

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Welcome 2013 - Happy New Year!

Administration Update

1. Office of Health Transformation Looks Ahead

"It's clear that Ohio is in a period of transformation. When you're in the middle of transformation, you can't slow down. You gain as much ground as you can. And frankly, we have a lot more transformation to do in this state."

–Governor John Kasich, December 2012

Governor John Kasich commented during a year-in-review event late last month that collective efforts to stabilize the state's finances, shrink the size of government, and encourage business growth have begun to show real progress, with more expected in 2013.

Among many *2012 accomplishments* Gov. Kasich noted a savings of \$500 million in Medicaid expenditures, well beyond previously projected savings; integrating benefits for Ohioans eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid; and, the *Employment First* initiative. The initiative was signed in March 2012, making it *a priority* for people with developmental disabilities to work in community-based jobs, rather than in the system's more traditional 'sheltered workshop' environment.

In describing the Administration's approach to human services, Governor Kasich stated that it was a "...Combination of some discipline, combined with some passion to help people get back on their feet again."

Autism Services Announcement

In line with the Administration's human services approach, Governor Kasich announced on December 21 (see [Governor Kasich announces autism services are an essential benefit](#)) that Ohio children with autism and their families now will have access to needed services with changes that will affect state employee health insurance and health insurance sold in the private market, as well as health insurance sold through the upcoming federally-managed health insurance exchange.

Ohio already provides access to autism-related services for approximately 40% of Ohio's children through its Medicaid program. Governor Kasich made the decision to expand availability of services for children with autism after consulting with legislative leaders and members of both chambers.

He stated, "We're doing the right thing today. Helping kids with autism get the services they need, and helping their parents get the financial lifeline of insurance coverage, that's something I support—for state employees and other families as well. With early intervention services, kids with autism do better in school, find employment, and become more independent adults."

Under the new policy, insurance must cover professional assessment and treatment plans for children with autism, including specified amounts of 'non-specific evidence-based therapy' and mental/behavioral health outpatient services. It also requires coverage for specified amounts of speech and occupational therapy for children with autism. DODD Director John Martin commented regarding the announcement:

"All of those services blend together to provide a very comprehensive package for kids and families with autism."

And, Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy stated that the agency works with health plans on issues surrounding autism services. He noted, "The issue that has come up ... is when we try to deny some of those services, or try to cap some of those services. We are working with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and with DODD, because some children are autistic and have (other) developmental disabilities." The three agencies – Ohio Medicaid, ODMH, and DODD – are working together on how to reform the system to ensure children get the services they need, while the state pays the correct amount for those services.

Grant Increases Enrollment of Children in Medicaid

Ohio will again receive bonus funds from the federal government for enrolling and keeping more children in the Medicaid program, with a grant totaling \$17.9 million. The awarding of funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) grant is the third the state has received in as many years. Commenting on the award, Medicaid Director John McCarthy stated, "We have been able to use previous awards to launch innovative programs that will improve health care for children and adults, allowing more Ohioans to lead healthy lives."

Since 2011, Ohio has invested \$15.5 million in CHIPRA grant funds in stakeholder-proposed initiatives. Funded projects include efforts to expand presumptive eligibility for pregnant women; improve the early identification of autism spectrum disorders; and, provide better access to patient-centered medical homes, among other initiatives.

On the National Scene, 'Ticket to Work' Website Redesigned

Visit: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/>

The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) has introduced a new *Ticket to Work* website. In the December 2012 issue of *Federal Perspectives* noted that the **new portal** provides an updated entry point to program information, resources, and news about SSA's employment support programs. Many new resources are available at the redesigned site, including:

- “Real Success Stories” from people who used their ‘Ticket’ to go to work and improve their lives;
- A “Find Help” tool to search for service providers who can help beneficiaries explore employment and earnings options.
- Easy access to the *Ticket to Work* Help Line, social media, and email updates.

*Social Security disability beneficiaries and others can find the information they need via the new portal or by calling the **Ticket to Work program Help Line** at 1-866-968-7842 (V) /866-833-2967 (TTY/TDD).*

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2. When Helps is Most Needed, Providers are on the Job

-Weather-Related Emergencies Bring Out the Best in Caregiving-

Four Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) in the Belmont County area spent several days working 12-hour shifts as part of a special disaster unit created by *ResCare*, the nation's largest private provider of services to people with disabilities and senior citizens. In a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *ResCare* responds with employees who are trained to assist people with disabilities or the elderly at FEMA-designated shelters, and these Ohio ladies proudly stepped-up to help when most needed.

Gloria Llewellyn of Steubenville, Angela Fulst of Martins Ferry, Kelly Jackson of Cambridge, and Dawn Myers of St. Clairsville all traveled to New York to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.



These Ladies Care!
ResCare DSPs (l. to r.) Angela Fulst, Dawn Myers, Kelly Jackson, and Gloria Llewellyn traveled to New York to provide relief to Hurricane Sandy victims.

As volunteers in the ResCare On-Call team, members must be 'ready to roll' within 24-hours' notice. While all members receive special training, the most important skill is compassionate care-giving in difficult situations.

Following Hurricane Sandy, ResCare sent more than 150 employees to New York to provide aid to individuals with disabilities and seniors forced from nursing care or their own homes and into shelters. These employee-volunteers are recruited from ResCare locations across the country and also provide help to ResCare operations during emergencies.

Stephen L. Williams, Superintendent of the BHN Alliance (Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of DD) spoke of their work from experience:

"We have partnered with ResCare for many years, and know their staff is always there whenever someone with a disability has a need. This latest act of service demonstrates their willingness to do absolutely whatever it takes to provide care in difficult situations, both near and far."

And, Regional Director for ResCare Tonya Mangerie noted, "ResCare's volunteers pack their bags with little notice, travel long distances, sleep on cots, and don't always know when they will get their next meal. They do this to provide supports and services to people with special needs who are displaced from their homes in a disaster. They represent the heart of our company with the compassion and care they offer."

DODD salutes the 'above-and-beyond' work of these Direct Support Professionals throughout the year, and especially in times of emergencies.

*Acknowledgements to the Daily Jeffersonian, December 2, 2012 issue.
For information about ResCare, visit www.ResCare.com*

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[Health & Safety](#)

[3. Winter Weather Safety – Technology Tips and Reminders](#)

As Ohio 'weathers' winter weather, the DODD Office of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit reminds everyone to keep Health & Safety *Priority #1*. It is important to exercise extra caution when transporting individuals outdoors in the cold, and providing cold weather care in general. *Preparation* and *planning* helps keep people safe, and new technologies can help to assure that plans are followed and more options are available.

[Click here> Winter Weather Alert Information](#)

For outdoor activities and trips, bring along extra clothing, blankets, and warm liquids. Also, chemical pouch hand-warmers, such as those used for hunting and camping, provide instant warmth when needed. And, don't forget to keep a portable phone charger in your vehicle, along with your cellphone, when traveling any distance – even just a few blocks. Anything can happen!



“I'm only two blocks from the house!”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the 2013 'Ready' campaign emphasizes integrating technology into individual, family, and business preparedness plans.

FEMA's annual *'Ready' campaign* this year asks all SmartPhone users to, “... Turn the technology in their purses and pockets into a life-saving tool to use during and after an emergency.”

Building technology into emergency plans can include:

- Learning how to send updates via text and Internet from your cell phone to your contacts and social channels, in case voice communications are not available;
- Storing important electronic documents such as personal and financial records on a 'flash' or 'jump' drive that can be readily available and accessed anywhere;
- Creating an Emergency Information Document using *Ready's Family Emergency Plan template in Google Docs* or by downloading the *Ready Family Emergency Plan*;
- Downloading the *Resolve 2B Ready 2013 Toolkit* for tips you can use and practice.

The [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness](#) encourages all Ohioans to *prepare* their homes and *practice* their safety plans during cold months, and offers these suggestions:

- *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 food 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 water and nonperishable food to sustain each person for at least three days. Maintain at least a tank half-full of fuel in vehicles.

- *Update disaster preparedness plans.* Every home, school, business, and organization should have written plans for disasters. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, flood, or fire. Practice drills that require sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Update emergency contact lists, and be sure any new phone numbers are entered into your cell phone contacts directory.

By taking a few simple steps in advance, Ohioans can minimize the impact of an emergency on their families, homes, and businesses.

For additional information, visit www.ready.gov or www.ready.ohio.gov

And Speaking of Assuring Health & Safety ...



SODC friends receive Good Samaritan Awards

(L. to R.) Melissa Rowe, Sarah Garner, Demetrius Smith, Jeff Sergent, and Vicki Putman (seated).

By early December, Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) Superintendent Scott McVey already had planned a December 18th breakfast meeting for all staff, but following some heroic actions the day before, the agenda was quickly and happily expanded. The actions of two of SODC residents turned the breakfast into a celebration of heroism. The ‘first responders’ of SODC were Demetrius Smith and Melissa Rowe -- helping their friend, Vickie Putman. Here’s what happened...

On December 17, Demetrius, Melissa, and Vicki sat together as they do every morning, discussing activities and events. During their usual banter, Vicki suddenly started convulsing. Melissa quickly moved into position to support Vicki and keep her from falling to the floor. After she had Vicki secured, Melissa asked Demetrius to “Go for help!” He quickly summoned staff who came to assist and called for additional medical assistance.

When a medical call was placed and nurses quickly arrived, they found Vicki well-supported by Melissa, who was taking care to protect Vicki's head and keep her from crashing to the floor. She said, "I wasn't scared! I was just worried about what was happening to my friend." SODC nurses made sure that Vicki was seen that morning by the facility physician and treated for the seizure activity.

The three great friends continue to enjoy 'morning time' together. Smith, Rowe, and Putman have all expressed interest in attending training classes that may help them learn more about preparing for and responding to emergencies.

The duo was deservedly recognized by Superintendent McVey, and presented the *SODC Good Samaritan Award* at the All Staff Breakfast Meeting. *Kudos to all for assuring the health and safety of others!*

More about SODC at Residential Resources: Southwest Ohio Developmental Center

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4. 'Access Together' Celebrates Year of Greater Accessibility

Access Together, a searchable database where one can learn if restaurants, grocery stores, movies, gyms, and other places in a community are accessible to users of mobility devices is now celebrating one year of information-gathering. When users of *Access Together* contribute information to the database about places in one's neighborhood, that information is saved and becomes a part of the dataset. Users also may download an APP for iPhone, Android, and other SmartPhones.

The mission of *Access Together* is to provide tools for citizens to collect, share, and act on accessibility information in their community. Go to <http://www.accesstogether.org/>

Improved accessibility for Ohio communities directly impacts who we will pass on the street ... who is included in local conversations ... and who we consider to be our neighbors. Inclusive access to community information, and access to buildings, events, and transportation, ensures equal rights for all.

Users open *Access Together* on their mobile phone's web browser, find their location, and supply answers to accessibility questions. For example, "Is the entrance wheelchair accessible?" or, "Are the counters too low or too high for someone using a wheelchair?" This helps individuals make informed decisions about visiting public facilities or touring communities, in a conversational way, using real-time experience.

For more information: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, Office Of Diversity And Inclusion; (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

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Meet Georgia Metzler
Her story of success in Scioto County
via Early Intervention techniques
is one of many features
in *Pipeline Quarterly*
Coming Soon to your Inbox!



Early Intervention services through County
Boards of DD are invaluable to a child's
development, and to the sustainability of the
long-term service system.

Mark Your Calendars!

5. Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5th

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately.

Attendance at the 2013 DD Awareness and Advocacy Day is open to all. Participants wishing to meet with their legislators will be required to register in advance. Details coming soon!

The Ohio Statehouse will host the Awareness program in the Atrium as always, and registration for individuals meeting with legislators will be headquartered nearby in the Statehouse, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

Contacts for the event include Sherry Steinman at DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov (Awareness program); Linda Martens at Ohio SIBS lmartens@ohiosibs.com (Advocacy efforts); and David Lewis at The Arc of Ohio, dlewis@arcohio.org (Story-sharing videos).

SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013.

The Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event at the Ohio Statehouse.

More information in the next Pipeline.



^The 2013 Awareness & Advocacy theme.

More information on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>

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PostScripts

☞ Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver – Webinar, January 23, 2013

Have you been looking for refresher training on the key points of the SELF waiver? If so, then this might be the perfect opportunity for you! DODD will be conducting a one-day webinar on *Wednesday, January 23rd from 10 am – 3 pm* that reviews the main components of the SELF waiver. We have condensed the information provided during the two-day SELF Waiver sessions and will be providing information on Eligibility Criteria, Service Definitions and Limitations, Participant-Direction within this waiver, as well as walking attendees through the changes that have been made to the applicable DODD online IT systems. Click on this link <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/398116824> to sign up for the webinar.

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**. 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, 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. *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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Pipeline PostScripts: Update your 2013 Calendar

Administration Update

1. Autism Services Update, More State and National News

Ceremonial Signing, Autism Services Mandate

Following Governor John Kasich's announcement last month regarding insurance coverage for services to Ohio children with autism and their families, the Governor last week joined autism advocates and state lawmakers at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus for the ceremonial signing of the document that authorizes health insurance companies to cover autism therapies and treatments in the coming years.

For Meaningful and Successful Lives

Governor John Kasich commented following the signing of the ceremonial document,

"This is going to help so many people, so many children, so many moms and dads. To stop them from bankruptcy and bickering and divorce and all the challenges that come with seeing your children unattended in many ways. So today it's family day ... in Ohio."





Supporting Ohioans with Autism
At the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office in Columbus, the signing ceremony involved key state officials and advocates, including Sondra Williams, Director for the Young Leaders Division at Autistic Global Initiatives, shown at the podium.

The state will require this coverage for private insurers in 2014, as well as for state employee health plans, which will take effect once approved by Ohio unions. The original letter outlining the proposal was sent to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on December 26, 2012.

Senator Kevin Bacon, parent of a child with autism, joined Governor Kasich at the event and described the expanded benefits as, "A good start." Senator Bacon praised the Governor for moving forward on these efforts, despite pushback from critics. Insurance companies doing business in Ohio will be required to cover autism treatments such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy, providing intensive interventions to help children develop more typically.

According to advocates, ABA therapy, which can cost families many thousands of dollars each year in out-of-pocket expenses, has been proven to help children diagnosed with autism live more independent lives. These benefits now will extend more opportunities to Ohio families who were previously unable to afford these costly but important treatments.

Governor Kasich, Director Moody Convene Health Leaders to Coordinate Payment Innovation

Last week, Governor Kasich and Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody met with Ohio business executives, health care leaders, and patient advocates to coordinate a strategy for health care payment innovation. OHT analysis of the current fee-for-service system finds that it rewards 'more care' not 'better care.' Working to improve this system, the Governor's Advisory Council on Health Care Payment Innovation will play a lead role in the Administration's efforts to advance innovative payment strategies that reward value as measured by better health, better care, and cost savings through improvement.

For more information click on: [Transforming Payment for a Healthier Ohio](http://www.healthtransformationohio.gov)
www.healthtransformationohio.gov

On the National Scene

'Because' Media Campaign Encourages Youth with Disabilities to Pursue Career Goals

'Because' is a new public service announcement from the Campaign for Disability Employment from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) that features seven people with disabilities who are pursuing and realizing their goals because someone believed in them and urged them to set high expectations.

Focused on transition-age youth, 'Because' challenges viewers to re-think what people with disabilities can accomplish, and suggests how each of us can inspire others to success. The PSA reflects one of ODEP's priorities to increase expectations of youth with disabilities, their parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors -- as well as future employers -- about what people with disabilities can achieve in their careers. More information at www.dol.gov/odep.

[Click to ... View the PSA ... Read the news release](#)

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[Part II of a Series](#)

2. Expanding Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project, Statewide

Now Includes All 88 Ohio Counties, Children Under Age 18

As noted in Part I ([Pipeline Volume 6 issue 26 December 5 2012](#)) of this series, DODD and Wright State University's Consumer Advocacy Model (CAM) Program, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council'), and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have developed *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project*. In fact, DD Council's involvement goes back to 2003 and, as a long-term grant funder, has supported the initiative and concept development now for nearly ten years, underscoring the importance of new ways to address children's health issues.

[The goal of the overall Tele-psychiatry Project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/developmental disabilities \(MI/DD\) who reside in remote areas across the state.](#)

Begun in February 2012, the project is currently serving approximately 78 adults and 16 children residing in 27 Ohio counties, where there are few if any such services available by qualified practitioners.

Background

At the project's outset, DODD Director John Martin stated, "The lack of appropriate care severely impacts the quality of life for people in these areas while also inflating the cost of care due to increased staffing needs, unnecessary hospitalizations, forced institutionalization, and expenses to transport the person out of the local area for treatment."

The project also was developed to encourage collaborative relationships between local County Boards of DD and local Boards of Mental Health that could bridge the gap in services to people with complex issues. These inter-disciplinary teams then can offer a more comprehensive approach to treatment. Through this collaborative effort it is hoped that treatment and ongoing local support can be provided to as many as 120 under-served individuals by the end of FY2013.

2013 Brings Aggressive Expansion

Furthering this effort in 2013, Director Martin announced on December 24 of last year that *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project* has been expanded to include children from all 88 counties. The initial project was offered to all but the top 13 counties (based on size), in an effort to reach underserved populations throughout Ohio. He stated,

"I have heard from many of you that children with co-occurring issues are vastly underserved in Ohio, even in the larger counties where specialized healthcare services are typically more accessible. In order to better serve this particular group, the project now will accept referrals for children and adolescents under the age of 18 from all county boards, effective immediately."

Currently, referrals for *adults* with co-occurring issues will continue to be restricted to the original 13 target counties in order to meet the goal of reaching adults in more remote areas.

Key Benefits Explored - The Miami County Experience

The most exciting outcomes in *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project* will be told over time by the individuals served and their families, and by the participating physicians at Wright State's CAM Program. The Miami County experience is one scenario that has started off on a highly positive note from the beginning.

According to LeighAnne Wenning, Behavior Support Coordinator/SSA Team Supervisor at the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "This is definitely a program that I have been excited about since I first learned about it in 2010. I have always been an advocate, and have stressed the importance of access to quality and timely mental health services. No matter who you are, mental health matters as much as any other physical or medical issue any of us may experience. Access to the team of qualified clinicians participating in the tele-psychiatry project has had a very positive impact on the people MCBDD serves."

She continues, "In fact, we have served more than 30 individuals using tele-psychiatry and tele-therapy now, and have been serving children in this manner since early 2012. We also have one individual who accesses the services directly from her home. The convenience and benefits of this service to the DD community are numerous."

Wenning goes on to explain that the positive financial impact for individuals, families, and service providers should not be overlooked:

"...These services not only help individuals receiving residential services, but those that used to have family members driving them to and from multiple appointments each month. In addition to the cost savings, we now have access – essentially at our finger tips – to specialized clinicians that understand the impact of mental illness on a person with an intellectual disability. That is the real value of this service."

The MCBDD Office in Troy, Ohio, has two rooms equipped for tele-psychiatry and tele-therapy. The assigned Service & Support Administrator coordinates the appointments and reserves the equipment. Individuals can have the room to themselves, or team members may be present to help provide information to the clinician. Miami County staff note that an individual can be seen in person at any point during the process if there are concerns, or lack of comfort with using the service. It is up to the doctor or the individual.

Wenning notes, “We had one instance in which an individual had a tele-psychiatry appointment in the morning and the doctor noticed that the person was experiencing some recurring facial tics. The doctor scheduled an appointment at her office that same day to check him out.”

Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project, Miami County
www.youtube.com/watch?v=w69CP05YQRY&feature=youtu.be

To see tele-psychiatry in action, click on the link above, and you'll learn why participants say,

“With the equipment, everyone on her team can be assembled in one place for an appointment. And, it's not as intimidating as it sometimes is, going to a doctor's office. With the drive, and a wheelchair and all, sometimes we were exhausted before we even got in to see the doctor.”

“The doctor asks her questions, and we go back and forth for solutions. It's just so convenient! She also likes to see herself on-camera – it feels important.”

As more counties gain experience with tele-psychiatry and have experiences to relate, this *Pipeline* series will share and explore their efforts and outcomes.

Special thanks to LeighAnne Wenning, MCBDD, LeighAnne.Wenning@riversidedd.org; Pam Berry, Senior Policy Advisor, DODD, Pam.Berry@dodd.ohio.gov; Nicole Duff, Outpatient Services Coordinator, Consumer Advocacy Model Program, nicole.duff@wright.edu

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[Health & Safety](#)

[3. Updated Alerts and Precautions for Improved Safety](#)

In a continuing effort to provide timely and updated information on subjects affecting the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers, DODD has re-issued *Health & Safety Alert* #37-01-03 on the subject of Hot Water Burns. The purpose of this Alert is to heighten awareness to the danger of burns from hot water. Most commonly, hot water burns occur during baths or showers, but can also result from cooking accidents. It is important to remember that individuals vary in their perception or sensitivity to hot water, and that age and other factors can contribute to the degree of injury, if any. See the Alert for more information.

Children can get third-degree burns on exposure to hot water in less than ¼ of a second at 160 degrees, and in just over 3 minutes at 120 degrees. The severity of a burn injury depends on the temperature of the liquid, length of time exposed, age of the person, and the size of the area affected. Only cooling stops the skin from burning.



[Flu Shots and Children with Developmental Disabilities, Neurologic Disorders](#)

The [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#) reports that one in five Americans will get the flu this winter, with more than 200,000 sick enough to be hospitalized. Yet, for a variety of reasons, or due to lack of information, many people still do not get vaccinated. And according to the [Ohio Department of Health](#), parents and other caregivers of children who are more likely to develop acute respiratory illness should consult a health care provider as soon as possible during influenza season to prescribe antiviral medications immediately if influenza is suspected.*

Antiviral treatment works best if started shortly after the onset of influenza illness. While influenza vaccine is not 100% effective, it is the best prevention method available.

Here are four of the most common misconceptions about the flu shot, along with the facts:

Myth: Only the elderly and those at high risk need to be immunized.

Fact: Influenza can make anyone -- including the healthiest among us -- seriously ill. Even if you don't develop symptoms yourself, you can pass the virus on to others.

Myth: The flu shot, itself, can give you a case of the flu.

Fact: The virus used in the vaccine is grown in chicken eggs and killed before it reaches your bloodstream. There's absolutely nothing in it capable of causing the flu.



<http://healthyliving.msn.com/diseases/cold-and-flu/flu-infographic>

Myth: You need a doctor's appointment for a shot. Who has time?

Fact: Drug stores, grocery stores, and health clinics across the country provide walk-in vaccinations, and more local health organizations are setting up drive-through flu shot clinics.

Myth: If I have a cold, I should postpone getting a flu shot.

Fact: As long as you're not suffering from a major illness or running a temperature higher than 101°F, the flu shot doesn't present a health risk for you, according to experts.

In addition, ODH officials note that the most important habit one can practice to minimize the spread of influenza germs is to thoroughly wash hands often during the day. The most recent DODD Health & Safety Alerts on the subject of 'Preventing the Flu' are online at dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/. Click on [Health-and-Safety-Alerts](#).

For more information please check out these resources: Flu: A [Guide for Parents](#) of Children or Adolescents with Chronic Conditions and [Letter from CDC](#) to Providers Regarding Neurologic Disorders and Developmental Disabilities.

Acknowledgements to the Ohio Department of Health, www.odh.ohio.gov; and Julie Rose, Champaign Residential Services, Inc., jrose@crsi-oh.com

Facilities Address Safety, Security

Following the recent shooting tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, schools and other public facilities across the nation are making changes to better ensure the safety of children and staff members. Among them is Fairhaven School in London, Ohio (Madison County). *The Columbus Messenger** reported that effective this month, the facility for preschool-aged children is completely locked down during school hours. No one, including parents and family members of students, is allowed to enter unless they have business with the school, and have made advance arrangements.

Mike Mast, children services supervisor for the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities stated,

“Before, our doors were always unlocked. But with all that’s been going on, we finally decided we just can’t take that chance anymore – because you never know.”

A doorbell has been installed at Fairhaven’s entrance and a staff person will admit only those who ring the bell and have business with the school. Mast added, “Eventually, we would like to install an intercom system and security cameras.” Fairhaven also has made changes to student drop-off and pick-up procedures that more strictly limit parents’ access to the building.

Public facilities that serve people with developmental disabilities, including larger residential settings, are among those looking at how to improve safety and security for the individuals served and those that care for them. Sometimes it is simply a matter of better control of traffic flow through a building, or providing deterrents such as improved lighting, and awareness and safety training for staff.

Providers and other facilities that have stepped-up safety and security via facility upgrades and/or staff training are invited to share their comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or on our new [Facebook page](#).

**Acknowledgements to the Columbus Messenger, Schools address safety and security*

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Developmental Centers as Community Resources

4. Cambridge Developmental Center – Alonzo’s Story

Alonzo H. moved out of Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) in 2011, and the facility’s Superintendent Cathy Ballinger says, “It’s a profound story. Alonzo is from our home county, Guernsey,* and had many challenges in the local community dating back several years. He had made some bad choices and had been affiliated with some illegal activity resulting from peer pressure and being taken advantage of. His story is especially heartfelt, as we came across many obstacles -- but someone then gave him a chance, and now he is thriving.”



“Someone then gave him a chance, and now he is thriving!”

Alonzo H. displays a tray of congratulatory cupcakes – and looks forward to pizzas back on the counter – commemorating his new home in the community.



Thanks to CaDC support staff Rob Robbins, along with Amber Bresiger of provider, Paramount Services, for helping to make Alonzo’s transition into community living a success.

Have you ever wanted something badly, but others just couldn’t see it as being possible, or wise?

According to Rob Robbins, CaDC staff support person and friend to Alonzo, “From time to time, there are individuals who have dreams of living on their own, but their history clouds the outlook of family members and team members. Alonzo comes to mind. He had big dreams ... wanted to live in his own place, have a girlfriend, and get his driver’s license! There were those who did not think that these dreams were possible, or they that were wise or safe. Others did not want to take a chance on Alonzo’s behalf.”

However, Alonzo continued to express his dreams, and to advocate for himself. After many long support team meetings, Alonzo finally realized his dream of leaving the Developmental Center to live with a foster family. Then, after about a year, he returned to CaDC for a short time, because his foster family’s situation changed. It was a short-term setback, because after that, Alonzo really did get his own place.

Alonzo now lives in a 3 bedroom home in Scio, Ohio, with his cat. Oh, and the girlfriend...he got that wish, too!

Staff assist him in his home 24-hours a day, to help support a more independent life than was possible in the Developmental Center. Some time ago, he called a staff member late on a Sunday night, just to say that he *loved* his home, and that he “...got to invite his girlfriend over for dinner whenever he wanted.”

The driver’s license...well that dream is still being dreamed. Rob Robbins notes, “It’s safe to say that life is sweet now for Alonzo. And for me, it is a privilege to be a ‘dream-facilitator.’ I say thank you on behalf of all the individuals who have touched our lives at Developmental Centers around the state, on their way to realizing their own dreams.”

Cambridge Developmental Center serves Ohio counties in Region 5, which includes Knox, Holms, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.

More about CaDC at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Cambridge-Developmental-Center->

*Special thanks to Rob Robbins, CaDC and Amber Bresiger, Paramount Services.
Contact: Cathy Ballinger, Superintendent, CaDC, cathleen.ballinger@dodd.ohio.gov*

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[Plan to Attend March 5th!](#)

5. Awareness & Advocacy Event Theme, 'Look Beyond'

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately. The event theme, "Look Beyond" invites people to see the potential in everyone, looking beyond a first glance, or a pre-conceived notion.



Online registration is now available. [Click Here](#) to register now.

The Awareness event program will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, and participation is open to everyone, however, people who wish to meet with their legislators must register in advance so that Advocacy meetings can be scheduled and coordinated.

Registration deadline is Friday, February 15. Register now to ensure a meeting with your legislator!

At the Statehouse that day, advocates, family members, and DD professionals from across Ohio will celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, learn about DD services and programs, and share personal stories with policymakers and their staff. Awareness event speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Executive Director Kevin Miller, state legislators, self-advocates, and providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance at the event is pending availability.

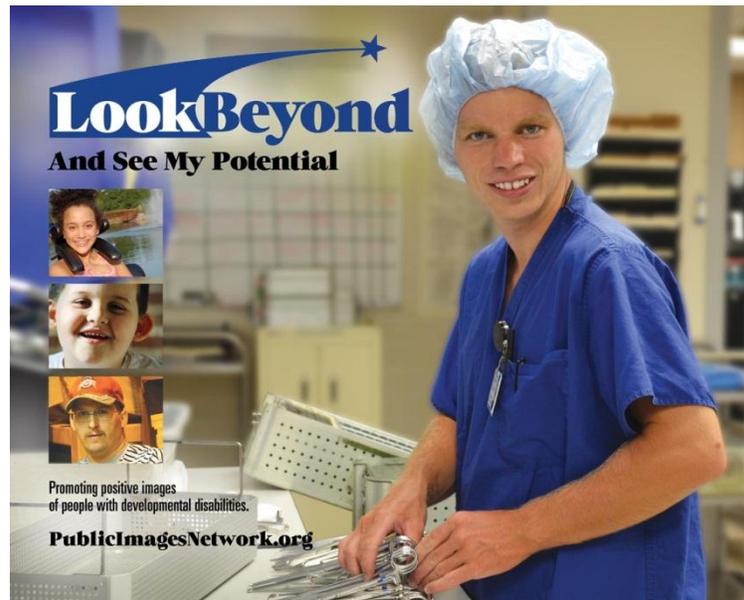
New this year, participants will be invited to participate in the "Look Beyond Video Diary," where they'll be able to tell their personal story on camera for others to see and hear. The Awareness program will be in the Atrium as always, and headquarters for individuals meeting with legislators will be headquartered nearby in the Statehouse 'Museum Gallery' area, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

*Event contacts: Sherry Steinman, DODD, sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov (Awareness program);
Linda Martens, Ohio SIBS lmartens@ohiosibs.com (Advocacy efforts); and
David Lewis, The Arc of Ohio, dlewis@arcoho.org (Story-sharing videos)*

SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013.

The Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event at the Ohio Statehouse.

More information and DD Awareness Month products at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>
Below is one of four posters available.



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PostScripts

☞ Project STIR - Next Training, Feb. 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park

The Ohio Self Determination Association is again sponsoring training for Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) ... an interactive training for self advocates who want to gain or strengthen their leadership skills, and learn effective advocacy tools. The training is February 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park. For more information and registration go to www.ohiosda.org. and click on "Project STIR."

☞ Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat April 5-7

Ohio SIBS announces a "Looking Forward Weekend Retreat," April 5-7, 2013 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, OH. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The retreat is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and the accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* For more information and registration, go to <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.fish@osumc.edu.

☞ SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point, May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon, but The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! Our ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. We had close to 10,000 people attending in 2012. Let's make this year even bigger!"

☞ Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held

July 15-18 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, and *deadline for application is March 31*. Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at [YLF application](#) or contact donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov

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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**. 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, 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. *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>

**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. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

January 30, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 3

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 - 3. *MVDC Marks Milestone in Downsizing Process*
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 - 5. *Plans Move Forward for Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5*
- Pipeline PostScripts: Update your 2013 Calendar*

Administration Update

1. State of the State, ADEP Expansion, and More



Governor John Kasich last week announced plans to deliver the *State of the State* address in Lima, on Feb. 19th from 6:30-7p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, pending the approval of the General Assembly. Lima is in Allen County.

In 2012 Governor Kasich changed a tradition and took the *State of the State* address ‘on the road,’ moving the annual speech from the Statehouse chambers of the House of Representatives to a school in Steubenville. According to the Governor’s Office, the location of the 2013 *State of the State* address – Lima – was selected due to Allen County’s strong economic improvement, including an increase of 2000 jobs in the Lima area since January 2011. The county also has seen its unemployment rate decline in the last year from 10.8% to 6.7%.*

In describing the desire to take the *State of the State* address ‘on the road’, Governor Kasich noted, “...bringing all 132 members of the General Assembly, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet to communities across Ohio *brings government to the people*, and showcases the diversity of our great state with little or no extra expense.”

The February 19 speech will be two weeks after submission of the state’s budget proposal (February 4), including a new school funding formula. The timing will allow the Governor to

cover various aspects of the budget proposal more specifically in the address. **See more at [State of State to be in Lima](#), Lima News.*

DODD and ODH Announce ADEP Expansion

Last week, DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo together announced that plans are underway for an expansion of the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP), statewide. Begun as a pilot project, (see [OCALI newsletter archive](#)) and supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. These teams brought together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Several positive outcomes resulted from the Diagnostic Partnership teams – most significantly the lag time was reduced between the initial suspicion of autism to the actual diagnosis.

The expansion is funded through the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Innovation Fund. The funds support key Administration initiatives including, ‘A Whole Child Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)’ that build upon existing programs targeting early identification and intervention for Ohio’s youngest children with ASD, and advance ASD research. The Autism Diagnostic Education Pilot Project will be expanded to provide training to pediatricians and early interventionists to better coordinate efforts for diagnostic evaluations for ASD. Specialized early intervention training also will be expanded to include best practice interventions that nurture the parent/child relationship. Funding also will assist in the support of a research study that will explore the impact of nutrition and wellness for children with ASD. More information online at [Health Transformation Innovation Fund](#).

Free training and learning opportunities will be planned for March, April, and May to build new Diagnostic Partnership Teams, and support existing ones. For more information on these trainings, contact Courtney Yantes at Courtney_yantes@ocali.org or Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt at mespeshe@kent.edu. For information about upcoming specialized early intervention trainings, contact Molly Kurtz at Molly.Kurtz@dodd.ohio.gov.

On the National Scene

For the first time, federal officials are communicating to school districts across the nation that they must offer students with disabilities equal access to school sports.

In a memo of [guidance](#) issued January 25 to school districts nationwide, the U.S. Department of Education’s *Office for Civil Rights* stated that children with disabilities have the right to participate in their school’s extracurricular activities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The agency said that students with intellectual, developmental, physical, and other types of disabilities should be afforded opportunities to play for their school teams with modifications, aids, and services as needed.

When such accommodations could ‘fundamentally alter’ the game or create an unfair advantage, federal officials noted that schools are obligated to create *separate but equally supported*

opportunities for youth with disabilities to participate. Examples could include a wheelchair basketball league, or unified teams in which students with and without disabilities compete together.

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) recommended that the U.S. Department of Education clarify and communicate schools' responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding the provision of extracurricular athletics.

Click on: [SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT](#)

The Department of Education made it clear that, while students with disabilities have a right to participate in school sports, they may have to meet certain standards of skill or ability in order to join a team, so long as the criteria are not discriminatory. The guidance spoke specifically to the responsibilities of elementary and high schools, but the Education Department said that colleges have a similar obligation to offer access.



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2. Technology Offers Access to Independence

Freedom – Interaction – Expression ... Things EVERYONE Wants in Their Lives!

Examples of technology assisting individuals with developmental disabilities are becoming more numerous and widespread around the state and the nation, and it is clear that efforts in 2013 will pale in comparison to what is likely just around the corner in the field of technology and adaptive devices. An article on Remote Monitoring in *Pipeline Quarterly*, [Spring 2011, page 4](#) illustrated one example of technology's hand in greater independence for individuals with DD, and in [Pipeline January 16, 2013](#) and [Pipeline December 5, 2012](#) we shared information about Ohio's Telepsychiatry Project, connecting individuals to needed services electronically.

Here are a few more examples of technology enabling greater freedom, new ways to interact with others, and more ways to express oneself.

In Franklin County

The Franklin County Adult Services Adapted Computer Program at Franklin County's Bixby Living Skills Center, has had an impressive start with the Center receiving six updated computers last spring, complete with Internet access and technical support. Several engaging PowerPoint activities have been created, which many participants access through the use of adaptive switches. For example, these computers have allowed participants to view picture montage videos complete with music, and re-experience in-house events including ...Karaoke!

Creating their own programs allows for customization of activities to meet individual and group needs and to increase independence, while learning and enjoying computer use.



“I love my iPad!”

Naquan Davis shows his enthusiasm for the iPad and what it allows him to do.

Naquan, who dreams of someday performing as a rap artist, is now using the iPad and computer to work on his many music projects.



<photo courtesy, Martin Kersher, FCBDD Dateline.

Acknowledgements to FCBDD Dateline, January 2013, www.fcbsd.org

In Champaign County

According to Linda Smith, Public Relations Director at provider CRSI in Champaign County, some of the older technology ‘communication boards’ and other more cumbersome devices are now gradually being replaced with smart phone apps that do the same things but in a much less expensive and ‘hand-held’ way.



During summer 2012 CRSI’s Adult Day Services program began exploring the use of iPads by several participants.

CRSI staff note that ‘new age technology’ plays an important role in providing direct care services by offering a way to communicate more effectively with individuals.



<photo courtesy, Linda Smith, CRSI

Each participant involved in CRSI’s Adult Day Services activities has begun using customized icons or apps developed specifically for the individual’s needs and interests, and level of ability. Individuals can make choices using their iPads for communication – indicating what they want to do (or eat!) -- all by touch and recognition. Kate Harris, CRSI habilitation specialist comments,

“Staff are working with individuals at the ‘exploration level’ now, with the expectation that the technology will eventually be integrated more fully into their daily lives.”

Under the umbrella of communication, apps developed for people with developmental disabilities include *MyTalk*, and *Tap to Talk*, offering many prompts for daily choices. For

purposes of learning and exploration, apps developed for autism such as *Going Places* and *AutismXpress* have been helpful. For more information, contact *Linda Smith at CRSI*, www.crsi-oh.com.

On the Web – Blog Time!

Note: A blog is a discussion or informational site published on the Internet and consisting of discrete entries or ‘posts.’

Shari Cooper -- self advocate and a true force to be reckoned with when something excites her interest -- invites her blog readers to, “*Check out my latest, as I share how my iPhone is enhancing my independence! Stay tuned for next week’s post as I share my perspective on turning 40 years old.*” Shari’s blog (a discussion or informational site published on the [World Wide Web](#) and consisting of discrete entries or ‘posts’) speaks for itself with its individuality and enthusiasm, and is indicative of what many individuals with DD are finding – that even with manual dexterity issues such as those sometimes involved with cerebral palsy, it is quite possible to succeed in using the new tools afforded by today’s smart phones.

Read Shari’s blog at:

<http://blog.gesmv.org/index.cfm/make-things-happen-shari/the-i-in-iphone-means-independence-for-me/>



Shari Cooper at a recent DD Council Outreach Committee meeting, taking a break from blogging.

Shari’s comments via her iPhone share her experiences with technology she wasn’t so sure she could master. But, of course, she could!



Contact her online, or at S.Cooper@gesmv.org
Shari Cooper is a Community & Staff Relations Associate
at Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley

“My iPhone is enhancing my independence.”



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[The Changing Role of Developmental Centers](#)

3. MVDC Marks Milestone in Downsizing Process

Last Residents Leave Rian Hall

Excerpted from a January 24 letter to MVDC staff, written by Ernie Fischer, MVDC Superintendent.
As Ohio’s Developmental Centers move forward in a planned downsizing process, the role of the Centers continues as a community resource, as well as a home to individuals with developmental disabilities who may need specialized care, or a short-term stay for a variety of issues. At a budget symposium in early December, DODD Director John Martin provided an overview of

progress regarding Ohio's reduction in the number of individuals residing in state-operated Developmental Centers, including information supporting the overall philosophy of transitioning individuals into appropriate community-based settings. He observed,

“We feel good about this direction, and about how this process has been managed - with the health and safety of these individuals in mind - as well as the funding involved.”

On January 24, the last three residents of Rian Hall at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) moved to new living quarters in Snyder Cottage on the MVDC campus, marking the end of an era encompassing 65 years. During its history, Rian Hall has been home to thousands of people – many of whom were the Center’s most medically-fragile. It also has been a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of employees.

A Little History

As the last three residents leave Rian Hall, MVDC Superintendent Ernie Fischer notes this history: “Construction on a new hospital building began in 1945, as Ohio was transitioning the Ohio State Sanatorium, serving persons with tuberculosis (TB), to the Mount Vernon State Hospital (MVSH). MVSH became the state facility where people with TB who lived in mental health institutions would live. The building was completed in September, 1948. At the time it was a ‘state-of-the-art’ hospital, and MVSH was Ohio’s largest single institution devoted to the care of people with tuberculosis and mental illness.

Over the next several years, the focus of services continued to evolve. By 1965, there were no patients with TB living at MVSH. In 1966, the transition to a facility exclusively serving people with mental retardation (sic) was complete, with 477 residents living on the campus. MVSH was renamed Mount Vernon State Institute in 1969, and late that year, Dr. Irville S. Rian retired, following 28 years as Superintendent. The hospital building was renamed Rian Hall in his honor. In 1979 Mount Vernon State Institute was renamed Mount Vernon Developmental Center. During the past 20 years, the number of individuals living in Rian Hall has been gradually reduced, ending today, January 24, 2013, with the departure of its last three residents.”

During its 65-year history, Rian Hall has been home to thousands of people – many of whom were the Center’s most medically-fragile. And it was a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of dedicated employees. Although the building will no longer be used as a residence, the experiences and memories of the people who lived and worked there always will be an important part of the MVDC community.

A formal ‘decommissioning’ of Rian Hall will be held later this year. Plans for the building following the decommissioning have not yet been determined.

Mount Vernon Developmental Center is located on 310 acres in Knox County. Approximately 125 residents live in six different living areas on the campus. Most of these residents need extensive supports in the areas of daily living, health care, and social skills development. The Center serves the following counties in Ohio Region 5: Knox, Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.

More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/>



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Health & Safety

4. Prescription Assistance Program for All Ohio Residents

The Ohio Drug Card is a statewide Prescription Assistance Program that offers free drug cards to all Ohio residents. The program provides discounts on brand and generic medications with an average savings of around 30%. The program has no restrictions to membership, no income requirements, no age limitations, and there are no applications to fill out. Everyone is eligible to receive savings.

The Ohio Drug Card was launched to help uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescription medications. The program also may be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in some Health Savings Accounts and high deductible health plans.

Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use the program to get discounts on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance.



There are currently more than 56,000 pharmacy locations across the country participating in the program, including all major pharmacy chains. To sign up, locate participating pharmacies, and search medication pricing, go to www.ohiodrugcard.com. Once online, no personal information is required to print a card, and prescriptions processed through the program are confidential. A new smart phone app, *Free Rx iCard*, provides another way to obtain a card.

For more information, contact Michelle Ruble, Program Director for Ohio Drug Card, at mruble@ohiodrugcard.com.

Health & Safety Reminder – Severe Cold

The Division of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit, offers this reminder during the extreme cold temperatures we have experienced across Ohio this winter. Service providers, families, and other care givers are urged to be alert to these issues.

When exposed to very cold temperatures, the body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures will eventually deplete a body's stored energy. The result is *hypothermia*, or abnormally low body temperature. A low body temperature (96 degrees or under) affects the brain, making the person unable to think clearly or move well. So, hypothermia, is also dangerous because a person may not know it is happening to them.

Who is at risk of hypothermia, and how can it be prevented?

Infants younger than one year are at risk and should wear layers of warm clothing or a snug-fitting sleeper to prevent loss of body heat. Remember to pre-warm vehicles before taking infants out into extreme cold weather. Children also lose heat faster than adults. They have a larger head-to-body ratio than adults, accelerating heat loss through the head. Make sure children playing outside cover their heads with hats or hoods and come inside periodically to warm up.

People with serious mental illnesses, cognitive disabilities, or other developmental disabilities may not be able to hear or pay close attention to weather advisory warnings on TV or radio, and may not fully realize the significance of cold weather warnings. In addition, some medications can increase the risk of accidental hypothermia, including drugs used to treat anxiety, depression, or nausea. Some over-the-counter cold remedies can also cause problems. Consult a physician regarding an individual's increased susceptibility to severe cold due to their medications.

[More Information to Review at: DODD Winter Weather Alert, click on #52-11-11](#)

If you think someone might have hypothermia, take the person's temperature. If it does not rise above 96 degrees, call for help. The person should be seen by a physician. While waiting for help to arrive, keep the person warm and dry. Wrap the person in extra blankets, coats, or towels. Use whatever is available.

Public Safety – The Annual ShakeOut

Seismic activity can and does happen in Ohio! Last year, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Seismic Network recorded four earthquakes.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Emergency Management Agency will conduct its third annual 'Great Central U.S. ShakeOut' earthquake safety event on February 7 at 10:15 a.m.. During the drill, participants will practice the recommended response to earthquake tremors:

DROP to the ground...Take COVER under a sturdy table or desk, HOLD ON until the shaking stops.

Across Ohio, many businesses, organizations, schools, and emergency management offices will participate in the annual Shakeout event, organized by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, which includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, as well as Ohio. To participate in the 2013 ShakeOut and learn more about earthquake safety and preparedness, go to www.ShakeOut.org/centralus.

For more on winter health and safety, visit:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/>

Ohio Department of Health <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/winterweather.aspx>

Ohio Department of Aging <http://www.aging.ohio.gov/information/emergencypreparedness/>



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[Plan to Attend - March 5, 2013](#)

5. DD Awareness & Advocacy Event Plans Move Forward

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership blending the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. The combined *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy* event will be March 5th at the Ohio Statehouse, celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme "*Look Beyond.*" Join advocates, family members, and professionals from across Ohio in celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, learning more about services and programs, and sharing personal stories with Ohio policymakers.

LookBeyond

The Awareness event program will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, and participation is open to everyone, however, people who wish to meet with their legislators must register in advance so that Advocacy meetings can be scheduled and coordinated.

Online registration is now available. [Click Here](#) to register now.

Deadline to apply online for appointments with legislators is Friday, February 15.



The “Look Beyond” theme developed by Ohio Public Images* invites people to see the potential in everyone, encouraging all to look beyond a first glance or a pre-conceived notion.



< *One of 4 posters available: www.publicimagesnetwork.org

The event planning team notes that speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, self advocates, state legislators, and providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance is pending availability.

In addition to the Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by various stakeholders in Ohio’s DD community, participants will also be invited to participate in the “Look Beyond” Video Diary, where they’ll be able to share their personal story on camera for others to see and hear.

The Awareness program will be in the Atrium as always, and headquarters for individuals meeting with legislators will be nearby in the Statehouse ‘Museum Gallery’ area, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

Register before February 15 to ensure a meeting with your legislator! [Click Here](#)

Contacts for the event:

DD Awareness activities in the Statehouse Atrium: Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov.

Legislative Advocacy appointments and registration: Linda Martens at lmartens@ohiosibs.com

The “Look Beyond Video Diary”: David Lewis at dlewis@rrcol.com.



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PostScripts

☞ Attn. County Boards with Schools! - Grants Available to Retrofit Buses

The Clean Diesel School Bus Fund is accepting applications through March 1st for grants to retrofit school buses with emission control equipment or pre-heaters to help reduce idling and save fuel. Application information is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef> on the "Clean School Bus Grants" tab. Congratulations to the Boards of Developmental Disabilities in Allen, Carroll, Guernsey, Highland, Holmes, Jefferson, Portage, Richland, and Tuscarawas Counties, who already have received a combined \$283,861 in grants and retrofitted 55 buses with pollution controls and 43 with 'idle reduction' equipment. These grants are a way to reduce the exposure of students, drivers, and maintenance personnel to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. Contact Carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us. More information at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/schoolbus.aspx>

☞ Project STIR - Next Training, Feb. 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park

The Ohio Self Determination Association is again sponsoring training for Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) ... an interactive training for self advocates who want to gain or strengthen their leadership skills, and learn effective advocacy tools. The training is February 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park. For more information and registration go to www.ohiosda.org. and click on "Project STIR."

☞ 'Different Needz' Foundation Now Accepting Grant Applications

The Different Needz Foundation announces that its 2013 grant application period is now open until March 15. The Foundation is accepting applications for monetary grants for individuals with disabilities, their families, and related organizations that are in need of medical services or equipment. Qualifying applications must be received no later than March 15. Grant applications are available from at www.differentneedzfoundation.org, or call (216) 904-5151. The grant awards will be announced in May 2013. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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February 13, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 4

In This Issue ...

- 1. *Administration Update*: Budget Information, State of the State, and More
 - 2. *Employment First* Initiative Continues Momentum
 - 3. *Pipeline Profile*: Division of Information Technology Earns Honors
 - 4. Community Highlights: Programs Offer Successful Employment & Training Opportunities
 - 5. RSC to be Renamed, 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency'
 - 6. Excitement Building for Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5
- Pipeline PostScripts*: News & Events to Update Your Calendar

Administration Update

1. Budget Information, State of the State, and More

Governor John Kasich will deliver the *State of the State* address in Lima, on Feb. 19, from 6:30-7p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center. Lima is in Allen County. The event will be streamed online at <http://www.ohiochannel.org/>

Bringing government to the people once again, Governor John Kasich will present the annual *State of the State* address on February 19 in Lima, two weeks after submitting the state's budget proposal on February 4. The timing will allow the Governor to discuss some areas addressed in the budget proposal, as well as reflect on progress and change during 2012. The proposed budget is named '*Ohio's Jobs Budget 2.0*' and focuses on jobs ... the momentum needed to continue Ohio's real progress ... and the transformational changes needed to reach the state's potential in several key areas.



OHIO'S JOBS BUDGET 2.0

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

Budget documents and fact sheets are at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov>

Ohio's Jobs Budget 2.0 has been developed in collaboration with state agencies and utilizing broad stakeholder input, with the intent of transforming the state through major government reforms and fiscally responsible investments.

Various Budget Areas Pertaining to People with Disabilities

Education

As noted in *Pipeline EXTRA! February 4, 2013*, several areas in the Governor's proposed budget affect individuals with developmental disabilities, and the statewide support system comprising the Ohio DD community. These areas include a ten-fold increase in funding for students with developmental disabilities, as part of a school funding plan named "*Achievement Everywhere.*" The plan calls for \$90 million in new funds to be provided to school districts to assist in the instruction of special education students. More here: [Jobs Budget 2.0 enhances community developmental disability services.](#)

In addition, the state will be challenging the expectations for educating children with disabilities. For the first time (this March), the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will issue a performance-based test for those students. According to ODE Assistant Director for Diverse Learners, Wendy Stoica, "We brought in parents, teachers, and administrators to look at the common core standards that Ohio had adopted in 2010 for English/language arts and math, and then the revised standards Ohio adopted in science and social studies. For the first time, Ohio created what we're calling Ohio Content Standards-Extended," thus extending the measurements to students that have a significant cognitive disability.

[Several states have developed extended standards in the past, but Ohio is one of the first states to align those standards to the new common core standards.](#)



Traditionally, Ohio has assessed students with disabilities by using a portfolio of documentation collected by teachers, illustrating how a child is progressing. That work has never been aligned with a defined standard within the education system. Governor Kasich has stated that the new plan would ensure that school superintendents, "... cannot take funding meant for students with disabilities and direct those dollars to a building not serving those kids." The administration will provide printouts to building principals so they are aware of their exact population and what funding is meant for them. Governor Kasich observed,

"We believe that if you can target things at the building level, there's a much better chance of actually getting those dollars to those students rather than being gobbled up in administrative costs, or perhaps even shifted to a school where the type of student they have is not being served."

Medicaid Expansion

The proposed Medicaid expansion would extend coverage eligibility for 366,000 adult Ohioans in January 2014, and shift 91,000 currently-eligible individuals off of the program – who would then be directed to seek coverage through the federal Health Insurance Exchange created per the Affordable Care Act. According to Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody, while these enrollment changes are expected to produce a \$500 million increase in Medicaid spending in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$1.9 billion in FY 2015, the state's share is expected to decrease by \$23 million in FY 2014 and by \$68 million in FY 2015, due to savings from those who leave the program and the federal government's coverage of newly-eligible individuals. Director Moody stated,

"We continue our efforts to reward better care and not just more care ... we launch more efforts to fight fraud and abuse ... and we require greater responsibility in the program."

Shortly after the decision to move forward with Medicaid eligibility expansion, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced that, on behalf of the Office of Health Transformation, Department of Job and Family Services, and the Office of Medical Assistance, it has entered into a contract with a company to modernize the eligibility process for health and human services programs. The new system would allow Ohioans to apply for services in a more streamlined fashion, and give state and local partners new tools to better manage their operations.

OHT Director Moody labeled the contract a 'key step' in Ohio's efforts to bring the state's eligibility systems and processes up to date, allowing, "... more Ohioans to apply for these services online, rather than by standing in line."

Children's Health Care and Medical Managed Care

Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy reports that approximately 37,000 Ohio children currently eligible for Medicaid in Ohio due to a disability will be enrolled into managed care effective July 1, 2013. This will not affect children who are enrolled on a Medicaid-funded waiver; children who reside in institutional settings; children who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits; or, those eligible for Medicaid by spending down their income or resources.

Each eligible child will be enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan, and families may choose from five such plans to determine which one is right for their child. The Office of Medical Assistance (OMA) will provide updates regarding enrollment and transition, and is working with families, advocates, managed care plans, providers, and other stakeholders to ensure a smooth implementation. For more information: Bureau of Managed Care at BMHC@jfs.ohio.gov

Additional information regarding the proposed biennial budget is at <http://jobsbudget.ohio.gov/> and at <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov>

Update on Telemedicine

Among the many priorities now facing Ohio's legislators is a measure regarding telemedicine services, which was introduced late in the last General Assembly. That bill, [House Bill 609](#), would have required Medicaid and private insurers to cover telemedicine services, in an effort to increase access to health care services in rural areas while driving down costs. These services augment the state's health care delivery system -- aided by interactive audio, video, and other

telecommunications technology. Frequency and quality of physician-to-patient care for individuals residing in more rural and less populated areas of the state can be improved in this way, as noted in [Pipeline Volume 7 Issue 2, January 16, 2013](#) – ‘Expanding Ohio’s Tele-psychiatry Project, Statewide.’ The intent of [House Bill 609](#) will be revisited in new legislation during the 130th General Assembly, now underway.



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2. *Employment First* Initiative Continues Momentum

The DODD Biennial Budget, as represented within the proposed *Ohio’s Jobs Budget 2.0*, adds \$2 million for a newly-created *Employment First* line item. These efforts are designed to ensure that community employment is the *preferred outcome* for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities, and support Governor Kasich’s efforts to eliminate employment barriers. The long-term vision for *Employment First* is that all working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have access to services and supports for the purpose of achieving community employment in an integrated setting.

To support that vision, there are several planned employment-related policy changes currently under review and development. These changes include plans to make permanent the Governor’s *Employment First Taskforce*; improve data collection; ask that County Boards of DD create their own *Employment First* policies; and create a presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can obtain community employment unless a discovery process determines that is not the best option.

With continued improvements in state policies, Ohio’s local communities will be better able to continue transforming services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for community employment outcomes. Last year, the state made a key revision to ensure youth with developmental disabilities can prepare adequately and early enough in their educational career to make plans for their employment-related choices after school. Proposed changes for this year encourage the same consistent expectation for those who are already working age adults.

As more and more adult services priorities include community employment as a preferred outcome, more and more individuals will be empowered to identify their own interests and seek jobs that match their skills — and enable them to participate more fully in their communities when possible.



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Pipeline Profile

3. Division of Information Technology Garneres Honors

Tech Columbus Spotlights Innovation

One of DODD’s agency priorities is, “Improved Information Technology (IT) systems to enable shared services within state government and with our external partners.” Apparently our IT Division is paying attention to exactly that, as they were recognized with two significant awards last week by [Tech Columbus](#). The organization is a catalyst for technology-driven economic

growth in Central Ohio with a focus on accelerating and rewarding innovation. IT Systems Deputy Director Bryant Young earned the *Executive of the Year* award in the ‘organization with 250+ employees’ category, and the DODD Information Technology/Data Warehouse team earned an *Innovation Award* in the *Non-Profit Service Delivery* category.



Back in the Office to Share the Awards

Bryant Young (right) and Jason Lawless display the Tech Columbus Awards presented to DODD on February 7.



See photos of the Data Warehouse Team and all other awardees at [Tech Columbus](#)

The two awards were presented at the annual Tech Columbus Business Innovation Awards event on February 7, and Young was on-hand. He expressed the excitement in being nominated among so many outstanding organizations and businesses, and then being selected for the awards from such strong competition. He stated,

“I recognize this as a great honor to represent the entire Central Ohio IT community and the opportunity to shed light on the great accomplishments occurring in the public sector.”

DODD Director John Martin recently observed the overall importance of improving the gathering and usage of data - and information in general - to guide agency decision-making. Finding new ways to use available data and the ability to access it easily are key. He notes,

“We know that we can make better decisions more often when we have current, reliable data to support our decision-making. That understanding drives our approach to technology leadership and system upgrades.”

Director Martin adds, “Bryant has been a key part of that process by driving innovative approaches in the areas of process, foundation, and business changes that employ cutting edge technologies to further DODD goals and objectives.”

Over the past two years, DODD has optimized equipment and systems operation both through the usage of technology advances such as the improved capacity and efficiencies of virtual desktops, as well as developed new products such as the Data Warehouse that provide a consistent flow of new information, plus improved management and sharing capabilities.

Next on the IT Radar

A DODD application for smartphones will launch in March! More about that in the February 27 issue of *Pipeline*.

More about the Tech Columbus awards at <http://www.techcolumbusinnovationawards.org/>



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Community Highlights

4. Programs Offer Successful Employment & Training Opportunities

Several examples of community-based programs offering new employment and training opportunities are cropping up around the state. We share a few here ...

Dakota's Restaurant, Scioto County

Through the Community Employment program at the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) in Portsmouth, participant Tony Fisher worked with staff to learn the skills he needed to get the job that he wanted. Laurie Green, community employment team leader at the SCBDD's Vocation Station, comments,

"We work with individuals to learn what jobs and interests they have. We look beyond their disabilities and focus on giving them the skills to work at the job they want."

The Community Employment program services for individuals include working with employers to develop and identify job opportunities; assisting and training individuals through preparation of resumes and filling out applications; providing job shadowing opportunities and on-site training; and assisting employers with modifying or eliminating barriers to employment for persons with disabilities.

Dakota's general manager, Taylor Springer, observes that Fisher serves as a motivator for others. "Not only does he do his job well, but he sets an example for the whole staff."



Photo courtesy Shawn Jordan, SCBDD

Tony Fisher has become a part of the Dakota's Restaurant team.

Fisher motivates others through hard work and customer service. Ask him what he likes best about his new job at Dakota's and he'll tell you ...

"I always wanted to work in a restaurant. I get to be around all kinds of people and make them smile."



For more information: Shawn Jordan SJordan@scdd.k12.oh.us

Higher Grounds Coffee Shop at Mercy Willard Hospital

Christie Lane Industries, the employment arm of the Huron County Board of DD, held a Grand Opening event last week for *Higher Grounds Coffee Shop* at Mercy Willard Hospital. The shop will be operated by individuals receiving services from Christie Lane, along with a full-time manager. Individuals employed there will earn minimum wage, including training time as well as work hours. The coffee shop will be open 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and feature Caribou coffee products, fruit smoothies, and pastries. Plans also include the hospital displaying original artwork for sale from Christie Lane's *Artist's Open Studio*.

For more information: Dr. Dee Zeffiro-Krenisky, Superintendent, at drdee@accnorwalk.com



Photo courtesy, Yokum Communications

They're standing on Higher Grounds. Julie Moffit (left), manager of the new Higher Grounds Coffee Shop, gets the morning started with employee, Dusty Wilhelm.



Individuals employed there will earn minimum wage, including training time and work hours.

ViaQuest, New Center in Grove City

Activity and employment centers operated by ViaQuest offer life skills training, employment, and socialization opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities across Ohio. And, the number of opportunities has just increased with the Grand Opening this month of a new Grove City location. The February 1 event was hosted by employees and staff, representing nearly 20 current employees soon to be joined by several new individuals who are ready to locate to the new Gantz Road offices.

Vocational programs offer minimum wage positions in furniture assembly, general office work, office supply warehousing, and janitorial services. Transportation services are available. Rich Johnson, president and CEO of ViaQuest commented at the Grand Opening, "We are excited to offer another location for the enrichment of adults with developmental disabilities, and the new Grove City location provides much-needed employment opportunities."



Now that's a true
Customer Service smile!

Danielle Ford (facing camera) speaks with Ryan Miller, ViaQuest Director of Program Development, and a parent touring the building, interested in employment options for her 22 year-old daughter. Danielle had just finished cleaning the kitchen area, and it was spotless.



Community Support

The Grove City Chamber of Commerce, Mayor, and other officials showed support on opening day, at the Grand Opening.

Front row (l. to r.) Grove City Chamber member Brian Montgomery; ViaQuest program participant David Steller; State Representative Cheryl Grossman; ViaQuest CEO Rich Johnson; OPRA Director of Government Relations Jeff Davis; Grove City Mayor Richard L. "Ike" Stage.



For more information: Ryan Miller, ViaQuest, (614) 339-0810, ryan.miller@viaquestinc.com



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RSC Name Change

5. RSC to be 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities'

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is transitioning to a new name. According to RSC Executive Director, Kevin Miller, the new agency name will be the *Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency* and will more accurately reflect the organization's mission and goals. The new name is part of the budget bill, *Ohio's Jobs Budget 2.0*, and will become effective shortly after the budget is passed in late June.

In an [online video](#) Director Miller notes,

"The name change and proposed additional funding will enable us to continue to revolutionize the way we operate. Our mission and goals have not changed, but the additional resources will allow us greater focus on accomplishing agency priorities – it's a natural next step."

In considering the name change, RSC studied survey information that indicated individuals who are eligible for RSC vocational and employment services often were confused by the name, and the word 'rehabilitation' was not indicative of the agency's efforts. Miller stated, "RSC is often confused with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, or we are thought of as a drug, alcohol, or other rehabilitation agency. In addition, our needs assessment clearly shows that people know little about RSC, and even less about the services that we provide -- based in no small part on our name."

Among the many opportunities RSC provides for Ohioans with disabilities are efforts involving Governor Kasich's *Employment First initiative*, for which DODD is the lead Cabinet-level agency.* DODD and RSC partner in many ways to serve individuals with disabilities, focusing on community-based vocational and employment options, and engaging the broader developmental disabilities community throughout the state to provide critical services.

**The Employment First Executive Order calls for the Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Education, and Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission to increase meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
More information at www.dodd.ohio.gov and <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>*


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[March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

6. Excitement Builds for DD Awareness & Advocacy Event

Plan to Attend - March 5, 2013, Ohio Statehouse

A new partnership blending the annual *March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities, previously held separately, into a combined event on March 5th at the Ohio Statehouse, will celebrate the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme "*Look Beyond.*" The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy* event program will begin at 9:45 a.m. and end at noon* in the Statehouse Atrium, and *participation is open to everyone* -- however, people who wish to meet with their legislators must register in advance so that Advocacy meetings can be scheduled and coordinated.

[Click Here to register now.](#)

[Deadline to apply online for appointments with legislators is Friday, February 15.](#)



Theme materials are available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders invite advocates, family members, and professionals from across Ohio to attend the event. Last year the Awareness venue welcomed more than 500 people from 36 counties, and all indications are that this year's combined event will be an even more effective way to tell the stories of progress and change in the state's DD community.



At last year's Legislative Advocacy Day ...
Even Mark's tie can be heard!
Mark Seifarth, former DODD Legislative Liaison, current member of Ohio DD Council, and Legislative Affairs Specialist at the National Council on Disability in Washington D.C., sports a colorful Noah's Ark tie, and relates it to the subject at-hand, noting,

"We're all in the same boat. Let's work together to have our voices heard."



We are happy to report that you will probably see Mark at this year's event – And maybe even the same tie.

Speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, several self advocates, state legislators, and service providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance is pending availability. The Awareness program will be in the Atrium, and headquarters for individuals meeting with legislators will be nearby in the Statehouse 'Museum Gallery' area, allowing for registration, and an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

Something New

In addition to the Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by various stakeholders in Ohio's DD community, attendees also may participate in the "Look Beyond Video Diary," where they'll be able to share their personal story on-camera for others to see and hear. The Arc of Ohio is spearheading the video project.

Contact for the DD Awareness activities in the Statehouse Atrium is Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov; for Legislative Advocacy appointments and registration contact Linda Martens at lmartens@ohiosibs.com; and for the "Look Beyond Video Diary," contact David Lewis at dlewis@rrcol.com.

The 2013 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme, "Look Beyond," developed by Ohio Public Images, invites people to see the potential in everyone, encouraging all to look beyond a first glance or a pre-conceived notion.

**NOTE: Some appointments with legislators may be scheduled in the early afternoon.*



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Postscripts

Goodwill Columbus Workshop, 'Life After School and Beyond,' March 9

Goodwill Columbus will host a "Life After School and Beyond" workshop at 1331 Edgehill Rd. on March 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities includes sessions on: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne

Russell of Franklin County DD; Jobs/ Employment with Meg Griffing of COVA and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill; Leaving an Inheritance with presenter David Zwyer, Community Fund Management Foundation; a parent and participant panel including Marilyn Messina, and her son Michael Messina; and, "Who will care for my loved one when I no longer can?" with Stacy Martz, PhD, Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of Southwest Ohio. For more information or to register, contact Pat Karshner, (614)885-2291; pkarshner@columbus.rr.com.

'We Connect Now' Website Serves College Students with Disabilities

The "We Connect Now" website was created by a college student with the goal of connecting and integrating college students with disabilities as a virtual community with a voice on issues emphasizing access to higher education and employment. The website is a resource that has been linked to by colleges, universities, and groups serving people with disabilities in all 50 states and at least 10 foreign countries. More at <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/> or contact site developer Gabriela McCall Delgado at weconnectnow2008@gmail.com.

'Different Needz' Foundation Now Accepting Grant Applications

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Attn. County Boards with Schools! - Grants Available to Retrofit Buses

The Clean Diesel School Bus Fund is accepting applications *through March 1st* for grants to retrofit school buses with emission control equipment or pre-heaters to help reduce idling and save fuel. Application information is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/oeef> on the "Clean School Bus Grants" tab. These grants are a way to reduce the exposure of students, drivers, and maintenance personnel to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. Contact Carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us. More information at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/oeef/schoolbus.aspx>

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Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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February 27, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 5

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- 6. DODD and Ohio Department of Health Announce Collaboration on Early Intervention, Part C
- 7. Developmental Center Staff Broaden Expertise
- 8. DODD to Launch Application for Smart Phones
- 9. Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event is Next Tuesday!

Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Items & Events to Update Your Calendar

Just around the corner – the annual celebration of
March - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

We hope you will share information and a photo of your local activities!

Please send information to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in one of the
March issues of *Pipeline* – March 13 and 27. Thank you!

Administration Update

1. Governor John Kasich's State of the State Address

Governor John Kasich's *State of the State* address from Lima in Allen County, underscored major plans for Ohio over the next two years following the release on February 4 of the proposed biennial budget outlining a number of new initiatives. He urged members of the General Assembly to embrace 'a bigger picture' to keep propelling the state forward to a more prosperous job-friendly future.

In developing the state budget and its foundational elements, Governor Kasich noted, "We didn't just cut (dollars) ... we re-engineered. Other states are looking at what we have done in Ohio because we are getting it right! Big ideas renew people." He later added,

"We are succeeding - here in Ohio - in turning our state around, and it is fantastic!"

Overall, the speech outlined the Administration’s enthusiastic and aggressive agenda to further improve Ohio's economic competitiveness, while energizing small businesses and entrepreneurial efforts via a more business-friendly tax environment. Policies promoting initiatives that will foster interest from international business and industry leaders are also part of the mix to move Ohio forward, as well as a focus on resources for education, and changes to Medicaid-funded programs and service delivery.

In wrapping up the energetic *State of the State* address, Governor Kasich responded to what listeners to the speech might be wondering as they ponder the next two years’ tasks at-hand ... he said, “What do we do now? We keep our foot on the gas!”



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2. Budget Hearings – DODD Presents Budget Proposal

Partner agencies in the Office of Health Transformation, which includes DODD, continue to testify before the [Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee](#) regarding their specific agencies’ funding needs, projected operational outlook, and estimated growth or change in populations to be served, as well as new initiatives underway. Director John Martin’s testimony yesterday included key areas addressed in [Jobs Budget 2.0 - enhances community developmental disability services](#).

Director Martin [testified](#) that proposed General Revenue Fund (GRF) increases in the executive budget proposal would allow DODD to help Ohio children with extensive behavioral needs, help to downsize some large care facilities and convert them to community-based settings, and assist in efforts to support the Governor’s *Employment First* Initiative.

The DODD Biennial Budget, as represented within the proposed *Ohio’s Jobs Budget 2.0*, adds \$2 million for a newly-created *Employment First* line item. These efforts are designed to ensure that community employment is the *preferred outcome* for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities. The long-term vision for *Employment First* is that all working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have access to services and supports for the purpose of achieving community employment in an integrated setting.

The Employment First Taskforce member agencies are the Ohio departments of Developmental Disabilities, Education, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health, as well as the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

As community employment as a *preferred outcome* becomes more fully realized across the state, more individuals will be empowered to identify their own interests and seek jobs that match their skills — enabling them to participate more fully in their communities when possible.



**OHIO'S JOBS
BUDGET 2.0**

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

[More at: Jobs Budget 2.0 Health Transformation Testimony](#)

In addition, details surrounding the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in Ohio will affect all agencies under the OHT umbrella, and each agency is considering the impact as part of their budget testimony this month. OHT partners offering testimony include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Department of Health Director Ted Wymyslo, State Medicaid Director John McCarthy, Department of Mental Health Director Tracy Plouck, Department of Aging Director Bonnie Kantor-Burman, and Director of Drug & Addiction Services Orman Hall, all under the umbrella provided by OHT -- as well as Executive Director Kevin Miller of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (see [Pipeline, February 13 2013](#) re: *RSC to be Re-Named*).

Budget hearings are streaming online at <http://www.ohiochannel.org/>



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3. Sondra Williams Receives Governor's Courage Award

As part of the *State of the State* address, Governor Kasich presented the annual Governor's Courage Awards, honoring inspirational Ohioans. Recipients of the medals this year included Astronaut Neil Armstrong; staff and faculty at Chardon High School - site of a tragic shooting in 2012; and, Sondra Williams, an adult with autism, and who is the Director of the Autism Research Institute's Youth Division.

Williams was recognized for her many accomplishments as a self-advocate with Autism, as well as for her advocacy work and endeavors on behalf of all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Having spent most of her life misdiagnosed, and having been institutionalized for several years, Williams' story is one of courage. As a member of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) Advisory Board and the Autism Society's panel of advisors, Sondra presents nationally on the subject of ASD and is the author of a book, *Reflections of Self*. She recently participated on a panel with fellow OCALI Advisory Board members, presenting new Ohio [Autism Recommendations](#) to the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA).

The IWGA, led by DODD, is a partnership of state agencies working together to better coordinate and develop policy and programs that result in positive outcomes for Ohioans with ASD. In close partnership with OCALI and its Advisory Board, the IWGA will use the Autism Recommendations as a blueprint moving forward with its work.

[“The Recommendations are the heart and soul of the individuals and families across our state that are living with the impacts of autism each day. Representing voices from all corners of Ohio, and all ages across the lifespan, the Recommendations speak clearly about how we can better serve and support Ohioans with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. This will be the IWGA's compass.”](#) -Jody Fisher, DODD Autism Project Manager and Coordinator of the IWGA

To learn more about the recommendations, they can be viewed at [Autism Recommendations](#)



Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives William Batchelder applauds (left) as Sondra Williams gets a hug from Governor John Kasich during the 2013 Courage Awards ceremony.

A video link to the awards ceremony is at: [Governor's Courage Awards Ceremony](#)

Photo courtesy, OCALI



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4. Grant to Advance Health Care Payment Innovation

Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody announced last week that Ohio has received a competitive federal award to accelerate the state's work to improve overall health system performance through payment innovation and service delivery improvements. The \$3 million State Innovation Model (SIM) Design Award will be used to develop and implement evidence-based strategies that improve the health of individuals, rather than simply treat disease.

Director Moody commented, "Rather than letting our current health care payment systems continue to drain value out of the care we buy, Ohio is working to implement innovative payment models that will create expectations of better care and deliver improved health outcomes. Our goal is to promote wellness and prevention through effective, patient-centered care that meets the health needs of individuals and creates a healthy and productive workforce."

Ohio was one of 16 states to receive a SIM Design Award, and the only state other than Idaho, to receive the maximum grant award of \$3 million.

The state and its partners will contribute \$4.1 million in funding and in-kind resources for the design phase of the SIM project. More at <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>.



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[Leadership Update](#)

5. *Employment First* Initiative Continues Momentum

Helling to Lead Project Management for *Employment First*, Other Programs

Kristen Helling recently joined DODD as Community Advisor in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction. She will be coordinating implementation of Ohio's *Employment First* Initiative -- the statewide collaboration launched in March 2012 by Governor Kasich. At that time he established an *Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee* to improve

employment outcomes for working-age adults with developmental disabilities. DODD is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the Taskforce efforts.



“I have witnessed first-hand the remarkable opportunities that exist for people with developmental disabilities when we support their choice to obtain community employment. I’m thrilled to be a part of the *Employment First* Initiative to improve employment outcomes in Ohio.”

-Kristen Helling



Helling has been working with the Taskforce since its inception, through her previous role as a vocational rehabilitation supervisor and technical assistance advisor for the Bridges to Transition program at the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB). Her experience also includes Bridges program coordination at the Knox County Board of DD, successfully implementing career exploration efforts to assist transition-age youth in preparing for employment opportunities after high school.

Monty Kerr, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction stated, “We’re fortunate to add Kristen’s leadership and program management expertise to our team. She brings solid employment program experience and has an excellent understanding of the roles among partner agencies and organizations. Our system relies on relationships, leadership, and coordination to best serve individuals and families. Kristen values and fosters that.”

Contact Kristen Helling at kristen.helling@dodd.ohio.gov



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[DODD, ODH Announce ...](#)

6. Improved Collaboration on Early Intervention, Part C

Ohio Department of Health Director (ODH) Ted Wymyslo and DODD Director John Martin convened a joint meeting last week to announce inter-agency coordination efforts on Part C Early Intervention Services. Part C is a federal program administered by states that serves families with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions with high probabilities of resulting in developmental delays.

In Ohio, ODH is the lead agency for these services, which it administers as *Help Me Grow*. In last week’s meeting, the directors and program staff from both agencies announced a more structured coordination strategy to better clarify roles and responsibilities of the two state agencies. It’s all about listening and learning from stakeholder input—parents, professionals, agencies, advocacy groups and the Help Me Grow Advisory Council—and creating a shared leadership model that enables local agencies and providers to better serve families.

For more information, including a one-page Fact Sheet and a PowerPoint presentation on the subject, please visit the DODD website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/DODD-and-ODH-Announce-Improved-Collaboration-on-Early-Intervention.aspx>.



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[DCs as Community Resources](#)

7. Developmental Center Staff Broaden Expertise

Certified Public Manager Credential Fosters Success

In the ongoing process of rebalancing Ohio's state-operated Developmental Centers, staff members are encouraged to look at new ways to help people be successful in different residential environments, and new ways to think about day-to-day interactions on the job that foster success for the facility residents and for themselves. Paving the way to these efforts is staff development, such as the Certified Public Manager (CPM) training, offered by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' (DAS) Office of Learning & Professional Development.

According to DODD Division of Residential Resources Assistant Deputy Director, Troy McCollister, the story of two staff members illustrates the immediate benefit for the organization and for the individuals themselves. Jennifer Buhn, Business Manager at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC), and Brooke D'Angelo, Residential Care Supervisor at Montgomery Developmental Center (MDC) each have earned the Certified Public Manager credential. McCollister notes,

“When staff take the initiative to further educate themselves through an 18-month commitment like the Certified Public Manager curriculum, it really says a lot about the quality of service they will then be capable of offering individuals with developmental disabilities and their co-workers. We are proud to support these efforts, and we really appreciate the Ohio Department of Administrative Services making this kind of curriculum available.”

According to DAS, the [credentialing curriculum](#) is designed to develop public sector leaders into innovative, strategic thinkers who can build and maintain high-performing organizations through enhanced leadership, communication and problem solving skills, and better working knowledge of government. Upon successful completion of the nationally-accredited program, graduates have the expertise and competency to maximize personal and organizational performance. “Helping staff enrich their experience can only make the DC environment more aware of and responsive to the needs of the individuals and communities served,” explains McCollister.

Making the commitment (18 months of twice-monthly classes) to the 300 hours of course work, and finding the time to do it, was the starting point for both Jennifer and Brooke. They both noted that their lives were plenty busy to begin with! Jennifer commented,

“I like this because it really shows how what you do impacts others. It's so important to think about the receiving end of any communication.”

She added that an immediate benefit on the job was finding better ways to describe tasks more clearly. “I saw great results when I just stopped to think things through more from another person’s perspective,” she added.

Brooke noted that as a mother of two active children it was especially hard to find the time to devote to the course work ... “But I knew it would help me gain more confidence in my job and in my decision-making. As Residential Care Supervisor on our campus at Montgomery DC -- that includes six houses on the campus with four individuals living in each house -- you’re talking about a group of staff that serves these individuals 24/7, and making sure that you are communicating well with all of them.” She continued,

“This training helped me to learn to be comfortable with delegating to staff – and helping other staff to develop their own skills. If you always pick the same staff to do things, the others will never develop to their potential. Same thing with the residents – they are much more likely to learn and absorb new things if you can learn how to approach them from their perspective and get to know their goals and values. It’s been very positive all the way around.”

DODD strongly supports staff training and education efforts that lead to better serving the needs of individuals, and energizes a cohesive team effort within the statewide service system. Deputy Director for Residential Resources Ginnie Whisman shows her enthusiasm, stating,

“We are very proud of both Jennifer and Brooke for making the commitment to be a part of this program. We always need more committed and dedicated leaders in our field, and they clearly meet this criteria!”



Newly-credentialed Developmental Center staff celebrate at the Ohio Statehouse

Jennifer Buhn (left), and Brooke D’Angelo pause to congratulate each other on earning the Certified Public Manager (CPM) credential following an official graduation ceremony earlier in the month.

“I knew it would help me gain more confidence in my job and in my decision-making.”

–Brooke D’Angelo, MDC



“I saw great results when I just stopped to think things through more from another person’s perspective.”

–Jennifer Buhn, MVDC

Ohio’s ten state-operated [Developmental Centers](#) are charting new paths in their geographic areas, working with community partners in helping residents move into smaller settings, working with families to assure that needed services are available for individuals in the least restrictive environments, and providing new opportunities for community connections -- including employment when possible. “Having strong, qualified leadership onsite, in the day-to-day

operations of residential services is so important,” McCollister observes. “We believe that our agency’s mission is better served when our staff is better trained.”

The mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is the continuous improvement of the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

More information online at: [Ohio Certified Public Manager, Ohio DAS](#); and at [Developmental Centers](#)



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8. DODD to Launch Application for Smart Phones

A DODD application (app) for smart phones will launch in March! Fittingly, that’s *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, (see article #5 below) and it will be much simpler to exercise greater awareness of programs and information when it is at your fingertips.



Along with the three bulleted items in the graphic above, many more features will be easily accessed via the app. Go to www.dodd.ohio.gov in March to learn more about it.

For more information contact Kathy Casagrande at Kathy.Casagrande@dodd.ohio.gov



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[March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)

9. Statewide Awareness & Advocacy Event is Next Tuesday!

March 5, 2013, Ohio Statehouse



The 2013 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme, “Look Beyond,” invites people to see the potential in everyone, encouraging all to look beyond a first glance or pre-conceived notion.

Theme materials are available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day is next Tuesday, March 5! The event at the Ohio Statehouse, 9:30 a.m. – noon (some appointments with legislators may be scheduled in

the early afternoon) represents a new partnership blending the annual *March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and the statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. Celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme “*Look Beyond*,” the *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy* program is open to everyone. Registration for attendees to meet with their legislators -- the Advocacy component of the day -- was completed on February 15. More than 220 people have registered for those appointments.

Event planners representing DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders note that last year the Awareness venue welcomed more than 500 people from across the state. DODD Deputy Director Zach Haughwout notes,

“With many of the same individuals attending both of the events that were held separately last year, all indications are that this year’s combined event will be an even more effective way to tell the stories of progress and change in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.”



In 2012, the “Together” theme reinforced the belief that our communities are better when everyone is Together! Shown at last year’s event are DODD Director John Martin (Left) and OPI Executive Director Lon Mitchell, demonstrating a “Together” handshake.

This year’s speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, several self advocates, state legislators, and service providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance is pending availability. The Awareness program will be in the Atrium, and headquarters for people meeting with legislators will be nearby in the Statehouse ‘Museum Gallery’ area, allowing for a smooth registration, and an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

‘Look Beyond’ Video Diary

Along with the Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by stakeholders, attendees also may participate in the “Look Beyond Video Diary,” where they can share their personal stories on-camera for others to see and hear. The Arc of Ohio is spearheading this new video project.

Contact for DD Awareness activities in the Statehouse Atrium is Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 644-0262; for Legislative Advocacy efforts contact Linda Martens at lmartens@ohiosibs.com, (614) 302-7212; and for the "Look Beyond Video Diary," contact David Lewis at dlewis@rrcol.com, (614) 487-4720 x111

More about DD Awareness Month in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Winter 2012 - '13 ... publishing in late March.
Pipeline Quarterly is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx



Special Notice! Family Advisory Council Meeting March 12, 2013 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Columbus Developmental Center Training Room 1601 W. Broad Street, Columbus



Take Your Seat!

FAC Meetings are open to everyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

For more information or an agenda, contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov

Postscripts

☞ "I Have a Voice!" – The Arc of Ohio Announces Training, March 20

The Arc of Ohio invites Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, support professionals, and educators to a day of training, education, and legislative information at the Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St. in Columbus, on March 20, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.. A legislative reception follows the afternoon program.

[Click Here to Register: EventBrite Registration](#)

[Lunch, Reception, and Materials included in Registration cost.](#)

The program will include presentations by DODD Director John Martin with information about Governor Kasich's proposed budget and how it relates to Ohioans with DD and their families, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Office of Medical Assistance on the subject of Managed Care -- as well as sessions on effectively advocating for yourself and others with developmental disabilities. In addition, Disability Rights Ohio (formerly 'Ohio Legal Rights') and The Arc of Ohio will provide information on a variety of other subjects of interest.

☞ Goodwill Columbus Workshop, 'Life After School and Beyond,' March 9

Goodwill Columbus will host a “Life After School and Beyond” workshop at 1331 Edgehill Rd. on March 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities includes sessions on: Government/County Funding with Anne Russell of Franklin County DD; Jobs/ Employment with Meg Griffing of COVA and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill; Leaving an Inheritance with David Zwyer, Community Fund Management Foundation; a parent and participant panel including Marilyn Messina, and her son Michael Messina; and, “Who will care for my loved one when I no longer can?” with Stacy Martz, PhD. For more information or to register, contact Pat Karshner, (614)885-2291; pkarshner@columbus.rr.com.

Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat, April 5-7

Ohio SIBS announces a “*Looking Forward Weekend Retreat*,” April 5-7, 2013 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, OH. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The weekend is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and the accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* For more information and registration, go to <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University’s annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17 this year, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

Multiple Perspectives 2013: Intersections & Independence

Click Here for information and registration > <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Two days of sessions include numerous subjects such as, ‘Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio’; and ‘Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.’ *Contact: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free One-Day Conference, April 12

A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute at Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at Vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The free conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is set for May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for the state of Ohio’s board of *People First*. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio ‘Day at Cedar Point’ – May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon, but The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! Our ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. We had close to 10,000 people attending in 2012. Let's make this year even bigger!"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held July 15-18, and *deadline for application is March 31*. Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at *YLF application* or contact donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov

'We Connect Now' Website Serves College Students with Disabilities

The "We Connect Now" [website](http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/) was created by a college student with the goal of connecting and integrating college students with disabilities as a virtual community with a voice on issues emphasizing access to higher education and employment. The website is a resource that has been linked to by colleges, universities, and groups serving people with disabilities in all 50 states and at least 10 foreign countries. More at <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/> or contact site developer Gabriela McCall Delgado at weconnectnow2008@gmail.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**. 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, 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. *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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Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

March 13, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 6

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Pipeline PostScripts: New Items & Events to Update Your Calendar

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

We invite you to share information and a photo of your local activities!

Please send information to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in the March 27 Pipeline.

1. We ‘Looked Beyond’ on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day



Franklin County self advocate Christine Brown was among the nearly 600 people who attended the March 5 event at the Statehouse.

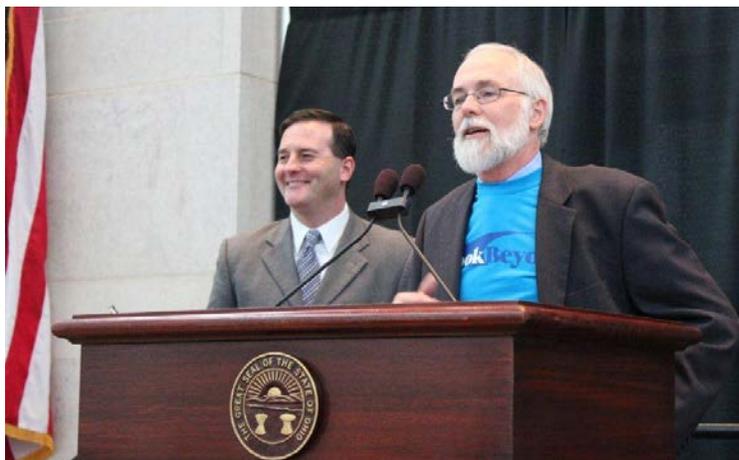
“The SELF Waiver gives me service options that I need, and saves money for the system. Self-directed services are what’s needed – let’s speak up!” –Christine Brown, self advocate

Like the Statehouse website says, “The Ohio Statehouse is more than a monument to our past, it’s where history happens!” *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day* March 5th at the Ohio Statehouse represented a new partnership blending the annual March *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and the statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. Indeed, history was made at this year’s event when Awareness and Advocacy venues overflowed *The People’s House* – with Awareness in the Atrium flowing over to the Vern Riffe Center for Advocacy meetings with legislators.

Celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme, “*Look Beyond*,” the program was organized by DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders.

Approximately 600 people attended the event, representing at least 35 counties.
[Click here for: A Video from the event](#)

Speakers included DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Executive Director Kevin Miller, several self advocates, state legislators, and service providers. Here are a few glimpses and some words of wisdom from a day of Awareness & Advocacy ...



DODD Director John Martin at the podium, addresses some 600 attendees on the subject of positive outcomes arising from successful advocacy efforts.

“Today’s program underscores for me the many accomplishments that strong self advocates have helped to bring about in communities across the state. I applaud each of you.”



Shown stepping up next is Kevin Miller, Executive Director of the Rehabilitation Services Commission. He noted,

**“The main reason employers hire people with disabilities is because they come to work.
They come to work – to work!”**





Renee Wood (and husband, Floris) carefully set the stage for what it takes to be a successful advocate, commenting that persistence - and a strong desire to succeed - are what has helped her rise to the key role of Ohio DD Council Chair. She explains,

“I never thought I could be an officer in an important organization like DD Council. I wanted to be involved and help make things happen, but did not think that would be possible with my disability. I found out that if I kept trying and speaking up, I could be a part of making things happen – and if I can, so can YOU!”



Courtney Jordan is a self advocate and the first individual to enroll in Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) in Medina County. She spoke to the benefits of MBI, and encouraged others in attendance to look into it for themselves:

“MBI has allowed me to save more of the money I earn in my job in the SSA Department with the Medina County Board of DD. It has given me much more independence. In fact, it was the ticket to independence for me. Maybe it can work for you, too.”



Mark Kayes, an employee of LaRosa's Pizza in Cincinnati, stepped up to the podium to share his enthusiasm for more than seven years at LaRosa's. Mark manages customer orders with enthusiasm, and keeps his feet busy in the process, as he was born without arms. LaRosa's officials Michele McMahon and Steve Browne noted,

“What makes us a great team at LaRosa's is hiring people with capabilities – and that means people like Mark!”



Franklin DD Board President Dean Fadel (left) and brother, Jeff, speak to the importance of siblings in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Dean acknowledges,

“My brother is just as much an advocate for me as I am for him. He’s my best advocate, actually, and I’ve learned a lot from him.”

Jeff responded, **“Yes, you have!”**

<Deaf Services Center sign language interpreter Tina Shifflett is at far left.



State Representative Barbara Sears makes a strong point ...

“We’re learning more and more to take a practical approach to accessibility – Improving Ohio means trying to improve the lives of ALL Ohioans!”



Ray Goodman, a Wood County self advocate, is pleased to have received Senator Randy Gardner’s business card following a legislative visit on March 5. Senator Gardner took time to speak to several self advocates and answer their questions regarding Medicaid-funded services, and Visitability* in their geographic area.

Ray is an activist in his own right – as secretary of the local *People First* chapter, he has the meetings videotaped. He takes the video home where he and his home staff review it, and then Ray tells staff what he feels should be in the minutes.

*‘Visitability’ takes accessibility a step further, including both physical and social barriers in a community.

The ‘Look Beyond’ Video Diary

Along with the March 5 Awareness program, Advocacy appointments with legislators, and information tables staffed by stakeholders, several attendees also participated in the “Look Beyond Video Diary,” where they shared their personal stories on-camera for others to see and

hear. The Arc of Ohio spearheaded this new video project, and the Arc's Dave Lewis noted, "I did about 12 interviews that day, and now I have appointments to travel around the state for more. Once I get them all on tape I plan on having a friend of mine help me put it all together."

DODD Smart Phone Application Launched

A DODD mobile application (app) for smart phones was introduced at the event – a fitting tribute to *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, allowing anyone with an interest in adding the app to their smart phone to keep up easily with Department news and updates.



Greater awareness of DODD programs and other information is at your fingertips!

The new DODD Mobile Application is now available to download from App Store and Google Play.

If you have any questions, or experience any technical issues with the new DODD mobile application, contact Venu Edupuganti at mobile.app@dodd.ohio.gov.

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DODD Division of Legal & Oversight

2. Decision-Making in the Developmental Disabilities System

Updated information on the subject of Guardianship has been 'on the radar' for the staff of the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight and the Ohio DD Council for quite a while, working to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to participate in decision-making with clear guidelines. Changes in the law [Ohio Revised Code 5126.043](#) were made effective September 10, 2012 and provide options that allow individuals to *participate in decisions* that affect their lives, and to *have their needs, desires and preferences considered*.

On the [Ohio DD Council website](#) there is a [brochure](#) explaining the new law and a revised booklet on *Guardianship and Alternatives in Ohio*. On the [DODD website](#) there are two PowerPoint presentations, "2012 Law: Changes to Decision-Making in the DD System", and "Decision-Making in the DD System" explaining the changes in the law and guardianship, as well as other information, emphasizing that decision-making is a learned skill:

**"We ALL need opportunities, experience and support to learn to make good decisions.
Growth occurs through the dignity of risk.**

**The lack of an opportunity to make decisions may result in a person never learning that skill."
-Excerpted from new PowerPoint presentations**

DODD Deputy Director for Legal & Oversight Kate Haller notes,

"Advocates and self advocates came together to make this new law a reality. It's not new that people are making decisions for themselves. What's new is that the law now recognizes and supports that."

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[Administration Update](#)

3. Budget Impact on Services to Individuals with DD

Stakeholder testimony last week to members of the House Finance & Appropriations Health & Human Services Subcommittee by service providers and others in Ohio's developmental disabilities community expressed support for the Administration's proposed Medicaid expansion, and recommended increases to waiver rates paid to providers in Governor Kasich's [biennial budget proposal](#), along with other issues.

Among the stakeholders was Gary Tonks, Executive Director of [The Arc of Ohio](#), who stated that expanding Medicaid coverage would provide thousands of Ohioans with disabilities with 'critical supports.' Specifically, he said expansion would benefit individuals who have graduated from Special Education programs, but who do not function at a level requiring County Board of DD services. He also noted that it would benefit individuals with disabilities who are unemployed or underemployed.

[Employment First Initiative](#)

Touching on the budget's proposed *Employment First* initiative line item, Tonks added that it is a "good first step in realizing the full potential of Ohioans with developmental disabilities to be wage-earning, tax-paying citizens." And, Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) president Blaine Brockman, praised the *Employment First* initiative and supported additional funding, noting that many counties need 'strategic investments' for their respective employment programs. He stated,

["Some counties need more resources to hire the job developers and job coaches that are essential to accomplishing our goal of integrating more people with developmental disabilities into the state's workforce."](#)

[Service Providers](#)

Testimony from service providers pertaining to budget language included concerns over a lack of funding to adequately maintain quality support staff, noting that overall rates paid to providers have not been increased since 2005. For example, witnesses said the limit of the Individual Options (I.O.) Waiver rate has left some agencies unable to pay competitive wages to support staff. Testimony also noted that the inherent necessity and importance of quality staff is magnified as waiver services are designed to be in smaller, integrated settings.

Testimony can be found on the *Health Finance & Appropriation's Health and Human Services Subcommittee* [website](#) under the heading, 'March 7.'

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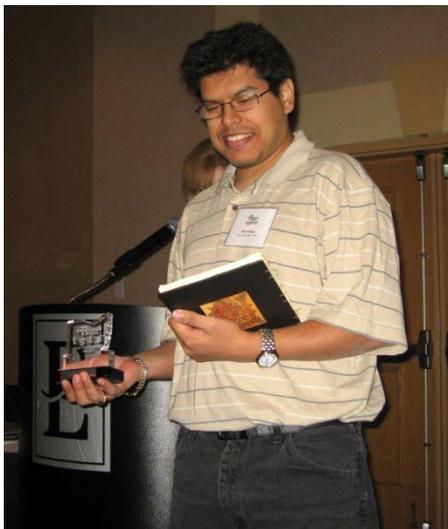
'Looking Beyond' Columbus...

4. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information and photos of local activities!

Superintendents Conference Hosts Annual Awards Event

The Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards (OASCB) Winter Conference in Columbus on March 11, also hosted the **Ohio Public Images** Annual Awards, conferring on more than 50 individuals and organizations various awards recognizing *excellence in promoting awareness and understanding* of people who have disabilities, and their participation as full citizens in communities throughout the state. Awards honored such efforts during 2012. Conference attendees also heard updates on budget information and specific programs.



Andy Leinbaugh (left) was presented the Self Advocate of the Year award by OASCBDD President Rick Marriott. Andy is an Athens County resident who has been extremely active in the DD community statewide, and has mentored others in the process. His acceptance remarks included many thank you's to Athens County Board of DD staff and to PersonnelPlus, the community employment organization affiliated with the Board. He noted,

"I have had a lot of help and support along the way, and I will treasure this award. Thank you!"



See the OPI Video at:

<http://publicimagesnetwork.org/awardsluncheon.htm>

Crawford County Looks Beyond

Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities sponsored a Disability Awareness event earlier this month featuring activities employing simulated disabilities that 'turned the tables' on local officials and other participants. For Mark Burke, Director of Student Services at Bucyrus Secondary School, the activity prompted the idea of repeating the exercise at the school. Burke noted, "Many staff members and students came up to me and said they wanted to learn more about this, too. I think it's something we'll try to do in the future to give the students and staff a better understanding of what it's like for a person with a disability." Burke experienced the (simulated) congenital disability of arthrogyrosis, which causes joints in the body to become stuck in one position. *Contact: Chuck Frobose, CCBDD Superintendent, (419) 562-3321.*

Lawrence County Looks Beyond – and Up!

The Lawrence County Board of DD views the Balloon Launch as their annual DD Awareness Month kick-off event. Says LCBDD Public Relations Director Tim Nunnery,

"It's something simple that the kids enjoy, and it doesn't restrict the awareness to just our county. Our balloons can travel several miles before they are found with their card attached, telling

someone in a different town - or even a different state - about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.”

The County’s March events continue with an Annual 5K Run/Walk for DD, a Chili-Fest and Craft Show that includes approximately 25 businesses and individuals – and a basketball game with local media and county commissioners participating.



Photos, Ironton Tribune and Tim Nunnery, LCBDD

Look Beyond – Look Up!

Students, faculty, and staff of Open Door School, a part of the Lawrence County Board of DD, released dozens of balloons into the air to celebrate the start of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Ironton. Everyone got into the act this year - including family dogs!

Hocking County Makes It Official

The Hocking County Board of DD kicked off its recognition of March as DD Awareness Month with a blood drive and continues through March with the eighth annual ‘Can Do Creations’ Art Show, and the Hocking Valley Industries’ Open House on March 27.



We Hereby Proclaim...

Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent David Couch (left) receives a Proclamation declaring March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, signed by Hocking County Commissioners Sandra Ogle, John Walker, and Clark Sheets Jr.



Henry County Billboard Looks Beyond – and Looks Great!

There are many great billboards gracing Ohio's outdoors during DD Awareness Month, employing the 2013 'Look Beyond' theme and other themes recognizing the potential of individuals with developmental disabilities. Below is just one such example clearly telling that story in Henry County.



Personality and Hard Work, Personified

Terri Jo Stover (left) and Jenny Hartford have been best friends for as long as they can remember. They are both very active in their community participating in bowling, cheerleading, job club, and many other recreational activities. Jenny has worked at McDonald's for 18 years. Yes, 18! Terri Jo works five days a week at Future View Document Services and has a cleaning job two evenings a week. Yes, two jobs! Terri Jo and Jenny personify positive outcomes in their community, and are remarkable women!

Submitted by Kathy Bishop, kbishop@henrydd.org

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The Movers & Shakers

5. Family Advisory Council - A Forum for New Information

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting yesterday at the Columbus Developmental Center Training Room offered family members and professionals in the DD community an opportunity to exchange ideas, gather new information, and pose questions to Director John Martin regarding the 2014-'15 proposed budget ([Read Testimony](#)). As always, he provided an up-to-date look at the dollars involved and the initiatives affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Touching on several key areas, he emphasized the need for opportunities to help individuals realize their potential in the least-restrictive community-based settings, and leveraging dollars that may be available to Ohioans through Medicaid expansion. He explained,

"The importance to the working poor cannot be over-stated. Medicaid expansion would help many people to access preventive care, rather than wait for an emergency situation before taking action. We will work with stakeholders regarding the best ways to use any new dollars."

Questions posed to Director Martin included, “What is the state doing to get employers ready for the influx of folks with disabilities into the workforce, considering the *Employment First* initiative?” To which he responded, “We have formed an advisory group that is looking at ways to remove any barriers to community-based employment that may be a result of our own systems ... in effect, getting out of the way for employers to make that decision to hire.”

Also discussed was how families and guardians can make good/better choices in direct service providers -- keeping quality providers for their family members despite pay scales that have not kept up with the demands of the work involved. While there is no one easy answer within this discussion, certain points were made: Improving the direct care provider pay rate, and incentives to do so over the next couple of years; the need for family members to and take more initiative to learn more about providers’ services; and the availability and access to information to help them make good choices via technology including online efforts such as the DODD [Data Warehouse](#) and [Provider Search](#).

Also included in yesterday’s meeting agenda was information on how to find a provider; an update on the Transitions Waiver; and an introduction to ‘Imagine’ – a pilot effort defining new ways to look at serving individuals in a more self-directed way.

FAC meetings are open to all interested members of Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

Next meeting is May 7.

-Contact Peggy Martin, Family Advocate, peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov, or call (614) 466-8706.

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6. Health & Safety Alerts Improved, Re-Formatted

The first DODD *Health & Safety Alert* in a revised, easier-to-read format is # 56-02-13, ‘Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting.’

The purpose of this Alert is to remind those involved in providing care, managing programs, investigating - or overseeing the investigation of alleged sexual abuse cases - about the importance of recognizing the signs of sexual abuse, implementing immediate actions, and timely reporting.

In this Alert, the Department has identified several ‘red flags’ through a review of alleged sexual abuse cases -- and although they are not seen frequently, it is important to take steps to avoid them entirely. The health and safety of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities continues to be priority number one.

Health & Safety Alerts are developed and updated by the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. Division staff members are excited about the new look and feel of the Health & Safety Alerts. Health & Safety Alerts are required to be reviewed by all employees* annually through the receipt of MUI Rule training.

**Includes County Boards of DD and other service providers. There are different requirements for direct service staff versus administrative staff, however all employees require basic MUI training.*

Click here for: [All DODD Health & Safety Alerts](#)

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PostScripts

☞ Nominations Now Being Accepted for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award

In 2010, the Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI) Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of his lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and have a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system. The award is now presented annually to a person or entity outside of APSI.

APSI is now accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through April 19, 2013. The award will be presented at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June, in conjunction with APSI's 30th year Celebration.

The nomination form is at www.apsohio.org

There is a link on the homepage for the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award.

Questions? Contact: Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scan and email to cison@apsohio.org.

☞ "I Have a Voice!" – The Arc of Ohio Announces Training, March 20

The Arc of Ohio invites Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, support professionals, and educators to a day of training, education, and legislative information at the Sheraton on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, March 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. A legislative reception follows the program.

[Click Here to Register: EventBrite Registration](#)

[Lunch, Reception, and Materials included in Registration cost.](#)

The program will include presentations by DODD Director John Martin with information about Governor Kasich's proposed budget and how it relates to Ohioans with DD and their families, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Office of Medical Assistance on the subject of Managed Care -- as well as sessions on advocating for yourself and others with developmental disabilities. In addition, Disability Rights Ohio (formerly 'Ohio Legal Rights') and The Arc of Ohio will provide information on a variety of other subjects of interest.

☞ Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat, April 5-7

Ohio SIBS announces a "*Looking Forward Weekend Retreat*," April 5-7, at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine.. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The weekend is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* Registration is at <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

☞ OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University's annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change, and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

[Multiple Perspectives 2013: Intersections & Independence](#)

[Click Here for information and registration](http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm)> <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Two days of sessions include subjects such as, 'Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio'; and 'Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.' *Contact L. Scott Lissner, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free Conference, April 12

A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at Vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The free conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for Ohio's *People First* organization. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point' – May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon. The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! The ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. Nearly 10,000 people attended in 2012!"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held July 15-18, and *deadline for application is March 31*. Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at *YLF application* or contact donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov

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**. 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, 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. *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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Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

March 27, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 7

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- 2. Employment First Seeks Local Leaders' Input
- 3. DD Awareness Month – Glimpses of Awareness and Advocacy Efforts Around the State
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Pipeline PostScripts: Update Your Spring Calendar

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Thanks to all who shared information about local activities contained in this issue.

1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Discussions Continue



Budget documents and fact sheets are at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov>

Hearings on Ohio's executive budget proposal (HB 59) before the Health and Human Services Subcommittee have continued over the past two weeks with a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed expansion of Medicaid coverage in the state. Governor John Kasich, in speaking with legislators and various stakeholder groups, has stressed the importance of the human factor in making the decision to support expanding Medicaid coverage, and explained the expected resulting benefits for Ohioans who currently are not eligible for coverage.

Specifically, Governor Kasich said the state needs to address the issues faced by the working poor who cannot afford private health insurance offered by their employers, or who are not offered coverage. In addition, he has stressed the need for assistance to individuals struggling with substance abuse and needing treatment.

DODD Director John Martin has echoed the Governor's comments in presentations this month, and highlighted several other benefits of expanding Medicaid, including keeping taxpayer dollars in Ohio, and cutting down on emergency room and uncompensated care costs.

Budget Perspective, Autism Issues

Autism Society of Ohio board member Marla Root, and Michael Bell, President of the Scioto County Autism Project testified this month that expansion of the state's Medicaid program through the Affordable Care Act will assist families who currently have no access to medical care and needed behavioral health services.

Bell said the bill would provide relief for families with autistic children that have struggled in obtaining health care coverage. He explained, "I know families that have been denied health care for their child with autism because the insurance companies considered it a previous illness or injury, or they were turned down for any health care coverage due to having a child on the autism spectrum." He added, "Many people probably think that a child with autism can just get on SSI and receive a Medical Card. It doesn't work like that."

More information at: [DODD Budget input](#)

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2. Employment First Seeks Local Leaders' Input

Ohio's Employment First Taskforce is asking local leaders to become involved in developing an action plan that enables their communities to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participating communities will receive expert guidance regarding how to enhance local resources, while helping to build statewide models that benefit everyone.

Six implementation sites will be selected around the state in which local leaders will develop specific plans that take into consideration the unique aspects of their community's employment scene, population/demographics, and other factors that can facilitate desired work opportunities.

[Interested parties are asked to apply for local leadership participation beginning April 1, at \[www.ohioemploymentfirst.org\]\(http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org\)](#)

Once the six teams have been selected, a self-assessment process will begin in July. The implementation sites will benefit local communities by creating statewide training models and determining ways to utilize local resources more effectively. With the assistance of a facilitator, teams will craft a local inter-agency agreement, complete a self-analysis of their community's strengths and needs, and develop an action plan to implement community employment strategies.

DODD Project Manager for Employment First, Kristen Helling, explains,

"Employment First will be strongest when communities are supported to build sustainable partnerships among agencies, employers, families, and individuals. Local leaders can best develop plans that strengthen local collaboration to make community employment possible for people with developmental disabilities."

Helling suggests local teams include members from County Boards of DD, service providers, school districts, private sector employers, individuals served and their families, rehabilitation services counselors, County Boards of Mental Health and related providers, and Job and Family Services staff. It is hoped that through this structured approach the *Employment First Initiative* can be the path to a cultural change where community employment is the primary expected outcome for people with developmental disabilities.

Ohio's *Employment First* Website Has Launched!

www.employmentfirst.org



Shifting Expectations ... Transforming Culture

Visit www.ohioemploymentfirst.org for information to create opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to work within the community.

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[‘Looking Beyond’ Columbus...](#)

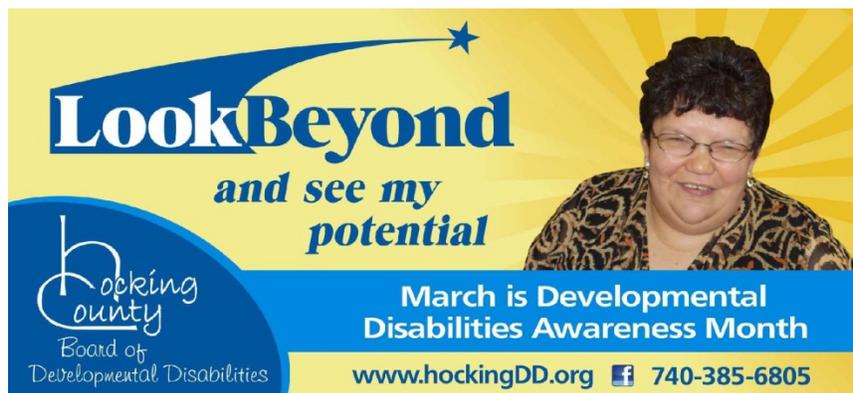
3. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information and photos of local activities this month.

Hocking County Billboard Looks Beyond – and Sees Potential

As the weather improves (finally!) it's more fun to drive around the state and spot a few great billboards telling the 2013 DD Awareness Month *‘Look Beyond’* story. In Hocking County, they're not only *Looking Beyond*, they're looking right at you! Specifically, it's the engaging face of Marsha Mace and she's plainly enjoying life in the community.

Submitted by Brianna Chambers, Hocking County Board of DD, BChambers@HockingDD.org



Her name is Marsha Mace ...
She lives with the Shepler family in their home, has a cat named Yum-Yum, and is learning to use an iPad. Bill and Sandy Shepler invited Marsha to live with them in 2012 (see *Pipeline Quarterly*, [Summer 2012](#), p. 7). The Sheplers' daughter Kimberly, says,

“Marsha has started vocalizing freely, and is learning to use the iPad for communication.”

Ottawa County

Ottawa County Board of DD Superintendent Melinda Slusser writes, “During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we encourage people to learn more about the 322 people we serve in this community, and to recognize that *all of us* have goals and dreams. When we look

beyond and use our talents to assist each other we all succeed. This is a time when our organization focuses on encouraging the local community to better understand the people we serve.” To kick off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the Ottawa County Board hosted an Open House and Provider Fair, which included music performances by individuals with DD. Also available was screening for developmental milestones for young children to determine any need for services or supports.

REM Ohio Looks Beyond

Statewide service provider, REM Ohio, celebrates DD Awareness Month with the goal of reducing the stigma of having a disability, and replacing that with an understanding of each individual’s abilities. REM Executive Director Jo Spargo explains, “DD Awareness Month offers an opportunity for increasing education, awareness, and community inclusion that paves the way toward improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. We host several opportunities this month with that goal in mind.” She continues,

“It is, after all, often a lack of knowledge and attitudinal barriers that typically result in isolation of citizens and disconnection within a community.”

REM Ohio Inc., Akron West Side Leader, March 13, 2013

Monroe County Celebrates by Working

Dan Lollathin at the Monroe County Board of DD says they’re celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month there ... by working! He notes, “Last April, Jeanette Harter, Director of the local Job & Family Services (JFS) center offered employment opportunities for two positions at their Woodsfield office. They contacted our County Board about it, and we were grateful for the consideration. We were immediately on-board for placing two MACO (County Board adult services) employees for the positions. The inter-agency collaboration has been great.” The hard-working team was spotlighted this month in the *Monroe County Beacon*. Contact Dan Lollathin, Monroe County Board of DD, macoinc@firewireinternet.com



“The work experience has increased responsibility and self-esteem for Yvonne and John in their everyday lives.”

(L. to R.) John Anderson, Jeannette Harter, Yvonne Craig and Jaime Hill, as pictured this month in the *Monroe County Beacon*.

Lake County Looks to the Library

As part of the area’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Celebration, a viewing of the film “[The Teachings of Jon](#)” and a panel discussion was held this month at Lake County’s Willoughby Public Library. Describing the film’s star, Jon, his Dad says,

“He stirs up what’s good in you ... and when that happens, you grow.”

The film and discussion were presented in partnership with the Lake County Board of DD, Willoughby-Eastlake Schools and the local library branch, and Ohio Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters (SIBS).

More at www.teachingsofjon.com Copyright © 2006-2013 Waking Heart Films All rights reserved.

Belmont County

Belmont County Commissioners adopted a proclamation honoring Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, noting that opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to learn, work, live, and volunteer in their community increase with the support and encouragement of its citizens. Pat Jobb, president of the Belmont County *People First* Chapter, and Past President of the statewide organization *Ohio People First*, accepted the proclamation. He talked with the Commissioners about the importance of acknowledging the person, not the disability.



Shown with Belmont County Commissioners and representatives of the local County Board of DD are Pat Jobb (center) and friend Sally Smith, who is holding the Awareness Month proclamation.

At the Commissioners' office, the group also discussed the use of *People First Language* ... choosing language that reflects the dignity of people with disabilities.

Click on: [People First Language](#)

Ross County

In March, the Ross County Board of DD Pioneer Center celebrated people with developmental disabilities - and the people who work with them - at an awards event honoring many individuals and groups. This year's honorees included a *Special Recognition Award* for *Rickenbacker Air Force Base's Red Tail Dining Hall*. The Dining Hall has employed several individuals with developmental disabilities through a contract with [First Capital Enterprises](#). Introducing the award, Ross County Pioneer Center staff noted that, "The military personnel there consistently have gone out of their way to help these employees, taking a down-to-earth approach, and treating the individuals like they're family -- even 'being there for them' during personal losses."

Looking Beyond Ohio ...

This upbeat video showing the potential for employing individuals with disabilities was shared with *Pipeline* by DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin. We can't imagine who would not want to visit this restaurant in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

Click on: [THE FRIENDLIEST RESTAURANT IN AMERICA](#)

Tim Harris was born with Down Syndrome. With his natural loving demeanor and some help from his family, he runs the friendliest restaurant in America: Tim's Place in Albuquerque!

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4. The Arc of Ohio Brings Families to the Table

The Arc of Ohio brought more than 100 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families to the table for a day of legislative training and budget information at The Sheraton on Capitol Square in Columbus last week. The program theme, “*I Have A Voice*,” included presentations by DODD Director John Martin, who provided information about Governor Kasich’s proposed budget and how it relates to Ohioans with DD and their families, as well as presentations by other DODD staff, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services/Office of Medical Assistance regarding Managed Care. Sessions also offered information on disability rights issues and waiver services, and included plenty of time for attendees to air concerns and get answers.

Examples - Q & A

Medicaid Expansion - On the subject of Governor Kasich’s proposed expansion of Medicaid benefits to a broader citizen base (‘Medicaid Expansion’), Director Martin explained that relevant data point to the fact that ...”Medicaid Expansion can improve the lives of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. People currently living without health care coverage within our system, for a variety of reasons, would be eligible for the preventive care that can keep them healthier, and reduce more expensive emergency room visits.” He also noted that the federal dollars that would come into Ohio with that expansion would help up to manage it, stating,

“The cost of not going ahead with Medicaid Expansion here in Ohio is estimated to be about \$400 million. That’s a lot of money.”

Developmental Centers - On the subject of Ohio’s Developmental Centers, a parent asked Director Martin what he saw happening with these facilities in the future. He responded that Ohio’s Developmental Centers have been downsizing over the past few years, and the intentional census reduction has resulted in placement of many individuals into smaller community-based residential settings that meet their needs, and provide less-restrictive living environments.

He commented, “We are keenly aware that we need to continue to move away from large congregate settings. We have, in fact, recently issued a ‘Request for Interest’ to solicit parties for participation in a project to operate one -- or up to 20 -- six-bed capacity Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IIDs).” *Deadline for submitting Statement of Interest is 4 p.m., March 29, 2013. [Read more.](#)*

Following the day of interactive sessions, a legislative reception provided an informal opportunity for state legislators to visit with individuals and families, and discuss subjects of interest as raised during the day. *The Arc of Ohio* Executive Director Gary Tonks was heard to say to one group conversing ... “We called this event “*You Have a Voice*” – because you do! And now, we encourage you to use it to speak up for yourselves and others.”

More information at www.thearcofohio.org

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The Movers and Shakers

5. DODD Family Advisory Council to Change Format

Mark Your Calendars for May 7th!

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is more than a little enthusiastic about the next meeting of Family Advisory Council (FAC). She explains, “The May 7th meeting is going to be a *unique*, and very important for family members to attend. We are changing-up our agenda.” She added,

“ Instead of Director John Martin’s ‘Director Chat’ we will have ‘Director Listens!’ ”

She continues, “We want to hear what is working in your county and what is not. This is not to be a complaint session, but an informational session to allow state policy makers in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community to learn how the service system is working for you and your family members. It’s also an opportunity to share any new and exciting things that are happening in your area that others could build on.”



**- FAC in 2010 -
Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn,
FAC participants and presenters.**

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. They said,

“Families staying involved with their family members – it’s so important!”



According to the May 7th FAC preliminary agenda, following the conversational ‘Director Listens’ session, attendees will organize into four groups including a representative of the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration. Peggy explains, “Our system is dependent on Medicaid funding and we rely on it for most of our services. It also can be very confusing and complex, so this should be helpful for everyone.”

Peggy adds, “I thought this would be helpful not only for families, but for our staff to hear these real stories from the field. Having an opportunity to see how their work translates to helping individuals with their lives should be mutually interesting, and beneficial.”

As Director Martin has stated previously, FAC has traditionally also welcomed DD professionals to these meetings, however the emphasis for this group continues to be on constituents in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community – the individuals served and their families. Working both as an advisory council for Department employees’ ‘continuing education’, and as a venue for providing updated information to families, the Family Advisory Council continues to play a key role in the system.

Developmental Disabilities professionals that attend the May 7 meeting are encouraged to bring a family member or friend with them who is served by the DD system -- we want to make certain we are connecting with ... The Movers & Shakers!

Contact DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov

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PostScripts

[OPRA 2013 Spring Conference, April 16 – 17](#)



Network, learn more about the latest issues facing providers, and expand your knowledge listening to great speakers at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin Ohio, April 16-17. Sponsors and exhibitors provide opportunities to learn about new products and services. [Read more here about Conference sessions!](#)

Special Note: RN Train the Trainer

In conjunction with DODD, OPRA is offering a 2-day *RN Train the Trainer* course at the conference. This is the [program of instruction](#) required for RNs to become certified by DODD to train unlicensed DD personnel for Medication Administration. LPNs working with unlicensed DD Personnel are encouraged to attend Day 1 and Day 2, but are not eligible to become certified trainers. Non-nurses, such as employee supervisors and SSAs, who have significant roles in the systems that support the administration of medications by unlicensed DD personnel, are strongly encouraged to attend Day 1, as it provides extensive information about core legal and systematic provisions. *Train the Trainer* content runs concurrently with conference sessions. [Learn more here!](#)

[Nominations Now Being Accepted for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award](#)

In 2010, the Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI) Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of his lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and have a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system. The award is now presented annually to a person or entity outside of APSI.

APSI is now accepting nominations for this year's recipient, *through April 19, 2013*. The award will be presented at the agency's All Staff Luncheon in June, in conjunction with APSI's 30th year Celebration.

[The nomination form is at www.apsiohio.org](http://www.apsiohio.org)

[See the link on the homepage for the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award.](#)

Questions? Contact: Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scan and email to cison@apsiohio.org.

[Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat, April 5-7](#)

Ohio SIBS “*Looking Forward Weekend Retreat*” is April 5-7, at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The weekend is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent,

engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. Registration is at <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meeting - April 10 – 11

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities invites you to provide your input at one of two meetings designed to listen to the members of Ohio's DD community, April 10, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Both meetings are at the Rehabilitation Services Commission, 400 East Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and in front of the building. For questions regarding any needed accommodations contact Donna Foster, at donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov or call (614) 438-1394.

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free Conference, April 12

A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at Vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The free conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University's annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change, and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

Multiple Perspectives 2013: Intersections & Independence

Click Here for information and registration > <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Sessions include subjects such as, 'Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio'; and 'Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.' *Contact L. Scott Lissner, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for the statewide *People First of Ohio* organization. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

New Employment Posters Available from ODEP

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has produced posters in conjunction with the *Campaign for Disability Employment* and the new *Because* public service announcements. The posters are available free at <http://promotions.usa.gov/odep.html>.

SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point' – May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon. The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! The ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. Nearly 10,000 people attended in 2012!

SAVE THE DATE! Employment First: Changing Expectations, June 4-5

The Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will host an Employment First conference on June 4 and 5 featuring noted speakers on the subject of employment, and addressing topics including interagency collaboration, school-to-work transition, employer engagement, changing culture, and more.

Registration for the event is now open at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

☞ MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held July 15-18, and *deadline for application is March 31*. Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at *YLF application* or contact donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

April 10, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 8

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Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Opportunities Scheduled for 2013



April is Autism Awareness Month

See Article #2

1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... House Prepares Substitute Bill

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff continue to support and discuss the need for Medicaid Expansion, noting that in this matter, "...compassion should trump philosophy." At the recent *Health Expo 2013*, the kickoff event for *Minority Health Month in Ohio*, Governor Kasich underscored the importance of seeing the needs and realities of minority communities reflected in all aspects of health care, noting that health issues such as mental illness and addiction should over-ride partisan considerations. His comments highlighted the importance of expanded medical coverage to approximately 275,000 new Medicaid enrollees, which would provide the state an expected net gain over two years, following acceptance of the federal dollars offered to pay for the program's growth.

Regarding specific aspects of the current budget proposal under consideration, Governor Kasich stated recently in a presentation at the City Club of Cleveland, "It is always necessary to push, to create, to innovate. And even if you're pushing and creating and innovating with your ideas, you can't fall so much in love with them that you're not in a position to be able to accept the tweaks and changes, and some other directions that may come along."

Statehouse Rally – Thursday, April 11

Late last week it was learned that the Ohio House currently does not have enough votes to pass the Medicaid expansion plan outlined in the proposed budget, as recommended by Governor Kasich. Advocates and self advocates from across the state are invited to a rally at the Ohio Statehouse tomorrow, April 11, at noon, to support its passage.



OHIO'S JOBS BUDGET 2.0

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

Budget documents and fact sheets are at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov>

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2. Autism Awareness Month Explores Emerging Information



The cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is still a puzzle.

“It is likely that a single cause of autism will not be identified, but rather several factors, so it is important to understand what services or actions can help support individuals as contributing members of their communities. Through continued research efforts more effective strategies, interventions, and lifetime supports are being discovered.”

– Excerpted from [The Ohio Autism Recommendations](#), “Quality Lives.”

In March of last year, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report stating that the incidence of autism in the United States had become ‘one in 88 children* -- a 78% increase in incidence as compared to a decade ago. The report stated that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest growing disability in the United States, and that boys with autism continue to outnumber girls by a ratio of five-to-one. It estimated that, nationally, one in every 54 boys has autism, and the Autism Society of Ohio estimates that more than 58,000 Ohioans have ASD.

**These numbers recently have been reviewed, suggesting that the incidence may be even greater – closer to one in 55.*

Ohio’s [Interagency Work Group on Autism](#) (IWGA), convened by DODD in 2008, continues to coordinate efforts among many state agency partners so that the needs, talents, and wishes of Ohioans with ASD are recognized, valued, and addressed. In 2012, the IWGA asked the Advisory Board of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to spearhead the development of a set of Autism Recommendations for the state. [These recommendations](#) have been made, and now chart the course for the state to continue to improve its response to autism, and create opportunities for individuals with ASD to build happy and fulfilled lives in their communities. The 15 recommendations reflect an appreciation for the diversity among communities, and the disparity of service availability across Ohio.

[The state is at the forefront of a national movement recognizing that meaningful change for individuals with ASD and their families will occur only through inter-agency communication, collaboration, and shared contribution.](#)

Emerging from the Ohio Autism Recommendations is a plan designed to provide guidance in transforming the lives of people impacted by autism. To be reviewed annually, the plan will

chart a course for Ohioans to systematically and comprehensively improve its response to autism issues, and create opportunities for individuals with ASD to have more meaningful and successful lives in their community. DODD Director John Martin notes, “It is imperative that the recommendations truly reflect the needs and hopes of individuals affected by ASD -- a viewpoint I know Governor Kasich shares.”

ADEP Expansion Underway

As reported earlier this year in [Pipeline, January 30 2013](#), Director Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo together announced plans for an expansion of the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP), statewide. Begun as a pilot project, and supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams that brought together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.



A packed training room of highly engaged teams of early interventionists from the ADEP project. Assembled at the High Banks Nature Center facility north of Columbus last month, these folks are pioneers in Ohio's ADEP pilot project that paved the way for the expansion of ADEP through OHT funds. Free training and learning opportunities are planned in March, April, and May to build new Diagnostic Partnership Teams, and support existing ones.

The expansion is funded through the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Innovation Fund, which supports key Administration initiatives including, ‘A Whole Child Approach to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)’ that builds upon existing programs targeting early identification and intervention for Ohio’s youngest children with ASD, and advance ASD research. Several positive outcomes are resulting from the Diagnostic Partnership teams -- most significantly reducing the lag time between the initial suspicion of autism to the actual diagnosis.

More information online at [Health Transformation Innovation Fund](#)

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3. 'Request for Interest' Yields 25 Applications

The DODD Division of Residential Resources recently announced plans to develop 20, six-bed facilities in areas where state-operated Developmental Centers (DCs) are located, to enable current DC residents to move into smaller nearby settings and continue to receive needed intensive services and supports from staff. The [Request for Interest](#), soliciting groups that could run the smaller facilities has yielded 25 applications, which are now in the review process.

Regarding the applications received, DODD spokesperson Vicki Rich explains, "Our goal is to create public/private opportunities previously not available to these individuals to be able live in smaller, community settings. We've designed the project to be a collaborative effort between DODD and providers. DODD will continue to approve admissions and discharges, and provide a quality staff professional for each project team to oversee the care of individuals who transition to the new facilities." She continued,

"This project model was developed with careful consideration of the input and advice shared by families of Developmental Center residents regarding their priority concerns."

Review of the 25 applications is currently underway by a team of family members, DODD staff, and other professionals within Ohio's DD community. The application review process is expected to conclude in late May with notification of the selected applicants following shortly thereafter. DODD Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman commented, "We have been downsizing the Developmental Centers for the past five years or so, using existing options and resources. This project is another step towards providing a similar array of services that are available in a DC, only in smaller settings." She continued,

"We listened to families who liked the bundled services of a Developmental Center and wanted DODD staff more directly involved with their family members after they move. This project will accomplish that. We are excited about working with our private partners, and look forward to positive outcomes with this project."

More about Ohio's Developmental Centers at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Developmental-Centers>

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4. Employment First Conference June 4-5, Focusing on 'Changing Expectations'

DODD and the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee announce the inaugural Employment First Conference, "Changing Expectations" – to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4 and 5. The event will feature noted speakers and offer a platform for Employment First partners to discover answers and possibilities for a shift in expectations and greater opportunities for community employment outcomes.

Register for the conference at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

The conference will kick-off with an opening keynote by author Dale DiLeo, "How do we Begin to Make the Changes Necessary to Support and Sustain Employment First?" Conference

sessions cover topics like employer and community engagement, person-centered planning, local interagency agreements, post-secondary options for students with ID/DD, benefits planning, and using mobile technology to improve employment outcomes.

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5. Employment First Community Leadership Teams Needed

The Employment First Local Leaders Community Planning Teams Application was released on April 1, accompanied by three Webinars providing information about the selection process, facilitation, and action plan development and implementation. The last of the three Webinars is April 26. To register, follow this link: [April 26 at 10 a.m.](#)

Employment First Local Leaders Community Planning Teams will become involved in developing an action plan that enables their communities to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participating communities will receive expert guidance regarding how to enhance local resources, while helping to build statewide models that benefit everyone.



Applications are online at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org
Shifting Expectations ... Transforming Culture

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6. First-Ever OSDA Legislative Event Spotlights Issues

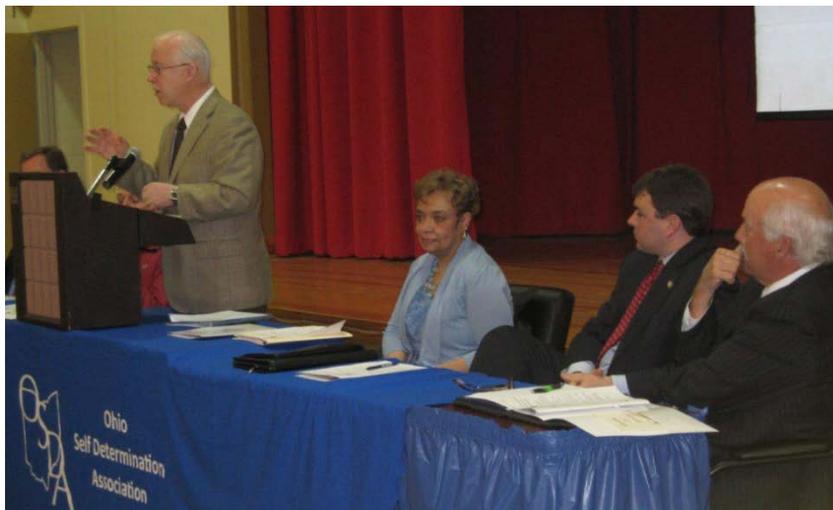
The Central Ohio Self-Determination Association (COSDA) hosted its first-ever Legislative Day on April 5 at the Franklin County Board of DD Bixby Living Skills Center, in Groveport. Legislators attending included State Representatives Michael Curtin, Bob Hackett, and Michael Stinziano, and Senators Charleta Tavares and Kevin Bacon. The legislators participated in a lively discussion with more than 150 individuals regarding several subjects OSDA members wanted to learn more about or have specifically addressed.

Residents of Franklin, Madison, Licking, Delaware, Pickaway, Union, and Fairfield counties represented their areas and shared their thoughts and opinions. On the subject of ‘Visitability’ and general accessibility to public spaces, it was clear that event participants wanted more to be done about the actual usability and safety of ‘accessible spaces’ in community parking lots, as well as concerns to be addressed regarding in-person voting accessibility. Also noted were issues concerning residential renovations for improved access.

In one response to access issues, Representative Stinziano noted that [House Bill 84](#) is working toward some solutions, and it is hoped to prompt changes to the Ohio Revised Code that would authorize a non-refundable income tax credit for the purchase or construction of an accessible home, or for the renovation of a home to improve its accessibility. Stinziano also received a certificate from OSDA at the event, recognizing his efforts in this and other areas affecting Ohioans with disabilities.

Addressing employment issues and Ohio's Employment First initiative, FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison noted that the initiative is receiving strong support from County Boards of DD statewide, as they connect with their local business communities in new and more targeted approaches to developing community-based jobs. Senator Tavares added that efforts such as Employment First, Medicaid Expansion, and Medicaid Buy-In are key to helping individuals with disabilities have the opportunities needed to live successfully in their communities. She stated,

"You have to be able to keep up with inflation and with taxes. If you go out and get a better job with more hours, you don't want to lose money in more taxes or pay a penalty."



OSDA Welcomes Legislators
At the podium, FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison introduced (to his left) Senator Charleta Tavares, and Representatives Michael Stinziano and Bob Hackett. Past the podium are Representatives Michael Curtin and Kevin Bacon. Morison noted,

"OSDA's Christine Brown put this day together, and when Christine says she's going to do something, well, it gets done!"

OSDA's advocacy theme, "Speak Up, Speak Out," brought many comments and ideas to the table as the microphone passed from individual to individual, and back around to legislators at the podium. Here are some of those comments:

"I think we should still have sheltered workshops, but also have opportunities to work in the community if we want to. Right now we don't have a lot of work at my workshop ... we need work badly! Please do something about this."

"You asked me what I did to 'speak up' lately ... well, I spoke up about wanting a new Service Coordinator. I spoke up, and in a week I had a different one. I feel good about that."

"I'm worried about them changing Medicaid Buy-In ... like changing the eligibility for it, or the amount of money I can earn and still be on it. Can you please just leave it like it is? It's helped me to be more independent."

Wrapping up the morning discussion each legislator took a moment to say what they learned from the forum, and sum up what they will take back to their jobs at the Statehouse. In his comments, Representative Kevin Bacon said, "We really need to hear from you like this. We need to hear about things that would never otherwise make it into the Statehouse – the issues that you are having out there each day. As a legislator I feel that we can somehow do better job of helping you -- to make our communities more welcoming. He added,

“You’ve hit the nail on the head here this morning on several issues. Thank you for inviting us – it’s been an eye opener.”



Ready to Speak Up ...

Event organizer Christine Brown is ready to hand over the microphone to a fellow self advocate and Project STIR* graduate, Marcy. But first, she reminds her ...

**“Remember to speak up!
That’s what we’re here for. These legislators want
to hear what you have to say.”**

*STIR = Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility is an advocacy skills training providing practical tools necessary to make good choices and decisions.



On the subject of accessibility and public parking, several forum attendees described examples of unsafe exit and entry for individuals using lift vans. Speaking is Jackie Suver, direct support professional at the Bixby Living Skills Center, with participant Janice Keaser. Jackie explains ...

“When you park the van you have to take up two places, or risk someone getting hit. We can’t load a person safely the way the spots are marked now. Can you look into fixing this?”

The Ohio Self Determination Association has several chapters around the state and is growing in advocacy involvement. Learn more at <http://www.ohiosda.org/>

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7. Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat

The second annual Ohio SIBS “Looking Forward Weekend Retreat” April 5-7, at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine provided an opportunity for siblings of young adults and students with disabilities to show how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Attending were individuals with disabilities ages 17 - 22, who were accompanied by their siblings, ages 16 to 25.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin attended the event again this year, noting that transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities. She explained that the retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship, saying, “I

love attending the SIBS retreat because it's so refreshing to see brothers and sisters interact and care so much about each other." She continued,

"The relationship they have is already very special, but what makes it even more special on these retreat weekends is that they are learning together about their hopes and dreams for the future. While their futures may take them in different directions, they support each other in hopes those dreams become realities."



Photos courtesy, Peggy Martin

Sibling Synergy

(Left, with Muppets) Anthony Cummerlander said he felt he was doing a very "Gonzo" thing, participating in activities at the retreat, while sister, Lauren, enjoyed a little risk-taking. (Right) Kyle and Allison McKay take a moment to chill out and enjoy a photo-op. Kyle works at The Ohio State University hospital in customer service ... and obviously has a great smile and personality for the job.

Speaking on the subject of the role of typical siblings in the lives of individuals with disabilities, Franklin County Board of DD President Dean Fadel and his brother, Jeffrey, addressed the statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy event last month, (see [Pipeline Volume 7 Issue 6 March 13 2013](#)) highlighting the importance of siblings in the lives of people who have developmental disabilities. Dean acknowledged, "Jeffery's and my parents have long since passed, and Jeffery has been as much a part of my life as I have been of his since the day he was born. In increasing numbers, brothers and sisters are being called upon to be more involved in the lives of their siblings with disabilities. More than anyone, these siblings will be the most important source of information regarding their brothers and sisters. Today there are approximately 90,000 Ohioans who receive some level of service in Ohio's DD system, and most of these people have brothers and sisters." He continued,

"The one thing I have always stressed with Jeffery is to not be afraid to speak up for himself, and I help him understand his rights. Nobody knows him better than I, and few people know me better than he."

At the Ohio SIBS retreat attendees also benefitted from the experience and guidance of young volunteers who have Master's degrees and PhD's from Ohio universities offering their time and dedication to make the retreat experience meaningful. When asked about the coaching and volunteering activities involved during the retreat, Ohio SIBS Board Chairperson Barb Sapharas, observed that it was all ... "Pretty cool."

For more information on school-to-work transition opportunities for individuals with DD, [click here](#) to view a Webinar and PowerPoint presentation by Drs. Tom Fish and Sarah Hall, titled “Involving Siblings in the Transition Process for Young Adults with Disabilities.”

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[Office of Provider Standards and Review](#)

8. OPSR Issues Annual Report

The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, has published its Annual Report for calendar year 2012.

[Click Here for the OPSR Annual Report](#)

According to the report, there were three major initiatives launched in relation to the operation of licensed residential facilities:

- *ODH to DODD License:* This program was initiated to correspond with the transfer of the administration of the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) program to DODD. This initiative fostered the transfer of licenses from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to DODD for 12 facilities that had chosen to remain licensed by ODH. As part of the process, DODD has created a Technical Assistance Team that is providing training and support to these providers during their first year of operation under the new license.
- *Streamlining Committee:* In 2012, staff from OPSR began working with the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation on an initiative to streamline the regulatory review process for ICFs. ICFs currently are certified by ODH and licensed by DODD. In 2013, the Committee will explore the potential of allowing ODH and DODD to rely on each others’ findings, which could lead to a reduction in surveyor time on site at ICFs.
- *ICF Voluntary Conversion:* This initiative gives ICF providers the opportunity to voluntarily convert an existing ICF-funded bed to a waiver-funded bed for individuals who would prefer to receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in a community-based setting. Individuals may use the funding they currently receive in the ICF to fund the waiver. Since the funding will be used for the waiver, the provider will surrender the ICF certification for the bed that the individual is currently occupying. This effort will assist the state in long-term care rebalancing efforts, and will provide individuals with the opportunity to receive services in their preferred setting.

Also during 2012, an increased number of trainings were conducted by OPSR staff around Ohio, including initial contacts with Transitions Waiver providers, per stakeholder requests.

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9. May 7 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains good information about the May 7 ballot issues as well as regarding voting in general, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.

On May 7, voters in 74 counties will decide several local races and 354 local issues, including 141 school issues and a number of local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available [here](#) and at MyOhioVote.com. According to the Secretary of State's website, there will be five levy issues on May 7 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community. They are:

- Delaware County: .56 mills, additional
- Henry County: 2 mills, replacement
- Knox County: 2.7 mills, renewal
- Lorain County: 1.6875 mills, replacement
- Stark County: 3.3 mills, renewal and increase -- combining two levies



Every Person's Vote is Important!

To be well-informed and to learn more about your rights, as well as when and where you can vote, visit the Secretary of State website www.sos.state.oh.us/. The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

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A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

☞ OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University's annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change, and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

[Click Here for information and registration](http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm) > <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Two Plenary Lectures Free, Open to the Public: ada.osu.edu/conferences/2013Conf/2013Program.html

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Sessions include subjects such as, 'Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio'; and 'Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.' *Contact L. Scott Lissner, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

☞ Nominations Accepted for APSI's Kozlowski Award through April 19

In 2010, the Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI) Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of his lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award is now presented annually to a person or entity outside of APSI. Nominations for this year's recipient are being accepted *through April 19*. The award will be presented at the agency's All Staff Luncheon in June, in conjunction with APSI's 30th year Celebration.

[The nomination form is at www.apsiohio.org](http://www.apsiohio.org)

[See the link on the homepage for the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award.](#)

Questions? Contact: Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scan and email to cison@apsiohio.org.

☞ SELF Waiver Training, April 23 – Webinar

DODD will conduct a one-day training on the Self-Empowered Life-Funding (SELF) Waiver on Tuesday, April 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. covering the main components of the waiver. It is a condensed session of the information originally provided during the 2012 two-day SELF Waiver training sessions, and will be used to provide information on SELF Waiver Eligibility Criteria, Service Definitions and Limitations, and Participant-Direction within the waiver. In addition this training will update attendees on changes that have been made to applicable DODD Information Technology systems to incorporate the SELF Waiver.

[For Webinar Registration Click On: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/394227201](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/394227201)

☞ 'A Different Day' Spring Festival, April 27

Absolute Care and the agency's day program 'A Different Day' has organized a free Spring Festival for Saturday, April 27, at 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd., in Worthington. It's called a 'Paint-A-Palooza' and will be a day of adaptive art for children and adults with disabilities -- a community event with food, activities, and entertainment.

[Click here for: Paint-A-Palooza Event Flyer](#)

The main project for the day will have participants creating a large canvas painting which will be displayed in the Absolute Care building. Also offered will be tours of the new Therapeutic Recreation Center. *RSVP to confirm your attendance! (614) 846-8313 or pmonaghan@adifferentday.com.*

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for the statewide *People First of Ohio* organization. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting, May 7

The next *DODD Family Advisory Council* (FAC) meeting is May 7 at the Columbus Developmental Center, from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. The meeting will include group discussions and a revised format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with other individuals and families from around the state. Contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. FAC meetings are open to everyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and participation by individuals and families served is especially encouraged.

Genetic Disorders & Epilepsy in Persons with DD, Training - May 9

For information and insight into genetic disorders that are not routinely taught in-depth in nursing school, this conference will discuss the following syndromes: Prader-Willi, Angelman, Fragile X, Cornelia de Lange, Down, 22q, Williams, Smith Magenis, PKU, and Tuberous Sclerosis Complex. Also covered will be epilepsy-related behaviors, diagnostic testing, management and treatment of seizures and epilepsy in persons with developmental disabilities.

For more information: https://www.knoxdd.com/HAC_Conference_Brochure.pdf

Keynote Speaker Terry Broda is a Nurse Practitioner from Canada, a member of DDNA, and a DDNA past-president who consults and speaks to nurses at the national level on issues regarding DD. The training is sponsored by the Healthcare Advisory Committee.

The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point' – May 22

The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point is Wednesday, May 22. Registration is now OPEN!

Request your tickets by clicking here: <http://thearcofohiodayatcedarpoint2013.eventbrite.com>

The deadline to request free tickets is Friday, April 26. The Arc will consider all requests submitted by the deadline. Ticket requesters will be notified on April 30, and provided more details then.

This is an annual event for Ohioans with disabilities, their families, friends, providers, and support staff. The day is open to *everyone* and The Arc reports that approximately 10,000 people have attended this event each year, for decades! Cedar Point has donated a limited number of admission tickets and free picnic lunches again this year, and they will be distributed as fairly as possible. All others may participate for \$29.00, which is about half off the regular admission price. Purchased picnic lunches are \$9.95 each.

SAVE THE DATE! Employment First: Changing Expectations, June 4-5

The Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, will host an Employment First conference on June 4 and 5 featuring noted speakers on the subject of employment, and addressing topics including interagency collaboration, school-to-work transition, employer engagement, changing culture, and more.

Registration for the event is now open at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) announces that the fourth annual DSP Recognition Event at the Xenos Complex in Columbus will be held on September 11. Writer and sibling to a sister with DD, Rachel Simon will be the keynote speaker this year, and the energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. Contact: Amy Gerowitz at (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Smart for Business. Smart for People. Smart for Ohio's Bottom Line.*

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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>



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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April 24, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 9

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- 3. OPRA Conference Spotlights Challenges, Change
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- 6. May 7 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Opportunities Scheduled for 2013



April is Autism Awareness Month

See Article #2

1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Overview of Recent Progress

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has provided guidance regarding progress of the Ohio Jobs Budget over the past two weeks, as the bill works its way through the legislative process. While Medicaid expansion language was removed from the budget language as it left the House of Representatives and moved on to the Senate, there continues to be discussion regarding the need to assure health care coverage for low-income, working Ohioans ([read the impact summary](#)). The Senate has set a deliberation schedule that would move [HB59](#) forward to conference committee by mid-June.

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff support the need for Medicaid Expansion, highlighting the importance of expanded medical coverage to new Medicaid enrollees – estimated at approximately 275,000 Ohioans. Options that would assure coverage include a separate stand-alone bill. The Medicaid expansion plan as originally proposed by Governor Kasich would have drawn into the state an estimated \$13 billion in federal funds over seven years. House lawmakers, however, voted in favor of an amendment that would give the Chamber more time to study options.

In response to the current status of the legislation, the Governor's Office noted, "The process continues, and the Governor is totally committed to extending health coverage to people who are

battling mental illness and addiction -- 26,000 veterans and other Ohioans for whom health care is a ladder up and out of poverty. We look forward to continuing our work with the House and Senate on this issue and to advancing the rest of our Medicaid and health-system reforms.”

According to OHT Director Greg Moody, federal officials recently have indicated that they would approve a handful of ‘demonstration waivers’ for states to experiment with Medicaid expansion. Moody explained at the recent OPRA Conference (see article, this issue) that under this model, states could extend coverage eligibility for three years, with some individuals on the upper end of the Federal Poverty Level buying coverage through a private health insurance exchange, with Medicaid dollars. He noted that this proposal could allow the service system to help create workforce linkages, promote greater personal responsibility, and provide affordable basic coverage.

Directors of OHT partner agencies provided additional budget testimony last week, including DODD Director John Martin. He noted that the Department priorities include expanded home- and community-based service options, as well as the ongoing downsizing of DODD-operated Developmental Centers; increasing access to autism services; and adding stakeholder recommendations to legislation now in the Senate.

Regarding specific aspects of the current budget proposal under consideration that affect the DD community, OHT reports that rebalancing long-term care and enhancing developmental disabilities services remain Administration priorities. *More at www.healthtransformation.gov*

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2. Autism Awareness Month Seeks Greater Understanding



The cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is still a puzzle.

See The Ohio Autism Recommendations, “Quality Lives.”

More about autism at: [Autism Fact Sheet](#)

During last week’s Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, Jerod Smalley, Sports Director at NBC4 in Columbus and father of two sons with autism, offered his perspective of hands-on advocacy for affected families. Smalley has a continuing series on Channel 4 named ‘The Autism Puzzle,’ focused on research, and resources for parents. Just as Smalley emphasized, during Autism Awareness Month, the focus is on awareness of these issues, and also on understanding.

Looking beyond ‘awareness’, it is the understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and its range, that can make a positive difference in society for children and adults with autism.

What We Are Learning Now ...

New research suggests that autism affects the brain differently as individuals with ASD age, a finding that may allow for a more targeted treatment approach. Using a new technique, researchers were able to directly compare the brain activity of children and adults with autism, and found marked differences in brain activity depending on age.

Daniel Dickstein of Brown University and Bradley Hospital who led the recent [study](#) published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* notes, “We found that brain activity changes associated with autism do not just happen in childhood and then stop. Instead, our study suggests that they continue to develop. This is the first study to show that.”

The researchers looked at functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) brain scans that were conducted on children and adults with autism in previous studies. They found evidence of much more activity occurring in the minds of adults with autism as compared to children, when the individuals were looking at faces and doing other social tasks. This finding could have major implications for how autism is treated. Researchers explained, “If we can identify the shift in the parts of the brain that autism affects as we age, then we can better target treatments for people with ASD.”

Jobs Budget 2.0 and Autism

Increased access to autism services remains a funding priority within the proposed budget.

The Administration is funding innovative projects that will help improve early diagnosis and interventions for individuals with autism, including the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP); and funding to support Specialized Training for Early Intervention Professionals. Funding for these autism initiatives is made possible through Ohio’s Health Transformation Innovation Fund. A total of \$1.325 million is made available for these projects, and also includes efforts to support the Employment First initiative, which will assist individuals with developmental disabilities – some of whom have autism – in finding community-based jobs.

More at <http://www.iwg-autism.org/>; Acknowledgements to www.disabilitycoop.com

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3. OPRA Conference Spotlights Challenges, Change

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) hosted its Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, April 16 - 17. Recognizing another great opportunity to get the word out to hundreds of stakeholders regarding several initiatives, DODD Director John Martin presented an overview of work in-progress at the Department, and fielded questions from an attentive audience representing expertise throughout the statewide service provider system.

OPRA President Mark Davis suggested that Director Martin begin his presentation with one of his rather legendary ‘stories-with-a-message.’ Director Martin jumped right in with a tale involving his son, Joel, who enjoys dressing colorfully, and himself, as Dad, misinterpreting a young person’s interest in Joel’s apparel. The bottom line was that Director Martin found that as a Dad, he had not ‘looked beyond’ his own son’s disability at that moment in describing his son’s choices. He later realized that the young man’s inquiry was just a routine clothing question requiring no mention of Joel’s disability, and commented,

“I continue to learn from my son and the situations that surround us.”

Director Martin then segued to, “Let me share some data with you ...” a phrase stakeholders in Ohio’s DD community know will preface useful information he has studied, that has been

gathered by various local, state, or national researchers, and upon which decisions can be based. For example, following slides showing progress in downsizing Ohio's DCs, and ranking other efforts among national peer agencies, he noted,

“There are now several areas of challenge and change within the DD service system ... is it time we have a discussion about our system? Looking at the various national, state, and local roles and the forces at work in each, I believe there are opportunities to be examined.”

In addition to Director Martin's comments, the two-day conference featured several speakers and break-out sessions that highlighted challenges, changes, and progress that Ohio service providers will be seeing this year and beyond. Leslie Wilson, a presenter with many years of experience in the development and staffing of Business Leadership Networks (BLNs) in Ohio, Florida, and Oklahoma, was enthusiastic about Ohio's Employment First initiative. Remarking on efforts in the past year under that umbrella, she emphasized the need for employer engagement, saying,

“We need to engage employers! We need to prepare the workplace for a diverse workforce – an influx of people with disabilities. That change is coming.”



Silent Support



The OPRA conference's lunch break on day one involved an option for attendees to board buses to the Statehouse for a silent show of support for Medicaid Expansion.

While the effort did not persuade the House members to keep the proposal in the budget, it was a strong show of silent support, rallying enough other participants from around the state to ring the Capitol Square perimeter.



“Now, you see, with Employment First, the priority is community-based employment ...”



Kristen Helling, DODD lead-person for the Employment First initiative, speaks with a visitor at the OPRA Conference. On the information table is Employment First literature, and a little employment encouragement, in the form of ... Payday candy bars.



“You have to have the long view.”



Office of Health Transformation Director Greg Moody makes a point about the expansion of Medicaid benefits. He added,

“I would prefer not to kick the can down the road. I would prefer to see it happen now ... and not miss this opportunity.”

More OPRA, and conference highlights at www.opra.org

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4. ‘Partners in Justice’ Conference Fosters Collaboration

Ohio Partners in Justice is a coalition of professionals from Ohio’s criminal justice system and developmental disabilities system, as well as mental health professionals and other advocates for people with developmental disabilities.

A one-day conference sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium in Columbus addressed the subject of re-entry to society for ex-offenders with intellectual disabilities. Attendees included a broad range of professionals within the DD community, as well as in the areas of mental health, and rehabilitation and corrections. A goal of the conference was to explore how uniquely person-centered practices can

facilitate the successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities following incarceration. Free to attendees, the conference was funded by a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

Featured speaker was Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute at Cornell University in New York. Blessing has spent more than ten of 25 years of professional service as a faculty member of the University's Employment and Disability Institute within the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She currently serves as Director of a project within New York State psychiatric centers, designed to enhance the system's ability to facilitate community employment and recovery-oriented services with people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. Her presentation to the Partners in Justice conference was anything but dull!

She walked energetically around the auditorium, noting hurdles involved in working within a system designed as a model of “custody, care, and control,” (incarceration) while simultaneously trying to provide individuals person-centered support and elements of self-determination. Blessing said, “Being ‘present’ is different than being connected or engaged.” She continued,



“Once a person is getting out of the corrections system, ‘Staying Out’ is not a specific enough outcome!

We have to ask, ‘What will you do?’ We need to replace the ‘one big picture’ with lots of little pictures that, together, mean the big picture. A picture that means something to them.”



“Like one of the men I worked with told me, ‘Values are what make your heart beat.’ We need to find out what makes a person’s heart beat, and then take it from there.”

Presenting an overview of the *Inmate to Citizen Program*, a 5-year project funded by the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Blessing described a plan that incorporated the person-centered approach into how the New York State Department of Correctional Services rehabilitated and prepared people with intellectual disabilities for community living, learning, and earning, upon release. In providing glimpses of individual stories both positive and not-so-positive, Blessing brought forward for consideration ideas to replicate in other states. The inter-active breakout sessions that followed showed that attendees were eager to put the ideas to work in Ohio immediately, to assist people they are working with. Participants literally reached across the aisles and rows to discuss ideas ...



Talk about engagement!

Participants at the Partners in Justice conference spoke eagerly among themselves during break-out sessions and introduced each other. One was heard to say,

“I have a guy I’m working with starting on Monday. This would be a perfect time to see how this approach could help him get on track and make some plans.”



For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov.

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5. New Mobile Application and Online Complaint Form

Who wants to hear about complaints all the time? The DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, that’s who! As a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, the MUI Unit is very enthusiastic about making it easier for partners in Ohio’s DD system to file and describe complaints with the introduction of a mobile application (app) including a new [DODD online complaint form](#). This new app allows health and welfare* complaints to be filed with DODD remotely, using a computer or smart phone.

At www.dodd.ohio.gov, click on the words ‘Report Abuse’ in the upper right corner, or use this link: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/reportabuse/Pages/default.aspx>

The app is simple to download and allows users to file complaints regarding abuse, neglect, theft, and other categories of reporting. The information is then sent directly to the DODD MUI/Registry Unit and auto-generated to the appropriate County Board of DD or other applicable agency. In most cases, contacting the local County Board is the quickest and easiest way to log a complaint. If preferred, one may also call the DODD Abuse/Neglect Hotline at (866)313-6733 to share concerns. DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips explains,

“We’re really excited about this mobile app. Reporting is a critical step in Ohio’s system to protect the health and welfare of individuals with developmental disabilities. Quality reports need to be shared, and often that means making the report quickly, before critical details could be forgotten.”

Once an incident is reported, Ohio’s DD system has strict requirements for investigation that include identifying cause and contributing factors, and implementing a prevention plan. MUI Unit staff member Connie McLaughlin adds, “Not only is this new online system a quick and easy way to report health and welfare concerns, but it offers the ability to store information and report on outcomes. And ... here’s what’s also exciting ... we will be collecting the data in a

new way that will be more effective for analysis and for tracking types of incidents, locations, individuals affected, and so on. We will be using this new data to improve our system.”

In addition, the new app allows for uploading photos or other documentation of an incident. “We’ve already seen some additional reporting that might otherwise have waited until later to be done,” says Phillips. He adds, “Advances in technology are making the reporting of incidents easier and more convenient. We really appreciate the efforts of DODD’s Information Technology (IT) team in making this happen. Ohio is in the forefront of this kind of advance in health and welfare reporting.”

For more information, contact the DODD MUI Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810. To offer feedback on DODD Mobile Applications, drop us a line at mobile.app@dodd.ohio.gov.

**While ‘Health & Safety’ and ‘Health & Welfare’ are similar, the ‘welfare’ of an individual is more all-encompassing than ‘safety,’ and will be the terminology transitioned to in the future.*

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6. May 7 Primary: Levy Issues for County Boards of DD

May 7 approaches! Voters in 74 Ohio counties will decide several local races and 354 local issues. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available [here](#) and at MyOhioVote.com. According to the [Secretary of State's website](#), there will be five levy issues affecting Ohio’s County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. They are:

- Delaware County: .56 mills, additional
- Henry County: 2 mills, replacement
- Knox County: 2.7 mills, renewal
- Lorain County: 1.6875 mills, replacement
- Stark County: 3.3 mills, renewal and increase -- combining two levies



Results of the May 7 County Board of DD levy issues will be reported on May 8th as a Pipeline EXTRA, prior to the release of that day’s regular issue of Pipeline.

The Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains information about the May 7 ballot issues as well as regarding voting in general, including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

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PostScripts

APRIL IS MINORITY HEALTH MONTH!

Visit the *Ohio Commission on Minority Health* website to view the statewide calendar of events.
<http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/actnow/>

FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGED to JUNE 11

May 7 meeting cancelled, moved forward.

The previously-announced May 7 Family Advisory Council meeting has been moved to June 11. It remains at the Columbus Developmental Center, from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. The meeting will include group discussions and a revised format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with other individuals and families from around the state. Contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. FAC meetings are open to everyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and participation by individuals and families served is especially encouraged.

Employment First Conference June 4-5, 'Changing Expectations'

DODD and the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee announce the inaugural Employment First Conference, "Changing Expectations" – at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4 and 5. The event will feature noted speakers and offer a platform for Employment First partners to discover answers and opportunities for a shift in expectations and stronger community employment outcomes.

Register for the conference at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Opening keynote speaker will be author Dale DiLeo, discussing, "*How do we begin to make the changes necessary to support and sustain Employment First?*" Sessions will cover topics including employer and community engagement, person-centered planning, interagency agreements, post-secondary options for students with DD, benefits planning, and using mobile technology to improve employment outcomes.

Conference Scholarships Available – Deadline to Request is May 24

Individuals with a disability or family members of individuals with a disability who wish to attend the Employment First Conference may request a scholarship to cover the registration fee. To request a scholarship, email Scholarship Committee Chair Donna Owens at donna_owens@ocali.org. Deadline for request is Friday, May 24 - *or* until scholarship funds have been spent - *or* until conference capacity is reached. Scholarships are limited!

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

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🌀 **WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13**

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

🌀 **ADA Announces New Resource**

The ADA National Network has announced a new resource booklet -- "*The Americans with Disabilities Act Questions and Answers*." The document is designed to provide answers to frequently-asked questions about the ADA. Produced by the 10 regional members of the ADA National Network, the information has been adapted from the 2008 booklet by the same name, produced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The new resource is available on-line in HTML format with an option to download/print a PDF version at: www.adata.org

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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. *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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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA is published as needed to cover hot news. Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

May 8, 2013

Results of May 7, 2013 - County Board of DD Levy Issues

Results for issues on May 7 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:
(Percentages are rounded.)

Below are the results of the five levy issues on the May 7 ballots affecting Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities:

- Delaware County: .56 mills, additional **PASSED**, by 63%
- Henry County: 2 mills, replacement **PASSED**, by 54.6%
- Knox County: 2.7 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 64.5%
- Lorian County: 1.6875 mills, replacement **PASSED**, by 66.3%
- Stark County: 3.3 mills, renewal and increase **PASSED**, by 65.7%

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>



Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state's developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm

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News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

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May 8, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 10

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Pipeline PostScripts: Update your 2013 calendar

1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Progress Continues

While the Medicaid services expansion within the Ohio Jobs Budget proposed by Governor John Kasich remains stalled, legislative leaders have indicated a willingness to further discuss options, and note that they may need more time than the budget process allows to discuss the many issues surrounding Medicaid expansion within the state, under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have created subcommittees to study the issue, with a goal of producing an alternative plan by autumn 2013. However, it has been made clear by the Governor’s Office that decisions should be made by the end of June, in order for an expansion to begin on Jan. 1, 2014. According to the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, at least six months will be needed to roll out a Medicaid expansion implementation.

Yesterday, the Ohio House subcommittee -- named the ‘Healthier Ohio Working Group’ -- heard a presentation on the current status of Ohio's Medicaid system by directors of the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), and Office of Medical Assistance (Medicaid). At the hearing, emphasis was on the Medicaid populations with the greatest potential to obtain the income and resources that enable them to graduate to greater self-sufficiency, including accessing private health care services rather than Medicaid.

While it is difficult to determine what type of timeline lawmakers could be looking at for any potential new legislation under the recent House-added budget amendment, lawmakers would have until early October to introduce a bill, and take steps needed to arrive that point.

Testimony

Directors of Ohio's major health and human services departments continue to offer testimony to Senate members in an effort to effect changes to the House-passed budget bill, [HB59](#). DODD Director John Martin testified as part of a panel with directors from the departments of Job & Family Services, Aging, Health, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services, and Office of Medical Assistance. Witness testimony can be found on the subcommittee [website](#) under 'April 24.'

During the panel discussion, OHT Director Greg Moody explained to committee members that Ohio's current health care payment system ... "promotes volume over quality, and is unsustainable." Director Moody compared health care costs to those of other products, noting that if a gallon of milk or a dozen eggs grew at the same pace, they would cost \$48 and \$55, respectively. He added that ...

"Overall, there has been a 76% increase in health care costs in the past decade, alone, while personal income grew by just 30%."

According to Director Moody, spending on health care and Medicaid has not simply outpaced other areas of the economy, but is displacing other state budget priorities.

In continuing testimony, several organizations testified on May 2, as interested parties regarding DODD initiatives in [HB59](#), before the Senate Medicaid Finance Subcommittee. Testimony was heard from Disability Rights Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, and others, and is available on the subcommittee's [website](#) (see item labeled 'Committee Documents' under members' photos.) The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council also presented testimony on May 1.

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff continue to support the need for Medicaid expansion, highlighting the importance of expanded medical coverage to new Medicaid enrollees – estimated at approximately 275,000 Ohioans. The Medicaid expansion plan as originally proposed by Governor Kasich would have drawn into the state an estimated \$13 billion in federal funds over seven years. *More at www.healthtransformation.gov.*

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2. Employment Update – Small Employers Take Big Steps

Ohio's [Employment First](#) initiative has spotlighted the priority of community-based employment as the preferred option for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the desire to find new and innovative ways to help pave the way for such opportunities in communities throughout the state. Since the Employment First executive order was signed in March 2012, Ohio's County Boards of DD and other service providers have taken a stronger approach to assure that the intent of the initiative moves forward. Here are a few examples of these efforts.

[Fairfield County Works at 'Square Seven'](#)

The Fairfield County Board of DD opened 'Square Seven' coffee house this month in the location already hosting its creative studio 'Art & Clay on Main' in downtown Lancaster with a

formal grand opening scheduled for May 14. The new coffee house will offer a lunch menu and pastries, along with coffee and fruit smoothies.

Square Seven will be staffed with individuals served by Fairfield County DD, as well as with individuals not served by the organization. Fairfield DD Business Development Director David Uhl notes that the Square Seven name derives from the days when the city was platted (laid out) in squares. Art & Clay on Main sits on the seventh square of the downtown area.

According to Fairfield County program participants, Art & Clay on Main already has carved out a loyal following as an integral part of the downtown community, and so the coffee house idea was launched as a natural extension and employment opportunity. The popular *Stauf's* brand of coffee will be served, and Art & Clay general manager Temple Montanez notes,

“What we’ve been doing the last couple of weeks is working very closely with Stauf’s, learning the menu and how to prepare the drinks, because there is quite a science to all of this.”



Happy to Serve You.



Square Seven employee Jessi Bash mixes up a coffee drink at Square Seven in downtown Lancaster. She also works at the Art & Clay center, where all employees have now been cross-trained in the art of coffee-drink preparation.

Photo courtesy, John Bossler, FCBDD

M & A Small Engine Repair Shop Opens in Greenfield, Ohio

A late-March open house for M & A Small Engine Repair Shop in Greenfield, Ohio (Highland County) resulted in a huge influx of business that filled the downtown location front to back! Business owners Michael and April Richards are now surrounded with enough lawn mowers and weed-whackers to provide work for, “A good long while,” according to Mike. He notes that the shop was made a reality only through the collaborative assistance of the Highland County Board of DD, HighCo Inc., the Ohio Rehabilitations Services Commission (RSC) and the allied Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BVSI). Mike explains that he began his quest to become a Briggs & Stratton Master Service Technician a while back, started working on various machines and engines long ago in a shed behind his house, and then the ball got rolling on the downtown business location. Read more about this business and the great story behind it in the next issue of ...

***Pipeline Quarterly* ... publishing in late June.**



Business is Good!

“I know if I didn’t have all this support behind me I wouldn’t be here in this shop today!”

-Mike Richards



<Mike is shown with Kelli Williamson, SSA with the Highland County Board of DD, along with some of the many rototillers, lawn mowers, and weed whackers he has recently repaired.

Contact: kwilliamson@highdd.org

Double Play Sports in Washington Courthouse

Opened in 2011, and working on an original business model based on consignment and used sports equipment, *Double Play Sports* in Washington Courthouse (Fayette County) moved forward in the past year to include a high percentage of reasonably-priced new equipment purchased for low prices through careful sourcing and some internet sleuthing. Director of Fayette County Board of DD Adult Services Mark Schwartz, is pleased to note that over the last year or so, the addition of two indoor batting cages and the sponsorship of local Little League teams, have improved business overall. The non-profit organization Fayette Progressive Industries owns the store and employs individuals to work in customer service and sales roles. Speaking of which, it’s pretty hard to beat the salesmanship of Chuck Stackhouse (see accompanying photo). Read more about this business, and the great story behind it, in the next issue of ...

Pipeline Quarterly ... publishing in late June.



“Take a Swing with This One!”

If Chuck Stackhouse can’t sell you a baseball bat, no one can!



About 75% of the sporting goods at Double Play Sports are new, and the rest are consignment or used donated items in good condition.

Contact: mschwartz@fayettetdd.com

Send news of your local community-based employment efforts for consideration in future DODD publications to Sherry Steinman, DODD Public Information Officer, at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or contact her at (614) 644-0262. Information may include links to local news media/online articles.

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3. 'One Accord, Focus on Friendships' - Changing the Culture

Business leaders, government officials, leaders in the religious community, and others attended "*One Accord: Focus on Friendships*," a May 7 conference on the subject of serving and including individuals with disabilities in the community. Speakers from state and county-based agencies joined others from businesses and non-profit organizations in presenting a call to shed a 'business as usual' mentality, and consider innovative and collaborative ways to work together that include and serve people with disabilities. The free conference was hosted yesterday at Columbus Vineyard Church in Westerville, and sponsored by the Ohio chapter of *Joni & Friends*, an international disability center.

Speakers included Tracy Ensign, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, DODD Office of Policy & Strategic Direction; and Scott Osterfeld, Butler County Board of DD; along with service providers offering different approaches to services, and linking individuals with various interests in their communities.

Regarding the overall intent of the gathering, Tracy Ensign noted that the Governor's Office is aware that "... There is a lot of untapped potential when people with disabilities are not connected to their communities. She stated,

"We realize that we need to do a better job of helping people with disabilities have their needs met. Not just as a funder of services, but as a connector – including health options, faith-based options, and job readiness. It is a privilege to serve the state in this way."



**"The people I work with at DODD believe that one of the best ways we can be of value to Ohioans with developmental disabilities is to support initiatives that will help them feel welcomed and valued in their communities. After all, what do you and I value most?
Relationships!
And we all want to feel that we belong."
-Monty Kerr**

**"Within the heart of each community,
everyone belongs."
-Ohio Public Images, 1995 Awareness theme**

DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr made several points regarding new approaches the Department is taking toward assisting County Boards of DD and other service providers -- including to listen first to what people with disabilities are saying they want and need, and then find ways to connect them with those things. "My challenge to you here today is to listen better, and to keep listening," he said. Attendees included more than 100 people who provide services to individuals with disabilities, as well as self advocates and family members.

*More information at ohio@joniandfriends.org;
Also at www.governor.ohio.gov – Look under 'Priorities & Initiatives'*

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4. People First of Ohio Spreads Word on Employment First

People First of Ohio held their annual meeting on May 4 including elections for the state board of the organization, and a training session on the [Employment First initiative](#). The meeting was held at Robert's Convention Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. People First has been involved in planning for the statewide employment initiative since its outset beginning last year, and will continue to offer their input as invited by the Administration, according to People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter.

Chuck Beatty, an advisor to People First, participated in the annual meeting by presenting information about [Medicaid Buy-In for People with Disabilities \(MBIWD or MBI\)](#), along with possible changes that may happen in the future. Self-advocate Mike Riggle commented that people with disabilities, must fight to keep Medicaid Buy-In -- noting that many of his friends want to work, and have the right to be employed in the community.

People First of Ohio President Bill Adams told members, "We must continue to fight so that there will be a time when everyone is only offered community employment -- but right now we must educate our members to advocate in their Individual Service Plan (ISP) meetings that they have a choice of employment." He added,

"Advocates also must have training to keep them safe, and reinforce how to keep a job."



**-People First of Ohio Annual Meeting-
Conversations during lunch included active discussions regarding employment options.**



Bill Adams, People First of Ohio President (seated) and Mike Riggle, Sergeant at Arms, prepare to present a few points to help guide members in their personal quests for work opportunities.

Mark Your 2014 Calendar

Board members voted to approve the 2014 People First of Ohio Conference to be held next year on March 13 -15. The theme for 2014 will be, “Time to Take Action with Advocacy.”

For more information go to www.peoplefirstohio.org or contact Sadie Hunter at shunter@columbus.rr.com

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5. Rules Rule! New Mobile App Launched

Rules in Effect, the compilation of the Department’s administrative rules, is one of the most frequently-viewed sections of the DODD website ([See Rules in Effect](#)) . In response to requests from system stakeholders, site users now can view and search rules from a mobile device. In the below graphic, click on the green link to view the [new mobile application](#) (app).



The mobile app is simple to download, and allows users to read the full text of currently effective rules, as well as search for words or phrases used within rules.

Enhancement of the mobile app provides yet another way for stakeholders to access information. Those who are ‘less mobile’ can continue to access rules at the [DODD website](#).^{*} Information about proposed and pending rule actions is also available at the website; go to [Rules Under Development](#).

The *DODD Rules Notification listserv* is yet another option for keeping apprised of rule-making activities. Subscribers receive email notifications of public hearings on proposed rule actions, and copies of adopted final rules. To subscribe to the listserv, simply send an email to join-rules.notice@list.dodd.ohio.gov or to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator, at becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov.

[JCARR's New RuleWatch Ohio](#)

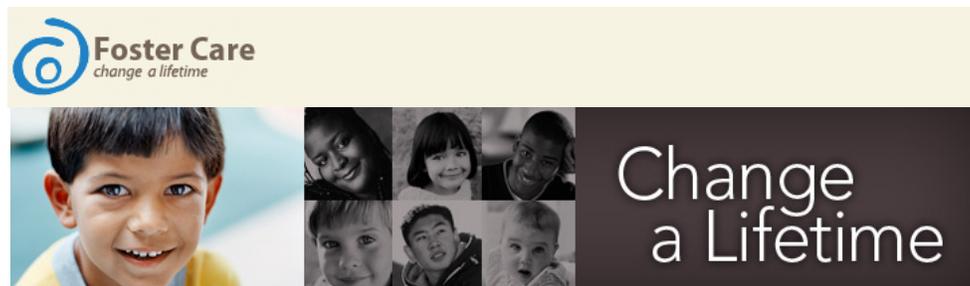
Stakeholders interested in rules of other state agencies will want to check out the new Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) *RuleWatch Ohio* system. This initiative is designed to better connect families and businesses to regulatory changes that might affect them. The system enables people to follow rule actions by subject, or by specific rule number. Anyone who signs up for the online service will receive an email notification whenever there is activity on selected rules. Learn more and sign-up here: [JCARR RuleWatch Ohio](#).

**If you need the specific information in the longer link it is: [tps://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx](https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx)*

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6. Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month “You Can Change a Lifetime!”

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – by being foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or serving in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention on the subject this month, noting that not only are children in need of good foster homes, but so are more than 100,000 adults who have developmental disabilities. Through various hardships or other circumstances beyond their control, a growing number of adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home,’ as well.



The National Foster Care Month campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of children and adults – with and without disabilities – who are in the foster care system.

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>

Among the many service providers around the state that take time to recognize National Foster Care Month is REM Ohio. The organization offers a Host-Home program that matches individuals who have developmental disabilities with dedicated caregivers in the community, referred to as ‘mentors.’

Individuals residing with families in Host-Homes have opportunities to forge connections to a home and community, while receiving the services they need to live as independently as possible. Host-Home families, in turn, gain a new family member and friend – a person who can add a new dimension to the family’s daily life.

5123:2-9-33

Click on the rule noted above for language on the subject of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care under the Individuals Options (IO) Waiver.

During National Foster Care Month, DODD salutes the many foster care families and other individual mentors who offer outstanding care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive environment.

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7. Alcohol & Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, May 12

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week is May 12-18 ... not coincidentally, the week beginning with Mother’s Day. Each May, NCADD and its national network of affiliates provide up-to-date information to people about the dangers of consuming alcohol and using drugs during pregnancy.

When women consume alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy, newborn babies can come into the world with severe health issues that remain lifelong challenges. The reality is harsh and sad. NCADD and DODD believe that children deserve better!



To learn more about Alcohol & Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, click here.

↻

Related information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is at: <http://www.notasingledrop.org/>

Some examples of characteristics found in babies whose mothers have consumed alcohol or taken drugs while pregnant include:

- Cognitive impairments;
- Growth deficiencies before and after birth;
- Developmental delays, intellectual challenges;
- Behavioral problems;
- Changes in facial features;
- Visual and perceptual problems;
- Difficulty with fine motor skills.

According to a study in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, every hour, a baby is born in the United States with symptoms of opioid withdrawal. The study found the number of pregnant women who are addicted to opioids, and the number of infants born with opioid withdrawal symptoms, has jumped in the past decade. Read the JAMA report: [click here](#).

The Ohio Department of Health and DODD join other agency partners in the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation in providing needed information to reinforce healthy lifestyles, and reach women who are pregnant or who are of child-bearing age. For more information on ways to improve the health status of women, infants and children in Ohio, [click here](#) to visit the Ohio Department of Health’s Child and Family Health Services Program.

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PostScripts

[Employment First Conference June 4-5, ‘Changing Expectations’](#)

DODD and the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee announce the inaugural Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations” – at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4 and 5. The event will feature noted speakers and offer a platform for Employment First partners to discover answers and opportunities for a shift in expectations and stronger community employment outcomes.

[Register for the conference at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](#)

Opening keynote speaker will be author Dale DiLeo, discussing, “*How do we begin to make the changes necessary to support and sustain Employment First?*” Sessions will cover topics including employer and community engagement, person-centered planning, interagency agreements, post-secondary options for students with DD, benefits planning, and using mobile technology to improve employment outcomes.

[Conference Scholarships Available – Deadline to Request is May 24](#)

Individuals with a disability or family members of individuals with a disability who wish to attend the Employment First Conference may request a scholarship to cover the registration fee. To request a scholarship, email Scholarship Committee Chair Donna Owens at donna_owens@ocali.org. Deadline for request is Friday, May 24 - *or* until scholarship funds have been spent - *or* until conference capacity is reached. Scholarships are limited!

[SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11](#)

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) announces that the fourth annual DSP Recognition Event at the Xenos Complex in Columbus will be held on September 11. A writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, Rachel Simon will be the keynote speaker, and the energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and

surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. Contact: Amy Gerowitz at (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

ADA Announces New Resource

The ADA National Network has announced a new resource booklet -- "The *Americans with Disabilities Act Questions and Answers*." The document is designed to provide answers to frequently-asked questions about the ADA. Produced by the 10 regional members of the ADA National Network, the information has been adapted from the 2008 booklet by the same name, produced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The new resource is available on-line in HTML format with an option to download/print a PDF version at: www.adata.org

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

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May 22, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 11

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- 6. Summer Weather Health & Safety Information
- 7. May is National Foster Care Month

Pipeline PostScripts: Update your 2013 calendar

1. Funds Awarded to Improve Workers' Background Checks

Ohio Takes Next Steps to Improve Background Checks for Home-Health Workers

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has announced that Ohio has been awarded a \$2.1 million federal grant to improve criminal background checks for direct care workers in home- and community-based settings (HCBS). In addition, the Administration will match the federal funds, awarded through the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), with \$700,000 in state dollars.

The funds will be used to extend usage of the Ohio Attorney General's *Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database Information Exchange* system to individuals working as direct care providers. The electronic system will allow for simpler and more timely post-hiring background checks, improving safety for individuals who receive Medicaid services in their own home or other community-based setting, as well as saving time and money for taxpayers and agencies that provide home-health services. In making the announcement, OHT Director Greg Moody noted,

“Governor Kasich has championed the cause of providing Ohioans with more choice and better quality in long-term care. It is important that seniors and people with disabilities can trust the service providers that come into their homes. This program will help to ensure that home-based services are of the highest quality.”

Last year, OHT led an initiative among several state departments that identified new ways to enhance and streamline criminal background checks for HCBS providers. As a result, the state

has implemented improved and more uniform standards -- including a new requirement that direct care workers obtain post-hiring background checks at least every five years. This affects more than 100,000 workers in Ohio, primarily in Medicaid- and Medicare-funded settings.

The improved system monitors and reports post-hiring convictions in real time, allowing offenders with disqualifying convictions to be removed from their jobs immediately.

Attorney General Mike DeWine recently explained, “Now this office will be able to immediately notify employers of a home-care worker’s arrest or conviction. This is extremely important as we work with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation to help ensure the safety of individuals receiving home and community-based services.”

While coordination and oversight of the project will be led by OHT and Ohio Medicaid, the Ohio Attorney General's Office will be responsible for building and monitoring the electronic system’s increased capacity. The departments of Developmental Disabilities, Aging, Health, and Mental Health also will help in implementing the new background check policies.

More at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

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2. Jobs Budget 2.0 – Still Moving Through the System

Discussions in the Ohio legislature regarding a Medicaid system overhaul are well underway, and lawmakers in the Chamber's *Healthier Ohio Working Group* met for the second time last Tuesday to examine previous system changes, as well as telemedicine options. Legislative leaders have indicated a willingness to further discuss options to the expansion of Medicaid services proposed by Governor John Kasich, and review the many issues surrounding such expansion within the state, under the federal Affordable Care Act.

According to the Governor’s Office, decisions should be made by June 30, 2013, for any expansion to begin January 1, 2014. Leaders in the House and Senate also recently have stated that consideration is being given to extending Medicaid service coverage in a more limited way, through legislation. While mindful of the Governor’s original budget proposal, the General Assembly currently is approaching the issue from a broader ‘reform’ and oversight perspective.

The executive budget bill returns to the Senate Finance Committee this week as deliberations on amendments continue prior to the expected introduction of a substitute bill next week. The Finance Committee has scheduled meetings to hear subcommittee reports today, and tomorrow will continue further testimony on the budget. Standing subcommittees have been created to discuss education, Medicaid, and general government topics addressing specific portions of the budget ([House Bill 59](#).)

Also addressing Medicaid expansion, *Policy Matters Ohio* released a summary brief of research this week, suggesting that health outcomes would improve under coverage extension. According to the brief, research has shown that expansion would result in improved access to preventative care, increased health care access in rural areas, and creating an environment in which public health benefits affect improved public safety and security.

Governor Kasich and key Administration staff support the need for Medicaid expansion, highlighting the importance of expanded medical coverage to new Medicaid enrollees – estimated at approximately 275,000 Ohioans. The Medicaid expansion plan as originally proposed by Governor Kasich would have drawn into the state an estimated \$13 billion in federal funds over seven years.

More at www.healthtransformation.gov

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[Coming Soon! June 4-5](#)

3. Employment First Conference, Changing Expectations

DODD, the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee, and other planning partners are putting the finishing touches on the inaugural Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations” – to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4 and 5. The event will feature several speakers and offer a platform for Employment First partners to discover many opportunities for a positive shift in expectations, and stronger community employment outcomes.



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

The Vision of Employment First builds upon the Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to continually improve the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

The conference’s keynote speakers will be author Dale DiLeo, President of Training Resource Network in St. Augustine, FL, discussing, “*How do we begin to make the changes necessary to support and sustain Employment First?*,” as well as a unique perspective offered by David Hoff, Program Director for the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, and President of the national organization, APSE – the Association of People Supporting Employment First.

Sessions will address topics including employer and community engagement, person-centered planning, interagency agreements, post-secondary options for students with DD, benefits planning, and using mobile technology to improve employment outcomes. In welcoming participants to the event, DODD Director John Martin writes in his welcome letter prepared for the conference program ...

“We don’t have to be limited in our own thinking, or in the thinking we encourage among those we serve, about what is safe and what opportunities people should consider pursuing. That’s why our theme for this conference is Changing Expectations — because that’s the foundation we must build to make Ohio an Employment First state. And, it starts with us as a state and a system making the connection that every individual can and should expect to explore what he or she can do.”

DODD appreciates the leadership and contributions of all of the conference planning partners and taskforce agencies: the Ohio departments of Education, Job & Family Services, and Mental Health, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. In addition to state agency cooperation, Employment First benefits from an Advisory Committee of leaders aligned with all

aspects of support and service within the DD system, including self-advocates, educators, providers, and County Boards of DD.

Conference planners note that the event's advance registration is now closed, and those who have registered are in for a first-rate opportunity to network and make new connections geared toward improving the employment scene for Ohioans with disabilities.

[More information about the conference is at http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/](http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/)

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[National News, Employment](#)

4. EEOC Issues Guidance Regarding Workers with DD

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- tasked with enforcing the nation's employment discrimination laws -- is taking further steps to clarify the rights of people with intellectual disabilities in the workplace. In a [document](#) released this week, the EEOC attempts to simplify the sometimes confusing laws surrounding worker rights and workplace accommodations.

In "Questions & Answers about Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)," the EEOC addresses what employers can and cannot ask about a person's intellectual disability, and what accommodations may be requested.

The EEOC also released similar information this week addressing concerns specific to those with cancer, diabetes, and epilepsy. Each of the documents takes into account all updates to the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) in recent years. Agency officials note that while there is a lot of general information available about the ADA, the EEOC often is asked questions about how the ADA applies to these conditions in day-to-day situations. The recently released information (also at www.ada.gov) is in response to public requests from employers and employees alike.

More at: [View "Disability Discrimination, The Question and Answer Series"](#)

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5. OACB Names New Executive Director, Bridget Gargan

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) has named Bridget Gargan the organization's new Executive Director, effective July 8.



[Bridget Gargan](#)

[Gargan currently is Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Hospital Association, a position she has held for eleven years. There, she has been responsible for state-level advocacy and representation within the legislative and executive branches.](#)



In addition, OACB's soon-to-be Executive Director has been active in community organizations including volunteer leadership positions with United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. of Central Ohio, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society/Mid-Ohio Chapter, and Amethyst, a long-term drug and alcohol treatment center located in Columbus.

The OACB Board of Trustees notes that prior to beginning in the Executive Director position, Gargan will attend the evening hospitality event at the OACB Spring Conference on May 23 at the Hilton/Polaris in Columbus. More about the conference, and about Gargan's appointment is at: www.oacb.org.

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6. Summer Weather Health & Safety Information

The DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit provides this timely information along with other safety agency partners, including the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA), the National Weather Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Heat Awareness Day, May 24, is a national public awareness effort focused on the dangers of extreme heat, alertness to the signs of heat emergencies, and how to stay safe during extreme heat conditions.

A case in point in terms of a need for preparedness occurred in June and July of last year, when Ohio was introduced to an unusual severe weather incident, the 'derecho,' (a widespread, long-lived wind storm) that caused massive power outages. And, while the power was out, the state experienced a heat wave pushing temperatures above 100 degrees. Across the state numerous issues were faced by individuals, families, and other caregivers, and it is hoped that lessons were learned for preparedness this year.

Knowing what to do before severe weather strikes can save lives. [DODD Health & Welfare Alerts*](#) (formerly 'Health and Safety' Alerts) provide critical information to caregivers in areas in which DODD has identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare. Alerts provide data, additional resources, and guidance regarding what can be done to avoid or minimize risk.

Ohio's health and safety system for the statewide DD community is built on incident prevention, providing timely care when needed, and appropriate reporting.

The best way to guard against heat-related issues is preparedness and prevention.

The below information offers a few helpful reminders for extreme heat conditions:

- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothes that cover most of the body.
- Limit intake of caffeinated or alcoholic beverages. They can add to dehydration.
- Drink two to four cups of water every hour while working or exercising outside.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who may not have air conditioning or are alone.

- Never leave children or pets alone in vehicles.

**In addition to Health & Welfare Alerts, there is a wealth of related information for people with developmental disabilities and their families on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov. Click on the Health & Safety tab at the top of the Home page and select from the subjects shown in the drop-down window. For questions/comments regarding Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.*

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7. National Foster Care Month Spotlights ‘Home Sharing’

“You Can Change a Lifetime!”

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to become foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or serve in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention this month on the fact that not only are children in need of good foster homes, but so are more than 100,000 adults who have developmental disabilities. Through various hardships or other circumstances beyond their control, many adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home,’ as well.

The ‘Home Sharing’ concept emphasizes the value, and the day-to-day support that ‘adult foster care’ or ‘adult foster support’ provides -- rather than focusing on the funding stream’s billing code language (Medicaid’s ‘Adult Foster Care’). A good Home Sharing situation follows these guidelines:

- Screening/matching methods between individuals and host families for compatibility;
- *Requiring* background checks for all adults who live in the home;
- Pre-home visitation. Homes must be clean, plumbing and electrical systems must be modern, and homes must have smoke detectors and marked fire exits;
- Staff training that is individual-specific, and emphasizes community engagement;
- A system for oversight must be in place, and back-up coverage for emergencies;
- Respite available for the Host Family.

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at www.fostercaremonth.org/
Click on rule 5123:2-9-33 for language on the subject of Home- and Community-Based Services.



During National Foster Care Month, DODD salutes the many foster care families and other individual mentors who offer outstanding care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive environment.

At left is Marsha Mace, who is lovin' her home in Southeast Ohio, along with her cat, Yum-Yum.
Read more about Marsha in ...

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PostScripts

NEXT FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, June 11 - New Format!

The next Family Advisory Council meeting will be June 11 at the Columbus Developmental Center, from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. The meeting will include group discussions and a revised format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with individuals and families from around the state. Contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. FAC meetings are open to everyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and participation by individuals and families served is especially encouraged.

HEALTH CARE SUMMIT – June 10

A health care summit titled, “Making Health Care Reform Work for People with Developmental Disabilities” will be held on June 10th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road, in Columbus. There is no cost to attend. Individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and other advocates, insurers, policy makers, and researchers are invited to discuss practical ways for improving health care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The summit will include a presentation of focus group and survey findings, as well as facilitated roundtable discussions. Registration is limited! Click [Here](#) to sign up for the event. *Deadline to register is June 5th*. For more information, contact Barry Jamieson barry.jamieson@osumc.edu or (614) 366-0329 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) fourth annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

June 5, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 12

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Pipeline PostScripts: News and Information to Update your Calendar

1. Conversation Continues on Medicaid Expansion, Budget

Representative Barbara Sears has introduced legislation to provide Medicaid coverage to an estimated additional 275,000 Ohioans with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level. Cost to expand the coverage would be paid entirely by federal dollars for the first three years under the Affordable Care Act. Representative Sears explained that passage of the legislation by the end of June would provide the six months needed to implement an expansion by January 1, 2014, when the federal money becomes available, and when most Americans are required to have health coverage.

Sears' proposed bill calls for coverage recipients' personal responsibility by requiring them to provide co-payments for certain services, promoting job training to move unemployed recipients into the work force, and providing drug treatment to those who abuse narcotics. In addition bi-partisan discussion on the subject of a broader Medicaid reform approach is currently underway.

The Senate Finance Committee heard testimony on Medicaid, health and human services, and education issues last Wednesday and heard additional public testimony last Friday. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the biennial budget today, and the full chamber is expected to vote on the bill tomorrow. Following these actions, the bill will be set for conference committee, wherein discussions will decide any issues regarding tax cuts, finalizing a school funding formula, and any possibility of expanding Medicaid.

The Ohio Senate has scheduled a session for 9 a.m. tomorrow, June 6 – the new target date for Senate consideration of the FY14-15 budget.

([House Bill 59.](#))

It is interesting to note that collectively, the fourteen states in which Medicaid expansion is still pending stand to lose a total of \$255 billion in federal funds between 2013 and 2022, if they reject it. According to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#), among the undecided states, Texas, Ohio, and Tennessee would lose the greatest amount of federal money during a 10-year period. The lost dollars projected are as follows: Texas: \$66 billion; Ohio:\$53 billion; Tennessee: \$23 billion.

For more budget information go to www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

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2. Employment First Conference, Changing Expectations

Today is the second day of the inaugural Ohio Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations,” at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. The event offers a platform for Employment First partners to build a solid foundation to support a positive shift in expectations, and stronger community employment outcomes, statewide. With more than 450 registered for Day One, it was ‘standing room only’ – a testament to the momentum building around the initiative, representing agencies and entities involved in education, employment, developmental disabilities, mental health, and related areas of interest.



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

The Vision of Employment First builds upon the Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to continually improve the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

DODD, the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee, and other planning partners have brought nationally-known speakers to the table to address issues important to moving the initiative forward in communities throughout the state. Author [Dale DiLeo](#), President of the Training Resource Network, St. Augustine, FL, yesterday challenged attendees to understand that, “... System change comes with pain and discovery ...” and that “...It is up to you to see to it that Employment First is not just empty rhetoric, it’s a change with commitment.”

[David Hoff](#), Program Director, Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, today will discuss the subject from a different perspective, including approaches to employer engagement and community inclusion. The [printed program](#) and other event information is at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org.

In welcoming participants to the event, DODD Director John Martin stated,

“As our understanding of what individuals want and need to thrive has evolved, we now know that individuals with developmental disabilities not only want to live and work completely integrated into their communities – they also can safely bring their talents and perspectives to enrich communities, and positively influence everyone’s experience.”

DODD appreciates the leadership and contributions of the conference planning partners and taskforce agencies: the Ohio departments of Education, Job & Family Services, and Mental Health, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. In addition to state agency cooperation, Employment First benefits from an Advisory Committee of leaders aligned with all aspects of support and service within the DD system, including self-advocates, educators, providers, and County Boards of DD.



A State Leadership Panel provided insight into efforts currently underway at their agencies to assure that Employment First provides real community-based work opportunities for people with disabilities in communities throughout the state. Left to right are Sue Zake, Director for Exceptional Children, Ohio Department of Education; Tracy Plouck, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health; Kevin Miller, Director, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; John Martin, Director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD); and Kristen Helling, Employment First Project Manager, DODD.

At the conference a State Leadership Panel (see photo above) provided remarks in response to questions including, “What changes do you envision for your agency now and in the future to support the culture of Employment First ...to achieve the overall vision of Employment First?” These and other questions and answers will be posted online at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org.

“From our perspective, there will be a progressive movement to realize the promise of Employment First, including regulatory language and data collection to track progress and identify pockets of excellence.”

-DODD Director John Martin.

Employment First RFP Posted

Kristen Helling, DODD lead-person for the Employment First initiative notes, “The conference is an integral part of the Employment First approach that directs Ohio’s state agencies to work together to remove barriers to community employment for people with developmental disabilities.” She adds that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for facilitation of the *Local Leaders Community Planning Teams* for Employment First has been posted online at [this location](#).*

Interested RFP applicants should be interested in assisting community planning teams in developing professional action plans to improve local community employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. The RFP will be posted until June 14, 2013.

Kristen Helling may be contacted at (614) 284-8382, or kristen.helling@dodd.ohio.gov

**The specific link is: <http://procure.ohio.gov/proc/viewProcOpps.asp?oppID=10714&disclaimer=N>*

Additional information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>

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3. Perry County Projects Focused on Job Innovation

In a continuing effort to learn more about employment options for people with developmental disabilities in communities throughout the state, DODD Director John Martin and Deputy Director Monty Kerr toured the Perry County area last week and enjoyed a few surprises along the way. Hosting the team was Perry County Board of DD Superintendent David Couch, and several staff members and program participants, all of whom boarded a school bus to travel the winding roads of New Lexington, Shawnee, and Rendville, visiting people working, learning, and otherwise developing their talents.

The surprises? They included ... a few lessons in local history (the New York Knicks in Shawnee?) ... teenagers excited about being in school (it’s late May and they’re enthused?) ... and an environmental project with more employment potential than ever imagined at its outset – the bio-digester system.



**It looks like a greenhouse,
but actually ...**

**“It’s a cool consortium of energy,
environment, and engineering!
And best of all, it will create jobs.”**

–Gil Fulecki

L. to R., Gil Fulecki, Bio-Digester project coordinator; Dave Couch, PCBDD Superintendent; State Rep. Bill Hayes; and DODD Director John Martin stand beside the Bio-Digester unit, gearing up for an energy-producing summer.



What's a bio-digester? It's best to find out by clicking here: [Bio-Digester](#). Or, you could ask Gil Fuleki, PCBDD's Bio-Digester Coordinator -- and you'll be handed an interesting and fairly complex system diagram depicting the anaerobic processing of food scraps, adding water and heat, and producing methane gas ... ultimately to heat the PERCO Garden Center. And, best of all, it's another job-producing project. Fuleki is a wealth of knowledge and gladly shares the long-term project vision,

"I was a job developer here before, and when it came time to develop this project, I saw it as a great way to get our people employed. It should employ from 3 – 20 people, down the road, and if it breaks even or brings in a few dollars, we'll feel that it's a win-win all the way around."

The Perry County Board of DD entered into the project about a year ago, involving several collaborative components, including ideas from engineers with Ohio University, dollars via a [Local Government Innovation Fund](#) (LGIF) grant, the support of enthusiastic Board members, and buy-in from other community allies. All of this cooperation and drive is expected to result later this year in a new way to help power various PCBDD facilities.

Work is nearly complete on the bio-digester, and, as State Representative Bill Hayes commented after joining the tour group at the site on State Route 345, "Dave (Couch) told me if they make a little money from this project that would be great. It's providing learning opportunities leading to community-based jobs that's most exciting."

Couch adds, "We're also excited that there's a business from outside the county that has offered its scrap waste, (for use in the bio-digester) and we can sell the methane for a cheaper rate than a traditional energy supplier because we are not out to make a profit, just sustain those jobs."

In addition to this pilot project, the Academy of Leadership Abilities (ALA) – the school program that students were still very enthusiastic about in late May – wrapped up the school year with members of the eight-student group speaking to members of the PCBDD and the tour guests at Miller High School, including Southern Local Schools Superintendent Greg Holbert, and Perry County Juvenile Court Judge Luann Cooperrider.

Begun in January 2013, the pilot curriculum helps stimulate the potential of students both with and without disabilities, all in an inclusive setting, using unique motivational materials and peer involvement. More about this successful effort in a future issue of *Pipeline*.

"I didn't know any of this stuff before. With their (PERCO's) help I've come a long way. I plan to attend college, and continue to better myself. That's something that never would have happened if I had not become involved with PERCO."

–Brandon Abram



Brandon Abram is serious about sharing his new skills.

He's learned to pour decorative garden stone material, craft wood products, and – especially – to share his pride in workmanship. Tour attendees asked each other, “Does he run this place, or just work here?” Turns out it's a little of both, and he's looking to earn money in the competitive job market. Learn more about working in Perry County in the next *Pipeline Quarterly*, and at www.perrydd.org



Read more about Perry County in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Spring 2013, publishing in late June.

Pipeline Quarterly is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly>

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Pipeline Profile

4. Wallace Appointed Deputy Director, Human Resources

Antoinette (Toni) Wallace has been appointed DODD Deputy Director of Human Resources, continuing a 21-year career with the Department in the Division of Human Resources. In announcing the appointment, DODD Director John Martin stated, “Toni’s experience in the developmental disabilities field, working with both our Central Office and Developmental Center staff, made Toni an excellent choice for the Deputy Director position.” Following her appointment on May 24, Wallace noted enthusiastically,



“This position gives me the opportunity to continuously assess and improve HR processes, in addition to providing quality service to our internal and external customers. It’s an over-arching approach to assure that people are getting what they need, and that our decisions make sense.”

-Toni Wallace



In addition to the many HR projects and initiatives she will be overseeing as Deputy Director, Wallace explains that she is looking forward to continuing the Workforce Planning efforts that must be at the core of a strong HR system. She notes, “At DODD Central Office, and at each of our Developmental Centers, we need to be sure that our approach is consistent – do we have the right people in the right places, and in the right positions? From a human resources standpoint, and from a financial and technological standpoint, we need to keep this emphasis in mind.”

DODD Division of Human Resources encompasses five general areas: Workforce Planning; Payroll and Benefits; Labor Relations; EEO/Diversity Affairs; and, Personnel Services. Toni Wallace, who succeeds Laura Frazier as Deputy Director, adds that the agency-wide staff demographics are such that over the next five years, about 31% of the DODD workforce will be eligible for retirement. “We will need to keep up with our future staffing needs, to keep the organization moving forward smoothly and be good stewards of our financial resources.”

Toni Wallace can be reached at (614) 466-3139, email Antoinette.Wallace@dodd.ohio.gov

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5. Disability Housing Network Study Cites Issues

New study reveals that people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income cannot afford housing anywhere in the U.S.

The [Technical Assistance Collaborative \(TAC\)](#), and the [Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities \(CCD\)](#) Housing Task Force have released a new study, *Priced Out in 2012*, which demonstrates that the national average rent for a modestly-priced apartment with one bedroom is greater than the entire monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment of a person with a disability. The study sheds light on the serious problems experienced by the nation's most vulnerable citizens -- very low-income people with significant and long-term disabilities.

DHN Executive Director Jacalyn Slemmer, notes, “In Ohio, a person with a disability receives \$698 per month in SSI benefits. This income is equal to 19.6% of median income, and would require a person with a disability to pay 79% of their income to rent a one bedroom apartment!” She continues,

“This is major impediment to people living in community-based housing...far exceeding federal guidelines of 30% of a person’s income. On behalf of Ohioans with disabilities, the Disability Housing Network continues to partner with DODD, OACB, Ohio Housing Finance, and Ohio Development Services agencies to increase affordable, accessible housing opportunities.”



[To read the full report, Click Here.](#)

DHN provides support and assistance to County Boards of DD and other Housing Boards that develop and manage community-based homes for Ohioans with disabilities. Through member-driven initiatives, DHN delivers best-practice resources, and builds a collective voice for advocacy to strengthen and improve disability housing standards and practices in Ohio.

Additional information at <http://www.tacinc.org/> and <http://disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>

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6. OACB Conference A Venue for Viewpoints

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Spring Conference, May 23-24 in Columbus, offered several opportunities to learn more about statewide initiatives affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community, as well as local examples of 'best practices' from around the state. Topics offered a broad range of information, including emerging trends in services such as remote monitoring, the P.L.A.Y. Project (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) and Medicaid/Managed Care, among others, as well as updates on the state's budget.

DODD Director John Martin and several Department staff members participated in and presented at the Conference, and fielded questions from County Board staff from around the state. Representing the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, Deputy Director Patrick Stephan and Lori Horvath presented an update on Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), including current budget proposals, the 'voluntary conversion' process, the Transitions DD Waiver, and other waiver updates. [View the presentation here.](#)*

In addition to a discussion regarding the DODD Individual Options (I.O.) waiver amendment status, the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, soon to be wrapping up its first year of enrollment, was reviewed. DODD staff noted that online training via webinars has been utilized frequently throughout the year, as well as in-person local and regional training sessions.



Vendors at the OACB conference included the Warren County Board of DD, whose enterprising staff and participants have launched a Candy Bouquet business – a micro-enterprise through Production Services Unlimited, Inc., in partnership with the WCBDD.

< Kathy Frantz (left) and Debby Cooper celebrate another sale. This time it was a Father's Day basket.

[More at www.warrencountydd.com.](http://www.warrencountydd.com)

The OACB Spring Conference also informally introduced the agency's new Executive Director, Bridget Gargan, who will begin serving in the position on July 8. (See [Pipeline, May 22, 2013](#))

*Presentation link address: <http://test.mr.state.oh.us/documents/OACBPresentation52413.pdf>
More information at www.oacb.org.

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7. 2013 Disability Employment Awareness Month Theme Selected “Because We Are EQUAL to the Task”

While National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM, October) is months away, the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy has announced this year's theme in order to get the many related plans underway. “*Because We Are EQUAL to the Task*,” echoes the message of the agency's ongoing Campaign for Disability Employment, and underscores its efforts to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

In announcing the theme, ODEP Assistant Secretary Kathy Martinez, commented, “I urge all employers to benefit from the skills of workers with disabilities by giving them - including our returning veterans - a chance to show that they, too, are equal to the task.”

Materials for NDEAM recognition soon will be available online: [Learn More About NDEAM](#). Ohio celebrates the month each year with a variety of local and state recognitions and events. As 2013 sees the second year of Ohio's Employment First initiative off to a strong start, there will be plenty of interesting opportunities to share.

More at www.dol.gov/odep

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PostScripts



An effort to revamp the icon that's long symbolized accessibility on everything from parking lot signs to bathrooms is gaining traction. New York City is in the process of adopting the new look.

More at: www.accessibleicon.org

An updated version of the blue and white accessibility (formerly “handicapped”) symbol soon will be used in New York. Rather than depict a static person in a wheelchair, the new icon displays an active, in-motion depiction of life with a physical disability. Backers of the new icon, spearheaded by a philosophy professor at Gordon College in Massachusetts, say they hope that adoption by the nation's largest city will lead to more widespread acceptance of the design. Some states require that the background be painted in a certain color of blue and that the figure be painted in white striping paint. Other states, such as Massachusetts, do not mandate a color scheme. More at www.accessibleicon.org.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Meets June 12-13

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will meet June 12, 2013, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and June 13, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, 400 East Campus View Boulevard, in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need special accommodations, contact Donna Foster, at donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov or at (614) 438-1394, by June 3.

NEXT FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, June 11

The next Family Advisory Council meeting will be June 11 at the Columbus Developmental Center, from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.. The meeting will include group discussions and a revised format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with individuals and families from around the state. Contact Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov. FAC meetings are open to everyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and participation by individuals and families served is especially encouraged.

HEALTH CARE SUMMIT – June 10

A health care summit titled, “Making Health Care Reform Work for People with Developmental Disabilities” will be held on June 10th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road, in Columbus. There is no cost to attend. Individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and other advocates, insurers, policy makers, and researchers are invited to discuss practical ways for improving health care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The summit will include a presentation of focus group and survey findings, as well as facilitated roundtable discussions. Registration is limited! Click [Here](#) to sign up for the event. *Deadline to register is June 5th*. For more information, contact Barry Jamieson barry.jamieson@osumc.edu or (614) 366-0329 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) fourth annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join ‘Autism Speaks’ on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, “Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!” Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

[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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA is published as needed to cover hot news. Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

June 12, 2013

As released today by the Governor's Office of Health Transformation,
Office of Medical Assistance

Kasich Administration to Increase Access to Home- and Community-Based Care

Ohio awarded \$169 million for implementing additional Medicaid reforms, "rebalancing"

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation and the Office of Medical Assistance (Ohio Medicaid) today announced a major advancement in providing Ohio's elders and people with disabilities greater access to home- and community-based long-term care alternatives to nursing homes or other institutional placements. Ohio will receive \$169,076,032 in additional federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) under the Balancing Incentive Payments (BIP) Program for improving Ohio's system of providing long-term services and supports and directing half of all Medicaid long-term care funding to home- and community-based services by 2015.

"Ohio's seniors and people with disabilities prefer to receive services in their homes rather than in institutions," said Greg Moody, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation. "Ohio's participation in the BIP Program is part of the Kasich Administration's commitment to improving access to services that people prefer and improving quality of care in those settings, while also achieving an efficient use of taxpayer resources."

Governor Kasich's first budget increased spending on all long-term services and "rebalanced" where the money is spent, increasing funding for home- and community-based services by \$200 million over two years. As a result, an additional 7,600 Ohioans are receiving Medicaid long-term care services in their own home or community setting, and the share spent in home and community settings (vs. the share spent on institutions) has increased from 36 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in the current fiscal year (SFY 2013). The Governor's proposed Jobs Budget 2.0 increases Medicaid payments related to home- and community-based services by \$30.8 million over the biennium and takes other steps to improve quality and access to services in community-based settings. NEXT PAGE, PLEASE

To participate in the BIP Program, states must achieve a benchmark of 50 percent of total Medicaid long-term care expenditures on HCBS by September 30, 2015. States must also adopt three standard operating protocols to improve care for individuals.

The three protocols include:

- The establishment of a no-wrong-door/single-entry-point system for beneficiaries;
- Implementation of case management services that are free of conflicts of interest; and
- Core standardized-assessment instruments.

“By achieving these structural reforms, we will improve care for Ohioans receiving long-term services and supports by facilitating person-centered assessments and care planning,” said Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy. “These reforms are also aligned with Ohio’s plans to integrate benefits for individuals who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.” Participation in the BIP Program will make Ohio eligible for a two percent increase in FMAP beginning July 1, 2013 through September 2015. The state will invest the additional resources over that time period into additional home- and community-based services and supports for seniors and people with disabilities.

Prior to submitting its formal application to the federal government, Ohio Medicaid solicited feedback from the Ohio Olmstead Task Force and Unified Long-Term Care Services Advisory Workgroup. The application received letters of support from a broad coalition of stakeholders that included the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Abilities Network and a number of state health and human services agencies.

For a copy of Ohio’s BIP Program application and award and additional information about Governor Kasich’s Jobs Budget 2.0 plan to improve access and quality in home- and community-based care, see:

<http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/CurrentInitiatives/ExpandandStreamlineHCBS.asp>

END

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state’s developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

June 19, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 13

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- 3. APSI Celebrates 30 Years!
- 4. Family Advisory Council – A Full Agenda, A Full House
- 5. Training and Tracking to Improve Service Delivery
- 6. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks Members

Pipeline PostScripts: News and Information to Update Your Calendar

1. Administration Update: Medicaid Reforms, Budget

As the June 30 deadline for final state budget language draws nearer, the Kasich Administration is continuing to work with legislators on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In addition, members of the General Assembly are looking at the larger state budget picture, to effect progress toward Medicaid reforms. Yesterday's Conference Committee on HB 59 continued discussions aimed at extending Medicaid. The Conference Committee consists of six members, three from the House and three from the Senate.

Last week, Medicaid expansion advocates again urged lawmakers to move forward on the expansion policy before time runs out for Ohio to take full advantage of federal benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) President Mark Davis commented, "We're not sure others feel our anxiety...we are trying to help them understand why we feel anxious." He noted that the state would need at least six months to implement Medicaid expansion, so such a proposal would need to pass the legislature before July 1 to have new eligibility limits in place by the time more federal provisions take effect in January 2014.

In addition, the Healthier Ohio Working Group, convened by the Finance & Appropriations Committee, is studying Medicaid and health care system overhaul, while a number of other related health care amendments to the budget bill include a measure to convene a workgroup of state agency directors to study telemedicine policy measures.

DODD has been in the forefront of telemedicine efforts, and originally launched “Ohio’s Telemedicine Project” in February 2012 with Wright State University, and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). A closer look at specific services needed has prompted the project to be more accurately named “Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project.”

The goal of the project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/developmental disabilities (MI/DD) who reside in remote areas across the state.

[More at Pipeline, December 5, 2012](#)

The Ohio Hospital Association and other service providers have offered support for language on telemedicine services and the preservation of Medicaid patient care funding for sick and injured children, low-income adults, and Ohioans with disabilities.

[More about the FY14-15 budget at House Bill 59.](#)

For additional budget information go to www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

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2. Health Care Reform Summit Yields Ideas

“Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities”

In the context of health care reform and overall access to health care options for people with developmental disabilities, a June 10 summit, “*Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities*,” was hosted by The Ohio State University Fawcett Center in Columbus, and the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. Sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), the goal was to better understand how potential access issues could be avoided in plans to be offered through a health insurance exchange, or through Ohio’s Medicaid initiatives ... and to gather as many ideas as possible from summit attendees organized into work groups.

As noted by session leader Bill Hayes, a director with the OSU Medical Center, those invited to participate in the summit included self-advocates and their family members, representatives of government entities within Ohio’s DD community, educators, and others in the state’s health care provider system. Work groups were tasked with addressing needs and actions in practical ways, keeping in mind cost-effective and realistic suggestions that could be applied in various scenarios.

One of the questions that particularly interested the work groups was, “What should effective health care coordination look like, or feel like?” Responses included ...

“An ADA Standard isn’t necessarily or always the best functional/physical arrangement. That needs to be taken into consideration. So, for example, a consultation room may be OK by ADA Standards, but physically cramped for specific individuals and equipment needed.”

“A managed care ‘navigator’ needs to KNOW the individual seeking care, and needs to have a back-up plan if a first-choice option is not available/not going to work out.”

“Use technology to assist people in understanding AND delivering services. There is a lot out there now in medical and dental care that can help a service provider and a service seeker be able to communicate and work together successfully.”

Wrapping up the interactive summit, Hayes noted that the day’s conversations and ideas had brought home a basic truth -- many of the ways mentioned to “*Make Managed Care Work for People with Developmental Disabilities*” would be helpful to individuals whether or not they had a disability. He commented, “The [Integrated Care Delivery Systems \(ICDS\)](#)* approach hopes to find ways to better position individuals and families in this process – at the outset. The ICDS project is looking to do this well – and learn how to more easily determine good and appropriate providers of care and services. We want to create an optimal environment for service access and delivery.”

Capitalizing on the collective insight of the summit participants, the input gathered will be considered along with other elements in the overall project, including a recent survey of participants in Ohio’s DD system, and future additional work groups.

** ICDS is a state demonstration project to integrate care for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees, as proposed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS).
Contact: William.Hayes@osumc.edu; Visit: <http://grc.osu.edu/>*

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3. APSI Ohio Celebrates 30 Years of Service

The Mission of Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI), is to advocate for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and an enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. On June 6, that Mission was celebrated enthusiastically by a large gathering of individuals served, their family members and caregivers, and other stakeholders in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community at APSI Ohio’s 30th Anniversary luncheon. The [Xenos complex](#) in Columbus hosted the event, and attendees were not at all reluctant to get up to the microphone to share their thoughts about, “What APSI means to me.”

APSI Executive Director Karla Rinto’s opening remarks set the stage by inviting several individuals, APSI staff, family members and others to the podium, stating, “We have a lot to celebrate! And we’re here to tell our stories about what APSI means to us.” She added, “When I ask staff to tell me, ‘Why do you do this work?’ they say things like ...

“Maybe for me it’s the moment when someone who trusts no one, decides to trust ME!”

She continued, “And that’s just one really good reason.” APSI has served as guardian to more than 10,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities over the 30-year period, and each individual -- in the words of many APSI staff from around the state -- is one more good reason to work in the developmental disabilities field.

Following Rinto’s comments, Charles Powell, who has been served by APSI since 2002, stated what APSI meant to him in his own well-chosen words. He said, “They help me out. They

come to my meetings.” And when asked by APSI staffer Angie Gerding, “What do you do at your meetings?” he replied with a smile, “We make some changes!”



APSI representative Angie Gerding has been Charles Powell’s APSI representative since 2004.

Angie and Charles share a quick hug at the luncheon before they head to the podium. Charles spoke confidently of his ability to make decisions in his life with the help of APSI, including the selection of a roommate, and different work opportunities.



The 30th Anniversary attendees had plenty of reasons to smile and reminisce about helping individuals lead successful lives – some of whom have been served by APSI in Ohio’s developmental disabilities system for decades. It is clear that the continuity of guardianship staff and the longevity of individual/staff relationships results in a more stable overall system – yet another good reason to recognize staff with the agency’s *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award*, and the *Russell Kinnebrew Advocacy Award*. This year’s recipients were Nevalyn Nevil, a strong advocate for individuals with DD for more than 35 years (Kozlowski Award), and Jan Bannon, an APSI representative for 19 years (Kinnebrew Award).

Presenting a Certificate of Recognition to APSI for 30 years of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Legal and Oversight Kate Haller noted,

“From the perspective of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, APSI has been absolutely steadfast in looking out for and caring about individuals served in the system. APSI, its leaders and its representatives, are all held in high regard by our community. We are fortunate to have you.”



Celebrating a 30-Year Anniversary

(Left) APSI Ohio Executive Director Karla Rinto welcomes attendees from across the state to the 30th Anniversary celebration luncheon. At right, DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller presents a Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition to APSI, accepted by Rinto. The Certificate is signed by Governor John Kasich and DODD Director John Martin, noting the agency’s long-term dedication to individuals served within the state’s developmental disabilities community.

APSI Ohio provides an array of guardianship and protective services to individuals who are age 18 or older, and specializes in serving clients with a high level of needs, primarily through full guardianship. As a full guardian to an individual, APSI has the authority to make all day-to-day decisions on behalf of the individual including medical and dental treatment, behavior support programs, work, residential placement, and quality of life decisions. About 95% of all services APSI provides fall into this category.

More about APSI at <http://www.apsiohio.org/>

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4. Family Advisory Council: A Full House, A Full Agenda

A revised meeting format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with individuals and families from around the state energized the June 11th Family Advisory Council (FAC) and resulted in lively exchanges on subjects as varied as Medicaid expansion, waiver services, remote monitoring, Medicaid Buy-In, and direct care staffing needs.

The well-attended Council meeting was hosted at Columbus Developmental Center, and DODD Director John Martin was on-hand to be ‘a listener first, and a speaker second.’ FAC coordinator and DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin stated, “John Martin has always shown his sincere interest in the issues that families of people with disabilities face ... and he knows from experience within his own family. We appreciate that he attends these meetings to both *listen* and *answer questions*.” She added,

“I also appreciate that so many family members from around the state attend Family Advisory Council meetings because it provides a venue for us to hear first-hand about what is happening locally ... and for families to hear and share what others are doing. We want to make certain that FAC input represents all of Ohio.”

Director Martin participated in a ‘quiz’ regarding Medicaid expansion, and in answer to the question, “*How would it affect the developmental disabilities community in particular?*” answers included, “It would assist the working poor. And many in the direct care field, especially if the family is headed by a single parent, would be newly-eligible for health care services.” Another response was, “It would provide a substantial positive ‘ripple effect’ in our system ... and the benefits of a healthier population cannot be under-estimated.”

Direct Care

Also discussed was the issue of having an adequate pool of qualified direct care staff throughout the state, and the related issue of improving the wages paid to these service professionals. Progress is being made in these areas through the efforts of many stakeholders, including the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). For example, the Kasich Administration has added \$2 million in appropriations for direct care wage increases over the next year.

In addition, Director Martin highlighted a growing interest in the usage of *remote monitoring technology* to help provide needed services, and free-up direct care staff for more other service needs. He stated,

“Remote monitoring is going to be more and more important in the mix of services available to individuals with disabilities and the elderly, and we are looking closely at where and how this technology can benefit the people served, and the people serving them.”

[See Study: Remote health monitoring growing](#)

Following Director Martin, DODD Deputy Director Patrick Stephan listened to FAC attendees’ queries and comments regarding various waiver services and other Medicaid-related topics. On the subject of **Managed Care**, he noted that people who currently are on DODD Medicaid waivers would not be involved in the ‘first wave’ of Ohio’s Managed Care system, and that the Department has opted to wait and see what could be learned from the initial rollout of the system. He also addressed questions regarding the Transitions (TDD) Waiver, and heard several positive comments on the streamlining of the Prior Authorization process for waiver services, and the Provider Certification portal on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov. He observed,

“We are continuing to look at options – both web-based and otherwise, to better serve individuals in our system. We also are utilizing stakeholder work groups to improve our processes, and review and amend waiver rules.”



The Movers & Shakers Share Their Thoughts

Above, left: Parent-advocate Amy Clawson makes a point regarding the need for support for family members who have older children with multiple needs.

Above, right: Barbara Cameron explains a recent experience with service providers.

At left: New FAC members emphasize the need for simplified information about various Medicaid waiver services.



Participants at the June FAC meeting hailed from several counties, including Butler, Belmont, Hocking, Franklin, Stark, Delaware, and Montgomery. Afternoon sessions included information about Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, an update on Managed Care by a representative of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, and information about the [Imagine Project](#).

Next Family Advisory Council Meeting: August 20.

FAC Meetings are held at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, and are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin at Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-8706.

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5. Training and Tracking to Improve Service Delivery

New Initial Provider Certification Seminar Aims High on Quality and Consistency

A new *Initial Provider Certification* seminar through the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has been developed to build a foundation of information and skills that all new providers of Ohio Medicaid Waiver services need in order to provide competent services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

Every provider of direct services to Ohioans with developmental disabilities must obtain certification from DODD before providing services. The Department salutes and supports the efforts of the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals in offering this training to new providers.

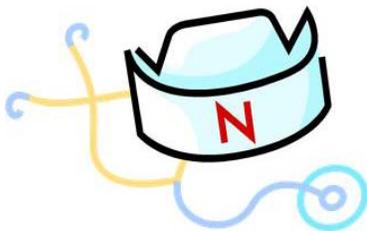
Certification through this training will enable providers to deliver Medicaid Waiver Services under the Level One and Individual Options (I.O.) waivers, as well as to deliver non-Medicaid funded services. All providers of direct services must complete eight hours of training in specific topics prior to applying for certification. The 8-hour *OADSP Initial Provider Certification* seminar is designed to meet all DODD training requirements for new providers in a consistent, comprehensive manner.

For more information regarding training dates (beginning in July), cost, scholarship availability, and registration, go to www.oadsp.org, or contact Katrina Sacay at oadsp.dspaths@gmail.com. This seminar has been approved by DODD for eight hours of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs).

OADSP is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to recruiting, training, and retaining people to support individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

RN Training Update! All RN Trainer Certifications will expire August 1, 2013

DODD Health Improvement Policy Specialist Janet Winterstein, RN, emphasizes that in the continuing effort to maintain high standards in service provision, it is critical to maintain up-to-date credentialing and certifications. All RN Trainer certifications will expire August 1, 2013, and complete recertification instructions and forms have been sent to all RN Trainers.



Any RN Trainer who has not received the notice and form should contact MA.Database@dodd.ohio.gov to update the RN Trainer e-mail list.

Winterstein also notes that when the current DODD Medication Administration system upgrade is completed in a few months, this information will be migrated to a new and more systematic, data-based Medication Administration Information System (MAIS). She adds, “The new MAIS system will support the mission of quality health and safety services, along with better data collection and management that can be more easily accessed by nurses and providers.” More about MAIS in a future issue of *Pipeline*.

Important Note for All Medication Administration-Certified Personnel and Their Employers

All MA-certified personnel and employers of certified personnel should independently validate their certification on the DODD web page *before August 1, 2013*, to assure their certifications are correctly registered. When certification information is moved from the current MA Database to the new system (MAIS), only active and up-to-date personnel certifications will transfer to MAIS. *After August, no late entries or corrections can be made to outdated certifications.*

To check the status of a certificate, visit the DODD Home Page at www.dodd.ohio.gov and use the “Health and Safety” drop-down menu at the top to choose the “Medication Administration Verification” -- link <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. If a certification needs to be updated or renewed, contact your RN Trainer. Personnel looking for *initial* or *renewal* classes may wish to contact their employer, Service and Support Administrator (SSA), local Council of Government (COG), or use the www.dodd.ohio.gov “Trainings” link to find classes in their area.
For additional information, contact janet.winterstein@dodd.ohio.gov.

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6. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks New Members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), a planning and advocacy council committed to community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, is currently seeking applicants for new membership. Council membership requires that applicants must comply with categories listed in the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. Categories include:

- Individual with a developmental disability;
- Parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability;
- An immediate relative or guardian of an adult with an intellectual developmental disability who cannot advocate for himself/herself;
- An immediate relative or guardian of an institutionalized, or previously-institutionalized individual with a developmental disability, or an individual with a developmental disability who resides or previously resided in an institution;
- A representative from a private agency serving persons with developmental disabilities;
- A representative from a private non-profit organization serving persons with developmental disabilities.

To apply for membership visit the DD Council website at www.ddc.ohio.gov or contact Carla R. Cox at (614) 644-5538, or email carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov for more information.

Structure & Function

The DODD Office of Legal & Oversight oversees the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, which consists of 32 members appointed by the Governor. As one of a national network of state Councils, DD Council receives federal funding for innovative advocacy, capacity-building, and ‘systems change’ activities. These efforts are designed to contribute to a coordinated system of services, supports, and other assistance that is centered around and driven by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. More at www.ddc.ohio.gov.

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!
Click [HERE](#) for more info.



PostScripts

☞ **Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Awards Nominations** All nominations are due by July 31.

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is now accepting applications for Annual Awards. These include: Employer of the Year; Public/Non-Profit Best Practices; Advocacy Award; Karla Lortz \$1000 Scholarship; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award; Accessible Parking Award; and, a new Accessible Medical Services Award. *All nominations are due by July 31*, and the Awards ceremony will be held in October, as part of RSC's DisAbility Jobs Summit. Applications are on the GCPD website at www.gcpd.ohio.gov – Go to the menu on the left, and the nomination form is under "AWARDS."

☞ **Autism Society National Conference, July 10-13**

The Autism Society's National Conference will be at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA, July 10 – 13.

To register, please click here

More information at <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/conference/>

The National Conference addresses the broad range of issues affecting people with autism, including early intervention, education, employment, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions and more, across the lifespan. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals, and individuals who have autism, attendees can learn how to more effectively advocate for and obtain supports. The Conference goal is to empower family members, individuals on the autism spectrum, and professionals who work with them to make informed decisions.

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The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to www.dspath.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

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research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

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To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free **1-866-313-6733**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA is published as needed to cover hot news. Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

July 2, 2013

Jobs 2.0 Budget Bill Passed, FY2014-15 Begins

\$62 billion biennial budget, a blueprint for prosperity.

Governor John Kasich signed the new state budget bill into effect, building upon job-creating and pro-growth policies begun two years ago with the prior budget. As the new fiscal year begins, there are many encouraging signs indicating that Ohio continues to get back on track. For example, more than 170,000 private sector jobs were created between January 2013 and May 2013, and wages are growing faster than in the rest of the United States.

The current budget continues to move Ohio forward with major new jobs-friendly policies. These include tax cuts and tax reform, critical funding for transportation infrastructure needs, additional dollars for Ohio's public schools, and a new funding plan for the state's public colleges and universities that rewards improved graduation rates.

Ohio's developmental disabilities system continues moving forward as well. This budget continues to pave the way with rebalancing resources and overall system transformation. We continue to ensure that funds are prioritized according to where and how individuals are served best—in community-based programs and the least restrictive settings possible. Through these efforts we are hopeful that individuals with developmental disabilities can continue to increase their opportunities to participate fully in their communities, and make more independent choices about their lives.

DODD's budget begins significant efforts to modernize the ICF/IID Program.

- In response to input from the DD community, the Department negotiated a historic agreement with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in community-based settings. The so-called 'Grand Bargain' includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waiver, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings that are no larger than eight-bed homes.
- The budget also creates incentives for rebalancing, which include: retroactive rate adjustments for facilities engaged in downsizing; a time-limited rate add-on for persons moving from institutions to community settings; and an increase in pay for direct-care workers, thanks in part to stakeholder support.

(More)

DODD's budget continues Employment First policies to ensure Community Employment is the preferred outcome for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities.

- The budget provides \$6 million over the biennium for the new Employment First line item.
- Policy changes: Create a presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work unless it is determined otherwise; improve data collection; make permanent the Governor's Employment First Taskforce; and, ask local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to create their own Employment First policies.

For more information: [Top Ten Health Transformation Initiatives in the Budget](#)



Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state's developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm

Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

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July 3, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 14

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 - 3. DODD's New Data Warehouse, Access and Training Now Available
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 - 5. Training to Build Understanding, Resilience, and Hope
 - 6. Spotlight on Cuyahoga County: A Center for Employment, Education and Training
- Pipeline PostScripts: News and information to update your calendar.*

Celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), July 16.

Ideas at <http://www.ada.gov/>

1. Governor Kasich Signs Ohio Jobs 2.0 Budget Bill

A new budget year has begun, with Governor John Kasich signing House Bill 59 ([View Bill Text](#)). The \$62 billion budget is considered a blueprint for prosperity, and continues to build on job-creating and pro-growth policies begun two years ago with the state's prior budget. ([See Pipeline EXTRA](#), July 2, 2013)

In reviewing the budget on June 30, Governor Kasich vetoed an attempt to block efforts to expand Medicaid in Ohio, and the Administration is continuing to work with legislators on the subject of expansion, as well as other related health care funding reforms. The budget bill does include Medicaid coverage of telehealth services ([HB123](#)), capitalizing on advances in technology to increase access to medical care and reduce costs. Nationally, Ohio joins 45 other states with similar legislation.



OHIO'S JOBS
BUDGET 2.0

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

Budget documents and fact sheets are at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov>

ODMHAS Created

Also created in the budget was the new Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), a merger of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services ODADAS. The new, combined agency has a two-year budget of nearly \$1.4 billion, and includes approximately 2400 employees, statewide. Tracy Plouck, Director of the former ODMH, is head of the consolidated agency, and Orman Hall, former Director of ODADAS, remains in the Governor's cabinet continuing work on issues regarding heroin and pain-pill addictions.

The new OhioMHAS will coordinate a system that includes six state hospitals, 460 treatment providers, and 400 mental health agencies. The consolidation will not affect 50 county alcohol, drug-addiction and mental health boards. According to Plouck, "We are going to be spending almost \$2 million less in administration and investing \$1.5 million a year in new community innovation projects with county jails." Supporting these efforts, the Ohio General Assembly added \$100 million in funding over two years for the new agency, with \$60 million earmarked for mental health and \$40 million for addiction.

RSC Re-Named

In addition, the new budget confirms a re-naming of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) in an effort to clarify the nature and scope of the agency's work. Now named the *Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency*, the organization moves forward with what Director Kevin Miller has described as a name that is ... "The result of a statewide needs assessment that spotlighted confusion regarding what we do and who we serve." He noted, "Our goal as an agency is to assist individuals with disabilities in finding successful employment outcomes and make determinations on disability for the Social Security Administration." DODD and RSC work collaboratively on many issues and projects, including Ohio's [Employment First initiative](#).

Additional budget information: [Top Ten Health Transformation Initiatives in the Budget](#)

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2. Ohio to Grant \$3 Million to At-Risk Youth Services

Ohio will direct \$3 million in federal funds this year to community projects aimed at helping young people at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. The "Strong Families, Safe Communities" grant funds will support crisis intervention, family mentoring, and screening programs along with other services in 20 counties. It is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money from Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) awards to help stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans resulting in stronger families and safer communities.

DODD Director John Martin, noted that all but a few areas of the state applied for the grant money, adding, "That also told us there's significant need out there in our local communities for something like this." Examples of projects proposed for grant funding included one in Hamilton County that outlined a plan to create 24-hour crisis services, while another, in southeastern Ohio,

would set up temporary care for young people in situations where they may need to be removed from a home. Some of the funding will help develop partnerships, or “rapid response teams,” across counties to help families after daytime working hours and during weekends, should a crisis occur. The teams may include members from local law enforcement, County Boards of DD, mental health boards, juvenile probation officers, and other social services agencies.

In addition, the state will be using \$250,000 in federal money this fall to train child welfare workers, school employees, and others in first aid and trauma-related approaches. Next year, it is expected that an additional \$1.5 million in federal funds will be used to continue the project, or possibly fund other related proposals.

See more at: [DODD and ODMH Announce Strong Families Safe Communities Grant Awards](#)

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3. New Data Warehouse: Access and Training Now Available

As DODD Director John Martin has stated many times, data-driven decision-making is the key to making responsible, fact-based decisions that strengthen Ohio’s developmental disabilities system. The Data Warehouse is a long-awaited, much-needed advance, and its usage can simplify data, clarify trends, and more easily spotlight comparisons.

“How many people do we serve that are over the age of 50, yet still live with parents?”
“How many people do we serve in Ohio that are competitively employed in the community?”
“How many Ohioans have a dual (DD and mental health) diagnosis?”

These are just a few of the many questions fielded daily by DODD staff in the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) -- questions now easier to answer, thanks to the new Data Warehouse. A central data resource built by the Department for use by County Boards of DD, Councils of Government (COGs), and state employees who need access to detailed data in a streamlined system, the Data Warehouse is a powerful new tool. In fact, it has the power to generate reports and queries, conduct analyses, and create ‘packages of data’ for specific needs. In addition, the system is faster and easier to customize than previous reporting systems, while being simpler to use.

How does it work?

Data may be extracted daily, weekly, or monthly from a variety of DODD information applications that support business processes. Once extracted, it can be restructured and supplemented with data from other applications and sources. The data then may be used by individuals granted access to generate reports and queries, conduct analyses, and otherwise structure information.

Using data from DODD applications, such as Payment Authorization for Waiver Services (PAWS), the Individual Data System (IDS) and others, the Warehouse allows a user to quickly look at snapshots of data and ‘trends over time’ on an individual, county, COG or state level. Counties can compare themselves with similar counties, and with statewide averages if desired. Any report or query can be delivered to users and colleagues via email, or saved on a computer as an Excel document for easy transformation into graphics or analysis.

Pilot Project

As part of a pilot project, several counties are already using the Data Warehouse, and more than 40 counties have requested and been granted access to it. Among other uses, they have been able to research causes behind denied Medicaid claims, to quickly understand participation levels in various programs, and to generate reports to local leadership.

Joan Gilmore, a staff member at Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services, attests,

“The Data Warehouse already has yielded significant cost savings and revenue enhancement for us, through identifying erroneous acuity scores and Medicaid information. These data problems would require a significant amount of time and effort to identify in any other way ... and in some cases would not be possible without the Data Warehouse.”

According to DODD staffer Hope McGonigle, “It is important to note that in order to successfully answer data requests, DODD relies on county-created IDS data. The Data Warehouse gives us visibility into this data that was not previously possible. For example, we are able to more easily identify data inconsistencies, such as children being counted in Adult Services or vice versa, that would previously have been very time-consuming to find.”

During the summer, DODD will begin fully rolling out this tool around the state, working with counties to begin cleaning up any missing or inaccurate data. As DODD Deputy Director Patrick Stephan stated at a recent Family Advisory Council meeting,

“We hope that by using this tool we can have better visibility into our data, both within and across counties. Over the next few months, we also hope to begin using this tool to help clean up missing and inaccurate data. The end goal of this is to be able to have databases that are accessible and reliable.”

For more information: Details and usage information are available at the DODD website, via this link from the DODD portal: [Data Warehouse](#).

Data Warehouse Training, Summer 2013

The Data Warehouse team will be holding weekly webinars throughout the summer on specific topics, including those requested by new users. And, registration for general training is online -- Follow this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4CAFA723A02-dodd>

Contact: Hope McGonigle, Hope.McGonigle@dodd.ohio.gov

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4. SELF Waiver Marks One-Year Milestone

The SELF waiver means more opportunities and choices for individuals served.

As of July 1, 2013, the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver has been in existence for a full year. DODD is pleased to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the first waiver for individuals with developmental disabilities that incorporates *participant-direction* and has a wide

array of *flexible services*, including several designed to serve individuals with *intensive behavioral needs*. Here are just a few of the ‘first-year’ highlights and accomplishments:

- DODD staff trained nearly 1000 people during several two-day SELF waiver training sessions conducted regionally throughout 2012;
- Public Partnerships Limited (PPL) trained more than 500 attendees at Support Broker Certification trainings, conducted across the state in 2012 and 2013;
- There are currently 122 individuals enrolled on the SELF Waiver. Enrollments encompass both new enrollees and transfers, and include both children and adults;
- All 100 state-funded waivers for Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs (CIBN) have been filled;
- DODD has conducted a number of SELF waiver-related online webinar training sessions, including both two-day and one-day general training; a specific training targeted to mental health providers; a day-long Support Broker Certification training; and a 2-hour training for stakeholders on the Role of the Support Broker.



**Congratulations, Christine!
First Adult Enrolled on SELF Waiver**

Christine Brown (right) with Jeanne Stuntz, friend and advocate.

Christine has lived in Franklin County since May 2009, and enjoys experiencing living life to the fullest, including all of the joys and challenges that come with it.

She is always thinking about ways to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

See *Pipeline*, August 15, 2012



**Bradley Shonkwiler,
First Child Enrolled on SELF Waiver**

Bradley's in his element!

Bradley shows his considerable enthusiasm for swinging – and just about any activity outdoors. According to his mom, Tracey, “Bradley really likes all the sensations of being outside on the swings, and enjoys active play in general.”

See *Pipeline*, November 7, 2012



With the first year completed, what's next? Currently, DODD is working on transitioning the two contracts associated with the SELF waiver, which ended June 30, 2013. Those contracts were for the Financial Management Services entity (as of July 1, 2013, this became Morning Star Financial Services) and for the Support Brokerage Certification trainings that PPL, a previous training provider, had been offering. Look for an announcement in an upcoming *Pipeline* for more details about the transition of the Support Brokerage Certification trainings.

In addition, DODD will continue to provide general technical assistance and training on the SELF waiver and its many unique aspects. Input is always welcomed regarding any questions or comments related to the SELF Waiver – simply email SELFWaiver@dodd.ohio.gov.

For more information on the SELF Waiver visit the [SELF Waiver](#) page on the DODD website.

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5. Training to Build Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope

“Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope”

New approaches for understanding and supporting people with complex neurobehavioral conditions and histories of trauma and toxic stress will be discussed at a two-day training, August 26 – 27 at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Drive in Columbus, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. [Click here for registration information.](#)

DODD Senior Policy Advisor Pam Berry, explains, “This two-day training opportunity will provide new understanding of the latest research and best practices for supporting people with complex needs and histories of trauma and toxic stress. The information is very relevant to our collective efforts in Ohio to build increased capacity to support people in their home communities -- using positive approaches that promote healing and resiliency.”

“Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope” is geared toward developmental disabilities professionals as well as mental health professionals -- including case managers, SSAs, and other County Board of DD staff, program managers of day service and residential support agencies, and mental health clinicians. Continuing Education Units are available on request at close of session on August 27.

Presented by Julie Gentile, MD, and Mary Vicario, LPCC-S, the importance of this training is underscored when working with individuals entering the service system who have specific and complex needs. For them, traditional approaches to assessment, planning, and service delivery may not work well, and new approaches based on research and best practices are needed.

[This training brings together two nationally acclaimed experts – Dr. Julie Gentile and Mary Vicario – who have blended their areas of expertise to bring fresh and hopeful approaches to serving people with complex support needs.](#)

Dr. Julie Gentile directs the Coordinating Center of Excellence in MI/DD, and is a professor at Wright State University School of Medicine. She is a practicing psychiatrist and recognized national expert on co-occurring mental illness and developmental disabilities.

Mary Vicario, LPCC-S uses principles of relational neuroscience in her work at St. Aloysius, and with Finding Hope, her Cincinnati-based private consulting practice. In addition to clinical work, she lectures and trains worldwide. Mary is affiliated with the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at Wellesley, and with trauma research at Harvard University.

Follow-up 'Theory to Practice' Sessions

Four follow-up sessions will be hosted in different areas of the state. These one-day sessions will offer the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills learned from the two-day training. Dr. Gentile and Mary Vicario will help participants move from theory to practice.

“Building Understanding, Resiliency and Hope” is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Coordinating Centers of Excellence in MI/DD, DODD, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Association of County Boards, and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

Contact: Pam.Berry@dodd.ohio.gov

Complete training link is: <http://www.xenos.org/aboutxenos/meetings.htm#map>

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Spotlight on Cuyahoga County

6. A Center for Employment, Education, and Training

A grand opening ceremony was held on June 14 for the Terrence M. Ryan Agricultural Education Center, at Stanard Farm in Cleveland. The new facility for Cleveland Crops, an urban farming venture of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD), its nonprofit division ‘SAW, Inc.’ and The Ohio State University Extension Office, will serve as headquarters for both Cleveland Crops and OSU Extension–Cuyahoga County.

The Center is named after just-retired CCBDD Superintendent Terry Ryan, who attended the ceremony, as did (then) OSU-President E. Gordon Gee, guest speaker. Ryan’s staunch support for the Cleveland Crops program enabled the vision of an agricultural training and employment initiative serving people with developmental disabilities to grow from one plot into eight major farm locations, four of them in Cleveland and four in suburban areas.

The Center will employ 15 people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of food processing, including thermal processing, dehydration, dry goods packaging, baking, and cooking.



Voila!

(L. to R.) Cleveland Economic Development Director Darryl Rush; Cuyahoga County Board of DD Superintendent Kelly Petty; retired CCBDD Superintendent Terry Ryan; Cleveland Councilman Jeff Johnson (in whose ward the Center is located), and Cleveland Crops farmers Amy Kleinman and Patrick Harris. The green canvas was removed to reveal the name on the new Terrence M. Ryan Agricultural Education Center.

According to CCBDD Communications Director Lula Holt Robertson, the building was previously an auditorium for the now-demolished Stanard Elementary School, and has been fully refurbished, now featuring 4000 square feet of office and training space. Later this summer, a 5000 square-foot Food Innovation Center and commercial kitchen will allow Cleveland Crops to add value to its own crops, as well as to those of other Northeast Ohio farms, with products such as jams, sauces, packaged herbs, and dehydrated and other prepared foods.

The facility adds to a 2.5-acre campus that includes a one-acre urban farm and a large greenhouse. Marie Barni, executive director of OSU Extension–Cuyahoga County announced at the grand opening, “We couldn’t be more excited to be partnering with CCBDD as we relocate to this beautiful new space. We’ve had a great partnership since the beginning of the Cleveland Crops venture, and we look forward to doing great things together for years to come.” OSU Extension’s presence benefits Cleveland Crops with on-site technical assistance and research-based information on agricultural practices.

Rich Hoban, Executive Director of SAW, Inc. added, “The Terrence M. Ryan Agriculture Education Center is a kind of ‘phoenix rising from the ashes’ story. The site was mostly piles of bricks when we first laid eyes on the property in 2008,” he recalls. “It’s hard to believe the transformation that has taken place.”

Cuyahoga County Employment Scene Adds Just-A-Buck #3!

As shoppers turn to bargain retail outlets to extend their budgets, a third *Just-A-Buck* store has opened in Cuyahoga County. Owned and operated by SAW, Inc., the nonprofit partner of CCBDD, the newest of the three stores employs 15 workers who have developmental disabilities, a store manager, three shift managers and a job coach.



“1 – 2 – 3, CUT!”

At the grand opening of Just-A-Buck store #3 in Cuyahoga County is Mayor Pamela Bobst of Rocky River (left of ‘Bucky’) and a host of employees and well-wishers. CCBDD Superintendent Kelly Petty is in back, at right.

The newest *Just-A-Buck* store is in Rocky River, and follows on the success of the first store in Parma, opened in 2009, and the second, in South Euclid, opened in 2011 (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Autumn 2011.*) *Just-A-Buck* is a New York-based franchise, and merchandise sells for one dollar or less. SAW Inc. employs more than 2000 individuals at various businesses in the community, and at centers operated by the County Board.

Contact: Robertson.Lula@CuyahogaBDD.org

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What’s this handsome young man doing?
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Pipeline Quarterly,
reporting on spring 2013.
Read issues at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)

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PostScripts

REMINDER! All RN Trainer Certifications will expire August 1, 2013

DODD Health Improvement Policy Specialist Janet Winterstein, RN, emphasizes that in the continuing effort to maintain high standards in service provision, it is critical to maintain up-to-date credentialing and certifications. All RN Trainer certifications will expire August 1, 2013, and complete recertification instructions and forms have been sent to all RN Trainers.

Any RN Trainer who has not received the notice and form should contact MA.Database@dodd.ohio.gov to update the RN Trainer e-mail list.



IMPORTANT: Medication Administration-Certified Personnel & Their Employers

All MA-certified personnel and employers of certified personnel should independently validate their certification on the DODD web page *before August 1, 2013*, to assure their certifications are correctly registered. When certification information is moved from the current MA Database to the new system (MAIS), only active and up-to-date personnel certifications will transfer to MAIS. *After August, no late entries or corrections can be made to outdated certifications.* To check the status of a certificate, visit the DODD home page at www.dodd.ohio.gov and use the “Health and Safety” drop-down menu at the top to choose “Medication Administration Verification” and link <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, Awards Nominations All nominations are due by July 31.

The [Governor's Council on People with Disabilities](#) is now accepting applications for Annual Awards. These include: Employer of the Year; Public/Non-Profit Best Practices; Advocacy Award; Karla Lortz \$1000 Scholarship; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award; Accessible Parking Award; and, a new Accessible Medical Services Award. *All nominations are due by July 31*, and the Awards ceremony will be held in October, as part of RSC’s DisAbility Jobs Summit. Applications are on the GCPD website at www.gcpd.ohio.gov – Go to the menu on the left, and the nomination form is under “AWARDS.”

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks New Members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), a planning and advocacy council committed to community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, is currently seeking applicants for new membership. To apply, visit their website at www.ddc.ohio.gov or contact Carla Cox at (614) 644-5538, or email carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov.

Autism Society National Conference, July 10-13

The Autism Society’s National Conference will be at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA, July 10 – 13.

To register, please click here

More information at <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/conference/>

The National Conference addresses a broad range of issues affecting people with autism, including early intervention, education, employment, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions, and more, across the lifespan. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals, and individuals who have autism, attendees can learn how to more effectively advocate for and obtain supports. The Conference goal is to empower family members, individuals on the autism spectrum, and professionals who work with them to make informed decisions.

Family Advisory Council Meeting, August 20

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will host its next meeting on August 20 at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s DD community, and DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system. For more information, contact Peggy Martin at Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-8706.

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with

DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to www.dspath.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAR/OSDA Synergy Conference, October 2-4

Two non-profit organizations, PAR and OSDA are hosting a statewide conference on October 2-4, 2013 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Dublin, OH. Both organizations have held annual conferences for many years and have been a source of training, professional development and advocacy in the field of developmental disabilities (DD). This year's conference will bring together a cross section of all stakeholders - people with developmental disabilities, their family members, professionals and staff of county boards of DD and providers of residential and day service settings

The Annual ESDY Awards will be given at this Conference!

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details soon on the OSDA website at www.ohiosda.org. *Completed nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2013.* Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org. All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (formerly RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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July 29, 2013

Message from DODD Director John Martin

In Recognition of the 23rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Friday, July 26th marked the 23rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is an equal opportunity law for people with disabilities which prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in community life. This principle -- that individuals with disabilities be accorded the chance to live and work in the community -- goes to the heart of the Department's core values. With the passage of House Bill 59, DODD was able to take an important stride forward to implement this belief and increase the number of individuals who have the option to receive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in home and community based settings. It is our hope that these policy changes will, in the words of President George H.W. Bush, "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

Home and Community Based Services not only provide care and support to individuals in an integrated community setting, but empower individuals to choose service plans that are specific to their own needs. These services are based on a person-centered care model that is focused on more individual choice than services typically received in institutional settings. Individuals with developmental disabilities have more involvement in everyday choices, not only *where* to live and work, but also *how* to live and work.

In addition, because Home and Community Based services are portable, if individuals choose to move, the services can follow them throughout the state. The Department, in conjunction with the stakeholder community, committed to rebalancing the system through the conversion of up to 600 ICF-IID funded beds to Home and Community Based waiver services. Many of the smaller ICF-IID beds located in community settings could simply "flip" to waiver services. Doing so will allow individuals to live in the community and have greater choice in their care.

In addition to converting ICF-IID beds to waivers, there is a desire to reduce the number of ICF-IID funded beds located in a single dwelling. The Department will continue its efforts to decrease the number of individuals served in state-operated Developmental Centers. Similarly,

and also part of the budgetary agreement worked out with the Department's stakeholders, up to 600 large ICF-IID beds will be downsized to settings no larger than eight-bed homes.

The budget also creates incentives for rebalancing, which include retroactive rate adjustments for facilities engaged in downsizing, and an increase in pay for direct-care workers.

Additionally, the recently-passed state operating budget builds on the Executive Order signed by Governor John Kasich which established the Employment First Taskforce and made community employment the preferred and priority outcome for working-age adults with developmental disabilities. Both the state budget and the Executive Order echo the ADA which ensures that employers covered by the act cannot discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. As President George H.W. Bush noted at the signing of the ADA, "Many of our fellow citizens with disabilities are unemployed. They want to work, and they can work."

House Bill 59 includes language that creates a presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work; improves data collection; codifies the Employment First Taskforce; creates common definitions among Taskforce agencies for the terms: 'community employment', 'competitive employment', and 'integrated setting'; and establishes the Employment First line item (6 million over the biennium).

The 23 years that have passed since the enactment of the ADA have brought us closer to the day when no Ohioan will be deprived of the basic opportunity to be part of his or her community. During this time, the number of individuals served at state-operated centers has been reduced by 58 percent, census reduction at large private (16 bed or greater) ICF-IID facilities has reached 25 percent, and the momentum behind community employment continues to grow. While all of this is encouraging, much work remains. Too many individuals who can and would prefer to live and work in the community are precluded from doing so. The Department is committed to work on behalf of these individuals every day, as President Bush remarked at the signing of the ADA, to ensure that the shameful walls of exclusion come tumbling down.

END

Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state's developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *Pipeline* is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm



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July 31, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 15

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Pipeline PostScripts: Nearly a dozen updates for your calendar.

1. DODD and RSC Partner to Improve Employment Options

Statistics currently indicate that of the nearly 30,000 Ohioans now receiving Adult Services through the state disability services system, about 50 percent would like to have a job in the community ... and only 11 percent have one.

A new program designed to move individuals with developmental disabilities out of sheltered workshops and other more segregated settings and into jobs in the community is targeted to benefit at least 1500 individuals each year. Announced last week as a partnership between DODD and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the effort seeks to more effectively match working-age adults who have developmental disabilities with community-based jobs, and provide training and support services to help them keep those jobs.

In developing the partnership, DODD and RSC wanted to be sure that the approach was going to make a real difference for these job-seekers, and a model was conceived in which RSC job counselors would be placed in County Board of DD sheltered workshops. According to DODD Director John Martin and RSC Director Kevin Miller, the new service model is groundbreaking. It is expected that about 5.5 percent of the number of individuals currently employed in sheltered workshops or other more segregated settings would receive the new, targeted vocational services during the first year. "I'm not aware of anybody else doing this in the country," Miller said.

Funded by about \$1.75 million in state dollars, along with federal matching money through RSC, the total financial support for the partnership efforts is about \$7 million per year. Director

Martin noted that it was important to build a model that would be sustainable long into the future. He noted that the plan reflects Ohio's Employment First initiative, supporting community employment for people with disabilities as a preferred outcome for working-age adults in the service system. As Director Martin has stated in the past,

“We've been listening to our stakeholders. We know it's going to take new models of service delivery to see some real change in the right direction, and to sustain that momentum.”

Partners in planning also took into consideration that adults served by County Boards of DD previously may have experienced difficulty in getting employment assistance from RSC, due to the Commission's historical focus on workers with more 'traditional' physical disabilities such as mobility issues, or blindness. Also, some individuals, including those with cognitive disabilities, may have had their cases closed by the Commission because they were considered either unable to benefit from services, or otherwise deemed unable to work in the community. Remedying this situation in the new partnership efforts, RSC will be hiring 15 counselors, each of whom will oversee assistance to approximately 60 individuals, and each of Ohio's 88 County Boards of DD will have the opportunity to refer a pre-determined number of people.

Related article at: [The Columbus Dispatch, July 24, 2013](#)

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2. Ohio Medicaid Moves Ahead with Managed Care Efforts

Beginning this month, Ohio families will experience better coordination in health care services available to their children. Effective July 1, as part of an overall effort to improve long-term health outcomes, Ohio Medicaid (Office of Medical Assistance) is moving ahead with its plan to bring managed care to children with special health care needs. It is estimated that roughly 37,000 children who currently receive benefits through a monthly Medicaid card and have a disability now will be eligible for enrollment in one of five managed care plans. In making this transition from "fee-for-service" Medicaid, it is expected that more families will see the specific health care needs of their children addressed in a coordinated manner.

Currently excluded from enrolling in a managed care plan are: Children who are currently on a Medicaid waiver; Children who are currently living in an institution; Children who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare ('dually-eligible'); and, children who receive Medicaid benefits who currently have a designated spend-down amount.

Participants at recent DODD Family Advisory Council* meetings have asked several questions about Managed Care and related changes in the system, many of which are addressed in a Department of Job and Family Services online link at "[Frequently Asked Questions, Information for Children with Special Health Care Needs.](#)" In addition, general information is available at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bmhc/transition.stm>.

**The next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is August 20. See Pipeline Postscripts in this issue.*

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3. ‘Strong Families, Safe Communities’ Grant Awards

Communities Create Coordinated Care Plans to Help At-Risk Youth

Joining forces to accomplish results more efficiently, DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)* announced earlier this month awards of nearly \$3 million of a total \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships for implementing the ‘Strong Families, Safe Communities’ project, and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

In addition to the grant awards, the project will provide statewide training on crisis intervention for professionals in the developmental disabilities and mental health fields. ‘Strong Families, Safe Communities’ is funded by Governor John Kasich’s initiative to commit money awarded from the state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) to develop targeted strategies to stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans that help children and their families live happier, healthier lives.

“Children at risk—those struggling and teetering on the edge of self-harm or aggression and violence—often aren’t yet in treatment programs, and therefore not yet known to us as someone in need of care and support,” said Tracy Plouck, Director of OhioMHAS. “Our focus was to engage our local systems and encourage community-driven solutions that combine knowledge and leadership across agencies. We’re very pleased with the comprehensive treatment models in these plans.”

DODD and OhioMHAS recruited 38 proposals from Ohio communities, all representing collaboration among Mental Health (MH) and Developmental Disabilities (DD) services providers, and many involving multi-county partnerships. The seven partnerships selected (see [Press Release and Fact Sheet](#)) together serve families in 20 counties, and represent collaboration among public and private providers.

Elements of the selected projects include more thorough care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

DODD Director John Martin noted, “We’re pleased that so many Ohio communities were ready and able to submit viable projects and coordinated care models for this project. From the submissions received we have learned what types of service supports and training are most widely needed. We anticipate the selected projects also will identify best practices and models of care than can be duplicated to benefit all counties, and all Ohioans receiving these services.”

Directors Martin and Plouck will visit each of the community partnerships this summer to officially award the grants and share more about each project with local communities. The schedule of these events, noted below, begins today:

- July 31, 1:30 p.m.: Springfield (Director Martin)
- Aug 1, 10:30 a.m.: Athens (Director Plouck)
- Aug 14, 10:00 a.m.: St. Clairsville, (Director Martin)
- Aug 19, 10:30 a.m.: Mount Vernon (Director Martin)
- Aug 19, 2:00 p.m.: Newark (Director Martin)

Aug 28, 10:30 a.m.: Massillon (Director Plouck)
Aug 30, 10:30 a.m.: West Chester (Director Plouck)

**Effective July 1, 2013, OhioMHAS was formed by the consolidation of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health.*

More information at: [DODD and ODMH Announce Strong Families Safe Communities Grant Awards](#)

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4. Focus on Early Intervention Gains New Leadership

DODD and ODH Collaborate on Early Intervention, Part C

In February of this year, DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo announced additional inter-agency coordination efforts on Early Intervention Services, Part C (See [Pipeline, February 27 2013](#)). Part C is a federal program administered by states that serves families with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions with high probabilities of resulting in developmental delays.

Following on that initial announcement and effective this month, DODD is pleased to note the addition of a key staff position to support this work. Assistant Deputy Director in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, Kim Hauck has accepted a new role leading DODD Early Intervention programs. She will manage the Department's responsibilities for Part C, offered under ODH *Help Me Grow* services, ensuring that Ohio children and families can access the range of services throughout the system in all counties.

In making the announcement, DODD Deputy Director in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction Monty Kerr observed that the Department is making many improvements in its shared program management with ODH, creating a joint leadership model that enables local agencies and providers to better serve families. He stated, "Kim brings a wealth of experience as a tenured professional who has served individuals with developmental disabilities in many capacities. She knows their needs, and understands the resources most needed by those who provide services, support, and education for families."

Hauck previously served as Director of Program Services at Hamilton County DD Services, and holds degrees in special education and educational administration.

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5. Study to Evaluate Needs of People Waiting for Services

More than 40,000 Ohioans with disabilities are waiting for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver in Ohio, according to recent estimates provided by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine's Government Resource Center. The number often raises eyebrows among advocates and policymakers, but currently little is known about what services people actually are waiting for or need.

“It’s disheartening when you hear the number,” says Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council). “But it’s just a number, and it doesn’t really tell the whole story about who is on the list and what they are really waiting for.”

Knight says that is why the DD Council -- in partnership with DODD, the Government Resource Center, and Kent State University -- is funding a study to examine the current and future needs of people with disabilities who are on the waiting list for a HCBS waiver.

The study will include a telephone survey of 1000 individuals who have been randomly selected from the HCBS waiver waiting list. People with disabilities or their family members, caregivers, or guardians will be asked a series of questions about what they need to help them be more independent, or what they might need in the future.

Kent State University will be conducting the telephone interviews beginning in August. Each phone interview is expected to take about seven minutes to complete, and all personal information will be kept confidential. The surveys are expected to be finished sometime in November. Knight emphasized,

“We want everyone to know that it is okay to participate in this survey. The survey is voluntary, and participation would not change a person’s position on the waiting list or the services they are waiting to receive.” She adds, “The responses will help us draw a better picture of what services people are waiting for, and will need to live independently.”

DODD Director John Martin added that he hopes the study will help to de-mystify the waiting list, stating,

“Generally, everyone knows the waiting list for a waiver is large, and keeps growing,” said Martin. “That’s about the extent of most people’s knowledge of the issue. A study like this will really help everyone understand the nature of the waiting list, and take some of the guesswork out of what people on the list need.”

He added that the study could help the Department, and local County Boards of DD identify needs that can be addressed in the future. Once all surveys have been completed, the Government Resource Center will compile an analysis of the responses received, and estimate the current and future needs of all Ohioans with disabilities who are currently on the waiting list. Study findings will be made available in 2014.

For more information: <http://www.ddc.ohio.gov/>

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6. International Guests Learn More About Disability Rights

Stakeholder Partners Host African Guests

Last week, delegates from Botswana, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, and Swaziland visited the Dayton area for three days to learn more about disability rights in the U.S., and share their own perspectives and experiences. The Wright State University International Visitor Leadership Program, funded by the U.S. Department of State’s [Bureau of](#)

Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with other partners in Ohio's disability community, hosted the group of delegates from throughout Africa with the purpose of discussing and sharing information from different viewpoints.

U.S. collaborators included Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc. (APSI), The Disability Foundation of Dayton, and the Montgomery County Board of DD. APSI representatives presented information to the group on legal protections for individuals with disabilities, and a representative from the Dayton Foundation focused on the subject of specific disability benefits and long term financial planning. The Montgomery County Board presentation included information on services and supports to individuals through the County Board system, along with a little history on the subject and a facilities tour.

The educational and cultural project presented a unique opportunity for exchanging ideas on the subject of developmental disabilities services, including insight into federal, state and local legislation, funding, and programs intended to improve access and quality-of-life for persons with disabilities.

Attendees noted that the collaboration also afforded an opportunity to examine the role of non-governmental organizations in providing services to people with disabilities, influencing disability policy, and raising public awareness of disability issues. International connections such as this visit will facilitate long-term dialogue among the participants and their American counterparts. The African delegates visited four states during their trip, starting in Washington D.C, and then on to Dayton, Portland, and Denver. One of the delegates commented on the experience in Dayton before leaving for Oregon,

"Thank you for making us a part of your empowerment programs. We are grateful for all the information you have shared with us, and we shall put it to great use in our countries."

- Ms. Jabulisile Eunice Zulu, South Africa



Gathered to Learn.
International delegates,
along with presenters
from the Disability
Foundation and APSI,
who presented
information on legal
mechanisms of
protective services.

**"Believing in yourself is
the powerful feeling to
reach your goals."**

**-Ms. Ramla Said Omar
Mohamed, of Kenya**



A Smile is Universal
APSI representative Kristina Gaible
and Congo representative Mr. Jean
Castard NZAOU PAMBOUD, an
Information Technology
Management Engineer with the
Ministry of Civil Service exhibit their
international camaraderie.



*Special thanks to APSI for information and photos contained in this article.
More about the international visit on the [Wright State University website](#).*

Health & Welfare

7. Severe Weather Tips for Care Givers: Flooding, Heat

The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) unit, a part of the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight, shares this information provided by state agency partners the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA,) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Flooding, High Water

Again this summer the potential for severe weather remains a threat, and residents within designated ‘watch’ areas should be prepared to take immediate action when heavy rains and flooding occur, or flash flood warnings issued. The National Weather Service and its state and local partners caution that if there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move. Also, if evacuation is necessary:

- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so.
- Disconnect electrical appliances.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

Be aware of nearby areas known to flood suddenly, because flash floods can occur in these areas with or without typical warnings such as rain clouds or heavy rain. Remember these tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Just six inches of moving water can cause a fall. If it is necessary to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If water rises around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.



“Swimming to Safety”

A story from the [Winter 2007, Pipeline Quarterly](#) could happen again, any time!

ResCare staff for two Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) in Ottawa, Ohio (Putnam County) were responsible for assisting several residents to safety during a flooding crisis in August 2007.

Flood waters were rising around the homes, and residents had to be evacuated. The town of Ottawa was undergoing what turned out to be a federal disaster due to flooding of the Blanchard River.

Take Precautions to Manage Extreme Heat

DODD and its state agency partners EMA and ODH provide this information for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers to help avoid heat-related stress and illness, especially for those who are very young, chronically ill, or elderly. People who work outdoors or exercise in extreme heat also are more likely to become dehydrated and get heat-related illnesses. Drink plenty of water, dress in light-colored lightweight clothing, and stay in the shade when possible.

Statistics indicate that on average, 675 deaths from ‘extreme heat events’ occur nationally each year. Last year, Ohioans experienced severe weather that left hundreds without power and suffering the ill effects of high temperatures – the highest on record in some areas. As a 2013 heat wave moves across the country this summer, Ohioans are reminded to take precautions to stay healthy and prevent heat-related deaths.

Be a Good Neighbor

Friends and neighbors are urged to periodically check on elderly persons, and those with illnesses or mobility issues that could affect the ability to evacuate a building, as they are among those at highest risk for heat-related problems. Residents without power should call their local 211 numbers for information and assistance, or 911 in an emergency. Another resource is the State of Ohio’s [Check on Your Neighbor](#) kit.

*Information on road closures can be found at www.ohgo.com.
Health & Safety Alerts are under the ‘Health and Safety’ tab at www.dodd.ohio.gov.*

8. Capitol City Opens the Door to Accessible Taxi Service

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles Now in Service in Columbus Area

From now on, when self advocates travel within the Columbus area, there will be another option to assure ease of transportation. Last week, Columbus' first wheelchair-accessible taxi cabs were unveiled at Columbus City Hall Parking Plaza and are a result of the city's moratorium on taxi licenses being lifted specifically to add wheelchair-accessible cabs to the city's transportation landscape. Yellow Cab's initial investment included the new vehicles and ten of the taxi licenses. Plans are to have all ten of the wheelchair accessible taxi cabs on the streets by the end of the year. Currently, five of the vehicles are part of Yellow Cab's active fleet.



Online image, courtesy photo

-They're On a Roll in Columbus-

Individuals who wish to request a wheelchair-accessible cab may do so by calling Yellow Cab of Columbus at (614) 444-4444.

More at [Accessible Taxis](#).



The new vehicles will benefit citizens of Columbus as well as thousands of visitors to the downtown Columbus area each year. Reliable 'on demand' transportation that meets the needs of all citizens throughout the community is what self advocates and advocates for disability services have been seeking for several years, and have been more vocal about in the recent past (See "Self Advocates Speak Up, Ask Questions," [Pipeline, July 17, 2013](#)). Now they are seeing some real progress.

Special thanks to Sue Willis, axiscenter@columbus.rr.com, and Mary Butler, mbutler@ohiosilc.org for information contained in this article.

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Why is Jeffery O'Neil so happy?
Find out in the newest issue of
Pipeline Quarterly,
reporting on spring 2013.

Read all issues at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)



CLARIFICATION: In Pipeline, July 17, 2013, in the article titled, “A Good Life -- Celebration in Northwest Ohio,” two participating groups were inadvertently not listed as being part of the graduation: *Williams County Board of DD*, and *Quadco* participants were a part of the Northwest Ohio group of graduates. *Pipeline* regrets the omission, and congratulates all.

PostScripts

NEW Ohio Waiver Network, Introductory Meetings

The new Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) is being developed by a group of Ohio waiver providers committed to collaboration, system simplicity, and quality outcomes. OWN creators believe that the waiver service model represents the future of service delivery in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, and have a desire to help shape that future by influencing policy and developing relationships that enable people to succeed. Informational introductory meetings will be hosted around the state in August. Geographic regions and dates are: August 6th – Northeast, Cleveland/Akron; August 13th – Southeast, Nelsonville; August 15th – Southwest, Cincinnati/Dayton; August 20th – Northwest, Bowling Green; August 21st – Central, Columbus. All meetings will be from 9a.m. to noon. Specific locations will be finalized soon and posted at www.ohiowaivernetwork.com. There is no cost to attend.

Public Hearing, State Plan for Independent Living, August 14

A public hearing to provide input to Ohio’s State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) will be held August 14, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), 150 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council and RSC are making changes to the 2014-2016 SPIL that will incorporate Community Centers for the Deaf, and the Personal Care Assistance Programs, and they encourage participation and input. To teleconference: (866) 321-0015 or, in Franklin County dial (614) 785-5087. For viewing locations around the state, call (614) 892-0390 or (800) 566-7788.

DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting, August 20

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will host its next meeting on August 20 at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.. The meeting agenda will include information about Developmental Center downsizing efforts, as well as our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion and other topics. DODD Director Martin also will be on-hand for a Question & Answer session, along with Deputy Director Patrick Stephan. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s DD community, and we especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or (614) 466-8706.

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!  
Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Advocacy and Service Awards, Nominations due by August 16

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has established the *Ben Bonanno Disability Advocate Award* to honor outstanding advocacy accomplishments by non-employees of RSC. Bonanno was a former RSC Commissioner who advocated to improve employment possibilities for persons with disabilities. The award recognizes a person whose advocacy efforts have significantly improved employment possibilities for Ohioans with disabilities, consistent with RSC’s mission. RSC also has established the *Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award* to honor non-employees of RSC who provide outstanding service to Ohioans with disabilities to make their participation in society more meaningful.

This award was established in memory of Denise Weisenborn, an RSC Commissioner from 1997 - 2006. For both awards, *deadline for submitting nominations is August 16, 2013*. Contact Shirley Marchi, at (614) 438-1477 or e-mail shirley.marchi@rsc.ohio.gov.

Training, August 26-27: Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope

A training opportunity, "Building Understanding, Resilience and Hope," is geared toward developmental disabilities professionals as well as mental health professionals -- including case managers, SSAs, and other County Board of DD staff, program managers of day service and residential support agencies, and mental health clinicians. New approaches for understanding and supporting people with complex neurobehavioral conditions and histories of trauma and toxic stress will be discussed at the two-day training, August 26 – 27, at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. [Click here for registration information](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Center in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin and several additional presenters are on the agenda. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register, go to www.dspath.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAR/OSDA 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4

Two non-profit organizations, PAR and OSDA, are hosting a statewide conference October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Both organizations have held annual conferences for many years and have provided training, professional development, and advocacy in the DD field. This year's combined 'Synergy' conference will bring together a cross-section of all stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and DD professionals.

The Annual ESDY Awards will be presented at this conference. To nominate someone ...

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self-determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details on the OSDA website at www.ohiosda.org, coming soon. Completed nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013. Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org. All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (formerly RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30-year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

August 14, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 16

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- 3. Ohio Self-Advocate John Hannah Attends National Arc Convention, Sets Pace for Other States
- 4. New Employment First Rule to Implement and Clarify Policy
- 5. *Health & Safety*: New Study Indicates Food-Related Choking is Increasing in Children
- 6. *National News*: U.S. Social Security Administration Updates Terminology

Pipeline PostScripts: Nearly a dozen updates for your calendar.

1. Autism Diagnostic Education Project Expands Further

ADEP Diagnostic Partnerships in local communities improve how children access comprehensive evaluations to obtain an accurate diagnosis at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

After expanding the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP) earlier this year (*see Pipeline, January 30, 2013*) with the support of Innovation Funds through the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are pleased to announce further opportunities for program expansion across the state.

DODD Director John Martin explained that 13 additional counties formed Diagnostic Partnerships in their local communities this past spring, bringing the current total of participating Ohio counties to 41. In the coming months, the joint effort seeks ten additional Diagnostic Partnership teams. He stated,

“These Partnerships enable families to access comprehensive diagnostic evaluations in closer proximity to their homes, meaning less travel time, less wait time, and earlier intervention.”

Begun as a pilot project supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot had launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. These teams bring together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

In order to build effective new Diagnostic Partnership teams and support existing ones, free ADEP training opportunities will be available following applicant selection in September, and

continuing through December. For more information, contact Courtney Yantes by email at Courtney_yantes@ocali.org.

More information online at: [Health Transformation Innovation Fund](#).

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2. More About 'Strong Families, Safe Communities'

Directors Martin and Plouck visit community partnership sites.

As announced last month (see [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)) DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)* have awarded nearly \$3 million of a total \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships for implementing the 'Strong Families, Safe Communities' project, and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

Joining forces to accomplish results more efficiently, the agencies' selected projects include more thorough care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

'Strong Families, Safe Communities' is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money awarded from the state's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) to develop targeted strategies to stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans that help these children and their families.

The seven partnerships selected will serve families in 20 counties, and represent collaboration among public and private providers.

See: [Press Release and Fact Sheet](#)

Directors Martin and Plouck are visiting each of the community partnerships this summer to officially award the grants and share more about each project with local communities. The remaining schedule includes:



Aug 14, 10:00 a.m.: St. Clairsville, (Director Martin)

Aug 19, 10:30 a.m.: Newark (Director Martin)

Aug 19, 1:00 p.m.: Mount Vernon (Director Martin)

Aug 28, 10:30 a.m.: Massillon (Director Plouck)

Aug 30, 10:30 a.m.: West Chester (Director Plouck)

**Effective July 1, 2013, OhioMHAS was formed by the consolidation of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health.*

More information at: [DODD and ODMH Announce Strong Families Safe Communities Grant Awards](#)

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3. Self Advocate John Hannah Attends National Convention Ohio delegate sets the pace for other states.

At *The Arc of the U.S. convention* last week in Bellevue, WA, Ohio self-advocate John Hannah was the sole self-advocate delegate participating who is also President of a state (*Arc of Ohio*) chapter. Never one to 'hide his light under a barrel,' John was on-hand in a big way networking among nearly 600 attendees. Under the theme, "Achieving Momentum," conventioners from across the country enjoyed three days of informative sessions, including how to create and sustain positive momentum in personal and professional lives using innovations in technology, and other helpful tools and techniques.



Photo courtesy, CRSI

John rests momentarily upon return from his responsibilities at The Arc of the United States Convention.

Back at his desk at Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), John resumes his duties as Consumer Advocate, as well as work involved as President of the Arc of Ohio. As John would say,

"I may be 'resting here momentarily,' but my mind is always busy thinking of something interesting!"

According to CRSI staffer Kathy Rader, John reported that there also were interesting sessions on the subject of cultural diversity and employment; helping people who serve individuals with DD become stronger and more effective advocates; and, how to help individuals and families tackle concerns about relationships, bullying, and planning for the future. No doubt John was an integral part of any session he attended. Congratulations to John for enthusiastically representing the State of Ohio at the national convention!

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4. New Employment First Rule to Implement, Clarify Policy

As part of the process to successfully implement the *Employment First initiative* in a consistent manner across the state, DODD has drafted an administrative rule in collaboration with stakeholders. It is currently in the review process. The proposed new rule and the related Business Impact Analysis are posted on the Department's website at: [Rules Under Development](#).

New rule 5123:2-2-05 will implement Ohio's Employment First Policy, established in section 5123.022 of the Ohio Revised Code, which requires employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities to be directed at community employment.

Written comments must be submitted by August 16.

Submit to: CSIPublicComments@governor.ohio.gov AND to Becky.Phillips@dodd.ohio.gov.



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

According to the Department's Office of Legal and Oversight -- within which the Rules Administration function resides -- the purpose of a new stand-alone rule is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to be engaged in competitive employment that takes place in integrated settings, and that the language used to assure these opportunities is clearly defined and consistently used.

Rules Administrator Becky Phillips explains, "DODD and the stakeholders who have helped to draft this rule felt that the Employment First concept, and its reality for individuals served, was too important to bury within an already existing and larger set of Adult Services rules. We believe this rule is as clear and brief as possible in order to achieve that outcome."

DODD will review and consider feedback received during the comment period that ends on August 16, make adjustments if indicated, and then move forward to file the rule. Once the rule is filed, a public hearing notice will be disseminated to members of the DODD Rules Notification listserv. To subscribe to the listserv, send an e-mail to join-rules.notice@list.dodd.ohio.gov with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

For more information: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/>

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[Health & Safety](#)

5. Food-Related Choking Among Children is Increasing

Pack Back-to-School Lunches and Snacks with this Information in Mind

The DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit provides this timely information along with other safety agency partners, including the Ohio Department of Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

According to a new study by researchers at the Research Institute at *Nationwide Children's Hospital* and research colleagues at the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, non-fatal food-related choking among children 14 years of age or younger is increasing. The study examined data during the period from 2001-2009, indicating that more than 12,000 children were treated each year in U.S. emergency departments for injuries from choking on food. This is equivalent to 34 children each day.

According to the study, published in the [July online issue of *Pediatrics*](#) hard candy caused the most choking episodes (15 percent), followed by other candy (13 percent), meat other than hot dogs (12 percent), and bones (12 percent). These four food types alone accounted for more than half of all the choking episodes in the study.

Other high-risk foods such as hot dogs, seeds, and nuts, were noted as more likely to require hospitalizations. According to the study, these foods have high-risk characteristics that make them more likely to block a child's airway or make them more difficult to chew, which can lead to more serious choking events.

More than 60 percent of the choking episodes occurred among children 4 years of age and younger. The study also reported that although legislation and regulations are in place to protect children from nonfood-related choking such as choking on small toys, no similar monitoring systems, legislation, or regulations currently exist to address food-related choking among children. The researchers also noted:

- Children, especially under age five, should be supervised when eating meals and snacks. Teachers, parents, and other caregivers should be aware of food choking prevention recommendations and guidelines.
- Warning labels should be placed on foods that pose a high choking risk;
- Children younger than age five should not be given hard candies or gum, and raw fruits and vegetables should be cut into small pieces.



[More choking prevention tips are available at Health & Safety Alerts, click on #18, 'Choking.'](#)

The Center for Injury Research and Policy of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital works to reduce injury-related pediatric death and disabilities.

See all the Health & Safety Alerts at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/>

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[National News](#)

6. U.S. Social Security Administration Updates Terminology

The Social Security Administration will become the latest federal agency to start using the term 'intellectual disability' in place of 'mental retardation.' In a [final rule](#) published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2013, Social Security officials said they approved the change in terminology citing "... widespread adoption of the term 'intellectual disability'." They added, "Advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities have rightfully asserted that the term 'mental retardation' has negative connotations, has become offensive to many people, and often results in misunderstandings about the nature of the disorder and those who have it."

Under the new rule, all references to 'mental retardation' and 'mentally retarded children' will be replaced with 'intellectual disability' and 'children with intellectual *disability*' (*wording also follows [Person First language](#)*) within Social Security's 'Listing of Impairments' and other agency rules. The change in terminology will not impact how claims are evaluated for those with a developmental disability.

More at [Social Security To Drop 'Mental Retardation'](#), and online at www.disabilitycoop.com

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Who are these lovely ladies?*

Find out in the next issue of
Pipeline Quarterly,
reporting on summer 2013.

Read all issues at *Pipeline Quarterly*



**Hint: All three are involved with the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA). The organization develops regional opportunities for local advocacy groups to come together to share and learn, and assists in starting or strengthening local advocacy groups.*

PostScripts

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!  
Click [HERE](#) for more info.

DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting, August 20

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will host its next meeting on August 20 at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.. The meeting agenda will include information about Developmental Center downsizing efforts, as well as our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion and other topics. DODD Director Martin also will be on-hand for a Question & Answer session, along with Deputy Director Patrick Stephan. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and we especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or (614) 466-8706.

Advocacy and Service Awards, Nominations due by August 16

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) *Ben Bonanno Disability Advocate Award* honors outstanding advocacy accomplishments by non-employees of RSC. Bonanno was a former RSC Commissioner who advocated for improved employment possibilities for persons with disabilities. The award recognizes a person whose advocacy efforts have significantly improved employment possibilities for Ohioans with disabilities. RSC also has established the *Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award* to honor non-employees of RSC who provide outstanding service to Ohioans with disabilities. The award is in memory of Denise Weisenborn, RSC Commissioner, 1997 - 2006. For both awards, *deadline for submitting nominations is August 16, 2013*. Contact Shirley Marchi, (614) 438-1477 or e-mail shirley.marchi@rsc.ohio.gov.

NEW Ohio Waiver Network, Introductory Meetings August 20 & 21

The new Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) is being developed by a group of Ohio waiver providers committed to collaboration, system simplicity, and quality outcomes. OWN creators believe that the waiver service model represents the future of service delivery in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and have a desire to help shape that future by influencing policy and developing relationships

that enable people to succeed. Informational, introductory meetings have begun around the state. Regions and dates remaining are August 20th – Northwest, Bowling Green; and August 21st – Central, Columbus. Meetings are 9 a.m. to noon, and locations are posted at www.ohiowaivernetwork.com.

Training, August 26-27: Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope

A training opportunity, “Building Understanding, Resilience and Hope,” is geared toward developmental disabilities professionals as well as mental health professionals -- including case managers, SSAs, and other County Board of DD staff, program managers of day service and residential support agencies, and mental health clinicians. New approaches for understanding and supporting people with complex neurobehavioral conditions and histories of trauma and toxic stress will be discussed at the two-day training, August 26 – 27, at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. [Click here for registration information.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Center in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again be Master of Ceremonies.

The event is free for DSPs!...

... and will reinforce that today's most successful Direct Support Professionals foster partnerships with individuals who have developmental disabilities to help them reach their goals.

DODD Director John Martin and several additional presenters are on the agenda. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. This year's theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do. See: [Directions for sharing videos](#). Register at www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAR/OSDA 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4

Two non-profit organizations, PAR and OSDA, are hosting a statewide conference October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Both organizations have held annual conferences for many years and have provided training, professional development, and advocacy in the DD field. This year's combined 'Synergy' conference will bring together a cross-section of all stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and DD professionals.

The Annual ESDY Awards will be presented at this conference. To nominate someone ...

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self-determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details on the OSDA website at www.ohiosda.org, coming soon.

Completed nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013. Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org. All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission – and soon-to-be Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks offering educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be held November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus. Go to <http://oaas.org/> or <http://ohioapse.org/> for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA is published as needed to cover hot news. Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

August 23, 2013

Ohio Makes Dramatic Improvement in Annual United Cerebral Palsy Survey

'The Case for Inclusion' reports Ohio up 26 places since 2007

To see the full report [Click Here](#)

The annual United Cerebral Palsy report, *The Case for Inclusion*, noted that Ohio has improved 26 places in the community inclusion ranking since 2007. According to the report, which is a yearly ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Ohio significantly has increased the share of individuals (to 83% from 63%) and resources (to 80% from 50%) dedicated to the community and decreased the number of residents living at state-operated institutions by 24%, while at the same time reduced by two-thirds the portion of individuals served in large institutions (to 6% from 18%). Many other states' ranking have become stagnant or declined because they have failed to develop their community inclusion policies and programs.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin noted, "Ohio's big improvement is due to increased waiver growth and continued downsizing at state-operated Developmental Centers. This progress could not be made without the continued leadership and support of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, private providers, advocacy organizations, family members, and self-advocates. While there is certainly room for improvement, I am pleased with our progress to increase opportunities for persons to receive services in home- and community-based settings. The broad-based support that has enabled this to occur is greatly appreciated."

DODD is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. The Department's mission is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

Contact: Zach Haughwout, (614) 752-4676, zach.haughwout@dodd.ohio.gov

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Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state's developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov.

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August 28, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 17

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- 2. Spotlight on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness and Prevention
- 3. Family Advisory Council Statewide Participation Fosters System Improvement
- 4. *Pipeline Quarterly* Preview: ICF Conversion Efforts = Homes in Pike County
- 5. Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Rule Revision Focus is on Reducing Risk of Harm
- 6. Improved Signage Movement Gains Momentum Across the State
- 7. *Reminder*: Waiting List Survey Underway

Pipeline PostScripts: Several updates for your calendar.

Today is the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech.
The Ohio Senate recently adopted a resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a key development in the Civil Rights Movement that culminated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.
(Read the Speech: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>)

1. Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Moves Forward

DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Ted Wymyslo announced last week the finalization of the *Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Management Plan*, which outlines the new and stronger partnership between ODH and DODD for administering the state's [Early Intervention](#) program.

The [document describing the plan](#) is posted on the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) website under "Operating Protocols." It includes information regarding the reasons for developing the plan, the targets to be accomplished, a work plan, operating protocol, and stakeholder representation.* DODD and ODH together acknowledge and appreciate the many stakeholders who have contributed recently, and over many years, to creating the vision of a coordinated, collaborative, and statewide Early Intervention system. The Project Management Plan is designed to:

- Implement past Early Intervention stakeholder recommendations;
- Maintain full compliance with the federal [Part C, IDEA regulations](#);

- Be responsive to the needs of families with infants and toddlers who have developmental disabilities or delays; and,
- Be innovative and forward-thinking in implementing practices that truly make a difference -- for a lifetime -- for children with disabilities and their families.

Lead staff members for the Early Intervention partnership efforts are Katrina Bush at DODD, and Wendy Grove at ODH. Contact: Katrina.Bush@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 466-8359; Wendy.Grove@odh.ohio.gov, (614) 728-9152.

*Specific link at: <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/CurrentInitiatives/StreamlineHHS.aspx>

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2. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

September 9th is FASD Awareness Day

Each year on September 9th, International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day is observed during *FASD Awareness and Prevention Month*. This day is chosen on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, to draw attention around the world to the fact that *during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol*.

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments.



FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises awareness that NO AMOUNT of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.



< This baby is pleased to report that Governor Kasich has designated September as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”

**For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org
FASD is 100 percent preventable!**

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. According to [Dr. Sterling Clarren](#), one of the world's leading researchers into the effects of FASD, “What Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is about is brain damage. It is a global brain damage caused by the intra-uterine exposure to alcohol that results in abnormal neurochemical balance. It interferes with behavior, and the ability to function normally.”

Ohio's FASD Initiative

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse and disrupted school experiences, and help

families to better understand and cope. DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) 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.

To learn about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, visit the FAS Community Resource Center website www.come-over.to/FASCRC and www.fasday.com

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3. FAC Statewide Participation Fosters System Improvement

What's on the minds of DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) members? DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan can tell you that the answer to that is ... "A lot." Here are just a few examples, as shared at the August 20 FAC meeting in Columbus last week.

"The transition period with my child has been difficult. You go from 'warm and fuzzy' to the adult world, and it's different. I'm working through it as best I can."

"What I'm worried about is how health care reform will affect my family, and our service providers."

"Direct care staff from different cultures – they can do an excellent job, very caring, and yet it's important to realize the cultural differences that can be barriers beyond language, and work to understand those. It goes both ways. Some training offered on that would be helpful."

"On this Waiting List survey – is 1000 enough for a random sample? Will you get a picture of what specific services people are waiting for? People will need to feel safe in answering the questions."

Family Advisory Council has long been known as an information forum for individuals, families, and other stakeholders in Ohio's DD community, and this month's meeting was no exception. As DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin has noted, "Since we have the attention of Director Martin and several key staff at these meetings, it is a great opportunity for them to hear from you ... and have your input on policy decisions. They are very committed to the Council."

Hearing conversations at this meeting, it was clear that while a lot of progress is being made in the area of transition services for teens and young adults, and toward more competitive employment opportunities for adults in the community, there is a lot of work yet to be done. Director Martin stated, "We do know, for example, that more than one-half of the people on the Waiting List for services are under the age of 21. It's critical to get specific on what services and supports they need now, and will need later." He added,

"[The National Core Indicators \(NCI\)](#) data we have gathered over the past few years also will be helpful in pinpointing where our efforts and our dollars should be placed most effectively. Focusing on current unmet needs, and how those gaps can be closed, will be most important in terms of improving the lives of the individuals and families served."

In response to FAC members' questions and comments, DODD staff on-hand noted that online resources currently available at www.dodd.ohio.gov include the [Service Provider Interview](#)

[Guide](#) developed specifically for families, by families ... information in the online [DODD Newsroom](#) that further describes recent grants to help families and children with specific challenges ... and, information about Ohio's competitive employment efforts at the [Employment First website](#).

Other topics covered at the August meeting included a presentation by DODD Division of Residential Resources staff regarding Developmental Center downsizing, and ICF conversion efforts (*see article #4 below*); Telepsychiatry helping individuals in remote areas around the state; and, an update on the Employment First initiative.



The next Family Advisory Council Meeting is November 12, 2013

FAC Meetings are held at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, and are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin at Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-8706.

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Pipeline Quarterly Preview

4. ICF Conversion Efforts = Homes in Pike County

Did DODD Director John Martin drive to Pike County on an August day just to eat Alesia's red velvet cake? Perhaps -- it's that good! However, it's more likely that he was headed that way to see the exciting residential upgrades in Pike County, following the purchase of property by *Provider Services/Empowering People*, in and around Lucasville. One such facility renovation, Scioto Trails, was the first stop in the rural community, and the neatly-trimmed grounds loomed into view among the open fields, revealing several new home-like cottages.

The Scioto Trails setting is an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) with three new 8-bed homes and one existing 8-bed home, 'The Manor', which has a slightly larger potential capacity. Currently The Manor has two residents who are moving out as soon as their waiver-funded home is completed. *Empowering People* began the facility conversion following a December 2011 purchase, and promised their Board that new homes would be built within two years.

Finishing the homes six months ahead of schedule, the new campus-style facility now serves the residential needs of approximately 35 individuals -- all of whom were thrilled to learn they would have their own bedrooms, and bathrooms within their rooms. *Provider Services/Empowering People* CEO, Brian Colleran, said plainly ... "They're adults, and deserve their own rooms."



Alesia's Red Velvet Cake had Director Martin's name on it, or so it seemed.

One of the high points of the visit to Scioto Trails homes was the sharing of sweet treats in the homey kitchens where residents pitched in and helped with everything. Here, Director Martin waits patiently for Alesia to serve the first slice of cake, after which she sat down with visitors and staff to talk about her many interests. A consummate hostess, Alesia encouraged us to return soon.



An upstairs deck sweeps around this home-in-progress near Lake White, in Pike County.

Total renovation of a large family home is underway in Chillicothe, as a result of partnerships between public and private entities in Pike and Ross counties. The collaborative effort soon will be a home to three gentlemen. Read more in the Summer 2013 *Pipeline Quarterly*.

< Shown l. to r.: Director Martin, Mike Schiller, Gary Roberts, Scot Crace, Dave Rastoka, Shayla Becze.



Read more about the transformational changes in residential services in Pike County and around the state, in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Summer 2013, and publishing in late September.

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5. MUI Rule Revision Focus is on Reducing Risk of Harm

See the rule at: 5123:2-17-02 Effective 2013-09-03

Revisions to the Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Rule (*O.A.C. 5123:2-17-02*) will be effective on September 3, 2013. The re-named rule, titled *Addressing major unusual incidents and unusual incidents to ensure health, welfare, and continuous quality improvement* establishes the requirements for all MUI's and Unusual Incidents with a focus on preventing or reducing the risk of harm to individuals.

Many individuals and constituent groups participated in offering suggestions to improve the MUI Rule, according to Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director. He noted, “I was very impressed with the level of cooperation and collaboration that was shown in an effort to move the revised rule forward. The health and safety of individuals served in Ohio’s DD system is our top priority, and the revised rule language clearly reflects this.”

DODD has prepared several new resources for the field, providing details on changes from the previous version of the rule. These resources can be accessed at www.dodd.ohio.gov – Click on ‘Health and Safety Toolkit’ at the left of the homepage. Then look to the lower right side of the screen for the [MUI Rule Revision Updates](#)

Resources include: A complete version of the revised rule; a PowerPoint presentation outlining the changes; a video presentation regarding the changes; interpretive guidelines; and, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s). In addition, the 2012 MUI/ Registry Unit Annual Report has been posted, and is located within the Health and Safety Toolkit -- click on [Annual Reports](#).

For more information: MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov

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6. Improved Signage Movement Gathers Momentum

One might say that the movement to change public signage from using the former terminology, “handicapped,” to the improved, “accessible,” is rolling ever more quickly across the State of Ohio. Following up on the Franklin County-based article in [Pipeline, July 17 2013](#), titled “Self Advocates Speak Up, Ask Questions,” and reaching way back to 2010 when Hamilton County self advocates pioneered these efforts, ([Pipeline, April 28, 2010](#)). Grove City now has weighed-in on the subject with a resolution, “Supporting People with Disabilities Through the Use of Appropriate Signage in all City Facilities.”

According to Grove City Councilman Jeff Davis*, the City leadership is acting on the... “Understanding that the words we use to describe one another can have enormous impact on the perceptions people have about themselves and others, and on how welcome people feel in their communities.”

The resolution states that, “Discontinuing the use of the word ‘handicapped’ would change the nature of the signage so that it *no longer describes the person* using a service or facility at all, but *rather describes the nature of the facility or fixture itself* as accessible to residents with disabilities.” In addition, language in the resolution notes that the use of correct and appropriate terminology communicates respect and dignity.



An effort to revamp the icon that’s long symbolized accessibility on everything from parking lot signs to bathrooms is gaining traction. New York City is adopting the new look, and it is catching on elsewhere around the country.

Will Ohio be next?

More at: www.accessibleicon.org and at [Pipeline](#), June 5, 2013

**Davis is also Director of Government Relations for the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA).*

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7. Reminder: Waiting List Survey Underway

Study to Evaluate Needs of People Waiting for Services

As noted in the [July 31, 2013 Pipeline, article #5](#) more than 40,000 Ohioans with disabilities are waiting for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver in Ohio. The number often raises eyebrows among advocates and policymakers, but little is known about what services people actually are waiting for or need.

Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has commented, “It’s disheartening when you hear the number, but it’s just a number. It doesn’t tell the whole story about who is on the list and what they really are waiting for.” DD Council, in partnership with DODD, the Government Resource Center, and Kent State University, is funding a study to examine the current and future needs of people with disabilities who are on the waiting list for an HCBS waiver.

The study will include a telephone survey of 1000 individuals who have been randomly selected from the HCBS waiver waiting list. People with disabilities or their family members, caregivers, or guardians will be asked a series of questions about what they need to help them be more independent, or what they might need in the future.



The surveys begin this month, and are expected to be finished sometime in November.

< “Here, Mommy! These people want to know what you are waiting for.”

Kent State University will be conducting the telephone interviews, and all personal information will be kept confidential. The survey is voluntary, and participation would not change a person’s position on the waiting list, or the services they are waiting to receive. The study will help DODD and local County Boards to identify needs that can be addressed in the future.

When all surveys have been completed the Government Resource Center will compile an analysis of the responses received, and estimate the current and future needs of all Ohioans with disabilities who are currently on the waiting list. Study findings will be made available in 2014.

For more information: <http://www.ddc.ohio.gov/>

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PostScripts

☞ **Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11**

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, "Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery," encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. In addition a presentation on "Reentry and Supervision" by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County Board of DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals with DD through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. OJACC Awards nominations are accepted through September 20, [online](#), or contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; email tctaylor@mac.com.

☞ **Direct Support Professionals Recognition Event, September 11**

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Center in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again be Master of Ceremonies.

The event is free for DSPs! ...

... and will reinforce that today's most successful Direct Support Professionals foster *partnerships with individuals who have developmental disabilities to help them reach their goals.*

DODD Director John Martin and several additional presenters are on the agenda. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. This year's theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the work they do. See: [Directions for sharing videos](#).

Register at www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

☞ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4**

The statewide 'Synergy' conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of all system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, DD professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Keynote speaker Rob Snow will employ his comedy background and talk about raising a child with a disability. Sessions will provide entertaining and useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The Synergy conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR.

The Annual ESDY Awards will be presented at this conference. To nominate someone ...

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self-determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details on the OSDA website at www.ohiosda.org.

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013. Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org.

All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

☞ **SAVE THE DATE! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9**

RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission – and soon-to-be 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency' – has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks offering educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be online soon at <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

Next Chapter Book Club to Hold First-Ever Conference, October 18-19

The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each others' company and read aloud. (*See Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009, p. 8*) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with IDD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. The purpose of the conference is to share insights, on literacy and lifelong learning, and will feature brief, dynamic presentations. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org. Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be held November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus. Go to <http://oaas.org/> or <http://ohioapse.org/> for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov
To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

September 11, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 18

In This Issue ...

- 1. National Core Indicators Project to Gather New Data
- 2. Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories
- 3. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness and Prevention
- 4. *National News*: New Rules to Strengthen Opportunities for Employment
- 5. Notes on National Preparedness Month 2013, Commemoration of 9-11-2001
- 6. *Pipeline Quarterly Preview*

Pipeline PostScripts: Several updates for your calendar.

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week. DODD Salutes Ohio's DSPs!

This year's U.S. Senate resolution declaring National Direct Support Professionals Week marks the sixth consecutive year of recognition for this important national workforce. Disability services providers across the country mark the week by hosting celebrations to honor their Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

[Senate Resolution 208](#) recognizes DSPs for their commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community-inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages. **SEE ARTICLE #2, THIS ISSUE**

1. National Core Indicators (NCI) Project to Gather New Data

July 1, 2013, began the sixth year of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Project in conjunction with DODD. This project helps the Department measure system performance and provides a great deal of specific data that can be used to monitor the service delivery system, make policy decisions, allocate resources, and aid in developing plans to improve the quality of life for the people with developmental disabilities. Again this year, the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) will be administering the statewide surveys.

The Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the service system wish to attain, and demonstrate the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes.

The set of performance indicators includes approximately 100 outcomes that are important to understanding the overall quality of public developmental disabilities agencies. They include measures for health and safety outcomes, cost of services, and various individual and family indicators. This year, CMOR will administer approximately 400 face-to-face

interviews with adult individuals, as well as surveying about 100 individuals who have moved out of Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) into a community setting between January 2012 and December 2012.

Interviewing folks who have transitioned out of the DCs is something DODD has not done before. The Department will use the NCI Survey tool to learn more about the level of satisfaction among those individuals who have moved out into the community, and to help determine where the strengths and weaknesses are in our system.

DODD has requested that individuals receiving services from County Boards of DD, as well as individuals living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) are included in the sample pool of individuals who could be randomly selected to participate in the survey. The process of information-gathering involved in the survey will include the close collaboration of County Boards, which has been greatly appreciated over the years of NCI survey participation.

This year, DODD contracted with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center at The Ohio State University to manage day-to-day activities of the NCI project.

*For more information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx>;
Barry Jamieson at barry.jamieson@osumc.edu, (614) 366-0329.*

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2. Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) third annual DSP Recognition Event hosted nearly 500 People at the Xenos Center in Columbus today. Make that nearly 500 *extremely enthusiastic* people. Stirring up the energy level from the beginning was Scott Osterfeld, Butler County DD staffer and Master of Ceremonies, who was clear on the message for the day ... "Peoples' lives are better because of you! Because of the work you do. You help create other peoples' life stories, and that is awesome."

Noting the theme, "Direct Support Professionals Help Create Great Life Stories," DODD Director John Martin shared one of his own such stories from early in his longtime career, beginning as a Direct Support Professional. Following a few humorous insights, he took a page from his own family's experiences with DSPs who assist his adult son each day, noting,

"There are hundreds and hundreds of parents around the state, just like me, who have entrusted their family members to you, and who could not possibly imagine their lives without your help and your caring. On behalf of all of us that the Department, we sincerely thank you for all you do."

The event's keynote speaker, **Rachel Simon**, is a sibling to a sister with DD, and writer of six books including, "*Riding the Bus with my Sister*," and "*The Story of Beautiful Girl*." On the subject of individuals with DD, and the importance of DSPs in individuals' lives, Rachel shared a wealth of information, including some sobering statistics...



“It is estimated that there are approximately six million people in the nation who have a developmental disability, and there are approximately 875,000 DSPs to help care for them. The workforce shortage is all the more critical when you consider that you play such a critical character in the lives of the people you serve.”

-Rachel Simon, author

In order to improve these national numbers, Simon suggested that progress can and will be made through the development and adoption of credentialing programs, and a related Code of Ethics for the profession, such as are available through the state’s OADSP and its national organization NADSP. She also stated that the need for siblings to take an active role and interest in the lives of individuals with DD, as well as for parents and other family members to do so, is extremely important. She emphasized,

“As a DSP, keep trying to keep families involved – even if they do not initially show interest. You never know what might trigger a visit that can change lives for the better, for everyone involved.”

The event continues today with interactive programs and activities designed to share stories, and show appreciation for the many positive efforts being made by individuals in the profession around the state.

National DSP Support

The [American Network of Community Options and Resources \(ANCOR\)](#), the [National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\)](#), and the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services \(NASDDDS\)](#) join together in promoting National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, along with sponsoring national legislators. Nancy Thaler, Executive Director of the [National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services \(NASDDDS\)](#) notes,

“Dedicated and skilled Direct Support Professionals help people with developmental disabilities to develop and maintain critical skills that enable them to more successfully live, work and play in their communities. That is why NASDDDS’ National Core Indicators system tracks state-level statistics pertinent to the recruitment and retention of this essential workforce.”

Director Martin, a strong proponent of data-driven decision-making, echoes Nancy Thaler’s enthusiasm for information provided by the National Core Indicators system, and recently underscored the importance of collecting and comparing information specific to DSP recruitment and retention. At a recent Family Advisory Council meeting he stated that the Department will be looking to see what effect(s) an improvement in wages, and an improvement in the availability of health care coverage will have on these professionals.



<In 2011, the First Annual DSP Recognition event was hosted at Xenos Center, seating about 300 DSPs. Many of the same folks have attended each year, however a whopping 500 attended this year, bringing many new faces to the venue to ... “Celebrate their awesomeness,” as MC Scott Osterfeld would say.

Acknowledgments to ANCOR, a national trade association representing more than 800 private providers of community living and employment supports and services to more than 400,000 individuals.

More information at: www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com

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3. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises 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

FASD is 100 percent preventable!

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments.

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. Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse, and help family members to better understand the issues at-hand.

DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) 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. Ten years ago, to help increase awareness of FASD and its life-long effects, the State of Ohio created a task force, which is composed of several state agencies, prevention professionals, educators and parents or caregivers of children with FASD. The task force continues to promote abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy to prevent FASD, urging women *not to drink a single drop*.



This baby says,
“Expecting? Remember, not a single drop!”

To learn more about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders,
visit the FAS Community Resource Center website,
www.come-over.to/FASCRC, and www.fasday.com



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[On the National Scene](#)

4. New Rules to Strengthen Opportunities for Employment

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) reports that two new rules soon will be published in the [Federal Register](#), and will take effect 180 days later. The rules will represent an historic advance for individuals with disabilities, and for veterans. By strengthening longstanding regulations under [Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act](#), and the [Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act \(VEVRAA\)](#) the new rules will ensure that qualified workers have more meaningful opportunities to find, secure, and keep good jobs.

For the first time, these rules provide metrics – management tools that inform decision-making and provide real accountability – to measure federal contractors' progress toward achieving equal opportunity for people with disabilities and protected veterans.

- The Section 503 rule establishes a guideline 7% utilization goal for the employment of individuals with disabilities.
- The VEVRAA rule requires contractors to establish an annual hiring benchmark, either based on the national percentage of veterans in the workforce (currently 8%), or based on the best available data and factors unique to their establishments.

The rules will be published shortly in the [Federal Register](#) and will take effect 180 days later. It is hoped that, along with the improved individual employment outcomes, the rules may facilitate the success of companies that do business with the federal government by increasing their access to a larger, more diverse pool of qualified workers. For more perspective on the rules [Click Here](#).



Looking for more great
'Individual Employment Outcomes'
like this ...

Mark Kayes (left), an employee with
LaRosa's Pizza in Cincinnati, with
Mike LaRosa – a.k.a. 'The Boss.'

They illustrate the great relationships
that can be forged in the workplace
when hiring talent and ability is
foremost in mind. Mark is a highly-
valued employee who now has worked
more than seven years with
the company.

Additional information about the new rules at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

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5. Notes on National Preparedness Month 2013

September, **National Preparedness Month** (NPM), originally was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And in conjunction, FEMA's resulting *Ready Campaign* was developed to educate people on how to prepare for many different kinds of hazards and emergencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and ReadyOhio note that this year's NPM theme is, "You Can Be the Hero," urging communities across the nation to take a pledge of preparedness. See: [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities](#)

One of NPM's key messages is to be prepared in the event that an emergency causes one to be self-reliant for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or local emergency services.

Preparing includes four key steps:

- ✓ *Be informed* about emergencies that could happen in your community. And access www.ready.ohio.gov for information on Ohio hazards and what to do in an emergency.
- ✓ *Make a Plan* to discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your household or in your care. For sample plans, visit www.ready.gov.
- ✓ *Build a Kit* that contains enough emergency supplies on-hand – water, nonperishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight, and a battery-powered radio.
- ✓ *Get Involved*, especially before a disaster occurs. Community leaders believe that the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public, and increased support of emergency response agencies during disasters. Visit <http://ohioresponds.gov/>.

As Ohio honors the nation's First Responders during National Preparedness Month, **Hands on Central Ohio**, and the **Ohio Emergency Management Agency** (EMA) each year organize an

event at the Ohio Statehouse West Lawn, placing 2,999 flags in the grass, representing the number of lives lost that day due to the terrorist attacks.



The Ohio Statehouse lawn, transformed into the Memorial Field of Flags.

The highly visual display of 2,999 American flags is arranged to signify the outline of The World Trade Center and The Pentagon, and to represent the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Of Special Interest to People with Disabilities

At www.ready.gov click the link “Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People With Disabilities” for information including a brochure specific to people who have disabilities and other access/functional needs that could affect overall emergency preparedness. While National Emergency Preparedness Month is observed each September, FEMA’s *Ready Campaign* promotes individual emergency preparedness throughout the year.

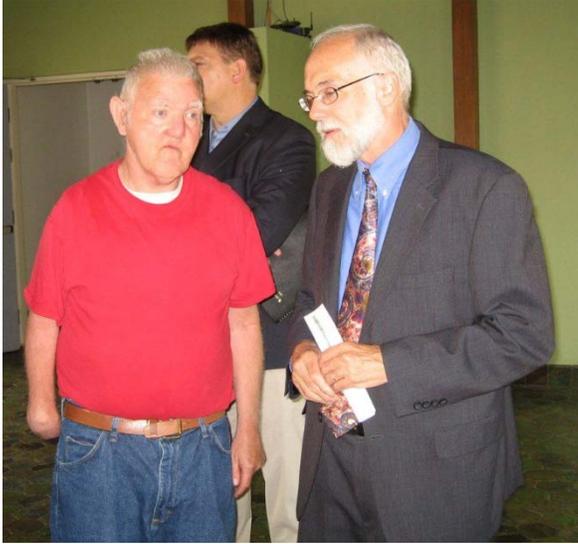
Additional information at www.ema.ohio.gov and at <http://www.ready.gov/>

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6. Coming Soon in *Pipeline Quarterly* ...

Transformational changes in residential services around the state will be the focus of a special edition of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon, and including articles featuring Pike County, Clinton County, and other geographical areas. The new residential services options result from DODD’s “Grand Bargain”-- a major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program. In response to input from the DD community, an historic agreement was negotiated with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals’ opportunities to live in community-based settings. This includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Transforming service delivery and transforming lives in that process is both challenging and rewarding for all involved. Read more in the upcoming issue. All issues are archived at *Pipeline Quarterly*.

**ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*



What are Isaac and Director Martin conferring about?

It must be money!

Isaac explains that he carries 'a little pocket change' around with him, and he's quite well-versed on the subject... knowledge he readily shares with Director Martin.

Meet Isaac's friends in Pike County in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*,



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PostScripts

∞ DHN Releases 2012 Housing Plan Analysis, Summary ∞

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis and Summary. The analysis is based on information contained within the Housing Plans submitted in 2012 by 55 of Ohio's 88 counties. DHN notes that the purpose of the Model Housing Plan is to provide a framework by which County Board and Housing Corporation staff can discuss current specialized housing operations, needs, and options for future housing. It is intended to also aid the development of future operational plans and budgets. To read the report, [click here](#).

∞ RSC to Host Town Hall Meetings ∞

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is hosting a series of 'town hall' style meetings to update partners, providers and other interested parties on initiatives that RSC is undertaking to assist individuals with disabilities. Director Kevin Miller will moderate the sessions and will be joined by members of RSC's executive staff who will provide updates and answer questions. Remaining meetings this month include: Sept. 11 in Toledo; Sept. 19 in Cleveland; Sept. 23 in Dayton, and Sept. 26 in Columbus. *More information at <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>, or contact Shirley Marchi at 614-438-1477.*

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4

The statewide *Synergy* conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of DD system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Sessions will provide useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The Synergy conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR. More at www.ohiosda.org.

COMING SOON! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

More information at: [DJS brochure 2013](#)

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/index/employers/disability-jobs-summit>

The 2013 Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit will be on October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center. The Summit will underscore the importance of job creation for individuals with disabilities as one of the top priorities of the Kasich Administration. Leaders from government and business will attend this event to discuss disability employment issues. It is RSC's goal for the event to bring together prospective employees and employers to forge a more mutually beneficial relationship.

Note: RSC is soon to be re-named, 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency'

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

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The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with developmental disabilities. Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each other's company and read aloud. (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009*, p. 8) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with DD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org.

Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

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DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

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The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

∞ SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30-year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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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News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov
To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

October 9, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 20

[See our new **DD Service System Guide!**](#)

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- 2. Synergy Conference Blends Talents of ... Everyone
- 3. Provider Spotlight: Recognizing Excellence in a Statewide Service System
- 4. 'Steady U' Initiative Aims to Reduce Incidence of Falling
- 5. New National Resource Center on Justice, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- 6. County Board of DD Issues on November Ballots

New! Pipeline Posts ... Employment Efforts Around the State; *Pipeline Quarterly* Summer 2013
Pipeline PostScripts ... Calendar Updates

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This year's theme is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has developed "31 Things you can do in your workplace and your community during the month of October" to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)."

[Click here to view the "What you CAN do!" NDEAM daily calendar](#)

1. Jobs Summit Spotlights Disability Employment Awareness

Smart for Business, Smart for People, Smart for Ohio's Bottom Line

The *DisAbility Jobs Summit* at the Greater Columbus Convention Center today is in its second day of the two-day conference hosted by the [Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency](#) (OOD) -- formerly named the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). It is the organization's goal to make this annual Summit a key statewide event for job seekers, businesses, and partners in Ohio's government and business sectors who work together in a mutually beneficial relationship. It is also an exciting and appropriate kick-off to National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

NDEAM began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

This second annual conference gathers nearly 800 attendees, 28 exhibitors, and numerous sponsors and employers for a clearly focused agenda driven by input from individuals served within the state's DD system. Seminar and panel discussion topics include an overview and status report on the Employment First initiative, A panel of Ohio Business Leadership Network Employers, Customized Employment, and alternatives to a college degree including certifications in various areas of interest.

Presenting to a standing-room-only session at the conference was Kristen Helling, Project Manager/Community Employment Advisor, and DODD's lead person on the Employment First initiative. She provided an overview of the first year of the initiative's implementation in a [presentation](#) underscoring employer engagement across the state. Interest in the initiative's efforts was evident based on attendee input during session presentations.

In welcoming comments yesterday, OOD Executive Director Kevin Miller observed, "I have what we call an 'attitude of gratitude.' As we go around the state working to open up more and better employment opportunities, the individuals we serve inspire us and lift us up in this work. We recognize and applaud their work in advocacy and self-advocacy."

Recognition awards for employers who have pioneered a culture of inclusive community employment for people with disabilities throughout the state were presented to employers who collectively represent thousands of individuals with DD who work at Giant Eagle, Kroger, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and Wal-Mart, to name a few. Miller noted,

"Why are you getting these awards? Because you're teaching us. You're teaching us how it's done. We just listen...and get out of the way. And the dedicated employees you gain through your support and training are the reason your efforts are so successful."

Specific initiatives that have developed competitive employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities also were recognized and applauded for their efforts. Among them were: "Bridges to Transition" (Ohio Association of County Boards); "Recovery to Work" (Ohio Department of Youth Services); and Project SEARCH (Cincinnati Children's Hospital). Bridget Gargan, OACB Executive Director, commented, "Bridges to Transition is a program that our staff strongly believes in, and it involves a lot of paperwork!" She continued,

"But what makes Bridges to Transition so important to us, is that every piece of paper is connected to a person. Just as an example – one of those pieces of paper recently allowed an individual to communicate with an iPad – and when we saw her using it, it meant so much to all of us."

Awards presented

Also in conjunction with the DisAbility Jobs Summit, OOD presented the annual *Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award* today to Mary Ramirez-Cook of Cincinnati, honoring non-employees of OOD who provide outstanding service to Ohioans with disabilities, and the *Ben Bonanno Disability Advocate Award*, honoring outstanding advocacy accomplishments by non-employees of RSC, to William Bauer, Ph.D., of Marietta. The award recognizes a person whose advocacy efforts have significantly improved employment possibilities for Ohioans with disabilities.

*More about the DisAbility Jobs Summit, including photos, at:
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency
More about Disability Employment efforts around the state see the Pipeline Posts section in this issue.*

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2. Synergy Conference Blends Talents of ... Everyone

‘Synergy’, the annual conference for DD professionals, advocates, and self advocates jointly-sponsored by PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) and OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association) welcomed more than 600 attendees over the course of the three-day event, October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. “Titles don’t matter here,” said PAR Executive Director Steve Oster, during the opening remarks. “Everyone is equal at this conference. Everyone.”

Supporting that concept, table seating easily intermingled people with disabilities, professionals in the DD field, family members, and friends. Conversations were casual and enthusiastic...

“I’m a Project STIR graduate!”... “So am I!”
“Where are you from?” ... “How come I haven’t seen you here before?”
“Do you have this (cell phone) app? I use it all the time.”
“Why don’t you talk to your service coordinator about that?”

With 27 sessions offering multiple hours of training, there was something for everyone. “We’re all here to learn something. It’s about partnering with each other, and collaborating – it’s not about who’s in charge,” said Dana Charlton, OSDA Executive Director. Attendees were learning from each other and finding ways to make more progress toward improved community-based services, employment options, and choices and independence in residential options.

Sessions included a panel discussion by the collaborative ‘Imagine Project’ Leaders regarding ISP planning, as well as national and local perspectives on the Employment First initiative from Dr. Theresa Grossi, the national Director of Community Living and Careers, and Kristin Helling, DODD Project Manager for Employment First. DODD Director John Martin stepped up to the podium on Day Two commenting,

“The Synergy conference has come to be one of my favorites to attend each year, and it’s because I know it’s always going to be about you – what those of you in our service system see as your needs and interests. And what you want us to be doing on your behalf at the state level. That’s what I come here to learn more about, and then move the system forward from there.”

The conference also is known for the exciting ESDY Awards (‘S’ and ‘D’ as in Self Determination) -- many of which are a surprise to the awardees. A few are captured below, and more are at www.ohiosda.org and www.PAR-Ohio.org.



Mairose, Stinziano – two of the many honored by PAR/OSDA.

Left: Southwest Ohio self advocate Diana Mairose is awarded an 'Individual of the Year' award for her many efforts in the areas of advocacy and community inclusion, including a video at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org. Mairose was presented the award by Megan Manuel, Superintendent of the Warren County Board of DD.

Right: State Representative Michael Stinziano is awarded a 'Legislator of the Year' award for his support of the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, including the training and advocacy program, 'Project STIR.' Stinziano personally signs certificates congratulating individuals completing the program, and attends participant-run meetings to stay in touch with the constituency.



A surprise was served to ... Pete Moore (left) and Willie Jones, as they were each recognized for their contributions to the state's developmental disabilities community through the Ohio County Board Association's 'A Good Life' program.



Pete and Willie agreed that through their work as facilitators they, too, had found "... A Good Life ... and a couple of nice matching shirts."

Listening to individuals during the sessions and breaks, and while visiting vendors at the many information tables in the lobby, it was clear that the PAR/OSDA Synergy conference had fostered the desired energy. Walking out the door at the end of Day Two, one conference participant remarked, "When I come here next year, I'm going to have a job. I'm going to have a job and I'm going to tell everybody about it."

*For more information about Project STIR: www.ohiosda.org; www.PAR-Ohio.org
Click here for additional *conference information*.*

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Provider Spotlight

3. Recognizing Excellence in a Statewide Service System

County of Summit DD Board Superintendent Tom Armstrong Honored

During late September, which celebrated Direct Support Professionals Week, hundreds of service providers gathered at the annual ViaQuest Inc. conference in Columbus to celebrate 16 years of person-centered motivational efforts under the theme, “From Leaders to Legends.” Representatives of County Boards of DD, provider agency partners, state agencies, and about 500 ViaQuest staff honored many service achievements, including those of designated 2013 Conference Honoree, Tom Armstrong, Summit DD Board Superintendent.

Armstrong -- whose career in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community spans 40 years -- might well say, “Sixteen years? That’s a good start.”



Photo courtesy, Summit DD Board

Retiring Summit County DD Board Superintendent Tom Armstrong not only was recognized for his years of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities at the ViaQuest event, but also at the PAR/OSDA conference (see [article this issue](#)). He said,

“Nobody does it on their own. I’ve been fortunate to work with many talented staff people all around the state. It’s been quite a journey.”



Having facilitated change throughout his career, Armstrong offered advice to remain positive and committed to one’s Mission. “Prepare yourself for change and be part of it. This system doesn’t succeed without innovation and change.” This year he announced his retirement from the Summit County position after 13 years as Superintendent. Current Lucas County Board of DD Superintendent John Trunk has been named as his successor.

Service providers such as ViaQuest, who recognize and reward outstanding service delivery within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, help to promote overall system excellence in areas such as home health, hospice, nursing and clinical services, and day and residential services. DODD Director John Martin recently stated that efforts such as these, in tandem with progressive legislation and funding, will help to support a more stable employment environment for direct care staff professionals in the process.

More information at [provider selection handbook](#)

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4. “Steady U” Initiative Aims to Reduce Incidence of Falling

“STEADY U Ohio” is a comprehensive falls prevention initiative led by Governor John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Aging, along with other state agency partners including DODD. Launched last month, a new website at www.steadyu.ohio.gov offers many resources, and includes links to additional helpful information.

The initiative, supported by state government and business partners to strengthen existing falls prevention activities, coordinates a statewide educational campaign to spotlight the prevention of falls in care planning for all Ohioans, and especially those who are elderly or have disabilities.



Key components of ‘STEADY U Ohio’ include the following ...

- *Creating a One-Stop Resource for Falls Prevention:* Many falls-prevention initiatives and resources exist in Ohio, but the state lacked a central point to manage those resources. The new website at www.steadyu.ohio.gov is Ohio’s key source of falls prevention information.
- *Expanding ‘A Matter of Balance’ Education and Exercise Program:* The *number one* cause of falls among senior citizens is poor balance. The *fear of falling* also increases the risk, and many older adults acknowledge a fear of falling. STEADY U will expand an evidence-based education and exercise program, *A Matter of Balance*, to all 88 Ohio counties. Locally led by trained volunteers, the classes aim to reduce the risk of falls by helping the at-risk population *increase their activity level and reduce their fear of falling*.
- *Promoting Falls Risk Assessments:* The initiative will help nursing homes evaluate lighting and other environmental factors to identify and address risks. The risk assessments will be made a core part of the state’s home- and community-based Medicaid waiver programs.
- *Developing a STEADY U Toolkit:* Health care providers will be given a toolkit they can use to conduct the falls risk assessments.
- *Partnering with Businesses to Create ‘Fall-Free Zones’:* Working with businesses, STEADY U will help businesses become ‘fall-free zones’ by identifying and addressing hazards that could cause slips, trips, and falls.

Partnering with state agencies to target and educate high-risk populations on the subject of preventing falls, the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit is working to update and promote online resources at [Health & Welfare Alerts](#) and work with service providers directly to reduce the incidence of injuries due to falling.

Contact: scott.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov

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5. New National Resource Center on Justice and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA) has awarded a two-year grant for \$400,000 to develop a national center on justice and intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Arc's national organization has been awarded the grant, which is the first national effort of its kind to bring together both victim and offender issues involving people with I/DD 'under one roof.'

The goal of the grant project is to create a national clearinghouse for research, information, evaluation, training, and technical assistance for justice and disability professionals and other advocates that will build their capacity to better identify and meet the needs of people with I/DD.

CEO of The Arc of the USA Peter Berns observed, "In many instances, the individual's disability goes unrecognized, and the population is over-represented in the nation's criminal justice system – both as victims and offenders. When individuals with I/DD become involved in the criminal justice system as suspects or victims, they often face miscommunication, fear, confusion, and prejudice. This new center will play a critical role in improving first response and communication between people with I/DD. No similar center on this topic exists, nor are there sufficient resources to address the gap in expertise in the field."

The national center will include directories of expert witnesses, attorneys, forensic interviewers, and victim advocates, a database of relevant state laws, a library, and hands-on technical assistance and training. Additionally, The Arc of the USA will create a Justice and I/DD Certification program.

More information at <http://www.thearc.org/>; Contact Leigh Ann Davis, LDavis@thearc.org

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6. Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues, November 5th

There will be levy issues in nine counties on the November 5 election ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- *Clark County:* 1.75 mills, additional
- *Clermont County:* 0.75 mill, renewal
- *Coshocton County:* 2.8 mills, renewal (Hopewell School)
- *Lucas County:* 1.8 mills, replacement*
- *Marion County:* 2.95 mills, replacement
- *Madison County:* 1 mill, renewal
- *Morrow County:* 2.5 mills, replacement
- *Portage County:* 2 mills, renewal, AND .9 mill, renewal
- *Wood County:* 2.95 mills, additional

* Lucas County: Rolling two continuous levies into one and adding 1 mill, in a replacement levy totaling 1.8 mills. The issue will appear on the ballot as a single proposal.

Your vote is very important!

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a great deal of information about the November 5th election regarding voting in general, and including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

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New! Pipeline Posts ...

Disability Employment Awareness Around the State

Ohio is embracing the culture of increased emphasis on community-based, competitive employment within developmental disabilities services, driven by Governor John Kasich's **Employment First initiative**. We share a few examples here, and more to follow in the October 23rd issue of Pipeline. *To submit ideas, send a short paragraph and a photo to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov by October 18.*

Fairfield County

In Lancaster (Fairfield County) Tim Heft enjoys his new job serving customers at 'Sweet Innovations' in the River Valley Mall. "I just want to help other people and get to know more new people," he said. Heft is one of eight employees of the new businesses, which recently hosted its Grand Opening. David Uhl, Fairfield County Board of DD Director of Business Development noted that Heft is one of three of the agency's clients working at Sweet Innovations. Uhl observes, "We're trying to provide some skills that are transferable. Maybe Tim likes his job, but maybe he doesn't want to work there forever. We'll try to give him some skills to go out and do something else, like customer service skills or money-handling transferable skills so he can go into the community and find a different job and use the same type of skills he's learned here." For more information, jboss@fairfieldddd.com



'Sweet Innovations' employee Tim Heft decorates a cookie at the store in Lancaster's River Valley Mall.



-Photo courtesy, Jess Lanning, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

Athens County

The Passion Works art studio in Athens has landed a unique and 'official' work opportunity. Athens County Board Superintendent Eric Young notes that Passion Works' new, official OSU Buckeye Flowers are the result of a collaboration between three programs under the Atco Inc. non-profit umbrella: Passion Works art studio; PersonnelPlus, the community employment division; and the Atco workshop. He comments, "The OSU flower project is creating jobs for people who are enrolled in PersonnelPlus and for those who attend the workshop. It's also a great partnership with the community workforce. Passion Works is already a collaborative endeavor between artists with and without disabilities, and Atco Inc. is now also hiring workers without disabilities to work alongside people with disabilities to produce the

flowers. For more information: Passion Works Studio Coordinator, Wayne Savage (740) 592-3673, wayne@passionworks.org



See article at:
“Passion Works' license to create
official OSU Buckeye flower could
be game-changer”

The entire process to create one flower
involves at least ten steps, including
washing, painting, designing and
cutting, takes about three weeks.

Photo courtesy, Athens Messenger

The Medicaid Buy-in Fact Sheet has been updated!

Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD or MBI) is an Ohio Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities. MBIWD was created to encourage Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage. The new fact sheet contains updated information as of May 2013. [Download Fact Sheet.](#)

The Annual Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline - Publishing Nov. 20th

Again this year we invite *you* to tell us what *you* are thankful for. *You* includes individuals, families, providers, County Boards and all stakeholders within Ohio's DD community. Please submit items for consideration by Nov. 14th, to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, would be best. *Here's last year's issue:* [Pipeline, November 21, 2012](#)

Pipeline Quarterly Preview...

Transformational changes in residential services around the state are the focus of a special edition of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing this month. The new residential services options partly result from DODD's "Grand Bargain," a major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program. In response to input from the DD community, this agreement was negotiated with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in community-based settings. It includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Read more in the new issue, reporting on summer 2013. Click on: [Pipeline Quarterly](#).

**ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*

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***PostScripts***

∞ Free conference! Tablet Technology, October 23 ∞

At this free one-day conference at the Columbus Hyatt Regency Hotel, learn how tablet technology -- iPads, e-readers, and other mobile technologies-- can assist people with disabilities. Experienced speakers will describe types of devices, how to evaluate users, applications and accessories, how to find funding,

and more. Users will explain how tablets enhance their lives. Displays will encourage hands-on tryouts. Sponsored by Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council. *Registration is required! For more information and registration, contact Sue Willis: axiscenter@aol.com, (614) 263-8076.*

Positive Exposure: Celebrating the Spirit of Difference

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program has invited a unique gallery of photography, *Positive Exposure*, to Columbus for two events focused on improving attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. *Positive Exposure* is a multimedia presentation that aims to redefine perceptions of beauty, and invite people to see individuals with genetic, cognitive, physical, and behavioral differences as vibrant and valuable members of society. Ohioans with an interest in the positive culture of the state's disabilities community are encouraged to take the opportunity to see this unique presentation on Sunday, October 20, at noon. On that day the founder, director, and photographer of *Positive Exposure* -- Rick Guidotti -- will visit the COSI Atrium and discuss the multi-media gallery that will be on display there. Guidotti also will present to medical students, faculty, and staff on October 21, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine's Prior Health Sciences Library, where a gallery of photographs will be displayed Oct. 21 – Nov. 27, 2013.

More at www.positiveexposure.org

More information at <http://nisonger.osu.edu/positive-exposure-06-2013>

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, 'Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery,' encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. Also, a presentation on 'Reentry and Supervision' by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. Contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; tctaylor@mac.com.

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Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

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Columbus. To register for the conference go to: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. The *full Conference Agenda* will be available soon. Additional speakers will address the topics of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

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The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It’s an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

Will You Be ‘Up All Night for Autism’? November 9

“UP ALL NIGHT FOR AUTISM” is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster’s Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information click [here](#).

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization’s 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And, Save This Date: March 4, 2014 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

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To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

October 23, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 22

[See our new **DD Service System Guide!**](#)

In This Issue ...

- 1. Disability Employment Awareness, Raising Expectations
- 2. Administration Priorities Move Forward in October
- 3. Inter-Organizational Collaboration Provides Positive Exposure, Positive Culture
- 4. Group Formed to Act as Resource for Privatization Efforts
- 5. Updated Information on County Board of DD Issues on November Ballots

New! Pipeline Posts ... Survey to Assess Advocacy Efforts, and More

Pipeline PostScripts ... Calendar Updates

Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

2013 theme, "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

See the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) "31 Things You Can Do" to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)."

[Click here to view the "What you CAN do!" NDEAM daily calendar](#)



1. Disability Employment Awareness, Raising Expectations

Disability Employment Awareness Around the State, and Beyond

Ohio is embracing the culture of increased emphasis on community-based, competitive employment as a priority within developmental disabilities services, and driven by Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#). Around the state, advocates and self advocates are raising expectations and opening as many doors as possible to identify paid work opportunities that offer community engagement and make good use of each person's abilities.

Most recent in a series of disability employment recognition events around the state, an Employment First Kickoff was well-attended in Canton last week, co-hosted by DODD and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The agencies jointly announced the partnership to provide practical job support for 1500 working-age individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state. Made possible through funding earmarked in the 2014-2015 state budget, it supports individuals in obtaining jobs in their communities, as a preference to traditional adult services workshops or other more segregated settings.

With this partnership, DODD and OOD have created a job counseling/job placement support network for adults with developmental disabilities in each of Ohio's 88 counties. DODD will fund counselors employed by OOD, and each of those counselors will focus only on serving individuals with DD in sheltered work settings to find integrated employment in the community.

Raising Expectations ... and Some Healthy Produce

In other emerging employment efforts across the state, expectations of community-based employment and training are rising. For example, in Cuyahoga County, Rising Harvest Farms supervisor Andrea Heim, recently was quoted in a [Cleveland Plain Dealer article](#), explaining, "I have really high expectations for them. When they leave here, they are ready to get a job!" Rising Harvest Farms in Cleveland is operated by [Koinonia Homes Inc.](#), a private provider of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Six people from Koinonia's employment services department participate in four-month internships, learning agricultural skills that can be used to land jobs in related areas, such as working at a nursery.

In fact, urban gardening and sustainable food-sourcing is getting high marks for developing employment and training opportunities around the state. Since its ribbon-cutting ceremony two years ago, a Clark County venture -- TAC Enterprises Town & Country Farms' Greenhouse in Springfield -- has seen great success. Clark County Board of DD Superintendent Jenny Rousculp notes, "We're growing more than lettuce here! We're growing jobs -- we're growing relationships." At the outset, the TAC Greenhouse supplied about 400 lbs. of lettuce each week for the Springfield City Schools' lunch program, serving 6000 students at 17 locations. Now, customers also include several high-end restaurants. TAC is a non-profit stand-alone 'day service' agency which grew out of its beginnings with the Clark County Board. See [Autumn 2011 Pipeline Quarterly](#), for that story.

More examples of new community-based employment efforts around the state are at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org/

DiLeo Addresses BHN Alliance

And, a compelling employment message was delivered last week in St. Clairsville by nationally-recognized author and disability consultant [Dale DiLeo](#). He spoke at an in-service on October 18 to an audience of nearly 200 people representing the BHN Alliance (Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities), providers, educators, and others, at Ohio University, Eastern. DiLeo provided evidence and examples of how jobs in the community improve the lives of working-age people with disabilities. He stated that the system of support can provide the knowledge, facilitation, ideas, and nurturing that will help all people be successful on the job. DiLeo urged attendees to expect people with disabilities to learn a skill

that can be used at a 'real job' in the community, explaining that when people are given opportunities to work alongside others, they rise to the level of expectation of their employer. DiLeo is the author of [Raymond's Room](#), a book about ending segregation of people with disabilities and other related publications.



Focusing on Employment
Dale DiLeo (center) was the keynote speaker at the BHN Alliance's Fall In-Service last week at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville.

Pictured with DiLeo are Kristen Helling, DODD Employment First Project Manager, and Stephen Williams, Superintendent of the BHN Alliance. Helling presented an update on Ohio's Employment First initiative.

Photo courtesy, BHN Alliance

National and International Career Advancement

From a national and international perspective, in recognition of NDEAM and the role of 'international exchange' in career advancement for people with disabilities, [Mobility International USA](#) (MIUSA) has produced an online publication, *A World Awaits You: Go Abroad, Find Your Career Path*. It follows twelve people with disabilities on their paths from exchange experiences to employment, and how these individuals leveraged their experiences studying, volunteering, and working abroad to get a foothold in chosen careers. Additional information is at <http://www.miusa.org/ncde/ncdenews/ndeam2013>.

A Little History

NDEAM began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month, and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

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2. October Moves Administration Priorities Forward

Governor's Cabinet Sets Transformation Priorities

Governor John Kasich's Health and Human Services Cabinet met in early October to discuss transformation priorities in 2014. ([View the presentation](#)) These priorities include:

- Continuing to modernize Medicaid and improving overall health system performance;
- Coordinating programs that support the best possible start for Ohio's children;
- Creating a unified workforce system that supports business in meeting its workforce needs; and,
- Sharing services within and beyond boundaries to improve program efficiency.

The [Health and Human Services Cabinet](#) is comprised of several state agencies that work together on programmatic and project areas, as defined under the overall Health and Human Services purview. DODD is a part of this collaborative effort.

Ohio's Plan to Extend Medicaid Coverage

In late September, the Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) seeking to extend Medicaid coverage. On October 10, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio's SPA. As a result, federal funds were made available to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014. On October 11, the Director of Ohio Medicaid submitted a Controlling Board request seeking authorization to spend federal-only funds to extend Medicaid coverage. Controlling Board approval on October 21, was required to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014.

On Oct. 21, Governor Kasich asked the seven-member legislative-spending oversight panel to provide the authority to spend federal money to cover an estimated 275,000 low-income Ohioans under Medicaid.

[The Controlling Board approved the administration's funding authorization request to expand Ohio's Medicaid eligibility up to 138% of the federal poverty level.](#)

The seven-member panel voted 5-2 to approve the Department of Medicaid request to spend federal funds totaling \$561.7 million in fiscal year 2014 and nearly \$2 billion in FY 2015 to extend program eligibility. The expansion would be 100 percent federally-funded for the first three years, and bring in an estimated \$13 billion in federal money over seven years. More on this subject this week on the [Office of Health Transformation website](#).

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3. Inter-Organization Collaboration Offers Positive Exposure

Presentation Celebrates the Spirit of Difference

The Ohio State University [Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program](#) invited a unique gallery of photography, [Positive Exposure](#), to Columbus this month, focusing on improving peoples' attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. DODD, along with the Ohio Department of Health, join the Nisonger Center in encouraging Ohioans with an interest in the [positive culture](#) of the disabilities community to take advantage of the opportunity to see this unique presentation on display now at [COSI](#).

The free, colorful multimedia presentation hopes to redefine peoples' perceptions of beauty 'beyond the traditional,' as noted by founding photographer Rick Guidotti, who visited [COSI](#) October 20. He introduced the overall approach in the collection as, "...challenging people to think differently," and added,

["There is a new equation: Self-acceptance = Self-esteem = Self-advocacy. I have seen these children and adults absolutely blossom when their individuality is celebrated, and their own unique beauty is captured."](#)

[More at www.positiveexposure.org](http://www.positiveexposure.org)

Guidotti also presented to medical students, faculty, and staff on October 21, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine's Prior Health Sciences Library, where a gallery of photographs will be displayed through November 27, 2013. In that gallery the photos depict children and adults who have unique disorders or challenges as, "...more than just a person standing up against a blank wall, as in a textbook photo." The display urges medical students to see people as more than their disability, and evolve their future practices to welcome them, equally, as patients.



“Change How You See. See How You Change.”

Down a main hallway of the first floor at COSI, the “Positive Exposure” photographic display captures volumes about the subjects photographed, with a paragraph about each of them. “More than what they look like, it’s who they are,” says photographer, Rick Guidotti.

The organization’s educational and advocacy programs reach worldwide to promote a more inclusive, compassionate world, where differences are celebrated. More at www.positiveexposure.org

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4. Resource Group Assists Regarding Privatization

Statewide Assistance Provided as Requested

The [Ohio Privatization Support Group](#) (PSG) has developed over the past two years, to discuss issues that impact Adult Services for individuals with developmental disabilities when the services are ‘privatized’, or moved from operation by County Boards to other, private service providers. The group started as a result of conversations following a conference in 2010, then grew and was formalized due to members recognizing common issues faced by leaders of Adult Services organizations that were undergoing this kind of change. Laura LaGodney at [Ability Works](#) in Sandusky, Ohio, notes that the PSG mission is ...

“To provide resources to Adult Services programs that are in varying stages of privatization from the traditional County Board programs in Ohio.”

She adds, “We tackle topics including business practices in the private sector; Worker’s Compensation; PERS issues; billing; staffing, and benefits. We’ve learned that operating our programs as private businesses is quite different from operating as part of a County Board. And, in the past year we have made an extra effort to let other programs know our members -- who have experience in privatization -- are available as a resource.”

**The Ohio Privatization Support Group meets regularly in Worthington. To contact any current members of the PSG group, visit the website at www.psgohio.org
PSG will be presenting at the OACB conference in December.**

Contact: Laura LaGodney, LLaGodney@ability-works.com or Van Viney at vviney@matcoserv.com

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[Updated Information](#)

5. Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues, November 5th

There will be levy issues in twelve counties on the November 5 election ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- *Ashland County:* 1.5 mills, renewal
- *Clark County:* 1.75 mills, additional
- *Clermont County:* 0.75 mill, renewal
- *Coshocton County:* 2.8 mills, renewal (Hopewell School)
- *Greene County:* 3.5 mills, renewal
- *Harrison County:* 1 mill, renewal
- *Lucas County:* 1.8 mills, replacement*
- *Marion County:* 2.95 mills, replacement
- *Madison County:* 1 mill, renewal
- *Morrow County:* 2.5 mills, replacement
- *Portage County:* 2 mills, renewal, AND .9 mill, renewal
- *Wood County:* 2.95 mills, additional

** Lucas County: Rolling two continuous levies into one and adding 1 mill, in a replacement levy totaling 1.8 mills. The issue will appear on the ballot as a single proposal.*

Your vote is very important!

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a great deal of information about the November 5th election, regarding voting in general, and including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

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New! Pipeline Posts ...

Six - Question Survey to Assist Advocacy Efforts

The Ohio Self Determination Association, in partnership with other advocacy organizations, is interested in hearing from people with disabilities, family members, and others about:

- The supports that work well;
- Those things that are concerns;
- How you would like things to be different.

To hear from as many as possible, a simple six-question survey has been created. It asks that you share information about yourself at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AdvocatesSpeakOut>. This information will help OSDA and partnering advocacy organizations to better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. 🌀



The Annual Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline, Publishing Nov. 20, 2013

Here's last year's issue: [Pipeline, November 21, 2012](#)

Again this year we invite *you* to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit items for consideration by Nov. 14, to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, is best. ☞

Fellowship Application Deadline Extended to December 31

The deadline to apply for the American Psychological Foundation's (APF) 2013 Scott and Paul Pearsall Fellowship, which supports graduate work that seeks to increase the public's understanding of the psychological pain and stigma experienced by adults with physical disabilities, *has been extended to December 31, 2013*. Link: <http://www.apa.org/apf/funding/pearsall.aspx>

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PostScripts

☞ Next DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting is November 12



The DODD Family Advisory Council next meeting is November 12 at [Columbus Developmental Center](#), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The meeting will include a wealth of new and updated information on subject of interest to Ohio's DD community, and DODD Director Martin will be on-hand for a Question & Answer session. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD system, and we especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

☞ DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov

The 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, one of the largest statewide housing conferences in the nation, will be held November 5-7, 2013 in Columbus. Join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) at the Conference, themed "Rising Towards Tomorrow." *For reduced rates, register before October 4.* Information and registration at: [Click Here](#). DHN also has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis & Summary. Read the report: [Click here](#).

☞ OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., in Columbus. To register for the conference go to: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. *The full Conference Agenda* will be available soon. Additional speakers will address the topics of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

☞ Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as

a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

∞ Living with Epilepsy Symposium, November 9

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month

A 'Living with Epilepsy Symposium' will be presented by Riverside Methodist Hospital, OhioHealth, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus on Saturday, November 9, at Riverside Methodist Hospital/Bing Cancer Center, 500 Thomas Lane, in Columbus. November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month and highlights the advances made in the management and treatment of epilepsy. Leading medical practitioners will present current and new treatments, research in the effort to find a cure, and strategies for dealing with the challenges that living with epilepsy presents. The day offers a broad range of topics to ensure that all participants can choose the subjects that best meet their needs. Cost is \$10 per person and \$40 for professionals seeking contact hours and CEUs. Registration includes presentations, exhibits, free parking, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships available. For information call (613) 315-0437. To register, go online to www.epilepsy-ohio.org or [click here](#).

∞ Will You Be 'Up All Night for Autism'? November 9

"Up All Night for Autism" is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster's Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information [click here](#).

∞ SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details soon.

And, Save This Date: March 4, 2014
Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day

DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Details Coming Soon!
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Ohio Statehouse

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness
Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

The Arc, Ohio Disability Rights, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, Ohio SIBS, ucedd

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents

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Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline EXTRA is published as needed to cover hot news. Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

November 6, 2013

Results of Voting on November 5, 2013 County Board of DD Levy Issues

Results for issues on November 5 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:
(Percentages are rounded.)

- *Ashland County*: 1.5 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 67%
- *Clark County*: 1.75 mills, additional **FAILED**, by 53%
- *Clermont County*: 0.75 mill, renewal **PASSED**, by 66%
- *Coshocton County*: 2.8 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 59%
- *Greene County*: 3.5 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 64%
- *Harrison County*: 1 mill, renewal **PASSED**, by 67%
- *Lucas County*: 1.8 mills, replacement* **PASSED**, by 52%
- *Madison County*: 1 mill, renewal **PASSED**, by 71%
- *Marion County*: 2.95 mills, replacement **FAILED**, by 58%
- *Morrow County*: 2.5 mills, replacement **FAILED**, by 51%
- *Portage County*: 2 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 69%, AND
.9 mill, renewal **PASSED**, by 70%
- *Wood County*: 2.95 mills, additional **PASSED**, by 56%

* *Lucas County*: Two continuous levies rolled into one and adding 1 mill, in a replacement levy totaling 1.8 mills.

Results are unofficial and will be certified by respective County Boards of Elections at a later date.

More information at: Ohio Secretary of State website: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>



Pipeline Extra is a publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and is distributed infrequently to highlight breaking news in the state's developmental disabilities community. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or contact sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or 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 dodd.ohio.gov/privacy/. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov.



John R. Kasich, Governor

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November 6, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 23

[See our new DD Service System Guide!](#)

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 - 3. [New Strategic Leadership Team to Help Set Direction](#)
 - 4. [OPRA Conference Spotlights System Growth, Change](#)
 - 5. [Raising the Bar: Lawyers Develop ‘O.P.E.N. Court’](#)
 - 6. [Health & Welfare: Anticipating Winter Weather, Flu Season](#)
- [Pipeline Posts](#); [Pipeline PostScripts](#)

Note: See the Pipeline EXTRA, published earlier today, for the results of Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues on yesterday's ballots.

1. [Employment First Partnership Takes Next Steps](#)

[DODD – OOD Partnership Moves Employment First Counselors to Forefront](#)

Work at the grassroots level is now underway as Ohio accelerates its priority emphasis on competitive, integrated employment. On October 30, the Employment First New Counselors' Training Kick-Off was hosted by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency, in partnership with DODD, and driven by the momentum of Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#).

Counselors who will be working directly with adults in Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities system are completing their training, preparing them to begin their work identifying competitive employment opportunities that offer community engagement, and utilize each person's abilities. The October 30 event marked the end of an intensive training period, preparing the Employment First counselors for locations around the state, and kicked-off the next phase at the grassroots level. Addressing the counselors-in-training, DODD Director John Martin noted,

[“This effort you are involved in represents a significant wedge – a ‘tipping point’ if you will – for the development of integrated employment opportunities, and the importance of these opportunities to the state and national workforce. The nation will be watching what we are doing here, in Ohio, for it is a unique partnership.”](#)

The Employment First partnership includes a commitment by DODD to fund the training of counselors located around the state who will work closely with individuals currently employed in traditional workshop settings, toward the goal of gaining a community-based job. OOD Director Kevin Miller made the analogy that DODD formed, "...the roots of the partnership, providing foundational strength and the strategic dollars needed." The outcome desired by all is that these efforts result in an opportunity for 1500 Ohioans with developmental disabilities to obtain community-based jobs each year, who previously were in traditional workshop settings.



Directors of Foundational Change
OOD Director Kevin Miller (left) and DODD Director John Martin at the OOD Learning Center, have just described that the Employment First partnership is much like a healthy tree. Director Miller gestures for the tree top, while Director Martin gestures for the roots. They agree that when you see a large tree, there's much below for foundation. (The Directors also illustrate that sometimes you can have a lot of fun, while still working very hard.) Director Martin noted, "This partnership for Employment First will make Ohio stand out in the national developmental disabilities community – It's a significant and important effort in moving the system forward."



A Roomful of Change Agents
Counselors-in-training pack the OOD Learning Center as they enjoy an inter-active work setting. OOD Deputy Director Susan Pugh noted,

"What you have signed up to do is get people jobs! Not to over-think and over-plan, but to truly engage people in identifying and assessing their skills, and helping them to be successful in community jobs."

The October 30 Employment First New Counselors' Training Kick-Off also offered input from DODD lead-person on the Employment First initiative, Kristen Helling. She encouraged each of them to continue to build on their enthusiasm and initiative noting,

"I am energized by the counselors themselves. They are prepared to make this happen!"

More information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>

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2. National Family Caregivers Month Celebrates Many

“Family Caregivers – Now More Than Ever!”

DODD salutes the day-to-day efforts of Ohio’s many family caregivers and notes that each year, more and more Americans are caring for a family member with a chronic condition due to a disability, or issues related to advancing age. It is estimated that there are as many as 90 million family caregivers in the U.S. today. With that number in mind, the theme was set for National Family Caregivers Month, November 2013 ... “Now More Than Ever.”

As caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members, Ohio’s developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts by so many, and for so many.

In 1994, the [National Family Caregivers Association](#) (NFCA) began spotlighting the role of family caregivers during the week of Thanksgiving. As interest grew in family caregiving issues, National Family Caregivers Week became National Family Caregivers *Month*. NFCA coordinates National Family Caregivers Month as a time to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the Nation’s long-term care system, providing an estimated \$450 billion worth of (unpaid) care each year. That’s twice as much as home-care and nursing home services combined. With the ranks of family caregivers growing every year, DODD spotlights the importance of the role played by family caregivers – “Now More Than Ever.” At a recent DODD Family Advisory Council meeting, one participant stated,

“Caregiving can be as intense as providing 24-hour care for a person with dementia, or as simple as taking your neighbor to a doctor’s appointment. It often means juggling many things at once, such as taking care of our own families and holding down jobs, plus giving your time and care to another family member or friend.”

Family Advisory Council Meets November 12 – And YOU Are Invited

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s DD system. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

The next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is November 12 at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The meeting will include updates and information from: DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan; Icilda Dickerson from ODJFS on the Ohio Respite Program; Lori Horvath, DODD, regarding the State Plan; Dave Zwyer, regarding Community Funds; Carolyn Knight on the subject of DD Council and the Waiting List Survey; and, Lara Palay with OCALI, regarding Trauma and Crisis.

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov; More resources at www.caregiveraction.org

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3. Strategic Leadership Team to Set Direction

DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community in processes to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. As a part of that process, Director John Martin and key staff have worked with stakeholders to develop a leadership group aimed at planning, and providing oversight for this work as we move into calendar year 2014.

According to Director Martin, “One of the strengths of the Ohio system is the richness and diversity of our stakeholder community. This leadership group will be balanced to represent this diversity while still being manageable in size.”

Approximately 20 people representing more than ten organizations will comprise the new strategic leadership team. An introductory meeting was hosted yesterday, and captures a broad mix of people involved in providing services, individuals participating in services, family members, and agency staff representatives. Planning to meet monthly over the next 12 months, the group’s focus will include the following:

- What do we need to learn more about? Plan learning opportunities that would be open to the statewide DD community.
- Evaluating what we do well in Ohio, and what we do not do so well.
- Establishing a vision for the future -- what could/should we look like in 10 years? -- and preliminary steps (next biennium) to get us there.

The November 5th meeting in the training room at Columbus Developmental Center included a presentation by Director John Martin that concluded asking a few questions, and observing that the group’s tasks will include examining roles, values, and philosophies, and establishing a 2-year and a 10-year Vision. He noted,

“Thank you for taking some time to ‘step off the treadmill’ and take a look at where we are now, and where we would like our system to be in the future. We appreciate you coming to the table with us, and look forward to working together with you toward shared goals.”

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4. OPRA Conference Spotlights System Growth, Change

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) (OPRA) Fall Conference last month was designed to support an information-packed ‘learning module’ format, and featured a broad assortment of several educational tracks geared for professionals in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, including such areas as Direct Support, Program Management, and Supported Employment. Speakers represented many national and state organizations, including DODD Director John Martin, Deputy Directors Patrick Stephan and Kate Haller, and Project Manager in the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, Molly Kurtz.

Along with the varied presentations and learning opportunities, OPRA turned the spotlight on recognizing excellence in the state’s service provider network. The annual OPRA Awards this year included presentation of the Maureen Corcoran Award to *Amanda Hogan, Direct Support Professional with the Heinzerling Memorial Foundation* in Columbus. The award recognizes an

outstanding [PATHS](#)*-credentialed Direct Support Professional who demonstrates prescribed competencies; upholds the [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) Code of Ethics](#); and, exhibits exemplary overall professionalism. Amanda's career as a Direct Support Professional spans 16 years, during which she has shown a consistent commitment to enriching the lives of individuals with whom she works.



At the Heinzerling Foundation, Amanda has worked with a man named Dustin, and they each share a love for art. Last year, after much planning, Amanda helped Dustin to host his first art show. Members of the community attended, and money was raised for the Heinzerling Activity Fund. The event also raised awareness about the residents and staff at Heinzerling. Amanda states her philosophy ...

“If, at the end of the day, what I have done has made the lives of our individuals better, then it has made my life better as well.”

Several outstanding volunteers, teams, supervisors, direct support staff, and others had the opportunity to step into the OPRA Awards spotlight at the conference, having earned a moment of recognition. The two-day event also offered an opportunity for learning about exhibitors' products and services, and sharing and refreshing their individual enthusiasm for working with the people they serve.

As a statewide association of service providers within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, OPRA works to build a collaborative service system that meets the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Currently, membership consists of more than 150 organizations, providing services to more than 15,000 Ohioans. Overall, OPRA represents approximately 70% of the state's community-based providers.

**PATHS is the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services credentialing program for Direct Support Professionals. More information at <http://www.opra.org/>*

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5. Raising the Bar: Lawyers Develop 'O.P.E.N. Court'

Educates Developmental Disabilities Community via Web Series

For many, the legal system can be a complicated and confusing structure. The process can be even more overwhelming for young members of the developmental disabilities community, as well as for the police officers, attorneys, and court personnel who encounter them.

The [Ohio State Bar Association](#) is taking steps to relieve this stress through their 'O.P.E.N. Court' [online resource](#) designed to, "Orient young People with Exceptional Needs about court." Through a series of three videos following Henry, a young man with autism who finds himself navigating the juvenile court system, the series teaches young viewers, with and without developmental disabilities, about courtroom behavior, their rights, and how to assert them. Each video is less than ten minutes in duration.

In addition to the videos, the website provides a resource guide for teachers, parents, attorneys, juvenile court personnel, and social-service professionals to engage in best practices to help young people gain the confidence and skills to navigate the process successfully from beginning to end. O.P.E.N Court is the brainchild of the Bar Association's charitable arm, the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF), which selects 40 'Fellows' each year from their new members to create and execute a project designed to enhance public understanding of the law, and improve the justice system.

The 2011 Class chose to direct their efforts towards young people with developmental disabilities, some of whom have autism, as well as other developmental disabilities. In all, the group volunteered nearly two years of their time to develop the web series.

According to said David Gromley, Delaware Municipal Court Judge and 2011 OSBF Fellow, "There was a need here for some information for this group." Regarding the decision to use video as the medium for their project, he added, "That's kind of a neat way to present the information, and that's the way so many folks get information, especially young people."

Video was suggested by experts in the developmental disabilities community whom the Fellows group enlisted to help them develop the project. They suggested the information be presented to individuals with developmental disabilities in this way because, "Videos can be played over and over again, and the written materials reinforce the lessons," Gromley said.

As a web resource, the series of videos and accompanying materials are available to the Ohio's DD community, and to anyone seeking information on how best to educate young people on the juvenile court process. Above all, Gromley hopes that anyone who provides services to youth within or outside of the court system -- and with or without developmental disabilities -- will use the resource to educate young people and themselves. He stated, "You have to meet people where they are, and try to educate them."

To view the O.P.E.N. Court video series, visit <http://www.osbf.net/opencourt>.
For more information about the Ohio State Bar Association, visit <http://www.osbf.net/>.

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[Health & Welfare](#)

[6. Anticipating Winter Weather, and Flu Season](#)

Ohio's health and safety system for individuals with developmental disabilities is built on incident prevention, providing timely care when needed, as well as appropriate reporting. The purpose of [DODD Health and Welfare Alerts](#) is to provide critical information to caregivers on specific subjects for which DODD has identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare. *(Note: Health & Safety Alerts were re-named to align with broadening the scope of information.)* The periodic Alerts provide data, additional resources, and guidance to the field on what can be done to avoid or minimize a risk.

Alerts are one more step to keep our partners in the statewide DD community informed of the health and welfare challenges that affect individuals with disabilities, and what we can do to help.

Health and Welfare Alerts are derived from Ohio data, and are created to give all Ohio providers of DD services an opportunity to have consistent and up-to-date information. Sharing it allows the system to be proactive in avoiding future negative outcomes.

See: [Winter Weather Alert](#); [Preventing the Flu](#)

Employees within Ohio's developmental disabilities system are required to be trained, annually, on identification and reporting of Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) and Unusual Incidents (UIs) prior to unsupervised contact. Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director, MUI/Registry Unit, notes that "The foundation for Ohio's health and welfare system is *reporting*, and it is critical for employees to have a good understanding of *what* to report and *how* to report. Providing training and education to new employees upon hiring, and to current employees annually, helps assure that timely reporting takes place to protect individuals served."

He added, "Failing to report incidents involving risks to health and welfare for individuals supported in our system can result in administrative investigation and even criminal charges." Training includes the review of any Health and Welfare Alerts released since the previous calendar year's training. Training is now in development for 2014. Phillips emphasizes,

"In sharing DODD Health and Safety Alerts we can help service providers by giving them the opportunity to prevent a harmful outcome. *Education is the key!* For example, the Alerts provide information that can prompt a provider to... test a hot water tank to assure that an individual can't get burned... take the time to modify a diet texture so a person won't choke...or contact 911 immediately when significant signs or symptoms of illness exist." He concludes,

"Each time someone takes action as a result of critical information shared in a DODD Health and Welfare Alert, a serious injury – or even a death – can be avoided. That's why we believe that the Health and Welfare Alerts are so important!"

For questions or comments regarding DODD Health & Welfare Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810. More information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Documents/31-09-12.pdf>

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New! Pipeline Posts ...

Call for Artists – Design a Logo for a New Publication

[Guiding People through Systems – Deadline November 18, 2013](#)

The Ohio Department of Health, in collaboration with the Nationwide Children's Hospital/Autism Treatment Network, Family Voices, University of Cincinnati/UCEDD and The Ohio Medical Home Project is working on a virtual care notebook website, "*Guiding People through Systems*" or *GPS*. The purpose is to provide an organizational tool for families and individuals to maintain and manage information and records in a notebook fashion. The GPS will organize concise information for members of an individual's healthcare team, and will help them to access resources related to transition, recreation, and other services. The tool is designed as a stand-alone website that will empower the individual/family/professional partnership.

[Ohio artists with disabilities have the opportunity to design a logo for the GPS website. The logo will be displayed there and on any print copies generated from the GPS system. The Ohio Arts Council will provide a \\$250 Artist Award to the winner of this logo contest!](#)

Entries should be submitted as full-color, high-resolution images that are print-ready. The logo should be sized at three inches square, and easy to view at that size. Artists may submit *one (1) entry* each. Submit entries and one-paragraph biography to Amy Hess, amy.hess@nationwidechildrens.org, by *November 18*.



-Next Issue-
**The Annual Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline,
Publishing Nov. 20, 2013**

Here's last year's issue: [Pipeline, November 21, 2012](#)

Again this year we invite *you* to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit items for consideration by Nov. 14, to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, is best. 🌀

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PostScripts

🌀 **Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9**

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference, November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, is an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Visit www.ohiosibs.com for more information.

🌀 **Living with Epilepsy Symposium, November 9**

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month

A 'Living with Epilepsy Symposium' will be presented by Riverside Methodist Hospital, OhioHealth, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus on Saturday, November 9, at Riverside Methodist Hospital/Bing Cancer Center, 500 Thomas Lane, in Columbus. *November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month and highlights the advances made in the management and treatment of epilepsy.* Leading medical practitioners will present current and new treatments, research to find a cure, and strategies for dealing with the challenges that living with epilepsy presents. Cost is \$10 per person and \$40 for professionals seeking contact hours and CEUs. Registration includes presentations, exhibits, free parking, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships available. For information call (613) 315-0437. To register, go online at www.epilepsy-ohio.org or [click here](#).

🌀 **Will You Be 'Up All Night for Autism'? November 9**

"Up All Night for Autism" is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster's Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information [click here](#).

🌀 **OCALICON – November 20-22**

"OCALICON 2013," a national autism and disabilities conference, will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, November 20th - 22nd. The conference will feature more than 100 concurrent panel, and interactive discussion sessions. For more information, call (614) 410-0321, or visit www.ocali.org.

🌀 **SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Conference, December 4-6**

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30-year anniversary. Among the many scheduled presentations will be the *Disability Housing Network's track of housing sessions on Thursday, December 5, 2013*. Details for the three-day event are now at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>

And, Save This Date: March 4, 2014 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day

The graphic features a dark blue banner at the top with the text "DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY" in white, serif, all-caps font. To the left of the banner is a vertical gold bar with the text "SAVE THE DATE" in black, serif, all-caps font. Below the banner is a photograph of a classical column. To the right of the column, the text reads: "Details Coming Soon!", "Tuesday, March 4, 2014", and "Ohio Statehouse". Below this text are social media prompts: "Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness" and "Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day". At the bottom of the graphic is a row of logos for various organizations: The Arc Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, OACB, SFR, SPRA, The Honorable Center, Ohio SIBS, and ucedd.

🌀 **Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014**

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, 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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News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov
To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

July 17, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 15

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Pipeline PostScripts: Nearly a dozen updates for your calendar.

1. Conversation Continues on Health Care Coverage Issues

"We are going to get this done. I don't care what it takes. We are going to get this done."

-Governor John Kasich on the subject of Medicaid expansion

A health care rally on July 9, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse underscored the Kasich Administration's belief that "Now is the Time" to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio. Governor John Kasich spoke to several hundred concerned citizens gathered at the forum, representing areas of interest such as mental health, developmental disabilities, veterans, law enforcement, business, public safety, and other advocates to build momentum for work on the issue now, during the legislature's summer break. Governor Kasich enthusiastically stated,

"Now, all options are on the table. If the legislature doesn't do it, then we're going to look at everything we can possibly do to bring it forward."

Many stakeholders speaking from the podium shared their perspectives on the importance of providing extended health care coverage – noting, among other statistics, that roughly 26,000 Ohio veterans currently do not have Medicaid coverage. “This is not an automatic thing like some people think – they think all veterans have this coverage. Many don’t. We need it now!”

More Support

DODD Director John Martin, and Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) President Mark Davis previously have noted other statistics in testimony to legislators, stating that Medicaid expansion could save OPRA member employers millions of dollars in Affordable Care Act-related penalties or new health insurance costs. Davis noted, “OPRA members employ 13,000

people statewide, with 11,245 of them working as Direct Service Professionals earning an average hourly salary of \$9.73.” With this data in mind, these employees would be qualified for coverage under a Medicaid extension to lower-wage workers.



Photo courtesy, The Columbus Dispatch, online

Governor John Kasich received support for his leadership on the subject of Medicaid expansion and the overall issue of health care coverage at the July 9 Ohio Statehouse rally. He confirmed,

“We have to respect the processes of the legislature, but we are determined to get this done. Determined!”



When Governor Kasich vetoed proposed budget language late last month, prohibiting the extension of Medicaid to low wage workers, it opened the door for the state legislature to reconsider the subject as viable outside the budget itself. The Legislature has since committed to working on Medicaid reform over the next several weeks under the broader umbrella of health care reform.



Front & Center!
The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks (center, white shirt) and co-worker David Lewis (left) are front and center in terms of rally participation and support. Says Tonks,

“Ohio’s DD system advocates have a strong voice ... and we’re going to use it!”





DODD Director John Martin
listens to participants at the Statehouse rally.
With regard to the overall state budget
process, Director Martin often has noted,

**“We’re doing a lot of listening.
That’s especially important right now.”**



HHS Funding Announced

On the subject of health care from a federal perspective, it was announced last week that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will supply 36 Ohio health centers with a total of \$3.9 million to support enrollment in the state's federally-run health insurance exchange, as outlined in the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#). The federal funding will benefit 183 health center locations, and is expected to pay for hiring additional employees to assist more than 84,400 Ohioans enrolling in health insurance plans through the exchange. HHS funding will complement and align with other efforts such as the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services-funded ‘Navigator’ program to assist the roll-out in local communities.

Overall, the preparation for health care system changes in Ohio is currently on-target for the January 2014 effective timeframe for new health insurance coverage options.

More information at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov> and [Top Ten Health Transformation Initiatives in the Budget](#)

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2. ‘A Good Life’ – Celebration in Northwest Ohio

**It was fitting that this ‘A Good Life’ celebration was on July 16, the 26th anniversary of the ADA.
It’s all about facilitating a good life.**

‘A Good Life’ training is an outgrowth of the [Positive Culture Initiative \(PCI\)](#) -- a way of intentionally 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.

And now there are 31 more developmental disabilities system professionals who have graduated from the training, as of yesterday in Bowling Green (Wood County). The new Northwest Ohio group of ‘facilitators’ represent County Boards of DD in Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert, and Wood counties, as well as service providers Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), Nowac, and Wood Lane Residential Services.



Photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB

Recognition Well-Deserved.
Willie Jones (left) and Pete Moore prepare to acknowledge several Northwest Ohio 'A Good Life' participants ... in the positive and fun-loving way they have perfected over the course of the training. There's no telling what could be under the drape, or behind it!



Photo courtesy, Adam Herman, OACB

Graduates Gather.
The 'A Good Life' graduates gather among some of their artistic creations depicting many positive scenarios possible through their new mindset and approach to work.



Under the auspices of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), and with the support of the Clearwater Council of Government ([Clearwater COG](#)) Pete Moore and Willie Jones are the 'A Good Life' training gurus. They've described it as, "...founded on the general beliefs of the [Positive Culture Initiative](#) led by DODD, with some new layers added to the foundation." The training encourages confidence, respect, and self-esteem for both the giver and the receiver in any work relationship. It's about staying in a 'Stretch Zone' -- to always be on the lookout for the many possibilities in any person, and any situation.

Nancy Richards, Clearwater COG Executive Director spoke to the graduates yesterday, and expressed several observations, including,

"The Good Life network is nothing short of a culture change - it is not 'the next thing to try out' or some kind of fad. It is the future of our service system. Over the last year I have seen many great things happen both for staff and the people we support. People who never spoke as they unloaded a bus now carry on chatty conversations with people as they walk down the hall. Each person is greeted by name. And, some self advocates are running their own ISP meetings."

Acknowledging that the training is a lot of work and a lot of fun, Richards, the graduates and their supporters renewed their collective enthusiasm for helping *everyone* they work with make

the most of their opportunities each day, and in their own way. DODD congratulates the new ‘A Good Life’ graduates, and appreciates their efforts to support a Positive Culture within Ohio’s statewide developmental disabilities community.

*Special thanks to Adam Herman at OACB for information contained in this article. A Good Life is now on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/goodlifenetw> and featured in *Pipeline*, October 24, 2012*

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3. Self Advocates Speak Up, Ask Questions

The Self Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of DD had a full agenda last week, and wasted no time in getting down to business with Council member and self advocate Christine Brown helping to guide the action. Meeting at the FCBDD offices in Columbus were 50 or more individuals who were ready to learn, speak up, and ask questions.

Before the meat of the meeting was addressed, there was a brisk exchange of information on the subject of, “How did *you* speak up for yourself since last meeting?”... which met with many answers including, “I talked to my SSA about wanting a SELF waiver,” and, “I talked to people about getting an outside job.” Perhaps most exciting was,

**“I talked to a legislator about accessible parking and got quoted in the *Columbus Dispatch!*”
And indeed, Marci Straughter was quoted as saying about the current parking signage,
“With ‘handicap,’ that sounds like they’re making fun of us.”**

See <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/07/05/push-is-on-to-remove-handicap-from-signs.html>

Straughter and others were quick to advance the main agenda on the subject of accessible parking in the Columbus area, agreeing, “It’s time for a change, and we want to make this happen.” The advocates want the currently-used description replaced with the word ‘accessible,’ and the universal wheelchair symbol or, perhaps adopting an updated icon recently introduced in New York City (see below).



An effort to revamp the icon that’s long symbolized accessibility on everything from parking lot signs to bathrooms is gaining traction. New York City is adopting the new look, and it is catching on elsewhere around the country.

Will Ohio be next?

More at: www.accessibleicon.org and at *Pipeline*, June 5 2013

Learning more about the Office of Health Transformation (OHT, in which DODD is a partner), was also on the agenda, and Monica Juenger, OHT Director of Stakeholder Relations, was ready with an information-packed presentation answering several questions from Council members along the way. Not shy about asking the tough questions, attendees wanted to know more about Medicaid Buy-In, Medicaid expansion, benefits such as SNAP ([Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#)) and general questions about how OHT operates. Definitely up to the task at-hand, Juenger explained,



“The point of OHT is to have state agencies work together ... so there are fewer places for you to have to go to get the services you need and want. That’s why we were organized in the first place, and that’s why OHT is continuing to work for all Ohio citizens. One of our top priorities is to see to it that you have opportunities to live and work in your community.

That’s a big deal for us. We feel it’s important.”

-Monica Juenger, OHT

Wrapping up the agenda, FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison stopped in and took a ‘straw poll’ of the meeting participants, asking for their input on exactly what they would like to see for public signage indicating accessibility. The majority indicated they favored the new wheelchair icon, used along with the word ‘Accessible.’ Conversations on the way out the meeting room door got back to self advocacy, and how people had spoken up for themselves recently. There were still more of answers ... and that’s why the Self Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of DD is gaining ground and making things happen.

For more information: www.fcbdd.org

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4. Employment First: Local Leaders Sites Selected

Six local teams, representing partners from multiple agencies, have been selected for *Employment First Local Leaders* implementation sites. The Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee selected the six from a total of 17 applications, representing 29 Ohio counties from across the state. These teams will enable DODD and the Taskforce to learn more about the current community employment capacity in the state for people with developmental disabilities, and enable a collaborative approach to identifying and promoting best practices in local communities.

According to the planned structure, each team will receive help in identifying needs related to implementing the Employment First initiative in their local community, establishing a Professional Development Action Plan, and guidance in creating an interagency agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities of each member agency. The results of these activities will benefit the entire state, as the information gained will help DODD to build a statewide training plan tied to specific positive employment outcomes.

The selected six teams represent the following counties and county partnerships: Lucas, Clark, Stark, Montgomery/Greene/Warren, Pickaway/Fayette, Coshocton/Knox/Tuscarawas.



According to the Taskforce and Advisory Committee members, choosing from among the 17 original applications was a difficult task, and the work of all those who assembled a team and responded to the questions from a multi-agency perspective was most appreciated. One additional team in Fairfield County also will be part of this learning process, per a recommendation from the Taskforce and selection committee. According to Kristen Helling, DODD lead-person for the Employment First initiative, Fairfield County has an established and active interagency team model that the Taskforce would like to study in greater detail.

More at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Health & Welfare

5. Improved Online Complaint/Incident Reporting System

The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) unit, a part of the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight, recently launched a new On-Line Complaint Reporting System to augment the reporting of issues concerning the health and safety of individuals served in the statewide DD system. It allows for more timely and improved documentation and tracking of issues and the individuals affected. [The online system](#) is under the ‘Health and Safety’ tab at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

Assistant Deputy Director for the MUI unit, Scott Phillips, noted, “Our work process has improved dramatically! I can’t say enough about how well IT staff here worked with us to have this be an easy-to-use reporting system.” He added,

“What’s great is that we can search on it easily, and track data. The hotlines are so important, and now we have this new tool – it’s really dynamic when people send attachments with the initial information, and it helps us to get the bigger picture of a given incident straight from the field, and often much more quickly.”

Phillips explained that of 191 entries into the system since its inception a couple of months ago, 21 were reported using the new online system. “We are pretty excited about the possibilities as we gather more information in this more systematic way.” All 88 County Boards of DD are using or are ready to use the system, and MUI unit staff report good results in following up on the complaints and incident situations with the value-added online system.

Contact: scott.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov

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What’s this handsome young man doing?
Find out in the newest issue of
Pipeline Quarterly,
reporting on spring 2013.
Read issues at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!
Click [HERE](#) for more info.



PostScripts

Public Hearing Announcement

A public hearing opportunity to provide input to Ohio's State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) will be held Wednesday, August 14, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, 150 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission are making changes to the 2014-2016 SPIL that will incorporate the Community Centers for the Deaf and the Personal Care Assistance Programs and they encourage your participation and input. Teleconference: 866-321-0015 or, in Franklin County dial (614) 785-5087. For viewing locations around the state; Call (614) 892-0390 or 800-566-7788.

Nominations Now Open, Advocacy and Service Awards

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has established the *Ben Bonanno Disability Advocate Award* to honor outstanding advocacy accomplishments by non-employees of RSC. Ben Bonanno was a former RSC Commissioner who advocated to improve employment possibilities for persons with disabilities. The *Award* recognizes a person whose advocacy efforts have significantly improved the employment possibilities of Ohioans with disabilities in a manner consistent with RSC's mission. *Deadline for submitting nominations is August 16, 2013.* RSC also has established the *Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award* to honor non-employees of RSC who provide outstanding services to Ohioans with disabilities to make their participation in society more meaningful. This award has been established in memory of Denise Weisenborn, who served as an RSC Commissioner from 1997 to 2006. For both awards, Contact Shirley Marchi, phone (614) 438.1477 or e-mail shirley.marchi@rsc.ohio.gov.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Awards Nominations **All nominations are due by July 31.**

The *Governor's Council on People with Disabilities* is now accepting applications for Annual Awards. These include: Employer of the Year; Public/Non-Profit Best Practices; Advocacy Award; Karla Lortz \$1000 Scholarship; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award; Accessible Parking Award; and, a new Accessible Medical Services Award. *All nominations are due by July 31*, and the Awards ceremony will be held in October, as part of RSC's DisAbility Jobs Summit. Applications are on the GCPD website at www.gcpd.ohio.gov – Go to the menu on the left, and the nomination form is under "AWARDS."

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks New Members

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), a planning and advocacy council committed to community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, is currently seeking applicants for new membership. To apply, visit their website at www.ddc.ohio.gov or contact Carla Cox at (614) 644-5538, or email carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov.

Family Advisory Council Meeting, August 20

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will host its next meeting on August 20 at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system. For more information, contact Peggy Martin at Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-8706.

Training, August 26-27: Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope

A training opportunity named, “Building Understanding, Resilience and Hope,” is geared toward developmental disabilities professionals as well as mental health professionals -- including case managers, SSAs, and other County Board of DD staff, program managers of day service and residential support agencies, and mental health clinicians. New approaches for understanding and supporting people with complex neurobehavioral conditions and histories of trauma and toxic stress will be discussed at the two-day training, August 26 – 27 at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. [Click here for registration information.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos complex in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, a writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. The event theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP’s will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do -- see [Directions for sharing videos](#). To register go to www.dspath.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAR/OSDA ‘Synergy’ Conference, October 2-4

Two non-profit organizations, PAR and OSDA, are hosting a statewide conference October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Both organizations have held annual conferences for many years and have provided training, professional development, and advocacy in the DD field. This year’s combined ‘Synergy’ conference will bring together a cross-section of all stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and DD professionals.

[The Annual ESDY Awards will be presented at this conference. To nominate someone ...](#)

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self-determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details on the OSDA website at www.ohiosda.org, coming soon. Completed nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013. Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org. All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (formerly RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission) has announced the dates for this year’s *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join ‘Autism Speaks’ on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years’ participants say, “Whether you strive to join the new “Grand Club” (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!” Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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. *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>



**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.
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News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov
To hear an alternative *Pipeline* audio format click here: [Pipeline Audio](#)

September 25, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 20

[See our new DD Service System Guide!](#)

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 - 4. National Preparedness Month 2013 Wraps Up
 - 5. Positive Exposure: Celebrating the Spirit of Difference
- New! Pipeline Posts ... PCBDD Reports Progress; Pipeline Quarterly Preview*
Pipeline PostScripts ... Calendar Updates

In October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This year's theme will be "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>

1. News from the Office of Health Transformation

As a partner agency in the [Office of Health Transformation](#) (OHT), DODD joins state agency partners: the departments of Health (ODH); Aging (ODA); Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and Job and Family Services (ODJFS); and, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in efforts to modernize the formerly fragmented system of Medicaid service delivery in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available, and to provide the best value to taxpayers.

Now in its third year of such partnerships, OHT's top priority continues to be to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges. One result of such efforts is transitioning residents who want to move out of larger, more institutional settings and into home- and community-based settings.

HOME Choice

A study of states participating in the federal [Money Follows the Person demonstration program](#) found Ohio to be, "...A national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home- and community-based settings," as reported by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM).

Ohio's **HOME Choice** program is funded by a federal grant which supports various needs and helps individuals leave larger facilities to enter community living. Ohio's program was found to rank first among states in the study specifically for, "... transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term care facilities into alternative settings..." and was second overall regarding the number of residents moved from institutions into home- and community-based settings, ODM reported. Since its inception in 2008 through December 2012, the Ohio program's 2,999 transitioned Medicaid beneficiaries was second only to Texas. Ohio's original goal was 2,200 residents.

According to the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA), since 2008, 298 individuals served in Ohio's DD services system have enrolled in HOME Choice, electing to access HOME Choice options.

MDA staff note, "We are working hard to increase those numbers through ongoing Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion efforts. We also refer to the HOME Choice program the names of individuals who have been determined to no longer need the services of a nursing facility."

Number of Home Choice Enrollments for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Year	Referrals	Enrollments
2008	47	47
2009	91	90
2010	38	38
2011	36	35
2012	94	88
Grand Total	306	298

HOME Choice has specific requirements regarding eligibility, including that the home must have no more than four people living in it. Sometimes service conversions occur, or individuals choose to move into settings with more than four individuals, so the numbers of referred and eligible people will not always match.

Ohio Department of Medicaid Launches New Website

Formerly a part of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS), the management of the state's Medicaid-funded programs is now overseen by the newly-formed Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). The Department now has launched Medicaid.ohio.gov, an easy-to-navigate website for Ohioans who want to know more about Medicaid, including the 2.3 million residents covered by the program, and a network for 75,000 providers doing business with the program.

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2. County Boards Needed to Participate in Insurance Enrollment Project

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in conjunction with DODD, is sponsoring a project to enroll individuals with developmental disabilities to the "Disabled Adult Child"* (DAC) insurance program managed by the Social Security Administration. DAC is a social security benefit available to adults with disabilities who have a living retired parent (or a deceased parent)

who qualifies for social security benefits. The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center is managing the project for both departments.

Since the project started last year, 37 individuals have been enrolled onto DAC, significantly enhancing the individual's monthly income, and saving the state of Ohio nearly a half million dollars. "The main advantage of the DAC program," says Debbie Jenkins, program manager at the Department, "is that the individual's monthly income is likely to increase as a result of the program since payments are based upon the parents' social security work history."

To qualify for DAC benefits the individual must:

- Have a disability that was established before the age of 22;
- Be single;
- Have a parent who is currently receiving or received Social Security benefits.

Although most individuals who qualify for DAC are automatically enrolled, about 15% of the eligible population is not enrolled.

"We estimate that there are several hundred individuals in waiver programs and ICFs that could be enrolled in DAC," observes Senior Program manager Barry Jamieson. The average individual monthly DAC benefit to date is \$876, which is significantly higher than the typical SSI monthly payment without DAC." He continues,

"An added bonus to being on DAC is that two years after establishing DAC eligibility date, the consumer qualifies for Medicare."

Marilyn Weber of MKW consulting, the enrollment contractor on the DAC initiative, indicates that providers and County Boards she has worked with have appreciated the additional benefits that go to the individual as a result of the enhanced monthly resource. "For waiver recipients, a couple of hundred dollars a month in enhanced benefits can really make a difference in the quality of life of the individual."

Over the past year, 18 private providers and nine County Boards have participated in the DAC project. Providers and County Boards who would like to participate may contact Barry Jamieson: barry.jamieson@osumc.edu or Marilyn Weber: Marilyn@MKWPATHWAYS.com.

Participation in the project is free until June 2014, when the initiative ends.

**"Disabled Adult Child" is the program terminology, and not the editorial style of DODD Pipeline.*

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3. Training Spotlights 'Things You Need to Know'

The Arc of Ohio Explores a Broad Menu of DD System Topics

Today in Worthington, an Arc of Ohio training event is brimming with information concerning services and supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, and the constantly changing Ohio DD services system. The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks introduced the morning as an exploration of 'the current' and 'the pending' – as well as the 'what could be.' A training opportunity for families and individuals served, and an information-sharing event for DD professionals, Tonks' opening remarks and advocacy update included,

“Today we will take a look at several topics that family members and providers such as yourselves have asked to learn more about. And as I see where we are now, as opposed to where we were three or four years ago in the Ohio DD system, I think we are seeing some good progress. Especially in terms of dollars funding needed programs that help families do the best they can for their family members with disabilities.”

A case in point is Respite Care through Medicaid Managed Care – an added respite benefit that has been developed to help families -- many of whom need more respite service availability than is possible through their local County Board’s Family Support Services (FSS) funds. Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) staff, Kinsey Jolliff and Christi Pepe, described the newly-developed service availability that is scheduled to be effective in January 2014. The newly-created state department has implemented Managed Care to include children with disabilities. Recognizing that families are the largest and most cost-effective providers of services, ODM has proposed providing respite care to families of children who are not currently served through waivers or living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).



Invited to ask questions at any time during the presentations ... the active group of more than 50 family members, individuals, and service providers began to do just that, as representatives from the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) presented information about “Respite Care through Medicaid Managed Care.”

TOP: ODM staffer Kinsey Jolliff, noted the goals of the New Respite Benefit, and adds, “We are working through the process for approval through CMS* and JCARR* for this to be up and running in January 2014.” He added,

“Our Director John McCarthy has listened to the concerns of families and the stakeholder community, and heard your voices. This is important to families.”

***CMS: Center for Medicaid Services; *JCARR: Joint Commission for Agency Rule Review**



LEFT: Arc staffer Dave Lewis passes the microphone to family members.

Information about goals of the respite benefit, eligibility, and the scope and limits of the proposed funding will be available online by October 1 at www.thearcofohio.org and at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/>.

Information regarding the [Transitions Developmental Disabilities \(TDD\)](#) waiver was presented by DODD lead person on the subject, Lori Horvath. Thousands of children and adults throughout Ohio, formerly served by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), are now being served through DODD and County Boards of DD. The overview looked at where we are now, and what families may expect in the coming year.

Also covered during the day: Provider Certification and what is necessary to become a certified Provider for various waivers (Angel Morgan, DODD); Special Needs Estate Planning (Kevin R. Bacon, legislator, attorney, and parent); Educational Advocacy (Blaine P. Brockman, attorney, and DD system advocate); and plenty of time for questions and answers.

DODD recognizes and appreciates the work of stakeholders such as The Arc of Ohio in informing and strengthening the knowledge base on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to Ohio's statewide system of developmental disabilities services.

For more information: <http://www.thearcofohio.org/>

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4. Preparedness Information for People with Disabilities

September, [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM), originally was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And in conjunction, FEMA's resulting [Ready Campaign](#) was developed to educate people on how to prepare for many different kinds of hazards and emergencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and [ReadyOhio](#) urge communities across the nation to take a Pledge of Preparedness.

See: [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities](#)

The ADA National Network has announced a new training session in the webinar series, "Emergency Management and Preparedness-Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities." The presentation will discuss the access and functional needs issues that must be considered by individuals, jurisdictions, emergency managers, and transportation workers in planning evacuation and transportation in emergencies. Information about the September 26 webinar is on-line at www.adaconferences.org/Emergency.



FEMA Recommends ...

Keep these items in a "Grab and Go" bag near your bed: First Aid kit, flashlight, battery-powered radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned food/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of your medical conditions, and emergency contact phone numbers. If you need to leave your home, have a one-week supply of medications readily available.

Staff working in Ohio's diverse developmental disabilities community have noted success focusing on activities that encourage individuals to prepare and maintain an emergency supply kit, practice an emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them. One SSA advised, "*It's very 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."

In addition, at www.ready.gov -- click the link "[Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People with Disabilities.](#)" There you'll find a brochure specific to people who have disabilities and other access/functional needs that could affect overall emergency preparedness.

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5. Positive Exposure: Celebrating the Spirit of Difference

The Ohio State University [Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program](#) has invited a unique gallery of photography, [Positive Exposure](#), to Columbus for two events focused on improving attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. Positive Exposure is a multimedia presentation that aims to redefine perceptions of beauty, and invite people to see individuals with genetic, cognitive, physical, and behavioral differences as vibrant and valuable members of society.

Along with the OSU Nisonger Center, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) encourage Ohioans with an interest in the positive culture of the state's disabilities community to take advantage of the opportunity to see this unique presentation at noon on Sunday, October 20. On that day the founder, director, and photographer of Positive Exposure -- Rick Guidotti -- will visit the [COSI Atrium](#) and discuss the multi-media gallery which will be on display there. In addition, Guidotti will present to medical students, faculty, and staff on October 21, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine's Prior Health Sciences Library, where a gallery of photographs will be displayed October 21 - November 27, 2013.

The organization notes that through this exhibit, medical students and staff will have the opportunity to see people with disabilities in a different light. They explain, "Often, individuals with genetic, physical, or behavioral differences are depicted in medical textbooks in ways that are dehumanizing or sad. While it is useful to learn about these conditions, it is important to consider the whole human being, not only the diagnosis."

Rick Guidotti was a fashion photographer in New York and Milan, until a chance encounter with a girl with [albinism](#) opened his eyes to the limited scope of beauty within fashion. Guidotti left the fashion world to travel around the globe challenging societal notions of beauty by photographing people with disabilities as people first and foremost -- people who do not define their lives by their conditions



Positive Exposure provides eye-opening multimedia presentations to challenge stigmas and assumptions often associated with people with disabilities. The organization's educational and advocacy programs reach worldwide to promote a more inclusive, compassionate world where differences are celebrated.



More at www.positiveexposure.org
<online photo courtesy, The Nisonger Center,
Rick Guidotti, photographer

More information at <http://nisonger.osu.edu/positive-exposure-06-2013>
Contact: Alexis Shaw, Wexner Medical Center, 614-293-3737, Alexis.Shaw2@osumc.edu

New! Pipeline Posts ...

Perry County DD Shares Progress on Bio-Digester Project

On September 17, Perry County Board of DD Superintendent David Couch reported ... "This morning we lit the heater in the bio-digester office, the first functional use of gas from Perco's bio-digester. (What's a bio-digester? Find out by clicking here: [Bio-Digester](#).) DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr and other staff from the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction were visiting here, and were present for the event. Also visiting were students and personnel from the Southern Local School District, including the cafeteria supervisor. Southern Local, along with the other three school districts in Perry County, will begin redirecting food waste from their cafeterias to the PerCo bio-digester in the near future. A Southern Local student had the honor of igniting the first use of the biogas."

NOTE: The anaerobic processing of food scraps, adding water and heat to produce methane gas, was planned ultimately to heat the PerCo Garden Center. And, best of all, it's another job-producing project. See the original story in *Pipeline*, June 5 2013, [article #3](#).



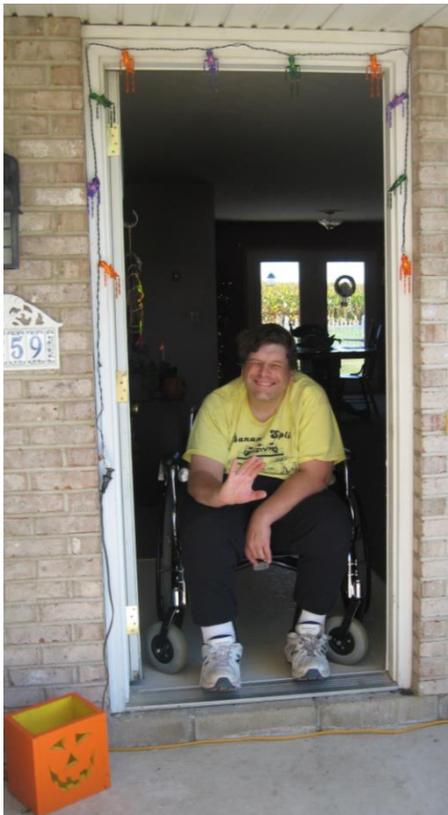
It looks like a greenhouse,
but actually ...
"It's a cool consortium of energy,
environment, and engineering!
And best of all, it will create jobs."
-Gil Fulecki

L. to R., Gil Fulecki, Bio-Digester project coordinator; Dave Couch, PCBDD Superintendent; State Representative Bill Hayes; and DODD Director John Martin stand beside the Bio-Digester unit, gearing up for an energy-producing summer.

Pipeline Quarterly Preview...

Transformational changes in residential services around the state will be the focus of a special edition of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon, and including articles featuring such efforts across the state. The new residential services options partly result from DODD's "Grand Bargain"-- a major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program. In response to input from the DD community, this historic agreement was negotiated with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in community-based settings. It includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Read more in the upcoming issue, reporting on summer 2013. All issues are archived at [Pipeline Quarterly](#).

*ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities



Welcome to my home!
"I just decorated for Halloween ..."
John explains, as he lights up the little skeletons surrounding his front doorway. John and Jim's home in Clinton County is one of several well-kept homes in the community where individuals are now living who previously were in larger congregate settings. Meet John and several other Wilmington-area residents who are pleased as can be living in their new environments. In the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*.



"Wait 'til you see what-all I put up for Christmas!"
-John

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PostScripts



The JJ Project – "How I Became a Pirate"

September 27-28

at the Knox County Community Theatre in Mount Vernon see this exciting, original production presented by MTV Arts. JJ is an 11-year-old boy with a dream to direct a theatre production. Now that dream is a reality.

Click here for: [Ticket and Show Information](#)

.....

Joni & Friends Ohio Presents “One Accord” Event, October 4-5

Individuals who have disabilities and are entrepreneurs/business owners may wish to consider being a part of the “One Accord/FUSE” conference on Friday, October 4. The first day of a two-day event will host a ‘Swappportunity,’ wherein participants will have an hour to share their information about their organizations, ideas, or projects in the process of development or marketing. It’s a way to connect with other like-minded people including those who have an interest in the disability community, and various related resources. To learn more or [to register, click here](#). Contact: Debra Petermann, Joni and Friends International Disability Center; (614) 259-5257, www.joniandfriends.org.

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! ‘Synergy’ Conference, October 2-4

The statewide *Synergy* conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of DD system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Sessions will provide useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The Synergy conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR. More at www.synergyohio.org.

DON’T MISS IT! The DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

More information at: [DJS brochure 2013](#)

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/index/employers/disability-jobs-summit>

The 2013 Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit will be October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center, sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission* The Summit will underscore the importance of job creation for individuals with disabilities as one of the top priorities of the Kasich Administration. Leaders from government and business will attend this event to discuss disability employment issues. It is RSC's goal for the event to bring together prospective employees and employers to forge a more mutually beneficial relationship.

**RSC will be re-named, ‘Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency’ as of October 1, 2013.*

Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities Annual Meeting, Oct. 8

In conjunction with the above DisAbility Jobs Summit, the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will be October 8, from 1:00 - 2:45 p.m. at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The organization’s annual awards also will be presented at the meeting, including: Employer(s) of the Year; Advocate of the Year; Accessible Medical Services; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership; Karla Lortz Scholarship; and, Legislator(s) of the Year. Reserve seats by registering before October 1 at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GovsAnnualMtg> Questions, contact Donna Foster, (614) 438-1394.

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, ‘Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery,’ encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. Also, a presentation on ‘Reentry and Supervision’ by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. Contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; tctaylor@mac.com.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13

Join ‘Autism Speaks’ on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

Next Chapter Book Club to Hold First-Ever Conference, October 18-19

The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with developmental disabilities. Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each other’s company and read aloud. (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009*, p. 8) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with DD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org.

Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS–APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., in Columbus. To register for the conference go to: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. The *full Conference Agenda* will be available soon. Additional speakers will address the topics of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

The 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, one of the largest statewide housing conferences in the nation, will be held November 5-7, 2013 in Columbus. Join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) at the Conference, themed “Rising Towards Tomorrow.” *For reduced rates, register before October 4.* Information and registration at: [Click Here](#). DHN also has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis & Summary. Read the report: [Click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It’s an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

Will You Be ‘Up All Night for Autism’? November 9

“UP ALL NIGHT FOR AUTISM” is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster’s Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information click [here](#).

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014
Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

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

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November 20, 2013
Volume 6, Issue 24

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 - 2. Ohio Medicaid to Begin Online Family Enrollment Ahead of Schedule
 - 3. *Special Feature:* Giving Thanks – Shared Stories from Around the State
- Pipeline PostScripts:* Events & Opportunities for Your Calendar

Happy Thanksgiving!

This annual Thanksgiving issue shares that for which we are ...



National Family Caregivers Month

1. Family Advisory Council Honors Family Caregivers

DODD salutes the efforts of Ohio's family caregivers.

National Family Caregivers Month recognizes the many family caregivers who balance full lives, including family caregiving responsibilities. More at <http://www.nfcares.org/>

Across Ohio and the nation, recognition of National Family Caregivers Month continues, highlighting the many individuals and families responsible for the health and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities, the elderly population, and others in need of special care. More than 65 million family caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members. Ohio's developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts *by* so many, and *for* so many.

At the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting on November 12 at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), attendees included many long-time family caregivers, as well as professionals, and others with an interest in Ohio's DD community. At the inter-active meeting, family members offered many interesting questions for presenters to consider. For example, DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan, received several questions on the subject of waiver services, provider and parent responsibilities, and gaps being addressed in the overall service system. He observed,

"It is very important to communicate at the local level with your service and Support Administrator (SSA) so that they know if your family's needs have changed, and if those changes would affect your waiver services. For example, if you are on the waiting list for services, certain changes or needs could affect your place on that list."



All in the Family

A 'blue ribbon group' of family caregivers paused momentarily at the Family Advisory Council meeting to be formally recognized for their efforts, during National Family Caregivers Month. Many are professionals in the field as well as parents or siblings to an individual with DD. Sporting blue ribbons, they acknowledged the many joys and challenges involved, and the collective strength of collaborative groups such as FAC.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin reinforced Stephan's advice and added, "And as a parent, you need to ask your service providers questions about their qualifications. Be pro-active, and carefully interview people who are going to be coming in to your home." (See additional helpful information online at: [Service Provider Interview Guide](#))

The meeting also included updates and information from Icilda Dickerson (Department of Medicaid) on the Ohio Respite Program; Lori Horvath, DODD, regarding the State Plan; Dave Zwyer, regarding Community Funds; Carolyn Knight on the subject of DD Council and the Waiting List Survey; and, Lara Palay with OCALI, regarding Trauma and Crisis.

Family Advisory Council welcomed several new faces at the meeting, and they participated actively – offering comments and questions, including:

"One thing to empower yourselves as parents is to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask your providers questions. Then trust your gut feelings. I think we need to trust our guts!"

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities system. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov; More resources at www.caregiveraction.org

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2. Ohio Medicaid to Begin Online Family Enrollment

Agency is Ahead of Schedule

The Office of Health Transformation was created in 2011, and is charged with carrying out the need to address Medicaid spending issues, plan for the long-term efficient administration of the Ohio Medicaid program, and act to improve overall health system performance in Ohio.

DODD is proud to be a state agency partner in this collaborative effort.

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) announced last week that low-income families will be able to apply for Medicaid benefits on the state's new online eligibility system beginning December 9, nearly one month ahead of schedule. Individuals who will newly-qualify for Medicaid under recent eligibility changes also may begin applying on December 9.

The online enrollment options are part of a new eligibility system that Ohio launched October 1. *Ohio Benefits* is a simple, self-service internet site that makes it easier for Ohioans to learn what type of health care coverage may be available to them. Originally, children and parents were scheduled to be allowed to apply for Medicaid benefits on the system starting January 1, 2014.

OHT Director Greg Moody has observed, "Ohio's health care coverage website is working well. That means we can extend the convenience of being able to start a Medicaid application online to more Ohio families, and ahead of schedule." The goal is for most Medicaid applications to be completed online, however, until the new federal system is functioning reliably, some cases will need to be resolved by county case managers. (View the OHT [Press Release](#))

While enrollment for the newly-eligible group is set to begin in December, coverage will not start until January 1, 2014. Beginning on December 9, prospective enrollees are encouraged to visit www.benefits.ohio.gov to see if they qualify.

State agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation include the Ohio departments of: Job and Family Services; Medicaid; Developmental Disabilities; Mental Health and Addiction Services; Aging; and, Health.

More information on this and other related subjects at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov

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[Special Feature](#)

3. Giving Thanks – Shared Stories from Across the State

In this issue closest to Thanksgiving Day, we highlight a few of the things for which we, at DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful. We also take this opportunity to thank you for your input during the year – many *Pipeline* articles are the result of reader input.



150 Years of Thanksgiving History

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as probably the first 'Thanksgiving' celebration in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national 'Thanksgiving Day' to be held each November. So, we have been celebrating officially for 150 years!

Thankful for Siblings

Ohio SIBS Give Thanks for Their Families

The 13th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (Ohio SIBS) Conference in Columbus, November 8-9, recognized and strengthened the unified voice for adult siblings of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Long-time SIBS conference attendee and presenter Peggy Martin shared that participants tell her each year that they are thankful for the opportunity to gather together and learn from each other. She noted, “The focus of the sibling conference is to talk about planning ... and having conversations with family members, early-on, about what will happen when their parents are gone. I spoke with two adult siblings who had recently lost their parents, and were looking for information. One of them had not had that advance conversation ... and now is dealing with the loss of her father, as well as with the needs of her sibling. She was especially thankful that the conference allowed her to find support in talking with others.”

Ohio SIBS' Linda Martens added, “Siblings enjoy the conference especially because they meet others with similar stories and experiences. This year, we spent time in small groups based on where people live, so that people from the Cincinnati area could meet others from the Cincinnati area, for example. Those groups plan to get together during the coming year to socialize and to provide support to each other.”



Sibling Sisters

Autumn (left) and Samantha Wilson attended the Ohio SIBS conference to support their brother Kristopher, age 19, from Richland County.

Ohio SIBS provides advocacy, education, leadership, and other useful information to promote enhanced quality of life for adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

Ohio County Boards Give Thanks to Their Communities

Thankful for Volunteers

From: Ross County Board of DD

The Pioneer Center (Ross Co. Board of DD) expresses its appreciation for Ginger Johnson and her Tiger Tracks organization. The Ross County Board serves more than 500 individuals, all of whom greatly benefit from the philanthropic efforts of Ginger Johnson and her group of volunteers. Ginger's most recent project was transforming a 21-stable barn into a Haunted House for the students of Pioneer, and adults in Easter Seals' Adult Day Support Program, bringing a crew of 15 volunteers, several of whom are individuals with DD, and dozens of local high school students. According to Patrick McFadden at the Ross County Board, “Without her help in so many projects, we wouldn't be able to offer the same level of opportunities to the families we have served over the past several years.”



Volunteer Honored

Ginger Johnson, at left, with RCDBB's Director of Education, Stacy Guerra.

"Her creative ideas, financial support, numerous hours, and unprecedented enthusiasm, enhance the image of the Pioneer Center and our community."

-Patrick McFadden, Ross County Board of DD

Program Participants Give Back to Community

From: Henry County Board of DD

Last month, individuals served by the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities/HOPE Services and staff participated in a Wellness Walk to benefit United Way's Cancer Care program. Donations were collected to support this fine service that provides direct financial assistance to cancer patients in Henry County. Through this endeavor, staff and friends of HOPE Services were able to give back to Henry County citizens, and say 'thank you' to United Way for its continued support of programs benefiting individuals with DD.



Happy to Give Back

Staff, participants, and friends of HOPE Services in Henry County say 'thank you' to United Way for its continued support of programs benefiting individuals with developmental disabilities.

Photo courtesy, Kaye Shroyer-Wesche, Hope Services, Henry County Board of DD

Thankful for an Accessible Playground

From: Preble County Board of DD

The sixth annual 'Track-n-Treat' had plenty of pirates, cheerleaders, vampires, super heroes and other characters gathering candy last month. Sponsored by the Preble County Board of DD, Track-n-Treat draws hundreds of children ages 0-10, and their families, from throughout the area. The Halloween event is held on the Susan Melzer Walking Path, located adjacent to the Accessible Playground in Eaton. "We are a small community, and Track-n-Treat happens because we are blessed with wonderful volunteers and staff that contribute to make it all happen," said Diane Knupp, Superintendent. "We continue to hear only positive comments from participants, and our goal is to add new attractions each year, to keep it exciting."



Thankful for Accessible Fun

Heather (left) and Kellie enjoy the Track-n-Treat event on the walking path of the accessible playground area in Preble County.

Thankful for Greater Independence

From: **Ottawa County Board of DD**

Michael Metzger, a participant in Ottawa County Board of DD services, recently took a moment to think about what he is thankful for. He answered, "Family, friends, and my ability to drive and have fun!" Mike enjoys spending time with his mom, his brother, his girlfriend and best friend of 14 years -- Lisa, and his support team members at the County Board. Mike lives with three roommates and his cat, Garfield, in Port Clinton. He explained that his relationship with Lisa works well because they use their strengths to take care of each other. One thing they especially enjoy together is Weird Al Yankovich concerts... and recently saw him perform in the Akron area. Lastly, Mike doesn't take for granted the ability to drive, as it allows him to do many things in the community. He works, attends self-advocacy meetings, helps his mother with doctor appointments, and of course, drives for dates! When not working, Mike is very involved in self-advocacy groups in both Ottawa and Erie Counties, and is thankful for the opportunity to begin attending Project STIR this month.



Thankful for Self-Advocates Like Mike & Lisa

Mike also is grateful to staff who have helped him connect with others to learn additional skills and become more independent. He is working hard at becoming more independent so that one day, he may live on his own and marry his best friend, Lisa!

Thankful for a Caring Community

From: Butler County Board of DD

Butler County staff member Scott Osterfeld shares this: “Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we have a tradition of reaching out to those individuals with disabilities and their families who are in need. Our goal is to give them a clear message that they are valued and loved. There are several ways we ask our community to participate, and they include providing a basket of supplies so a family can prepare their own meal ... cooking a meal for an individual or family ... and/or purchasing a prepared Thanksgiving meal at a store that makes complete Thanksgiving meals for families in need. By encouraging and supporting these efforts, many Butler County families will have a heartier holiday.”

Residents at Ohio Developmental Centers Give Thanks

Residents Weigh-In on Being Thankful

From: Cambridge Developmental Center



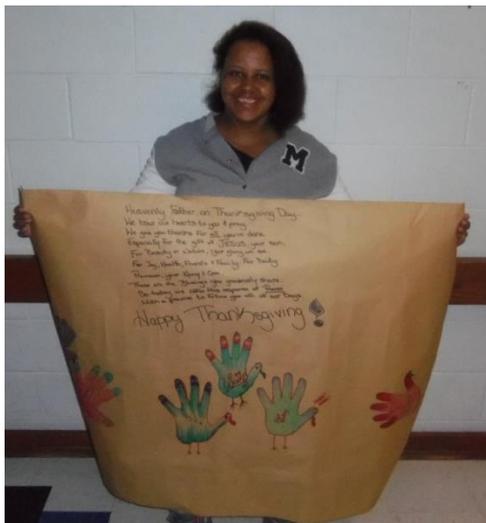
Shane (far left), a resident at Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC), sends this note along ...

“I am thankful for my family, my home, and my staff that help me.”

Walter, also a CaDC resident, adds ...

“I am thankful for my health, my family, and all the great people in my life. Be grateful for all the things you have.”

From: Columbus Developmental Center



A Poem of Thanks

CDC resident Wuby Fisher wrote a poem to share with her family at Thanksgiving. She said, “I am SO thankful for my parents who adopted me from another country, and brought me to a place that I Love! When my family gets together they talk, play games, and love each other.” Wuby adds that she also is very thankful for her extended family at CDC.

From: Tiffin Developmental Center



Tiffin Thanksgiving Tree

Tiffin Developmental Center senior citizens created a “Thanksgiving Tree” this year to celebrate the holiday. Each of them made a leaf with their name on it to hang on the tree ... illustrating that they are all thankful for each other.

Pictured are three of the seniors who helped make the tree, (left to right), Moses G., John H., and David N.

Service Providers Share Their Thoughts

Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others

From: Midwest Innovations – Thankful for Andrew’s Progress

According to staff at Midwest Innovations, “Andrew has been doing so well this past month. He was able to participate in all of the many activities and outings that we had planned. And, he is always so upbeat! For example, last week he told us that he loves to work here, ‘...because all the beautiful girls work here too.’ Andrew even surprised us all by walking with one of the staff members to and from a tree to pick some apples at Bauman Orchards (Medina/Wayne County).”



Progress Afoot!

Andrew is shown here walking with a staff member to pick apples at Bauman Orchards.

Andrew usually uses a wheelchair, but can walk for short distances if someone holds his hand for balance. He thought it was cool that he could walk and pick this apple (staff person is holding it so Andrew can balance on the walk back).

Way to go, Andrew!

From: TAC Industries Inc., Clark County

Michael Rose, an employee at TAC Industries in Clark County shared his thoughts with guests during their annual Veteran’s Day Recognition Event. “Good Morning. My name is Michael Rose, and I am a member of the TAC Advisory Board. I am very proud and thankful for all the military servicemen and women that have fought and are fighting to preserve our freedoms. Veteran’s Day reminds us of all the brave soldiers who fought and died so that America’s families could feel safe and protected. More than ever before, our brave servicemen and women deserve our heartfelt thanks for the dangerous work that they do every single day. Thank you for your service!”

From: Multiple Providers, Franklin County

A large Provider Fair was held in Franklin County last week, offering an aggregate opportunity for individuals and families to meet with more than 100 service providers and related vendors. The event drew a large crowd, and according to Lilian Beck at the Franklin County Board of DD, “We are very pleased with this first effort at a large-scale event like this, and we’ve already been asked to keep this momentum going and contribute ideas to similar efforts, elsewhere!”



Thankful for Service Providers

“I’m hoping that many more of these collaborative gatherings are made available to individuals and families around the state, so that face-to-face communication can occur between people who have specific needs and interests, and those that provide them. The Franklin County event was very exciting for that reason! I looked around and saw so many people connecting that way.”

-Peggy Martin, Family Advocate

Moving Ahead with the Employment First Initiative

Thankful for New Employment Opportunities

From: The Statewide Jobs Summit, led by OOD

In September, the second annual DisAbility Jobs Summit, hosted by the Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (OOD) Agency, provided many opportunities for networking, and focused on Ohio’s talented pool of potential employees with developmental disabilities that is just beginning to be tapped. And, these potential employees expressed thanks for the Kasich Administration’s *Employment First* initiative and its statewide reach. New employment opportunities for individuals around the state will help to change the culture, and offer meaningful jobs in local communities such as those noted below, from earlier issues of *Pipeline*.



“What do I need? More employees like Mark!”
-Mike LaRosa



Thankful for Great Employers and Employees

(Left) Michael Richards, with a customer in his own M&A Small Machine Repair Shop, in Highland County; Mark Kayes, an employee with LaRosa's Pizza, with owner Mike LaRosa, in Cincinnati.

Ohio Artists with DD Share Their Talents

Thankful for Artistic Opportunities

From: **The Rendville Art Works Annual Gallery Show at Granville's Bryn Du Mansion**

This past weekend, the **Rendville Art Works** artists visited Granville for the seventh November in a row. The artists make the trip up Route 13 North from their busy art studio in Perry County to the spacious Bryn Du Mansion in Granville (Licking County) for their annual gallery show and sale. This is no small feat, as there are many pieces to be packed and unpacked - some quite large. Many of the talented artists attend and help set up the gallery. Rendville Art Works Director Joel Yeager explains, "There's probably no more receptive a community in which to stage an art show!" All proceeds from art purchases go to the Rendville artists, themselves.



Thankful for Artistic Talent

Created by various Rendville studio artists, this colorful piece was part of a large, inter-active assemblage. Gallery attendee and self-advocate, Christy Riley, illustrates size of the piece, including one large slab of wood.

Color it WILD!

Brutus Buckeye is Thankful for ... Left-Overs

... And the fact that The Big Game is *after* Thanksgiving, and there are plenty of left-overs for him to enjoy while watching. Here, a bronzed Brutus is lounging, permanently, on a bench in the OSU Student Union on Main Campus, main floor.



Did You Know?

The Ohio State University's student union building has been ranked in third place in the "Top 25 Most Amazing University Student Unions" in the country, by *The Best College Reviews*.

Oklahoma State University and West Virginia University were ranked first and second, respectively.

Thankful for People like Alice Herz Sommer

At age 108, Holocaust survivor Alice Herz Sommer still practices piano for three hours every day. At age 104, she had a book written about her life: *"A Garden Of Eden In Hell."* At age 83, she had cancer. Alice survived the concentration camps through her music, her optimism and her gratitude for the small things that came her way - a smile, a kind word, the sun. When asked about the secret of her longevity, Alice said, "I look where it is good."

See the story and link shared by Tina Evans, DODD: <http://www.dailygood.org/more.php?n=5763a>

PostScripts

☞ Ohio Public Images' Call for Entries, Media and Awareness Awards

Ohio Public Images, Inc. (OPI), an information and advocacy organization encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 'Call for Entries' for its annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013*. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. Look for the official 'Call for Entries' on the OPI website at [this link](#). More information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>. 2

☞ OCALICON – November 20-22

"OCALICON 2013," a national autism and disabilities conference, will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, November 20th - 22nd. The conference will feature more than 100 concurrent panel, and interactive discussion sessions. For more information, call (614) 410-0321, or visit www.ocali.org.

☞ SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30-year anniversary. Among the many scheduled presentations will be the *Disability Housing Network's track of housing sessions on Thursday, December 5, 2013*. Details for the three-day event are now at <http://www.oacbddd.org/>

And, Save This Date: March 4, 2014 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day

The poster features a dark blue banner at the top with the text "DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY" in white. Below this is a vertical gold bar on the left with the text "SAVE THE DATE" written vertically. The main content area includes a photograph of a classical column, the text "Details Coming Soon!", "Tuesday, March 4, 2014", and "Ohio Statehouse". It also includes social media information: "Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness" and "Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations including The Arc Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, ucedd, and Ohio SIBS.

☞ Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are

asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, 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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December 4, 2013
Volume 6, Issue 25

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 - 5. [30th Annual OACB Conference Spotlights Collaboration](#)
 - 6. [Tips for Safe and Healthy Holidays](#)
- Pipeline PostScripts: Events & Opportunities for Your Calendar*

Coming December 18 – The Year in Review A walk through 2013, via Pipeline

[DCs as Community Resources](#)

1. Community Resource Coordinators Strengthen Efforts

A long-term commitment to ensure successful community placements.

The DODD Division of Residential Resources (see [Pipeline](#), February 15, 2012) is continuing its focus as a statewide community resource for individuals served in Ohio's Developmental Centers and their families, with the creation of ten Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) positions. Each of the new CRCs has been assigned to a Developmental Center (DC) to serve as a liaison between that facility and the local community.

One of the first major projects several of the Community Resource Coordinators are involved with is the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Homes Project. Currently, there are seven DCs at which interested residents will have opportunities to move into a smaller, six-bed ICF home. These smaller settings will be operated by private providers who will be closely involved with the CRCs. According to the Division's Deputy Director, Ginnie Whisman,

“This represents a long-term commitment for both DODD and the provider to ensure community placement is as successful as possible.”

Whisman explains that efforts toward the voluntary conversion of ICFs, and the gradual downsizing at DODD-operated Developmental Centers are moving forward with the focus on a more holistic approach to individuals' needs in community-based, smaller settings. At the outset of this process she commented, “I think that what the Division of Residential Resources is bringing to the table now, is a more integrated approach to services – to ensure that appropriate

services are available to individuals according to their needs – and in their communities. We are looking at all the elements of how we operate on a daily basis to assure this approach.”

Another area several CRCs are overseeing is smaller waiver-funded homes. These homes also are operated by a designated private provider, and have long-term agreements with DODD to help ensure that the transition of an individual from the Developmental Center to a new home is successful. According to Sara Lawson, DODD Residential Resource Administrator,

“One of the most important areas the Community Resource Coordinators now oversee is the follow-up after an individual leaves a Developmental Center. This entails meeting with the individual, speaking with the family or guardian, the service provider, and the appropriate County Board about the individual’s progress after leaving a DC.”

She continued, “There is a series of required reviews set forth by the Department, and special reviews can be completed based on individual situations. This ensures the close monitoring of an individual’s health and safety, and assists in a smooth transition.”



They’re Ready to Hit the Road!

Prior to embarking on their new assignments (one to each Developmental Center), the new Community Resource Coordinators are packed up and ready to go.

Back row, from left: Tim Perna (Northwest Ohio DC); Jan Ieraci (Youngstown DC); Esther Adkins (Montgomery DC); Kim Morgan (Warrensville DC); Kelly McGuire (Gallipolis DC); Arlene Bowen (Mount Vernon DC);

Front row, from left: Rob Robbins (Cambridge DC); Roz Gase (Tiffin DC); Heather Krenwinkle (Southwest Ohio DC); and Amanda Kelley (Columbus DC).

According to Whisman, many of the Community Resource Coordinators have been involved in related efforts, including being part of the following statewide DODD projects:

- The *Supports Intensity Scale* (SIS) – More than 600 interviews were completed over the three years of this grant designed to evaluate supports needed for a person to participate fully in life, rather than focusing on what a person is unable to do. See related SIS story in [Pipeline, October 24, 2012](#).
- The *Individual Assessment Form* (IAF) – more than 6000 assessments were completed with private ICF homes;
- The *Ohio Developmental Disability Profile* (ODDP) and *Acuity Assessment Instrument* (AAI) – helping providers completing these assessments in the conversion of ICF Homes to IO waiver-funded homes; and,

- *Regional Resources* - Assisting individuals in the community if they become involved in crisis situations. This includes assessment, assistance with families and County Boards of DD, and as-needed, assisting in a short-term stabilization admission at a DC.

Brent Baer, Assistant Deputy Director in the Department’s Division of Residential Resources, sums up the statewide approach to service improvement via the Community Resource Coordinators,

“With assistance from many of our stakeholders, including the residents we serve, we continue develop and create new community-based options. The Community Resource Coordinators are a dedicated group of individuals who believe in their work, and in the creation of those options. They work to support the mission that all of their actions and expectations are to assist individuals to be safe, happy and successful in their own ways.”

More about Ohio’s Developmental Centers at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/default.aspx>

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2. Provider Fairs - A Growing Venue for Expanding Choices

Largest-Ever Franklin County Provider Fair Creates Interest in Replication

A Franklin County Provider Fair held November 14th, from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus was the first comprehensive county-wide effort in more than eight years. Organized by the Franklin County Board of DD (FCBDD) the fair was designed to provide an opportunity for individuals, families, Service Coordinators, and other DD professionals to meet with a broad range of providers, with the goal of reducing the level of stress and difficulty in finding ‘the right provider’ for an individual’s needs.

According to one of the lead event planners, FCBDD Service Coordinator Lilian Beck,

“There are approximately 4000 providers of waiver services in Franklin County, and at any given time there are many thousands of individuals enrolled on various waivers ... so the provider selection process can be daunting! We tried to organize the Provider Fair to be easy to navigate, and easy to locate providers of specific services that an individual or family might be most interested in.”

The Franklin County Provider Fair included 110 agency and independent providers, representing waiver services for the Individual Options (IO), Level 1, Transitions DD, Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF), and Ohio Home Care waivers. Service areas defined in statute, such as Homemaker-Personal Care, Non-Medical Transportation, Supported Employment services, Adult Day Support, and Nursing, were color-coded by balloons at each provider’s table, as well as on a master list provided to each guest attending the fair. This system made it easier for guests to find the specific services they were looking for, and meet as many potential providers as possible. Several FCBDD Service Coordinators also volunteered at the fair to serve as guides, and provide assistance with attendees’ questions.

According to planners, at least 500 people attended the fair, representing approximately 200 individuals receiving services, along with family members, FCBDD staff, and other DD community professionals. Augmenting the overall fair experience, a collaborative community art mural was created and displayed on-site, and members of the [Ohio Self Determination Association](#) (OSDA) provided information and support at the event.

Replicating a Comprehensive Provider Fair Experience

The Franklin County Provider Fair was organized by a planning committee headed by FCBDD Service Coordination staff including Lilian Beck, Alex Corwin, Lindsay Holt, Amy Yenkin, and Renee Aukerman, and FCBDD Administration staff Larry Macintosh and Joni Sparks, along with a small group of representatives from the area's provider agencies. Because many providers within the state's DD community specialize in certain waiver services, and because system changes prompt different approaches to services offered, events such as this one likely will become increasingly useful for individuals and families.



Making Meaningful Connections

Due to the success of the recent Franklin County Provider Fair, the FCBDD planning committee looks forward to collecting all of the event feedback and ideas, and then to begin spreading the word for the next one. Feedback like this was frequently noted on event follow-up surveys:

“This is awesome! I learned so much! The map with service colors matching the balloons at the tables was very helpful. Everyone was so informative, and if they could not help me they directed me to someone who could.”

Following the Provider Fair, FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison commented, “It is so important for individuals and families to have opportunities to talk face-to-face with potential service providers. Negotiating the world of waiver services -- and so many potential providers -- is not easy. We're very pleased to have been able to organize a venue like this as a good resource for them.”

According to planners Beck and Corwin, “We have met to de-brief from this fair and have decided to plan another one in Spring/Summer 2014. We're thinking it will be a ‘niche’ fair -- maybe focusing on Employment and Adult Day Support, or services for children/youth. In any event, the providers told us that they wanted ... ‘More opportunities like this fair to get in front of people who need services ...’ and we're going to make sure that opportunity is offered.”

County Boards and other partnering geographic entities that may wish to follow the model of organization developed by planners of this successful fair are invited to contact:

Lilian.Beck@cbdd.org or Alex.Corwin@cbdd.org.

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3. HOME Choice Program Empowers Community Living First Conference of Its Type in Ohio

The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council hosted a community living conference on November 21, in Columbus, focused on providing information to people with disabilities and older adults who are considering moving from nursing homes or other institutions to independent community living -- through help from the HOME Choice program. This was Ohio's first such conference, as noted during welcome comments by John McCarthy, Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Participants included more than 200 HOME Choice service and health care providers, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and many individuals served in the statewide system, along with their families and caregivers. Informational sessions featured topics including:

- Changes in funding structures within Medicaid, including a single point-of-entry for Managed Care plans/waivers;
- Developing best practices in working with personal care attendants;
- Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities;
- Respite care; and,
- HOME Choice eligibility criteria.

In addition, the conference debuted two new videos featuring four 'stories of recovery,' ultimately showcasing independence gained through Ohio's HOME Choice program. According to conference attendee Elizabeth Sammons, even the more light-hearted keynote address by Alex Valdez, a comedian who is blind, focused on the importance of independence in everyone's lives, and addressed the disability that can be most harmful -- "the paralysis of fear" -- and how to combat risk-avoidance with a little support.

*More information at <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOROHIOANS/Programs/HomeChoice.aspx>
Acknowledgements to elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov*

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4. Public Hearing on Rules, Including Employment First

A public hearing on proposed rule actions will be held December 27, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration. They include:

Rule 5123:2-2-05 entitled "Employment First" is a proposed new rule. The rule implements Ohio's Employment First policy, established in Section 5123.022 of the Revised Code, that employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities be directed at community employment and that individuals with developmental disabilities are presumed capable of community employment.

Rule 5123:1-1-03 entitled "Distribution of Community Assistance Funds for the Acquisition of Housing" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same

number. The rule sets forth a process for the Department to make community assistance funds available to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to acquire housing for individuals receiving supported living. The rule has been updated to correct references and citations, including references to the Department, and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

**The proposed new rules are posted on the DODD website at: [Rules Under Development](#)
It is anticipated that the new rules will be effective in early February, 2014.**

As part of the process to successfully implement Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#) in a consistent manner across the state, DODD has drafted the new administrative rule *5123:2-2-05* in collaboration with stakeholders.

The purpose of a new stand-alone rule is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to be engaged in competitive employment that takes place in integrated settings. "Stakeholders have told us that the importance of the Employment First initiative warranted a new rule, rather than burying the information within an existing rule," noted DODD Administrative Rules Coordinator Becky Phillips.

In addition, Kristen Helling, DODD Community Advisor in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction and lead person for the Employment First initiative, noted, "The new Employment First rule will help to assure that all individuals with a developmental disability have an opportunity to achieve their desired employment goals."

More about DODD Rules at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/Pages/default.aspx>

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5. 30th Annual OACB Convention Spotlights Collaboration

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference is today through December 6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus, and celebrates the Conference's 30th year. The many scheduled informational sessions and presentations focus on ideas and information designed to help attendees continue to improve services for individuals and families in their communities, and around the state. Details about the conference are at [OACB conference information](#).

At today's opening session, DODD Director John Martin highlighted a few points in his presentation, focusing on examples of OACB's transformational changes over the Association's 30 years of service within the state's developmental disabilities system. He stated,

"The role OACB has played over the years has been a remarkable one. What I have observed is that you all have changed and evolved as a collective and collaborative system, while maintaining your strengths as individual County Boards. I also appreciate your creativity in meeting financial and other challenges over the years, and the resulting sharing of ideas and other resources that continues to benefit the people we serve."

Director Martin added that OACB members can be especially proud of the support that local communities have shown through the passage of many local County Board levy issues during the 30-year period. He noted, "Looking at the data, it is clear that local taxpayers have seen the value in what you do for people with developmental disabilities in your communities, and are willing to support those efforts. That is a strong, positive message."

More conference information at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>

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[Health & Safety](#)

6. Tips for Safe and Happy Holidays

Many residential service providers and families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities have shared with DODD over the years that the holiday season offers one of the best opportunities to involve those individuals in special activities such as decorating, baking, singing carols, and attending unique faith-based programs. To assure that all of these opportunities are safe and happy ones, the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Registry Unit provides these reminders for an extra measure of care and safety during the holidays.



- Never use lighted candles near an inside evergreen tree ('live' or not!), or near wrapping paper, or where candles can be blown or knocked over.
- Before lighting a fireplace, check to see if the flue is open, and keep a screen in front of it while the fire is burning.
- Never burn wrapping paper - it ignites quickly and burns intensely.
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety. Check old lights and cords for cracks, frays or bare wires – if you find any, discard! Do not overload extension cords. Turn off lights when you leave the house and before going to bed.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, and keep “bubbling” lights away from children -- they are a temptation.
- Practice an escape plan in case of an emergency. Even if you may have done so before the holidays, decorations and trees may change the path to doors and windows.

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips notes, “During the holiday season, our enthusiasm sometimes causes us to forget to keep ourselves -- and those in our care -- safe. Take the time to share important safety information with everyone in your home, and be mindful of potential hazards.”

Minimize Risk!

A helpful chronological listing of seasonal and other Health & Welfare Alerts, covering areas in which DODD has identified a risk to people, and what can be done to avoid or minimize that risk, is online at [Health & Welfare Alerts](#).

Additional information is at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Pages/Information-Notices.aspx>

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DD Awareness Month Theme Announced for 2014

The 2014 theme is, “Ability@Work.” The concept is designed to be used all year, if desired.

Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive perceptions and awareness of people with developmental disabilities.

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. In 2013 the theme has been “*Look Beyond*,” and was used widely throughout the state, often customized by local County Boards of DD and other service providers, to unify and brand their local efforts. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for customization. The basic artwork is available free, online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org. This year OPI is encouraging a year-long DD awareness effort, and will roll out sample ideas and information this month, both online, and at events to be scheduled in 2014.

Call for Entries, Media and Awareness Awards – Entry Deadline, January 10, 2014

The OPI ‘*Call for Entries*’ for the organization’s annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013* is now underway. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. Look for the official ‘*Call for Entries*’ on the OPI website [at this link](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org). More information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/> - click on ‘Ohio Awards.’

DODD Family Advisory Council, Next Meeting is January 14, 2014

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) will be in its 12th year in 2014, and starts the year with a meeting on January 14th. Included on the agenda will be an open discussion with service providers and provider association representatives, as well as an overview of the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. *FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.* We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. *Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov.*

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day 2014

Save the Date! March 4, 2014

DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Details Coming Soon!
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Ohio Statehouse

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness
Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

The Arc, Disability Rights Ohio, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, Ohio SIBS, ucedd

Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, 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 ... 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. *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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Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

December 18, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 26

In This Issue ...

- 1. Strategic Planning Group Addresses Key Issues
 - 2. The Arc of Ohio Training Explores Change and New Directions
- Special Feature: 2013 – The Year in Review, Month to Month ... & Bonus ‘Holiday Spirit’**
January; February; March; April; May; June; July; August; September; October; November; December
You can skip to each month by clicking above on desired month. Click ‘Return to Top’ as desired.

Wishing You Safe & Happy Holidays!

1. Strategic Planning Group Addresses Key Issues

Second Meeting Gets Work Well-Underway

As DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community in efforts to help set strategic direction and improve the overall service system, Director John Martin and key staff have begun meetings with stakeholders in a Strategic Planning Leadership Group, aimed at planning and providing oversight for the work ahead in 2014.

The group is meeting monthly to focus on key areas for emphasis, and at the December meeting, the focus was on the aging population within the developmental disabilities community -- including individuals served, their caregivers, and encompassing overall workforce issues. Director Martin asked for input regarding how the group could best work together over the long-term to address these issues, and asked, “What trends do we see? What are Ohio’s strengths and shortcomings, and what are our opportunities?”

The enthusiastic group prepared and presented key concepts that they had either experienced personally, or had data to support, including this from participant Diana Mairose, representing the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) ...

“As we work together I hope we follow this advice: ‘If you don’t know, ask! That’s what I do.” She added, “We can challenge the idea without challenging the person.”

And on the subject of recommendations for older parents who have adult children living in the family home, parent-advocate Pat Cloppert of the Autism Society/Central Ohio, shared this ...

“If you have guardianship paperwork that is several years old, it needs to be reviewed and probably updated. Don’t do this in a vacuum – let other family members and close friends know what you have arranged, and assure that the information is clearly stated for all – including the individual family member affected.”



Left: Diana Mairose (pointing) explains what it means to actively listen and learn in a group planning process, as discussed at their work table. One bit of advice –

“If you don’t know ... ask!”

Right: Sadie Hunter (at left) and Tami Grogg remind planners that it's important to state what people CAN do, rather than what they cannot do. They agree –

“Allow input from everyone ... and listen to them.”

Approximately 20 people representing more than ten organizations comprise the new strategic leadership team. It captures a broad mix of people involved in providing services, individuals participating in services, family members, and agency staff representatives. Meeting over the next 12 months, the group’s focus will include establishing a vision for the future -- and preliminary steps, next biennium, to start in that direction.

To offer up-to-date information on the work of the Strategic Planning Leadership Group, an [online webpage](#)* has been developed and features meeting presentations, discussions, and other materials. It will serve as a transparent resource throughout the 2014 timeframe. Feedback on content is welcome, and may be addressed to Chris Murphy at chris.murphy@dodd.ohio.gov .

* URL is: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/SPLG.aspx>

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2. The Arc Training Explores Change and New Directions

December 11 at the Holiday Inn, Worthington The Arc of Ohio hosted a large group of family members of people with developmental disabilities from across the state, who receive DD services. Presenting updates on programs, initiatives, budget issues, and state and national trends was DODD Director John Martin, who shared information about progress in the *Strong Families, Safe Communities* initiative begun earlier this year, and looked ahead to the work of the newly-formed Strategic Planning Group (*see article #1 in this issue*).

Strong Families, Safe Communities is funded by a total of \$5 million in federal dollars for community projects aimed at helping young people at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. The *Strong Families, Safe Communities* grant funds support crisis intervention, family mentoring, and screening programs along with other services in 20 counties. It is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money from Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) awards to help stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans resulting in stronger families and safer communities.

DODD Director John Martin noted that all but a few areas of the state applied for the grant money, adding, "That told us there's significant need out there in our local communities for something like this. Not only that, but we were especially looking for projects that showed cross-agency and cross-county collaboration, as well as specific approaches for positive outcomes for these individuals."

In addition, Director Martin stated that the funded entities have recently provided their first quarterly progress reports, and early data is being explored for how effective these approaches are, and what efforts seem to be working most effectively.

Commenting on the Strategic Planning Group efforts over the past two months, Director Martin observed that meetings already have begun to pinpoint key areas for recommendations in the coming months, building toward a two-year and a 10-year plan. Wrapping up an active 'Question & Answer' period, he noted,

"We are looking at what will be sustainable approaches, best practices, and creative and collaborative ideas that can move our system forward."

Following Director Martin's comments, The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks introduced the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) Director, Kevin Miller. Director Miller addressed several topics under the overall umbrella of employment, and especially transitional services for young people in Ohio's DD service system.

He noted, "Career guidance is so important. We need to be creative, realistic, and supportive at the same time when talking to young people and their families. Opportunities are out there, and what we as an agency are focusing on is what might be possible for each individual, and then getting employers on board with what those opportunities can mean for them, as well."

The full day of training and discussion also included information on waiver services, Medicaid benefits, and the many online resources now available, including those at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

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Special Feature **2013 Year in Review**

The *Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals, priorities, and key issues within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD. Take a snapshot of 2013 via these shortened versions of selected articles, representing each month.

NOTE: The complete version of each issue is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>

-January-

[Pipeline, January 2, 2013](#)

Office of Health Transformation Looks Ahead

Governor John Kasich commented during a year-in-review event late last month that collective efforts to stabilize the state's finances, shrink the size of government, and encourage business growth have begun to show real progress, with more expected in 2013. Among many *2012 accomplishments* Governor Kasich noted a savings of \$500 million in Medicaid expenditures; integrating benefits for Ohioans eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid; and, the *Employment First* initiative. The initiative was signed in March 2012, making it *a priority* for people with developmental disabilities to work in community-based jobs, rather than in the system's more traditional 'workshop' environment. He stated,

"It's clear that Ohio is in a period of transformation. When you're in the middle of transformation, you can't slow down. You gain as much ground as you can. And frankly, we have a lot more transformation to do in this state."

Autism Services Announcement

In line with the Administration's human services approach, Governor Kasich announced on December 21 (see [Governor Kasich announces autism services are an essential benefit](#)) that Ohio children with autism and their families now will have access to needed services with changes that will affect state employee health insurance and health insurance sold in the private market, as well as health insurance sold through the upcoming federally-managed health insurance exchange. Ohio already provides access to autism-related services for approximately 40% of Ohio's children through its Medicaid program. DODD Director John Martin commented regarding the announcement, "All of those services blend together to provide a very comprehensive package for kids with autism and their families."

Grant Increases Enrollment of Children in Medicaid

Ohio will again receive bonus funds from the federal government for enrolling and keeping more children in the Medicaid program, with a grant totaling \$17.9 million. The awarding of funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) grant is the third the state has received in as many years. Commenting on the award, Medicaid Director John McCarthy stated, "We have been able to use previous awards to launch innovative programs that will improve health care for children and adults, allowing more Ohioans to lead healthy lives."

Winter Weather Safety – Technology Tips and Reminders

As Ohio ‘weathers’ winter weather, the DODD Office of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit reminds everyone to keep Health & Safety *Priority #1*. It is important to exercise extra caution when transporting individuals outdoors in the cold, and providing cold weather care in general.

Preparation and planning helps keep people safe, and new technologies can help to assure that plans are followed and more options are available. Click here> [Winter Weather Alerts](#)

Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5th

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, January 2, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, January 16, 2013](#)

Autism Services Update, More State and National News

Ceremonial Signing, Autism Services Mandate

Following his announcement last month regarding insurance coverage for services to Ohio children with autism and their families, Governor John Kasich last week joined autism advocates and state lawmakers at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus for a ceremonial signing of the document that authorizes health insurance companies to cover autism therapies and treatments in the coming years.

Governor Kasich, Director Moody Convene Leaders to Coordinate Payment Innovation

Last week, Governor Kasich and Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody met with Ohio business executives, health care leaders, and patient advocates to coordinate a strategy for health care payment innovation. OHT analysis of the current fee-for-service system finds that it rewards “more care” not “better care.” Working to improve this system, the Governor's Advisory Council on Health Care Payment Innovation will play a lead role in the Administration's efforts to advance innovative payment strategies that reward value measured by better health, better care, and cost savings through improvement.

National Scene: Campaign Encourages Youth with Disabilities to Pursue Career

Because is a new public service effort from the Campaign for Disability Employment, in the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) that features seven people with disabilities who are pursuing and realizing their goals because someone believed in them and urged them to set high expectations. Focused on transition-age youth, *Because* challenges viewers to re-think what people with disabilities can accomplish, and suggests how each of us can inspire others to success. More at www.dol.gov/odep.

[Part II of a Series](#)

Expanding Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project, Statewide

Now Includes All 88 Ohio Counties, Children Under Age 18

As noted in Part I (Pipeline, December 5, 2012) of this series, DODD and Wright State University's Consumer Advocacy Model program, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council'), and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have developed *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project*. In fact, DD Council's

involvement goes back to 2003 and, as a long-term grant funder, has supported the initiative and development for nearly ten years, underscoring the importance of new ways to address children's health issues.

The goal of the overall Tele-psychiatry Project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/developmental disabilities who reside in remote areas across the state.

Begun in February 2012, the project currently serves approximately 78 adults and 16 children residing in 27 Ohio counties where there are few such services available from qualified practitioners.

2013 Brings Aggressive Expansion

Furthering this effort in 2013, Director Martin announced on December 24 of last year that *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project* has been expanded to include *children from all 88 counties*. The initial project was offered to all but the top 13 counties (based on size), in an effort to reach underserved populations throughout Ohio. Currently, referrals for *adults* with co-occurring issues will continue to be restricted to the original 13 target counties in order to meet the goal of reaching adults in more remote areas.

To see tele-psychiatry in action, an example in Miami County can be viewed at:
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w69CP05YQRY&feature-youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w69CP05YQRY&feature=youtu.be)

Developmental Centers as Community Resources

Cambridge Developmental Center – Alonzo's Story

Alonzo H. moved out of Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) in 2011, and the facility's Superintendent Cathy Ballinger says, "It's a profound story. Alonzo is from our home county, Guernsey, and had many challenges, dating back several years. He had made some bad choices and had been affiliated with some illegal activity resulting from peer pressure and being taken advantage of. His story is especially heartfelt, as we came across many obstacles -- but someone then gave him a chance, and now he is thriving."

According to Rob Robbins, CaDC staff support person and friend to Alonzo, "From time to time, there are individuals who have dreams of living on their own, but their history clouds the outlook of family members and team members. Alonzo comes to mind. He had big dreams ... wanted to live in his own place, have a girlfriend, and get a driver's license! There were those who did not think that these dreams were possible, or they that were wise or safe. But, Alonzo continued to express his dreams, and to advocate for himself. Alonzo finally realized his dream of leaving the Developmental Center. He now lives in a 3 bedroom home in Scio, Ohio, with his cat."

Awareness & Advocacy Event Theme Announced

"Look Beyond" invites people to see the potential in everyone, looking beyond a first glance, or a pre-conceived notion.

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders recently announced a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately. The planning team now has announced the event theme, "Look Beyond" -- inviting people to see the potential in everyone, and looking beyond a first glance, or a pre-conceived notion.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, January 16, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, January 30, 2013](#)

State of the State, ADEP Expansion, and More

In 2012 Governor Kasich changed a tradition and took the State of the State address ‘on the road,’ moving the annual speech from the Statehouse chambers of the House of Representatives to a school in Steubenville. According to the Governor’s Office, the location of the 2013 *State of the State* address – Lima – was selected due to Allen County’s strong economic improvement, including an increase of 2000 jobs in the Lima area since January 2011.

In describing the desire to take the *State of the State* address ‘on the road’, Governor Kasich noted, “Bringing all 132 members of the General Assembly, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet to communities across Ohio *brings government to the people*, and showcases the diversity of our great state with little or no extra expense.”

DODD and ODH Announce ADEP Expansion

Last week, DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo together announced that plans are underway for an expansion of the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP), statewide. Begun as a pilot project, and supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. The teams brought together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely, comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder. *The expansion is funded through the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Innovation Fund.*

Several positive outcomes resulted from the Diagnostic Partnership teams – most significantly the lag time was reduced between the initial suspicion of autism to the actual diagnosis.

On the National Scene

For the first time, federal officials are communicating to school districts across the nation that they must offer students with disabilities equal access to school sports. In a memo of guidance issued January 25 to school districts nationwide, the U.S. Department of Education’s *Office for Civil Rights* stated that children with disabilities have the right to participate in their school’s extracurricular activities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The agency said that students with intellectual, developmental, physical, and other disabilities should be afforded opportunities to play for their school teams with modifications, aids, and services as needed. When such accommodations could ‘fundamentally alter’ the game or create an unfair advantage, federal officials noted that schools are obligated to create *separate but equally supported* opportunities for youth with disabilities to participate.

Technology Offers Access to Independence

Freedom – Interaction – Expression ... Things EVERYONE Wants in Their Lives!

Examples of technology assisting individuals with developmental disabilities are becoming more numerous and widespread around the state and the nation, and it is clear that efforts in 2013 will pale in comparison to what is likely just around the corner in the field of technology and adaptive devices. An article on Remote Monitoring in *Pipeline Quarterly, Spring 2011, page 4* illustrated one example of technology’s hand in greater independence for individuals with DD, and in Pipeline January 16, 2013 and Pipeline December 5, 2012 we shared information about Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project, connecting individuals to needed services electronically.

This article noted several examples of technology enabling greater freedom, new ways to interact with others, and more ways to express oneself, from around the state.

MVDC Marks Milestone in Downsizing Process

Last Residents Leave Rian Hall

Excerpted from a January 24 letter to Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) staff, written by Ernie Fischer, Superintendent.

“As Ohio’s Developmental Centers move forward in a planned downsizing process, the role of the Centers continues as a community resource, as well as a home to individuals with developmental disabilities who may need specialized care, or a short-term stay for a variety of issues. At a budget symposium in early December, DODD Director John Martin provided an overview of progress regarding Ohio’s reduction in the number of individuals residing in state-operated Developmental Centers, including information supporting the overall philosophy of transitioning individuals into appropriate community-based settings. He observed,

“We feel good about this direction, and about how this process has been managed - with the health and safety of these individuals in mind - as well as the funding involved.”

On January 24, the last three residents of Rian Hall at MVDC moved to new living quarters in Snyder Cottage on the MVDC campus, marking the end of an era encompassing 65 years. During its history, Rian Hall has been home to thousands of people – many of whom were the Center’s most medically-fragile. It also has been a ‘home away from home’ for thousands of employees.”

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, January 30, 2013](#)

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- February -

[Pipeline EXTRA, February 4, 2013](#)

Governor Kasich Announces Budget

DODD Budget Priorities Support Residential Rebalancing, Employment First Rebalancing

Ohio is emerging from one of the most pivotal economic periods in its history, a time during which it closed an historic \$7.7 billion budget imbalance without raising taxes. Taxes were cut by \$800 million in 2011 and brought needed new reforms to Medicaid, education and other important efforts. Ohio has risen from 48th in the nation to one of the top job creators in the country and 1st in the Midwest. Yet, too many Ohioans are still out of work and many changes to state government are still needed.

The proposed DODD Budget continues momentum generated by Governor Kasich’s *Jobs Budget* and prioritizes rebalancing toward more resources for community-based residential settings and more opportunities in community employment. To achieve rebalancing, the budget includes approximately \$5.4 million dollars to adjust reimbursements and provides incentives for ICF/IDD downsizing and conversion to community-based settings. It also adds \$2 million dollars for the newly-created Employment First line item over the course of the biennium.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA! February 4, 2013](#)

Pipeline, February 13, 2013

Budget Information, State of the State, and More

Governor John Kasich will deliver the State of the State address in Lima, on Feb. 19, from 6:30-7p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center. Lima is in Allen County.

The event will be streamed online at <http://www.ohiochannel.org/>

Bringing government to the people once again, Governor John Kasich will present the annual *State of the State* address on February 19 in Lima, two weeks after submitting the state's budget proposal, February 4. The timing will allow the Governor to discuss some areas addressed in the budget proposal, as well as reflect on progress and change during 2012. The proposed budget is named '*Ohio's Jobs Budget 2.0*' and focuses on jobs ... the momentum needed to continue Ohio's real progress ... and the transformational changes needed to reach the state's potential in several key areas.

Budget Areas Pertaining to People with Disabilities

Education: As noted in *Pipeline EXTRA! February 4, 2013*, several areas in the Governor's proposed budget affect individuals with developmental disabilities, and the statewide support system comprising the Ohio DD community. These areas include a ten-fold increase in funding for students with developmental disabilities, as part of a school funding plan named "*Achievement Everywhere.*" The plan calls for \$90 million in new funds to be provided to school districts to assist in the instruction of special education students.

Telemedicine: Among the many priorities now facing Ohio's legislators is a measure regarding telemedicine services, which was introduced late in the last General Assembly. That bill, House Bill 609, would have required Medicaid and private insurers to cover telemedicine services in an effort to increase access to health care services in rural areas while driving down costs. These services augment the state's health care delivery system -- aided by interactive audio, video, and other telecommunications technology. Frequency and quality of physician-to-patient care for individuals residing in more rural and less populated areas of the state can be improved in this way. The intent of House Bill 609 will be revisited in new legislation.

Employment First Initiative Continues Momentum

The DODD Biennial Budget, as represented within the proposed *Ohio's Jobs Budget 2.0*, adds \$2 million for a newly-created *Employment First* line item. These efforts are designed to ensure that community employment is the *preferred outcome* for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities, and support Governor Kasich's efforts to eliminate employment barriers.

The long-term vision for Employment First is that all working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have access to services and supports for the purpose of achieving community employment in an integrated setting.

To support that vision, there are several planned employment-related policy changes under review and development. These changes include plans to make permanent the Governor's *Employment First Taskforce*; improve data collection; ask that County Boards of DD create their own *Employment First* policies; and create a presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can obtain community employment unless a discovery process determines that is not the best option.

RSC to be ‘Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities’

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is transitioning to a new name. According to RSC Executive Director, Kevin Miller, the new agency name will be the *Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency* and will more accurately reflect the organization’s mission and goals. The new name is part of the budget bill, *Ohio’s Jobs Budget 2.0*, and will become effective shortly after the budget is passed in late June. In an online video Director Miller notes,

“The name change and proposed additional funding will enable us to continue to revolutionize the way we operate. Our mission and goals have not changed, but the additional resources will allow us greater focus on accomplishing agency priorities – it’s a natural next step.”

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, February 13, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, February 27, 2013](#)

Governor John Kasich’s State of the State Address

Governor John Kasich’s *State of the State* address from Lima in Allen County, underscored major plans for Ohio over the next two years, following the release on February 4 of the proposed biennial budget outlining a number of new initiatives. He urged members of the General Assembly to embrace ‘a bigger picture’ to keep propelling the state forward to a more prosperous job-friendly future. In developing the state budget and its foundational elements, Governor Kasich noted, “We didn’t just cut (dollars) ... we re-engineered. Other states are looking at what we have done in Ohio because we are getting it right! Big ideas renew people.” He later added,

“We are succeeding - here in Ohio - in turning our state around, and it is fantastic!”

Overall, the speech outlined the Administration’s enthusiastic and aggressive agenda to further improve Ohio’s economic competitiveness, while energizing small businesses and entrepreneurial efforts via a more business-friendly tax environment. Policies promoting initiatives that will foster interest from international business and industry leaders are also part of the mix to move Ohio forward, as well as a focus on resources for education, and changes to Medicaid-funded programs and service delivery.

Budget Hearings – DODD Presents Budget Proposal

Partner agencies in the Office of Health Transformation, which includes DODD, continue to testify before the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee regarding their specific agencies’ funding needs, projected operational outlook, and estimated growth or change in populations to be served, as well as new initiatives underway. Director John Martin’s testimony yesterday included key areas addressed in Jobs Budget 2.0 that enhance community developmental disability services.

Director Martin testified that proposed General Revenue Fund (GRF) increases in the executive budget proposal would allow DODD to help Ohio children with extensive behavioral needs, help to downsize some large care facilities and convert them to community-based settings, and assist in efforts to support the Governor’s *Employment First Initiative*. The DODD Biennial Budget, as represented within the proposed *Ohio’s Jobs Budget 2.0*, adds \$2 million for a newly-created *Employment First* line item. These efforts are designed to ensure that community employment is the *preferred outcome* for working-age individuals with developmental disabilities.

The long-term vision for *Employment First* is that all working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have access to services and supports for the purpose of achieving community employment in an integrated setting. The Employment First Taskforce member agencies are the Ohio departments of

Developmental Disabilities, Education, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health, as well as the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.

Sondra Williams Receives Governor's Courage Award

As part of the *State of the State* address, Governor Kasich presented the annual Governor's Courage Awards, honoring inspirational Ohioans. Recipients of the medals this year included Astronaut Neil Armstrong; staff and faculty at Chardon High School - site of a tragic shooting in 2012; and, Sondra Williams, an adult with autism, and who is the Director of the Autism Research Institute's Youth Division. Williams was recognized for her many accomplishments as a self-advocate with Autism, as well as for her advocacy work and endeavors on behalf of all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She recently participated on a panel with fellow OCALI Advisory Board members, presenting new Ohio Autism Recommendations to the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA).

Grant to Advance Health Care Payment Innovation

Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody announced last week that Ohio has received a competitive federal award to accelerate the state's work to improve overall health system performance through payment innovation and service delivery improvements. The \$3 million State Innovation Model (SIM) Design Award will be used to develop and implement evidence-based strategies that improve the health of individuals, rather than simply treat disease.

Employment First Initiative Continues Momentum

Helling to Lead Project Management for Employment First, Other Programs

Kristen Helling recently joined DODD as Community Advisor in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction. She will be coordinating implementation of Ohio's *Employment First* Initiative -- the statewide collaboration launched in March 2012 by Governor Kasich. At that time he established an *Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee* to improve employment outcomes for working-age adults with developmental disabilities. DODD is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the Taskforce efforts.

DODD, ODH Announce ...

Improved Collaboration on Early Intervention, Part C

Ohio Department of Health Director (ODH) Ted Wymyslo and DODD Director John Martin convened a joint meeting last week to announce inter-agency coordination efforts on Part C Early Intervention Services. Part C is a federal program administered by states that serves families with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions with high probabilities of resulting in developmental delays.

In Ohio, ODH is the lead agency for these services, which it administers as *Help Me Grow*. In last week's meeting, the directors and program staff from both agencies announced a more structured coordination strategy to better clarify roles and responsibilities of the two state agencies. The coordination efforts build on listening and learning from stakeholder input, and creating a shared leadership model that enables local agencies and providers to better serve families.

DODD to Launch Application for Smart Phones

A DODD application (app) for smart phones will launch in March! Fittingly, that's *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, and it will be much simpler to exercise greater awareness of programs and information when it is at your fingertips. Go to www.dodd.ohio.gov in March to learn more about it.

To read the complete issue, click on: Pipeline, February 27, 2013

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- March - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

[Pipeline, March 13, 2013](#)

We 'Looked Beyond' on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

As the Ohio Statehouse website says, "The Ohio Statehouse is more than a monument to our past, it's where history happens!" *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day* March 5th at the Statehouse represented a new partnership blending the annual March *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and the statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately. Indeed, history was made at this year's event when Awareness and Advocacy venues overflowed *The People's House*.

Celebrating the 2013 DD Awareness Month theme, "*Look Beyond*," the program was organized by DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders. Approximately 600 people attended the event, representing at least 35 counties. Click here for [a video from the event](#).

DODD Smart Phone Application Launched

Also at the event, the new mobile application (app) for smart phones was introduced – a fitting tribute to *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, allowing anyone with an interest in adding the app to their smart phone to keep up easily with Department news and updates.

Decision-Making in the Developmental Disabilities System

Updated information on the subject of *Guardianship* has been 'on the radar' for the staff of the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight and the Ohio DD Council for quite a while, working to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to participate in decision-making with clear guidelines. Changes in the law (Ohio Revised Code 5126.043) were made effective September 10, 2012 and provide options that allow individuals to *participate in decisions* that affect their lives, and to *have their needs, desires and preferences considered*.

The Ohio DD Council website features a brochure explaining the new law and a revised booklet on *Guardianship and Alternatives in Ohio*, and the DODD website has posted two PowerPoint presentations, "2012 Law: Changes to Decision-Making in the DD System," and "Decision-Making in the DD System" explaining the changes in the law and guardianship, as well as other information.

Family Advisory Council - A Forum for New Information

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting yesterday at the Columbus Developmental Center Training Room offered family members and professionals in the DD community an opportunity to exchange ideas, gather new information, and pose questions to Director John Martin regarding the 2014-'15 proposed budget. He provided an up-to-date look at the dollars involved and the initiatives affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and emphasized the need for opportunities to help individuals realize their potential in the least-restrictive community-based settings. He also noted the importance of leveraging dollars that may be available to Ohioans through Medicaid expansion. He explained,

“The importance to the working poor cannot be over-stated. Medicaid expansion would help many people to access preventive care, rather than wait for an emergency situation before taking action. We will work with stakeholders regarding the best ways to use any new dollars.”

FAC meetings are open to all interested members of Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

DODD Health & Safety Alerts Improved, Re-Formatted

The health and safety of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities continues to be priority one. The first DODD *Health & Safety Alert* in a revised, easier-to-read format is # 56-02-13, ‘Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting.’ The purpose of this Alert is to remind those involved in providing care, managing programs, investigating - or overseeing the investigation of alleged sexual abuse cases - about the importance of recognizing the signs of sexual abuse, implementing immediate actions, and timely reporting. In this Alert, the Department has identified several ‘red flags’ through a review of alleged sexual abuse cases -- and although they are not seen frequently, it is important to take steps to avoid them entirely. Health & Safety Alerts are developed and updated by the DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. *Click here for: [All DODD Health & Safety Alerts](#)*

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, March 13, 2013](#)

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Ohio Jobs Budget ... Discussions Continue

Hearings on Ohio’s executive budget proposal (HB 59) before the Health and Human Services Subcommittee have continued over the past two weeks with a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed expansion of Medicaid coverage in the state. Governor John Kasich, in speaking with legislators and various stakeholder groups, has stressed the importance of the human factor in making the decision to support expanding Medicaid coverage, and explained the expected resulting benefits for Ohioans who currently are not eligible for coverage.

Specifically, Governor Kasich said the state needs to address the issues faced by the working poor who cannot afford private health insurance offered by their employers, or who are not offered coverage. In addition, he has stressed the need for assistance to individuals struggling with substance abuse and needing treatment. DODD Director John Martin has echoed the Governor’s comments in presentations this month, and highlighted several other benefits of expanding Medicaid, including keeping taxpayer dollars in Ohio and cutting down on emergency room and uncompensated care costs.

Employment First Seeks Local Leaders’ Input

Ohio’s Employment First Taskforce is asking local leaders to become involved in developing an action plan that enables their communities to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participating communities will receive expert guidance regarding how to enhance local resources, while helping to build statewide models that benefit everyone. Six implementation sites will be selected around the state in which local leaders will develop specific plans that take into consideration the unique aspects of their community’s employment scene, population/demographics, and other factors that can facilitate desired work opportunities. Interested parties are asked to apply for local leadership participation beginning April 1, at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Once the six teams have been selected, a self-assessment process will begin in July. Implementation sites will benefit local communities by creating statewide training models and determining ways to utilize local resources more effectively. DODD Project Manager for Employment First, Kristen Helling, explains,

“Employment First will be strongest when communities are supported to build sustainable partnerships among agencies, employers, families, and individuals. Local leaders can best develop plans that strengthen local collaboration to make community employment possible for people with developmental disabilities.”

‘Looking Beyond’ Columbus...

Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information and photos of local activities this month.

In this article, Hocking, Ottawa, Monroe, Lake, Belmont, and Ross counties, as well as broader statewide efforts were highlighted, including many photos.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, March 27, 2013](#)

April – Autism Awareness Month

[Pipeline, April 10, 2013](#)

Ohio Jobs Budget ... House Prepares Substitute Bill

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff continue to support and discuss the need for Medicaid Expansion, noting that in this matter, “...compassion should trump philosophy.” At the recent *Health Expo 2013*, the kickoff event for *Minority Health Month in Ohio*, Governor Kasich underscored the importance of seeing the needs and realities of minority communities reflected in all aspects of health care, noting that health issues such as mental illness and addiction should over-ride partisan considerations. His comments highlighted the importance of expanded medical coverage to approximately 275,000 new Medicaid enrollees, which would provide the state an expected net gain over two years, following acceptance of the federal dollars offered to pay for the program's growth.

Regarding specific aspects of the current budget proposal under consideration, Governor Kasich stated recently in a presentation at the City Club of Cleveland, “It is always necessary to push, to create, to innovate. And even if you're pushing and creating and innovating with your ideas, you can't fall so much in love with them that you're not in a position to be able to accept the tweaks and changes, and some other directions that may come along.”

Autism Awareness Month Explores Emerging Information

In March of last year, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report stating that the incidence of autism in the United States had become ‘one in 88 children -- a 78% increase in incidence as compared to a decade ago. The report stated that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest growing disability in the nation. The Autism Society of Ohio estimates that more than 58,000 Ohioans have ASD. Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA), convened by DODD in 2008, continues to coordinate efforts among many state agency partners so that the needs, talents, and wishes of Ohioans with ASD are recognized, valued, and addressed. In 2012, IWGA asked the Advisory Board of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to spearhead the development of a set of Autism

Recommendations for the state. These recommendations have been made, and now chart the course for the state to continue to improve its response to autism, and create new opportunities for individuals with ASD. The 15 recommendations reflect an appreciation for the diversity among communities, and the disparity of service availability across Ohio.

‘Request for Interest’ Yields 25 Applications

The DODD Division of Residential Resources recently announced plans to develop 20, six-bed facilities in areas where state-operated Developmental Centers (DCs) are located, to enable current DC residents to move into smaller nearby settings and continue to receive needed intensive services and supports from staff. The Request for Interest, soliciting groups that could run the smaller facilities, has yielded 25 applications, which are now being reviewed by a team of family members, DODD staff, and other professionals within Ohio’s DD community.

Regarding the applications received, DODD spokesperson Vicki Rich explained, "Our goal is to create public/private opportunities previously not available to these individuals to be able live in smaller, community settings. We've designed the project to be a collaborative effort between DODD and providers. DODD will continue to approve admissions and discharges, and provide a quality staff professional for each project team to oversee the care of individuals who transition to the new facilities."

First-Ever OSDA Legislative Event Spotlights Issues

The Central Ohio Self-Determination Association (COSDA) hosted its first-ever Legislative Day, April 5, at the Franklin County Board of DD Bixby Living Skills Center, in Groveport. Legislators attending included State Representatives Michael Curtin, Bob Hackett, and Michael Stinziano, and Senators Charleta Tavares and Kevin Bacon. The legislators participated in a lively discussion with more than 150 individuals regarding many subjects OSDA members wanted to learn more about.

Residents of Franklin, Madison, Licking, Delaware, Pickaway, Union, and Fairfield counties represented their areas and shared their thoughts and opinions. On the subject of ‘Visitability’ and general accessibility to public spaces, it was clear that event participants wanted more to be done about the actual usability and safety of ‘accessible spaces’ in community parking lots, as well as concerns to be addressed regarding in-person voting accessibility. Also noted were issues concerning residential renovations for improved access.

In one response to access issues, Representative Stinziano noted that House Bill 84 is working toward some solutions, and it is hoped to prompt changes to the Ohio Revised Code that would authorize a non-refundable income tax credit for the purchase or construction of an accessible home, or for the renovation of a home to improve its accessibility.

Office of Provider Standards and Review OPSR Issues Annual Report

The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, has published its Annual Report for calendar year 2012. [Click here](#) to view it.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, April 10, 2013](#)

Pipeline, April 24, 2013

Ohio Jobs Budget ... Overview of Recent Progress

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has provided guidance regarding progress of the Ohio Jobs Budget over the past two weeks, as the bill works its way through the legislative process. While Medicaid expansion language was removed from the budget language as it left the House of Representatives and moved on to the Senate, there continues to be discussion regarding the need to assure health care coverage for low-income, working Ohioans. The Senate has set a deliberation schedule that would move HB59 forward to conference committee by mid-June.

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff support the need for Medicaid Expansion, highlighting the importance of expanded medical coverage to new Medicaid enrollees – estimated at approximately 275,000 Ohioans. Options that would assure coverage include a separate stand-alone bill. The Medicaid expansion plan as originally proposed by Governor Kasich would have drawn into the state an estimated \$13 billion in federal funds over seven years. House lawmakers, however, voted in favor of an amendment that would give the Chamber more time to study options.

Directors of OHT partner agencies provided budget testimony last week, including DODD Director John Martin. He noted that Department priorities include expanded home- and community-based service options, as well as the ongoing downsizing of DODD-operated Developmental Centers; increasing access to autism services; and adding stakeholder recommendations to legislation now in the Senate.

Autism Awareness Month Seeks Greater Understanding

During last week's Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, Jerod Smalley, Sports Director at NBC4 in Columbus and father of two sons with autism, offered his perspective of hands-on advocacy for affected families. Smalley has a continuing series on Channel 4 named 'The Autism Puzzle,' focused on research, and resources for parents. Just as Smalley emphasized, during Autism Awareness Month, the focus is on awareness of these issues, and also on understanding.

Jobs Budget 2.0 and Autism

Increased access to autism services remains a funding priority within the proposed budget.

The Administration is funding innovative projects that will help improve early diagnosis and interventions for individuals with autism, including the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP); and funding to support Specialized Training for Early Intervention Professionals. Funding is made possible through Ohio's Health Transformation Innovation Fund. A total of \$1.325 million is made available for these projects, and also includes efforts to support the Employment First initiative, which will assist individuals with developmental disabilities – some of whom have autism – in finding community-based jobs. *More at <http://www.iwg-autism.org/>*

OPRA Conference Spotlights Challenges, Change

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) hosted its Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, April 16 - 17. Recognizing another great opportunity to get the word out to hundreds of stakeholders regarding several initiatives, DODD Director John Martin presented an overview of work in-progress at the Department, and fielded questions from an attentive audience representing expertise throughout the statewide service provider system.

In addition to Director Martin's comments, the two-day conference featured several speakers and break-out sessions that highlighted challenges, changes, and progress that Ohio service providers will be seeing this year and beyond. Leslie Wilson, a presenter with many years of experience in the development and staffing of Business Leadership Networks (BLNs) in Ohio, Florida, and Oklahoma, was enthusiastic

about Ohio's Employment First initiative. Remarking on efforts in the past year under that umbrella, she emphasized the need for employer engagement, saying,

"We need to engage employers! We need to prepare the workplace for a diverse workforce – an influx of people with disabilities. That change is coming."

New Mobile Application and Online Complaint Form

Who wants to hear about complaints all the time? The DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, that's who! As a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, the MUI Unit is very enthusiastic about making it easier for partners in Ohio's DD system to file and describe complaints ... with the introduction of a mobile application (app) including a new DODD online complaint form. This new app allows health and welfare complaints to be filed with DODD remotely, using a computer or smart phone.

At www.dodd.ohio.gov, click on the words 'Report Abuse' in the upper right corner, or use this link: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/reportabuse/Pages/default.aspx> The app is simple to download and allows users to file complaints regarding abuse, neglect, theft, and other reporting categories. The information is then sent directly to the DODD MUI/Registry Unit and auto-generated to the appropriate County Board of DD or other applicable agency. If preferred, one may also call the DODD Abuse/Neglect Hotline at (866) 313-6733 to share concerns.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, April 24, 2013](#)

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- May -

[Pipeline EXTRA, May 8, 2013](#)

Results of May 7, 2013 - County Board of DD Levy Issues

Results for issues on May 7 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:
(Percentages are rounded.)

Below are the results of the five levy issues on the May 7 ballots affecting Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities:

- Delaware County: .56 mills, additional PASSED, by 63%
- Henry County: 2 mills, replacement PASSED, by 54.6%
- Knox County: 2.7 mills, renewal PASSED, by 64.5%
- Lorain County: 1.6875 mills, replacement PASSED, by 66.3%
- Stark County: 3.3 mills, renewal and increase PASSED, by 65.7%

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>

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA, May 8, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, May 8, 2013](#)

Ohio Jobs Budget ... Progress Continues

While the Medicaid services expansion within the Ohio Jobs Budget proposed by Governor John Kasich remains stalled, legislative leaders have indicated a willingness to further discuss options, and note that they may need more time than the budget process allows to discuss the many issues surrounding Medicaid expansion within the state, under the federal Affordable Care Act. Both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have created subcommittees to study the issue, with a goal of producing an alternative plan by autumn 2013. However, it has been made clear by the Governor's Office that decisions should be made by the end of June, for an expansion to begin on Jan. 1, 2014. According to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, at least six months is needed to roll out a Medicaid expansion implementation.

In continuing testimony, several organizations testified on May 2, as interested parties regarding DODD initiatives in HB59, before the Senate Medicaid Finance Subcommittee. Testimony was heard from Disability Rights Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, and others. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council also presented testimony on May 1.

Employment Update – Small Employers Take Big Steps

Ohio's Employment First initiative has spotlighted the priority of community-based employment as the preferred option for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the desire to find new and innovative ways to help pave the way for such opportunities in communities throughout the state. Since the Employment First executive order was signed in March 2012, Ohio's County Boards of DD and other service providers have taken a stronger approach to assure that the intent of the initiative moves forward.

Note: In this article, examples of these efforts included the Fairfield County Board of DD 'Square Seven' coffee house in Lancaster; M & A Small Engine Repair Shop in Greenfield, Ohio (Highland County); and, Double Play Sports in Washington Courthouse (Fayette County).

People First of Ohio Spreads Word on Employment First

People First of Ohio held their annual meeting on May 4 including elections for the state board of the organization, and a training session on the Employment First initiative. The meeting was held at Robert's Convention Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. People First has been involved in planning for the statewide employment initiative since its outset beginning last year, and will continue to offer their input as invited by the Administration, according to People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter.

Chuck Beatty, an advisor to People First, participated in the annual meeting by presenting information about Medicaid Buy-In for People with Disabilities, along with changes that may happen in the future. Self-advocate Mike Riggle commented that people with disabilities, must fight to keep Medicaid Buy-In ... noting that many of his friends want to work, and have the right to be employed in the community.

Rules Rule! New Mobile App Launched

Rules in Effect, the compilation of the Department's administrative rules, is one of the most frequently-viewed sections of the DODD website. In response to requests from system stakeholders, site users now can view and search rules from a mobile device. The mobile app is simple to download, and allows users to read the full text of currently effective rules, as well as search for words or phrases used within rules.

Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month

“You Can Change a Lifetime!”

The National Foster Care Month campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of children and adults -- with and without disabilities -- who are in the foster care system.

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – by being foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or serving in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention on the subject this month, noting that not only are children in need of good foster homes, but so are more than 100,000 adults who have developmental disabilities. Through various hardships or other circumstances beyond their control, a growing number of adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home,’ as well.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, May 8 2013](#)

[Pipeline, May 22, 2013](#)

Funds Awarded to Improve Workers’ Background Checks

Ohio Takes Next Steps to Improve Background Checks for Home-Health Workers

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has announced that Ohio has been awarded a \$2.1 million federal grant to improve criminal background checks for direct care workers in home- and community-based settings (HCBS). In addition, the Administration will match the federal funds, awarded through the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), with \$700,000 in state dollars. The funds will be used to extend usage of the Ohio Attorney General's *Retained Applicant Fingerprint Database Information Exchange* system to individuals working as direct care providers.

The electronic system will allow for simpler and more timely post-hiring background checks, improving safety for individuals who receive Medicaid services in their own home or other community-based setting, as well as saving time and money for taxpayers and agencies that provide home-health services.

Jobs Budget 2.0 – Still Moving Through the System

Discussions in the Ohio legislature regarding a Medicaid system overhaul are well underway, and lawmakers in the Chamber's *Healthier Ohio Working Group* met for the second time last Tuesday to examine previous system changes, as well as telemedicine options. Legislative leaders have indicated a willingness to further discuss options to the expansion of Medicaid services proposed by Governor John Kasich, and review the many issues surrounding such expansion within the state, under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Leaders in the House and Senate also recently have stated that consideration is being given to extending Medicaid service coverage in a more limited way, through legislation. While mindful of the Governor's original budget proposal, the General Assembly currently is approaching the issue from a broader ‘reform’ and oversight perspective.

[Coming Soon – June 4-5](#)

Employment First Conference, Changing Expectations

DODD, the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee, and other planning partners are putting the finishing touches on the inaugural Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations” – to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4-5. The event will feature several speakers and offer a

platform for Employment First partners to discover many opportunities for a positive shift in expectations, and stronger community employment outcomes.

DODD appreciates the leadership and contributions of all of the conference planning partners and taskforce agencies: the Ohio departments of Education, Job & Family Services, and Mental Health, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. In addition to state agency cooperation, Employment First benefits from an Advisory Committee of leaders aligned with all aspects of support and service within the DD system, including self-advocates, educators, providers, and County Boards of DD.

OACB Names New Executive Director, Bridget Gargan

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) has named Bridget Gargan the organization's new Executive Director, effective July 8. Gargan currently is Vice President of Government Affairs for the Ohio Hospital Association, a position she has held for eleven years. There, she has been responsible for state-level advocacy and representation within the legislative and executive branches.

National Foster Care Month Spotlights 'Home Sharing'

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to become foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or serve in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention this month on the fact that not only are children in need of good foster homes, but so are more than 100,000 adults who have developmental disabilities. Through various circumstances, many adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a 'family home,' as well. The 'Home Sharing' concept emphasizes the value, and day-to-day support that adult foster care provides.

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at www.fostercaremonth.org/

Click on rule 5123:2-9-33 for language on the subject of Home- and Community-Based Services.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, May 22 2013](#)

- June -

Pipeline, June 5, 2013

Conversation Continues on Medicaid Expansion, Budget

Representative Barbara Sears has introduced legislation to provide Medicaid coverage to an estimated additional 275,000 Ohioans with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level. Cost to expand the coverage would be paid entirely by federal dollars for the first three years under the Affordable Care Act. Representative Sears explained that passage of the legislation by the end of June would provide the six months needed to implement an expansion by January 1, 2014, when the federal money becomes available, and when most Americans are required to have health coverage.

Sears' proposed bill calls for coverage recipients' personal responsibility by requiring them to provide co-payments for certain services, promoting job training to move unemployed recipients into the work force, and providing drug treatment to those who abuse narcotics. In addition bi-partisan discussion on the subject of a broader Medicaid reform approach is currently underway.

Employment First Conference, Changing Expectations

Today is the second day of the inaugural Ohio Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations,” at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. The event offers a platform for Employment First partners to build a solid foundation to support a positive shift in expectations, and stronger community employment outcomes, statewide. With more than 450 registered for Day One, it was ‘standing room only’ – a testament to the momentum building around the initiative, representing agencies and entities involved in education, employment, developmental disabilities, mental health, and related areas of interest. In welcoming participants to the event, DODD Director John Martin stated,

“As our understanding of what individuals want and need to thrive has evolved, we now know that individuals with developmental disabilities not only want to live and work completely integrated into their communities – they also can safely bring their talents and perspectives to enrich communities, and positively influence everyone’s experience.”

Perry County Projects Focused on Job Innovation

In a continuing effort to learn more about employment options for people with developmental disabilities in communities throughout the state, DODD Director John Martin and Deputy Director Monty Kerr toured the Perry County area last week and enjoyed a few surprises along the way. Hosting the team was Perry County Board of DD Superintendent David Couch, and several staff members and program participants, all of whom boarded a school bus to travel the winding roads of New Lexington, Shawnee, and Rendville, visiting people working, learning, and otherwise developing their talents.

Note: This article featured information on a collaborative environmental ‘bio-digester’ project, as well as a pilot project, the Academy of Leadership Abilities – begun in January 2013, the pilot curriculum helps stimulate the potential of students both with and without disabilities, all in an inclusive setting, using unique motivational materials and peer involvement.

Wallace Appointed Deputy Director, Human Resources

Antoinette (Toni) Wallace has been appointed DODD Deputy Director of Human Resources, continuing a 21-year career with the Department in the Division of Human Resources. In announcing the appointment, DODD Director John Martin stated, “Toni’s experience in the developmental disabilities field, working with both our Central Office and Developmental Center staff, made Toni an excellent choice for the Deputy Director position.”

OACB Conference a Venue for Viewpoints

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Spring Conference, May 23-24 in Columbus, offered several opportunities to learn more about statewide initiatives affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, as well as local examples of ‘best practices’ from around the state. Topics offered a broad range of information, including emerging trends in services such as remote monitoring, the P.L.A.Y. Project (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) and Medicaid/Managed Care, among others, as well as updates on the state’s budget.

DODD Director John Martin and several Department staff members participated in and presented at the Conference, and fielded questions from County Board staff from around the state. Representing the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, Deputy Director Patrick Stephan and Lori Horvath presented an update on Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), including current budget proposals, the ‘voluntary conversion’ process, the Transitions DD Waiver, and other waiver updates.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, June 5 2013](#)

[Pipeline EXTRA, June 12, 2013](#)

Kasich Administration to Increase Access to Home- and Community-Based Care

Ohio awarded \$169 million for implementing additional Medicaid reforms, “rebalancing”

The Governor’s Office of Health Transformation and the Office of Medical Assistance (Ohio Medicaid) today announced a major advancement in providing Ohio’s elders and people with disabilities greater access to home- and community-based long-term care alternatives to nursing homes or other institutional placements. Ohio will receive \$169,076,032 in additional federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) under the Balancing Incentive Payments (BIP) Program for improving Ohio’s system of providing long-term services and supports and directing half of all Medicaid long-term care funding to home- and community-based services by 2015.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA, June 12, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, June 19, 2013](#)

Administration Update: Medicaid Reforms, Budget

As the June 30 deadline for final state budget language draws nearer, the Kasich Administration is continuing to work with legislators on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In addition, members of the General Assembly are looking at the larger state budget picture, to effect progress toward Medicaid reforms. Yesterday’s Conference Committee on HB 59 continued discussions aimed at extending Medicaid. Last week, Medicaid expansion advocates again urged lawmakers to move forward on the expansion policy before time runs out for Ohio to take full advantage of federal benefits under the Affordable Care Act.

In addition, the Healthier Ohio Working Group, convened by the Finance & Appropriations Committee, is studying Medicaid and health care system overhaul, while other related health care amendments to the budget bill include a measure to convene a workgroup of state agency directors to study telemedicine policy measures. DODD has been in the forefront of telemedicine efforts, and originally launched “Ohio’s Telemedicine Project” in February 2012 with Wright State University, and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

APSI Ohio Celebrates 30 Years of Service

The Mission of Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI), is to advocate for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and an enhanced quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities. On June 6, that Mission was celebrated enthusiastically by a large gathering of individuals served, their family members and caregivers, and other stakeholders in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community at APSI Ohio’s 30th Anniversary luncheon. The Xenos complex in Columbus hosted the event, and attendees were not at all reluctant to get up to the microphone to share their thoughts about, “What APSI means to me.” APSI has served as guardian to more than 10,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities over the 30-year period, and each individual -- in the words of many APSI staff from around the state -- is one more good reason to work in the developmental disabilities field. APSI Ohio provides an array of guardianship and protective services to individuals who are age 18 or older, and specializes in serving clients with a high level of needs, primarily through full guardianship.

Family Advisory Council: Full House, Full Agenda

A revised meeting format offering more opportunities to learn and share information with individuals and families from around the state energized the June 11th Family Advisory Council (FAC) and resulted in lively exchanges on subjects as varied as Medicaid expansion, waiver services, remote monitoring, Medicaid Buy-In, and direct care staffing needs.

Also discussed was the issue of having an adequate pool of qualified direct care staff throughout the state, and the related issue of improving the wages paid to these service professionals. Progress is being made in these areas through the efforts of many stakeholders, including the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). For example, the Kasich Administration has added \$2 million in appropriations for direct care wage increases over the next year.

In addition, DODD Director Martin noted a growing interest in the usage of remote monitoring technology to provide needed services, and free-up direct care staff for other service needs. He noted,

“Remote monitoring is going to be more and more important in the mix of services available to individuals with disabilities and the elderly, and we are looking closely at where and how this technology can benefit the people served, and the people serving them.”

Training and Tracking to Improve Service Delivery

New Initial Provider Certification Seminar Aims High on Quality and Consistency

A new *Initial Provider Certification* seminar through the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has been developed to build a foundation of information and skills that all new providers of Ohio Medicaid Waiver services need in order to provide competent services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

Certification through the training will enable providers to deliver Medicaid Waiver Services under the Level One and Individual Options waivers, as well as to deliver non-Medicaid funded services. All providers of direct services to Ohioans with developmental disabilities must complete eight hours of training in specific topics prior to applying for certification, and every provider must obtain certification from DODD before providing services. The Department salutes and supports the efforts of the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals in offering this training to new providers.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, June 19 2013](#)

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- July -

[Pipeline EXTRA, July 2, 2013](#)

Jobs 2.0 Budget Bill Passed, FY2014-15 Begins

\$62 billion biennial budget, a blueprint for prosperity.

Governor John Kasich signed the new state budget bill into effect, building upon job-creating and pro-growth policies begun two years ago with the prior budget. As the new fiscal year begins, there are many encouraging signs indicating that Ohio continues to get back on track. For example, more than 170,000 private sector jobs were created between January 2013 and May 2013, and wages are growing faster than in the rest of the United States.

Ohio's developmental disabilities system continues moving forward as well. This budget continues to pave the way with rebalancing resources and overall system transformation. We continue to ensure that funds are prioritized according to where and how individuals are served best—in community-based programs and the least restrictive settings possible. Through these efforts we are hopeful that individuals with developmental disabilities can continue to increase their opportunities to participate fully in their communities, and make more independent choices about their lives.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA, July 2, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, July 3, 2013](#)

Governor Kasich Signs Ohio Jobs 2.0 Budget Bill

A new budget year has begun, with Governor John Kasich signing House Bill 59. The \$62 billion budget is considered a blueprint for prosperity, and builds on job-creating and pro-growth policies begun two years ago with the state's prior budget. In reviewing the budget on June 30, Governor Kasich vetoed an attempt to block efforts to expand Medicaid in Ohio, and the Administration is continuing to work with legislators on the subject of expansion, as well as other related health care funding reforms. The budget bill includes Medicaid coverage of tele-health services (HB123), capitalizing on advances in technology to increase access to medical care and reduce costs. Ohio joins 45 other states with similar legislation.

OhioMHAS Created

Also created in the budget was the new Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), a merger of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services ODADAS.

RSC Re-Named

In addition, the new budget confirms a re-naming of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) in an effort to clarify the nature and scope of the agency's work. The agency is now named the *Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency*.

Ohio to Grant \$3 Million to At-Risk Youth Services

Ohio will direct \$3 million* in federal funds this year to community projects aimed at helping young people at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. The *Strong Families, Safe Communities* grant funds will support crisis intervention, family mentoring, and screening programs along with other services in 20 counties. It is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money from Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) awards to help stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans resulting in stronger families and safer communities.

DODD Director John Martin noted that all but a few areas of the state applied for the grant money, adding, "That told us there's significant need out there in our local communities for something like this."

**\$3 million of a grant totaling \$5 million.*

New Data Warehouse: Access and Training Now Available

As DODD Director John Martin has stated many times, data-driven decision-making is the key to making responsible, fact-based decisions that strengthen Ohio's developmental disabilities system. The Data Warehouse is a long-awaited, much-needed advance, and its usage can simplify data, clarify trends, and more easily spotlight comparisons.

"How many people do we serve that are over the age of 50, yet still live with parents?" ... "How many people do we serve in Ohio that are competitively employed in the community?" ... "How many Ohioans have a dual (DD and mental health) diagnosis?" These are just a few of the many questions fielded daily

by DODD staff in the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) -- questions now easier to answer, thanks to the new Data Warehouse.

A central data resource built by the Department for use by County Boards of DD, Councils of Government (COGs), and state employees who need access to detailed data in a streamlined system, the Data Warehouse is a powerful new tool. It has the power to generate reports and queries, conduct analyses, and create 'packages of data' for specific needs. In addition, the system is faster and easier to customize than previous reporting systems, while being simpler to use.

SELF Waiver Marks One-Year Milestone

The SELF waiver means more opportunities and choices for individuals served.

As of July 1, 2013, the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver has been in existence for a full year. DODD is pleased to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the first waiver for individuals with developmental disabilities that incorporates *participant-direction* and has a wide array of *flexible services*, including several designed to serve individuals with *intensive behavioral needs*.

With the first year completed, what's next? Currently, DODD is working on transitioning the two contracts associated with the SELF waiver, which ended June 30, 2013. In addition, DODD will continue to provide general technical assistance and training on the SELF waiver and its many unique aspects.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, July 3, 2013](#)

Pipeline, July 17, 2013

Conversation Continues on Health Care Coverage Issues

"We are going to get this done. I don't care what it takes. We are going to get this done."

-Governor John Kasich on the subject of Medicaid expansion

A health care rally on July 9, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse underscored the Kasich Administration's belief that "Now is the Time" to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio. Governor John Kasich spoke to several hundred concerned citizens gathered at the forum, representing areas of interest such as mental health, developmental disabilities, veterans, law enforcement, business, public safety, and other advocates to build momentum for work on the issue now, during the legislature's summer break.

HHS Funding Announced

On the subject of health care from a federal perspective, it was announced last week that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will supply 36 Ohio health centers with a total of \$3.9 million to support enrollment in the state's federally-run health insurance exchange, as outlined in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The federal funding will benefit 183 health center locations, and is expected to pay for hiring additional employees to assist more than 84,400 Ohioans enrolling in health insurance plans through the exchange.

'A Good Life' – Celebration in Northwest Ohio

It was fitting that this 'A Good Life' celebration was on July 16, the 26th anniversary of the ADA. 'A Good Life' training is an outgrowth of the Positive Culture Initiative (PCI) -- a way of intentionally 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.

And now there are 31 more developmental disabilities system professionals who have graduated from the training, as of yesterday in Bowling Green (Wood County). The new Northwest Ohio group of ‘facilitators’ represent County Boards of DD in Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert, Williams and Wood counties, as well as service providers Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), Nowac, Quadco, and Wood Lane Residential Services. DODD congratulates the new ‘A Good Life’ graduates, and appreciates their efforts to support a Positive Culture within Ohio’s statewide developmental disabilities community.

Employment First: Local Leaders Sites Selected

Six local teams, representing partners from multiple agencies, have been selected for *Employment First Local Leaders* implementation sites. The Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee selected the six from a total of 17 applications, representing 29 Ohio counties from across the state. These teams will enable DODD and the Taskforce to learn more about the current community employment capacity in the state for people with developmental disabilities, and enable a collaborative approach to identifying and promoting best practices in local communities.

The selected six teams represent the following counties and county partnerships: Lucas, Clark, Stark, Montgomery/Greene/Warren, Pickaway/Fayette, Coshocton/Knox/Tuscarawas.

According to the plan, each team will receive help in identifying needs related to implementing the Employment First initiative in their local community, establishing a Professional Development Action Plan, and guidance in creating an interagency agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities of each member agency. The information gained will help DODD to build a statewide training plan tied to specific positive employment outcomes.

Improved Online Complaint/Incident Reporting System

The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) unit, a part of the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight, recently launched a new On-Line Complaint Reporting System to augment the reporting of issues concerning the health and safety of individuals served in the statewide DD system. It allows for more timely and improved documentation and tracking of issues and the individuals affected. The online system is under the ‘Health and Safety’ tab at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, July 17, 2013](#)

Pipeline EXTRA, July 29, 2013

Message from DODD Director John Martin

In Recognition of the 23rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Friday, July 26th marked the 23rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is an equal opportunity law for people with disabilities which prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in community life. This principle -- that individuals with disabilities be accorded the chance to live and work in the community -- goes to the heart of the Department’s core values. With the passage of House Bill 59, DODD was able to take an important stride forward to implement this belief and increase the number of individuals who have the option to receive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) in home and community based settings. It is our hope that these policy changes will, in the words of President George H.W. Bush, “Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.”

The 23 years that have passed since the enactment of the ADA have brought us closer to the day when no Ohioan will be deprived of the basic opportunity to be part of his or her community. During this time, the number of individuals served at state-operated centers has been reduced by 58 percent, census reduction at large private (16 bed or greater) ICF-IID facilities has reached 25 percent, and the momentum behind community employment continues to grow.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA July 29 2013](#)

[Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)

DODD and RSC Partner to Improve Employment Options

Statistics show that of the nearly 30,000 Ohioans receiving Adult Services through the state disability services system, about 50 percent would like to have a job in the community ... only 11 percent have one. A new program designed to move individuals with developmental disabilities out of sheltered workshops and other more segregated settings and into jobs in the community is targeted to benefit at least 1500 individuals each year. Announced last week as a partnership between DODD and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the effort seeks to more effectively match adults who have developmental disabilities with community-based jobs, and offer training and support services to help keep those jobs.

In developing the partnership, a model was conceived in which RSC job counselors would be placed in County Board of DD sheltered workshops. According to DODD Director John Martin and RSC Director Kevin Miller, the new service model is groundbreaking. It is expected that about 5.5 percent of the number of individuals now employed in sheltered workshops or other more segregated settings would receive the new, targeted vocational services during the first year.

Funded by about \$1.75 million in state dollars, along with federal matching money through RSC, the total financial support for the partnership efforts is about \$7 million per year. Director Martin noted that it was important to build a model that would be sustainable long into the future.

Ohio Medicaid Moves Ahead with Managed Care Efforts

Beginning this month, Ohio families will experience better coordination in health care services available to their children. Effective July 1, as part of an overall effort to improve long-term health outcomes, Ohio Medicaid (Office of Medical Assistance) is moving ahead with its plan to bring managed care to children with special health care needs. It is estimated that roughly 37,000 children who currently receive benefits through a monthly Medicaid card and have a disability now will be eligible for enrollment in one of five managed care plans. This is a transition from the former “fee-for-service” Medicaid.

Currently excluded from enrolling in a managed care plan are: Children who are currently on a Medicaid waiver; Children who are currently living in an institution; Children who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare (‘dually-eligible’); and, children who receive Medicaid benefits who currently have a designated spend-down amount.

‘Strong Families, Safe Communities’ Grant Awards

Communities Create Coordinated Care Plans to Help At-Risk Youth

Joining forces to accomplish results more efficiently, DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced earlier this month awards of nearly \$3 million of a total \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships for implementing the ‘Strong Families, Safe Communities’ project, and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

DODD and OhioMHAS recruited 38 proposals from Ohio communities, all representing collaboration among Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities services providers, and many involving multi-county partnerships. The seven partnerships now selected will serve families in 20 counties, and represent collaboration among public and private providers.

Elements of the selected projects include more thorough care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

Focus on Early Intervention Gains New Leadership

DODD and ODH Collaborate on Early Intervention, Part C

In February of this year, DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Ted Wymyslo announced additional inter-agency coordination efforts on Early Intervention Services, Part C. Part C is a federal program administered by states that serves families with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions with high probabilities of resulting in developmental delays.

Following that initial announcement, and effective this month, DODD notes the addition of a key staff position to support this work. Assistant Deputy Director in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, Kim Hauck has accepted a new role leading DODD Early Intervention programs. She will manage the Department's responsibilities for Part C, offered under ODH *Help Me Grow* services, ensuring that Ohio children and families can access the range of services throughout the system in all counties.

Study to Evaluate Needs of People Waiting for Services

More than 40,000 Ohioans with disabilities are waiting for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers, according to recent estimates provided by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine's Government Resource Center. Currently, little is known about what services people actually are waiting for or need. "It's disheartening when you hear the number," says Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council). "But it's just a number, and it doesn't really tell the whole story about who is on the list and what they are really waiting for."

Knight says that is why DD Council -- in partnership with DODD, the Government Resource Center, and Kent State University -- is funding a study to examine current and future needs of people with disabilities who are on the waiting list for a HCBS waiver. The survey is voluntary, and participation would not change a person's position on the waiting list or the services they are waiting to receive. Responses will draw a better picture of what services people are waiting for, and need to live more independently."

Severe Weather Tips for Care Givers: Flooding, Heat

The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) unit, a part of the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight, shares this information provided by state agency partners the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA,) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

Again this summer the potential for severe weather remains a threat, and residents within designated 'watch' areas should be prepared to take action when heavy rains and flooding occur, or flash flood warnings issued. The National Weather Service and its state and local partners caution that if there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.

DODD and its state agency partners EMA and ODH provide this practical information for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers to help avoid heat-related stress and illness, especially for those who are very young, chronically ill, or elderly. People who work outdoors or exercise in extreme heat especially should drink plenty of water, dress in light-colored lightweight clothing, and stay in the

shade when possible. Statistics show that on average, 675 deaths from 'extreme heat events' occur, nationally, each year.

NOTE: This article featured several practical tips for both flooding, and extreme heat issues. To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)

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- August -

[Pipeline, August 14, 2013](#)

Autism Diagnostic Education Project Expands Further

ADEP Diagnostic Partnerships in local communities improve how children access comprehensive evaluations to obtain an accurate diagnosis at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

After expanding the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP) earlier this year (*see Pipeline, January 30, 2013*) with the support of Innovation Funds through the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are pleased to announce further opportunities for program expansion across the state.

DODD Director John Martin explained that 13 additional counties formed Diagnostic Partnerships in their local communities this spring, bringing the current total of participating Ohio counties to 41. In the coming months, the joint effort seeks ten additional Diagnostic Partnership teams. He stated,

"These partnerships enable families to access comprehensive diagnostic evaluations in closer proximity to their homes, meaning less travel time, less wait time, and earlier intervention."

Begun as a pilot project supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot had launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams, bringing together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals.

More About 'Strong Families, Safe Communities'

Directors Martin and Plouck visit community partnership sites.

As announced last month (*see Pipeline, July 31, 2013*) DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) have awarded nearly \$3 million of a total \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships for implementing the 'Strong Families, Safe Communities' initiative, and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

DODD Director John Martin and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck are visiting each of the community partnerships this summer to officially award the grants, and share more about each project with local communities. Joining forces to accomplish results more efficiently, the agencies' selected projects include more thorough care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

Self-Advocate John Hannah Attends National Convention

Ohio delegate sets the pace for other states.

At *The Arc of the U.S.* convention last week in Bellevue, WA, Ohio self-advocate John Hannah was the sole self-advocate delegate participating who is also President of a state (*Arc of Ohio*) chapter. Never one to 'hide his light under a barrel,' John was on-hand in a big way networking among nearly 600 attendees. Under the theme, "Achieving Momentum," conventioners from across the country enjoyed three days of

informative sessions, including how to create and sustain positive momentum in personal and professional lives using innovations in technology, and other helpful tools and techniques.

New Employment First Rule to Implement, Clarify Policy

As part of the process to successfully implement the Employment First initiative in a consistent manner across the state, DODD has drafted an administrative rule in collaboration with stakeholders. It is currently in the review process. The proposed new rule and related Business Impact Analysis are posted on the Department's website at www.dodd.ohio.gov. New rule 5123:2-2-05 will implement Ohio's Employment First Policy, established in section 5123.022 of the Ohio Revised Code, which requires employment services for people with developmental disabilities to be directed at community employment.

According to the Department's Office of Legal and Oversight -- within which the Rules Administration function resides -- the purpose of a new stand-alone rule is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to be engaged in competitive employment that takes place in integrated settings, and that the language used to assure these opportunities is clearly defined and consistently used.

U.S. Social Security Administration Updates Terminology

The Social Security Administration will become the latest federal agency to start using the term 'intellectual disability' in place of 'mental retardation.' In a final rule published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2013, Social Security officials said they approved the change in terminology citing "... widespread adoption of the term 'intellectual disability'." They added, "Advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities have rightfully asserted that the term 'mental retardation' has negative connotations, has become offensive to many people, and often results in misunderstandings about the nature of the disorder and those who have it."

Under the new rule, all references to 'mental retardation' and 'mentally retarded children' will be replaced with 'intellectual disability' and 'children with intellectual disability' (*wording also follows Person First language*) within Social Security's 'Listing of Impairments' and other agency rules. The change in terminology will not impact how claims are evaluated for those with a developmental disability.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, August 14, 2013](#)

Pipeline EXTRA, August 23, 2013

Ohio Makes Dramatic Improvement in Annual UCP Survey

'The Case for Inclusion' reports Ohio up 26 places since 2007

The annual United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) report, *The Case for Inclusion*, noted that Ohio has improved by 26 places in the community inclusion ranking, since 2007. According to the report -- which is a yearly ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities -- Ohio significantly has increased the share of individuals (to 83% from 63%) and resources (to 80% from 50%) dedicated to the community and decreased the number of residents living at state-operated institutions by 24%, while at the same time reduced by two-thirds the portion of individuals served in large institutions (to 6% from 18%). Many other states' rankings have become stagnant or declined because they have failed to develop their community inclusion policies and programs.

DODD Director John Martin noted, "Ohio's big improvement is due to increased waiver growth and continued downsizing at state-operated Developmental Centers. This progress could not be made without the continued leadership and support of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, private providers, advocacy organizations, family members, and self-advocates."

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA, August 23, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, August 28, 2013](#)

Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Moves Forward

DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Ted Wymyslo announced last week the finalization of the *Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Management Plan*, which outlines the new and stronger partnership between ODH and DODD for administering the state's Early Intervention program. The document describing the plan is posted on the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) website under "Operating Protocols." It includes information regarding the reasons for developing the plan, the targets to be accomplished, a work plan, operating protocol, and stakeholder representation.* DODD and ODH together acknowledge and appreciate the many stakeholders who have contributed recently, and over many years, to creating the vision of a coordinated, collaborative, and statewide Early Intervention system.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises awareness that NO AMOUNT of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy. FASD is 100 percent preventable!

Each year on September 9th, International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day is observed during *FASD Awareness and Prevention Month*. This day is chosen on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, to draw attention around the world to the fact that *during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol*. In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse and disrupted school experiences, and help families to better understand and cope. DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) 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.

FAC Statewide Participation Fosters System Improvement

What's on the minds of DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) members? DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan can tell you that the answer to that is ... "A lot."

Family Advisory Council has long been known as an information forum for individuals, families, and other stakeholders in Ohio's DD community, and this month's meeting was no exception. Conversations at this meeting, indicated that while a lot of progress is being made in the area of *transition services* for teens and young adults, and toward more *competitive employment* opportunities for adults in the community, there is a lot of work yet to be done.

FAC Meetings are held at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, and are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system.

ICF Conversion Efforts = Homes in Pike County

This article is a preview for a feature article in Pipeline Quarterly Summer 2013

Did DODD Director John Martin drive to Pike County on an August day just to eat Alesia's red velvet cake? Perhaps -- it's that good! However, it's more likely that he was headed that way to see the exciting residential upgrades in Pike County, following the purchase of property by *Provider Services/*

Empowering People, in and around Lucasville. One such facility renovation, Scioto Trails, was the first stop in the rural community.

The Scioto Trails setting is an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) with three new 8-bed homes and one existing 8-bed home, 'The Manor', which has a slightly larger potential capacity. Currently The Manor has two residents who are moving out as soon as their waiver-funded home is completed. *Empowering People* began the facility conversion following a December 2011 purchase, and promised their Board that new homes would be built within two years.

MUI Rule Revision Focus is on Reducing Risk of Harm

See the rule at: [5123:2-17-02, Effective 2013-09-03](#)

Revisions to the Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Rule (*O.A.C. 5123:2-17-02*) will be effective on September 3, 2013. The re-named rule, titled *Addressing major unusual incidents and unusual incidents to ensure health, welfare, and continuous quality improvement* establishes the requirements for all MUI's and Unusual Incidents with a focus on preventing or reducing the risk of harm to individuals.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, August 28, 2013](#)

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- September -

[Pipeline, September 11, 2013](#)

National Core Indicators (NCI) Project to Gather New Data

July 1, 2013, began the sixth year of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Project in conjunction with DODD. This project helps the Department measure system performance and provides a great deal of specific data that can be used to monitor the service delivery system, make policy decisions, allocate resources, and aid in developing plans to improve the quality of life for the people with developmental disabilities. Again this year, the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR) will be administering the statewide surveys.

The Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the service system wish to attain, and demonstrate the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes.

The set of performance indicators includes approximately 100 outcomes that are important to understanding the overall quality of public developmental disabilities agencies. They include measures for health and safety outcomes, cost of services, and various individual and family indicators. This year, CMOR will administer approximately 400 face-to-face interviews with adult individuals, as well as surveying about 100 individuals who have moved out of Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) into a community setting between January 2012 and December 2012.

This is National Direct Support Professionals Week – We Salute Ohio's DSPs! Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) third annual DSP Recognition Event hosted nearly 500 People at the Xenos Center in Columbus today. Make that nearly 500 *extremely enthusiastic* people. Stirring up the energy level from the beginning was Scott Osterfeld, Butler County DD staffer and

Master of Ceremonies, who was clear on the message for the day ... “Peoples’ lives are better because of you! Because of the work you do. You help create other peoples’ life stories, and that is awesome.” Noting the theme, “Direct Support Professionals Help Create Great Life Stories,”

DODD Director John Martin shared one of his own such stories from early in his longtime career, beginning as a Direct Support Professional, and then took a page from his own family’s experiences with DSPs who assist his adult son each day, noting,

“There are hundreds and hundreds of parents around the state, just like me, who have entrusted their family members to you, and who could not possibly imagine their lives without your help and your caring. On behalf of all of us that the Department, we sincerely thank you for all you do.”

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises 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

FASD is 100 percent preventable!

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments. 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.

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse, and help family members to better understand the issues at-hand. DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) 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.

On the National Scene

New Rules to Strengthen Opportunities for Employment

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) reports that two new rules soon will be published in the Federal Register, and will take effect 180 days later. The rules will represent an historic advance for individuals with disabilities, and for veterans. By strengthening longstanding regulations under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act, the new rules will ensure that qualified workers have more meaningful opportunities to find, secure, and keep good jobs.

For the first time, these rules provide metrics – management tools that inform decision-making and provide real accountability – to measure federal contractors’ progress toward achieving equal opportunity for people with disabilities and protected veterans.

Notes on National Preparedness Month 2013

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and ReadyOhio note that this year’s NPM theme is, “You Can Be the Hero,” urging communities across the nation to take a pledge of preparedness. September, National Preparedness Month (NPM), originally was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And in conjunction, FEMA’s resulting *Ready Campaign* was developed to educate people to prepare for many different kinds of hazards and emergencies. See: *Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities*

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, September 11, 2013](#)

[Pipeline, September 25, 2013](#)

[News from the Office of Health Transformation](#)

As a partner agency in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), DODD joins state agency partners: the departments of Health (ODH); Aging (ODA); Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and Job and Family Services (ODJFS); and, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in efforts to modernize the formerly fragmented system of Medicaid service delivery in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available, and to provide the best value to taxpayers.

Now in its third year of such partnerships, OHT's top priority continues to be to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges. One result of such efforts is transitioning residents who want to move out of larger, more institutional settings and into home-and community-based settings.

[Ohio a Leader in HOME Choice](#)

A study of states participating in the federal Money Follows the Person demonstration program found Ohio to be, "...A national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home- and community-based settings," as reported by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). Ohio's HOME Choice program is funded by a federal grant which supports various needs and helps individuals leave larger facilities to enter community living. Ohio's program was found to rank first among states in the study specifically for, "... transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term care facilities into alternative setting."

[County Boards Needed to Participate in Insurance Enrollment Project](#)

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in conjunction with DODD, is sponsoring a project to enroll individuals with developmental disabilities in the "Disabled Adult Child"* (DAC) insurance program managed by the Social Security Administration. DAC is a social security benefit available to adults with disabilities who have a living retired parent (or a deceased parent) who qualifies for social security benefits. The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center is managing the project. An added bonus to being on DAC is that two years after establishing DAC eligibility date, the individual qualifies for Medicare. Participation in the project is free until June 2014, when the initiative ends.

**"Disabled Adult Child" is the program terminology, and not the editorial style of Pipeline.*

[Positive Exposure: Celebrating the Spirit of Difference](#)

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program has invited a unique gallery of photography, Positive Exposure, to Columbus for two events focused on improving attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. Positive Exposure is a multimedia presentation that aims to redefine perceptions of beauty, and invite people to see individuals with genetic, cognitive, physical, and behavioral differences as vibrant and valuable members of society.

Along with the OSU Nisonger Center, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) encourage Ohioans with an interest in the positive culture of the state's disabilities community to take advantage of the opportunity to see this unique presentation at noon on Sunday, October 20. On that day the founder, director, and photographer of Positive Exposure, Rick Guidotti, will visit COSI and discuss the multimedia gallery which will be on display there.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, September 25, 2013](#)

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– October –

This is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This year's theme is "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues, and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Pipeline, October 9, 2013

Jobs Summit Spotlights Disability Employment Awareness

"Smart for Business, Smart for People, Smart for Ohio's Bottom Line"

The DisAbility Jobs Summit at the Greater Columbus Convention Center today is in its second day of the two-day conference hosted by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) -- formerly named the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). It is the organization's goal to make this annual Summit a key statewide event for job seekers, businesses, and partners in Ohio's government and business sectors who work together in a mutually beneficial relationship.

This second annual conference gathers nearly 800 attendees, 28 exhibitors, and numerous sponsors and employers for a clearly focused agenda driven by input from individuals served within the state's DD system. Seminar and panel discussion topics include an overview and status report on the Employment First initiative. Presenting to a standing-room-only session at the conference was Kristen Helling, DODD Project Manager for Employment First. She provided an overview of the first full year of the initiative's implementation in a presentation that highlighted employer engagement across the state.

Synergy Conference Blends Talents of ... Everyone

'Synergy,' the annual conference for DD professionals, advocates, and self-advocates jointly-sponsored by PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) and OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association) welcomed more than 600 attendees over the course of the three-day event, October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. "Titles don't matter here, everyone is equal at this conference," said PAR Executive Director Steve Oster, during the opening remarks.

With 27 sessions offering multiple hours of training, there was something for everyone. "We're all here to learn something. It's about partnering with each other, and collaborating – it's not about who's in charge," said Dana Charlton, OSDA Executive Director. Sessions included a panel discussion by the collaborative 'Imagine Project' leaders regarding ISP planning, as well as national and local perspectives on the Employment First initiative from Dr. Theresa Grossi, the national Director of Community Living and Careers, and Kristin Helling, DODD Project Manager for Employment First.

"Steady U" Initiative Aims to Reduce Incidence of Falling

"STEADY U Ohio" is a comprehensive falls prevention initiative led by Governor John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Aging, along with other state agency partners including DODD. Launched last month, a new website at www.steadyu.ohio.gov offers many resources, and includes links to additional helpful information.

The initiative, supported by state government and business partners to strengthen existing falls prevention activities, coordinates a statewide educational campaign to spotlight the prevention of falls in care planning for all Ohioans, and especially those who are elderly or have disabilities. Partnering with state

agencies to target and educate high-risk populations on the subject of preventing falls, the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit is updating and promoting online resources and work with service providers directly to reduce the incidence of injuries due to falling.

New National Resource Center on Justice and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA) has awarded a two-year grant for \$400,000 to develop a national center on justice and intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Arc's national organization has been awarded the grant, which is the first national effort of its kind to bring together both victim and offender issues involving people with I/DD 'under one roof.' The goal of the grant project is to create a national clearinghouse for research, information, evaluation, training, and technical assistance for justice and disability professionals and other advocates that will build their capacity to better identify and meet the needs of people with I/DD.

Disability Employment Awareness Around the State

Ohio is embracing the culture of increased emphasis on community-based, competitive employment within developmental disabilities services, driven by Governor John Kasich's Employment First initiative. *Note: Several examples of community-based employment from around the state are shared in this issue.*

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, October 9, 2013](#)

Pipeline, October 23, 2013

Disability Employment Awareness, Raising Expectations

Disability Employment Awareness Around the State, and Beyond

Ohio is embracing the culture of increased emphasis on community-based, competitive employment as a priority within developmental disabilities services, and driven by Governor John Kasich's Employment First initiative. Around the state, advocates and self advocates are raising expectations and opening as many doors as possible to identify paid work opportunities that offer community engagement and make good use of each person's abilities.

Most recent in a series of disability employment recognition events, an Employment First kickoff was well-attended in Canton last week, co-hosted by DODD and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The agencies jointly announced the partnership to provide practical job support for 1500 working-age individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state. Made possible through funding earmarked in the 2014-2015 state budget, it supports individuals in obtaining jobs in their communities, as a preference to traditional adult services workshops or other more segregated settings. With this partnership, DODD and OOD have created a job counseling/job placement support network for adults with developmental disabilities in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

DODD will fund counselors employed by OOD, and each of those counselors will focus only on serving individuals with DD in sheltered work settings to find integrated employment in the community.

Note: Several examples of community-based employment from around the state are shared in this issue.

October Moves Administration Priorities Forward

Governor's Cabinet Sets Transformation Priorities

Governor John Kasich's Health and Human Services Cabinet met in early October to discuss transformation priorities in 2014. These priorities include:

- Continuing to modernize Medicaid and improving overall health system performance;
- Coordinating programs that support the best possible start for Ohio's children;
- Creating a unified workforce system that supports business in meeting its workforce needs; and,
- Sharing services within and beyond boundaries to improve program efficiency.

The Health and Human Services Cabinet is comprised of several state agencies that work together on programmatic and project areas, as defined under the overall Health and Human Services purview. DODD is a part of this collaborative effort.

Ohio's Plan to Extend Medicaid Coverage

In late September, the Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) seeking to extend Medicaid coverage. On October 10, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio's SPA. As a result, federal funds were made available to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014. On October 11, the Director of Ohio Medicaid submitted a Controlling Board request seeking authorization to spend federal-only funds to extend Medicaid coverage. Controlling Board approval on October 21, was required to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014.

On Oct. 21, Governor Kasich asked the seven-member legislative-spending oversight panel to provide the authority to spend federal money to cover an estimated 275,000 low-income Ohioans under Medicaid. The Controlling Board approved the administration's funding authorization request to expand Ohio's Medicaid eligibility up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, October 23, 2013](#)

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- November -

[Pipeline EXTRA, November 6, 2013](#)

Results of Voting - November 5, County Board of DD Levies

Results for issues on November 5 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

(Percentages are rounded.)

Ashland County: 1.5 mills, renewal PASSED, by 67%

Clark County: 1.75 mills, additional FAILED, by 53%

Clermont County: 0.75 mill, renewal PASSED, by 66%

Coshocton County: 2.8 mills, renewal PASSED, by 59%

Greene County: 3.5 mills, renewal PASSED, by 64%

Harrison County: 1 mill, renewal PASSED, by 67%

Lucas County: 1.8 mills, replacement PASSED, by 52%*

Madison County: 1 mill, renewal PASSED, by 71%

Marion County: 2.95 mills, replacement FAILED, by 58%

Morrow County: 2.5 mills, replacement FAILED, by 51%

Portage County: 2 mills, renewal PASSED, by 69%, AND 9 mill, renewal PASSED, by 70%

Wood County: 2.95 mills, additional PASSED, by 56%

** Lucas County: Two continuous levies rolled into one and adding 1 mill, in a replacement levy totaling 1.8 mills. Results are unofficial and will be certified by respective County Boards of Elections at a later date. To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline EXTRA November 6 2013](#)*

Pipeline, November 6, 2013

Employment First Partnership Takes Next Steps

DODD – OOD Partnership Moves Employment First Counselors to Forefront

Work at the grassroots level is now underway as Ohio accelerates its priority emphasis on competitive, integrated employment. On October 30, the Employment First New Counselors' Training was hosted by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency, in partnership with DODD, and driven by the momentum of Governor John Kasich's Employment First initiative.

Counselors who will be working directly with adults in Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities system are completing their training, preparing them to begin work identifying competitive employment opportunities that offer community engagement, and utilize each person's abilities. The October 30 event marked the end of an intensive training period, preparing the Employment First counselors for locations around the state, and kicked-off the next phase at the grassroots level. DODD Director John Martin noted,

“This effort you are involved in represents a significant wedge – a ‘tipping point’ if you will – for the development of integrated employment opportunities, and the importance of these opportunities to the state and national workforce. The nation will be watching what we are doing here, in Ohio, for it is a unique partnership.”

The Employment First partnership includes a commitment by DODD to fund the training of counselors who will work with individuals currently employed in traditional workshop settings, toward the goal of gaining a community-based job. OOD Director Kevin Miller made the analogy that DODD formed, “...the roots of the partnership, providing foundational strength and the strategic dollars needed.” The desired outcome is that he efforts result in opportunities for 1500 Ohioans with developmental disabilities to obtain community-based jobs each year, who previously were in traditional workshop settings.

National Family Caregivers Month Celebrates Many

“Family Caregivers – Now More Than Ever!”

In 1994, the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) began spotlighting the role of family caregivers during the week of Thanksgiving. As interest grew in family caregiving issues, National Family Caregivers Week became National Family Caregivers Month.

DODD salutes the day-to-day efforts of Ohio's many family caregivers and notes that each year, more and more Americans are caring for a family member with a chronic condition due to a disability, or issues related to advancing age. It is estimated that there are as many as 90 million family caregivers in the U.S. today. With that number in mind, the theme was set for National Family Caregivers Month, November 2013 ... “Now More Than Ever.”

As caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members, Ohio's developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts by so many, and for so many.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the Nation's long-term care system, providing an estimated \$450 billion worth of (unpaid) care each year. That's twice as much as home-care and nursing home services combined. With the ranks of family caregivers growing every year, DODD spotlights the importance of the role played by family caregivers – “Now More Than Ever.”

Strategic Leadership Team to Set Direction

DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community in processes to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. As a part of that process, Director John Martin and key staff have worked with stakeholders to develop a leadership group aimed at planning, and providing oversight for this work as we move into calendar year 2014. According to Director Martin,

“One of the strengths of the Ohio system is the richness and diversity of our stakeholder community. This leadership group will be balanced to represent this diversity while still being manageable in size.”

Approximately 20 people representing more than ten organizations will comprise the new strategic leadership team. An introductory meeting was hosted yesterday, and captured a broad mix of people involved in providing services, individuals participating in services, family members, and agency staff representatives. Meeting monthly over the next 12 months, the group’s focus will include the following:

- What do we need to learn more about? Plan learning opportunities that would be open to the statewide DD community.
- Evaluating what we do well in Ohio, and what we do not do so well.
- Establishing a vision for the future -- What could/should we look like in 10 years? -- and preliminary steps (next biennium) to get us there.
-

The November 5th meeting at Columbus Developmental Center included a presentation by Director John noting that the group’s tasks will include examining roles, values, and philosophies, and establishing a 2-year and a 10-year Vision.

To offer up-to-date information on the work of the Strategic Planning Leadership Group, an [online webpage](#)* has been developed and features meeting presentations, discussions, and other materials. It will serve as a transparent resource throughout the 2014 timeframe. Feedback on content is welcome, and may be addressed to Chris Murphy at chris.murphy@dodd.ohio.gov.

OPRA Conference Spotlights System Growth, Change

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference last month was designed to support an information-packed ‘learning module’ format, and featured a broad assortment of several educational tracks geared for professionals in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, including such areas as Direct Support, Program Management, and Supported Employment. Speakers represented many national and state organizations, including DODD Director John Martin, Deputy Directors Patrick Stephan and Kate Haller, and Project Manager in the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, Molly Kurtz. In addition, several volunteers, teams, supervisors, direct support staff, and others had the opportunity to step into the OPRA Awards spotlight at the conference, having earned a moment of recognition.

Raising the Bar: Lawyers Develop ‘O.P.E.N. Court’

Educates Developmental Disabilities Community via Web Series

For many, the legal system can be a complicated and confusing structure. The process can be even more overwhelming for young members of the developmental disabilities community, as well as for the police officers, attorneys, and court personnel who encounter them.

The Ohio State Bar Association is taking steps to relieve this stress through their ‘O.P.E.N. Court’ online resource designed to, “Orient young People with Exceptional Needs about court.” Through a series of three videos following Henry, a young man with autism who finds himself navigating the juvenile court

system, the series teaches young viewers, with and without developmental disabilities, about courtroom behavior, their rights, and how to assert them. Each video is less than ten minutes in duration.

The website provides a resource guide for teachers, parents, attorneys, juvenile court personnel, and social-service professionals to engage in best practices to help young people gain the confidence and skills to navigate the process successfully from beginning to end. O.P.E.N Court is the brainchild of the Bar Association's charitable arm, the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF), which selects 40 'Fellows' each year from their new members to create and execute a project designed to enhance public understanding of the law, and improve the justice system. The materials are available to anyone seeking information on how best to educate young people on the juvenile court process.

To view the O.P.E.N. Court video series, visit <http://www.osbf.net/opencourt>

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, November 20, 2013, Thanksgiving Issue](#)

[Pipeline, November 20, 2013 – The annual Thanksgiving issue](#)

Family Advisory Council Honors Family Caregivers

DODD salutes the efforts of Ohio's family caregivers.

National Family Caregivers Month recognizes the many family caregivers who balance full lives, including family caregiving responsibilities. More at <http://www.nfcacares.org/>

Across Ohio and the nation, recognition of National Family Caregivers Month continues, highlighting the many individuals and families responsible for the health and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities, the elderly population, and others in need of special care. More than 65 million family caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members. Ohio's developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts *by* so many, and *for* so many.

At the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting on November 12 at Columbus Developmental Center, attendees included many long-time family caregivers, as well as professionals and others with an interest in Ohio's DD community. At the meeting, family members offered many interesting questions for presenters to consider. DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan received several questions on the subject of waiver services, provider and parent responsibilities, and gaps being addressed in the overall service system.

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities system. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

[News from the Office of Health Transformation](#)

Ohio Medicaid to Begin Online Family Enrollment

The Office of Health Transformation was created in 2011, and is charged with carrying out the need to address Medicaid spending issues, plan for the long-term efficient administration of the Ohio Medicaid program, and act to improve overall health system performance in Ohio. DODD is proud to be a state agency partner in this collaborative effort.

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) announced last week that low-income families will be able to apply for Medicaid benefits on the state's new online eligibility system beginning December 9, nearly one month ahead of schedule. Individuals who will newly-qualify for Medicaid under recent eligibility changes also may begin applying on December 9. The online enrollment options are part of a new eligibility system that Ohio launched October 1. *Ohio Benefits* is a simple, self-service internet site that makes it easier for Ohioans to learn what type of health care coverage may be available to them.

Originally, children and parents were scheduled to be allowed to apply for Medicaid benefits on the system starting January 1, 2014.

While enrollment for the newly-eligible group is set to begin in December, coverage will not start until January 1, 2014. Beginning on December 9, prospective enrollees are encouraged to visit www.benefits.ohio.gov to see if they qualify.

State agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation include the Ohio departments of: Job and Family Services; Medicaid; Developmental Disabilities; Mental Health and Addiction Services; Aging; and, Health. *More information on this and other related subjects at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov*

Special Feature

Giving Thanks – Shared Stories from Across the State

In this issue closest to Thanksgiving Day, we highlight a few of the things for which we, at DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful. We also take this opportunity to thank you for your input during the year – many *Pipeline* articles are the result of reader input.

Note: In this year's Thanksgiving potpourri, we heard from many individuals and families, as well as professionals in the DD community representing several counties across the state. They expressed thanks for everything from good jobs in the community ... to the support of siblings ... to military servicemen and servicewomen around the nation.

They are thankful ...



Above, left: Provider, Midwest Innovations, is thankful for Andrew's progress. Andrew is shown here walking with a staff member to pick apples at Bauman Orchards. Andrew usually uses a wheelchair, but can walk for short distances if someone holds his hand for balance. He thought it was cool that he could walk and pick this apple (staff person is holding it so Andrew can balance on the walk back).

Above, right: Thankful for owning his own business! Michael Richards (left) with a customer in his own M&A Small Machine Repair Shop, in Highland County;

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, November 20, 2013, Thanksgiving Issue](#)

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- December -

Pipeline, December 4, 2013

Community Resource Coordinators Strengthen Efforts

A long-term commitment to ensure successful community placements.

The DODD Division of Residential Resources (see Pipeline, February 15, 2012) is continuing its focus as a statewide community resource for individuals served in Ohio's Developmental Centers and their families, with the creation of ten Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) positions. Each of the new CRCs has been assigned to a Developmental Center (DC) to serve as a liaison between that facility and the local community.

One of the first major projects several of the Community Resource Coordinators are involved with is the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Homes Project. Currently, there are seven DCs at which interested residents will have opportunities to move into a smaller, six-bed ICF home. These smaller settings will be operated by private providers who will be closely involved with the CRCs. According to the Division's Deputy Director, Ginnie Whisman,

"This represents a long-term commitment for both DODD and the provider to ensure community placement is as successful as possible."

Brent Baer, Assistant Deputy Director in the Department's Division of Residential Resources, sums up the statewide approach to service improvement via the Community Resource Coordinators, "With assistance from many of our stakeholders, including the residents we serve, we continue develop and create new community-based options. All of the Community Resource Coordinators' actions and expectations are to assist individuals to be safe, happy and successful in their own ways."

HOME Choice Program Empowers Community Living

First Conference of Its Type in Ohio

The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council hosted a community living conference on November 21, in Columbus, focused on providing information to people with disabilities and older adults who are considering moving from nursing homes or other institutions to independent community living -- through help from the HOME Choice program. This was Ohio's first such conference, as noted during welcome comments by John McCarthy, Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Participants included more than 200 HOME Choice service and health care providers, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and many individuals served in the statewide system, along with their families and caregivers. In addition, the conference debuted two new videos featuring four 'stories of recovery,' ultimately showcasing independence gained through Ohio's HOME Choice program.

Public Hearing on Rules, Including Employment First

A public hearing on proposed rule actions will be held December 27, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration. They include:

- *Rule 5123:2-2-05 entitled "Employment First"* is a proposed new rule. The rule implements Ohio's Employment First policy, established in Section 5123.022 of the Revised Code, that employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities be directed at

community employment and that individuals with developmental disabilities are presumed capable of community employment.

- *Rule 5123:1-1-03 entitled "Distribution of Community Assistance Funds for the Acquisition of Housing"* is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same number. The rule sets forth a process for the Department to make community assistance funds available to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to acquire housing for individuals receiving supported living. The rule has been updated to correct references and citations, including references to the Department, and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

30th Annual OACB Convention Spotlights Collaboration

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference is today through December 6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus, and celebrates the Conference's 30th year. The many scheduled informational sessions and presentations focus on ideas and information designed to help attendees continue to improve services for individuals and families in their communities, and around the state. Details about the conference are at [OACB conference information](#). At today's opening session, DODD Director John Martin highlighted a few points in his presentation, focusing on examples of OACB's transformational changes over the Association's 30 years of service within the state's developmental disabilities system.

To read the complete issue, click on: [Pipeline, December 4, 2013](#)

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In the 2013 Holiday Spirit

Back by popular demand, and excerpted from, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', by Theodore Geisel

He puzzled three hours, 'til his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
Maybe Christmas, he thought ... doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps ... means a little bit more!
[More at http://dearsantaclaus.biz/grinch.htm](http://dearsantaclaus.biz/grinch.htm)



And meanwhile, back in Ohio ...*
He puzzled for hours, couldn't do it no more.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
Maybe Christmas, he thought ... doesn't come from a store.
Then he went to the map on the Statehouse floor.
He said, "Why of course! ... It's from Every County!"
And then he set out ... to sample the bounty.

- *NOT by Theodore Geisel

Moving on to 2014 now . . .



An effort to revamp the icon that's long symbolized accessibility on everything from parking signs to bathrooms is gaining traction. New York City adopted this new look, and it is catching on around the country.

More at: www.accessibleicon.org

PostScripts

Secretary of State Web Site to Feature Passion Works Studio

Athens Business Featured on Ohio Secretary of State Website

The Ohio Secretary of State Web Site features Ohio businesses that are leaders in their field. Each month a different theme is chosen and a few leading businesses are highlighted that fit the theme. The theme for December is "*Better to Give.*" Passion Works Studio in Athens provides a creative and inclusive atmosphere for artists with and without disabilities, and markets original works of art that change perceptions and raise awareness of these Ohio artists. Visit [SOS Ohio Business Profiles](#) during December, and *thanks to the Ohio Secretary of State for supporting Ohio businesses and artists!*

🌀 Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting December 19

You are invited to attend and provide input into the December meeting of the Ohio *Governor's Council on People with Disabilities* on December 19, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency at 400 East Campus View Boulevard in Columbus. The meeting will be in the Learning Center and parking is free and available in front of the building. If you plan to attend and need any accommodations, contact Donna Foster, at donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov or call (614) 438-1394.

🌀 Ohio Disability and Health Program Needs Disability Advocates

Representing the disability perspective on a public health committee is a crucial step to improving inclusiveness, and ensuring that people with disabilities are considered in public health matters.

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is dedicated to raising awareness and improving knowledge regarding the needs of Ohio's disability community, specifically among staff at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Building relationships with the leaders of state-level public health committees within ODH is important to this effort, and the disability community must be represented on these committees. By appointing people with disabilities and their guardians, caregivers, and/or other disability advocates as members on these committees, the Ohio Disability and Health Program will be better informed to do its work. There are six committees currently requesting a representative from the disability community, and most committees meet bi-monthly or quarterly. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact health policy specialist, Anureet Benipal at ODH-- (614) 644.9848; Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov .

🌀 2014 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Theme Announced

The 2014 theme is, "Ability@Work."

The concept is designed to be used all year, if desired.

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and continued theme-related efforts throughout the year. In 2013 the theme has been "*Look Beyond,*" and was used widely around the state, often customized by local County

Boards of DD and other service providers to unify and brand their local efforts. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for customization. Artwork is available free, online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org. OPI encourages a year-long DD awareness effort, and provides sample ideas and information both online, and at events to be scheduled in 2014.

Call for Entries, Media and Awareness Awards – Entry Deadline, January 10, 2014

The OPI “*Call for Entries*” for the organization’s annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013* is underway. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. The official ‘Call for Entries’ on the OPI website [at this link](#).

DODD Family Advisory Council, Next Meeting is January 14, 2014

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) will be in its 12th year in 2014, and starts the year with a meeting on January 14th. Included on the agenda will be an open discussion with service providers and provider association representatives, as well as an overview of the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. *FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.* We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. *Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov.*

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day 2014

Save the Date! March 4, 2014

The poster features a dark blue header with the text "DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY" in white. Below this is a vertical gold bar on the left with the text "SAVE THE DATE" written vertically. The main content area has a light blue background with a photograph of a classical column. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "Details Coming Soon!", "Tuesday, March 4, 2014", and "Ohio Statehouse". Below this, it says "Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness" and "Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations: The Arc, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation Services, OACB, The Ohio State University, SPRA, Ohio SIBS, and ucedd.

Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>

☎ DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, 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 ... 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. *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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**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**

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