed in the coming years." He added,

"For Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, this Policy Framework represents a watershed moment."

[Pipeline, September 29, 2010](#)

Ohio Self Determination Assn. 'Celebrates the Fire Within'

"I want to thank you for all the work you have done to show society what you can do when given the opportunities you need. Our society needs each and every one of you to continue to advocate for what you need and want – to be an integral part of your community."

- Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland, addressing OSDA conference participants

The enthusiasm generated by “Celebrating the Fire Within,” the theme of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference September 20-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington, definitely fired-up the nearly 300 participants in attendance during the two-day event, and may have prompted those with September’s heightened sense of preparedness (it’s National Preparedness Month – www.ready.gov) to make sure there were fire extinguishers ready to be deployed if need be... because this group was super-charged!

Not only was the conference a venue for several spirited and positive motivational speakers – including Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland -- but it was the forum for a history-making process of naming the new DODD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver submitted last week for consideration by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

DODD Director John Martin invited OSDA to lead the effort to involve all 2010 OSDA conference participants in brainstorming, discussing, refining, and then voting on a name that would accurately and appropriately identify the waiver -- and be meaningful to those for whom it has been developed. That is precisely what was accomplished. Understanding the language in the proposed waiver description is important, and was part of the conference’s participant education efforts. With that foundation, it was equally important to empower people and energize statewide advocacy efforts through the waiver-naming process.

Out of the 164 name ideas initially brainstormed, the list was narrowed to nine. Then, following a ‘sales pitch’ by self-advocates and other supporters of each of the nine ideas, a final vote was taken, yielding the selected name:

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF)



“Are you ready to make history?”

Self Advocates and support staff prepare to tell their stories as to why the waiver they name they like best should be chosen as ‘the one’! ‘Self Empowered Life Funding’ was the final choice.

- October -

Pipeline, October 13, 2010

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month

“Talent has no boundaries: Workforce diversity includes people with disabilities.”

Commemorating 40 Years, 75 Years, and 90 Years

Gathering to commemorate 40 years of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), 75 years of the Social Security Administration, and 90 years of public Vocational Rehabilitation, a crowd of about 300 people gathered on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse October 6th to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and celebrate a special related announcement. On hand for the announcement were representatives from RSC, the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, the Social Security Administration, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and others.

Announcing a partnership between RSC and the Ohio Department of Development that will benefit small business owners with disabilities, RSC Administrator Michael Rench, and Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel unveiled a symbolic billboard for the initiative ... *OhioAbilities: Neighbors Creating Jobs and Wealth.*

OhioAbilities will support small business owners and entrepreneurs with disabilities as they start, sustain, and grow their businesses. The effort provides enhanced opportunities for Ohioans with significant disabilities to explore self-employment and microenterprise. Through the agreement, Small Business Development Centers will provide funding grants, self-employment and business counseling, marketing and technical assistance to Ohioans who receive RSC services.

According to the partners involved, OhioAbilities has the promise of launching at least 40 start-up businesses in Ohio, and is being piloted in Akron, Columbus, Marietta, Toledo, and Youngstown. The \$2 million project invests \$1.1 million in support funding and \$883,000 in grants.

Funding for OhioAbilities comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in February 2009. ARRA dollars invested in RSC were awarded through the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration.

For more information about this partnership: www.rsc.ohio.gov/ohioabilities/

In the same issue ...

County Board Celebrations

Local faces, local places tell the story ...



Richland Newhope spotlights local faces in their October employment billboards.

In the same issue ...

PAR Conference Honors Tonks for Lifetime Achievement

At the October 6-8 PAR Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, several awards were presented, including the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, earned by Gary Tonks, Executive Director of The Arc of Ohio. PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) surprised Tonks with the award and his gracious acceptance included these remarks,

"I want to thank PAR for this honor, and also want to thank those children, adults, dedicated professionals, moms, dads, and fellow advocates who speak up when others around them are silent or cannot speak; roll up their sleeves and do what needs to be done; and, will not rest until the job is completed."

In the same issue ...

National Core Indicators Begins Third Year

The DODD is pleased to announce the beginning of our third year of participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. We also are pleased to have the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) administering the NCI surveys for the project again this year. CMOR will be completing 400 adult individual face-to-face interviews, and 1200 family surveys via telephone. They will be surveying families who have children, and adults who live at home with families, as well as individuals who live outside the home in an alternative setting.

CMOR soon will be connecting with staff at Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to begin coordinating the survey process.

More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/nci.htm>

In the same issue ...

Northwest Ohio Continues Exploration of 'Gentle Teaching'

As part of the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) -- which has proven during the past two years to be a fascinating journey toward a statewide shift to a more positive culture within Ohio's developmental disabilities community -- DODD has been offering training on positive strategies utilizing various methodologies and techniques. Most recently, John McGee, Ph.D., an internationally-known speaker who continues to do hands-on work in many countries to promote the concepts of non-violence, recently shared his Gentle Teaching Methodology at the University of Findlay.

Dr. McGee's presentation focused on caregiving within the PCI framework and included positive techniques and approaches to working with people in the developmental disabilities community, or who are experiencing other behavioral issues.

A positive culture is an intentional way of supporting all people that focuses on creating healthy relationships and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.

More at www.dodd.ohio.gov/HotTopics/pci.htm

[Pipeline, October 27, 2010](#)

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Submitted to CMS

As described in the September 29, 2010 issue of Pipeline ([Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 20](#)) the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, which was named by self advocates at last month's Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference, today was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. Review of the proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is the next step in the waiver approval process.

In the same issue ...

[During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we share...](#)

A Potpourri of Progress, and Work Yet to be Done

There are many exciting employment-related efforts for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, and yet there is still much to be done to improve the employment scene, overall. In this issue of Pipeline we will take a look at employment from a broad perspective. Here's an example...

Lowe's Grows Employment Opportunities in Hancock County

\$250K grant will help train people with disabilities for jobs.

Representatives of national retailer Lowe's, along with the National Organization on Disability (NOD) and the Kessler Foundation* were asked to help ring the symbolic 'closing bell' of the New York stock exchange on October 21 – along with Hancock County Board of DD Superintendent Connie Ament, representing a unique partnership and collective commitment to employing people with disabilities. The symbolic gesture is offered to non-profit organizations, according to time-honored selection criteria related to the business environment.

As part of the Lowe's commitment, the company currently is working with Hancock County Board of DD's Blanchard Valley Center and the NOD on employment programs for eligible individuals at three distribution centers, including Findlay OH, Rockford IL, and Statesville NC.



At a recent HCBDD Board Meeting individuals were honored as Employees of the Month at BVI*, and the Lowe's Distribution Center received the Community Star award.

In the same issue ...

Ohio Provider Resource Association

OPRA Conference Reflects Partnership Approach

“Developmental Disabilities systems in states with mature stakeholder relationships that understand how to work together function much better than those in states where this is not the case.”

-Quote from George Jesien, Ph.D., as shared by DODD Director John Martin

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Annual Fall Conference, October 19-20 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin attracted more than 500 professionals in the developmental disabilities community. Each year, the program provides a diverse learning opportunity for service providers, fostering and enabling professional growth and success, and encouraging strong stakeholder partnerships. The two-day conference included several presentations on subjects such as health care reform, remote monitoring, principles and practices of an effective direct support professional, waiver reimbursement, and more.

DODD Director John Martin’s presentation focused on progress regarding several projects with which OPRA has partnered, noting that, “Together we have made some very good progress and done some very good work, including managing three sets of budget cuts, and increasing waiver availability by 30%.” Director Martin also shared that among the Priority Work areas the Department is focusing on in tandem with service providers are issues that have been identified via the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative. He stated,

“Perceptions of safety within an individual's home and neighborhood, as well as understanding issues affecting an individual's budget are two areas Ohio needs to improve upon. Everyone wants to feel safe, and feel that they have some control and understanding of funds available.”

In the same issue ...

OSU Nisonger Center Receives \$2.5 Million Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded The Ohio State University Nisonger Center a five-year, \$2.5 million grant as part of two new federal programs that create opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to attend classes and succeed in higher education.

The Nisonger Center is one of 27 grant recipients through Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. The goal of the pilot project is to develop, test, and refine a statewide model that delivers inclusive post-secondary options -- including participation in college classes, internships, housing, and social experiences -- that result in improved academic, employment, and residential outcomes.

In the same issue ...

DODD Website Upgrades to Enhance Interaction, Access

As noted by DODD Director John Martin in the most recent *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2010*,

our website address at www.dodd.ohio.gov has existed for roughly one year, as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) 'name change' occurred in October 2009. He states, "Within the span of one year, a great deal of work has gone into making the information on the site more accessible by users of adaptive tools and technology, more easily navigated and 'searched' by users, and easier to understand from a general content standpoint." He continues,

"Our success in these endeavors is gauged largely by user feedback, and from the data gained by reviewing information gathered by analytical system tools. We continue to support the improvement of Information Technology Systems as part of our DODD Priority Work."

More at: <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>

Perhaps most exciting is the work now underway to improve our interaction and presence with service providers. The 'provider portal' -- point of entry for service provider information and related forms -- will be relaunching soon, in a more user-friendly format. The revision will streamline many online inquiries and transactions, and allow providers to 'do business with us' in a more user-friendly way.

- November -

Pipeline EXTRA, November 2, 2010

- Results of the November 2 Election - County Board Levy Issues, Across the State

All eleven County Board of Developmental Disabilities issues on the November 2 ballot passed!

Pipeline, November 10, 2010

National Family Caregivers Month Honors Many

President Barack Obama has proclaimed November to be *National Family Caregivers Month*, in support of family caregivers in the workplace who balance work and family caregiving responsibilities. The official Proclamation states,

"During National Family Caregivers Month, we honor the millions of Americans who give endlessly of themselves to provide for the health and well-being of a beloved family member. Through their countless hours of service to their families and communities, they are shining examples of our Nation's great capacity to care for each other."

In the same issue ...

Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters

Tenth Annual Ohio SIBS Conference Celebrates Progress

"More than anything I am optimistic. SIBS has had ten years of experience as an organization, and we are on the precipice of being able to meet the real needs of siblings who may become primary caregivers for brothers or sisters, or who already have stepped up to do so ... especially in families with elderly parents."

-Tom Fish, Ph.D., The Ohio State University Nisonger Center

The tenth annual Ohio SIBS Conference (Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters) always is a great opportunity for siblings to learn more about the services and resources their brothers or sisters receive or may be eligible for. This year's November 5-6 conference in Columbus provided a focused venue for adult siblings from across the state to meet one another, share their stories, and enjoy being with people who can identify with many experiences while growing up.

Several individuals received special recognition for efforts pertaining to sibling issues and the Ohio SIBS organization. In particular, Dean Fadel and Tom Fish each received a certificate of recognition from the DODD -- Fadel for being an outstandingly supportive sibling to his brother Jeff, as well as for his commitment to the Ohio SIBS network, and Fish for his tireless efforts in promoting Ohio SIBS for the past 10 years.

More at Ohio SIBS website at www.ohiosibs.com

In the same issue ...

Ohio Public Images Announces DD Awareness Events

Ohio Public Images, Inc. (OPI), an information and advocacy group encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 2011 'Call for Entries'* for their annual Media and Awareness Awards for the period from December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2010. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe.

The 'Call for Entries' is posted on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State

In this issue closest to the observance of Thanksgiving, we highlight a few of the many things for which we, at the DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful.

[Pipeline, November 23, 2010 - Annual 'Thanksgiving' Issue](#)

[Spotlight on the Interagency Work Group on Autism](#)

Interagency Autism Coordinating Council Draws on Ohio Expertise

DODD Director John Martin recently was asked to address the federal Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (IACC). More about the IWGA at www.iwg-autism.org/

The federal **Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Services Subcommittee** held a workshop in Rockville, Maryland in early November titled, "Building a Seamless System of Quality Services & Supports Across the Lifespan." The workshop focused on policy issues related to the system of services and supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Attending the workshop were parents, educators, medical professionals, researchers, and ... presenters including DODD Director John Martin.

Director Martin highlighted the need for coordinating the many service agencies within each state, describing strategies such as those employed by Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) for integrating government systems that provide autism-related services:

“We all have gifts and talents. We all have wishes and needs. The Interagency Work Group on Autism, convened by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, coordinates efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with autism spectrum disorders are recognized, valued, and addressed.”

In the same issue ...

Family Advisory Council Members Look Ahead to 2011

One of the ten Priority Work Areas of the DODD is to energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

The Family Advisory Council (FAC) provides opportunities for families to provide input to policy makers, and offers family members a venue in which to exchange information about programs, services, and options available to people who have developmental disabilities and their families. More at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>

The November 16 meeting of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) addressed members' requests for information about many subjects -- including budget considerations, the status of the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver which has been submitted for review to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and general thoughts about progress made within the past few years.

DODD Director John Martin responded to several questions, including one regarding what things he envisioned as being especially important considerations as the Department moves forward into 2011. He stated that while a number of initiatives and priority areas come to mind, assistive technology, and new technology in general, would be key in helping to enable and empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and help them do the things they need and want to do. He explained,

“We are on the threshold of being able to employ some very exciting and creative options that will help people in a number of ways. Exploring these options, being open to them, and using them responsibly is going to be very important. Here in Ohio, we have a lot of reasons to be hopeful.”

In the same issue ...

Thankful for People Who Reach Out to Others

Director Martin's Observations on Generosity, Caring

by DODD Director John Martin

A few months ago I had the privilege of spending some time in the home of a family who had a preschool child with significant behavioral challenges. It was interesting to watch the family dynamics as the child's constant energy impacted every interaction in the household. It was not hard to imagine the challenges this family faced as they attempted to do things other families routinely do -- going out to eat, going on vacation, and the like. Their good-natured recounting of family experiences as they went out in the community reinforced what I was thinking.

What I was most impressed with was the love that embodied the family's interactions, and the warmth I felt just being apart of that family for the short time I was in the house.

As we all look at what we are thankful for this holiday season, many of us reflect upon our own families and what they mean and have meant to us. As I think about Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and the many families we depend upon as the backbone of our service delivery system, I deeply appreciate that commitment -- and the wonderful, warm, and nurturing environments each of you create.

In the same issue ...

REM Ohio's 'Ready, Fit, and Able' program is in year two of providing health education and fitness classes to adults with disabilities, within the community. This year, the agency has contracted with the Akron Area YMCA to provide and train class instructors at the Center. By bringing the classes directly to the Center, REM Ohio can ensure that those most interested in the classes are able to participate twice a week. Center staff say, "We are thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our friends and instructors at the YMCA for working to keep us healthy!"



Thankful to be healthy!

From Midwest Innovations, Stark County – Thankful for great employees like Edwin!

Midwest Innovations recently opened a new adult services location in the Stark County area, in collaboration with the Stark County Board of DD. An article in the local newspaper, *The Review*, highlighted a few of the employees there, including Edwin Blasiman. While Edwin is an excellent employee, what is especially impressive is that he took it upon himself to write a list of the *Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments* for all employees to keep in mind! Thank, you, Edwin -- and Midwest Innovations' Tom Rickels -- for bringing these to our attention:

Midwest Innovations' Ten Commandments for Employees (unedited)

1. Decide before you enter the building to have a nice day;
2. If I make a mess, I'll clean it up;
3. 'Sorry' is a virtue only if you mean it;
4. Don't bother the boss if she's working or talking;
5. Keep working;
6. Show respect to self and others;
7. Show honesty;
8. Be careful to be honest even when you're upset;
9. Help when asked – not only when you want to;
10. Trust goes a long way!

In the same issue ...

Pipeline, December 8, 2010

Ohio Association of County Boards Winter Conference Looks to 2011

“We must always be ready to change ... to evolve. We need to find new efficiencies. And, we need to plan beyond funding and day-to-day operations to determine how we can continuously improve the lives of the more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”

–Dan Ohler, Executive Director, OACB

At the 27th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) conference last week at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, the three-day agenda focused on information that would help attendees find ways to do the things that OACB Director Dan Ohler highlighted in his opening comments, above – ways to change, to evolve, find new efficiencies, and continuously improve. And there was plenty of interest from across the state ... as OACB Event Manager Ann Neu reported that the total number of people attending the three-day conference topped 850!

DODD Director John Martin noted several points in his presentation under the general umbrella of ‘change,’ and indicated that to prepare for change is to act constructively. He cited a quote from Robert Greenleaf, a proponent of servant leadership, “To live well is to have changed often.” Director Martin also addressed general areas of concern within the developmental disabilities community, including ‘money is tight,’ and, ‘families waiting for services need support.’ He noted that while these are very important and compelling issues, the key thing to remember is the core of what Ohio’s disability services community is all about:

“Interactions of compassion, gentleness, and kindness toward individuals with developmental disabilities are really what our system is all about. The daily interactions with people provided by families and support staff – that’s what it’s all about. The harshness of funding issues is always there, yet the reality of care – good care – is what’s most important.”

In the same issue ...

SODC Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community

“Take care of those entrusted to you. Watch over them – not because you must, but because you are willing and eager to serve.”

- Dr Samuel Gridley Howe, physician and philanthropist

On December 1, 2010, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary as a residential rehabilitation facility. SODC borders the village of Batavia, near Cincinnati. The Center serves approximately 117 residents, ranging in age from 18 to 75 years. The majority of individuals who reside at SODC receive extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development.

And in the Spirit of the Season ...



Across the state at Tiffin Developmental Center

Packed with Perfect Poinsettias! – The Greenhouse at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) is ready for the holidays. TDC residents plant the poinsettias and enjoy watching them grow.

Pipeline PostScripts

Correction to December 8 Pipeline

In the OACB conference story (article #1) ... please see the corrected name in blue: The Partners In Excellence Award -- presented annually to County Board of DD staff members who demonstrate exemplary service in offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the County Board system as a whole -- was presented to *Bill Angel*, Director of Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations at the Montgomery County Board of DD, and *Bob Beavis*, (not Bob Davis) Personnel Director for the Miami County Board of DD. *Apologies to Bob!*

Ohio Public Images (OPI) 'Call for Entries' Deadline, January 7, 2011

Complete 'Call for Entries' Information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

Click on 'Call for Entries'

Ohio Public Images awards honor individuals and organizations across Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities during 2010. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates and elected officials who champion efforts that improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The awards will be presented on March 21, at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon.

New in 2011, OPI also will spotlight employers who have made unique and exceptional efforts in training and/or employing individuals with developmental disabilities.

Contact: Mary Pat Riker: (419) 380-4049; MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org

Solidarity 2011! A leading Ohio conference for and by people with disabilities

Mark your calendars for *April 26-28* to attend one of Ohio's Leading Conferences for and by People with Disabilities, *Solidarity!* Registration materials will be available via U.S. Mail and on the DNOS website after January 1, 2011. A limited number of scholarships will be available to eligible participants. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street in Columbus, and will include employment information, a job fair, a Statehouse visit, and more. Visit www.dnos.org for more information. Contact: *Solidarity 2011* at (800) 863-0344; email: DNOS@the-meeting-connection.com.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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DODD Priority Work Plan: Compilation of Series in *Pipeline*, 2009-2010 10-Part Series, Plus Overview & Progress

Pipeline is published by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities,
Office of Policy & Constituent Support

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July 21, '10: Priority Work: Overview & Progress

Issue: October 28, 2009

First in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas



The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the first in a series of *Pipeline* articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Ten Priority Areas

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's state-operated Developmental Centers;
- Create a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide;

- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

The Positive Culture Initiative

Looked at collectively, the bulleted list above contains several concepts that are interconnected, and therefore the list is in no 'priority order.' For example, the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) [Read More](#) is alluded to in the list as, "Create a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide." The PCI approach is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships, and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships. And, according to Pam Berry, policy staff member with the DODD Office of Policy and Constituent Support,

"The Positive Culture Initiative is about making the shift in thinking away from power, control, and coercion in language and actions, and toward affirmation, unconditional acceptance, and encouragement when supporting individuals with developmental disabilities."

Pam and other policy staff members have met with County Boards of DD and other service providers, as well as individuals and families throughout the state, to determine the interest level and the capacity for an integrated positive culture approach to service delivery. What they have found has been both affirming and energizing, according to Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, who notes,

"We are very encouraged by the meetings we have had with our stakeholders and with direct service staff who are on board with the PCI approach. It has been an education for us, as well, to see that there are so many opportunities for this to make a difference in peoples' lives – and to foster mutually-beneficial outcomes as part of more thoughtful interactions."

Patrick adds, "The next phases pertaining to this priority area include applying the PCI principles to all interactions and transactions in our system – among and between state and county staff, individuals, families, and other advocates and providers."

From a State and National Perspective

DODD Director John Martin is definitely on board as a PCI believer -- and will be speaking in November at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) Annual Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. His presentation will address Ohio's statewide effort, led by the DODD, toward banning the use of prone restraint, and limiting the use of restraints in general, across all of Ohio's systems.

The conference program relates, “Having persons representing prisons, state police, education, mental health and various other systems, all working together and using the language of the state's Positive Culture Initiative has been a unique experience offering opportunities to effect real change. Director Martin will note that a key to success in the State of Ohio was instilling ownership of the effort at the local level, rather than being directed by the state, opening the door to a grassroots culture change.”

Elements of the Positive Culture Initiative and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to Director Martin’s [Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement](#) – which is a contract with the Governor’s Office to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for more about the PCI service model in the future at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/pci.htm>

NEXT: 2010-2011 Work Plan, Part II, in a November issue of Pipeline.

Issue: November 10, 2009

Second in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part II, Assuring Quality Services

The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact ten priority areas, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the second in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas. See [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), for details.

Part I of this series highlighted the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) described as, “Creating a positive culture within the delivery of services, statewide.” The PCI approach is an intentional way of supporting all people within our communities that focuses on creating healthy relationships, and acknowledging the unique gifts that each person brings to those relationships.

Part II – The ‘Quality Services’ Priority

Part II of this series now focuses on streamlining processes and assuring quality services. According to Kate Haller, DODD Deputy Director for Legal and Oversight services, this involves developing and implementing a standard method of reviewing service delivery and outcomes, as well as focusing resources on new providers, and providers who may need additional assistance or attention.

She explains, “One of the action steps we will be taking in this area is maximizing the use of our website for users to access more information provided by the Office of Provider Standards and Review and Provider Certification staff. Recently, we improved the information on our DODD Website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/providers/new.htm> and Kelly Miller and her team will be adding other enhancements and interactive capabilities in the

near future. Along with this, we plan on standardizing our review tools and processes across providers, residential facilities, and County Boards, and encouraging the use of a self-evaluation tool.” Kate adds,

“One of the things that we are going to put some time into doing in 2010 is more clearly defining the unique purpose of the Quality Assurance function, and implementing any changes in collaboration with stakeholders. This, along with some additional software upgrades to help us schedule, track, and report survey results, should go a long way toward streamlining and improving our services, overall.”

Another element within this ‘quality services’ priority includes implementing a ‘tiered approach’ to Major Unusual Incident review of County Boards and Developmental Centers. This has been addressed by Scott Phillips’ team in the MUI Investigation Unit. Now, instead of an annual on-site visit each year, County Board and Developmental Center reviews will range in frequency from one to three years, based on performance.

Several elements of this priority area and the expected outcomes correspond to DODD Director Martin’s [Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement](#) – a contract with the Governor’s Office to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

NEXT: 2010-2011 Work Plan, Part III, in a December issue of Pipeline.

Issue: December 9, 2009

Third in a Series

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part III – Upgrade and Integrate DODD Information Systems

The DODD has developed a basic framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with current budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the third in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

Priority Area: Information Systems

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. Upgrading and integrating our information systems infrastructure is one of the ten priority areas, and is well underway in terms of strategy and development of specific action steps.

During the biennial budget process, the DODD worked with stakeholders to identify specific service areas that would benefit from improved online access to information, as well as provide simpler and more frequently updated databases. As part of an overall DODD Information Systems upgrade during 2009-2011, these elements include:

- Implementation of the Individual Data System (IDS);
- Implementation of the Cost Projection Tool (CPT);
- Development of the online Individual Service Plan (ISP), including a summary page;
- Re-development of a Provider Search tool that includes a provider ‘report card’;
- Modification/replacement of the Provider Certification System database to support the new Provider Certification Rule; and,
- Expansion/improvement of the capacity for monitoring performance and outcome data.

According to DODD Director John Martin, speaking at the recent Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) conference (see story below), data-driven decisions have always been key to effective resource management, and are now even more important in light of budget reductions. He stated,

“We can no longer make decisions based on a general gut feeling that the decision is a good one. We can look at a situation and say, ‘It looks like the dollars here are being used most effectively,’ but if that is not borne out by the numbers or trackable trends, then it is not going to be a responsible decision.”

Director Martin went on to say that, for example, residential options for individuals living in the community are shown to be more cost-effective in certain waiver-based situations, but seem to level-off and become ‘flat’, or less cost effective once a ratio of residents in a setting reaches four to five individuals. (See *The Ohio Picture: What We Have Achieved Together* for more information.)

Addressing the subject of, “What we have achieved together,” Director Martin noted that the reason there is a strong emphasis on Information Technology and infrastructure is that, “This approach will help us to achieve the recommendations set forth by the 2008 Futures Committee, and make the most effective use of the disability community’s limited resources. It is what our stakeholders, including the statewide provider community, have asked us to do.”

Addressing the upgrades and integration of our information systems infrastructure, DODD Deputy Director of Information Technology Services Bryant Young has employed a practical, business-model approach to all projects, with a focus on serving the customer/user and keeping expenditures at a minimum. In this process, the IT unit is identifying some areas for improvement, examples of which include providing more advance information prior to changes, responding to customer feedback in a timely and straightforward manner. He comments,

“I am energized about the upcoming year, and the opportunities that lie ahead to deliver systems and tools that will make our agency better for our internal and external customers.”

Elements of this Priority Area, and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to Director Martin's flexible Performance Agreement – which serves as a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV, in a January 2010 issue of Pipeline.

Issue: January 20, 2010

2010-2011 Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fourth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The County Collaborative Project

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *The County Collaborative* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress', in partnership with 'Region V' Superintendents. Within this region, the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) Council of Government includes the following 18 counties: Knox, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Muskingum, Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Noble, Washington, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson, Harrison, and Carroll.

Region V leadership will deploy the resources of their Council of Government (MEORC) as a vehicle for coordination and support for the County Collaborative. This Region has a long-standing history of collaborating together through their Council of Government by sharing ideas and resources, as well as developing shared-service models that are beneficial to individuals and families in the areas served.

During the biennial budget process, the DODD identified resource-sharing within targeted geographic groups as an important element in providing future service options and allowing County Boards and other service providers to serve people within a network -- rather than a set of individual entities in which service eligibility and availability could vary.

According to DODD Assistant Deputy Director, Kevin Aldridge, Region V, through their utilization of MEORC, had already begun the groundwork for this type of collaboration within their 18-county area.

“Region V and their use of MEORC was an excellent fit as we looked at what our stakeholders wanted to do. The synergy was already there to work together to conduct an inventory of what services or resources were available county-to-county, and what service gaps there might be.”

Nancy Neely, who was Region V President at the outset of the planning in 2009, and is Superintendent for the Licking County Board of DD, notes that a great deal of time and energy was invested in the adoption of the group's Vision, which is defined as:

“Voluntary regional collaboration through shared processes, and human and financial resources, that results in increased efficiency and effectiveness of service outcomes – without the loss of identity for local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.”

She adds, “It was important to us to get all 18 counties in Region V on-board with what could be accomplished, and engage them all in supporting this process.”

Tuscarawas County Board of DD Superintendent Natalie Lupi is Vice President of MEORC and a long-standing MEORC Board member. She had this to say about the County Collaborative:

“What an exciting opportunity to be a part of the Region V Collaborative project, which will be analyzing our current processes and redesigning them for the purpose of eliminating waste in the system. The collaboration of the 18 county boards, in partnership with DODD, provides the opportunity to focus on efficient and effective processes that can have ‘value added’ outcomes for improving services affecting the individuals and families we serve.”

MEORC Executive Director Tim Spitzer commented regarding Region V leadership and their long history of sharing and collaborating, echoing Kevin Aldridge's assessment of the County Collaborative initiative's perfect fit with the region. He explains,

“ We are very enthusiastic about being a part of the support team in developing this initiative. There exists a rich history of collaboration in Region V for the benefit of those individuals and families being served. In the fiscal environment we currently face, with limited resources, finding opportunities to collaborate is critically important to improving services.”

Some of the specific elements of the County Collaborative project's efforts include:

- Developing a single process for individuals and families to access services (intake), including screening and eligibility determination;
- Developing and implementing a model for transition planning that results in improved employment outcomes for young adults; and,
- Identifying and implementing strategies that result in the maintenance of a regional network of quality service providers.

The County Collaborative Project and the expected outcomes also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

The scope and goals of the County Collaborative Project are in development during 2010, for implementation in 2011. Look for more about this planning model in the future, at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/soon.htm> .

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part V, in a February issue of Pipeline.

Issue: February 3, 2010

Part V in a Series

Priority Work Involving Ohio's Developmental Centers

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the fifth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. *Rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement with Ohio's ten Developmental Centers* is one of the ten priority areas, and already has seen demonstrated progress during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010.*

The two basic strategies that are driving this work are reducing the number of residents ('census') at the Developmental Centers by at least 194 people over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, and expanding community access to all of Ohio's Developmental Center facilities and staff by sharing technical assistance and expertise. Developmental Centers participating in the census reduction include Columbus, Gallipolis, Mount Vernon, Northwest Ohio, Tiffin, and Warrensville.

Action steps that will assist in these efforts and maximize limited financial resources include:

- Working with community partners to develop ways to receive federal matching dollars to serve individuals who do not easily qualify for services through an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR). *Note: This terminology and acronym continue to be the federal legal reference for this kind of facility. 'Intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities' will be the preferred descriptor Pipeline will use whenever possible in conjunction with the ICFMR acronym.*
- Continuing to work with local community partners to determine existing service gaps that Developmental Centers may be able to fill. It always has been a priority for DODD to maintain DC locations throughout the state to provide technical support and assistance 'closer to home' so that individuals can be supported within -- and eventually transition and return to -- their home communities.

- Assessing the need for ‘crisis stabilization units’ within Developmental Centers. Crisis stabilization units allow for specific populations to be served more appropriately and in crisis situations. An example would be the Warrensville Developmental Center, (Highland Hills) which initiated a specialized behavioral/forensic unit for individuals with developmental disabilities in September 2009.

Progress Shown

There has been demonstrated progress on the census reduction during the first six months of FY 2010 (July – December 2009), with 51 individuals moving to other community-based residential settings and receiving ‘follow-along’ services. This follow-up activity assists in the transition for individuals and their families or other caregivers, and is provided for approximately one year following a move. Follow-up activity may identify issues that are impeding success for an individual, and allow for appropriate interventions. It also may provide useful information on which to more effectively base future decisions.

According to Ginnie Whisman, Deputy Director, Developmental Centers, it is important to note that census reduction is both gradual and incremental, and that when individuals want to move into the community from a DC, a range of supports is provided to meet their specific needs.

“ Staff members at our ten Developmental Centers are working closely with their local County Boards to ensure that steps are taken to assure successful residential opportunities for all individuals who are interested in moving out of a DC via these waiver-funded options. Our staff will continue to focus on supporting more people to transition back into their communities, in line with the realities of our budget, and in line with the evolving role of DCs in Ohio and across the nation. ”

She adds that in October 2009, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) surveyed agency officials in every state regarding the existence of plans to close or downsize large state-operated institutional programs within their respective states. “The resulting data indicated that 20 states, or approximately 39%, have plans to downsize and reduce the census at their existing facilities,” she notes, adding, “One of the recommendations of the (MR)DD Futures Committee in 2008 and 2009 was to encourage the Department to put a greater emphasis on data-driven decision making, and this a focus that is helping us to gauge our residential service efforts against the national scene.

Following discussions with a broad range of stakeholders on the subject of the census reduction, an approach was developed that allows counties to select one of two options for the allocation of funds for individuals leaving a DC, (or an individual leaving an ICFMR to create a spot for an individual from a DC) who needs an Individual Options (IO) waiver. Briefly, these options are:

- The DODD will provide a set amount of funding per person, which would become a part of the County Board’s allocation; OR
- The DODD will pay the non-federal share for the *actual* costs of the person, including day services. This amount would not be included in the County Board’s allocation.

Once an option is chosen, it applies to all individuals the County Board might serve in this way.

More on rebalancing resources and fostering community involvement

Almost exactly a year ago, DODD Director John Martin toured the state in alliance with various stakeholder organizations, hosting a series of community forums around Ohio, to openly and plainly discuss budget constraints. He asked individuals, families, and service providers to share their thoughts about ways to maximize available financial and other resources while maintaining quality services. Director Martin notes,

“One of the issues that surfaced as a priority in the minds of many of the people we spoke with was the need for Developmental Centers to be places where specialized populations could be served, because they have structure and they have resources. This was excellent feedback, and we needed to hear how people around the state valued our DCs, and hear their ideas about the role DCs can play in supporting needs within their local communities.”

He continued, “People at these forums also were somewhat fearful of DCs closing, and then not having this regional resource. We are mindful of these fears and issues. It’s been our experience in the past year that the reduction in census has moved forward with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration from the County Boards in each geographic location. These efforts often require a great deal of work and planning by all involved to assure the health and safety of each individual, as well as that of the community in which they reside. By addressing needed supports for each individual served, members within Ohio’s developmental disabilities system can take positive steps that make the best use of limited available resources.”

Ginnie Whisman echoes the benefits of the past year’s efforts to rebalance resources and foster community involvement with the Department’s Developmental Centers. She comments, “I’m especially excited about the new and different ways that we are reaching out to families, and to the individuals we serve.” She continues,

“We are moving forward with educational sessions that inform our families about waiver options, and about accessing services that they may either not know are available to them, or, that have never been explained to them in a way they fits with their situation. Some of our families have been in the developmental disabilities system for decades, and a lot has changed just in the past few years that might interest them and provide an option they would want to consider.”

Whisman adds, “We want to provide services that allow individuals to stay in their community settings and prevent long-term DC admissions. Partnering with other

agencies and stakeholders to provide services that stabilize or otherwise assist an individual is so important. We are looking at more of what we call ‘situational assessments’ with the goal being to serve individuals in the least restrictive environment possible while still maintaining their health and safety, along with and that of the larger community.” She explains that elements of the Positive Intervention Culture initiative [Read More](#), will be helpful in this overall effort, and notes,

“ Training staff and families in crisis intervention techniques, and better assessing challenging behaviors so that we can target effective supports for a person who is medically fragile or who needs to manage challenging behaviors – that’s the kind of resource development and sharing that DC’s can offer. Our Developmental Centers are partnering with communities to provide specific services so that individuals can continue to live and work in their own communities – rather than being sent to a DC whenever they experience issues or challenges in their lives. I’m proud of the direction we are going with this approach. ”

The expected outcomes in this priority work area also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s [Flexible Performance Agreement](#), which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

In 2006 there were 1605 individuals living in Ohio’s Developmental Centers community, and in 2009 there were 1423. We’ll take another look at this number again in July 2010.

- Developmental Center Glimpses -



At Gallipolis Developmental Center, (Summer 2008) residents refill the vending machines around the DC campus. The work crew here includes (l. to r.) John, Larry, and Jimmy.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Summer 2008 [PDF](#)



Mount Vernon Developmental Center opened its doors to the community in Sept. 2007 for a National Preparedness Month training for service providers. Shown here are representatives from People First of Ohio, sampling the preparedness kits.

See story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2007  **PDF**

* See the *Priority Work Status* report at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/PriorityWorkQuarterlyUpdate01-19-10.pdf>

For more information: *National Core Indicators* at
<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/futuresmore/nci.htm>;
NASDDDS at: <http://www.nasddd.org/index.shtml>;
Developmental Centers: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/dc.htm>;
Contact Ginnie Whisman at ginnie.whisman@dodd.ohio.gov, phone (740) 393-6228.

Look for 2010-2011 Work Plan: Part VI, in a March issue of *Pipeline*.

Issue: March 3, 2010

Part VI in a Series: Priority Work **Simplifying and Containing Costs of DODD-Administered Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers**

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the sixth in a series of Pipeline articles that will highlight these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (See <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>) *Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services* is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress.'

A Fiscal Plan, and Rules

In conjunction with this priority work, a [Fiscal Plan for Home and Community-Based Waiver Services](#) was completed and submitted on December 31, 2009, to the Ohio

Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 337.30.40 of Amended Substitute House Bill 1 of the 128th General Assembly. The Plan is briefly outlined below. Implementation of one recommendation in this Plan (to harness efficiencies of the new Cost Projection Tool) requires amendments to DODD's administrative rules, a hearing for which is scheduled March 19.

The Plan

The Fiscal Plan includes recommendations to ensure the fiscal sustainability of Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers administered by the DODD. Specifically, the legislation called for recommendations pertaining to three areas:

- Changing the ranges in the amount Medicaid will pay per individual for HCBS;
- Establishing one or more maximum amounts that Medicaid will pay per individual for HCBS; and,
- Modifying the methodology used in establishing payment rates for providers, including the methodology's component that reflects wages and benefits for persons providing direct care, and the component that reflects training and direct supervision of those persons.

Under the Plan's '*Summary and Recommendations*', item number 8 states,

"Harness efficiencies as new tools become available, particularly the Cost Projection Tool and Daily Rate Application enhancements. Set a goal to realize a 10% improvement in Service and Support Administrator and Program Manager productivity and to reduce waiver administration costs borne by both public and private entities."

The Rules

A public hearing on proposed rule actions necessary to implement the Cost Projection Tool will be conducted on March 19.

Public Hearing, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

For more information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/rules/development.htm#pubhearing>

Pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) hereby provides notice of its intent to rescind and adopt the following rules of the Administrative Code on a permanent basis on or about May 20, 2010, and to conduct a public hearing thereon. A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held March 19, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing until all persons in attendance have had an opportunity to testify.

The hearing will be held in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration.

Rule 5123:2-9-06 (Rescind) titled "HCBS Waivers - Waiver Reimbursement Methodology" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number.

The rule has been revised to support implementation of the new Cost Projection Tool. The Cost Projection Tool is a web-based analytical tool, developed and administered by DODD, used to project the cost of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) identified in the individual service plans of individuals enrolled on the Individual Options and Level One HCBS waivers.

The rule has been revised to eliminate references to transition to statewide payment rates, which was completed in 2008. Additionally, the rule has been re-ordered to reflect more clearly the chronological sequence of the processes described therein. DODD has developed a new rule, 5123:2-9-06 (New), as necessary amendments to the existing rule would affect more than 50% of the rule.

Rule 5123:2-13-07 (Rescind) titled "Individual Options Waiver - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Congregate Settings Where Individuals Share Services" is proposed for rescission and replacement by new rule 5123:2-9-31 (described below).

Rule 5123:2-9-31 (New) titled "HCBS Waivers - Homemaker/Personal Care Daily Billing Unit for Sites Where Individuals Enrolled on the Individual Options Waiver Share Services" is a new rule proposed to replace rule 5123:2-13-07. The purpose of the proposed new rule is to establish the payment process for Homemaker/Personal Care when individuals share the services of the same provider at the same site as part of the HCBS Individual Options waiver. The rule establishes a daily billing unit for individuals/sites that qualify, which shall be used instead of the 15-minute billing unit established in rule 5123:2-9-06 of the Administrative Code. DODD is developing a new rule so that the rule is renumbered to Chapter 5123:2-9. It is DODD's intent that eventually all DODD rules related to HCBS waivers shall reside in Chapter 5123:2-9 of the Administrative Code.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review. Written comments may be submitted to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator; e-mail becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov ; Fax (614) 752-8551; or, U.S. Mail to 30 East Broad Street, 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.

Simplifying and containing costs of DODD-administered home and community-based services waivers corresponds closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Look for more about this priority work area at
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/documents/FiscalPlanforHCBSWaiverServices12-31-09.pdf> .
Part VII: 2010-2011 Work Plan coming soon, in Pipeline.

Issue: March 31, 2010

Part VII in a Series

Priority Work – Energizing Local Participation of Individuals and Families in System Stewardship

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the seventh installment in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.



Family Chat Encourages Information-Sharing and Networking.
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/futuresmore/famchat.htm>

A Step in the Overall Direction

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship is one of the ten priority areas and is a ‘work-in-progress,’ lead by DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and families statewide – in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Several steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, in addition to the Department’s ongoing Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings that, for several years, have drawn attendees from across the state (<http://dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm>).

For example, according to Peggy, “As a result of the 2008 Futures recommendations and the ‘Empowering People’ implementation team, we have created a ‘discussion listserv’ to encourage communication among families in supporting other families. You can find out more information regarding this discussion listserv, named ‘Family Chat’ -- including instructions to join – by visiting our website at www.dodd.ohio.gov under the ‘For Families’ section on our homepage.”

She adds,

“We have more and more people beginning to participate in Family Chat, and we are excited about this additional, new way to communicate. Thanks to County Board Service and Support Administration (SSA) Directors and through regional meetings with families, membership in this participating group is continuing to grow.”

Beyond this newly-implemented approach, another specific element within the Priority Work Area is the establishment and development of localized and/or regional Advisory Councils around the state -- comprised of individuals and families who receive services -- to be operational in 2011. To assist in this effort, Peggy Martin has been meeting with groups of people to gauge their interest and engage their collective energy, as well as assist them in the process of developing a local or regional Council. She notes,

“If you are interested in participating in an Advisory Council at the local or regional level – as a family member or self-advocate, and want to explore this idea in your area, please email me at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. I will be sure to get back with you.”

Also as a part of the efforts to build a stronger grassroots-level family foundation, the DODD will continue to reach out to various advocacy organizations in helping to support the plans for local participation, and coordinate these efforts. Nurturing these kinds of opportunities should foster a stronger network of informed self advocates and families across the state, as well as provide more options for information-sharing without time-consuming travel.

The expected outcomes from *energizing local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas also is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

For more information contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

Issue: May 12, 2010

Part VIII in a Series

Priority Work – Improve Processes and Outcomes of the Service and Support Administration Function

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the eighth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22, October 28, 2009](#), The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration (SSA) function is one of the ten priority areas, where work on a number of the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations has come together. Over the years, changes in service delivery, financing, and oversight roles have affected how Service and Support Administrators and provider program managers do their daily work.

Several separate-but-connected projects are underway, led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD, Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), and Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI), and other stakeholders. In addition, the work of the County Collaborative [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2, January 20, 2010](#), is part of several efforts affecting this Priority Work Area, including the development of an online Individual Service Plan (ISP), and examining best practices.

Patrick Lanahan notes that individuals and families are spotlighting what is important to them in working with an SSA. He relates,

“When individuals and families talk about having a great SSA or program manager, we are asking, ‘What makes that person so valuable to you?’ And often we hear in response, ‘I can depend on her to keep it all together for my family member, and to solve problems when they come up.’ It’s a commitment to service that’s so appreciated.”

Also key to improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function, DODD Family Advocate, [Peggy Martin](#), is working closely with SSA’s throughout the state, gathering their input, and discussing opportunities for inter-county collaboration.

Peggy explains,

“In talking with SSA’s around the state, what I’m hearing is that it’s so important for a Service and Support Administrator to establish a strong relationship with the families served – one that is based on understanding and trust. If the SSA is a supportive *partner*, for example, in working with individuals and families preparing an ISP, the Plan will be a much more realistic and successful guide, and reflect that process of really thinking things through.”

Increasing family involvement and buy-in to the ISP process, and providing information regarding alternative resources and service opportunities in their local communities, is part of the important role played by SSA’s across the state, with an added emphasis on effective management of limited financial resources.

Looking at the work currently underway in this Priority Work Area, Peggy Martin notes that in conversations with Department staff, it’s clear that the DODD is learning a great

deal from the field as the work gets underway. For example, Peggy has been visiting counties across the state, and is most appreciative of the time County Board staff have taken to sit down and talk about issues and ideas. She concludes,

“We’re paying attention to the trends and patterns in the calls I get from individuals and families – and we’ve seen that some issues are more universal than others, and may be managed more easily by a County Board if just a little more information is available. That’s why our online information at *NEW Family Chat* and *How to Get Help* is constantly being updated and added to. Online and in person, we’re looking at any way we can to assist the SSA’s in their work.”

Having specific educational and operational tools more widely available to support SSA’s and program managers will benefit everyone in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. In particular, the development of the DODD Cost Projection Tool and online ISP will help to reduce paperwork and improve data collection and retrieval.

It’s a tall order, to be sure, and through the collaborative efforts of the Ohio Superintendents of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, and Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc., best practices and program management functions are being reviewed with an eye toward applicability both locally and statewide. Funded by the DODD, the work of this stakeholder group is identifying training and other recommendations to support SSA’s and program managers. According to DODD Director John Martin,

“In reality, the Department is looking at any way we can to assist these professionals in their work.”

The expected outcomes from *improving the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin’s Director’s Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor’s cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor’s Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and will be posted on our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm> tomorrow. The report is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

Issue: May 26, 2010

Part IX in a Series

Priority Work – Reducing Lifelong Impacts of Disability for Families by Responding More Effectively to Their Needs

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the ninth in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (For details, see [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families' needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists is one of the ten priority areas and is a 'work-in-progress,' led by DODD Deputy Director, Patrick Lanahan, in partnership with County Boards of DD and other stakeholders. Steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- Usage of \$600,000 in stimulus funds specifically earmarked by the Ohio Department of Health (see *Pipeline* article #1, in this issue) for services to infants and toddlers with special needs. Specifically, the funds will be used to provide supports for families of eligible children ages zero to three;
- Collaborative efforts with entities such as West CON, a network of Ohio counties that is exploring ways to effectively provide consistent and specific services across county lines for very young children with developmental disabilities, including autism;
- Exploring intake and screening processes and workable timelines to help address an individual's needs as he or she is deemed eligible. This is being explored primarily via the County Collaborative group (See [Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 2](#), January 20, 2010, Priority Work Plan: Part IV – The County Collaborative);
- Continuing to develop waivers that are more flexible and self-directed;
- Partnering with other agencies to share resources;
- Enhancing methods for responding to families' needs sooner, so individuals can avoid more costly interventions later in life (i.e., identifying and meeting interim or incremental needs, if not the ultimate goal);

- Establishing a process for *annual contact* with individuals and families on waiting lists to identify any current needs that could be met; and,
- Encouraging an evolution from facility-based to family home-centered early intervention, school age, and transition-to-work practices. In this area, a focus will be on sharing best practices and new ideas that may be replicated successfully.

Setting the Stage to Respond More Flexibly to Families' Needs

Participants in the 18-county County Collaborative Network [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), are inventorying existing processes with goals of developing a single process for intake, screening, and eligibility determination, and for integrating assessment, service planning, fiscal planning, monitoring, and quality assurance into a single web-based system that results in online availability of individual service plans.

Participants in the County Collaborative Network also are testing new strategies for waiting list management. The goals are to enhance methods for responding to families' needs sooner, and to establish a process and plan for annual contact with individuals and families on waiting lists.

In discussing this section of the Priority Work Plan, DODD Director John Martin explains,

“Anything we can do to reduce the reliance on waiting lists, and provide at least some needed assistance to an individual or family, is what we are working to do in this Priority area. I have been impressed with efforts in some counties to explore creative and practical ways to provide at least some needed services to those on waiting lists. The collaboration I am seeing in this area is very exciting, and I believe we will be seeing good progress in the long run, because of it.”

The expected outcomes from *reducing the lifelong impacts of disability by responding to families' needs sooner, rather than relying on waiting lists* also correspond closely to DODD Director John Martin's Director's Flexible Performance Agreement, which is a contract with Governor Strickland to develop key measures and targets, and report on results. Each agency within the Governor's cabinet is responsible for achieving the goals of the Governor's Leadership Agenda through department performance.

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and is posted on our website at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>. The report is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

Issue: June 9, 2010

Part X in a Series

Priority Work – Plan for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues in compliance with budgetary constraints. This ‘Priority Work Plan’ is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. Here is the tenth and final installment in a series of Pipeline articles that highlights these top priority areas. In July, Pipeline will carry an overview and progress report.

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing the cost of those services. (Details in [Pipeline Volume 3 Issue 22](#), October 28, 2009, The 2010-2011 Workplan: Part I – The Ten Priority Areas.)

Planning for Fiscal Sustainability of Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Service Delivery System is one of the ten priority areas and is led by DODD Director John Martin, along with Deputy Director for Fiscal Administration, Ann Rengert. Working in partnership with County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, steps in the overall progress of this Priority Work Area are taking place, including:

- The Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has agreed to a revised *tax equity formula*, based on tax valuations, taking into consideration that funding formulas for counties may be based on tax valuations that have changed since their inception several years ago. Tax equity funds are to be used for waiver match, and the total amount of funding affected is approximately \$14 million. With the formula having been agreed upon within the Workgroup, the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) now is researching appropriate legislation to carry the formula and language, targeting a beginning phase-in timeframe of June-July 2011, with full implementation by July 2019.
- The Workgroup also has gathered information to support an *increase in revenues to be generated via the Targeted Case Management (TCM) Medicaid* funding stream. By the end of June 2010, information gathered with the assistance of Ohio’s 88 County Boards of DD will be complete, and the next step will be to work with the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) on possible implementation of an increase in TCM funding.
- The Workgroup is developing an administrative rule and structure for assisting financially-distressed County Boards. The rule has been disseminated for stakeholder review and comment. The rule and structure would provide a system by which a county board could continue to operate following failure of a levy that results in a lack of operating funds to meet basic service requirements.

- Workgroup members are reviewing structural funding models for the County Board Subsidy to determine if there is a better way to distribute money to County Boards.

According to Ann Rengert,

“On the subject of tax equity, we are hopeful that by using a revised tax equity formula, County Boards that have been struggling due to old, outdated formulas will gain a stronger footing, and be able to access matching funds to benefit their waiver recipients.”

She adds, “As noted in our latest [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#), we are looking at an incremental implementation of the revised tax equity formula over a period of about eight years. And, it is important to note that the Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup has seen a great deal of cooperation from Ohio’s County Boards throughout this process. The OACB is now taking the next steps toward the goal of legislation that will allow the new formula by July 2011. We are very appreciative of their collaborative efforts. ”

Additional Considerations in this Priority Area

Commenting on additional considerations for the Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup, DODD Director John Martin added,

“I’d like to emphasize that with the overall strategy and action steps that this Workgroup has undertaken, we have tried to maintain a strong focus on making progress in specific areas of our system that will have the most positive fiscal impact within the framework of limited resources. The members of this Workgroup collected and reviewed a great deal of useful data from across the state in order to build a foundation for good discussions and good decisions.”

Further commenting on the stakeholder involvement in this Priority Work Area, Morgan County Board of DD Superintendent Mary Ann Chamberlain explains,

“What especially struck me in working with this group was that everyone had opportunities to bring their ideas to the table – to listen and learn from others – and the information was readily shared for open discussion. I think we all felt included and informed in the process. It was clear that the intent was to develop agreement among stakeholders as to what was going to make the most effective impact, and everyone understood that. In the area of fiscal sustainability, we asked ourselves many tough questions and, let’s face it – the task at hand was, and is, to make the most of what is available.”

Priority Work, Quarterly Update

An updated report on the progress of the ten DODD Priority Work Areas has been completed, and is posted on our website at [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#). The report is in a grid format so that the action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

Next Month in Pipeline: The Ten Priority Work Areas, Review At-a-Glance

Issue: July 21, 2010

Priority Work: Overview & Progress

The DODD has developed a framework to impact specific priority issues, in line with budgetary constraints. This 'Priority Work Plan' is designed to help us work more effectively, in partnership with other system stakeholders, to serve the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. This overview of the Priority Work Areas follows the final installment in a series of *Pipeline* articles, archived at dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm, and includes highlights of recent progress. An updated Progress Report will be posted online later this month, at the archive location.

A Brief Review of the Ten Priority Areas

The Priority Work Plan includes ten areas of concentration, several of which are driven by activities that address and support streamlining services across the state, and reducing inefficiencies that impact the cost of those services. Briefly, the ten priority areas are:

- Streamline and enrich the process for assuring the quality of services;
- Upgrade and integrate the Information Systems structure;
- Plan for the fiscal sustainability of Ohio's developmental disabilities service delivery system;
- Develop a statutory plan to simplify and contain costs of DODD-administered Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers;
- Re-balance resources and foster community involvement within Ohio's ten state-operated Developmental Centers; (*see related article #3 in this issue of Pipeline*)
- Create a 'Positive Culture' within the delivery of services, statewide;
- Implement the County Collaborative Project;
- Improve the processes and outcomes of the Service and Support Administration function;
- Reduce the lifelong impacts of disability by responding sooner to families' needs, rather than relying on waiting lists;
- Energize local participation of individuals and families in system stewardship.

Action steps that address these Priority Work Areas have yielded some specific results, and have begun to positively impact service delivery and stakeholder involvement across the state. Progress made through March 31 is detailed in the most recent report at [DODD Priority Work Status Report](#) and will be updated through June 30 later this month. The report is in a grid format in which action steps and work status/progress can be tracked easily for each of the Priorities.

A Few Examples

As work moves forward, more than one Priority Work Area may be affected by various action steps and accomplishments. These include the following:

- A formula to provide tax-poor counties with match for waivers is being revised. In order to put a revised formula in place, the Ohio Association of County Boards is researching the most appropriate and logical legislative avenue to pursue.
- In June, the Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver Amendment was formally submitted to the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. It is anticipated that the amendment then will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in early August. This amendment will create four new services for the I.O. Waiver: remote monitoring; adult family living; emergency response systems; and, community respite.
- An event that will focus on various elements comprising the Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#) will be held in Columbus on August 3. The day of training and hands-on activities will feature 'real-time' positive culture experiences. People supported by services, family members, direct support professionals, and others engaged in creating positive and responsive services and supports are encouraged to attend. More information at : [NEW Posipalooza - A Positive Culture Event](#) .

Additional information regarding the scope of DODD Priority Work Areas is available at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/DODDPriorityWork.htm>.

End, Priority Work Plan Series 2009-2010