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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>  
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**January 8, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 1**

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## Welcome 2014 - Happy New Year!

As we step into the New Year, remember ...

“If everything seems under control, you’re just not going fast enough.”

-Mario Andretti, race car driver

## 1. [Kasich Administration Works to Stem Human Trafficking](#)



It may be a little difficult to watch or listen to the video linked below, as there are many disturbing stories to be told. However, it clearly tells the undeniable facts to be learned about the presence of human trafficking in Ohio.

<http://powerhost.powerstream.net/008/00153/HumanTrafficking.wmv>

In support of *Human Trafficking Awareness Month* in January, DODD joins its state agency partners in educating Ohio citizens, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about the realities of human trafficking in Ohio. [Recommendations](#) to combat human trafficking -- *the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor* -- were presented to Governor John Kasich by Ohio’s Human Trafficking Task Force in 2012, at his request. The Task Force had been re-convened by Ohio Attorney General

Mike DeWine in 2011. Task Force recommendations are the foundation for the state's coordination of efforts to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking; creation of a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate these crimes; and, provision of services and treatment to trafficking victims.

A summary of those recommendations states that human trafficking is ...“One of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide, and is on pace to surpass the drug trade in less than five years. Ohio is not immune to this plague.” The summary continues,

**“Each year an estimated 1,078 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, and 3,016 more are at-risk.”**

Governor Kasich is committed to aggressively addressing this problem, and acting on the Task Force recommendations. Most recently, the Human Trafficking Commission helped pass [House Bill 262](#), also known as the ‘Safe Harbor Law.’ It will increase the penalties for traffickers and improve care for victims. Ohioans are urged to report any suspicious activity that may indicate human trafficking, and may learn more about spotting such behavior per information on the [Ohio Attorney General's website](#). In addition, suspicious activity may be reported to the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) hotline, toll-free at 1-866-313-6733.

Reporting any suspicious activity, and help for those who need it are key to the success of awareness efforts. Look for posts on DODD's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages throughout January, linking to informative and timely articles about the issue of human trafficking, its prevention, and help for those who need it.

*More information at: <http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx> and at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov>  
Recommendations:<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/news/OhioHumanTraffickingTaskForceReport.pdf>*

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## **2. Updates from the Office of Health Transformation**

### **Workgroup Submits Direct Care Worker Recommendations**

Governor John Kasich proposed, and the Ohio General Assembly established, a workgroup to identify the core competencies required for direct care workers as a condition of receiving Medicaid payment. The *Direct Care Worker Advisory Workgroup*, representing home health consumers and providers, submitted its recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly on December 30, 2013. DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Legal and Oversight Kate Haller was a participant in this process. [Read the report](#) as released by the Office of Health Transformation.

### **Additional CHIPRA Funds Awarded**

The Office of Health Transformation also reports that Ohio will receive \$10,829,869 in 2014 as a performance bonus for increasing the number of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the award early last week.

The bonus funding is awarded as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), and is in its final year. In addition to being tied to the

percentage increase of children enrolled in Medicaid, the awards consider eight factors which, according to CMS, are the strongest indicators that children have better access to health care. Ohio consistently has met five of those criteria, including continuous eligibility, liberalization of asset requirements, elimination of an in-person interview, same application and renewal forms, and presumptive eligibility.

More at <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>

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### 3. Additional Funding to Support Direct Care Staff

After successful negotiations by the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), the Ohio General Assembly approved additional funds to support front line staff serving individuals with developmental disabilities (HB 59, Operating Budget). DODD formed a workgroup with representatives of OPRA, The Arc of Ohio, Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Health Care Association, Ohio Self-Determination Association, and the Values and Faith Alliance to determine how the funds would be best utilized.

The workgroup recommended that the initial phase should increase the base rates for two commonly utilized services -- Homemaker/Personal Care ‘on-site/on-call,’ and Transportation -- for both independent and agency providers serving individuals enrolled in the Individual Options and Level One Waivers. Homemaker/Personal Care ‘on-site/on-call’ is a component of Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) that is paid at a lower rate than routine HPC services, as it is typically delivered overnight, when the individual being served is asleep.

**The new rates are effective January 1, 2014.**



The specific rate information is contained in appendices to rules 5123:2-9-24 (Transportation) and 5123:2-9-30 (Homemaker/Personal Care) available at DODD’s [\*Rules in Effect webpage\*](#).\*

Debbie Hoffine, Operations Administrator within DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, observes, “DODD and its stakeholders are very pleased to see these rate increases made available to support and enhance services to individuals.” She adds, “The next phase of this funding will be utilized to increase the base rate for routine Homemaker/Personal Care services for both agency and independent providers. The increase for that service is planned to be effective on July 1, 2014.”

\*The Rules URL is <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>

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## 4. Ohio Medicaid Strengthens Case Management Efforts

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has announced changes pertaining to two ODM-administered waivers -- the Ohio Home Care Waiver, and the Transitions Carve-Out Waiver. Effective January 1, 2014, ODM has contracted with two additional case management agencies to provide case management services in two more ODM-administered waiver regions. The goal in doing so is to provide individuals enrolled on these waivers a broader choice of case management agencies.

In July 2013, ODM divided the state into four 'waiver case management regions' -- Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Marietta. With the addition of two more case management agencies, the Cincinnati and Marietta regions now will include the Council on Aging, and CareSource, respectively.

ODM also noted in making the announcement that in July 2013, they had contracted with a provider oversight agency, Provider Consulting Group (PCG), to ensure that providers offer high-quality care to individuals on ODM-administered waivers, meet eligibility requirements, and follow all program rules and requirements. PCG services are statewide.

More information at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/>

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### **[Mark Your Calendars!](#)**

## 5. Update on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4

In 2013 a new partnership blended the annual statewide *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* in March, and the annual *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately at the Ohio Statehouse. 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. This year, the event planners include many from 2013\*, with DD Council and Ohio SIBS taking the lead.

The theme for this year's event is "*What Are You Waiting For?*" ... referring to the release of a highly-anticipated study that evaluates the state's waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. Held in the Statehouse Atrium, the event begins with check-in and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., the program begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings immediately follow the program. The agenda promises to energize the state's disability community, and share stories of personal growth and achievement. Scheduled speakers include DODD Director John Martin, and self-advocates Christine Brown, Adam Moss, Renee Wood, J.J. House, and others. They will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment.

Participants at the event also will have an opportunity to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities.

**Participation is free to anyone, but will be limited to the first 350 people who register.**

Registration is now open and can be completed online by visiting [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov) or [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com). Advocates interested in more information can also 'like' the event's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness).

**Each person planning to attend must register. The deadline to register is Friday, February 14, 2014.**

*Click here for a video from the 2013 event.*

*\*Planners include: The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Special Initiative for Brothers and Sisters (SIBS), the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, The Arc of Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards, the Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Self Determination Association, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, People First of Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.*

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## **Health & Safety**

### **6. Winter Weather Safety – Technology Tips, Reminders**

As Ohio 'weathers' the 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 cold weather, 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.

**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. 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 stuck, and I’m only four blocks from the house!”**

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) emphasizes integrating technology into individual, family, and business preparedness plans.**

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

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) reminds SmartPhone users to, “...Turn the technology in their purse or pocket into a life-saving tool to use in an emergency.” For example:

- *Learn how to send updates via text* from your cell phone to your contacts and social channels, in case voice communication is not available;

- *Store important electronic documents* such as personal and financial records on a ‘flash’ or ‘jump’ drive that can be readily available and accessed anywhere.

In addition, the DODD MUI Registry Unit offers these reminders:

- *Prepare your home for winter.* 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. 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.

### **‘Well-Informed’ – New Health & Safety Publication Debuts**

*The health and safety of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities continues to be Priority One.* Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director, MUI Registry Unit, has announced publication of a new Quarterly newsletter, “*Well Informed*” (see it [here](#).) He observed, “As we welcome 2014, the DODD MUI Registry Unit is working hard to provide information to the field regarding various health and welfare concerns. The first issue of our new quarterly newsletter, *Well Informed*, was distributed on December 20, and addresses health and wellness issues that we hope will help to improve outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities in Ohio.”

Topics will vary from issue to issue and will include:

- Frequently asked questions
- Facts and research findings
- Wellness guidance
- Compliance updates
- Safety strategies
- Trend information

Phillips adds, “Our goal is to provide another resource, in addition to DODD [Health & Welfare Alerts](#), to educate and empower individuals, families, and our statewide stakeholder community.” Suggestions for topics to include in *Well Informed* may be directed to Connie McLaughlin at [connie.mclaughlin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:connie.mclaughlin@dodd.ohio.gov).

*Learn how to best help older Ohioans in your neighborhood with these [tips from the Ohio Department of Aging](#).*

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[Attn: County Boards of DD](#)

## 7. Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Offers Grants

Ohio EPA's [Clean Diesel School Bus Fund](#) offers grants of up to \$300,000 to retrofit diesel school buses with pollution control equipment and 'idle reduction equipment' such as pre-heaters, to save fuel and reduce student and driver exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. *The next application deadline is March 1, 2014.* Applicants should note that a 5 percent cash or in-kind match is required.

**Public School Districts and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are eligible to apply. The 2014 grant application is posted at:**  
<http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>



Priority for funding is given to applicants that already have "anti-idling policies" in place for their buses, as well as applicants located in the 27 Ohio counties that do not currently meet national air quality standards for fine particulates (soot particles). A map of these counties may be accessed [here](#). Buses must be operating at least 5,000 miles per year, and grant recipients must commit to continue to operate the bus for a period of four years after the retrofit.

In addition, Ohio EPA's [Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant](#) program offers grants covering 80 percent of the cost to retrofit or replace older diesel school buses with newer clean diesel technology, or alternative fuel technology. These grants are funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars, and are available only to applicants in 35 eligible counties and two additional eligible townships. A map of the eligible counties is posted [here](#).

*For more information contact Kristopher Weiss, [Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov), (614) 644-3769.*

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**Meet Todd, and learn about his success**  
with Remote Monitoring support services ...  
Coming soon, in

*Pipeline Quarterly*

## Postscripts .....



### A POSTSCRIPT FOR 2013

Larry Farmer is waving 'Hello' to by-standers in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, at the recent Christmas parade for which he was Grand Marshal. This was especially cool, according to DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr -- a friend of Larry's -- because Gary loves parades, and is very social. Greg Kimball, Mayor of the Village of Mechanicsburg, was kind enough to share this great photo with *Pipeline*, and we also thank Larry's service provider CRSI, for letting us surprise Larry with this bit of publicity about his Grand Marshal activities.

### ☞ 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](mailto:Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov) .

### ☞ Entry Deadline January 10, for OPI Media and Awareness Awards

The Ohio Public Images (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, with *entries due by January 10, 2014*. 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](#).

**The 2014 DD Awareness Month (March) theme is, "Ability@Work."**

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://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.

### ☞ DODD Family Advisory Council – Next Meeting, January 14, 2014

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year in 2014, and starts the year with a meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov).

## **Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meeting, January 23**

You are invited to attend and provide input at the January meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities on January 23, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the office of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), 150 East Campus View Boulevard, Third floor, Commissioners Conference Room, in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need accommodations, contact Donna Foster, via e-mail at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov) or by phone at 614-438-1394, by Wednesday, January 15.

## **Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4**

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness. 'Like' on Facebook: *DD Awareness & Advocacy Day*. See the article (#5) in this issue of *Pipeline* for additional information.

## **Save the Date! People First Conference, March 13-15**

The 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is "*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*" The agenda this year is focused on self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff. Look for more information posted online at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org) as the date draws nearer.

## **Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications**

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are available on the Foundation's website at [www.differentneedzfoundation.org](http://www.differentneedzfoundation.org). Grant awards will be announced in May 2014. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: [info@differentneedzfoundation.org](mailto:info@differentneedzfoundation.org) (216) 904-5151.

## **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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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**January 22, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 2**

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- 5. Fairfield County’s *DiscoverU* Opens Doors

*Pipeline Postscripts:* Including Many New Updates for Your 2014 Calendar

## Governor Kasich to Hold ‘State of the State’ Address in Medina

Governor John Kasich will deliver his third State of the State Address in Medina, taking the speech on the road and ‘to the people,’ for the third straight year. The annual address is planned for the evening of February 24 at the Medina Performing Arts Center. The speech is expected to coincide with the Administration’s unveiling of the Mid-Biennium Review budget, also planned for late February.

## 1. DODD - Revisiting Our Roots at the Start of 2014

**The Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.**

Since 2011, at the outset of the Kasich Administration, DODD has continued to build its foundation on the *Mission* statement above, and the *Vision* noted below, along with five specific goals. These foundational elements have remained consistent, and have been revisited many times since 2011 to provide guidance and assure clear direction in the Department’s operation and planning. As 2014 ramps up, we share these with *Pipeline* readers once again, and look forward to the work building on this platform this year through our Strategic Planning Leadership Group (See *Pipeline Volume 7 issue 26 'Year in Review'*), as well as with other important stakeholder groups.

## Vision

Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families will experience lifestyles that provide opportunities for personal security, physical and emotional well-being, full community participation, productivity, and equal rights.

**NOTE:** In 2014, one example of supporting this *Vision* is that DODD will be implementing a Service & Support Administration rule (ORC 5123:2-1-11) which will clearly define person-centered services and encourage self-direction and self-advocacy within Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

## Five Goals

*Goal 1:* Create less complex service delivery, with fair and logical payment systems that are federally compliant.

*Goal 2:* Continue to be good stewards of limited resources.

*Goal 3:* Provide quality outcomes through a combination of people and processes.

*Goal 4:* Design service delivery models in response to choices made by the people served, in alliance with community supports.

*Goal 5:* Develop a system-wide vision and long-range strategic plan by listening to our funding partners, constituents, and stakeholders.

**NOTE:** In 2014, one example of supporting these *Five Goals* is the exploration and development of targeted workgroups within the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, to work with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other state and federal agencies to improve the delivery of services through Medicaid-funded waivers. One such effort specifically is focused on the Transitions "TDD" waiver for services to youth and young adults.

Over the course of the past few years, DODD Director John Martin has noted that with the guidance of the agency's *Mission, Vision, and Five Goals*, and the input of active stakeholder groups within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, the state will continue to be a leader in areas such as regional service collaboration, and employment opportunities. Referring to a partnership between DODD and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency in October 2013, he stated,

**"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."**

It is with much enthusiasm that DODD looks forward in 2014 to making the most of our system's strengths, and to continuously improving the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

More about DODD Vision, Goals, etc. at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/directorscorner/Pages/Mission,-Vision,-Values>.

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## 2. Administration Spotlights Human Trafficking Awareness



"Trafficking happens here in Ohio ... and there *is* something that we can do about it."

- Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis

### January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The quote noted above is indicative of the aggressive approach taken on *Human Trafficking Awareness Day* in Ohio earlier this month, at an event hosted by State Representative Teresa Fedor. The awareness campaign during the month of January, "Ohio's Tragic Reality," is spearheaded by Governor John Kasich, and utilizes social media, posters, advertisements, billboards, and fact sheets that highlight the issues of human sex and labor trafficking. The campaign also directs individuals to national anti-trafficking organization [Polaris Project](#) for more information.

Strengthening the statewide effort are partnerships with entities including the Ohio Turnpike Commission -- which is placing materials at roadside service plazas and on toll booths -- as well as with state departments of Youth Services, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Job and Family Services. In addition, public libraries, state licensing boards, and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks are supporting and promoting the issue with access to information at points of contact in hopes of reaching individuals directly affected. Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis recently stated,

**"These partnerships only work if you guys take this out and spread the message that human trafficking is Ohio's tragic reality."**

Representative Fedor also has proposed a bill, [HB 130](#) – the "End Demand Act" – which seeks to curb demand for the sex trade. The legislation would bar placement of children under a public children's services agency with any parent convicted of a prostitution-related offense, and establish new offenses for trafficking that involves individuals with developmental disabilities. The bill was passed by the Ohio House in June, and heard for the first time by the Ohio Senate Criminal Justice Committee last Tuesday.

As noted in [Pipeline, January 8, 2014](#), the illegal trade of people for commercial sex exploitation is expected to surpass illegal drug trade as a top crime in less than five years. People who are exploited each year include an estimated 1,078 Ohio children. HB 130 increases the penalty for solicitation of a minor for commercial sex, and enforces a third degree felony on anyone who knowingly purchases or obtains advertising for sex for hire that depicts a minor.

In support of *Human Trafficking Awareness Month* in January, DODD joins its state agency partners in educating Ohio citizens, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about the realities of this crime. Ohioans are urged to report any suspicious activity that may indicate human trafficking, and may learn more about spotting and reporting such behavior per information on the [Ohio Attorney General's website](#). In addition, suspicious activity may be reported to the DODD Major Unusual Incident toll-free hotline, (866)313-6733.

More information at: <http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx> and at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov>  
More on the subject from a national perspective at <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

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### 3. Office of Health Transformation – More Rebalancing

#### New Medicaid Waiver Rule Clarifies HCBS

When Governor John Kasich took office, Ohio was spending more of its Medicaid budget on high-cost nursing homes and other institutions than all but five states, and Ohio taxpayers were spending 47 percent more for Medicaid long-term care than taxpayers in other states. The [Office of Health Transformation](#) is working to “rebalance” Medicaid long-term care spending toward less expensive home- and community-based services (HCBS).

**A new federal rule recently brought forward works to support this ultimate goal for seniors and people with disabilities to live in their own home, instead of a higher-cost nursing home.**

In a long-awaited move, federal officials are clarifying what counts as ‘home and community-based services’ for people with disabilities. Under a [new rule](#), housing for people with disabilities not only will be judged by its location or physical characteristics, but also will need to meet specific ‘outcome-oriented’ criteria in order to qualify under Medicaid HCBS waivers.

The rule states, “Home and community-based settings do not include a nursing facility, institution for mental diseases, or an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The new federal requirements also state that homes, “...must exhibit specific qualities to be eligible sites for delivery of home and community-based services.”

**More specifically, the rule states that the settings must be integrated in, and provide full access to, the community – and be places where individuals choose to live.**

The language also specifies that individuals with disabilities receiving Medicaid home- and community-based services do so through a person-centered planning process. Homes also must offer personal rights to privacy and dignity and allow individuals to independently make choices about daily activities, their physical environment, and with whom they interact.

In making the announcement regarding the rule language, federal officials noted that while the new rule has been ‘in the works’ for years, they were prompted to move forward more quickly after hearing reports of homes being built on the sites of former institutions that were being labeled as ‘community-based.’

More: <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-Sheets/2014-Fact-sheets-items/2014-01-10-2>.

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## 4. DODD Family Advisory Council – Focuses on Providers

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) began its twelfth year of meetings in 2014 with standing-room-only attendance on January 14 at Columbus Developmental Center. Included on the agenda was an open discussion with a panel of several service providers -- including independent providers and provider association representatives – as well as an overview of the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, and Administration updates from DODD Director John Martin. Referring to several data-driven observations, Director Martin noted,

**“One of the things we’re looking at is how County Boards of DD are being impacted in terms of levy dollars, and other economic impacts that are being felt across the state. We also are looking at where the responsibilities are drawn for DODD as a state agency, and what responsibilities are County Boards’ – and so how can we work together in the most mutually helpful way?”**



### A Voice from Ross County

Jessica Hawk, Ross County parent advocate, takes the microphone to ask a question about regulations for the use of durable medical equipment.

She also shared her thoughts on other subjects as a long-time advocate for people with disabilities and their families. She observed,

**“We have to ask questions, and the right questions!”**



**A ‘full house’ at the January 14 Family Advisory Council meeting ... included several first-time attendees representing counties throughout the state. While professionals in the DD community also attend the meetings, most participants are family members of individuals with developmental disabilities.**



**A 'provider panel' answered many questions from family members, and offered insight into current issues affecting Ohio providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. (L. to R.: Kathy Phillips; Mark Davis (standing); Betty Holland; Steve Mould; Tom Rickels, and Dan Ohler.**

Per requests in 2013 from several FAC members, a panel representing service providers spoke to the group and addressed a variety of questions and concerns. Representing providers were Kathy Phillips, Dan Ohler, and Tom Rickels of the Ohio Waiver Network (OWN); Mark Davis of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Steve Mould of the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA); and, Betty Holland of the Values & Faith Alliance. Comments included these:

**“What kind of training is out there for providers – for direct support staff – to help build relationships with the families of people they serve? We want to feel welcomed and valued when we visit our sons and daughters.” -A parent advocate**

**“Who is holding providers accountable? Really accountable. The regulations are confusing to me.” -A parent advocate**

**“As an Association, do we try to influence ‘best practices’? Yes. Can we as an Association enforce them? No. But we can and do work together with those who can.” -Mark Davis, OPRA**

**“You are right – the system is too complex. The Ohio Waiver Network was recently organized, and that is one of the reasons – we want to figure out ways to simplify the provision of services to people with DD, and we’re working on some ideas.” -Tom Rickels, OWN**

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, coordinator of the FAC meetings, emphasized to the group that [Family Chat\\*](#) online conversations between families who are served by Ohio’s DD service system are another good forum for these discussions. DODD Communications team members noted that the online discussion group may move on to a Facebook format in the future, facilitating more such interaction.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

*Contact Peggy Martin, [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov).*

\*Family Chat is at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/INF/gethelp/joinfamilychat/Pages/default.aspx>

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## 5. Fairfield County's 'DiscoverU' Hosts Grand Opening

DODD Director John Martin was on-hand in Fairfield County last week to participate in the grand opening of *DiscoverU* at the River Valley Mall -- a unique approach to community-based employment and training spearheaded by JobFusion, the employment division of the [Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#). He observed, "This is really an innovative project that we think is going to make significant differences in the lives of folks with disabilities, and helping them get jobs." He continued,

**"As we all know, with jobs come income and money. And with money comes independence. So all of those things work together. It's really impressive to have the community businesses, political leadership, and County Board ... all working together to create this."**

DiscoverU offers opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive training and hands-on experience through a variety of classroom activities and internships. In addition to Director Martin, other state and local leaders attended the grand opening, including Lancaster Mayor Dave Smith; Lancaster/Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce President Travis Markwood; Specialty Leasing Manager at River Valley Mall Kelly Broeg; Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency Director Kevin Miller, and others in support of the local collaborative efforts.



< Left to Right: Kevin Miller, John Martin, Richard Clemons, and Kathy Dennison prepare to speak at the Grand Opening of DiscoverU at the River Valley Mall in Lancaster. Richard stated,

**"Before I started here, there was no way I could get in front of a crowd and speak. I feel like I've opened up working at Elder-Beerman."**

**Below: A good time was had by all at the Discover U Grand Opening.**

*Photos courtesy, Pam Whiteley*



More about this story on our DODD Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Department-of-Developmental-Disabilities/124333821004961>

See related article, *Lancaster Eagle Gazette*, 1-14-14

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Publishing today, in the newest issue of  
*Pipeline Quarterly ...*

you'll meet Cory and other individuals around the state, who are enjoying more independence with Remote Monitoring support services.

Go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

## *PostScripts* .....

### **More News About DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4**

*Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day*, March 4 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase self-advocates' stories of personal growth and achievement. The program is planned this year by many partners in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, including DODD, the Ohio DD Council, Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters, The Arc of Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Self Determination Association, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, People First of Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Participation is free, and open to anyone, but will be limited to the first 350 who register.

Registration is now open and can be completed online by visiting [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov) or [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com). Advocates interested in more information can also 'like' the event's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness).

Every person planning to attend must register – Deadline to register is February 14, 2014.

The theme for the event is, “*What Are You Waiting For?*” and refers to the release of a highly-anticipated study that evaluates the state’s waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. Held in the Statehouse Atrium, the day will begin with check-in and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., the program at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings immediately follow the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment. Event participants will have opportunities to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities.

*Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness. 'Like' on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.*

### **Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at the Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to stay on a journey toward a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. The training will feature Master Trainers, Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a “Certified Lead HL Trainer”; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and have the opportunity to network with peers. *Registration opens January 30!* Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org)

### **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](mailto:Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov) .

### **FUSE and One Accord to Host Deafness Awareness Event February 22**

**‘Deaf, Deaf World,’ February 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

A free adventure to have a “no speaking allowed” experience, designed to develop sensitivity to and increase awareness of communication methods of deaf and hearing-challenged people. Hosted at Vineyard Columbus, 600 Cooper Rd., Westerville, on Saturday February 22, 2014, Joni & Friends Ohio, and Deaf Services are working together to increase Deaf Awareness. “Deaf, Deaf World” is modeled after an event that was held at Wright State University years ago. Each participant will enter a room where they will learn about Deaf Culture. Each attendee will be given a Passport to enter Deaf, Deaf World

where no talking is allowed. A person can sign, charade or write things out but no one will be allowed to talk. For more info, contact Deb Petermann, 614.259.5257 or Marsha Moore Deaf Services, 614.841.1991 (V/TTY). Also see: [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org) and [www.vineyardcolumbus.org](http://www.vineyardcolumbus.org).

### **2014 Statewide 2014 DD Awareness Month theme is 'Ability@Work.'**

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://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.



### **Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meeting, January 23**

You are invited to attend and provide input at the January meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities on January 23, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the office of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), 150 East Campus View Boulevard, Third floor, Commissioners Conference Room, in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need accommodations, contact Donna Foster, via e-mail at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov) or by phone at 614-438-1394, by Wednesday, January 15.

### **Save the Date! People First Conference, March 13-15**

The 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is "Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!" The agenda this year is focused on self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff. Look for more information posted online at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org) as the date draws nearer.

### **WrightChoice Invests in the Future of Ohio Youth**

WrightChoice, Inc. has launched "*Future1st and Career Access Program*" a Career Pathways Initiative funded by Ohio Means Jobs Columbus. *Future1st* is designed to help income eligible youth ages 17 to 21 return to school or get on track toward a career. Participants may choose to work toward a certification in warehouse logistics, Information Technology, customer service, obtain their GED or enroll in college. They also may receive cash incentives for earning a certification. Tutoring is available for those who need it. Participants who choose to get their certification then become eligible for paid employment upon successful completion. Interested individuals should complete the on-line pre-registration form at [www.wrightchoice.org](http://www.wrightchoice.org). Click the "Future1st" logo to get started. Contact (614) 802-2364.

### **Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications**

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are at: [www.differentneedzfoundation.org](http://www.differentneedzfoundation.org). Grant awards will be announced in May 2014. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: [info@differentneedzfoundation.org](mailto:info@differentneedzfoundation.org) (216) 904-5151.

## 🌀 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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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Stay connected!

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**February 5, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 3**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: More News and Updates for Your Calendar*

## **1. Service & Support Administration Rule Moves Forward**

### **Focuses on Person-Centered Planning and Strengthening Involvement of Individuals Served**

During the past several months, DODD has worked with many stakeholders to craft a new [Service & Support Administration \(SSA\) Rule \(5123:2-1-11\)](#) to address concerns regarding language used previously in describing the service and support administration function provided through County Boards of DD. In addition, the new rule more specifically describes and encourages the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in the content and development of their Individual Service Plans (ISPs), as well as in the selection of people they choose to help them in this process and achieve desired outcomes.

**The new Service & Support Administration (SSA) Rule (5123:2-1-11) will be effective March 17, 2014.**

DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller notes that roll-out efforts for the new Service & Support Administration rule are especially mindful of the people served and their families, as well as the professional staff (SSAs) in the statewide DD service system. She explains, "In preparation for the new rule, the Department is planning several trainings over the next few months. Some are targeted specifically for SSAs to discuss what is new in the rule and provide information and examples of person-centered planning, and will offer some tools that will support person-centered planning. The Department also is planning a webinar for families and individuals to talk about the new rule and discuss what they might expect."

Training geared primarily to SSAs, with slots available for provider representatives, families, and self advocates will take place on February 12, 14, 26 and March 4, 6 at the Xenos complex in Columbus. It is provided by DODD in collaboration with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACBDD), and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). Registration information is at <http://www.oacbddd.org/> (*scroll down on the page*).

And, taking a holistic approach to implementation of the rule and its effect on the statewide service system, some DODD Central Office Staff also will participate in training regarding the rule on February 25, and learn more about the concept of person-centered planning. This training will be especially helpful for staff within in the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, Medicaid Development & Administration, Policy & Strategic Direction, Audits, and the Office of Provider Standards and Review.

The SSA rule training opportunities will be led by Kelly Mosley-Miller, DODD Office of Provider Standards & Review, and Jean Tuller, a nationally-recognized expert in the area of systems transformation through state Medicaid reform. Tuller’s work supports states such as Ohio, interested in using person-centered planning as a vehicle for organizational change. The training is part of a pilot project jointly sponsored by DODD, OACB, and OPRA. Haller observed,

**“We are very interested in feedback regarding the implementation of the new Support & Support Administration Rule, and learning from training participants what impact they feel it will have on our system.”**



She added, “Introducing this new rule has been a very positive collaborative effort within our DD stakeholder community, including preparing a new handbook for Service & Support Administration (see link at [Publications & Handbooks](#)). I especially want to thank the many people involved in this process, including representatives from The Arc of Ohio, Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Self-Determination Association, Advocacy & Protective Services Inc., and the DODD Family Advisory Council, among others. This team effort assures a smoother road forward in the implementation process.”

*For more information about DODD Rules, go to <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/Pages/default.aspx> and click on the sections that interest you, including [Rules in Effect](#) , and [Rules Under Development](#)*

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## 2. Administration Update: Office of Health Transformation MyCare Ohio to Launch in May 2014

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) reports that Ohio was the third state in the nation to reach an agreement with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a new initiative to better coordinate care for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (dually-eligible). *MyCare Ohio* is a system of managed care plans selected to coordinate the physical, behavioral, and long-term care services for individuals over age 18 who are dually-eligible, including people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals who receive behavioral health services.

Under the Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS), Ohioans in 29 pilot counties will enroll in a *MyCare Ohio* plan for Medicaid services beginning in May 2014. Medicare services will be added to the *MyCare Ohio* plan benefits beginning in January 2015 – and earlier if the individual chooses, or not at all if they opt out. (See *MyCare Ohio enrollment timeline and service regions.*)

**Eligible individuals will receive educational and enrollment letters informing them of their voluntary enrollment period, and when enrollment into a MyCare Ohio managed care plan becomes mandatory.**

Through better coordination of the benefits offered through the Medicaid and Medicare funding streams, the *MyCare Ohio* program aims to improve the overall health and well-being of the individual while also improving health care quality and outcomes, and containing costs.

*More information at [MyCare Ohio](#) and [Office of Health Transformation](#).*

### **Reminder: Governor Kasich's 'State of the State' Address in Medina, Feb. 24**

Governor John Kasich will deliver his third State of the State Address in Medina, taking the speech on the road and 'to the people,' for the third straight year. The annual address is planned for the evening of February 24 at the Medina Performing Arts Center. The speech is expected to coincide with the Administration's unveiling of the Mid-Biennium Review budget, also planned for late February.

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## 3. Governor's Residence Welcomes Summit County Artists

The Ohio Arts Council recently selected artwork by artists from across the state to be displayed in Governor John Kasich's office throughout 2014. Included in the Council's selection are works by artists James and Marlon from the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities' (Summit DD) *Microenterprise* program. Late last month, James and Marlon were recognized, along with other artists across the state, at the 2014 Winter Spotlight reception at the Governor's residence.

Noting the inclusive nature of the Ohio Arts Council's outreach to artists, Summit DD Business Innovations Manager Jacquie Owens, explained, "The opportunity to have work displayed in the

Governor's office was open to *all* artists across Ohio—not just to artists with disabilities. Only a few artists are selected ... so this is an incredible honor for them!" She added,

**“James and Marlon are excited to have their artwork displayed next to other artists — it spreads a powerful message about inclusion.”**

James and Marlon attended the Winter Spotlight reception, bringing family members and their Service and Support Administrators from Summit DD with them to the invitation-only event. A tour of the Governor's office was offered after the reception, and the artists were pleased to see their work on display.

### These Men Have Talent!

*Left: Marlon's artwork is titled "End of Shift." His technique is very bold, and shows a great sense of strength in this piece. Below: James' artwork is titled "Cliff Field." His technique shows a fine understanding of color and perspective.*

*Both pieces are being displayed in the Governor's office throughout 2014.*



### At The Governor's Residence

*Directly Above, Left: Marlon with Ohio's First Lady Karen Kasich; Directly Above, Right: Marlon and James.*

Summit DD offers employment opportunities for 34 artists with disabilities through its Dream Out Loud Studio, and Microenterprise program. Microenterprise and Self-Employment Services assist individuals who are interested in starting their own business or being their own employer.

DODD salutes the work of the Ohio Arts Council and its emphasis on inclusion, offering ‘a public canvas’ to display the talents of *all* artists, and is especially appreciative of the efforts of the Governor’s office to welcome artists with developmental disabilities and their work, offering opportunities such as this to showcase their abilities.

*For more information, contact Jacquie Owens at [JOwens@summitdd.org](mailto:JOwens@summitdd.org); (330) 634-8231.  
To follow James and Marlon’s stories, visit Summit DD’s blog and Facebook page at [SummitDDblog.com](http://SummitDDblog.com) and [Facebook.com/SummitDD](https://www.facebook.com/SummitDD).*

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## **4. New & Updated Technology Supports Information Access**

**People with cognitive disabilities have an equal right to technology and information access.**

According to [The Coleman Institute](#)\* more than 28 million people in the nation are affected by impaired cognitive function such as intellectual disabilities, brain injury, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, and persistent mental illness. This population should be assured an equal right to a full range of technology and information access. A coalition of disability organizations and individuals asserted this right in a declaration (*See [Pipeline Quarterly, January 2014, p. 8](#)*) first announced at the Coleman Institute’s National Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology, late last year in Colorado.

**Supporting this ‘right to access’ DODD and many agency stakeholders around the state are working to ensure greater access to technology and information for individuals with developmental disabilities, working toward the desired outcomes of decreased dependency on public services; reduced healthcare costs; and greater independence for all in the statewide DD system.**

Examples of improving statewide access to new and emerging technology, and to a wealth of online electronic information, include:

- *Expanding Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project (Telemedicine)* to include all 88 counties and children under age 18. DODD and Wright State University’s Consumer Advocacy Model program – along with the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services -- have collaborated to provide access to quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/ developmental disabilities who live in remote areas across the state. (See [Pipeline, January 16, 2013](#))
- *Remote Monitoring services* now included in the Level One, Individual Options (IO) and Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waivers in Ohio (See: [Rules in Effect](#), Remote Monitoring.)
- *A simple online Audio program* providing a spoken version of each version of *Pipeline* was begun in 2012 and is accessed at [Pipeline Audio](#).

In addition, County Boards of DD around the state are implementing programs and developing new ways to use technology-based products to open more doors for individuals to learn and work in the community. A recent example in Licking County was featured in *The Newark Advocate*.

And, nationally, accessible and affordable technology just took a big step forward for people with vision impairments, as [Window Eyes](#), a screen reader similar to JAWS (Job Access With Speech) in its functioning, is now available to users of Microsoft Office\* products *at no cost*. This program, when new, was priced at \$800 or more, and was too expensive for many people who could benefit from its functionality. Questions concerning Window-Eyes can be answered by the information noted online at [Frequently-Asked Questions](#) (FAQs).

*\*The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities seeks to catalyze and integrate advances in science, engineering, and technology to promote the quality of life and independent living of all people with cognitive disabilities. More at: <http://www.colemaninstitute.org>*

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## **5. Ramping Up for DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4**

This year's *Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day* event, March 4 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase many self-advocates' stories of personal growth and achievement. The program has been shortened from previous years to approximately one hour, beginning at 10:00 a.m., allowing more time for self-advocates to meet with legislators, and informally network with peers and others within Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities community.

**Registration can be completed online by visiting [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov) or [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com).  
Every person planning to attend must register – Deadline to register is February 14, 2014!  
Participation is free and open to anyone, and is limited to the first 350 who register.  
For more information, 'like' the event's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness)**

The theme for the event is *What Are You Waiting For*, and refers to the release of a recent study that evaluates the state's waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. (This event theme is in addition to the statewide 2014 DD Awareness theme *Ability@Work*.) The day will begin at 9 a.m. with check-in and refreshments, the program in the Statehouse Atrium begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings will start immediately following the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment.

Participants will have opportunities to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including accessible parking, [visitability](#), what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities, and related legislation.



**These ladies are always in on the action ...  
and on March 4 it will be no different.**

Renee Wood (far left) and Shari Cooper, two very active self-advocates, will be 'front and center' during the March 4 DD Awareness & Advocacy Day program. Renee currently is the Ohio DD Council Chairperson among other interests, and Shari is a Community & Staff Relations Associate at Goodwill Easter Seals/ Miami Valley – as well as a consummate blogger.

Their voices will welcome event attendees and encourage them to help move Ohio's DD service system forward.

*-Renee and Shari are shown here at a DD Council Outreach Committee meeting.*

DODD Director John Martin will be among the program speakers, most of whom will be self-advocates from around the state. See more information about the event in the February 19 issue of *Pipeline*, as well as Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness; 'Like' on Facebook: *DD Awareness & Advocacy Day*.

Event sponsors this year include many partners in Ohio's developmental disabilities community: DODD; Ohio DD Council; Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters; The Arc of Ohio; Disability Rights Ohio; Ohio Association of County Boards; Ohio Provider Resource Association; Ohio Self Determination Association; People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; Disability Rights Ohio; and, the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

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Now, in the newest issue of  
*Pipeline Quarterly* ...  
read about

**The Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities  
to Technology & Information Access**

Go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

## PostScripts .....



### **Creative Use of Funding Workshop at OCALI, February 19**

Parents, guardians, and professionals searching for creative ways to find and use funding to support care, treatment and/or educational goals may wish to attend the *Creative Use of Funding* workshop at the OCALI Office, 470 Glenmont Ave., Columbus, on February 19, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.. The workshop will focus on providing families and professionals an overview of funding available for children and adults with autism. The discussion will include how and where to access care and treatment funds from Medicaid to Scholarships. Attendees will receive a Creative Funding packet and other autism resources. Cost is \$20.00, including lunch. *Register at: [www.autismohio.org](http://www.autismohio.org). Note:* A live link option will be offered for attendees who cannot attend in person. Details on the OCALI Events Calendar webpage.



### **Save the Date! People First Conference, March 13-15**

The 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is "*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*" The agenda this year includes self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

**Look for registration and program information now online at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org)**

People First of Ohio will be celebrating their 15-year Anniversary at the three-day conference, and there will be many surprise guests and unique activities. For example, many organizations in attendance will decorate a chair representing their mission, and illustrating 'why they want to be at the People First table.' Opening ceremonies begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. More information at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org).



### **2014 Statewide 2014 DD Awareness Month theme is 'Ability@Work.'**

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://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.



### **'The Fatal Five' Training – March 20**

#### **The Fatal Five & Medication Used in the Geriatric Population**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one-day conference with two topics that may be of interest to nurses, SSA's, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. On March 20, *The Fatal Five: Preventing Preventable Deaths in Community Settings* will be presented by Karen Green McGowan, RN, CDDN. Karen has 35 years of experience in the Developmental Disabilities field, and will focus on the five subjects of bowel obstruction, aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and dehydration. In addition, *Medications Used in the Geriatric Population* will be presented by Nanette Wrobel, RPH, a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her presentation will look at medications frequently used in the geriatric population and specific concerns in that process. For information and registration: <http://highdd.org> -- look under 'News and Info.'



## **Goodwill Columbus Workshop: Building an Independent Life, March 9**

On March 9th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a “Life After School and Beyond” workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus. Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus is presenting their annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Jobs and Employment with presenters Meg Griffing of COVA, and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill
- Financial: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne Russell of FCBDD
- Future Planning & Employment with presenter David Zwyer, Esq. of Community Fund Management Foundation
- Defining Strengths & Safety Nets with Marilyn Messina, LISW

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available). To register contact Pat Karshner, [pkarshner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:pkarshner@columbus.rr.com), (614)885-2291.



## **Disability Housing Network Offers Technical Assistance**

Through partnerships with DODD and the Ohio DD Council, the Disability Housing Network (DHN) is offering technical assistance to County Boards and Housing Corporations in these areas:

- County Housing Planning
- Housing Development
- Property Management
- Master Contract Standards
- Exploring Alternatives to Current Housing Model

Contact Jaclyn Slemmer at [jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org](mailto:jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org) to schedule technical assistance. In addition, DHN will offer a track of housing sessions at the 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference on April 8 & 9. Look for more information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org).



## **Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at the Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to stay on a journey toward a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. The training will feature Master Trainers, Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a “Certified Lead HL Trainer”; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and have the opportunity to network with peers. *Registration opens January 30!* Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org)



## **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](mailto:Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov) .



## **FUSE and One Accord to Host Deafness Awareness Event February 22**

**'Deaf, Deaf World,' February 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

It's a free adventure to have a "no speaking allowed" experience, designed to develop sensitivity to and increase awareness of communication methods of deaf and hearing-challenged people. Hosted at Vineyard Columbus, 600 Cooper Rd., Westerville, on Saturday February 22, 2014, Joni & Friends Ohio, and Deaf Services are working together to increase Deaf Awareness. "Deaf, Deaf World" is modeled after an event that was held at Wright State University years ago. Each participant will enter a room where they will learn about Deaf Culture. Each attendee will be given a Passport to enter Deaf, Deaf World where no talking is allowed. A person can sign, charade or write things out but no one will be allowed to talk. For more info, contact Deb Petermann, 614.259.5257 or Marsha Moore Deaf Services, 614.841.1991 (V/TTY). Also see: [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org) and [www.vineyardcolumbus.org](http://www.vineyardcolumbus.org).



## **Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications**

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are at: [www.differentneedzfoundation.org](http://www.differentneedzfoundation.org). Grant awards will be announced in May 2014. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: [info@differentneedzfoundation.org](mailto:info@differentneedzfoundation.org) (216) 904-5151.



## **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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>*



## **Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9**

Planning is currently underway for the [Ohio Provider Resource Association \(OPRA\)](http://www.opra.org) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference will provide updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio's statewide community of service providers, as well as showcase providers, themselves, during the two-day conference. More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)



### **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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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**Stay connected!**



John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**February 19, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 4**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar*

## **1. Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Issues Final Rule on Home and Community-Based Services**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

*Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Fire Academy  
8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068*

DODD is pleased to announce an open forum and presentation on Tuesday, March 11, regarding recent changes to the CMS rule ([CMS-2296-F](#)) that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for home- and community-based services (HCBS).

*Robin Cooper*, Director of Technical Assistance at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), will explain the potential impact of the rule on Ohio's Developmental Disabilities system. A national expert on HCBS waivers, Ms. Cooper works with state, county, and local governments as well as advocacy and provider organizations on issues concerning long-term community-based services for people with disabilities.

**The Forum is free and available to the general public. Registration is required, and begins on Monday, February 24. Seats are limited, and will be available on a first come/first served basis. Registration must be completed via this link: <http://www.planetReg.com/E122312294512964> Questions should be directed to Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129; [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov)**

On January 10, 2014, CMS issued its final rule on Home- and Community-Based Services, which includes a definition of community settings. The rule addresses several sections of Medicaid law under which each state may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for HCBS. In announcing the rule, CMS stated that its intent is to “...ensure that individuals receiving services and supports through Medicaid’s HCBS programs have full access to the benefits of community living, and are able to receive services in the most integrated setting.”

Also, in the new rule, home- and community-based setting provisions establish a more outcome-oriented definition of those settings, rather than one based solely on a setting’s location, geography, or physical characteristics. CMS explains that the changes related to clarifying the definition will maximize opportunities for participants in HCBS programs to access the benefits of community living, and receive services in the most integrated setting. In addition, the changes further enable the law’s intention for Medicaid HCBS to provide alternatives to services provided in institutions.

**The new rule was published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2014, and will become effective on March 17, 2014. CMS has posted information related to the rule, including several fact sheets, on its website: <http://www.medicaid.gov/HCBS>**

All home and community-based settings will be required to meet certain qualifications under the new rule. These include that the setting ...

- Is integrated in and supports full access to the greater community;
- Is selected by the individual from among setting options;
- Ensures individual rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint;
- Optimizes autonomy and independence in making life choices; and,
- Facilitates choice regarding services and who provides them.

The rule also refers to home- and community-based settings in new requirements for person-centered service plans. In these plans, states must assure that the setting chosen by the individual is, “... integrated in, and supports full access of individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS to the greater community, including opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS.”

In addition to excluding “institutional settings” as defined in statute, the rule identifies other settings that are deemed to have institutional qualities, and thus do not meet the threshold for Medicaid HCBS. According to CMS, these include those in a publicly or privately-owned facility that provides inpatient treatment; on the grounds of -- or immediately adjacent to -- a public institution; or, that have the effect of isolating individuals receiving Medicaid-funded HCBS from the broader community of individuals not receiving such services.

The rule also includes additional requirements for provider-owned or provider-controlled home and community-based residential settings, as well as clarifies issues associated with rates for bundled services. In addition, CMS indicates *that the rule applies to all settings where HCBS are delivered, not only to residential settings*. More information will be provided by CMS prior

to the March 17 effective date, as to how states should apply the standards to non-residential settings, such as day programs and pre-vocational training.

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## **2. Administration Update: Office of Health Transformation Telemedicine – HB123**

The [Governor's Office of Health Transformation](#) (OHT) reports that the Ohio Senate has moved forward with legislation ([HB123](#)) to expand opportunities for medical professionals to provide health care services through remote communication technologies, thereby expanding access to care for Ohioans across the state, especially in more rural or remote geographical areas.

The legislation directs the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to set a payment schedule for services delivered through interactive audio and video technologies. The bill has moved through the Ohio House of Representatives, and has been sent to Governor John Kasich for his signature. DODD has been active in the development of a broader and more accessible telemedicine network across the state, and the resulting additional services available to people with developmental disabilities. More about remote technology in [Pipeline Quarterly January 2014](#).

### **Medicaid Expansion Information, OPRA**

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) has prepared a booklet on the subject of Medicaid Expansion that explains in simple terms the benefits of the expansion of coverage, and what it can mean for Ohio's Direct Support Professionals. In releasing the new document, OPRA's Director of Government Relations Jeff Davis noted that, "Expanding Medicaid health care to individuals earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level can mean life-altering insurance benefits to many of those newly-eligible. We have had many questions from members about what Medicaid Expansion means for providers, and what it may mean for staff who might now be eligible. This guidebook for providers answers many of these questions and will help to educate and inform staff who may now qualify for Medicaid benefits." See the booklet at [Medicaid Expansion Guide.pdf - Google Drive drive.google.comRe](#)

### **Next Week! Governor Kasich's 'State of the State' Address in Medina, Feb. 24**

Governor John Kasich will deliver his third State of the State Address in Medina, again taking the speech on the road and 'to the people.' The annual address is the evening of February 24, at the Medina Performing Arts Center. The speech precedes the Governor's unveiling of the Mid-Biennium Review budget. The [Medina County Board of DD](#) and other agencies in the Medina area are gearing up for a rousing welcome to the Governor's visit in their community. More about this on DODD [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts, and in a future issue of [Pipeline](#).

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## **3. Strategic Leadership Group Gathers Momentum**

DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. As a part of that process, a Strategic Planning Leadership Group is now meeting regularly to plan and provide oversight for this work in 2014 (See [Pipeline, November 6, 2013](#)). The group is comprised of approximately 20 people

representing more than ten organizations, and including people participating in services, family members, people providing services, and agency staff.

The third meeting of the group was held February 11 at the State of Ohio Library in Columbus, and included presentations by DODD Director John Martin; Tami Grogg of People First of Ohio; and, Carolyn Knight of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council -- each focusing on key issues and utilizing new data, some of which was gathered by a recent DD Council-funded Waiting List Survey. In the process of drafting some 10-year benchmarks establishing a vision for the future, the group designated several key areas for small-group discussion:

- Nursing Facilities and Comprehensive Services
- Supports & Services – Service Models for Those Leaving Home
- Waiver and Other Changes
- Future Waiver Needs
- Planning for the Future

Stressed by several group participants was the importance of support for families, especially those headed by aging caregivers, to help prepare for the future -- asking people what they need, and aligning resources to meet those needs, as well as anticipate them. Director Martin noted,

**“We want to challenge our service delivery models, and develop benchmarks – keeping in mind the natural and more informal networks that also exist.”**



**Planning Underway**  
At the November 2013 meeting, the first for the Strategic Planning Leadership Group, a brainstorming exercise yielded several good ideas to build upon in the coming months. At forefront, clockwise from left, are Dana Charlton, Diana Mairose, Judy Murray, Barb Sapharas (standing) Zach Haughwout, and Sadie Hunter.



### **Tami Tells It Like It Is.**

**At the February 11 meeting, Tami Grogg – representing People First of Ohio – clearly described “Why I Don’t Think We Should Live in Nursing Homes.” She shared information regarding situations affecting individuals with DD who are living in such facilities due to lack of other available appropriate facilities. She stated, “Not all people in a nursing home are old – but you could become older before your time by being there. You could lose your skills or get depressed. It should be a last choice (for health reasons) for people with developmental disabilities.”**

To offer timely 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 serves 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](mailto:chris.murphy@dodd.ohio.gov).

**The next meeting of this group will be on March 11 – See article #1 in this issue.**

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## **4. Ohio’s Telepsychiatry Project Continues to Reach Out**

### **Collaborative Efforts Help to Serve Individuals with Dual Diagnosis**

**Now serving 254 people – 168 adults and 86 children – representing 44 counties**

DODD funds an ongoing collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and Dr. Julie Gentile at Wright State University’s Coordinating Center of Excellence (CCOE) to expand quality services to people who experience both mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities (dual diagnosis).

In a February 10 announcement, DODD Director John Martin stated, “There is a growing need for specialized professional services for those with complex needs within Ohio communities. We are fortunate to have access to psychiatric services through Dr. Gentile and her colleagues who focus on working with people having co-occurring issues, including the Telepsychiatry Project launched in 2012 - which currently serves 44 counties - to reach people across the state of Ohio.” (See [Pipeline, January 16, 2013](#)). He added,

**“I am pleased to announce that, through Dr. Gentile’s continuous recruitment efforts, the CCOE has secured the services of additional psychiatrists/clinicians through a newly-formed collaborative effort with Access Ohio Mental Health Center of Excellence. The change in location for Dr. Gentile and her colleagues will allow stability in the continuation of current services, and potentially, expansion.”**

Director Martin further explained that the additional infrastructure and resources will go a long way toward addressing the current gap in services to people with a dual diagnosis around the state. Individuals can receive care at [Access Ohio](#) offices and, for those counties currently eligible for the Telepsychiatry Project, remote appointments also will be available. All people currently being served will continue to receive services with seamless coverage during the location transfer, which will take effect March 11, 2014.

*New referrals and questions may be directed to Tina Evans, MI/DD Project Manager at (614) 752-9028 or [tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov)*

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## **5. Employment First: Project Transformation Initiative**

Next month, Ohio will recognize the two-year anniversary of the signing of Governor Kasich’s Employment First Executive Order (See [Pipeline, March 28, 2012](#)). Spotlighting the work done since that time is a newly-released document, *“Ohio’s Path to Employment First,”* which summarizes the activities and projects that have been implemented, statewide. The publication notes future activities planned to support the ongoing shift within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community -- to a culture that recognizes and embraces the contributions and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

**Project: Transformation**



The *Project: Transformation* initiative has been developed to support selected provider agencies in the transformation to more integrated services. Application deadline is March 7. [Download Application: \(Here\)](#).

Also announced this month is a new initiative, [Project: Transformation](#), which will support selected provider agencies in the successful transformation from segregated to integrated services. Public and private provider agencies are encouraged to apply for this technical assistance from expert consultants. Application deadline is March 7. ([Apply Here](#))

Through this initiative, the consultants will support facility-based provider agencies in learning fiscal strategies designed to more effectively include competitive and integrated employment options as a viable and sustainable funding stream.

Since the outset of the Employment First Initiative in 2012, continued improvements in state policies have been put in place enabling Ohio’s local communities to be better prepared to transform services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for improved community employment outcomes. During this time, the state has made a key revision to ensure youth with developmental disabilities can prepare adequately -- and early enough in their educational

careers -- to make plans for employment success after completing school. Additional changes have been made to encourage the same consistent expectation for those who are already working-age adults.

DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative Kristen Helling observes, “As we work toward shifting our culture to one that supports 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. This approach will enable them to participate more fully in their communities. These efforts, along with initiatives such as *Project: Transformation*, should make 2014 a very strong year for Ohio’s Employment First initiative.”

*More information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>*

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## **6. Just Around the Corner! DD Awareness & Advocacy Day**

**The March 4 Event Theme is, “What Are You Waiting For?”**

**Deadline to register was February 14 – Registration is now closed!**

**For more information, ‘like’ the event’s Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness)**

This year’s *Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day* event, March 4 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase many self-advocates’ stories of personal growth and achievement. The program has been shortened from previous years to approximately one hour, beginning at 10:00 a.m., allowing more time for self-advocates to meet with legislators, and informally network with peers and others within Ohio’s statewide developmental disabilities community.

The theme for the event is *What Are You Waiting For*, and refers to the release of a recent study that evaluates the state’s waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. The day will begin with check-in and refreshments at 9 a.m., the program in the Statehouse Atrium begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings will start immediately following the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment. Participants will have opportunities to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including accessible parking, [visitability](#), what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities, and related legislation.



**In 2013 we packed the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, overflowing to the catwalks above.**

**Inset: Franklin County self advocate Christine Brown was among the nearly 600 people who attended the 2013 event. She'll be a presenter this year, at the March 4th DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.**

Among the speakers will be DODD Director John Martin, as well as several self-advocates from around the state. Sponsors for this year's kickoff event to Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month include many partners in the statewide developmental disabilities community: DODD; Ohio DD Council; Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters; The Arc of Ohio; Disability Rights Ohio; Ohio Association of County Boards; Ohio Provider Resource Association; Ohio Self Determination Association; People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; Disability Rights Ohio; and, the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

*See more information about the event in updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness; and 'Like' on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day.*

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Now, in the newest issue of  
*Pipeline Quarterly ...*  
read about

**How Cory uses remote monitoring to increase his independence at home.**

Go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

## *PostScripts* .....



### **Nisonger Center 'InSights' Photo Contest – Enter by March 1!**

As part of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center's efforts to promote positive images of people with developmental disabilities, a [photography contest](#) has been launched. The Center is seeking photographs *of persons of all ages* who have a developmental disability, in everyday activities. The photographs selected as winners will be presented prizes: 1st Place = \$500; 2nd Place = \$300; 3rd Place = \$100. Submit photos online at: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/photocontest>. Deadline is March 1. For more information, call: 1-(855) 983-9955 toll free, or email: [nisongeradmin@osumc.edu](mailto:nisongeradmin@osumc.edu)



### **Arc's Center on Criminal Justice & Disability Webinar, Feb. 27**

The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD) is hosting a webinar featuring Dr. Nora Baladerian's presentation, "*Crime Victims with Disabilities: An Overview for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System*," on February 27 at 1:30 p.m. This is the second in a series of more than 20 webinars planned over the next two years. It will present an overview of issues surrounding victimization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and where various professionals fit into the solution. Topics will include incidence and prevalence, risk reduction, prevention, parent preparation, disclosure or discovery of abuse, reporting, law enforcement/first responders, forensic interviewing, investigations and prosecution, victim services, and more. Contact [NCCJDInfo@thearc.org](mailto:NCCJDInfo@thearc.org) with any questions. To register, use this [link](#).



## Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meets, March 3

You are invited to attend and provide input at the March meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities on March 3, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., At the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Attendees needing special accommodations should contact Donna Foster at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov), or call (614) 438-1394. Parking is free and available in front of the building.

## Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7

The *Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities*, in partnership with *The Arc of Ohio*, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#). *Applications must be received by March 31.*



## PAR Regional Trainings Set for March, April, and May

Several PAR (**P**rofessionals, **A**dvocates, **R**esources) regional trainings are set for March, April, and May. They include: *Trauma Informed Care: Facilitating Healing, Resiliency and Hope* on March 26 at the Delaware County Board of DD, and March 27 at the ESC, Valley View (Cleveland area). Presenters for this training are *Mary Vacario* and *Carol Hudgins-Mitchell*, Certified Trauma Specialists; *Transition: Life Beyond School* on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are *Connie Morris*, Creative Life and Work Services, *David Zwyer*, Community Fund Management Foundation, *Chris Filler*, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and *Suzanne Beck*, Independent Consultant. Lastly, *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is *Randy Shively*, Vice President/Clinical Services, Alvis House.

For registration, visit [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org). More info at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>



## OADSP Sponsors First 'DSP Summit Conference,' April 29

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) newly-established Council is working to better support Ohio's DSPs, and has planned the very first Direct Support Professional Summit. Not to be confused with the DSP Recognition event each September, this new Summit will focus on training and information, rather than recognition. The Summit will be held at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 29. Sessions for the day-long conference are currently being planned, and will include tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Registration is \$35 for the day, and includes lunch, six hours of credits, *a one year OADSP/NADSP membership*, and more. [Register here!](#) According to OADSP Credentialing & Outreach Coordinator Bethany Toledo, "We feel that that for the Direct Support field to be recognized as a true profession, we must provide these kinds of learning opportunities, as well as establish a strong membership base. A lot of DSPs work as independent providers, and may have a difficult time accessing quality training." Contact: [pcbethany@prodigy.net](mailto:pcbethany@prodigy.net)



## People First Conference, March 13-15

Ohio's 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center, Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is, "*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*" The agenda this year includes self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

[Look for registration and program information online at www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org)

People First of Ohio will be celebrating their 15-year Anniversary at the three-day conference, and there will be many surprise guests and unique activities. For example, many organizations in attendance will decorate a chair representing their mission, and illustrating ‘Why they want to be at the *People First* table.’ Opening ceremonies begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. More information at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org).



## Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Offers Grants

**Application deadline is March 1!**

Ohio EPA’s [Clean Diesel School Bus Fund](#) offers grants of up to \$300,000 to retrofit diesel school buses with pollution control equipment and ‘idle reduction equipment’ such as pre-heaters, to save fuel and reduce student and driver exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. *The next application deadline is March 1, 2014.* Applicants should note that a five percent cash or in-kind match is required.

**Public School Districts and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are eligible to apply. The 2014 grant application is posted at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>**

In addition, Ohio EPA’s [Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant](#) program offers grants covering 80 percent of the cost to retrofit or replace older diesel school buses with newer clean diesel technology, or alternative fuel technology. These grants are funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars, and are available only to applicants in 35 eligible counties and two additional eligible townships. A map of the eligible counties is posted [here](#). Contact *Kristopher Weiss*, [Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov), (614)644-376



## 2014 Statewide DD Awareness Month Theme is ‘Ability@Work.’

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://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.



## Goodwill Columbus: Building an Independent Life, March 8

On March 8th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a “Life After School and Beyond” workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus. Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus is presenting their annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Jobs and Employment with presenters Meg Griffing of COVA, and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill
- Financial: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne Russell of FCBDD
- Future Planning & Employment with presenter David Zwyer, Esq. of Community Fund Management Foundation
- Defining Strengths & Safety Nets with Marilyn Messina, LISW

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available). To register contact Pat Karshner, [pkarshner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:pkarshner@columbus.rr.com), (614)885-2291.



## ‘The Fatal Five’ Training – March 20

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one-day conference with two topics that may be of interest to nurses, SSA’s, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. On March 20, *The Fatal Five*:

*Preventing Preventable Deaths in Community Settings* will be presented by Karen Green McGowan, RN, CDDN. Karen has 35 years of experience in the Developmental Disabilities field, and will focus on the five subjects of bowel obstruction, aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and dehydration. In addition, *Medications Used in the Geriatric Population* will be presented by Nanette Wrobel, RPH, a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her presentation will look at medications frequently used in the geriatric population and specific concerns in that process. For information and registration: <http://highdd.org> -- look under 'News and Info.'



### **Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at The Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to maintain a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. Training will feature Master Trainers Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer"; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and, network with peers. Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org)



### **Disability Housing Network, Technical Assistance, April 8-9**

Through partnerships with DODD and the Ohio DD Council, the Disability Housing Network (DHN) is offering technical assistance to County Boards and Housing Corporations in these areas:

- County Housing Planning
- Housing Development
- Property Management
- Master Contract Standards
- Exploring Alternatives to Current Housing Model

Contact Jaelyn Slemmer at [jaalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org](mailto:jaalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org) to schedule technical assistance. In addition, DHN will offer a track of housing sessions at the 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference on April 8 & 9. Look for more information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org).



### **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](mailto:Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov).



## **Absolute Care to Host Paint-A-Palooza, April 26**

Absolute Care invites you to join them for *Paint-A-Palooza 2014* on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 12-6 p.m. at [Absolute Care](#), 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd, in Worthington. This is a day to demonstrate that individuals with disabilities can do anything! This agency flies in an artist from Wisconsin, who brings with him *special adaptive art equipment that allows all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create their own print design* and paint it on a 100-foot canvas. Along with this large masterpiece to be created throughout the day, [TAASC](#) an adaptive sports coalition, will provide kayaking and bicycling. Also, the Bill Foley Band will be on-hand, and there will be games and food. Visit [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org) for more details, or contact Caitlin Weasel at [cweasel@absolutecare.org](mailto:cweasel@absolutecare.org). Just prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza on that day, Absolute Care will host a "Walk for Wounded Warrior Project." The walk starts at 10:30 at Absolute Care. Funds raised will go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register by April 20 at [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org).



## **Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications**

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are at: [www.differentneedzfoundation.org](http://www.differentneedzfoundation.org). Grant awards will be announced in May. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: [info@differentneedzfoundation.org](mailto:info@differentneedzfoundation.org) (216) 904-5151.



## **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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>*



## **Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9**

Planning is currently underway for the [Ohio Provider Resource Association \(OPRA\)](#) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference will provide updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio's statewide community of service providers, as well as showcase providers, themselves, during the two-day conference. More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)



## **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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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# 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](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

February 24, 2014

## Registration Now Closed for Informational Forum March 11 Event Will be Videotaped and Posted Online

Registration is now closed for the DODD-sponsored open forum and presentation on Tuesday, March 11, at the Ohio Department of Commerce Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, regarding recent changes to the CMS rule (CMS-2296-F) that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for home- and community-based services (HCBS).

Response to the upcoming event has been excellent, and the maximum number of slots has been filled. The event will be videotaped and posted online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). For information announcing the event, see the lead article titled, "Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule" in *Pipeline*, February 19, 2014 .

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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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone (614) 644-0262. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov).



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**March 5, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 5**

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Reminder: Forum on New CMS Rule March 11

*Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Updates for 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](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) for possible inclusion in the March 27 Pipeline.

### 1. We Saw Ability at Work on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

**“Business ownership runs in my family. As a person with a disability myself, I consider ‘paying forward’ my biggest achievement. I have now hired people with disabilities to work for my company, and that makes me feel better than anything.”**

**–Self advocate Angie Bevington, owner of AngieShred in Miami County**

*Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day* March 4th at the Ohio Statehouse celebrated a partnership blending the traditional annual *March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities. Now in its second year as a unified program, approximately 400 people packed the ‘*The People’s House*,’ with

awareness and advocacy venues overflowing the Atrium and across High Street to the Vern Riffe Center, for appointments with legislators.

The event theme was “*What are you waiting for?*” It refers to a recent study funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) that evaluated the state’s waiting list for Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. The theme also encourages participants to take action toward their goals.

Speakers yesterday shared achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment. Among the speakers was DODD Director John Martin, as well as several self-advocates from around the state. Director Martin observed ...

**“I am pleased to see so many of Ohio’s self advocates taking the podium here before me today. We are in the process of learning more about what you are waiting for – either on a waiting list for services or in your lives in general – and then how we can help you to get whatever that is.”**

Following the speakers, participants met with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including accessible parking, [visitability](#), what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities, and related legislation on the subject of increasing the Medicaid asset limit for people with developmental disabilities.

Here are a few glimpses and some words of wisdom from a day of Awareness and Advocacy:



### **Look Out When This Dynamic Duo Teams Up at the Statehouse!**

**Christine Brown (left) and Shari Cooper have the high-wattage smiles to match their enthusiasm for DD Awareness and Advocacy Day. Christine is well-known as a state leader on legislative advocacy issues, and let it be known that “Speaking up about what is important to you is what we need to be doing here today!”**

**Shari Cooper, MC for the event, kept the program moving along. She will now be even more well-known for her ready wit and grace under pressure. She encouraged each speaker and made it clear that, “We self advocates stick together.”**



**Director Martin gets some presentation pointers from Adam Moss (left).**

Adam's presentation on the subject of his attendance at The Ohio State University was expertly prepared on an electronic reader, and delivered with ease. He is a second-year student in the Transitions Options Postsecondary Settings (TOPS) Program at OSU, and works as a student employee at the Woody Hayes Athletic complex. Adam noted,

**“I have been blessed to have parents with high expectations... and I am carrying on a family tradition at OSU – I love being a Buckeye!”**



**JJ House Needs No Podium!**

JJ House headed up to the podium in his 'rolling chariot' with the help of Sadie Hunter (People First) and promptly stole the hearts of just about everyone in the Statehouse Atrium.

**“I have seen a dream come true – to produce my own play –  
“How I Became a Pirate.”  
People ask me, how do you, a young boy, make a dream come true, and I say, “Just keep having faith that it will happen!”**

More about JJ House at

<http://www.thejjproject.org/index.php/about/whoisjj>



**Jeanne Stuntz captures the moment.**

Jeanne (standing), a staunch supporter of the Ohio Self Determination Association takes a few frames of self advocates in action during the March 4 program. The Atrium was filled to capacity with participants from across the state – many of whom met with their local legislators to discuss issues of interest and concern to them.



**Chair of Ohio DD Council Renee Wood is pensive as she waits to be introduced at the outset of the program.**

Renee has taken the reins of the organization with the sure grip of a strong self advocate who has set her goals high, and helped others to do so by following her example.

Sponsors for this year’s statewide kickoff event for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month included many partners in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community: DODD; Ohio DD Council; Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters (SIBS); The Arc of Ohio; Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB); Ohio Provider Resource Association OPRA); Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA); People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; Disability Rights Ohio; and, the University of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

**For more information and to view more photos, ‘like’ the event’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness](http://www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness) and on the *DODD Facebook Page*.**

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## 2. Medina Rolls Out the Red Carpet for ‘State of the State’

Governor John Kasich’s *State of the State* address presented in Medina this year, underscored major plans for Ohio and offered a glimpse of initiatives contained in the budget that will carry Ohio through 2014. He urged members of the General Assembly to embrace initiatives spurring education and job development to keep propelling the state forward to a more prosperous future. In developing the state budget and its foundational elements, including more proposed tax cuts, Governor Kasich noted,

**"The nation and the world have their eyes on Ohio. They see we're coming back, and they want to know how we're doing it. We're not done, but we've made good progress ... I hope you'll stay with me on the path as we go higher. I hope you'll keep up the teamwork, keep taking on the impossible tasks, keep tossing aside the status quo, and keep shaking things up."**

He also emphasized initiatives aimed at helping people with disabilities and mental health issues to have more community-based options, as well as supporting other far-reaching health and safety concerns. The administration currently is finalizing the proposals that will comprise the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) budget. See the address at: <http://www.ohiochannel.org/index.asp>

### Medina Rolls Out the Red (White, and Blue) Carpet

The City of Medina hosted hundreds of state agency dignitaries and related staff in town for the day prior to the 7 p.m. State of the State address. Director Martin and staff representing DODD, and Director Kevin Miller and staff representing Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) drove up early in the day to participate in a wide range of activities organized by the Medina County Board of DD and their service partners. The series of events focused on the many local efforts supporting the [Employment First](#) initiative.

Events under the umbrella of the 2014 theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month included an “*Ability @ Work*” Summit that brought together government, business, and community leaders from Medina County to discuss workforce successes and challenges for people with disabilities, and spotlight how state-supported initiatives are making a difference.



#### Talk About Ability!

Self-advocate Courtney Jordan shared her thoughts and her enthusiasm for work at the Ability@Work Summit in Medina.

She observed,

**“I would like to live in a world where I see people with disabilities come home from a job every day.”**

Courtney was the first person in Medina County to sign-up for Medicaid Buy-In, a program that allows Ohioans with disabilities to work and not lose certain Medicaid benefits.

Tours of local businesses provided an inside look at employment opportunities, and highlighted their collaborative efforts to create meaningful jobs for people with disabilities in Medina

County. Directors Martin and Miller presented the businesses, including Sandridge Corp. and Buehler's Market, with awards of recognition for this important work.

Check out the [DODD Facebook page](#) for more photos and information about the day in Medina.

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### 3. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

*A potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information. Contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) to submit ideas for the March 19 Pipeline.*

#### **Sarah's Awesome Self Advocacy**

**Advocacy & Protective Services (APSI) Shares this Success Story ...**

Sarah is a woman who knows her own mind. She has always wanted to be as independent as possible and make her own decisions. But Sarah will tell you that when APSI first became her guardian in 2006 she was not making the best decisions, especially about her health. She will also tell you that a lot has changed since 2006!

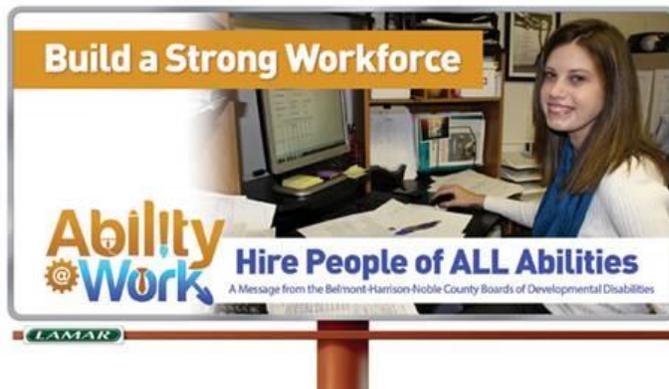
With the help of her service provider On the Mark, her spouse, and her APSI representative, Sarah began to make many positive changes in her life. She continued to work closely with her support people, and in late 2013 she asked the Probate Court for permission to be her own guardian. A court hearing was set for December and the judge who heard Sarah's case approved her request immediately.

Now Sarah is making her own decisions, and staying on track with the help of her service providers. She is active in the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and Project STIR, and is planning to pursue community employment. Sarah's independence means the world to her, and her support team at APSI is glad to have been part of her journey!



**Sarah, and her former APSI representative, Ron Spencer.**

Take two minutes to see Sarah speak out on YouTube:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVx7ZgJKGIY&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVx7ZgJKGIY&feature=youtube_gdata)



### **The Belmont-Harrison-Noble (County) Alliance has taken the 2014 Awareness theme to area Roadways**

According to BHN spokesperson Pamela McCort, "Our March/April awareness efforts are centered around employment, so the 2014 theme *Ability@Work* is perfect for us." On this billboard, displaying her Ability at Work is local resident, Staci, on-the-job at Paramount Support Services in St. Clairsville.

### **Morgan County Promotes Ability@Work Poster Contest**

The Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be celebrating DD Awareness Month with several planned activities, including a poster contest reflecting the 2014 Awareness theme, "*Ability at Work*." MCBDD opened an Employment First office in 2012, offering services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and employers to create and maintain meaningful community-based jobs. The Employment First office's county-wide poster contest encourages children ages 5-18 to participate. Posters will be displayed throughout the community to increase awareness, and to foster support and inspiration. *For more information contact Amber Wallace at (740) 962-9906.*

### **Preble County Celebrates Athletically**

PCBDD kicked off its recognition of March as DD Awareness Month with a celebrity basketball game between PCBDD's Special Olympics basketball team -- the Cougars -- and the Preble County Generals, a team of local celebrities. It's the agency's second annual benefit game for Special Olympics, and the local celebrities included local police officers, as well as business, education, and government leaders. Service participant Mara Lovely, began the event by singing the National Anthem. Later in March, Preble County volunteers will be gathering to complete the area's only accessible playground, as Phase II of the ASK Playground ramps up.



### **Cougar Power!**

Chris Moore celebrates after being named the game's MVP in 2013.

More about the game, and the accessible playground at: <http://preblemrdd.org/index2.html>

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## 4. Service & Support Administration Training Rules!

### Training Emphasizes Person-Centered Planning and Involvement of People Served

Training for the new [Service & Support Administration \(SSA\) Rule \(5123:2-1-11\)](#), created to address concerns about language used previously in describing the service and support administration function, has been well-attended and well-received throughout the past month. The rule will be effective March 17, and the roll-out efforts have been targeted specifically for SSAs to discuss what is new in the rule, provide information and examples of person-centered planning, and offer tools to support those efforts. DODD also is hosting a webinar today for families and individuals to talk about the new rule and discuss what they might expect.

[The new rule more specifically describes and encourages the participation of people with developmental disabilities in the content and development of their Individual Service Plans \(ISPs\), and in the selection of people they choose to help in this process, and achieve desired outcomes.](#)

Training opportunities are continuing into March at the Xenos complex in Columbus. Because the Department is committed to taking a holistic approach to implementation of the rule and understanding its effect on Ohio's service system, several DODD Central Office and Developmental Center staff also participated in training last week, and learned more about the concept of person-centered planning.

Led by Kelly Mosley-Miller, DODD Office of Provider Standards & Review, and Jean Tuller, a nationally-recognized expert in the area of systems transformation through state Medicaid reform, all of the training is provided by DODD in collaboration with the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACBDD), and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). Mosley-Miller observed,

**“One of the reasons we think this discussion is important for all of us, is that when we look at Individual Service Plans, we know they can be improved. They can more specifically spell-out desired outcomes, rather than just satisfying a general goal.**

**It's the difference between just checking a box, or really finding out what a person wants.”**

Tuller further explained, “Coming from a national perspective, when I look at the service system in Ohio, it is possibly the most complex state in the nation in terms of service delivery. The 88 County Boards and the funding they bring to the system are unique to Ohio. With this new rule, you are positioned to move forward more fully grounded in person-centered planning. This will be the key to better working relationships in terms of discussions with the people you serve and their families -- especially regarding decision-making responsibilities.”



**“This ISP is going to make more sense now.”**

At the Xenos complex in Columbus, Service and Support Administrators and other staff within Ohio's DD system actively participated in discussion groups and conversations about how the support positions will change to most effectively coordinate services for each person served.



**“I'm glad people feel they can say anything at this training!”**

Jean Tuller (left) and Kelly Mosely-Miller enjoy the fact that training participants are asking lots of questions, and offering realistic examples of working with the new SSA rule in the field. Mosely-Miller said, “We need to figure out better ways to support the people who support the people we serve.” She added,

**“This will change the work we do!”**

Reiterating a statement made last month (see [Pipeline, February 5, 2014](#), “Service & Support Administration Rule Moves Forward,”) DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller noted at the February 25 training, “Introducing this new rule has been a very positive collaborative effort within our DD stakeholder community, including preparing a new handbook for Service & Support Administration (see link at [Publications & Handbooks](#)). The team effort assures a smoother road forward in the implementation process.” She later added that a DODD publication titled, "[Service Provider Interview Guide](#)" also will be helpful in conjunction with more focused person-centered planning.

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## 5. Ohio-based Diversity and Inclusion Employment Initiative Connects OOD and ViaQuest with OfficeMax

**Pairs hands-on training and related support to empower people with disabilities and veterans for successful employment in OfficeMax locations throughout the state.**

A new work training partnership aims to increase employment for people with disabilities and veterans, while providing OfficeMax stores with a model to further diversify its Ohio workforce. The program will launch in summer 2014, and is part of the OfficeMax ‘Maxing out Diversity’ effort, which has been initiated in Alabama, Illinois, and Nevada.

[Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities](#) (OOD) and Dublin-based service provider [ViaQuest, Inc.](#) have connected with OfficeMax to identify potential participants for the OfficeMax training program. As an agency providing services to more than 2500 Ohioans with disabilities in the Central Ohio area, and more than 18,000 throughout Ohio, OOD is well-positioned to assist this effort. By partnering with OOD in identifying work-ready participants, ViaQuest representatives note that the new venture with OfficeMax will help to create unique employment opportunities in line with Governor John Kasich’s [Employment First](#) initiative.

ViaQuest is developing a work-training facility and direct employment program to prepare people with disabilities and veterans for the Ohio-based OfficeMax job opportunities. The organization will offer a ‘real-world’ work environment and specific curriculum to train people for meaningful careers within OfficeMax distribution and retail centers. The skills to be learned are transferable to enable successful employment at other businesses, as well.

Larry Worth, Executive Director of ViaQuest Employment Services, explained, “We’re not only preparing people for work within the OfficeMax setting, we’re also instilling skills that will empower them for success in a range of work environments. Participants will be prepared to succeed as highly motivated, dependable, and qualified employees.”

The training program will be launched in stages, with the initial focus on creating a retail and distribution training facility to serve metropolitan Columbus. The facility will feature products, shelving, inventory systems, and employee training techniques that mirror those encountered in OfficeMax facilities. As the program expands, ViaQuest will develop similar training programs around the state to serve a broader range of OfficeMax locations in Ohio.

In learning of the upcoming launch of this new employment and training partnership, DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative Kristen Helling stated,

**“Businesses like OfficeMax recognize the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. This opportunity provides a win-win for all involved.”**

DODD supports and encourages partnerships such as this that blend private sector perspectives on employment needs with public sector resources that serve individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities.

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## 6. Updated Waiver Handbooks Describe Services, Budgets

DODD has electronically released revised handbooks describing the [Individual Options \(I.O.\) waiver](#) and the [Level One waiver](#). Now on the [DODD website](#) (click on [Publications](#)) along with the newly-released [Service & Support Administration rule handbook](#), the updated publications each include the many new service options under each of the Medicaid waivers, and offer answers to questions frequently asked by individuals and families served, as well as by support staff in the statewide DD services community. DODD is most appreciative of the stakeholder input received in the collaborative process of preparing the new handbooks, which has helped to guide and simplify the new and updated publications.

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## NOTICE: Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule Registration Is Closed for the Informational Forum

March 11 Event Will be Videotaped and Posted Online

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Issues Final Rule on Home and Community-Based Services

Registration is now closed for the DODD-sponsored open forum and presentation on Tuesday, March 11, at the Ohio Department of Commerce Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, regarding recent changes to the CMS rule ([CMS-2296-F](#)) that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for home- and community-based services (HCBS). Response to the upcoming event has been excellent, and the maximum number of slots has been filled. The event will be videotaped and posted online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). For earlier information announcing the event, see the lead article titled, “Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule” in [Pipeline](#), February 19, 2014 .

## *PostScripts* .....



### **People First Conference, March 13-15**

Ohio’s 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center, Wilmington, Ohio. This year’s conference theme is, “*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*” The agenda this year includes self advocates’ discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

**Look for registration and program information online at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org)**

People First of Ohio will be celebrating their 15-year Anniversary at the three-day conference, and there will be many surprise guests and unique activities. For example, many organizations in attendance will decorate a chair representing their mission, and illustrating ‘Why they want to be at the *People First* table.’ Opening ceremonies begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. More information at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org).

 **OACB Hosts Appreciative Inquiry Training, March 18, 19 & 28**  
**Registration deadline is March 7. To register [CLICK HERE.](#)**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is sponsoring a three-day training session to learn and experience how Appreciative Inquiry (AI) can change the way you live and work. Appreciative Inquiry is the cooperative search for the best in people, their organizations, and the world around them and involves asking questions that strengthen a system's capacity to heighten positive potential. Featured speaker is Dr. Joan Colleran Hoxsey, an international speaker and presenter on this topic, well-versed in the dynamics of change management. For more information contact Ann Neu (614) 431-0616; [aneu@oacbdd.org](mailto:aneu@oacbdd.org)

 **PAR Regional Trainings Set for March, April, and May**

Several PAR (**Professionals, Advocates, Resources**) regional trainings are set for March, April, and May. They include: *Trauma Informed Care: Facilitating Healing, Resiliency and Hope* on March 26 at the Delaware County Board of DD, and March 27 at the ESC, Valley View (Cleveland area). Presenters for this training are *Mary Vacario* and *Carol Hudgins-Mitchell*, Certified Trauma Specialists; *Transition: Life Beyond School* on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are *Connie Morris*, Creative Life and Work Services, *David Zwyer*, Community Fund Management Foundation, *Chris Filler*, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and *Suzanne Beck*, Independent Consultant. Lastly, *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is *Randy Shively*, Vice President/Clinical Services, Alvis House.

For registration, visit [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org). More info at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>

 **2014 Statewide DD Awareness Month Theme is 'Ability@Work.'**

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://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.



 **Goodwill Columbus: Building an Independent Life, March 8**

On March 8th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a "Life After School and Beyond" workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus. Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus is presenting their annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Jobs and Employment with presenters Meg Griffing of COVA, and Lutrell Jolly of Goodwill
- Financial: Government/County Funding with presenter Anne Russell of FCBDD
- Future Planning & Employment with presenter David Zwyer, Esq. of Community Fund Management Foundation
- Defining Strengths & Safety Nets with Marilyn Messina, LISW

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available). To register contact Pat Karshner, [pkarshner@columbus.rr.com](mailto:pkarshner@columbus.rr.com), (614)885-2291.



## Ohio Waiver Network to Host Training in March & April

The Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) will host several training events in March and April. These training opportunities are on the subjects of *Employment First*, and the *new Service & Support Administration rule*, and are at different locations around the state. For more information and to register, see the Ohio Waiver Network website at [www.ohiowaivernetwork.com](http://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com). Also online are the upcoming OWN Regional Meetings and Information Sessions for March and April.



## 'The Fatal Five' Training – March 20

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one-day conference with two topics that may be of interest to nurses, SSA's, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. On March 20, *The Fatal Five: Preventing Preventable Deaths in Community Settings* will be presented by Karen Green McGowan, RN, CDDN. Karen has 35 years of experience in the Developmental Disabilities field, and will focus on the five subjects of bowel obstruction, aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and dehydration. In addition, *Medications Used in the Geriatric Population* will be presented by Nanette Wrobel, RPH, a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her presentation will look at medications frequently used in the geriatric population and specific concerns in that process. For information and registration: <http://highdd.org> -- look under 'News and Info.'



## The Arc of Ohio, Annual March Training Opportunity, March 20

The annual Arc of Ohio training for families of people with developmental disabilities will be on Thursday, March 20, at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. These trainings provide an overview of budget information and service updates, and offer plenty of time for questions and discussion. Registration details coming soon – visit [www.thearcofohio.org](http://www.thearcofohio.org).



## Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at The Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to maintain a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. Training will feature Master Trainers Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer"; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and, network with peers. Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org)



## Ohio 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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>



### **Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9**

Planning is currently underway for the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference will provide updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio's statewide community of service providers, as well as showcase providers, themselves, during the two-day conference. More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)



### **Disability Housing Network, Technical Assistance, April 8-9**

Through partnerships with DODD and the Ohio DD Council, the Disability Housing Network (DHN) is offering technical assistance to County Boards and Housing Corporations in these areas:

- County Housing Planning
- Housing Development
- Property Management
- Master Contract Standards
- Exploring Alternatives to Current Housing Model

Contact Jaclyn Slemmer at [jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org](mailto:jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org) to schedule technical assistance. In addition, DHN will offer a track of housing sessions at the 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference on April 8 & 9. Look for more information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org).



### **Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17**

The Ohio State University campus will host the Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference (exact location to be announced) on April 16-17. Individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals and educators in the disabilities field, and community members are welcome. The annual conference will present workshops and keynote speakers on a variety of topics, including housing, education, transportation, and employment. The conference schedule is currently being finalized.

For More Information: [Follow this link to visit the Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office Web-site.](#) Sponsored by The Ohio State University ADA Coordinator's Office.



### **Annual NADD Conference, 'Call for Presenters' due April 18**

**Call for Presentations: Now seeking 90-minute presentations and 3-hour skill-building workshops.**

**NADD Online submission deadline is Friday, April 18: Go to <http://thenadd.org/cfp-ohio/>**

**All proposals will be considered. A limited number are selected. Notification will be e-mailed by April 30.**

The State of Ohio 12th Annual MI/DD Conference sponsored by NADD (formerly the National Association for Dual Diagnosis) on the subject of *Mental Health Aspects Treatment and Support* will be September 16-17, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus/ North. See the 'Call for Presenters' information above. Workshops given by Primary Presenters receive a complimentary daily conference registration fee.

Primary presenters who have clients/consumers in case examples are not required to pay a registration fee. More information at <http://thenadd.org/>



### **OADSP Sponsors First 'DSP Summit Conference,' April 29**

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) newly-established Council is working to better support Ohio's DSPs, and has planned the very first Direct Support Professional Summit. Not to be confused with the DSP Recognition event each September, this new Summit will focus on training and

information, rather than recognition. The Summit will be held at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 29. Sessions for the day-long conference are currently being planned, and will include tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Registration is \$35 for the day, and includes lunch, six hours of credits, *a one year OADSP/NADSP membership*, and more. [Register here!](#) According to OADSP Credentialing & Outreach Coordinator Bethany Toledo, “We feel that that for the Direct Support field to be recognized as a true profession, we must provide these kinds of learning opportunities, as well as establish a strong membership base. A lot of DSPs work as independent providers, and may have a difficult time accessing quality training.” Contact: [pcbethany@prodigy.net](mailto:pcbethany@prodigy.net)



### **Save the Date! Spring Employment Conference, April 23**

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of “*Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*,” at [www.voice.voiceamerica.com](http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com). Details will be available soon. Please share this announcement with people interested in employment of Ohioans with disabilities. For more information, or to register, email [ODEA2013@gmail.com](mailto:ODEA2013@gmail.com) after March 20.



### **Absolute Care to Host Paint-A-Palooza, April 26**

Absolute Care invites you to join them for *Paint-A-Palooza 2014* on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 12-6 p.m. at [Absolute Care](#), 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd, in Worthington. This is a day to demonstrate that individuals with disabilities can do anything! This agency flies in an artist from Wisconsin, who brings with him *special adaptive art equipment that allows all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create their own print design* and paint it on a 100-foot canvas. Along with this large masterpiece to be created throughout the day, [TAASC](#) an adaptive sports coalition, will provide kayaking and bicycling. Also, the Bill Foley Band will be on-hand, and there will be games and food. Visit [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org) for more details, or contact Caitlin Weasel at [cweasel@absolutecare.org](mailto:cweasel@absolutecare.org). Just prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza on that day, Absolute Care will host a “Walk for Wounded Warrior Project.” The walk starts at 10:30 at Absolute Care. Funds raised will go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register by April 20, at [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org).



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

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, “Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date.” Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731>. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



### **SAVE THE DATE! Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**

**Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7; Applications must be received by March 31.**

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).



### **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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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>

**Ohio**

**Department of  
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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](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

March 14, 2014

## CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES LEARNING FROM CHANGE

Experiences from Vermont, Rhode Island and Oklahoma

Open Forum

Hosted by the Ohio Strategic Planning Leadership Group

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2045 Morse Road, Building E, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Assembly Center Room, Columbus, Ohio 43229

- **Presenters**

**Bryan Dague, University of Vermont and Michelle Paya, Director of Supported Employment Services, Champlain Community Services**

Vermont has not operated a sheltered workshop for 10 years. Bryan will discuss family perspectives and the impact of generational differences throughout the process of closing workshops. Michelle will discuss Vermont's process of transitioning from segregated to integrated services, and the infrastructure development that was needed to be successful.

**Regina Chace, Developmental Disabilities Services Division, Oklahoma and Joseph Davis, Bios Corp**

Oklahoma operates adult services under a unique funding structure which pays for services based on outcomes. Regina will discuss the history of Oklahoma's system, and provide a description of the outcome-based model. Joseph's provider agency, Bios Corp., provides only community-based services. He will discuss his agency's strategy to develop an employment model that has a strong focus on employer engagement, marketing and business development.

**Eugene Gloss, Transition Thru Placement and Andrew McQuaide, State Coordinator – US Dept. of Justice Interim Settlement Agreement, RI**

Rhode Island is in the process of implementing an Interim Settlement Agreement with the US Department of Justice. Andrew will provide a brief history of Rhode Island's system, and

describe specific items in the ISA and their impact. Co-presenter Gene will describe the “how-to” implementation at the provider level for these actions.

- Lunch is on your own and available at nearby restaurants, or you can bring your lunch.
- **Additional Open Forum Information**  
*Cost is free but registration is first come, first serve as space is limited.* Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E31374553129464>. The presentations will be video-taped and made available as soon as possible following the forum. If you have questions, contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone (614) 644-0262. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov).



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**March 19, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 6**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar*



## March: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Thanks to all who have contributed information on this subject for this issue of Pipeline.

### **1. Forum on CMS Rule Accentuates Opportunities, Outcomes** **Strategic Leadership Group Training on Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Rule for Home and Community-Based Services**

On March 11, at the Ohio Department of Commerce Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, DODD hosted a forum on the subject of recent changes to the CMS rule ([CMS-2296-F](#)) that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for home- and community-based services (HCBS). Response to the event was excellent, and the maximum number of seats (200) was filled. The event was videotaped and posted online at the [DODD Website Newsroom](#).\*



### She Knows What She's Talking About!

**"This rule is prescriptive: People who receive support – their lives should look like typical lives."**

**Robin Cooper**, Director of Technical Assistance at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), explains the potential impact of the new rule on Ohio's statewide Developmental Disabilities system.

An expert on HCBS waivers, she works with state, county, and local governments – as well as advocacy and provider organizations – on issues concerning long-term community-based services for people with disabilities.



### They drew it out, talked it up, and doodled it.

Breaking the approximately 200 attendees into small workgroups, the Café Conversations portion of the Forum invited participants to pose key questions, express their concerns, and describe their hopes for opportunities the new rule will offer people with developmental disabilities.



### Everyone was at the Table!

Service providers, individuals served, family members, and professionals in the statewide DD service community were actively engaged in the discussion process. We heard many comments, including:

**"An individual Service Plan is important, but there should be unplanned interactions, too!  
Can the person's friends stop by for a visit – things like that?"**



### Round Three: The Finale

What opportunities does this rule open up? In answer to this question, representatives from each table came forward. We heard:

“What can we change in the structure of our system to get these desired outcomes?”

“Let’s look at what we can incentivize.”

“We need to do this *now*.”

“Let’s make the expectations the outcomes.”

At the Forum, DODD Director John Martin looked out from the stage into the crowded meeting room and stated, “It’s important for us to use this opportunity to change the system – to do this planning – and we have about a year to do it. Then, the implementation will span about five years – so, about six years from now this process will be complete.” He added,

“As I look out in the crowd here, I see a lot of good people. People who care – people who care about improving the system.”

### WHAT’S AHEAD? NEXT FORUM – APRIL 1

#### Creating Work Opportunities Learning from Change: Experiences from Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma

On April 1, the Strategic Planning Leadership Group will be hosting an Open Forum titled, “*Creating Work Opportunities Learning from Change: Experiences from Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma.*” Speakers from each of the three states will be on-hand to discuss their experiences and answer questions. More information about the forum and registration for the event is at <http://www.planetreg.com/E31374553129464> .

*\*For this and other Forum information, the URL is <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx> For background information on the event, see the lead article titled, “Strategic Leadership Group to Host Forum on CMS Rule” in Pipeline, February 19, 2014 .*

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## 2. Mid-Biennium Review – Budget Process Underway

Announcing the 2014 Mid-Biennium Review, Governor John Kasich stated, “I think we’ve made the Mid-Biennium Review a part of Ohio’s culture, and that’s good. These are not things you just slop together. These are things that take time, and frankly, when we get this to the legislature, we’re going to need a lot of input from both Democrats and Republicans on some of the best ways we can work on a whole host of these issues.”

According to an Administration [Fact Sheet](#), "The Governor proposes lowering income taxes across all income levels by 8.5% over the next three years, which would bring Ohio's top income tax rate below 5%."

**In addition, 'program improvements' in the bill include an online training and certification program developed by DODD.**



More information at <http://transforming.ohio.gov>

Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) President Mark Davis noted that, "The online training and certification program allows direct support professionals the opportunity to voluntarily gain extra skills, like appropriate behavioral interventions, at their own pace." The bill also establishes requirements for long-term care facilities regarding residents who are identified as sex offenders in the Attorney General's internet-based sex offender and child-victim offender database. Especially of interest to Ohio's DD community are comments in the [budget information currently online](#) "Helping Ohio's Most Vulnerable Citizens." They include:

**"Recent studies indicate that as many as one in 80 children today is born with autism. I hear every day from families that tell me there aren't enough qualified autism professionals to meet the growing demand. Governor Kasich's project along with financial support from the Office of Health Transformation's Innovation Fund will help make a difference in the lives of Ohioans with autism and their families." -Gary Tonks, CEO, The Arc of Ohio**

The Governor's proposed budget also focuses on several behavioral health policies that address mental illness and addiction and 'silos' in the state system. In particular, he calls for the creation of a Human Services Innovation Office to assess and streamline service delivery. As part of the review process, the Ohio House of Representatives will be splitting the plan ([HB472](#)) into multiple separate bills for vetting in various House committees.

More information at <http://transforming.ohio.gov/>

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### **3. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State**

**A potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state.**

#### **Statewide OPI Media and Awareness Awards**

The Ohio Public Images (OPI) annual *Media and Awareness Awards Luncheon* earlier this month was hosted by the County Board Superintendents Association, and awarded more than 50 honors to individuals and entities in Ohio that developed or spotlighted positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities during the period from December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013. Entries considered in this competition were published, broadcast, produced, or otherwise occurred during that timeframe. See the complete awards presentation [here](#).



### **Andre's Got Style ... and Substance**

Andre Travis (seated) is presented the Award of Excellence in the Self Advocate of the Year category, by OPI Board President Margaret Compton and County Board Superintendents Association President Rick Marriott. Andre accepted the award noting,

**“Never give up on your dreams!  
Never give up.”**

Andre participated in a marathon earlier this year and plans to do so again. More at [the Summit DD website](#).



### **James Harley**

James Harley was presented the Award of Merit in the Self Advocate of the Year category. He accepted the award with an absolutely fabulous smile just as you see here.

James is currently a student at the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash Campus and the Vice-Chair of the University's Center of Excellence and Developmental Disabilities. He has shown a lifetime commitment to advocacy.

### **Knox County**

The annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Luncheon earlier this month in Knox County was a collaborative effort between the Knox County Board of DD and Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC), and was attended by more than 200 people representing a broad cross-section of the community. Filling the Great Room at MVDC were employers, people with developmental disabilities and related staff, family, and friends. Along with a short awards ceremony celebrating and recognizing distinguished service and individual achievements (see photo) keynote speaker Pete Moore from the Ohio Association of County Boards shared this message: “Respect for every person is what we really need to focus on. Respect and compassion – the ability to reach out to others is what makes all the difference in peoples’ lives.”  
*More about this event at: [www.facebook.com/KCBDD](http://www.facebook.com/KCBDD)*



**Congratulations, Honored Guests!  
The 2014 DD Awareness Awards  
presented at MVDC included ...**

**Back Row, L. to R.:**

Valerie Hawk, Individual Achievement;  
Jarrod Thomas, Support Professional;  
Patrick Lovell, Individual Achievement;  
Kim Novak, Business Partner of the Year (AVI  
Food Service/Kenyon College).

**Front Row, L. to R.:**

Teresa Brown, Distinguished Service;  
Katelyn James, Volunteer of the Year

**Geauga County – He Wrote the Book on Himself**

On March 3, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (The Metzenbaum Center) kicked-off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with a book-signing by author Barry Henkin. His autobiography *Why Am I So Special?* describes how he has overcome various physical, mental, emotional, and societal obstacles. An outspoken self advocate, Barry read some excerpts from the book and then signed copies, as requested. Barry's book is available on Amazon.com. For more information, contact Kelly Ericsson, (440) 729-9406 x1106, [kericsson@geaugadd.org](mailto:kericsson@geaugadd.org).



**The Author & Friend**

Author Barry Henkin and Sarah Rissler, Social Worker, shown at the book-signing event. Sarah is one of Barry's close friends and is mentioned in the book, "*Why Am I So Special?*"

Barry says that having friends like Sarah is part of what makes him so special.

**Hardin County Celebrates Awareness with 'Aktion!'**

Kimberly Thomas, Adult Services Director at the Hardin County Board of DD, reports that the *Hardin Pioneer Aktion Club* recently was named the 2013 winner of the *Community Service Award* at the annual meeting of the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance. Accompanying this award were congratulatory letters signed by Senators Keith Faber and Cliff Hite, Representative Robert Sprague, and Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives William Batchelder. When chartered in 2010, the Hardin Pioneer Aktion Club had 13 members. The club now has 25 members unified in their efforts to serve the Hardin County community. Thomas notes, "Their passion for service to others is unmistakable -- with an amazing 38 service projects completed in 2013! Additionally, the Hardin Pioneer Aktion Club held various

fundraisers and social activities which helped the members develop their planning and social skills. The group has grown in size, enthusiasm, and effectiveness.”



### **Aktion Club Members and Friends**

“What better way to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month than to earn an award that was open to ALL persons and groups in the entire county! We are proud!”

*-Kimberly Thomas, Adult Services Director,  
Hardin County Board of DD*

### **Franklin County Celebrates Accessibility**

Shari Cooper, Community & Staff Relations Associate at Goodwill - Easter Seals/Miami Valley celebrates DD Awareness Month with an accent on accessibility! She writes, “Would you like to send a shout-out to an establishment whose accessibility features are great -- or help others by educating them on how to make theirs better? If you answered yes, check out this information about *Access Together*, a website where people can share input and advocate to make establishments accessible for all.” Shari adds that for those using screen-reading programs, the URL for the website is <http://www.accesstogether.org/>.

### **In Lawrence County, Awareness is Airborne!**

It wouldn't be DD Awareness Month without the annual Balloon Launch says Tim Nunnery, at the Lawrence County Board of DD. “We've been doing this for as long as I can remember.”



### **An Ironton Tradition**

The students at Open Door School wait eagerly for the annual Balloon Launch, each with a purple balloon in-hand. Attached to each balloon string is a card that bears the student's name and address and encourages the person who finds the balloon to write that student a note. Tim Nunnery said,

**“We've had people write notes from as far away as Pennsylvania and Virginia, and we've gotten plenty from people in the mountains of West Virginia.”**

### **Medina County Empowers Awareness with Scholarship Opportunity**

Medina County high school seniors who plan to pursue a career serving people with developmental disabilities can apply for a \$1000 scholarship from the **Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities**. The MCBDD Donated Funds Committee raises money for the scholarship through activities all year. The ‘Donor Scholarship’ is available to current high school seniors who have been accepted into an accredited training program in a field that provides services to people with developmental disabilities -- including special education; physical, occupational, or speech therapy; social work; and behavioral sciences. Applicants must

demonstrate involvement in services to people with DD through activities such as volunteering or job shadowing. Scholarship applications are due by March 31. For more information call (330) 725-7751, ext. 273, or visit [www.mcbsd.org](http://www.mcbsd.org).

Visit the [DODD Facebook page](#) for additional photos and information about DD Awareness Month.

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## **4. People First Says, “The Time to Change is Now!”**

Ohio’s 2014 *People First Conference* March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, celebrated 15 years of [People First’s](#) statewide awareness and advocacy efforts with the theme, “*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*”

And People First of Ohio has shown clearly that they know how to celebrate an anniversary! The three-day conference even featured a large ‘time machine’ which served to introduce history and progress. The agenda was packed with plenty of information for the nearly 500 attendees on subjects including the [Employment First](#) initiative and how to put it to work in the lives of *everyone* who wants to work in the community -- as well as sessions on Transition Services, Medicaid Buy-In, and other topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff.

People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter emphasized, “What you learn about at this conference is whatever *you* -- as self advocates -- have told us *you* want and need to know more about. *You* set the agenda, and each of you has a say in it. That’s what has driven us all these years.” She added,

**“People First of Ohio is the only organization of its kind that is totally run by self-advocates. You can be proud of your Board, and all the members in our chapters across the state.”**

In the always-enthusiastic style of People First conferences, Sadie’s statement was followed by a great deal of cheering, high-fiving, and even some singing. The three days of learning, surprise guests, and participation in unique activities also included a presentation of chairs, decorated by organizations in attendance to illustrate and answer the challenge, ‘Why do you want to be at the *People First* table?’ (See photos below)

DODD Director John Martin spoke to the group during the opening session and stated,

**“I’m impressed at how People First has made its voice heard over the years. You continue to do that, and you have been involved in making history in this state by doing so. Thank you for making your voices heard.”**



### **This is how you celebrate a 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Roberts Convention Centre in Clinton County has hosted the People First Conference for several years and is very accommodating to attendees. Accessibility and acoustics are excellent, and the festive meeting areas also allow for plenty of mingling.



### **Pulling Up a Chair to the People First Table**

Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) representatives Angie Gerding (left) and Karla Rinto presented a portable chair (unopened, in center) to illustrate that their services are flexible and portable. According to Angie, "Our services are there when you need them, and gone when you don't."



### **John G. Welcomes John M.**

People First member John G. welcomes DODD Director John Martin to the stage, along with Joellen Hunter and Sadie Hunter (at podium). Director Martin spoke in front of the banner proclaiming the event theme, “Advocacy – The Time for Change is Now.” He observed People First’s place in state history, noting the Department’s name change in 2009 and other changes in legislation and statute. He stated,

**“You are a very talented bunch of People!”**

*More information at [www.peoplefirstohio.org](http://www.peoplefirstohio.org).*

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## **5. Employment First Celebrates Two Years**

**On March 19, 2012, the Employment First initiative was signed.**

Today, Ohio recognizes the two-year anniversary of the signing of Governor Kasich’s **Employment First Executive Order** supporting the ongoing shift within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community to a culture that recognizes and embraces the contributions and abilities of people with developmental disabilities. Since the outset of the Employment First initiative, improvements in state policies have been put in place that enable Ohio’s local communities to be better prepared to transform services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for improved community employment outcomes.

In one such new opportunity supporting of the Employment First initiative, the Pickaway County Board of DD has partnered with Scioto Downs Racino to interview and hire five individuals to become part of the organization’s Food & Beverage team. An orientation session was held in late February, with most employees scheduled to begin work during the first week in March. To put together this employment partnership, PCBDD worked with Scioto Downs staff to determine the best way to help facilitate placement for the individuals. They determined that a job fair on-site would be a good approach, so that managers at Scioto Downs could meet the candidates and perform on-the-spot interviews.

The job fair in early February worked well, and allowed candidates to decide which jobs they wanted to apply for. They also gained experience in an interview setting. The Food & Beverage team interviewed nine candidates and extended job offers to five. The new team members have been extended a warm welcome at work, as have the support staff who are initially accompanying the new employees as they learn the requirements of the various positions. Job coaches from service providers, Capabilities, and of the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center are providing this support.

Displaying enthusiasm for the new employment partnership, the Scioto Downs newsletter “*Scioto Spotlight*” noted, “This is a wonderful and important form of support not only to the individuals, but also to Scioto Downs. They stay with the new employee for approximately one month to assure a smooth transition.”

The article also quoted Patrick Kilbane, Transition Services Specialist for PCBDD, who stated,

**“We aren’t looking for a free handout or for special positions to be created. Our people are both willing and able to work in regular positions already being offered at Scioto Downs. They applied and interviewed for them just like anyone else would do.”**



### **Their prospects are looking good!**

New employees of the Scioto Downs Food & Beverage team are Kim (wearing glasses) and Kirsten, shown left with employment paperwork, and Tyler, who is shown (right) filling out paperwork at orientation.

DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative Kristen Helling observes, “As we work toward shifting our culture to one that supports 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. This approach will enable them to participate more fully in their communities. Efforts such as this partnership should make 2014 a very strong year for Ohio’s Employment First initiative.”



More information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/> and at “*Ohio's Path to Employment First*.”

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## **6. DODD Grants Assist in Training DSPs**

Highly qualified and well- trained direct support professionals are extremely valuable resources within the statewide developmental disabilities community. DODD is committed to supporting the availability of these resources, and provides grants to agencies throughout the state who are dedicated to offering provider training.

Specific training is a requirement in order to become a provider in Ohio, and such training can be time-consuming, difficult to schedule, and costly. One of the organizations that DODD assists through such grants is the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP), which offers a series of online and in-person courses as part of the PATHS credentialing program. PATHS offers a variety of certifications, including Basic Certification, Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) and Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP) courses. Tuition can range from \$150 to \$300 for the required hours of course instruction.

**A grant increase from DODD has made it possible for OADSP to provide scholarships to cover the costs of course instruction for Basic Certification and the Certificate of Initial Proficiency, making some courses free to recipients as a result of the grant partnership.**

Direct Support Professionals interested in participating in the PATHS program can find more information and register [here](#). The next training will take place April 4. To learn more about Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP), visit [www.oadsp.org](http://www.oadsp.org).

### **Reminder: OADSP Sponsors First 'DSP Summit Conference,' April 29**

The [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP) newly-established Council is working to better support Ohio's DSPs, and has planned the very first Direct Support Professional Summit. Not to be confused with the DSP Recognition event each September, this new Summit will focus on training and information rather than recognition, and will be held at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 29. Sessions for the day-long conference will include tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Registration is \$35 for the day, and includes lunch, six hours of credits, and *a one-year OADSP/NADSP membership*. [Register here!](#) According to OADSP Credentialing & Outreach Coordinator Bethany Toledo, "We feel that that for the Direct Support field to be recognized as a true profession, we must provide these kinds of learning opportunities, as well as establish a strong membership base. A lot of DSPs work as independent providers, and may have a difficult time accessing quality training." Contact: [pcbethany@prodigy.net](mailto:pcbethany@prodigy.net)

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## **7. OPRA Sharpens Focus on Employment Services**

### **Umstot Named Director of Employment Services**

The shift to employment services is an important one for Ohioans with developmental disabilities in Ohio, and creates the need for more opportunities and training. [The Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) (OPRA) is moving ahead to ensure that Ohio leads the way nationally in this area, and has announced the hiring of a Director of Employment Services.

Jason Umstot will fill a previous gap in resources for providers already offering employment services for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio.

Umstot most recently was Vice President of Program Services for Koinonia Homes, Inc., a service provider in Cuyahoga County. He will focus on employment, vocational training, and day services, and will begin serving in the new position effective March 31. The sharper focus for the statewide provider agency will allow for expanding quality services through collaborative

work with DODD, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and systems serving school age youth with developmental disabilities.

OPRA Board President Janice Hall commented, “We see employment services as the future of choice and opportunity for individuals served in the DD system, and we are dedicated to helping organizations grow together with regard to knowledge, training, and strategic planning.”

Looking forward to the new position as Director of Employment Services, Umstot stated, “I am passionate about beginning this work with OPRA and its members because I strongly believe that we are at a critical juncture in the developmental disabilities field with many factors influencing our future. I look forward to working with providers and serving as their voice to ensure that policy is driven by the realities of our business.”

*More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)*

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## **8. IT Division Garneres Accolades for ‘*imagine*’ Project**

### **DODD Information Technology Team Receives Award from Microsoft**

Earlier this month, the DODD Information Technology (IT) Division accepted the *Convergence 2014 Microsoft Customer Excellence Award* in the Public Sector category. The award adds to a list of accolades the IT team has acquired since 2010, from entities including [TechColumbus](#) and [ComputerWorld](#). Microsoft Customer Excellence Awards recognize customer organizations that are achieving outstanding success with Microsoft solutions. The DODD IT team received their award for their work on the ‘*imagine*’ project.



*Imagine is a statewide transformation for Ohio's developmental disabilities system, towards more person-centered practices and individual support. It is currently being piloted by a collaborative entity comprised of 18 County Boards of DD, the Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC), and several individuals and partners.*

The Division was recognized for their behind-the-scenes efforts to facilitate this statewide collaboration through technology. The *imagine* initiative has transformed a previously inefficient, more fragmented and paper-based system into a seamless, more flexible, and coordinated system. This new system is built on a Microsoft platform that provides easy, secure, and mobile access to information, and creates a common data repository for DODD staff and providers, removing long-standing barriers to collaborative partnerships between County Boards and other entities.

While *imagine* is currently operating only within the 18 pilot counties, the goal is eventually to expand and include all 88 counties. More about the *imagine* project at <http://justimagineit.me/>

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## *PostScripts* .....



### **Ohio Waiver Network Training – Slots Still Available!**

The Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) is hosting several important training events in March and April. These training opportunities are on the subjects of *Employment First*, and the *new Service & Support Administration rule*, and are at different locations around the state for the convenience of the statewide DD community. Register now at the Ohio Waiver Network website: [www.ohiowaivernetwork.com](http://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com).

New SSA Rule, Person-Centered Planning, ISP Development

*Presenters:* Kelly Miller, DODD; Jean Tuller, Consultant – Oregon

April 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sheraton Cuyahoga Falls, 1989 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221

AND April 10, 2014, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Quest Conference Center (near Polaris), 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus 43240

More information at <https://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com/training-opportunities.html>



### **Ohio Partners in Justice to Host Free Training, March 28**

Ohio Partners in Justice (PIJ) is offering a free training titled, “Supporting Individuals who have Developmental Disabilities and Sex Offending Behaviors” on March 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Transportation, W. Broad Street auditorium in Columbus. For complete location and registration information go to: <http://www.planetReg.com/E3513619129466>



### **Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9**

REGISTER NOW ►

Registration is now open for the **Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)** Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference provides updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio’s statewide community of service providers, as well as showcases the providers, themselves. More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)



### **PAR Regional Trainings Continue in March, April, and May**

Several PAR (**Professionals, Advocates, Resources**) regional trainings are set for March, April, and May. They include: *Trauma Informed Care: Facilitating Healing, Resiliency and Hope* on March 26 at the Delaware County Board of DD, and March 27 at the ESC, Valley View (Cleveland area). Presenters for this training are *Mary Vacario* and *Carol Hudgins-Mitchell*, Certified Trauma Specialists; *Transition: Life Beyond School* on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are *Connie Morris*, Creative Life and Work Services, *David Zwyer*, Community Fund Management Foundation, *Chris Filler*, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and *Suzanne Beck*, Independent Consultant. Lastly, *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is *Randy Shively*, Vice President/Clinical Services, Alvis House.

For registration, visit [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org). More info at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>

## **'The Fatal Five' Training – March 20**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one-day conference with two topics that may be of interest to nurses, SSA's, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. On March 20, *The Fatal Five: Preventing Preventable Deaths in Community Settings* will be presented by Karen Green McGowan, RN, CDDN. Karen has 35 years of experience in the Developmental Disabilities field, and will focus on the five subjects of bowel obstruction, aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and dehydration. In addition, *Medications Used in the Geriatric Population* will be presented by Nanette Wrobel, RPH, a strong advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her presentation will look at medications frequently used in the geriatric population and specific concerns in that process. For information and registration: <http://highdd.org> -- look under 'News and Info.'

## **The Arc of Ohio, Annual March Training Opportunity, March 20**

The annual Arc of Ohio training for families of people with developmental disabilities will be on Thursday, March 20, at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. These trainings provide an overview of budget information and service updates, and offer plenty of time for questions and discussion. For registration visit [www.thearcofohio.org](http://www.thearcofohio.org).

## **APSI Now Accepting Nominations for Ron Kozlowski Award** **Nominations will be accepted through April 30**

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Ron's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. APSI is now accepting nominations for this year's recipient. Nominations are being accepted through April 30, and the award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June of this year. To access the APSI nomination form, click [here](#).

## **Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at The Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to maintain a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. Training will feature Master Trainers Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer"; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and, network with peers. Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org)

## **Ohio 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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>



### **Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17**

The Ohio State University campus will host the Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference (exact location to be announced) on April 16-17. Individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals and educators in the disabilities field, and community members are welcome. The annual conference will present workshops and keynote speakers on a variety of topics, including housing, education, transportation, and employment. The conference schedule is currently being finalized.

For More Information: [Follow this link to visit the Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office Web-site](#). Sponsored by The Ohio State University ADA Coordinator's Office.



### **Annual NADD Conference, 'Call for Presenters' due April 18**

**Call for Presentations: Now seeking 90-minute presentations and 3-hour skill-building workshops.**

**NADD Online submission deadline is Friday, April 18: Go to <http://thenadd.org/cfp-ohio/>**

**All proposals will be considered. A limited number are selected. Notification will be e-mailed by April 30.**

The State of Ohio 12th Annual MI/DD Conference sponsored by NADD (formerly the National Association for Dual Diagnosis) on the subject of *Mental Health Aspects Treatment and Support* will be September 16-17, at the Crowne Plaza Columbus/ North. See the 'Call for Presenters' information above. Workshops given by Primary Presenters receive a complimentary daily conference registration fee. Primary presenters who have clients/consumers in case examples are not required to pay a registration fee. More information at <http://thenadd.org/>



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring Employment Conference, April 23**

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of "*Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*," at [www.voice.voiceamerica.com](http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com). Details will be available soon. Please share this announcement with people interested in employment of Ohioans with disabilities. For more information, or to register, email [ODEA2013@gmail.com](mailto:ODEA2013@gmail.com) after March 20.



### **SAVE THE DATE! OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23**

Mark your calendars! The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is pleased to announce their 2014 Spring Conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris on May 22-23. Event registration begins April 1, but you may reserve your hotel today. More information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point, May 22**

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, "Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date." Registration is now OPEN!

Request your tickets by clicking here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731>. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



## **SAVE THE DATE! Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**

**Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7; Applications must be received by March 31.**

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).



## **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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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**Volume 8, Issue 7**

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## April is Autism Awareness Month

See article #3 in this issue

### 1. Creating Work Opportunities, Learning from Change

#### Strategic Planning Leadership Group Forum focuses on experiences from the states of Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma

Yesterday, at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources complex in Columbus, the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group hosted a forum titled, “Creating Work Opportunities, Learning from Change,” attended by more than 200 people. Speakers from Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma were on-hand to discuss their experiences and answer questions on subjects currently being explored by the Strategic Planning Leadership Group.

Presenters included Andrew McQuaide, State Coordinator, U.S. Dept. of Justice Interim Settlement Agreement (RI); Bryan Dague, University of Vermont, and Michelle Paya, director of supported employment services, Champlain Community Services in Vermont; and Regina Chace, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Services Division, and Joseph Davis, Bios Corporation, in Oklahoma.

McQuaide kicked off the morning with a dynamic presentation via Skype that emphasized the importance of current efforts to address many issues outlined in the Interim Settlement Agreement (see [Olmstead enforcement, Rhode Island](#)). Among many excellent points shared with the Forum attendees, McQuaide noted, “We have closed the front door to our traditional sheltered workshops – closed to any new entrants. Eventually, we will close the doors to all our workshops in the state.” In doing so he observed,

**“Struggling with the transformation is OK, I think. Too often we’re focusing on the finish line. Here we are establishing the start line, and looking towards the marathon. We have to ‘meet the people where they are at now,’ and assess accordingly.”**

Dague and Paya of Vermont spoke to attendees regarding sheltered workshop conversion activities toward the preferred outcome of community-based employment. They noted, “In our state, when we closed workshops in 2003, we focused on conversion rather than closure. It was a matter of changing expectations, and the family reactions -- and those of the individuals involved -- were all across the board.” They added,

“Now, ten years later, we see that the people who are working in the community have found new confidence and social connections, and see that for many, their ‘family voices’ are positive. One family stated, “People with disabilities need to be appreciated by the community... not hiding away somewhere working on projects.”

And, Oklahoma representatives Chase and Davis spoke enthusiastically about accessing employment through an outcome-based system. Following the filing of a class-action suit in 1985 against an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), the development of community-based services across the state led the state to develop a unique rate structure that reimburses the service provider for *hours worked or participation, rather than hours of service the job coach or other staff provides*. They explained, “Our process has held everyone accountable for outcomes. The whole system is based on the expectation of being in the community with everyone else.”

DODD Director John Martin moderated questions and answers during the Forum, noting,

**“Today we’re all here in a ‘national community of learning’ on the subjects at-hand, and we greatly appreciate all we have heard today from our state partners across the nation. We can move forward in our strategic planning now, from a more informed position.”**

The day-long Forum was captured on video, and will be posted online at the [DODD Website Newsroom](#). For this and other Strategic Planning Leadership Group information, the URL is <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx>.



A mix of individuals, family members, DD system professionals, and other service providers packed the space and made for many new and interesting conversations.



A summation of the forum involved the meeting participants in defining a key characteristic, value, or concept that they would like to see as describing Ohio's DD services ten years in the future. This information was gathered for discussion at the next Strategic Planning Leadership Group meeting in May.

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## 2. Mid-Biennium Review – Budget Process Continues

The Ohio legislature yesterday finalized work on the \$2.4 billion capital appropriations measure for the 2015-16 fiscal biennium, passing the bill quickly through both Chambers with no significant amendments. Governor John Kasich will sign the bill ([HB497](#)) today, at Columbus' historic Reeb Elementary School, for which \$2 million in capital funds has been earmarked in the budget.

In the capital bill, DODD is allocated a total of \$20.4 million, a high percentage of which would be used for community housing assistance.

DODD Director John Martin's MBR Testimony was given on March 26 to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriations. Within the testimony he noted key recommendations, including *Helping Ohioans with Autism...*

**"The language found in HB 483 allows the Department to establish a voluntary online training and certification program to ensure providers are properly trained to work with and meet the needs of individuals with autism. Free for all Ohioans, the training and certification program will increase access to care in an area where the demand for well-qualified personnel exceeds the supply."**

Director Martin added that the program has received start-up funding from the Governor's Office of Health Transformation's (OHT) Health Innovation Fund and will be self-sustaining when up and running due to fees other states will pay to access the system. "With your support, we can take a few more steps in making Ohio's DD System more comprehensive, more efficient, and more transparent for those we serve," he said.

**See Director Martin's complete MBR Testimony, given on March 26, 2014 [here](#).**

*The URL for Director Martin's testimony is <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx>*



*More information at <http://transforming.ohio.gov>*

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### **3. Autism Awareness Month– Educational Programs are Key**

**The cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is still puzzling.**

**"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 a [report just released](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)\*, the prevalence of autism appears to remain on the rise. The report indicates that *one in 68* children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This newest estimate is based on the CDC's evaluation of health and educational records of all children of age eight, in 11 states: Alabama, Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah, and New Jersey. The new statistics reflect nearly a 30 percent rise in rates of the developmental disorder over the course of only two years.

The CDC report suggests that most children identified with ASD are not diagnosed until after age four, even though children may be diagnosed as early as age two. It is known that the earlier children are identified and receive Early Intervention services, the better.



ASD. Each panel covers a range of topics including impact of diagnosis, therapies, healthcare barriers, and transition services. As a result of this curriculum, 293 medical students have been educated specifically about autism, as well as other developmental disabilities. Adults with ASD and their families who volunteered to be part of this unique educational experience for the medical students have been key to the success of this program. The Nisonger project team now is in the final stages of completing an Autism Curriculum Guide for clinician educators, medical students, and families around the state.

*\*The complete CDC Report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsautismdata/>*

*\*\* More on this project at [www.ocali.org/adeq](http://www.ocali.org/adeq); contact Courtney Yantes, [courtney\\_yantes@ocali.org](mailto:courtney_yantes@ocali.org)*

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## **4. Partners in Justice Training Draws Interest**

Ohio **Partners in Justice** (PIJ) offered a free training titled, “*Supporting Individuals who have Developmental Disabilities and Sex Offending Behaviors*,” on March 28 at the Ohio Department of Transportation’s West Broad Street auditorium in Columbus. Well over 100 people attended, representing several County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and supervisory and management staff of various provider agencies.

Presenters on the subject included Dr. Randy Shively, Vice President Clinical Services, Alvis House; Melissa A. Daley, Director, Community Based Services; Patricia Hill, Director of Quality Assurance and Training, Alvis House; and, Barbara J. Thomas, Director, TECS Education Center. Key areas addressed included: Components of a good risk assessment; how to develop an effective behavior support plan; common obstacles; case studies on effective plans; and, the role of teaching healthy sexuality. Shively stated in the morning presentation,

**“The main principles we employ in working with this population are respect, honesty, and accountability. We let them know that *the person* is valued, but the current or past *behavior* is not.”**



### **Randy’s on a Roll Here**

**Dr. Randy Shively, Vice President for Clinical Services, Alvis House, makes a point regarding risk issues associated with assessments of people who have developmental disabilities and sex-offending behaviors.**

**“We need to be asking, ‘What motivates the person toward GOOD behavior? – Help them to move toward better choices.’”**

Assisting individuals with the co-occurring diagnoses of DD and sex-offending behaviors has been an often-requested training topic, and treatment information continues to expand in scope.

Forums such as this one are strongly supported by DODD and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Special thanks to the DD Council for funding this training opportunity.

**Related Conference Information: “Two Days in May” – Registration Now Open**

Registration is now open for the 2014 Ohio Attorney General’s *Two Days in May Conference*, May 12-13. This year's theme, *Access to Justice for Victims of Crime*, spotlights many organizations and service providers that are assisting victims in Ohio, while underscoring that many people in need remain unaware of these services. [Register online, here.](#)

The conference is an excellent opportunity to connect professionals from disability services and victim services in a learning environment. [Dr. Nora Balderian](#) will discuss the findings of a 2012 *National Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities*. The survey sought information on abuse of *people with any type of disability*, experiencing *any type of abuse*, across the life-span. Findings confirmed that people with disabilities are abused at far higher rates than others, and response to abuse at all levels is inadequate. Recommendations for improvement will be addressed in an open discussion during the second part of the presentation.

Contact [venica.miller@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:venica.miller@ohioattorneygeneral.gov) with conference questions.

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## 5. Lengel and Mattison, New in DC Superintendent Roles

### Frank Lengel at Tiffin; Dana Mattison at Mount Vernon

The DODD Division of Residential Resources has announced new Superintendents at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) and at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) – Frank Lengel at Tiffin, and Dana Mattison at Mount Vernon. As part of an ongoing restructuring of the Division’s resources, both of these roles were vacated by staff who are now involved in further Department efforts to connect residential services to local communities. Ernie Fischer (formerly at Mount Vernon) is now involved with several projects including capital expenditure efforts spearheaded by the Division and centered on community inclusion, and Sara Lawson (formerly at Tiffin) now is heavily involved in managing the efforts of Community Resource Coordinators (see [Pipeline, December 4, 2013](#)), also centered on community inclusion.



**Frank Lengel**



**Dana Mattison**

Frank Lengel came to TDC from the Southwest Ohio DC in Batavia, Ohio. Frank says that he, "... unintentionally began his career in the field of developmental disabilities when he was 11 years old by volunteering with a friend for many years at a summer program developed at a Hamilton County Board of DD school." Frank was graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education, and earned a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration from Ashland University. His experience also includes employment with a private Intermediate Care Facility, at two County Boards of DD, and with DODD Developmental Centers in several roles including Program Director. Frank says, "Being back at Tiffin Developmental Center has been like coming home. There are so many warm and familiar faces in a community that truly includes and embraces the Center."

Dana Mattison recently began her role as Superintendent at MVDC after having joined the staff there in 2010, as Program Director. Dana earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from The Ohio State University. Her entire career has involved serving people with developmental disabilities—including work with Advocacy and Protective Services Inc., and the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review. Dana observes, "When I became Program Director here in 2010, it was my first experience in residential services, and over the past four years I have learned so much from the individuals, families, and staff of this Center. We are committed to bringing in new ideas and delivering the best possible services and opportunities for individuals and for staff."

Brent Baer, Deputy Director in the Division of Residential Resources, adds this regarding the staffing announcements: "We are excited about the opportunities that both Frank and Dana will bring to the Developmental Centers as Superintendents, as they utilize their related backgrounds and experience working within the developmental disabilities system."

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

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## **[Spotlight on Hancock County](#)**

### **6. Administration Dollars Support Community Inclusion**

The Hancock County Board of DD Blanchard Valley Center reports that they have been 'in the news' in a good way – by having a proposal included in the state's upcoming Capital Budget. According to HCBDD Superintendent Connie Ament, their [Kan Du Studio](#) proposed expansion and renovation of space in downtown Findlay so that *all artists*, especially those interested in the visual arts, are included in a Community Arts Center. Says Ament, "We see this as another step toward full integration of people with developmental disabilities into the community as a whole."

A press conference was held at Kan Du Studio on March 24 to announce the proposal's inclusion in the Capital Budget, and was attended by Senator Cliff Hite and Representative Robert Sprague as well as other local dignitaries.



### He's Got Talent

Joe Thompson creates a design using colored markers at the Kan Du Studio & Gallery in downtown Findlay. Adults with developmental disabilities create, display and sell their artwork there, often using recycled materials. The Studio has proposed moving out of the current quarters and becoming part of a Community Arts Center. Governor Kasich's budget includes \$300,000 toward that effort.

*-Photo courtesy Randy Roberts, The Courier*

Ohio's proposed \$2.4 billion Capital Budget bill includes funding for typical brick-and-mortar projects, as well as for projects that would help educate and train the state's workforce, and support community centers for the arts. The budget committee reportedly received 170 applications, with requests approaching \$200 million. A total of \$33 million in projects were recommended to the Governor.

It is estimated that it will take about \$780,000 to renovate a building to house the proposed arts center, with the balance of the money possibly earned through fundraising. A site has not yet been selected. Ament notes that the project will likely need to be completed in steps. Erika Miklovic, Kan Du Studio Director, added that the Arts Center would serve the entire community, with Kan Du operating alongside other center activities, studios, and artists.

Community projects, and those involving the arts in particular, often are among the first to be cut when state funds are limited. In fact, Ohio did not issue bonds for a Capital Budget from 2007 to 2012, due to the recession. While capital dollars returned in 2013 and 2014 for colleges and universities, this is the first time since 2006 that the state has been in a position to allocate money to community projects.

*Acknowledgements to <http://thecourier.com/opinion/couriers-view/2014/03/20/for-arts-sake/>*

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## *PostScripts* .....



### CMS Issues Guidance Toolkit

See it at [www.medicaid.gov/hcbs](http://www.medicaid.gov/hcbs).

The new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule on Home- and Community-Based Services took effect March 17 (See [Pipeline](#), March 19, 2014.) To assist with the rule roll-out process, CMS has released new guidance in a toolkit at [www.medicaid.gov/hcbs](http://www.medicaid.gov/hcbs). It includes: A summary of the regulator requirements of fully-compliant HCB settings and those settings that are excluded; additional technical guidance on regulatory language regarding settings that isolate; exploratory questions that may assist states in the assessment of residential settings; and, additional helpful information.



## Health Policy Institute of Ohio Releases New Information

HPIO has released a new brief titled “[Health and disabilities basics: Overview of health coverage, programs and services.](#)” The brief is the first in the HPIO’s three-part analysis of health and disability. In this installment, HPIO presents the current landscape of health coverage, programs and services for people with disabilities, including an overview of the state entities that provide, coordinate and/or fund public services. The paper also explores demographics, eligibility criteria and scope issues. The second brief, to be released later this year, will look at challenges for people with disabilities in achieving optimal health. The third brief will examine current state and federal policies.



## Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9

REGISTER NOW ►

Registration is now open for the [Ohio Provider Resource Association \(OPRA\)](#) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference provides updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio’s statewide community of service providers, as well as showcases the providers, themselves. More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org)



## Ohio Waiver Network Training

### Additional SSA Rule Training Dates have been added!

Visit: <https://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com/training-opportunities.html> to register.

In-person trainings facilitated by Kelly Mosley-Miller, Deputy Director of the Office of Provider Standards and Review, and Jean Tuller, national person-centered planning expert, have already reached more than 800 SSAs, supervisors, and providers. *Now, Additional dates have been added to meet demand.* Join Kelly and Jean in Cuyahoga Falls (Summit County) on April 9, or in Columbus (Franklin County) on April 10, for a review of the new SSA rule, and an overview of its person-centered focus. The training is sponsored by the Ohio Waiver Network. Training runs from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.. Cost is \$30 for Ohio Waiver Network members, and \$40 for non-members.



## PAR Regional Trainings Continue in April and May

Several PAR ([Professionals, Advocates, Resources](#)) regional trainings are set for April and May. They include: *Transition: Life Beyond School* on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are *Connie Morris*, Creative Life and Work Services, *David Zwyer*, Community Fund Management Foundation, *Chris Filler*, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and *Suzanne Beck*, Independent Consultant. And, *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is *Randy Shively*, Alvis House.

For registration, visit [www.par-ohio.org](http://www.par-ohio.org). More info at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>



## Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6

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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>



## **APSI Now Accepting Nominations for Ron Kozlowski Award**

**Nominations will be accepted through April 30**

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. Nominations are being accepted for this year's recipient now *through April 30*, and the award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June. To access the APSI nomination form, click [here](#).



## **Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17**

The Ohio State University will host the Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference (exact location to be announced) April 16-17. Individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals and educators in the disabilities field, and community members are welcome. The annual conference will present workshops and keynote speakers on a variety of topics, including housing, education, transportation, and employment. The conference schedule is currently being finalized. For more information: [Follow this link to visit the Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office Web-site](#). Sponsored by The Ohio State University ADA Coordinator's Office.



## **Annual NADD Conference, 'Call for Presenters' due April 18**

**Call for Presentations: Now seeking 90-minute presentations and 3-hour skill-building workshops.**

**NADD Online submission deadline is Friday, April 18: Go to <http://thenadd.org/cfp-ohio/>**

**All proposals will be considered. A limited number are selected. Notification will be e-mailed by April 30.**

The State of Ohio 12th Annual MI/DD Conference sponsored by NADD (formerly the National Association for Dual Diagnosis) on the subject of *Mental Health Aspects Treatment and Support* will be September 16-17 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus/ North. See the 'Call for Presenters' information above. Workshops given by Primary Presenters receive a complimentary daily conference registration fee. Primary presenters who have clients/consumers in case examples are not required to pay a registration fee. More information at <http://thenadd.org/>



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring Employment Conference, April 23**

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of "*Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*," at [www.voice.voiceamerica.com](http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com). Details will be available soon. Please share this announcement with people interested in employment of Ohioans with disabilities. For more information or to register, email [ODEA2013@gmail.com](mailto:ODEA2013@gmail.com) after March 20.



## **Absolute Care to Host Paint-A-Palooza, April 26**

Absolute Care will host *Paint-A-Palooza 2014* on Saturday, April 26, 12-6 p.m. at [Absolute Care](#), 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd, in Worthington. This agency flies in an artist from Wisconsin, who brings with him

*special adaptive art equipment that allows all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create their own print design and paint it on a 100-foot canvas. Along with this masterpiece to be created throughout the day, an adaptive sports coalition, TAASC, will provide kayaking and bicycling. The Bill Foley Band will be on-hand, and there will be games and food. Visit [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org) for more details, or contact Caitlin Weasel at [cweasel@absolutecare.org](mailto:cweasel@absolutecare.org). Prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza, Absolute Care hosts a “Walk for Wounded Warrior Project.” The walk starts at 10:30 at Absolute Care. Funds go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register by April 20 at [www.absolutecare.org](http://www.absolutecare.org).*



### **SAVE THE DATE! OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23**

Mark your calendars! The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is pleased to announce their 2014 Spring Conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration begins April 1, but you may reserve hotel rooms now. More information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



### **ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9**

Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum, June 9, 8:30 am - 4:00 p.m.* at **Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center**, 10561 Sawmill Parkway in Powell, OH. Cost is \$50/person (includes lunch) Space is limited to 200 participants. Six ‘contact hours’ are available. The workshop will offer information about the implementation of technologies that support learning for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and will highlight strategies to support implementation of assistive technologies in school environments including free and low-cost resources.



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point, May 22**

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, “Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date.” Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731>. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



### **SAVE THE DATE! Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**

**Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7; Applications must be received by March 31.**

The **Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).



### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or 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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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**Volume 8, Issue 8**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar*

## Survey!

We’re redesigning *Pipeline* and want your feedback. Complete this short [survey](#) to tell us how we can better meet your needs. Please only complete the survey one time. Thank you.



## April is Autism Awareness Month

### 1. Grant Offers Tele-Options for Early Intervention, ASD

#### Improving services for children and youth with ASD and other developmental disabilities

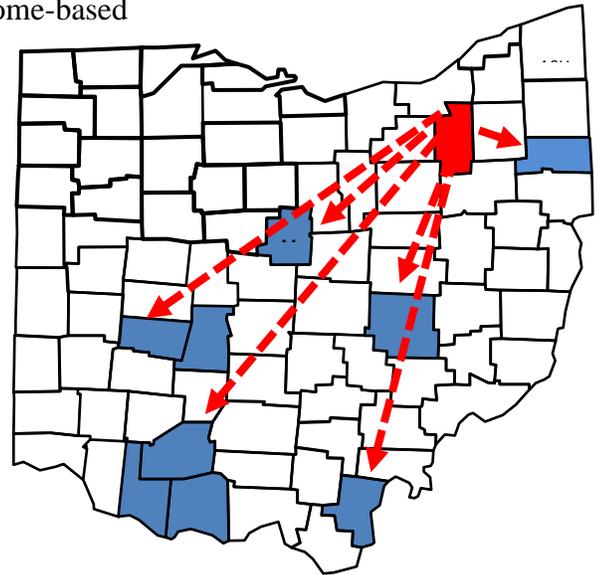
An innovative project using Tele-Health technology is offering a unique approach for Ohio families with children under the age of three and newly-diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The project is piloting ways for virtual home-based services to provide Early Intervention (EI) and bringing a much-needed specialized service to families that they otherwise might not be able to access close to home.

Coordinated by the [Family Child Learning Center/ Akron Children's Hospital](#), the project, “Tele-Early Intervention for ASD” (Tele-EI4ASD) – is supported through a federal grant awarded to DODD in collaboration with a host of partners – a *State Implementation Grant for Improving Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities*, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

As illustrated in the map at right, through the Tele-EI4ASD pilot project, the Family Child Learning Center (FCLC) has been able to provide virtual home-based services for children in nine counties, including Mahoning, Morrow, Muskingum, Gallia, Clark, Madison, Adams, Brown, and Highland counties.

This innovative and cost-effective approach to tele-health delivery provides families and providers with:

- Evidence-based intervention in a family's home, where the child and family are most comfortable;
- In-the-moment coaching and ongoing support/information between visits; and,
- Enhanced collaboration and sharing of expertise between all involved with the child and family.



The process is simple. Once a toddler receives a diagnosis of ASD, and if the family agrees, the county contacts FCLC to begin tele-Early Intervention services. The FCLC Early Interventionist virtually meets with the family at least twice per month to discuss concerns and progress. During each virtual home visit, a laptop is taken into the home by a local *Help Me Grow* service coordinator or Early Intervention service provider, and connected to FCLC via a mobile broadband connection.



**The camera loves her!**  
During each session, the child and the child's interactions with the family and environment can be viewed, which gives the FCLC Early Interventionist a good snapshot of everyday life for the family.

Each of the project's partnering counties are trained on the technology and the intervention approach, and provided with a laptop, speakerphone, webcam, and WIFI device. Together, the interventionists and family practice [Responsive Teaching](#) (RT), an evidence-based child development curriculum for parents and caregivers who spend a lot of time interacting with and caring for young children. RT is based on the philosophy that children spend most of their day with their families, and by using RT techniques, families are more able to support and enhance their child's development and address challenging behaviors.

Each session is recorded and made available for later viewing by the family. This allows a parent who could not be present during the visit to review the sessions at a later time, and perhaps share the session with other service providers, such as a pediatrician. Through this service model, local professionals viewing a session also are expanding their knowledge of ASD.



### Almost like being there ...

Erika Karazsia, M.A., an Early Intervention Team Leader at the Family Child Learning Center, coaches a family 100 miles away.

In surveying families involved with Tele-EI, the approach has received a rating of “Extremely Helpful” in terms of offering useful information about ASD, listening, respecting their choices, giving them ways to help their child learn new skills, sharing ideas on how to include their child in daily activities, and helping them observe their child’s progress.

One mother had this to say, “Each week we were presented with new strategies that built on the last one, and each week we were able to execute the plan and return with progress – new words, actions, or turn-taking play.” She continued,

“Our son went from playing only by himself to seeking us out to read books, play cards, or just to sit with us and spend time together. Overall, this program has helped us learn ways to play and interact with our son. Thank you!”

### Additional Information

During Autism Awareness Month, DODD and the ARC of Ohio invite you to view and share a [new video](#) about Autism NOW, and to [read the personal stories](#) of people with autism in a series of guest blog posts. In addition, as noted in the [April 2 issue of Pipeline](#), in a [report just released](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)\*, the prevalence of autism appears to remain on the rise. The report indicates that *one in 68* children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

*\*The complete CDC Report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsautismdata/>*

*More resources at [www.ocali.org/](http://www.ocali.org/) and at*

*<http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/puzzle-piece-project-tool-kit>*

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### [State & National News](#)

## **[2. Ohio’s Mid-Biennium Review; Rhode Island’s Settlement](#)**

Governor John Kasich’s Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) continues to move forward including several legislative initiatives, as well as programmatic and regulatory changes made as part of the budget review. The MBR process has been proven to allow the Governor and his Cabinet to find operational savings during the second year of the budget biennium. In addition, the process has been used to propose several significant changes that reform outdated policies, close tax loopholes, reduce bureaucracy, end duplicative programs, and make good use of technology.

Proposals in the Governor Kasich’s original MBR for fiscal year 2015 have been divided and introduced as 14 separate bills in order to facilitate legislative deliberation. Some highlights of the legislation include creation of the *Workforce Training Pilot Program for the Economically*

*Disadvantaged*, providing \$3 million in FY'15 for this purpose; and, providing an additional \$10 million each for various adult protective services and children services in FY'15.

For current status and detailed information regarding each MBR bill, visit <http://obm.ohio.gov/SectionPages/Budget/FY1415/MidBudget.aspx>

## National Scene

*NOTE: At the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group forum on April 1 (Pipeline, April 2, 2014) presenters included Andrew McQuaide, Rhode Island's State Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Interim Settlement Agreement, who was preparing for a meeting with DOJ that same day. Here is an update on the outcome ...*

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced last week that it has entered into the nation's first *statewide settlement agreement* vindicating the civil rights of individuals with disabilities who are "unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs." The [agreement with the State of Rhode Island](#) will resolve DOJ-cited violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for approximately 3250 Rhode Island residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This first-of-its-kind statewide agreement addresses the rights of people with disabilities to receive state-funded employment and daytime services in integrated settings, such as *supported employment* and *integrated day services*, rather than in traditional sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs serving only other people with disabilities.

The agreement also addresses transition-age youth at risk of segregation in facility-based programs. Under the agreement, transition-age youth will have access to an array of transition, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment services intended to lead to integrated employment outcomes after they leave high school.

*More state agency information at <http://transforming.ohio.gov>*

*For more general information about the Justice Department's ADA Olmstead enforcement efforts, visit [Community Integration for Everyone: http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/index.htm)*

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## [The Movers & Shakers](#)

### **3. Family Advisory Council Offers Fresh Perspectives**

Yesterday's Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#) explored several topics of interest, and offered fresh perspectives on such subjects as the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home-and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rule; Ohio's Developmental Center downsizing initiative; a review of the new Service and Support Administration (SSA) Rule; and, learned more about [Disability Rights Ohio](#) services from presenters Allison McKay and Liz Paprocki.

DODD Director John Martin and Deputy Director Patrick Stephan reviewed the new [HCBS rule \(5123:2-9-01\)](#) as had been requested by FAC members, many of whom were ready with questions, including inquiries about how CMS specifically defines "community inclusion." The

answer to that was, “An individual receiving federally-funded waiver services must experience life in the community just as anyone else would expect to – however, we know that each state will be struggling to identify what that is in each community, and for each person. Patrick Stephan noted, “We are well-aware of the importance of community inclusion and providing services in the least restrictive environment – and states will be held accountable to keep that priority in mind for every individual receiving HCBS dollars.” He added,

**“Through our Strategic Planning Leadership Group and other similar collaborative efforts, we have started down the path to position ourselves for change – to assure compliance with the key elements described in the new HCBS rule.”**

Director Martin also noted that DODD will be using data gleaned from several years of participation in the [National Core Indicators](#) initiative to support HBCS rule compliance efforts. National Core Indicators are a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the system wish to attain, as well as the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. He observed, “We have asked questions and received answers from participants through NCI surveys that can help us to demonstrate whether or not Ohio is in compliance with HCBS rules. This NCI data will be very helpful, and has become an integral part of our planning and management work.”

Also on the FAC meeting agenda, Gary Tonks of The Arc of Ohio, and DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin presented information on the new [Service and Support Administration rule \(5123:2-1-11\)](#) for which there has been a number of training opportunities across the state. FAC attendees asked many questions, and were appreciative of the online opportunities for training and feedback that are now offered at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov), helping to inform people who may not be able to attend the various trainings. In addition, Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman presented an update to FAC attendees regarding DODD Division of Residential Resources initiatives, including Developmental Centers’ downsizing efforts.



**Parent-advocate Despina Bourbakis (right) asks Director Martin, “How will we be held accountable for addressing these changes?”**

Peggy Martin reminded the group that [Family Chat](#) is an online resource for families who are served by Ohio's developmental disabilities system, and is another good forum for discussions such as those that occur during Family Advisory Council meetings. The online discussion group is considering a move to a Facebook format in the future, facilitating additional interaction.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin, [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov).

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## 4. Ohio Provider Resource Association Spotlights Professionals

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, provided updates and new information on subjects of interest to the statewide community of service providers, as well as showcased the providers and direct support professionals themselves. During opening comments, OPRA Executive Director Mark Davis observed, "When it comes to working with individuals with developmental disabilities, Ohio providers know their people! And because of that, we will be focusing on what we can do to shift from *activities* to *outcomes* in serving people – we need to leverage the close relationships we have with them to assure better outcomes."

Also during opening remarks, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Greg Moody accepted an award on behalf of Governor John Kasich, which recognized him with an OPRA *courageous leadership award* for his work toward assuring the state's extension of Medicaid coverage, despite opposition. Davis noted,

**"We appreciate the Governor's persistence and leadership in this area. He never wavered in his support of Ohioans who earn low wages, including many of the state's direct support professionals."**



### Spotlight on Service Excellence

Director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Greg Moody stopped by the OPRA conference to present an award to Cassandra (Cassie) Chapman, a direct support professional at the Heinzerling Foundation. Cassie earned the prestigious service award for 'above and beyond' service to Heinzerling residents – including walking three miles to work in deep snow this winter when her car wouldn't start. He noted,

**"We need to create an environment that rewards these workers – both financially and otherwise."**

Included in the two-day conference were tracks and training on subjects such as using tele-health options for improved health services; Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) downsizing and conversion; new ways to think about person-centered planning; and, updates on changes to the [Service and Support Administration Rule](#). DODD appreciates OPRA's collaborative approach toward informing conference attendees of the many Department initiatives, as well as on state and national trends in the developmental disabilities system. Supporting the statewide provider network in these efforts to help our system to be better-informed, the system can become stronger and more responsive to change and growth.

More information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org); and <https://www.facebook.com/OhioProviderResourceAssociation>

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## 5. Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Retreat Explores Transition

Each year, the *Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend when students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants in the age group transitioning from high school students to young adults take time to get to know their siblings better, and develop self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, team-building challenges, and advocacy. The retreat is held at YMCA Camp Willson in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

This year's [Ohio SIBS](#) (Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters) retreat focused on ways for siblings of young adults and students with disabilities to help their brothers and sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment.



**Ohio SIBS**

Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters

DODD strongly supports the efforts of Ohio SIBS to foster supportive family relationships throughout the statewide DD community. As the Department's Family Advocate, Peggy Martin attends the event each year, and observed that this year she was especially gratified to see how much respect there was among the siblings who were there to support their brother or sister with disabilities. "They truly showed an interest in their future plans, and engaged wholeheartedly with the process," she said.



### **Caring and sharing at the SIBS retreat ...**

**Far Left: Joseph and Allison Hinkle; Center: Cory and Andy Lynch; Right: Amanda and Lizzy Miller. Joseph and Allison, and Cory and Andy are twins – Amanda and Lizzy are sisters, but not twins.**

SIBS event organizers Katy Ettinger and Sarah Hall noted that the sibling pairs practiced advocacy skills by sharing a ‘person-centered description of each other’ with the entire group. They added that the best outcome of all for the event is that ...“Many participants shared that they felt ‘less alone’ and left with new information and new friends!”

*Contact [thomas.fish@osumc.edu](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) for more information.*

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### **[DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review...](#)**

## **6. OPSR Issues 2013 Annual Report**

The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, has issued its [Annual Report](#) for calendar year 2013. The publication provides information regarding the Department’s reviews of service providers, including data noting common areas of non-compliance and other findings. New this year, the publication reports on OPSR efforts concerning the Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) Waiver which served approximately 2900 individuals with developmental disabilities, and was transferred to DODD from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) beginning in 2013.

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

The Report highlights DODD’s continued work on several major initiatives regarding the operation of licensed residential facilities, including:

- *ODH to DODD License:* This effort relates to the transfer of the administration of the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) program to DODD, and the transfer of licenses from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to DODD for 12 facilities that had remained licensed by ODH. A DODD Technical Assistance Team provided training and support to these providers during the first year of operation under the new license.

- *ICF Voluntary Conversion:* This initiative offers ICF providers the opportunity to voluntarily convert an existing ICF-funded bed to a waiver-funded bed for people who would prefer to receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in a community-based setting. The effort assists DODD in long-term care rebalancing efforts, and provides people with opportunities to receive services in their preferred setting.

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Mosely-Miller observed, “Keeping these initiatives at the forefront of our efforts in 2013 has allowed us to make good progress in each of the areas, and strengthened our collaborative efforts with state agency partners. Also, the addition of the TDD waiver reviews was integrated well into our overall review and oversight processes. We believe that this 2013 Annual Report reflects that.”

*The URL for the OPSR Annual Report is  
[doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/PRV/compliance/Documents/2013%20OPSR%20Annual%20Report.pdf](http://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/PRV/compliance/Documents/2013%20OPSR%20Annual%20Report.pdf)*

## 7. May 6 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

*The Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.state.oh.us/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/) contains information about the May 6 ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.*

On May 6, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available online [here](#), and at [MyOhioVote.com](http://MyOhioVote.com). There will be eight levy issues on May 6 ballots affecting Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. They are:

- Hamilton County: 4.13 mills, renewal
- Hancock County: 2.5 mills, renewal
- Hardin County: 4.0 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1.6 mills, replacement
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional
- Mercer County: 1.94 mills, renewal
- Morrow County: 3.0 mills, replacement
- Putnam County: 1.6 mills, additional



To be well-informed about issues that matter to you, 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/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/). The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

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## *PostScripts* .....

### CMS Issues Guidance Toolkit

See it at [www.medicaid.gov/hcbs](http://www.medicaid.gov/hcbs).

The new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule on Home- and Community-Based Services took effect March 17 (See [Pipeline, March 19, 2014.](#)) To assist with the rule roll-out process, CMS has released new guidance in a toolkit at [www.medicaid.gov/hcbs](http://www.medicaid.gov/hcbs). It includes: A summary of the regulator requirements of fully-compliant HCB settings and those settings that are excluded; additional

technical guidance on regulatory language regarding settings that isolate; exploratory questions that may assist states in the assessment of residential settings; and, additional helpful information.



## Health Policy Institute of Ohio Releases New Information

HPIO has released a new brief titled “[Health and disabilities basics: Overview of health coverage, programs and services](#).” The brief is the first in the HPIO’s three-part analysis of health and disability. In this installment, HPIO presents the current landscape of health coverage, programs and services for people with disabilities, including an overview of the state entities that provide, coordinate and/or fund public services. The paper also explores demographics and eligibility criteria. The second brief, to be released later this year, will look at challenges for people with disabilities in achieving optimal health. A third brief will examine current state and federal policies.



## Disability Pride Festival and Parade, April 26

The Columbus Disability Pride Parade is April 26. This Festival is a celebration of physical and ‘neurodiversity’ that makes the community unique. Individuals with and without disabilities will parade side-by-side through OSU’s Fred Beekman Park. Events run from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.. Speakers and presenters include several self-advocates from the Franklin County community.

*More at [disabilitystudies.osu.edu/disability-pride-parade-and-festival](http://disabilitystudies.osu.edu/disability-pride-parade-and-festival)  
Contact: Rebecca G. Monteleone, [monteleone.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:monteleone.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu)*



## PAR Regional Trainings Continue in April and May

Upcoming PAR ([Professionals, Advocates, Resources](#)) regional trainings include: *Transition: Life Beyond School* at the Delaware County Board of DD on April 17, and *Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients* training on April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. *Registration at <http://www.par-ohio.org/index.php?src=events>.*



## Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting May 7, 8

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will meet May 7, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., and May 8, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need special accommodations, contact Donna Foster at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov) or at (614) 438-1394.



## APSI Accepting Nominations for Ron Kozlowski Award

**Nominations will be accepted through April 30**

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. Nominations are being accepted for this year’s recipient now *through April 30*, and the award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June. To access the APSI nomination form, click [here](#).\*

*URL is [www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award](http://www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award)*



## Adult Services Provider Fair, Franklin County, May 14

The second FCBDD Adult Services Provider Fair will be on May 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Aladdin Shrine Center near Easton, at 3850 Stelzer Rd., Columbus. This large informational and networking event will focus on Adult Day Waiver Services for the

Individual Options (IO), Level One, SELF, and TDD waivers. Certified providers for all of the following services will be on-hand: Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, Supported Employment, Integrated Employment, Adult Day Health Center, and Non-Medical Transportation. Organizers note, “We hope that this event is helpful for individuals and families looking to meet new providers and gain more understanding of the array of waiver services available in Franklin County.” Contact Lilian Beck or Anne Watson at the Franklin County Board of DD, (614) 464-2743 if you have any questions.



## **Spring Employment Conference, April 23**

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of “*Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*,” at [www.voice.voiceamerica.com](http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com). For more information or to register, email [ODEA2013@gmail.com](mailto:ODEA2013@gmail.com)



## **COMING SOON! OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23**

Mark your calendars! The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is pleased to announce their 2014 Spring Conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration is now open. More information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



## **ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9**

Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, June 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway in Powell, OH. Cost is \$50/person (includes lunch). Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about the implementation of technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight usage of assistive technologies in school environments, including low-cost resources.



## **The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point,' May 22**

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, “Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date.” Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731). Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



## **SAVE THE DATE! Annual Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7**

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).\*

URL is <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5uAy0zzkGgoc3FHbGRWTTlPc2s/edit?pli=1>



### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or 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.

### ***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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

April 21, 2014

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY LIVING Experiences from Colorado and Arizona

### Open Forum

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Ohio Strategic Planning Leadership Group

at the Department of Agriculture, Bromfield Building, Auditorium

8995 E. Main St.,

Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

#### Presenters

##### **Colorado**

Barbara Ramsey, Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities

Lori Thompson, Assistant Director for Program Services in the Division for Developmental Disabilities

The evolution of the residential service system in Colorado has created some unique features. The presentation will highlight:

- Host Homes – how this unique model is meeting the residential needs of a majority of adults;
- Support to People with Complex Health Issues – how Colorado closed Medical ICFs
- Conflict of Interest – how a stakeholder group convened to develop recommendations for resolving conflict-of-interest issues inherent in the system.

##### **Arizona**

Barbara Brent, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and former State Director of Arizona

- Barbara will provide an overview of Arizona DD Services which is largely a managed care system which operates with virtually no ICF's or state operated institutions.

Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Chief Executive Officer, Arizona Autism United (AZA United)

- Aaron will provide an overview of how AZA United provides services in this managed care system. He will cover two areas in his presentation; the unique structure they use to provide services – a service cooperative, and how they support families who have children with autism.

**Lunch is on your own.**

*See next page for additional important information ...*

**Cost is free, but registration is first come/first served, as space is limited.**

**You may register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E41112924135460>**

The presentations will be video-taped and made available as soon as possible following the forum. If you have questions, please contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone (614) 644-0262. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov).

**Ohio**

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John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**April 30, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 9**

#### In This Issue ...

- 1. Ohio Named ‘Most Improved’ in UCP Study, *‘The Case for Inclusion’*
  - 2. Autism Awareness Month – New Information, Resources
  - 3. Strategic Planning Leadership Group, May 6 Forum; April 29 Update
  - 4. New State and National Resources Focus on Health, Access
  - 5. Reminder: May 6 Ballot Issues, County Board Levies Across the State
- Pipeline PostScripts: Updates for Your Calendar*

**Thank You for  
Taking Our Reader  
Survey!**

We'll report on results soon. Look for changes in your Pipeline in the coming months!

## 1. Ohio DD Services Named Most Improved in UCP Study

### Exciting News! ... Ohio Places in Top 10, Annual UCP Case for Inclusion

Read the report online at: <http://cfi2014.ucp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Case-for-Inclusion-2014.pdf>

Ohio jumped 39 places and now is ranked ninth, and ‘most improved,’ in the annual United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) report, *The Case for Inclusion*. The report is a yearly ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ohio’s most dramatic increase came in the *community inclusion* ranking. According to the report ...

**Ohio has dramatically increased the share of individuals (from 63 percent to 82 percent) and resources (from 50 percent to 83 percent) dedicated to the community ... reduced by more than half the number of individuals served in large institutions (from 18 percent to 7 percent) ... and, began participating in and reporting on NCI quality measures.**

The National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative is a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the system desire to attain, and the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. *The Case for Inclusion* ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, rather than on spending for Medicaid-funded programs. Many other states’ rankings have become stagnant or declined because they have not developed their community inclusion policies and programs.

DODD Director John Martin noted, “Ohio’s improvement is due largely to increased waiver growth and inclusion of more self-directed services, as well as continued downsizing at state-operated Developmental Centers. This progress could not be made without the continued leadership and support of the County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, private providers, advocacy organizations, family members, and self-advocates.”

The UCP report reinforces the ongoing work supporting the Department’s statewide direction and mission: “*Continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.*”

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## 2. Autism Spectrum Disorders - New Information, Resources



### April is Autism Awareness Month

**Take the time to learn a little more about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

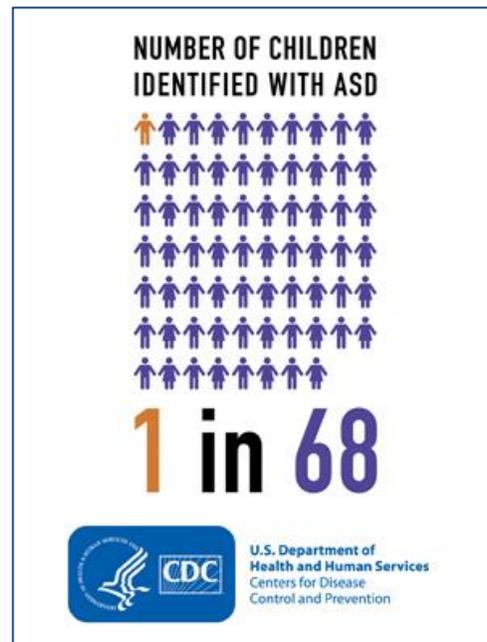
One in 68 children. This is the latest prevalence statistic released in March by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimating the number of children who have been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in communities around the nation.

Autism is a complex neurological developmental disability that can cause social, communication, behavior, and sensory challenges. It affects individuals differently and in varying degrees, and therefore is referred to as a ‘spectrum’ disorder.

#### Where does this new statistic come from?

Researchers reviewed records from community sources that educate, diagnose, treat, and/or provide services to children with developmental disabilities, including general pediatric health clinics, specific programs for children with developmental disabilities, and special education services in public schools. They targeted children age eight who reside in states that are part of the [Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network \(ADDM\)](#), a national information gathering system.

This new statistic raises attention, as it is *roughly 30 percent higher than previous estimates reported in 2012* (one in 88 children). ASD now is identified as the fastest-growing developmental disability in the nation.



**ASD now is more common in children than Down syndrome, cancer, diabetes, and AIDS, combined.**

## Findings

The study found that almost half the children identified with ASD have average or above average intellectual ability (an IQ above 85) as compared to one-third of identified children a decade ago. Data also re-affirmed that ASD is *almost five times more common among boys*. In addition, the report revealed that most children with ASD are diagnosed after age four, even though ASD often can be diagnosed as early as age two.

Why are these statistics important? Coleen Boyle, Ph.D., Director of the [CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities](#) explains the significance this way, “*Community leaders, health professionals, educators, and childcare providers should use the data to ensure that children with ASD are identified as early as possible, and connected to the services they need.*” Making sure this happens takes *commitment from states* to challenge themselves to make system improvements to identify and diagnose children early-on, and to have needed services and supports available.

Ohio is standing up to the challenge. Led by DODD, the [Interagency Workgroup on Autism](#) (IWGA) is shining a light on the subject. While many of the support needs of individuals with ASD mirror those of individuals with other developmental disabilities, the importance of addressing some of the complex characteristics unique to autism is now emphasized. IWGA efforts are guided by a report of Autism Recommendations for the state titled, “*Quality Lives: Supporting Ohioans with Autism for Meaningful and Successful Lives.*” (See [www.ocali.org](http://www.ocali.org))

Fifteen specific recommendations incorporate the needs, opinions, and feelings of Ohioans who are impacted by autism, including family members, service providers, self-advocates, and friends. They reflect the growing body of knowledge about ASD, and evolving research on best practices. *These recommendations chart a course for Ohio to respond to the increase in autism prevalence.*



## Early signs of ASD include:

- Lack of (or delay in) spoken language
- Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms, such as hand-flapping
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

## More Resources

A guide to help parents understand ASD and find services and supports, the [Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) was created *by parents for parents*, and was published by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Visit [www.ocali.org](http://www.ocali.org) to learn more. During

Autism Awareness Month, share these resources with someone you know, and be a part of building Autism Awareness in Ohio.

Read a thoughtful blog “Does Majority Rule?” on the subject of Autism, courtesy of Shari Cooper at Goodwill Easter Seals/Miami Valley, at:

[gesmv.org/index.cfm/blog/sharis-blog-make-things-happen/autism-awareness-month-does-the-majority-rule/](http://gesmv.org/index.cfm/blog/sharis-blog-make-things-happen/autism-awareness-month-does-the-majority-rule/)

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[Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#)

## 3. Creating Opportunities for Community Living

### Spotlighting Experiences from Colorado and Arizona

An Open Forum will be hosted by the [DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#) (SPLG) on May 6, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bromfield Building/Auditorium, 8995 E. Main St., in Reynoldsburg. Part of an ongoing series of informational gatherings on subjects of statewide and national interest, this Forum will feature experiences in *Creating Opportunities for Community Living* from presenters representing the states of Colorado and Arizona.

#### Colorado

A presentation by Barbara Ramsey, Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities, and Lori Thompson, Assistant Director for Program Services in the Division for Developmental Disabilities will focus on the evolution of the residential service system in Colorado. Their presentation will highlight:

- *Host Homes* – How this unique model is meeting the residential needs of a majority of adults;
- *Support to People with Complex Health Issues* – How Colorado closed Medical ICFs; and,
- *Conflict of Interest* – How a stakeholder group developed recommendations for resolving conflict-of-interest issues inherent in the system.

#### Arizona

Barbara Brent, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and former State Director of Arizona, will provide an overview of Arizona DD Services, which could be described generally as a managed care system which operates with virtually no ICFs or state-operated institutions. In addition, Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Autism United (AZA United), will provide an overview of how AZA United provides services in this managed care system. He will cover two main areas:

- The unique structure they use to provide services – a service cooperative; and,
- How they support families who have children with autism.

**The presentations will be video-taped and made available online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) as soon as possible following the forum.**

Cost is free, and registration is first come/first served -- space is limited. Lunch is on your own. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E41112924135460>

*If you have questions, please contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov)*

### Strategic Planning Leadership Group, April 29 Meeting Update



#### What could services be like in 2024?

The SPLG met yesterday to continue planning for the future of Ohio's developmental disabilities services, using a small-group brainstorming framework. The small groups addressed four key areas at this meeting – Early Intervention, Schools, Day Services, and Residential Supports. Many good ideas were generated in terms of benchmarks to consider. SPLG updates are posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx>

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## 4. New State & National Resources Focus on Health, Access Publications and Standards Focus on People with Disabilities

### New DODD Publication, “Well-Informed”

The Division of Legal and Oversight Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit has created a new publication, “Well-Informed.” The electronic issues are posted online at the [Department website](#)'s Health & Safety section, and are a compendium of information geared toward service providers, individuals and family members, and direct care professionals. MUI Unit Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips notes that the newsletter is published quarterly to update readers on pertinent health and welfare issues, as well as to focus more specifically on subjects that may be more briefly covered in the Department's [Health & Welfare Alerts](#).

Phillips adds that another relatively new resource, the MUI Mobile App, was launched last year (See [Pipeline, April 24, 2013](#)) and has been a welcomed resource for professionals in Ohio's developmental disabilities field. For example:

- In 2013, a total of 395 hotline reports were recorded using the system. Of those, 77 or 19 percent resulted in MUIs being filed.
- So far in 2014, there have been 146 reports received via the App.
- Since initiating the online system, 12 percent of all reports have been received in this way. Most are reported through the Abuse/Neglect Hotline at (866) 313-6733.
- The online system allows another option for those who would simply like to share any specific concerns.

### **New HPIO Publication**

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) has released a publication examining disability and health in Ohio. "*Health and Disabilities Basics: Overview of Health Coverage, Programs and Services*" provides an overview of health coverage, programs, and services for people with disabilities, and contains information on disability demographics, scope, and eligibility. This is the first of three publications in a series, and is posted on HPIO's [Health Policy Resources Page](#).

DODD state agency partner, the [Ohio Department of Health](#), contributed to this publication by providing content and information on disability demographics and health disparities in Ohio through the agency's *Disability and Health Program* team members. According to Anureet Benipal, Health Services Policy Specialist, "The new publication is an outstanding resource for the state, and helps to make a complex topic more manageable." The second and third publication in the series will be released later this year. For additional information, contact Anureet Benipal at [Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov).

### **New Online Guides to ADA and ABA Standards**

The U.S. Access Board has launched new online guides regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards, and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards. The [Guide to the ADA Standards](#) explains and clarifies requirements of the ADA and ABA standards, answers common questions, and offers best practice recommendations. It also includes a series of animated illustrations on various subjects covered by the standards.

The initial installment of the guide covers the first three chapters of the Standards, including application and use (Chapter 1); new construction, alterations, and additions (Chapter 2); and, basic 'building block' technical provisions (Chapter 3). Guides covering other sections of the standards will be released at a later date.

The [Guide to the ABA Standards](#) addresses similar standards that apply under the ABA to facilities that are designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds. Users can [sign-up](#) to receive email updates on the release of new technical guides in the series. More information at [www.access-board.gov/](http://www.access-board.gov/).

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## 5. Reminder: May 6 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

The Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.oh.us/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/) contains information about the May 6 ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.

Next week, on May 6, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available online [here](#), and at [MyOhioVote.com](http://MyOhioVote.com). There will be eight levy issues on Ohio ballots affecting the state's developmental disabilities community. They are:

- Hamilton County: 4.13 mills, renewal
- Hancock County: 2.5 mills, renewal
- Hardin County: 4.0 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1.6 mills, replacement
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional
- Mercer County: 1.94 mills, renewal
- Morrow County: 3.0 mills, replacement
- Putnam County: 1.6 mills, additional



To be well-informed about issues that matter to you, 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/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/). The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

## *Pipeline Pix* .....



**Keep Calm! 'The DSP Ladies,' a.k.a. Karen Gabbard (left) and Vicky Wagers, display their DSP pride and composure.**

This photo was snapped yesterday at the very first *Direct Support Professionals Summit*, sponsored by the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP). Different from the annual DSP Recognition event each September, the new Summit focused on training and information, rather than recognition, and was held at the Xenos complex in Columbus. Sessions included tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Nearly 300 were registered to attend. DODD congratulates OADSP planners on a successful and meaningful event. *Contact: [pcbethany@prodigy.net](mailto:pcbethany@prodigy.net)*

## PostScripts .....



### *Pipeline Quarterly Preview!*

The Spring 2014 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* is nearly complete! You'll meet Chris Hart (shown here with his Mom and SELF waiver Support Broker, Janet) and several other interesting people who have taken the SELF waiver road to success in their communities. Look for *Pipeline Quarterly* in your Inbox soon!

[dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx)

## **Last Day to Nominate Someone for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award!**

**Nominations accepted through today, April 30!**

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June.

Access the APSI nomination form at [www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award](http://www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award)



### **Ohio DD Council Needs Your Input – Online Survey**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is developing a Five-Year State Plan for 2017-2021. Take a minute to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RNMQQ2N>, to help create a plan that reflects what you think DD Council should focus on to fund projects that will meet the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



### **Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting May 7, 8**

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will meet May 7, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., and May 8, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need special accommodations, contact Donna Foster at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov), or (614) 438-1394.



### **Franklin County Adult Services Provider Fair, May 14**

The second Franklin County Board of DD Adult Services Provider Fair will be May 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Aladdin Shrine Center near Easton, at 3850 Stelzer Rd., Columbus. This large informational and networking event will focus on Adult Day Waiver Services for the Individual Options (IO), Level One, SELF, and TDD waivers. Certified providers for all of the following services will be on-hand: Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, Supported Employment, Integrated Employment, Adult Day Health Center, and Non-Medical Transportation. Contact Lilian Beck or Anne Watson at (614) 464-2743 if you have any questions.



## OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) has announced their 2014 Spring Conference, to be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration is now open. More information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



## The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point,' May 22

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, "Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date." Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731). Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



## ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9

Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, June 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell, OH. Cost is \$50/person (includes lunch). Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight usage of assistive technologies in school environments, including low-cost resources.



## SAVE THE DATE! Annual Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7

The [Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities](#), in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).

URL is <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5uAy0zzkGgoc3FHbGRWTTIPc2s/edit?pli=1>



## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs 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.

### *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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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>

**Ohio**

**Department of  
Developmental Disabilities**

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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](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

May 7, 2014

## Results of Voting on May 6, 2014 County Board of DD Levy Issues

Results for issues on May 6, 2014 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- Hamilton County: 4.13 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 75.08%
- Hancock County: 2.5 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 76.96%
- Hardin County: 4.0 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 66.57%
- Licking County: 1.6 mills, replacement **FAILED**, by 50.02%, will be re-counted\*
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional **FAILED**, by 59.21%
- Mercer County: 1.94 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 77.65%
- Morrow County: 3.0 mills, replacement **PASSED**, by 51.49%
- Putnam County: 1.6 mills, additional **PASSED**, by 53.36%

**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>*

\*A deciding margin of 0.5% on a county ballot issue requires an automatic recount of the votes by the Board of Elections (see Revised Code Section 3515.011 - Recounts ordered by board). The Licking County Board of DD margin is currently at 0.03% (49.98% in favor, 50.02% against), or a margin of eight votes. Results could change when provisional ballots are accounted for and the re-count is complete.

*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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone (614) 644-0262. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov).



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[Click here for Pipeline, Audio Version](#)

**May 14, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 10**

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- 2. Strategic Planning Leadership Group Forums and Updates
- 3. Teresa Kobelt to Join DODD Leadership Team
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- 5. Health & Safety: Summer Weather Information

*Pipeline Pix & PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar*

## 1. Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month

**The 2014 Theme is, “Building Blocks to Permanent Families.”**

National Foster Care Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system. The National Foster Care Coalition encourages people to get involved by being foster or adoptive parents, mentors, or serving in other support roles. Around the nation, children and adults with developmental disabilities are in need of good foster homes! In fact, it is estimated that more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities are in need of a family home through circumstances beyond their control.

This year, the theme for National Foster Care Month is "*Building Blocks to Permanent Families.*" DODD supports the ‘Host Home’ concept which emphasizes the value, and the day-to-day support that adult foster care or adult foster support provides. While the Medicaid billing code terminology is ‘Adult Foster Care,’ it encompasses many elements involved in sharing a home. 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, as well as back-up coverage for emergencies;
- Respite available for the Host Family.

Click on DODD rule [5123:2-9-33](#) for language on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care, under the Individual Options (IO) Waiver.\*

One of the many Ohio service providers that recognize National Foster Care Month, REM Ohio 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. In return, Host-Home families gain a new family member and friend – a person who can add a new dimension to the family’s daily life.



### Meet Christine, in *Pipeline Quarterly*

In the Spring 2014 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing this week, you’ll meet Christine, who is in the care of a foster family in the Erie County area. Christine is among the young people who have taken the SELF waiver road to success in their communities. Look for *Pipeline Quarterly* at [dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx)

During National Foster Care Month, DODD salutes the many foster families and other individual mentors who offer excellent care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive environment.

*\*This is under DODD ‘Rules in Effect’ at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>  
Learn more about National Foster Care Month at [www.nationalfostercare.org/national-foster-care-month.html](http://www.nationalfostercare.org/national-foster-care-month.html), and at [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/)*

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### [Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#)

## 2. Creating Opportunities for Community Living

An Open Forum on the subject of *Creating Opportunities for Community Living* was hosted by the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) on May 6, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. Part of an ongoing series of informational gatherings on subjects of statewide and national interest, this Forum featured presenters from Colorado and Arizona.

Barbara Ramsey, Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities, and Lori Thompson, Assistant Director for Program Services in the Division for Developmental Disabilities, focused on the evolution of the residential service system in Colorado. Their presentation highlighted three areas of interest: *Host Homes*; *Support to People with Complex Health Issues*; and *Conflict of Interest*. Attendees showed particular interest in how a stakeholder group developed recommendations for resolving conflict-of-interest issues inherent in the system.

Barbara Brent, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and former State Director of Arizona, provided an overview of Arizona DD Services, which operates as a managed care system that has virtually no Intermediate Care Facilities or state-operated institutions. In addition, Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Autism United (AZA United) offered an overview of how AZA United provides services within this managed care system, using a ‘service cooperative’ structure.



### What Should Services Look Like in 2024?

Meeting in small groups during the afternoon session, attendees shared the results of their Café Conversations on topics relating to how services for Ohioans with DD could be improved, long-term.



### Time to Circulate!

Sharing ideas with different people is part of the SPLG process.

As Director John Martin stated earlier in the day,

**“You don’t get new ideas by talking to the same people all the time!”**

## Strategic Planning Leadership Group, June 11 Forum Announced Family Supports and Listening to People

The next Open Forum to be hosted will be on June 11, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Fair Academy Auditorium, 8995 E. Main St., in Reynoldsburg.

### Presenters

*Sheli Reynolds* is the Director of Individual Advocacy and Family Support at the University of Missouri/Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, a University Center on

Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Her knowledge and experience within a state developmental disabilities system stems from growing up as a sibling of a brother with developmental disabilities. Sheli also serves in a leadership role working with six states to develop systems of support for families throughout a family member's lifespan. The 'Supporting Families' project operates under a five-year grant awarded to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS).

Her presentation will highlight:

- Why Family Supports Matter
- Family Centered Thinking: How Systems and Organizations Can Support It
- The 'Supporting Families' Community of Practice: Key Findings So Far

*Hanns Meissner* is the Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Rensselaer County in Eastern New York State. His agency's story is one of relentless commitment to leveraging a way of out of group-based services by creating an organizational culture of appreciation and innovation. His recently-released book, *Creating Blue Space*, tells the story of how the agency promoted individualized services and community membership.

His presentation will highlight:

- Blue Space and Why it Matters
- Organization Culture and Change: What Helps
- The Intentional Journey to Individualized Supports

The afternoon will include opportunities to engage in conversations with presenters and session participants to help generate ideas and enthusiasm for exploring these concepts in Ohio.

### **Registration Information**

The forum is free, but registration is first come/first served, and space is limited. Lunch is on your own. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E55616613347>. The presentations will be video-taped and made available following the forum. Funding and planning support for this forum is provided by several partners and stakeholders in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The SPLG greatly appreciates their generosity.

*If you have questions, please contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov)*

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## **3. Teresa Kobelt to Join DODD Leadership Team**

The DODD Office of Policy and Strategic Direction will welcome Teresa Kobelt as Assistant Deputy Director in July. Teresa currently serves as the Director of Adult Services for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and as CEO of the agency's ARC Industries. Her responsibilities will include spearheading the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) and [Positive Culture](#) initiatives, as well as the Department's efforts in the areas of Autism, Telepsychiatry/ Telemedicine, and other key initiatives within the scope of policy and strategic direction. We look forward to her leadership and input.



### Speaking Up at the Recent Strategic Planning Leadership Group Meeting

Teresa participated in the small group exercise and reported her group's 'Picture of 2024' at the recent SPLG Forum. Her depth of knowledge concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community will serve DODD well as she steps into her new role with the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, reporting to Deputy Director Monty Kerr. Her group noted that it is ...

**“...Time to increase expectations and expand opportunities for individuals in our statewide system.”**

*More about DODD initiatives at: [www.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Initiatives-and-Partnerships](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Initiatives-and-Partnerships)*

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## 4. Alcohol and Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness

### Week of May 11 Celebrates Mothers and Healthy Babies

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week is May 11-17 ... 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.

Research has shown that when women consume alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy, babies can be born with severe health issues that remain lifelong challenges. 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; and,
- Difficulty with fine motor skills.



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/>

According to a study in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), every hour of every day, 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 have both increased in the past decade.

**A sobering fact: In the United States, 20 percent of pregnant women smoke cigarettes; another 18 percent drink alcohol during pregnancy; and another 6 percent use an illicit drug at least once while pregnant.**

For more information read this: [Fact Sheet on Alcohol & Other Drug Related Birth Defects.](#)

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and DODD join other agency partners in the Governor's Office of Health Transformation in providing information to reinforce healthy lifestyles, and reach women who are pregnant or who are of child-bearing age. For more ways to improve the health status of women, infants, and children in Ohio, see the information online at the [Child and Family Health Services Program](#).

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## 5. Summer Weather Health and Safety Information

Knowing what to do before severe weather strikes can save lives. DODD Health & Welfare Alerts\* (formerly 'Health & Safety' Alerts) provide critical information to caregivers in areas for 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 developmental disabilities 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.

Here are a few helpful reminders when extreme heat conditions exist:

- 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.

*For questions regarding Health and Welfare Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.*

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## *Pipeline Pix* .....



### **Self Advocates Update DODD Central Office Staff on Legislation Efforts**

*Left:* Self Advocate Christine Brown describes the legislative work she has been involved with, including speaking with several legislators about bills of special interest to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community (See [HB265](#); [HB84](#); [SB321](#)). The presentation was given May 8 to the DODD Division of Policy & Strategic Direction, and Legislative Affairs & Communication. *Right:* Self Advocate Lee Butcher assisted Christine in the presentation and shared photos of inaccessible parking spaces that he had taken with his cellphone. DODD staff Monty Kerr (foreground) and Charlie Flowers view them here. We thank Christine and Lee for the excellent information and examples provided, and for their fine work on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

## *PostScripts* .....

### **Family Advisory Council Launches Facebook Page Facilitating More Helpful Conversations**

DODD Family Advisory Council members have expressed an interest in making the current Family Chat online format easier to use. We have listened, and now are offering an opportunity for families to connect with one another via [Facebook](#). The pages are designed especially for families to access and continue conversations with each other. DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin says, “If you do not use Facebook, we will still offer Family Chat through our Family Advisory listserv – contact me with any questions at [peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov).”



The new Facebook group allows communication in real time and group members can post, add events, photos, and files to the page, as well as ask questions via a poll. It is another way to access open and free communication where families can express concerns, get advice, and share ideas.

**Membership: Just as with Family Chat—FAMILIES ONLY!**

Click here to join Family Chat on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyAdvisory/>



### **The Employment First Survey Needs Your Input**

Employment First has awarded a grant to create resources for providers to assist individuals with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities who are seeking employment. This short survey will help to ensure that resources meet the needs of providers who are working with these individuals. Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ohioemploymentfirst>

**And, Speaking of Employment ...**

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the 2014 official theme of **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)**: *"Expect. Employ. Empower."* Look for more about Ohio's recognition of NDEAM as October draws nearer. *Additional information at [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/)*



### **Healthy Lifestyles 'Train the Trainer' Workshop, June 9 -10**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting its second Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop in Shaker Heights. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help develop confidence and skills to stay on a journey toward a healthy and happy life. The 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational. Presenters include Master Trainers, Angela Weaver from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey from the City of Eugene Adaptive Recreation. Participants will receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer" and receive all the necessary training materials. Go to: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/odhp> for registration requirements. Contact Erica Coleman at (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org) for more information.



### **Job Coach Academy Announced for June 14**

Norwich Consulting Services Senior Employment Consultant Mike Heifner will be offering a one-day training specifically for Job Coaches, Employment Specialists, Enclave Supervisors, and Work Crew Supervisors on June 13, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Quest Business Center/Polaris, in Columbus. Cost is \$119 per person and includes training materials and lunch. Heifner has utilized his many years as an employment services professional to develop this training. Practical skills will be taught, and attendees

will learn skills that will immediately improve their coaching and retention outcomes. Go to the [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com) Events Page to register.



### **Ohio DD Council Needs Your Input – Online Survey**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is developing a Five-Year State Plan for 2017-2021. Take a minute to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RNMQQ2N>, to help create a plan that reflects what you think DD Council should focus on to fund projects that will meet the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



### **Reminder: OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2014 Spring Conference, will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Registration and more information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



### **ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9**

The OCALI Summer Workshop Series, *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, will begin June 9, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell. Cost is \$50/person and includes lunch. Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight assistive technologies in school environments.



### **Mark Your Calendar! OPRA Conference, October 21-22**

Planning is underway for the 2014 OPRA Fall Conference, October 21 - 22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. OPRA Conferences offer an opportunity to engage around the latest issues facing providers, and learn from first-rate speakers. To suggest a topic or a speaker, contact [Teri Derry](#) at (614) 224-6772. OPRA also invites interested speakers to [submit a proposal](#) by July 3.



### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs 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.

### ***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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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>

**Ohio**

**Department of  
Developmental Disabilities**

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[Click here for Pipeline, Audio Version](#)

**May 28, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 11**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar*

## 1. National Foster Care Month Spotlights Opportunities

### Building Blocks to Permanent Families

In May, **National Foster Care Month** spotlights the more than 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system.

Around the nation, children and adults with developmental disabilities are in need of good foster homes. While foster care generally brings to mind the many children in the system, it is estimated that more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities are in need of a family home.

One of DODD's key initiatives is to encourage supports and services that offer new and better opportunities for living in the community, increasing independence and maximizing resources. The Department is looking beyond the boundaries of years past as federal and state funds are accessed to support community-based services and newly-defined opportunities. Adult Foster Care is one such opportunity, and the benefits of home sharing are as unique as each individual and family.

#### **Marsha and Her New Family**

Marsha Mace resided at Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) from 1999 until 2011. Staff who worked with her there knew that she really wanted to live in a smaller community environment, but her aggressive behaviors were working against a placement outside of the Developmental Center. Marsha worked diligently with her team at GDC and gained better control of her life, moving to a group home in Hocking County with two other former residents of GDC. It wasn't what she was looking for. After a second move to an apartment of her own

with support from staff, Marsha's team thought perhaps this was the answer -- but Marsha wasn't thriving there.

In 2012, Hocking County Board of DD Service and Support Administrator (SSA) Beth Hackney, and SSA Supervisor Matt Nobile, told Marsha's APSI guardian about a local adult foster home that had an opening for someone to share their home. Beth explained that Bill Shepler and his family only take care of one person, and they make that person a part of their family. Beth and Matt felt that Marsha would greatly benefit from living in a family setting. Marsha and Brittany Brown from APSI met the Sheplers and toured their home. There was no hesitation on Marsha's part – she had finally found a home!

On March 1, 2012, Marsha moved into her own bedroom at the Sheplers. Their daughter Kimberly noted,

**“Marsha fit into our family easily. She was instantly comfortable in the home and had no problems acclimating to her surroundings. She now has a bedroom all decorated with her personal belongings.”**

In addition to clothing, bedding, and other things the Sheplers purchased for her personally, they worked with the County Board and Marsha's guardian to arrange funding for a much-needed wheeled walker; a wheelchair for long distances; an iPad3 with Porloquo2Go software for her communication needs; and, later, a custom bicycle for her to use for exercise and recreation.



### **Marsha and Bobo**

Marsha loves her pets, and the newest is Bobo ... joining Yum-Yum the cat, pictured on p. 12 of [Pipeline Quarterly, spring 2014.](#))

*Learn more about home sharing in the next Pipeline Quarterly, publishing in July.*

In 2014, Bethany reports that Marsha still is living with the Sheplers and is doing extremely well. “For Christmas this past year, she received a dog that she named Bobo. She still has her cat Yum-Yum and feeds it daily. They also have a new plan in place for Marsha called the ‘Imagine Plan.’ With this plan, Marsha indicated that she wants to go to Disney World, so the Sheplers have started budgeting and planning for this. Marsha continues to use her iPad for communication and (with it) keeps her family aware of what she wants and needs.”

Marsha's story illustrates what adult foster care or home sharing means in human terms. Below is a description of the regulatory terminology regarding Adult Foster Care:

## Adult Foster Care

Adult foster care means personal care and supportive services (e.g., homemaker, chore, and medication oversight to the extent permitted under state law) provided in a private home by an unrelated, principal care giver who lives in the home and whose primary, legal residence is that home. Adult foster care is furnished to adults who receive these services in conjunction with residing in the home. *Adult foster care services, their associated activities and skill development approximate the rhythm of life that naturally occurs as part of living in the family home.*

**See DODD rule [5123:2-9-33\\*](#) for complete language on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care, under the Individual Options (IO) Waiver.**

During National Foster Care Month, DODD salutes the many foster families and other individual mentors who offer care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive environment.

*\*This is under DODD Rules in Effect, <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>*

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## 2. Changes Needed in Ohio's Guardianship System

Last week, *The Columbus Dispatch* featured a series about guardianship in Ohio – you can read the full series online at [www.dispatch.com/unguarded](http://www.dispatch.com/unguarded). This series brought to light challenges with the current system, and offered suggestions for improvement.

For more than 30 years, DODD has contracted with Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) to serve as the guardian of last resort for adults with developmental disabilities. DODD and APSI fully support the reform of Ohio's system, and point to how some of the suggestions outlined in the Dispatch series have effectively been in place in Ohio's developmental disabilities system, including required in-person meetings with individuals, more frequent reports on the health and care of individuals, and increased training requirements for guardians.

After a probate judge has appointed a guardian, a guardian's role is to listen to the individual and help them make as many decisions as possible. To achieve this, they need to be actively involved in their individuals' lives. This means regularly visiting individuals in all of the settings where they spend time, and being a part of the decision-making process. We know this makes a difference – APSI's guardians visit individuals an average of six times a year in every setting in which an individual spends time, including in their residence and at community-based activities. Also, guardians attend team meetings to take part in the development of an individual's ISP (Individual Service Plan). This involvement allows our guardians to thoughtfully advocate for what's important to the individual, as well as support their goals.

Ongoing training and reporting requirements are expected of many professionals to whom we entrust our health and safety, such as doctors, educators, and first responders. Guardians should be no different. Requiring annual reports on the health and care of individuals is a step in that direction, and this has worked well for APSI. Additionally, comprehensive ongoing training will ensure guardians have the knowledge they need to serve in this capacity. APSI's training requirements include an extensive orientation program and at least ten hours of training annually – this is more extensive than the recommendations outlined in *The Dispatch*.

The goal of DODD and APSI is to be the guardian of last resort. Whenever possible, the DD system and the court seek families to serve as guardian, and to identify less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. APSI has seen a recent increase in the number of individuals who have become their own guardian, and we believe this is an indicator that our guardians are working with individuals to help them achieve their goals.

Guardianship is a difficult issue for the people we serve, family members, and the system as a whole. We recognize that the system isn't perfect, and hope the series in The Dispatch leads to change and helps more individuals have as much autonomy as possible. Making decisions is part of being human, and the Department and APSI are committed to preserving the dignity of decision-making as much as we possibly can.

*Respectfully,*

*John L. Martin, Director – DODD*

*Karla Rinto, Executive Director – APSI*

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### **3. SELF Waiver Update: Self-Directed Services, More Options**

In early May, the DODD Division of Medicare Development and Administration reported that 262 Ohioans had enrolled in the [Self Empowered Life Funding \(SELF\)](#) waiver, showing a steady increase in enrollment across the state since its inception in July 2012. Some counties have made the SELF waiver a priority, and three such counties – Clermont, Erie, and Guernsey – have identified specific reasons that this waiver works especially well for the people they serve. (See [Pipeline Quarterly](#), spring 2014.)

**Aside from the unique services offered and the strong focus on individuals directing their own services, the SELF waiver provides individuals and families a budget within which to plan spending for needed services, along with the tools and training needed to do so.**

See SELF waiver tools and training information at [http://dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-\(SELF\)-waiver.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-(SELF)-waiver.aspx)

In [Clermont County](#), a goal of 40 people receiving services via the SELF waiver was set for the first two years of enrollment, and families were brought together for an introductory meeting immediately following the waiver's availability in July 2012. Superintendent Sharon Woodrow and staff made the commitment to SELF waivers a priority, focusing on its funding flexibility and self-directed service options. [Guernsey County](#) staff saw a great opportunity for families in their area to utilize funding for Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs under the SELF waiver, and currently have enrolled ten children. And in [Erie County](#), several adults and children have been enrolled on the SELF waiver, which works especially well with the County Board's budget process. Erie County Board of DD Superintendent Carrie Beier notes,

**“Our system is a little different. We do individual budgets, and starting at age 14 we look at what it is going to take to help support that person. The SELF waiver just fits into how our county works with people. It goes hand-in hand with our budget process.”**

DODD is hopeful that examples such as these, detailed in the spring issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, will encourage additional counties to explore the flexibility and service options offered by the SELF waiver, and see how it can serve more people in their communities.



### **On the Front Porch of Their New Apartment**

Jeb and Heather, with SSA Larrick Zircle. Jeb and Heather recently were married, and moved to this apartment in the community near the Sandusky Mall.

Heather says,

**“I’m excited that my SELF waiver will pay for transportation to work!”**

*Contacts: Clermont County: [hstrum@clermontdd.org](mailto:hstrum@clermontdd.org); Erie County: [stravis@eriecbdd.org](mailto:stravis@eriecbdd.org); Guernsey County: [thitchens@guernseycountydd.org](mailto:thitchens@guernseycountydd.org)*

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## **4. REMINDER: Strategic Planning Leadership Group, June 11 Forum Family Supports and Listening to People**

The next Open Forum to be hosted by the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership group (SPLG) will be on June 11, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Commerce/ Ohio Fair Academy Auditorium, 8995 E. Main St., in Reynoldsburg.

Presenters will include Sheli Reynolds, Director of Individual Advocacy and Family Support at the University of Missouri/Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

Her presentation will highlight:

- Why Family Supports Matter
- Family Centered Thinking: How Systems and Organizations Can Support It
- The ‘Supporting Families’ Community of Practice: Key Findings So Far

Also presenting will be *Hanns Meissner*, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Rensselaer County in Eastern New York State.

His presentation will highlight:

- Blue Space and Why it Matters

- Organization Culture and Change: What Helps
- The Intentional Journey to Individualized Supports

The afternoon will offer opportunities to engage in conversations with presenters and session participants to help generate ideas and enthusiasm for exploring these concepts in Ohio.

### Registration Information

The forum is free. Registration is first come/first served, and space is limited. Lunch is on your own. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E55616613347>. The presentations will be video-taped and made available following the forum. Funding and planning support for this forum is provided by several partners and stakeholders in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The SPLG greatly appreciates their generosity.

*If you have questions, contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov)*

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## 5. OACB Conference Speakers Spotlight Change, Tout Ohio

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2014 Spring Conference at the Hilton/Polaris last week spotlighted several speakers at the state and national levels, addressing key issues of interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Among them was Nancy Thaler, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and Andrew McQuaide, Coordinator of Community Development and Planning for the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals for the State of Rhode Island.

Thaler prefaced her comments on the status and national outlook for the U.S. Medicaid and Medicare systems, stating,

**“From a national perspective, I'd say Ohio is kind of ‘where it's at.’ You are watched! And, the astuteness of your partnerships and the breadth of your long-range planning is noticed.”**

She offered insights regarding the need to ‘nudge the Medicaid system toward sustainability,’ and the need to ‘acknowledge the demographic climate change’ that is occurring as Baby Boomers age, and aging caregivers become a growing concern. “Nationally, we are not facing this head-on, and this needs to happen,” she observed. “Family care givers are the backbone of the national service system, and 85 percent of long-term care for the elderly is done by families.”

In his presentation, McQuaide discussed the landmark agreement Consent Decree between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), designed to facilitate greater access to community-based, integrated employment and day services for individuals with DD in that state. Describing the oversight of the DOJ interim settlement agreement, McQuaide noted several of the points covered in his presentation to the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group Forum in April (See [Pipeline, April 2, 2014](#)).



### Rhode Island Settlement Agreement Coordinator Andrew McQuaide

This presentation focused on his experience with the U.S. Department of Justice mandating the State of Rhode Island to deliver integrated services for people with developmental disabilities.

McQuaide presented similar information to the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group in April.

The OACB conference slate of session presenters also included DODD staff members Molly Kurtz, Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, presenting on initiatives supporting children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and Patrick Stephan and Clay Weidener, Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, sharing updates on several DODD initiatives.

*For more about the conference, go to [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org), and visit their [Facebook page](#).*

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## 6. Your Input Needed! Surveys – Employment First; Health

**Employment First** has awarded a grant to create resources for providers to help individuals with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities who are seeking employment. A short survey has been prepared to help ensure that resources meet the needs of providers who are working with these individuals.

**Providers are encouraged to complete the survey at  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/ohioemploymentfirst](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ohioemploymentfirst)**

And, the Ohio Department of Health **Division of Family and Community Health Services** (DFCHS) is seeking feedback about the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program, which helps to ensure access to quality care, especially for low-income individuals or those with limited availability of care. DFCHS is gathering feedback about these programs in two ways:

1. *Online Surveys:* Families – those who may be served by MCH programs, including parents of children with disabilities – are encouraged to share their feedback through an **online survey**. Surveys should be completed by June 10. Information from the survey will be used to assess needs in Ohio, and help DFCHS design programs that best meet those needs. For more information, view this **fact sheet**.
2. *Community Forums:* DFCHS will host ten Regional Community-Based Forums to prioritize the top unmet needs. Anyone interested in sharing feedback is encouraged to attend. Information on dates and locations is available **online**. Sessions will take place across the state in June, July, and August. **Register online** for a forum in your area.

*Questions? Contact Theresa Seagraves at [Theresa.seagraves@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Theresa.seagraves@odh.ohio.gov) or (614) 466-4626.*

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## ***PostScripts*** .....

### **OACB Good Life Network, Training Series**

DODD has been conducting training events on the new Service and Support Administration (SSA) rule to emphasize the importance of person-centered planning in Ohio's DD service system. In an effort to help professionals at County Boards of DD and private providers embrace the spirit of the new rule in their work, the OACB Good Life Network is holding a special training series. The Good Life Planning Academy will enable a select group of professionals to learn, share, and collaborate with their colleagues. The Academy is a new learning experience that will incorporate the new SSA rule, as well as related new federal rule requirements into participants' regular work activities.

*For information regarding the three dates and locations, register [here](#).*

*Contact: Ann Neu (614) 431-0616; [aneu@oacbdd.org](mailto:aneu@oacbdd.org)*

### **Elder Mobility: New Solutions for Communities**

#### **Local forums explore approaches to keep elders, people with disabilities connected**

Ohio communities are struggling to meet the transportation needs of senior citizens and people with disabilities. Transportation connects people to family and friends and allows participation in daily activities that enhance quality of life, and access to resources essential to health and well-being. As Ohio's population ages, and the number of older drivers increases, the safety of every driver and passenger becomes an increasing concern. For many older Ohioans and their families, the choice to "hang up the keys" is a difficult one. State agency partners in Cleveland, Toledo, Findlay/Lima, and Columbus are joining together to offer community forums addressing this issue: *Elder Mobility: New Solutions for Communities*. More information at <http://aging.ohio.gov/news/agingconnection/20140515.asp>

### **Reminder: Healthy Lifestyles 'Train the Trainer' Workshop, June 9 -10**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting its second Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop in Shaker Heights. Participants will receive a certificate as a Certified Lead HL Trainer and receive all the necessary training materials.

*See <http://nisonger.osu.edu/odhp> for registration requirements. Contact Erica Coleman at (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org) for more information.*

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*Go to the [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com) Events Page to register.*

## New Training: Waiver-Supported Services, June 18 & 20

Current waiting list data captures specific individual waiver requests and the date a person was added to the list. To provide more clarity, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) enlisted the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) to study the characteristics and specific needs of individuals currently on the waiting list. Barry Jamieson of GRC and Paul Jarvis of ODDC will share the results of the study, including current and future needs of individuals on the waiting list, and implications of the results. There are two opportunities to attend:

- *In-Person*: June 18, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at The Eye and Ear Institute, 915 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. [Register online](#) by June 13.
- *Webinar*: June 20, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. [Register online](#) by June 19.

## Mark Your Calendars: The Arc of Ohio – Training, June 26

In cooperation with DODD, The Arc of Ohio invites you attend a June 26 training at the Holiday Inn/ Worthington, to learn about the latest developments in the statewide development disabilities system. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

## Next Family Advisory Council Meeting, July 8

DODD invites all interested families to attend the next Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), July 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The agenda will include an update from DODD Director John Martin. FAC meetings are open to anyone with a family member served by Ohio's developmental disabilities system. For more information contact [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov). Also, check out the new FAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyAdvisory/>

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs 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.

## *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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**June 11, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 12**

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- 3. Trauma-Responsive Care – Universal Precautions Training
- 4. Safe, Accessible Transportation a Key to the Community
- 5. State Continues Efforts Against Human Trafficking

*Pipeline Pix and PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar*

**The Supreme Court has gone on record replacing the term  
'mental retardation' with the term 'intellectual disability.'**

**Read one account of this groundbreaking decision here:**

[www.newarkadvocate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014306030008&nlick\\_check=1](http://www.newarkadvocate.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014306030008&nlick_check=1)

*Excerpt: "Previous opinions of this court have employed the term 'mental retardation.' This opinion uses the term 'intellectual disability' to describe the identical phenomenon."*

## **1. Forum Focuses on Family Supports, Listening to People**

Today's open forum hosted by the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) brought together a large and diverse group of stakeholders at the Ohio Department of Commerce/Ohio Fire Academy Auditorium, in Reynoldsburg. The FY2014-2015 SPLG forums focus on topics that have been identified by stakeholders in Ohio's developmental disabilities community to foster discussion, encourage collaboration, and prompt fresh thinking for statewide planning. Desired outcomes include streamlining and improving services for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, as well as learning about best practices developed around the nation.

Presenters bringing their perspectives to the subjects of *Family Supports* and *Listening to People* at today's forum included Sheli Reynolds, Director of Individual Advocacy and Family Support at the University of Missouri/Kansas City Institute for Human Development, and Hanns Meissner, Chief Executive Officer, The Arc of Rensselaer County, in Eastern New York State.

Highlights of the presentations included: Why Family Supports Matter; How Systems and Organizations Can Support Family-Centered Thinking; and, Why Blue Space Matters. In a book

Meissner authored, titled *'Creating Blue Space,'* he shared his agency's calling to support individuals with disabilities as citizens of their communities. Both Reynolds and Meissner noted the need for a statewide system to challenge old models and create space for new ideas.



### **Charting the Life Course**

Sheli Reynolds' presentation brought forward several interesting ideas, including how professionals in the DD service system can have more meaningful conversations with people seeking services. She observed,

**“We need to ask about life experiences. No one talks enough about life experiences with families to see what they want ... or don't want. Don't ask service questions, ask life questions. Then you can start mapping resources that make sense for them.”**

The afternoon program included opportunities to engage in conversations with presenters and session participants to help generate ideas and enthusiasm for exploring these concepts in Ohio.

*All SPLG presentations are video-taped and made available online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx).*

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## **2. Columbus Zoo Employee Earns APSE Award Nomination**

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Guest Relations team met Sam Patterson in April 2013 through The Ohio State University TOPS program,\* which offers students with disabilities employment opportunities. Through TOPS, Sam took classes in zoology and environmental sciences, and began his career at the zoo.

In November 2013, the [National Association of People Supporting Employment First \(APSE\)](#) honored Sam with the *Personal Achievement Award* in Ohio. The nomination and recognition is especially important, as APSE is the only national organization to focus exclusively on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for people who have disabilities. Now, not only is Sam still working at the zoo, he recently was nominated for the national APSE award honoring people who have overcome challenges to reach career goals.

Sam will be traveling to the APSE Conference in Long Beach, California, this July -- when the national recipient will be announced. Zoo staff and co-workers explain, “Sam's hard work and

dedication have earned him a key role on the Guest Relations team. He returned to the zoo for a second season this spring, and is working as an ambassador and turnstile attendant, helping guests at the front gate, and radiating positive energy as he offers directions and information.” They added,

**“The zoo also is honored to help Sam come closer to fulfilling his dreams of becoming an exhibit guide – a pursuit that some had previously thought was not feasible.”**



### **On the Job with Sam**

Sam's hard work and dedication earned him a key role on the Guest Relations team, returning to the Zoo for a second season this spring, working as an ambassador and turnstile attendant.

**Co-workers note that Sam ... “radiates positive energy.”**

*Photos courtesy, Patty Peters, Lisa Kristensen, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

**[Follow this link to a short youtube video: Last summer, Sam met one of his heroes, Jack Hanna!](#)**

Sam's mother, Linda Patterson, said the experience has been life-changing for him. “I'm so proud that my son is achieving his dreams of working with and around exotic animals. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has helped to make that possible,” she said. “Because the Zoo has fostered an environment of inclusiveness, Samuel enjoys each and every moment of his day at work. How many of us are able to say that of our employment?”

*\*Disability Studies faculty work with the OSU Office for Disability Services (ODS) and other partners in the Nisonger Center's [Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(TOPS\)](#) program. The two-to four-year certificate program focuses on Academic Access, Career Development & Internships, Campus Membership and Independent Living, and Self-Determination development.*

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### **3. Trauma Responsive Care – Universal Precautions**

#### **Training for SSAs, Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

DODD is partnering with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) and Ohio Partners in Justice (PIJ) to present a free training opportunity on June 27 on *Trauma Responsive Care – Universal Precautions*, at the Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 West Broad Street, in Columbus. The training will be held in the building's lower-level auditorium, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Trauma and chronic toxic stress now are recognized as common experiences for individuals with developmental disabilities, often resulting in a complex array of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. In fact, compared to people who do not have developmental disabilities, individuals with DD are three to six times more likely to have a co-occurring mental illness; are at a greater risk of experiencing abuse (often at the hands of those on whom they are dependent for their care); and, often have their needs go under-treated or minimized and labeled as behavioral issues, attention-seeking, or manipulation.

**Through understanding of the latest trauma research and careful translation into practice, trauma informed care can be a universal precaution that helps Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) and the people they serve to create safe, supportive relationships that focus on understanding what has happened to them, and allowing them to develop resiliency and hope.**

Training presenters will be Tricia Burke and Mary Vicario, who will share information regarding how adverse life experiences negatively affect brain development and mental and emotional health. The trainers also will discuss how SSAs can develop a trauma-informed perspective to address the needs of individuals whose mal-adaptive behaviors are expressions of unmet needs, coping, and survival skills evolved from abuse.

DODD and ODDC appreciate the continuing collaboration with Ohio Partners in Justice, a coalition of professionals from Ohio's criminal justice system and DD system, as well as mental health professionals and other advocates for people with developmental disabilities.

**Read a [complete course description and register online](#).**

Contact Vicki Jenkins at [vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov) with any questions.

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### **4. Safe, Accessible Transportation a Key to the Community**

*The Mission of DODD is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. Assuring each person's health and safety is Priority One.* The DODD Office of Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Registry Unit has issued a timely new Health & Welfare Alert on the subject of [Transportation](#).<sup>\*</sup> Transporting individuals with developmental disabilities is an important responsibility that brings with it unique safety issues, while offering them needed access to their communities.

Along with reminders that may seem fairly routine, such as assuring that safety belts are fastened and wheelchairs are properly secured, the Alert spotlights pre- and post-transporting procedures that further assure safety. For example:

- *Pre-transport:* When driving a bus or van transporting more than one passenger, always complete a safety walk-through of the vehicle prior to departing.
- *Post-transport:* A driver should never leave an individual at a destination without being certain that appropriate supervision is available at the drop-off site for that person.



**Service providers and family members are encouraged to review the information in the new Transportation Alert as a reference and reminder during the summer months, when better weather invites additional activities such as vacations.**

The purpose of DODD Health and Welfare Alerts is to provide critical information to caregivers in areas where the Department has identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare. The Alerts provide data, additional resources, and guidance to the field – as well as to families – on what can be done to avoid or minimize specific risks. For questions or comments about Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.

*\*All DODD Health and Welfare Alerts, including Transportation #58-05-14, are posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Pages/Health-and-Safety-Alerts.aspx>*

### **More on Transportation – Community Forums Scheduled**

Local partners in Cleveland, Toledo, Findlay/Lima, and Columbus are joining with the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Public Safety/Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Ohio Department of Transportation to offer community forums June 16-19 titled, "*Elder Mobility: New Solutions for Communities.*" [Reservation information including dates, locations, agendas, and speakers, is online here.](#)

### **ODDC Highlights HAPCAP Transportation Program**

Recognizing the lack of reliable transportation for people with disabilities in some Ohio counties, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) awarded a grant to the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP) which fostered a new, collaborative transportation system for Athens County -- *Athens On Demand Transit*. Using data from a county-wide survey to determine the number of individuals interested in the service, HAPCAP created a program that provides transportation primarily to individuals with disabilities and senior citizens who need transportation to medical appointments or to work between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., six days a week.

According to an article in the [ODDC e-Diversity newsletter](#), during the first three months of operation, 324 residents were helped by the program and 596 trips were provided -- 167 of which were to and from work. Once ramped-up, the ridership increased by 30 percent each month with five vans in use. ODDC notes that extra steps are taken to ensure riders' safety when they leave the vehicles, and all drivers are supplied with cellphones provided by Athens on Demand Transit.

**“Although great friends assisted me with transportation, and that was and still is always appreciated, I have real independence with this door-to-door service for persons with disabilities and the elderly.”**

-Dr. Carolyn Bailey Lewis, OU Professor Emerita and user of Athens on Demand Transit services

*\*All DODD Health and Welfare Alerts, including Transportation #58-05-14, are posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Pages/Health-and-Safety-Alerts.aspx>*



### June is National Safety Month

The U.S. Department of health & Human Services website at <http://healthfinder.gov/NHO/JuneToolkit2.aspx> has great information on safety issues, and so does DODD! Check out our Health & Safety Toolkit, at the left of the DODD homepage at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov).

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## 5. State Continues Efforts Against Human Trafficking

**Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor.**

In support of Governor John Kasich's Human Trafficking Awareness efforts, DODD joins its state agency partners in educating Ohio citizens, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about the realities of human trafficking in Ohio. As part of that process, the DODD Diversity Connection team reached out this week to Central Office staff with information on this subject, presented by Elizabeth Ranade Janis, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ohio Department of Public Safety/Office of Criminal Justice Services.



### An Ohio Crime, A Global Crime

Elizabeth Renade Janis points out the many forms Human Trafficking can take, noting, “The control and exploitation of others is possible anywhere and everywhere. Targeting vulnerability, a human trafficker will use force, fraud, and coercion to compel the service of others for profit. And, there is no clear profile of what constitutes a trafficker.” She continues,

**“Through Ohio's Human Trafficking Task Force, we are marshalling state resources to attack this issue.**

**DODD is an active partner in this effort.”**

**Call 888-3737-888**

*(exact number representation)*

**For more information:**

**[www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov](http://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov)**

The presentation included information regarding recommendations to combat human trafficking that have been presented to Governor Kasich by [Ohio's Human Trafficking Task Force](#). Task Force recommendations are the foundation for the state's coordination of efforts to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking; creation of a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate these crimes; and, provision of services and treatment to trafficking victims.



**Each year, an estimated 1,078 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, and 3,016 more are at-risk.**

Governor Kasich is aggressively addressing this problem and acting on the Task Force recommendations. Earlier this year, the Human Trafficking Commission helped pass [House Bill 262](#), also known as the 'Safe Harbor Law.' Its goal is to increase penalties for traffickers and improve care for victims. It also designated children caught in prostitution as victims rather than criminals. Just this month, another anti-trafficking effort, the 'End Demand Act,' ([HB 130](#)) passed unanimously and included an emergency clause to make it immediately effective. The measure seeks to crack down on the people who make the sex trafficking business profitable, increase victim rights, and assist prosecutors.

Governor Kasich stated, "The End Demand Act builds on the groundbreaking work of our 2012 Safe Harbor law, making it easier to prosecute traffickers who prey on our most vulnerable children and youth, and sends a strong message that Ohio's children are not for sale."

**[HB 130 also increases penalties for people who buy sex from minors, and for those who buy sex from victims who have developmental disabilities.](#)**

DODD Diversity Connection team programs for Central Office staff include a broad range of information of interest to professionals in the developmental disabilities community. Human trafficking issues affect the entire state population, and, unfortunately have directly impacted Ohioans with disabilities who placed their trust in people who did not have their welfare in mind.

Any suspected human trafficking activity should be reported to the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) hotline, toll-free at 866-313-6733.

*More information at: <http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx> and at [www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)*

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## Pipeline Pix .....

### OPRA Recognized for 40 Years of Service to Ohio Providers



#### Be it Resolved!

At a ceremony at the Ohio Statehouse on June 4, The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) was recognized for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their service providers. The Resolution was sponsored by Representatives Cheryl Grossman and Michael Stinziano.

Accepting the resolution, OPRA President Mark Davis stated, "Individuals with disabilities want the same life of fulfillment as everyone else. It is our responsibility as providers to help them achieve that."

*Left to right:* Gary Tonks (The ARC), Teri Derry (OPRA), Rep. Michael Stinziano, Mark Davis (OPRA), Mike Toman (OPRA), Rep. Cheryl Grossman, Janice Hall (OPRA Board Chair), and Jeff Davis (OPRA).

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## PostScripts .....

### This Saturday! June 14

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center is partnering with the Gateway Film Center, 1550 N. High St., in Columbus, to offer sensory-friendly screenings of newly-released family films or family film favorites. Sensory-friendly in this case means: Reduced sound levels; increased lighting; no ads or previews; permitted use of tech devices; outside snacks permitted; and, a 'sh-h-h-h-free' zone. These special feature showings will continue on the second Saturday of every month, with a new movie for each screening. Attendees will be asked to complete a brief survey about their experience.

**This Month's Movie: *How to Train Your Dragon 2* – Saturday, June 14 at 11:00 a.m.**

*Thanks to the generous support of the Gateway Film Center, all proceeds from these screenings will benefit the Nisonger Center.*

### Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting June 18-19

The June meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is on June 18, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and on June 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the offices of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) 400 E. Campus View Blvd. in Columbus. The meeting will be in The Learning Center area, and parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need accommodations, contact Donna Foster at [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov) or at (614) 438-1394.

## **REMINDER: OACB Good Life Network, Training Series – June, July, August**

DODD has been conducting training on the new Service and Support Administration (SSA) rule to emphasize the importance of person-centered planning in Ohio's DD service system. To help professionals at County Boards of DD and at private providers embrace the spirit of the new rule in their work, the OACB Good Life Network developed a new training series. The Good Life Planning Academy will enable a select group of professionals to learn, share, and collaborate with colleagues. The Academy learning experience will incorporate the new SSA rule and related new federal rule requirements into participants' work activities. [Registration and information about the three dates and locations is here.](#)

Contact: Ann Neu (614) 431-0616; [aneu@oacbdd.org](mailto:aneu@oacbdd.org).

## **Olmstead Conference, Cleveland - June 26**

A conference celebrating the 15th anniversary of the [Olmstead v. L.C. decision](#) will feature Lois Curtis, the plaintiff in the Olmstead Decision, as keynote speaker on June 26, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Services for Independent Living, Inc., 26250 Euclid Ave, #801 in Cleveland. The event is free and will focus on issues related to community inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

For more information: <http://disabilityrightsohio.org/events/olmstead-conference>

## **The Arc of Ohio – Training, June 26**

In cooperation with DODD, The Arc of Ohio invites you attend a June 26 training at the Holiday Inn/Worthington, to learn about the latest developments in the statewide development disabilities system. [Click here to learn more and register!](#)

## **Next Family Advisory Council Meeting, July 8**

DODD invites all interested families to attend the next Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), July 8, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The agenda will include an update from DODD Director John Martin. FAC meetings are open to anyone with a family member served by Ohio's developmental disabilities system. For more information, contact [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov). Also, check out the new FAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyAdvisory/>.

## **Save the Dates! Project STIR Training, August 18-21**

The Franklin County Board of DD will sponsor a Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) 'Train the Trainer' training August 18-21, 2014 at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. The FCBDD Self Advocate Advisory Council is currently finalizing details for this event, which will be coordinated by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA).

## **Mark Your Calendars: OPRA Conference, October 21-22**

Planning is underway for the 2014 OPRA Fall Conference, October 21 - 22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. OPRA Conferences offer an opportunity to learn about the latest issues facing providers, and hear from first-rate speakers. To suggest a topic or a speaker, contact [Teri Derry](#) at (614) 224-6772. OPRA also invites interested speakers to [submit a proposal](#) by July 3.

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: **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.

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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](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)

July 3, 2014

### Letter from Disability Rights Ohio

On Tuesday, July 1, Disability Rights Ohio sent the attached letter outlining their concerns with the status of Ohio's developmental disabilities system. We wanted to share a copy of this letter with you.

DODD is committed to improving the lives of Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities. To help identify what Ohio's system of services and supports should look like in 10 years, DODD convened a work group to study in-depth the strengths and challenges facing Ohio's developmental disabilities system, and to learn what has proven successful in other states. The work group – known as the Strategic Planning Leadership Group – is made up of representatives from various stakeholder groups, including self-advocates, family members, private providers, County Boards of DD representatives, and DODD staff.

The Strategic Planning Leadership Group is developing recommendations about the future of Ohio's system. The work group anticipates making final recommendations by December. The group has received a copy of Disability Rights Ohio's letter, and will take that information into consideration when developing these recommendations.

We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with our partners, including Disability Rights Ohio, in pursuit of our common goal – helping Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities live and work as integrated members of the community. We will continue to keep you in the loop on our strategic planning process.

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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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or contact [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or phone (614) 644-0262. To subscribe to *Pipeline* newsletter, send an email to: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov).



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

**John L. Martin, Director**

**Volume 8, Issue 16**

**August 6, 2014**

In This Issue:

- DODD Responds to Disability Rights Ohio
- Administration News: Budget Information, 2014 Annual Report Issued
- Strong Families, Safe Communities Grants Awarded
- National Employment: More People with Disabilities Finding Work
- Pipeline Pix: *Pipeline Quarterly*, Summer 2014 Preview
- PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar

## **DODD Responds to Disability Rights Ohio**

To best serve Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities, DODD continuously works with stakeholders across Ohio, and readily accepts feedback from the many advocates that have an interest in our community. Recently, DODD received [a letter](#) from one such advocate, Disability Rights Ohio (DRO), outlining concerns about the status of Ohio's DD system. We wanted to share an update on where we are in the process of responding.

We responded to DRO on July 31. In [his response](#) to DRO, Director Martin notes that, while we disagree with DRO's findings, both organizations share a similar vision for supporting individuals with disabilities. DODD, the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid plan to meet with DRO to discuss their concerns in detail, and to share more information about the work underway, including the Strategic Planning Leadership Group and the CMS Transition Plan work group

Working collaboratively with our partners, including DRO, will help us achieve our common goal – helping Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities to live and work as integrated members of the community.

We will continue to keep you in the loop on our strategic planning process.

## Administration News: Budget Information, Annual Report Issued

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has issued guidance to state agency directors for the purpose of planning for fiscal years 2015-16. Agencies in Governor John Kasich's cabinet are required to submit budget and language requests for this time period to OBM by October 31, 2014.

Following this initial submission, OBM will review and analyze the requests and, in turn, may request additional information to assist in the development of recommendations, or propose modifications to the preliminary recommendations.

For General Revenue Fund (GRF) requests, agencies have been asked to indicate what activities can be supported for Fiscal Years 2016-17 at 90 percent of adjusted FY2015 appropriations. Agencies also have been asked to indicate what additional activities can be supported for 2016-17 at 100 percent of adjusted 2015 appropriations. As part of the ongoing budget development process, OBM provides agencies with GRF request limits within which to plan.

### 2014 DODD Annual Report Issued

Wrapping up Fiscal Year 2014, the DODD Annual Report has been published and is online in the [DODD online News Room](#). Along with the Department's expense summary and other data, it reports that the number of people served within the statewide developmental disabilities system was 93,645 at the close of the fiscal year, June 30. Highlights of various program areas as well as progress in collaborative efforts such as shared services and strategic planning also are presented. In the publication's introductory message, DODD Director John Martin noted,

*"By learning from our state and national agency partners, we can move forward with our strategic planning from a more informed position. Data-based and evidence-based planning will be key to the availability of community-based and sustainable services for Ohioans with developmental disabilities."*

DODD strategic goals and initiatives align with those of partnering agencies comprising the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT), and support Administration objectives for improved fiscal responsibility and service sustainability.



#### **Rebalancing Long-Term Care**

*Self-advocate Tami Grogg (left) and People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter are active participants in Strategic Planning Leadership Group meetings. In February 2014, Tami delivered a powerful and personal*

*presentation about people with developmental disabilities living in community-based homes, not nursing facilities.*

## 2015 Strong Families, Safe Communities Grants Awarded

### Communities Collaborate to Create Coordinated Care Plans to Help At-Risk Youth

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) have together announced more than \$1.4 million in funding for the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) (SFSC) initiative to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk due to a developmental disability or mental illness. The grant awards are part of a two-year, \$5 million statewide initiative launched last year.



*Strong Families, Safe Communities is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money from Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) to develop targeted strategies to stabilize youth ages 8-24 in crisis, and develop long-term treatment plans that help children and families live happier, healthier lives.*

This latest round of funding will support seven new projects around the state, and brings the total number of counties served by the initiative to 46. DODD and OhioMHAS solicited proposals from across the state, emphasizing collaboration among mental health and developmental disabilities service providers and multi-county partnerships. [Projects funded for 2015](#) include intensive care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and various therapeutic services.

“The programs that started last year already are showing positive results,” said DODD Director John Martin. “We’re excited to be able to broadly share information about the different programs so success can be duplicated to benefit all counties.” An oversight committee that includes top leadership from both state departments will gather and analyze outcomes to identify best practices and recommended strategies.

OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck explained, “Programs receiving the SFSC grants combine knowledge and leadership across agencies. Counties currently participating have been able to help hundreds of families through the use of planning and innovative treatment models.”

Director Martin and Director Plouck will visit each of the community partnerships this summer to officially announce the grants, and to share details about each project with local communities.

Contacts: DODD: Kerry Francis, [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov)

OhioMHAS: Eric Wandersleben, [eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov)

## Employment: More People with Disabilities Finding Work

[Disability Scoop News Service](#) reported last week that the jobless rate for people with disabilities improved somewhat in July, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The national unemployment rate for this segment of the national population fell to 12.1 percent, down from 12.9 percent in June.

Federal officials began tracking employment among people with disabilities in October 2008. The first employment report specific to this population was made available in February 2009. Now, reports are released monthly. There is not yet enough data compiled to establish seasonal trends among this population, so statistics for this group are not seasonally adjusted.

Data on people with disabilities covers those over the age of 16 who do not live in institutional settings. The reports also do not distinguish the employment numbers for people with developmental disabilities from people with other kinds of disabilities.

For information on employment opportunities and programs specific to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, visit [the Ohio Employment First website](#). [Disability Scoop News Service](#)



### ***There's Work, and then there's Teamwork.***

*Mercury (left) and Marc, cleaning the showroom windows at Midwest Innovations in Massillon. The Stark County-based service provider is also known as Team Midwest, and serves a five-county area. Individuals who work for the organization earn the state's minimum wage for all work performed.*

# Pipeline Pix

## Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2014 Preview



***No limits to Susan's enthusiasm ...***

*Susan's story will be in the next issue of the DODD Pipeline Quarterly feature publication. Look for it this month! Susan Neva of Mahoning County is one of many people living in the community, utilizing shared living services in a family home.*

## PostScripts

### **Reminder: People First, Revival of Advocacy in Ohio, August 16**

Revival of Advocacy in Ohio, an event sponsored by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) and Smart Grant, will be hosted by People First of Ohio on Saturday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Hunters Lake, 10881 Fosdyke Rd./ County Line Rd., in Mount Vernon. Learn more about programs and initiatives around the state and nation that can benefit you as a self advocate, related family member, or caregiver. It's free! Register at the People First of Ohio website and click on the large download arrow for the registration form. Attendance is limited to 300. Contact: Sadie Hunter, People First Executive Director, at 740-397-6100.

### **Funding System Redesign: Remaining Regional Community Forums, August 12 & 13**

DODD has contracted with HIGH IMPACT Mission-based Consulting to develop recommendations for

a funding system redesign that supports an increase in integrated employment. You are encouraged to attend a regional forum at the time and location most convenient for you. Two identical sessions will be held at each site from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., and registration is free. [A complete list of forums and registration information is available online.](#) A set of Key Principles for Employment First will be discussed, and there will be opportunities to learn about at least two funding redesign proposals.

### **Annual OADSP Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Event, September 10**

The Annual 2014 DSP Recognition Event, September 10 at the Xenos conference center in Columbus, will feature great speakers, and original films about direct support professionals. This is an opportunity for Ohio DSPs to tell their stories, and show how they provide support and care for the people they serve. DSPs are encouraged to show that they are role models and are an important part of the lives of thousands of people with developmental disabilities across the state. The annual event is sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP). Find out more and register for this exciting event at the [event website](#).

### **Third Annual FUSE Conference, September 12-13**

The third Annual FUSE Conference will be hosted September 12 and 13 at Grace Polaris Church, 8225 Worthington-Galena Road, in Westerville, and is sponsored by Joni & Friends. Attendees will explore a Christian perspective on social action and church advocacy, among other topics. Event cost is \$30, and half-off group rates are available/ Group Rates are available. [Register Now](#).

### **Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio Annual Buddy Walk, Sept. 21**

The DSACO (Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio) Buddy Walk will be held on Sunday, September 21, at Crew Stadium. For details on registration or volunteering, call DSACO at 614-263-6020 or register at [www.ColumbusBuddyWalk.org](http://www.ColumbusBuddyWalk.org).

### **Mark Your Calendars! Synergy Conference, October 1-3**



2014 SYNERGY Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and Parents, Advocates, Resources (PAR) is scheduled for October 1-3 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, OH. Conference sessions target DD professionals, individuals with DD, parents, guardians, family members, county board staff and other service providers. Registration and conference information is posted online at [www.synergyohio.org](http://www.synergyohio.org).

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: **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.

## Pipeline Feedback ... from You to the State

Pipeline is distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Read [past issues](#) online. Share your questions or comments – send an email to [feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov)



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## Stay Connected!

Get timely news and access to news, the Provider Search, County Board contact information, and other relevant information from your desktop, laptop, tablet, or phone:



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**DODD Mobile App:** <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Mobile.aspx>

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

**Volume 8, Issue 17**

**John L. Martin, Director**

**August 20, 2014**

In This Issue:

- Strategic Planning Leadership Group Discusses Workforce Development
- Focus on Early Intervention – Best Practices
- Strong Families, Safe Communities Initiative – On the Road in Erie County
- New Information About Accessibility, Employment
- Pipeline Pix: Common Threads Network; Pipeline Quarterly
- PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar

## **SPLG Discusses Workforce Development**

Continuing to explore ways to improve services for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities and determine benchmarks to guide the future, the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) met last week to discuss workforce development for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Service provider organizations representing DSPs, including the Values and Faith Alliance, Ohio Waiver Network, Ohio Healthcare Association, and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), offered input regarding the affect that improvements to this service profession can have on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. “We need to shift from a culture of compliance to rules and regulations to a culture of quality,” said Mark Davis, OPRA executive director.

Brainstorming ways to grow and maintain a strong DSP workforce, SPLG members’ conversations and questions helped to develop a list of issues and ideas for strengthening the system infrastructure. Many voices were heard, including self advocates Diana Mairose and Tami Grogg, each of whom touched on the need for including people with disabilities in training efforts for DSPs, and in other aspects of building the future statewide service system.



*Diana Mairose, participating in the brainstorming conversations. On behalf of self advocates, she observed,*

*“We need a little togetherness in the planning.”*

Developing drafts of simply-worded benchmarks for consideration, and capturing the many ideas and challenges brought forward for continued discussion, SPLG members defined key areas such as ways to empower DSPs in facility- and home-based work settings; using consistent and clear language in training and in printed materials; and, making sure that person-centered planning is practiced.

Also on the agenda was a discussion of accessible and affordable housing. DODD Director John Martin asked, “As we think about reducing our reliance on Intermediate Care Facilities and Developmental Centers, combined with the future needs of people on waiting lists, how does this impact the need for housing?” Information was presented to encourage development of ten-year benchmarks, including identification of housing stock that is -- or could be -- affordable and physically accessible, as well as a proposed option to increase rent subsidies for people with disabilities.

The SPLG will meet again on September 9, at the Columbus Developmental Center.

## **Recent Survey**

Supporting the many home-based care options discussed at this and other SPLG meetings, a recent American Association of Retired People (AARP) [survey](#) reported that 78 percent of survey responders indicated that services that keep older adults (with or without disabilities) living independently in their homes, instead of in assisted living and nursing homes, should be a state priority. The survey also pointed out that approximately 75 percent of federal funds given to Ohio for the care of older adults are directed to nursing homes, and the remaining funds go toward keeping people in their homes.

## **Focus on Early Intervention – Best Practices**

Early last year, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced a transition plan to move some areas of technical assistance and training to DODD, and improve coordination efforts for Early Intervention (EI) Services, Part C. A federal program administered by states, EI Part C serves families

with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions likely to result in developmental delays.

To support these efforts, an Assistant Deputy Director in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, Kim Hauck, was hired to lead DODD Early Intervention programs. She manages the Department's responsibilities for Part C, offered under ODH [Help Me Grow](#) services, ensuring that Ohio children and families in all counties can access the full range of services throughout the system. Announcing Hauck's appointment and the stronger emphasis on Early Intervention services, DODD Director John Martin commented,

*"The most important work performed in our system is Early Intervention services. Giving families the supports and tools to create a better life for the family, while putting the child on a life-long path toward full and meaningful community participation is what we hope for in Early Intervention."*

### **Cuyahoga County Home-Based Services**

Hauck is excited about the direction in which EI services are changing around the state, and spotlights a major program redirection in Cuyahoga County, supported by 30 years of research as evidence-based. She noted, "We're coming up on the second anniversary of a huge program shift in Cuyahoga County. Building on evidence-based practices has really improved outcomes for the children and families involved."

The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) facility-based program was closed during the summer of June 2012, which affected 13 classrooms in five buildings, along with a traditional home-based service. The CCBDD newsletter, [Insight](#), noted,

*"What works changes. The Cuyahoga County Board of DD Early Childhood Services underwent a significant transformation from a site-based program to a home-based one. The new method, launched on September 4, 2012, follows three components: Teaming; the use of a primary service provider; and, coaching as a strategy for early intervention."*

Research indicates that to be most effective, services for very young children should focus on providing the assistance the parents and other primary care givers need to support the child's development. Those family-directed services should be delivered in natural settings during everyday routines.

Hauck explains that CCBDD is an excellent example of a large county with a strong program taking an entirely new direction and showing success. CCBDD worked closely with the larger [Help Me Grow](#) system leadership to develop eight core teams, each serving specific zip codes, organized by regions. At minimum, each team has a CCBDD developmental specialist, speech/language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, and a [Help Me Grow](#) service coordinator. Hauck noted that CCBDD staff has provided support to neighboring counties in these efforts, as well. "They are more than willing to share their experiences in this process."

**[Watch this short video which describes the service model.](#)**



Photo by Lost Tribe videographer



Photo courtesy, CCBDD

*(Left) In a family kitchen, working on communication skills. (Right) Improving motor skills in the home's living room with a CCBDD Physical Therapist.*

Members of this service team conduct an evaluation and assessment to determine a child's eligibility for services, and to identify specific services that may be needed. The team, including the family, identifies a member to be the family's primary service provider and develop the Individualized Family Service Plan. Teams meet weekly with children served and their families to discuss progress.

CCBDD Director of Assistive Technology and Children's Services Jacquie Kasprisin summed up the experience transitioning from the site-based services to the new service approach. "We made the transition to evidence-based services quickly. In eight months' time, our EI, pre-school, and school age services simultaneously were transitioning to more typical settings. Initially, we were most concerned about family response, community reaction, and providing seamless services to more than 1300 children." She continued,

*"Our first year in this approach focused on structure and team process, and our second year has honed adherence to Evidence-Based Early Intervention practices, outcome measurement, and community integration. We've been very successful due to a strong leadership team and dedicated staff. There's no greater measure of success than feedback from the people you serve!"*

In a recent satisfaction survey, 51 percent of the 240 families surveyed included written comments about the services, and 97 percent were overwhelmingly positive. One family stated, "Very helpful. Aware of reality of day-to-day experience. She matches strategies to what realistically can be done in the home. Great help for my son. I am seeing significant progress." And, Kasprisin observed,

*"After taking this approach two years ago -- away from site-based (school facility) services and into the natural environments (homes, families) model -- families are saying they are more confident, and children are getting the day-to-day support they need."*

Families new to Ohio's DD services system often are surprised and happy to learn that there is no charge for Early Intervention services at County Boards. Local levy dollars fund most of the local EI services. It is important to note also, that DODD and the Ohio DD Council have provided resources to train 35 counties in this evidence-based EI services approach, with ten additional counties joining the

training in November. Any County Board that is interested in this training should contact Kim Hauck at [Kimberley.Hauck@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Kimberley.Hauck@dodd.ohio.gov).

*Additional information is online at [Early Intervention services](#), and also in [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#).*

*E.I. contacts: [Kimberley.Hauck@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Kimberley.Hauck@dodd.ohio.gov); [Kasprisin.Jacquelin@cuyahogabdd.org](mailto:Kasprisin.Jacquelin@cuyahogabdd.org)*

## **SFSC, on the Road in Erie County**

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) earlier this summer announced more than \$1.4 million in funding for the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) (SFSC) initiative to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk due to a developmental disability or mental illness. The grant awards are part of a two-year, \$5 million statewide initiative launched last year.

This latest round of funding supports seven new projects around the state, and brings the total number of counties served by the initiative to 46. DODD and OhioMHAS solicited proposals emphasizing collaboration among mental health and developmental disabilities service providers and multi-county partnerships. [Projects funded for 2015](#) include intensive care coordination, rapid response teams, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and various therapeutic services.

DODD Director John Martin and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck are visiting each of the community partnerships this summer to announce the grants, and to share details about each project with local communities. Director Martin visited Erie County last week to announce a grant to Erie, Sandusky, Seneca, and Lucas counties. This grant focuses on a Wrap-around program – wherein a team works with the child and family to develop a comprehensive plan of support and services.

Director Martin was enthusiastic about the efforts, noting that one reason the project was selected was the group's long history of success with the Wrap-around model, and their plan to use existing resources to build upon programs that have a proven track record.

Kate Wyckoff, a parent who was referred to the Wrap-around program last year, shared that she now sees a positive future for her son, thanks to the services her family received. Her son, who has Autism and ADHD, was demonstrating behavioral issues at school that were interfering with his education, and causing a lot of stress for her son, her family, and the school. After working with the Wrap-around team, her son is thriving, and the family has a positive working relationship with the school. She said,

*“In his second grade year, I was in the principal's office every day. My stomach dropped every time the phone rang because I thought it was the school. Last year, when he was in third grade, I went to the school twice the entire year.”*



*Parent Advocate Kate Wyckoff and Director Martin discuss positive results of SFSC efforts in Erie County.*

*See more event photos on the [DODD Facebook page](#).*

She also noted that the class pictures from the two years show positive changes. She said in his second grade picture, her son is unsmiling and looks unhappy. “It was a big contrast to all the other kids, who had beaming smiles on their faces,” she said. “Last year, he was one of the children with beaming smiles!” Wyckoff now is a parent mentor for other families who will participate in the program.

*SFSC contacts: DODD: Kerry Francis, [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov); OhioMHAS: Eric Wandersleben, [eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov)*

## **New Information About Accessibility, Employment**

Having just celebrated the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (See *Pipeline*, July 23, 2014: [Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrated Around the Nation](#)), it is important to note additional progress in March of this year, when new regulations became effective to provide people with disabilities improved opportunities for meaningful employment. This update to [Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) offers advantages to people with disabilities, including those who are eligible to receive free employment services through the U.S. Social Security Administration’s [Ticket to Work program](#).

Section 503 of the updated ADA requires that companies doing business with the federal government take affirmative action to recruit, employ, train, and promote qualified individuals with disabilities. The changes strengthen the affirmative action provisions of the regulations to aid federal contractors in their efforts to recruit and hire eligible individuals. Changes include:

- **Self-Identification:** Requires contractors to invite job applicants to voluntarily self-identify as an individual with a disability before being offered a job. While there may be concerns about disclosing a disability, with the new regulations, individuals may be open with a federal contractor about a disability without fearing discrimination.
- **Seven percent utilization goal:** There is some confusion about the new rule that establishes a seven percent utilization goal for federal contractors in the hiring and retention of workers with disabilities. The goal is neither a quota nor a ceiling for employing people with disabilities,

rather it is a goal a contractor is encouraged to meet. Employers who do not meet the goal will not be fined or penalized, however, they must collect data showing the number of people with disabilities that apply for jobs versus the number of people with disabilities who are hired, and make it available for review by the U.S. Department of Labor on request.

**By collecting this data, employers become more accountable for their employment decisions and practices, including their outreach and recruitment efforts to people with disabilities.**

Individuals who wish to take advantage of job opportunities that will result from these new regulations should contact the Ticket to Work program's employment service providers – in Ohio, it is [Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities](#) (OOD) – which are actively preparing to connect federal contractors with people with disabilities who are ready to work. For more information, visit the website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work). A [helpful publication](#) also is available.

## **The Cost of Work Accommodations**

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) estimates that slightly more than half of all workplace accommodations based on disability involve simple changes to procedures, costing nothing but a little planning. In fact, the GAO reports that just under one-third of accommodations cost less than \$500. For the rare accommodations that cost more than \$500, and are not funded by the Ohio Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR, a program operated by OOD), the Internal Revenue Service provides tax breaks. According to the GAO,

*“With more than 80 percent of all accommodations costing less than it costs to replace most employees, it is good business to be less concerned about disability status and to build a diverse workforce through policies that provide the flexibility to respect differences.”*

## **Ohio Employment First**

Pickaway County employers and employees were celebrated last week at an [Employment First](#) event, attended by nearly 130 people. Scioto Downs, Integrated Health Solutions, and Circleville Pet Services were recognized for their commitment to hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. Individuals were recognized for their hard work and dedication in meeting the expectations of local employers. According to Stacy Collins, part of the Employment First team in the DODD Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, event attendees were reminded, “You are the most talented, most interesting, and most extraordinary person in the universe. And you are capable of amazing things.”



*(l. to r.) Patrick Kilbane, Transition Services Specialist; Brooke Edwards, who earned the Leap of Faith Award for her work at Circleville Pet Services; and, Pickaway County Board of DD Superintendent Mike Pelcic.*

## Pipeline Pix

### Common Threads Network

*"Collaboration and information-sharing make all the difference in the support of families we serve."*

*-Lynne Calloway, Family Liaison, Hamilton County DD Services*



**Common Threads Network (CTN) in southwest Ohio** supports organizations addressing common concerns of families and individuals with disabilities in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties. An August meeting gathered many participants together in Butler County to discuss topics including health care and sexuality. The next meeting is November 19 in East Springdale, OH – register online at [www.commonthreadsnetwork.org](http://www.commonthreadsnetwork.org)

*Shown (l. to r. , standing): Lisa Guliano, Superintendent, Butler County Board of DD; Amy Clawson, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Cincinnati Children's Hospital (CCH); David Delgado, Butler County*

Board of DD; Jean Houston, Clermont County Families Connected; Sue Bitsko, Red Tree House; Tara Amburgy, Warren County Board of DD; Lynne Calloway, Hamilton County DD Services; Sheryl Feuer, CCH; Jennifer Brown, Parent/Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati; Debbie Shannon, Talbert House; and, Megan K. Manuel, Superintendent, Warren County Board of DD Superintendent. Seated: Peggy Martin, DODD Family Advocate; John Martin, DODD Director.

## Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2014



At home in Mahoning County are (l. to r.) Sam, Mary Lou, and Susan Neva, with Regina, Lori, Debbie, and Kathy. Meet them all in the newest issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, focusing on Ohio shared living residential service options.

## PostScripts

### Business Survey

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) invite employers and anyone in the Ohio's deafness or blindness community to comment on work force issues for Ohioans with disabilities. Results of this confidential survey will be shared with the Workforce Integration Task Force recently instated by Governor John Kasich.

The business survey is at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BlindandDeafTaskForceBusiness](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BlindandDeafTaskForceBusiness);

The blind and deaf community members survey is at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BlindandDeafTaskForce](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BlindandDeafTaskForce)

### Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Event, September 10

The Annual 2014 DSP Recognition Event, September 10 at the Xenos conference center in Columbus, will feature several speakers, as well as original films about direct support professionals. This is an opportunity for Ohio DSPs to tell their stories, and show how they provide support and care for the people they serve. DSPs are encouraged to show that they are role models, and are an important part of the lives of thousands of people with developmental disabilities across the state. The annual event is sponsored by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP). Find out more, and register

at the [event website](#).

### **WORKing Together: Statewide Employment Conference, September 15-16**

A statewide employment conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, OH, WORKing Together is organized by the Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and the University of Cincinnati/ University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It will bring together people with disabilities and their families, providers, and County Board staff to learn from national and state leaders about expanding employment options for people with disabilities. The conference features several prominent national experts and a host of Ohio leaders for community and integrated employment for people with disabilities.

**Check out the website to register and learn about key presentations:** <http://swocog.org/>

Registration cost is \$200 per person until September 1, and \$250 thereafter. Cost includes both days' continental breakfast and buffet lunch.

### **2014 Transition Bootcamp Conference, September 19**

Transition Bootcamp, September 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Cincinnati, is a conference for parents/caregivers and educators or other professionals interested in transition preparation from high school to adult life for young people with disabilities. Conference topics include education and employment, post-secondary education, housing, recreation, guardianship alternatives, and estate planning. There will be a vendor fair presenting agencies and businesses that provide services to transition-age youth and young adults. Transition Bootcamp is organized by a planning committee of community organizations and parents/caregivers. See [conference registration and more information](#). Contact is Ilka Riddle, 513-803-3620 or [ilka.riddle@cchmc.org](mailto:ilka.riddle@cchmc.org).

### **Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio Annual Buddy Walk, Sept. 21**

The Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio (DSACO) Buddy Walk will be held on Sunday, September 21, at Crew Stadium. For details on registration or volunteering, call DSACO at 614-263-6020 or register at [www.ColumbusBuddyWalk.org](http://www.ColumbusBuddyWalk.org).

### **Promoting Healthy Choices Training, September 30**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee is offering a one day conference, September 30, in southwest Ohio. *Promoting Healthy Choices* will focus on accessing resources and promoting healthy living for individuals who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. The training will be useful for nurses, SSAs, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. Conference speakers include: Erica Coleman, University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in DD; Susan M. Havercamp, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center; and, Beth Marks, University of Illinois. A continental breakfast as well as lunch is included in the registration fee. For more information and registration, visit: <http://highdd.org>, and look under News and Info. The Healthcare Advisory Committee is an independent non - profit organization developed to provide up-to-date information on health and related matters to nurses and others who have the responsibility of assuring health and safety to individuals with DD.



Disabilities/124333821004961



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 8, Issue 18

September 3, 2014

In This Issue:

- Administration News and Notes
- Celebrating Direct Support Professionals Across the Nation
- Strong Families, Safe Communities Initiative – On the Road in Richland County
- The Morrow County Story – Community Engagement
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness, Prevention
- Ramping Up for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October
- Pipeline Pix: Groundbreaking Ceremony; SSA Forum
- PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar

## **Next Week is National Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week. DODD Salutes Ohio's DPS!**

See article number two in this issue.

### **Administration News and Notes**

DODD Director John Martin announced on August 21 that Deputy Director Patrick Stephan will be leaving the Department, where he has led the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) for the past six years. Effective October 6, he will be joining the Ohio Department of Medicaid, where he will lead the agency's managed care team. In the announcement, Director Martin noted,

*"Patrick is a hard-working, creative, and dedicated team player who has provided excellent leadership through a number of significant contributions. While Patrick is leaving DODD, the good news is he is not going far, and in his new role he will continue to relate to and work with us at DODD."*

Director Martin added that during the transition, Stephan will continue to provide leadership to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) transition plan committee, through the development of the draft of the state's plan, which is due in November.

The announcement also stated, "One of the many things Patrick did well was developing a strong team of leaders. One of those team members, Lori Horvath, will become the Acting Deputy Director upon Patrick's departure. During the past three years, Lori has been closely involved in many key DODD Medicaid initiatives. She will provide both continuity and strong, competent leadership as we shepherd in the new CMS transition rule and other Medicaid work initiatives."



*Patrick Stephan*



*Lori Horvath*

### **HOME Choice Program Reaches Milestone**

As a partner agency in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), DODD joins the Ohio departments of Health (ODH), Aging (ODA), Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and Job and Family Services (ODJFS), as well as Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), in efforts to modernize the Medicaid service delivery system in Ohio. Now in its fourth year, 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. Earlier this month, the Ohio Department of Medicaid announced that it recently transitioned its 5,000th individual back into the community through its highly successful [HOME Choice program](#), marking a major milestone for the six year-old program. Funded by a federal grant, HOME Choice is Ohio's version of the federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. Individuals who wish to leave institutional settings are assessed by Ohio Medicaid and offered housing and support services to transition back into the community.

Launched in 2008 with the goal of achieving 2,000 successful transitions, HOME Choice has helped to develop a renewed path to independence for older Ohioans and individuals living with disabilities. State Medicaid Director John McCarthy observed,

*"The State of Ohio remains committed to providing more choice to residents living in nursing facilities and institutional settings. HOME Choice has enhanced independence and provided a second chance to thousands of Ohioans – all at costs lower than those incurred in institutional settings."*

See the complete press release, [Ohio Medicaid Achieves 5,000th Transition through Statewide HOME Choice Initiative](#), and more related information on the [ODM website](#).



*Tamara, recovering from a near-fatal accident at home with her husband, and the family dog, is one of the many success stories among the thousands of people who have been helped by the Ohio HOME Choice program.*

*More success stories in [the HOME Choice online newsletter](#).*

## **Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG)**

The DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) is continuing to explore ways to improve services for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. The next SPLG meeting is September 9, when the group will begin to identify specific recommendations and benchmarks to move the system forward over the next ten years.

## **Celebrating Direct Support Professionals**

### **National Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week Begins September 7**

Each year, during [National Direct Support Professionals \(DSPs\) Recognition Week](#), Ohio stands tall with a major DSP recognition event. Hosted at the Xenos conference center in Columbus on September 10, this year's event will spotlight Ohio DSPs' commitment to supporting people with developmental disabilities, and will debut original films about direct support professionals, made by DSPs themselves. Sponsored by the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(OADSP\)](#) in partnership with service providers, this event is free each year, and attracts a large crowd due to its strong positive focus and opportunities for professional networking. Learn more, and register at the [event website](#).

Beyond the one-day event, and acknowledging the importance of professionalism in the direct support field, NADSP has created a [Code of Ethics for DSPs](#). Because DSPs often are called upon to make independent judgments on a daily basis that involve both practical and ethical reasoning, OADSP has underscored certain values to guide them in their work. The Code of Ethics includes key concepts toward professionalism, including a commitment to person-centered support, promoting physical and emotional well-being, and displaying integrity and responsibility.

In addition to the Code of Ethics, the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(OADSP\)](#) has developed a [DSPATHS](#) curriculum that offers sequential credentials that teach, reinforce, and build upon the essential skills of a highly-qualified DSP. The Basic Certificate course offers the student a basic knowledge of the skills required to become a Direct Support Professional. Following that, DSPATHS students may continue the training to earn a Certificate of Initial Proficiency, and a Certificate of Advanced Proficiency.

Amy Gerowitz, executive director of OADSP recently reflected on the importance of building a path to professionalism. She observed, “Nearly 20 years ago, I attended my first meeting of NADSP. At that meeting, leaders in the movement began to create the professional structure by developing guiding principles, and the framework for a national organization. In Ohio, we had the first meeting in 1998 of a group of stakeholders interested in moving this profession forward, and in 2001 the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council awarded \$50,000 to OADSP to begin the work to create a credentialed, highly-qualified direct support workforce in Ohio.

“In 2010, OADSP -- along with many other co-sponsors -- presented the first Ohio DSP recognition event where 200 (and in subsequent years, nearly 500) DSPs came together to be celebrated and recognized.” She added,

*“I am pleased to note that DSPATHS was the first statewide DSP credentialing program to be awarded accreditation from NADSP. We will continue to work in Ohio, and with our national partners, to elevate and recognize the direct support profession.”*



### **2010 -- Looking Back, and Ahead**

*In 2011, Ohio’s DSP Recognition Event hosted about 300 DSPs. In 2013, a whopping 500 attended, bringing many new faces to the venue to, “Celebrate their awesomeness,” as event spokesman Scott Osterfeld said. National DSP Recognition Week was first declared by the U.S. Senate in 2008 to recognize the vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities.*

## SFSC, on the Road in Richland County

On August 20, DODD Director John Martin presented the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) (SFSC) grant to Ashland and Richland counties. The grant will assist the local community partnership in providing services to strengthen family relationships, and improve coordination with schools and juvenile courts. The efforts are an expansion of the multi-county grant awarded last year to Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Portage, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Wayne, and Holmes counties.

At the event, Director Martin noted the proposal was selected due to cross-system coordination, plans to increase respite options, and the focus on reducing the number and/or length of out-of-home placements. Local communities are excited about the opportunities the grants will provide, and Richland County media outlets are promoting the grant, which helps increase awareness of the services available in the community. See: [Richland, Ashland Counties Get Strong Families Grants](#), WMFD TV; [Grants to help at-risk children](#), Mansfield News Journal.



*After the event, the group shared ideas and experiences. (Left to right) Director John Martin, Liz Prather-superintendent of Richland Newhope, John Aller-director of the Stark County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, and Jim Huntington-superintendent of the Ashland County Board of DD.*



*Director John Martin and Richland Newhope Superintendent Liz Prather stopped at the City Garden Café in Mansfield City Hall for a tour and a quick lunch following the SFSC event. Sean Conrad takes their order while Manager Mike Bradley explains how the café operates. The café, a partnership with Richland Newhope Industries and the City of Mansfield, helps individuals with DD gain employment skills so they can transition into other community-based jobs. Several former Café employees now are working in Mansfield-area restaurants.*

*See more event photos on [DODD's Facebook page](#). SFSC contacts: DODD: Kerry Francis, [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov); OhioMHAS: Eric Wandersleben, [eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov)*

## **The Morrow County Story – Community Engagement**

*As Ohio County Boards of DD prepare to accelerate their levy campaigns during the two months left before ballots are cast on November 4, there is a lot to be learned from the Morrow County Board of DD. The tireless efforts of the Community Partners and the levy committee resulted in passage of a replacement levy and 1.5 mill increase (3.0 mill total) in May 2014, by 51.49 percent. Special thanks to Superintendent Nancy Fogelson, for sharing their story.*

Connections. Relationships. Partnerships. The value of what these three words represent cannot be measured. Over a decade ago, the Morrow County Board of DD lost much more than renewal levies. They lost the trust and support of their community, and ultimately their identity. Without the renewals, the county board spent the next decade trying to pass a new levy in a community where rumors and misinformation fueled doubt and confusion.

In 2012, with a new strategic plan and a primary goal of building county-wide awareness, the County Board launched a year-around plan to rebuild connections, develop relationships, and foster partnerships. Restoring relationships proved much more difficult than cultivating new ones. In a rural county where activities typically involve small groups, and the only local media consists of a weekly newspaper and weekend advertiser, a communication plan relies heavily on a grassroots campaign.

The plan included finding connections with special interest groups and civic organizations. A group of adults who worked in the scanning department of the Board's Whetstone Industries formed The CopyCats, a musical group. They began spreading awareness through their performances. At the same time, self-advocates developed a speakers' bureau and accompanied County Board leadership

throughout the county. Maggie Clark, Community Integration Specialist, shared, “A speaking engagement at the Morrow County Democratic Women’s Club, included a CopyCats performance that found everyone on their feet dancing to the music, and launching a valuable partnership.”

Just before the November 2013 election, the growing group of supporters offered their help. Unfortunately, the levy failed -- but with a close margin that sparked new life. Devastation was then replaced with a passionate interest by these new friends. They formed a nonpartisan group, Community Partners, with a mission to support individuals with developmental disabilities in the county. Their secondary goal was to support the local levy committee in passing a levy.

Morrow County Board of DD Superintendent Nancy Foglesong explained,

*“This volunteer ‘army’ added the synergy that had been missing. With a range of experience from education to political activism, these dedicated volunteers organized committees to cover all aspects of a campaign. They scheduled speaking engagements, generating credibility and support for the County Board as they joined leadership team members and self-advocates in presenting accurate information, educating and inciting others to share facts.”*



*The Morrow County Community Partners receive the Clearwater Council of Government (COG) Wave Award. The partnership continues as the Community Partners help to develop community connections and share their unique talents. Individuals, families, and staff of the Morrow County Board of DD, will continue to cultivate the special friendships that have developed.*

She continued, “They conducted public town hall meetings and door-to-door campaigns. They distributed newsletters and levy materials. They offered support to families willing to share their personal stories. Connections. Relationships. Partnerships. That’s what has made the difference for Morrow County.”

*Contact: Superintendent Nancy Foglesong, Morrow County Board of DD, 419-947-9222*

## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness, Prevention

DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) in support of Ohio's FASD initiatives to promote a clear message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies. The Department joins OHT partners in observing September 9 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This day was chosen to mark the ninth day of the ninth month of each year to remind people, worldwide, that women should abstain from alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy.

In July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners released a [toolkit](#) to help communities raise awareness about FASD. Pre-natal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments. The kit includes information about how to access additional materials on the subject, and more detailed information about [the incidence of FASD](#), and how alcohol use during pregnancy affects infants.

### FASD is 100 percent preventable!

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a general 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, and help family members to better understand the issues.

*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](http://www.NotASingleDrop.org)*



*If these healthy babies could talk, they would say, "Expecting? Remember, not a single drop!"*

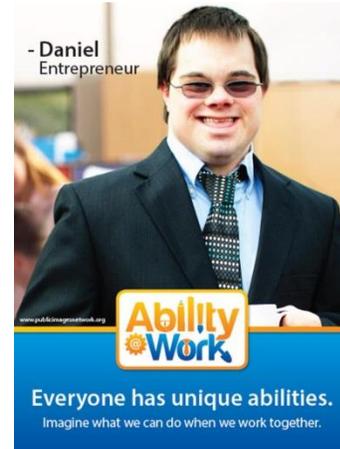
*Learn more at the [FAS Community Resource Center website](#), and at [www.fasday.com](http://www.fasday.com)*

## Ramping Up for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the 2014 theme for [National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM, October\)](#), "Expect. Employ. Empower." [Additional information is online](#), including promotional items, many of which are free. Complementing this theme, Ohio Public Images (OPI) offers the 2014 DD Awareness-themed *Ability@Work* materials suitable for NDEAM celebration and recognition events. Visit the OPI online [store front](#) for information.



*U.S. Department of Labor posters*



*Ohio Public Images posters*

### Working Together: Statewide Employment Conference, September 15-16

Just ahead of NDEAM is a statewide employment conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. *Working Together* is organized by the Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and the University of Cincinnati/ University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The conference will bring together people with disabilities and their families, as well as providers and County Board staff to learn from national and state leaders about expanding employment options for people with disabilities. Several prominent national experts and Ohio leaders for community and integrated employment for people with disabilities will be featured speakers. Go to the [event website](#) to register and learn about the presentations.

## Pipeline Pix

### Community Concepts Groundbreaking Ceremony

In early August, Community Concepts held a groundbreaking ceremony for two 6-bed homes (Intermediate Care Facilities) to be located in West Carrollton, Ohio. The homes will be part of the state's Developmental Center (DC) downsizing collaborative efforts, whereby DC Community Resource Coordinators assist with the transition into the community home.

*More about Community Resource efforts in [Pipeline, December 4, 2013](#).*



### ***Shovel Ready***

*Breaking new ground are (l. to r.) Carl, Ray, Zina, and Keith, along with City of West Carrollton officials and the owners of Community Concepts. Photo courtesy, Sara Lawson*

## **Service & Support Administrators Forum**

More than 350 Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) representing County Boards of DD from around the state convened at the Xenos complex in Columbus last week for an SSA Forum sponsored by the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD (OACB). DODD Director John Martin was among the many speakers who addressed the group. He presented updates on various DODD initiatives, including the Ohio Shared Living approach to residential services, focusing on family homes in the community.



### ***Getting Organized***

*The conference space filled quickly, as the roomful of SSAs interacted before the program began.*

# PostScripts

## **Alive Inside: Columbus Premiere, September 4**

*Alive Inside*, a 2014 Sundance Award-winning documentary that explores the healing power of music for people with dementia, will premiere in Columbus on September 4 at the Drexel Theater in Bexley, beginning a two-week run. The film follows Dan Cohen, founder and executive director of Music & Memory, a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of personalized music to improve the lives of elderly people, and people with disabilities or serious illnesses. Find out more, and [see a short clip of the movie](#). Care givers to visit the ODA site for more information on [Music and Memory](#).

## **Ohio Veterans Bonus: Deadline is December 31**

Providers, County Board staff, and DODD staff are focused on service, and some have given back to their country by serving in the military. If you or a family member served in the Iraq War or the Afghanistan War, you may be eligible for the Ohio Veterans Bonus. The Bonus is available to military service members who served anywhere in the world during the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. The next-of-kin of eligible service members who are killed or die as a result of injuries or illness sustained in Iraq or Afghanistan also may receive the Bonus. Veterans of the Iraq War era have until December 31, 2014, to apply for the bonus; no end date has been announced for veterans of the Afghanistan War era. Service members and veterans must have entered the military from Ohio and be an Ohio resident at the time they apply. For more information about eligible service dates and how to apply, call 877-644-6838 and select option two, or visit [www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov).

## **Reminder: 2014 Transition Bootcamp Conference, September 19**

Transition Bootcamp, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Cincinnati, is a conference for parents/caregivers and educators or other professionals interested in transition preparation from high school to adult life for young people with disabilities. Conference topics include education and employment, post-secondary education, housing, recreation, guardianship alternatives, and estate planning. There also will be a vendor fair presenting agencies and businesses that provide services to transition-age youth and young adults. Transition Bootcamp is organized by a planning committee of community organizations and parents/caregivers. See [conference registration and more information](#). Contact is Ilka Riddle, 513-803-3620 or [ilka.riddle@cchmc.org](mailto:ilka.riddle@cchmc.org).

## **Promoting Healthy Choices -- Training, September 30**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee one-day conference, *Promoting Healthy Choices*, is September 30 in southwest Ohio. The conference will focus on accessing resources and promoting healthy living for people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. The training will be useful for nurses, SSAs, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. Conference speakers include: Erica Coleman, University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in DD; Susan M. Havercamp, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center; and, Beth Marks, University of Illinois. Breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee. The

Healthcare Advisory Committee is an independent non-profit organization that provides up-to-date information on health and related matters to nurses and others who are responsible for assuring the health and safety of people with DD. More information and registration is at <http://highdd.org>.

### **Synergy Conference, October 1-3**

2014 SYNERGY Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) will be October 1-3 at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Dublin. Conference sessions target DD professionals, individuals with DD, parents, guardians, family members, County Board staff, and other service providers. Registration and conference information is online at [www.synergyohio.org](http://www.synergyohio.org).

### **OPRA Conference, October 21-22**

Planning is well underway for the 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference, October 21-22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Dublin. OPRA conferences offer an opportunity to learn about the latest issues facing providers, and hear from first-rate speakers. More information is at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org), or contact Teri Derry at 614-224-6772, [tderry@opra.org](mailto:tderry@opra.org).

### **Ohio SIBS Conference, November 7-8**

The 14th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (SIBS) will be November 7-8, at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference provides a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. Speakers will include: Andrew McQuaide, an adult sibling who works for the State of Rhode Island Department of DD; Meghan Burke, an adult sibling who works for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, Kim Linkinhoker, associate director for the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Register at [www.OhioSIBS.com](http://www.OhioSIBS.com).

### **Save the Date! Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3, 2015**

The annual DD Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse is set for March 3, 2015. This event has grown during the past ten years to include self advocates from across the state speaking about their successes and their perspectives on opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. It also is an opportunity for self advocates, their families, staff, and caregivers, to network and speak with legislators about issues important to them. Read more about this event in *Pipeline* as details become available.

### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: **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.



Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

**The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.**

## Stay Connected!

Get timely news and access to news, the Provider Search, County Board contact information, and other relevant information from your desktop, laptop, tablet, or phone.



**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Department-of-Developmental-Disabilities/124333821004961#!/pages/Ohio-Department-of-Developmental-Disabilities/124333821004961>



**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/#!/DODDohio>



**YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/DODDohio>



**DODD Mobile App:** <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Mobile.aspx>

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

**John L. Martin, Director**

**Volume 8, Issue 19**

**September 17, 2014**

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## **September is National Preparedness Month**

See article number six in this issue.

### **Helping Families Make Informed Choices**

To help individuals and their families make well-informed choices about who provides services for their family member, DODD now is posting provider compliance reports on the Department's website. This new feature was part of DODD's request in the state's Mid-Biennium Review bill ([HB 483](#)) to make information about providers readily available.

"Determining who should provide care for your family member is an important decision, and there are many considerations," said Kate Haller, deputy director of the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight, responsible for provider compliance. "Having the reports readily available will help families have more information when they're making those decisions."

Compliance reviews may be completed on a one-, two-, or three-year cycle, said Kelly Mosely-Miller, assistant deputy director of the Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR). OPSR manages the compliance review process and conducts compliance reviews. The reviews are designed to ensure

providers comply with all federal and state regulations, including Medicaid requirements. They also are an opportunity to work with providers to help them improve.

“A lot goes in to serving individuals in a complex system, and it’s not uncommon for a provider to have citations during a compliance review,” said Miller. She added,

*“Our team is here to help providers identify any issues and develop a plan to correct them. This process improves the experience for the individuals we serve, and helps providers strengthen their businesses.”*

The reports are posted in the [Provider Search feature](#) on DODD’s website. Provider Search includes a complete overview of a provider, including what services a provider is licensed to offer, the compliance review report, the expiration date of their current license, and contact information.

Reports for 2013 and 2014 currently are online, and new reports will be posted as they are completed. Reports for 2012 and earlier are available by request, but will not be posted online.

County Boards and providers are encouraged to let families know about this new tool. Information will be posted on the [home page of DODD’s website](#), and tips on accessing the reports will be posted on the [Provider Search page](#).

## Reviewing Compliance Reports

Follow these steps to access the online compliance reports:

1. Go to the [Provider Search](#) feature on DODD’s website.
2. Complete the online form. If you are looking for a specific provider or service, you can narrow your results by location, service, and provider name. A few tips:
  - In the first section (Type), check the box “Include Providers Not Accepting New Individuals” to return all providers that meet your criteria, not just those who have capacity to accept new individuals.
  - If you are looking for a compliance report for a specific facility, you will need to search under the provider’s name, not the facility name.
3. Click “Search” at the bottom of the page, and your results will appear.
4. If the provider had a compliance review in 2013 or later, the report will be listed in the second column, “Compliance Report” – you will see a PDF icon.
5. Click on the icon, and the compliance report will open. You can read the report online. To print the report, click on tools (“>>”) in the upper right corner of the report and select “Print.”
6. Return to your current search or start a new search by clicking on the buttons above the compliance report.

If you are unable to find the report you are looking for, please contact the Office of Provider Standards and Review at 614-466-6670.

## Strategic Planning Leadership Group Sharpens Focus

The DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) explored more ways to improve services for Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities on September 9, when the group began to identify specific recommendations and benchmarks to move the system forward over the next ten years. Areas

discussed included employment, shared living/host homes as residential service options, nursing services in waivers, and wages for Direct Support Professionals. The draft benchmarks will be reviewed and fine-tuned over the next few months, and then will become recommendations for the biennium budget. The next meeting of the SPLG will be October 7, at which time additional topics will be discussed for the benchmarking process. DODD Director John Martin noted during the September 9 meeting,

*“We appreciate the work being done by this important stakeholder group, as it leads us forward to a more sustainable system, and ultimately to better lives for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”*



**Benchmarking doesn't have to be all work and no fun.** DODD Deputy Director Kate Haller facilitates a discussion, as the group interacts with members across the room. (L to R) Kate Haller (forefront); Tami Grogg, self advocate; Willie Jones, Ohio Association of County Boards; Pat Cloppert, The Autism Association; Kathy Phillips, Ohio Waiver Network; and, Judith Murray and Gary Tonks, The Arc of Ohio.



**Another point of view.** Karla Rinto, executive director of Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) makes a point, and invites more comments from fellow stakeholders.

The SPLG meets regularly to engage Ohio's developmental disabilities community to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. The group is comprised of approximately 20 people representing more than ten organizations, and includes people participating in services, family members, people providing services, and agency staff.

## News from the Office of Health Transformation

### Ohio Hits Home Care Targets One Year Early

In June 2013, Ohio was awarded \$169 million in additional federal Medicaid matching funds as a result of the state's commitment to direct half of all Medicaid long-term care funding to home- and community-based alternatives rather than higher-cost nursing homes and other institutional settings by September 30, 2015. On September 10, 2014, the Ohio Department of Medicaid announced it had surpassed the spending target one full year ahead of the federal deadline.

The federal award was made under the Balancing Incentive Program, which also requires states to make structural improvements in long-term care, such as a single-point-of-entry system for beneficiaries, conflict-free case management services, and a standardized tool to assess a person's level of care. The Office of Health Transformation has posted [additional information on their website](#) regarding this accomplishment.

## Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals

Last week, Ohio celebrated [National Direct Support Professionals \(DSPs\) Recognition Week](#), spotlighting DSPs' commitment to supporting people with developmental disabilities. A statewide celebration and recognition event, sponsored by the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(OADSP\)](#) in partnership with service providers, included opening remarks by DODD Director John Martin, who shared some observations on how DSPs' creativity has made a huge difference in so many lives, including that of his son. Following a personal story on the subject, he observed,

*"You use your creativity every day to do things like carve pumpkins, build birdhouses, explore a park -- supporting the interests and needs of people in ways that improve their lives. Thank you for your creativity in bringing these kinds of experiences to people with developmental disabilities each day."*

In addition, he acknowledged that changes in the statewide developmental disabilities system are ultimately changes in peoples' lives. "We are looking at how to best manage change in a planful way, and be mindful of the very foundation of our service system – people like you."



*Left: (L.to R): Donna Lawson, Fatica Ayers, Valencia McAfee. Donna and Valencia represent Resident Home Association of Greater Dayton. They made a video entitled "DS Diva" which showed a DSP receiving costume parts as she gained trust and built a relationship with the person she supports. Donna and Valencia were presented a Film Star award by Ohio DD Council's Fatica Ayers.*

*Right: Tables at the Xenos conference center in Columbus were packed with more than 400 DSPs from throughout the state.*

In addition to debuting several original films about Direct Support Professionals made by DSPs themselves, the day's agenda included a showing of *The Key of G*, a documentary film about disability, caregiving, and interdependence. It follows Gannet, a 22-year-old man with developmental disabilities, who moves from his family home to share an apartment with a group of artists and musicians who support him -- not only as paid caregivers, but also as friends. Together, they create a uniquely successful model of supported living, and a compelling alternative to institutionalized care.

DODD salutes the work of DSPs and respects their contributions to the quality of life for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. For more information about OADSP and the professional credentialing programs offered to DSPs, visit the OADSP [event website](#), or contact Executive Director Amy Gerowitz at [agerowitz@me.com](mailto:agerowitz@me.com).

## **SFSC, on the Road in Hancock County**

Early this month, DODD Director John Martin visited Findlay to spotlight a \$162,713 [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) (SFSC) grant, awarded to the Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio, Inc., in partnership with other agencies in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, and Van Wert counties. The goal is to strengthen community partnerships in serving youth at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

The northwest Ohio project will expand an after-hours crisis response team -- the Critical Incident Stress Management protocol -- for dealing with traumatic events, and increasing respite options for children and youth who need them. Director Martin addressed a group of Findlay-area partners involved in the efforts and noted that because many children have both mental health and developmental disabilities issues, funding directed at specific services supporting them has been shown to help defuse potential crisis situations. He noted,

*“We are looking forward to convening a group of the participants in SFSC grants begun last year to see what we can learn from them toward recommending best practices. Many of these families have reported a great deal of success with these targeted efforts.”*



*In Hancock County, presenters describing the collaborative efforts supported by SFSC grant dollars included: (L. to R.) Craig Kupferberg, Findlay City Schools; Josh Ebling, Family Resource Center; Director Martin; Connie Ament, HCBDD, and Precia Stuby, Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services.*

For more information, see: [Grant to aid communities in serving at-risk youth](#); [Area counties share grant to help kids in crisis](#). SFSC contacts: DODD: Kerry Francis, [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov); OhioMHAS: Eric Wandersleben, [eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov)

## Important Reminders for National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to encourage individuals, families, businesses, and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies. Nationally, Preparedness Month efforts are led by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), (FEMA) *Ready Campaign*, in partnership with related state and local organizations.



### Helping People with Disabilities

At [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), the link "[Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People With Disabilities](#)" offers 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, and recommends keeping certain items in a "Grab and Go" bag near an individual's bed:

- First Aid kit, flashlight, battery-powered radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned food/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of any medical conditions, a three-day supply of current medications, and emergency contact phone numbers.

Staff working in Ohio's developmental disabilities community have noted success focusing on activities that encourage individuals to prepare and maintain their own emergency supply kit, practice an emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them. Service and Support Administrators have advised, "It's very important to talk about these things when you're preparing a person-centered plan, so everyone involved has the same information and knows it's been discussed." A helpful handbook, [Preparing the Workplace for Everyone](#) also may be accessed online.

*Additional information at [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)*

## **Statewide Employment Conference a Collaborative Effort**

Just ahead of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM, October), a statewide employment conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio, *WORKING Together* was hosted on September 15 and 16, and was organized by the Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and the University of Cincinnati/ University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The conference brought together more than 300 people with disabilities and their families, service providers, and County Board staff, to learn from national and state leaders about expanding employment options for people with disabilities.

Among the featured speakers were DODD Director John Martin, and Kristen Helling, DODD Employment First project manager. Director Martin observed that Ohio has been fortunate to have a governor who fully supports the Employment First mindset, and has enthusiastically followed the progress of these efforts since signing the Employment First Executive Order in 2012. He noted,

*"Community-based integrated employment for people with developmental disabilities is an issue that has generated a lot of energy around the nation, and we are very fortunate to have the support and the resources that we have here in Ohio. We approach the future with both excitement and anxiety, as we know change can be difficult at the outset."*

For additional information on the two-day conference, including presentations shared during sessions, visit the [Employment First website](#).



*Kristen Helling addressed attendees at the WORKING Together conference, and lists some of the many resources already available -- as well as under development -- to help people find meaningful employment. Both online and in-person training opportunities, helpful printed pieces for individuals who are looking for jobs, and a unique partnership with [Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities \(OOD\)](#) are just some of these resources.*

## Pipeline Pix

### The Ohio Shared Living Work Group



*The Ohio Shared Living work group meets regularly to develop an organized county-by-county approach to further developing community-based residential options in family homes for people in the state's DD services system. Currently, 13 individual counties will be exploring this approach in depth as the efforts get underway, as well as one regional effort involving several counties. Above are some representatives of the work group, which includes members of County Boards of DD, residential service providers, and agency partners including DODD,*

the Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Association of County Boards, and The Arc of Ohio. The Ohio Shared Living team has agreed to broaden the base of support for this more sustainable residential option by,

**“Making it Simple ... Keeping it Local ... and Bringing it all Together.”**

Read more about Ohio Shared Living residential options in the [Summer 2014 issue of Pipeline Quarterly](#).

## Ability Works 40th Anniversary



Ability Works' recent 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration honored the clients and customers of Ability Works, as well as the founders who opened the original Double S Industries. The Sandusky County agency's customers choose from a [range of products and services](#), including document management, customized production, and subcontracting. The celebration also noted the many [employment opportunities](#) available to individuals, including training and other services customized to their specific needs. Speakers at the celebration included U.S. Congressman Jim Jordan and Ohio State Senator Randy Gardner. Pictured (l. to r.) are Ability Works board members John M. Hoty, Carol Blackburn, and Dustin Ness.

More information about Ability Works can be found at: [www.ability-works.com](http://www.ability-works.com); 419-626-1048.

## PostScripts

### Introducing: News Posts

News Posts, a new part of PostScripts, highlights news items of particular interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. We'll continue to include links to related news stories in *Pipeline* articles, some of which may be recapped here.

- Findlay Courier: [Grant to aid communities in serving at-risk youth](#)
- WFIN: [Area counties share grant to help kids in crisis](#)
- Columbus Dispatch: [Ohio reduces spending on nursing homes](#)

## Smithsonian Museum of American History Highlights Disability History

Many stories and events related to people with disabilities never make it into the history books or shared public memories. [EveryBody: An Artifact History of Disability in America](#), an online exhibit, highlights stories and events about people with disabilities who have been present throughout American history. Familiar concepts and events such as citizenship, work, and wars become more complete, challenge our assumptions, and transform our connection with each other when viewed from the historical perspective of people with disabilities. Also a part of this online exhibit, provided by Temple University, is a select list of national and international milestones -- the [Disability History Timeline](#). It highlights people, events, and legislation affecting disability rights, from 1817 through 2001.

## Ability Center Presents: A Day at the Range, September 27

The Ohio Day at the Range and Outdoor Adventure Fair Committee proudly presents the first Annual "Ohio Day at the Range & Outdoor Adventure Fair," 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the CMP- Camp Perry in Port Clinton. This event offers people with disabilities a chance to explore area recreational opportunities. It is modeled after a successful outdoor program in Missouri ([www.SouthwestMissouriDayAtTheRange.com](http://www.SouthwestMissouriDayAtTheRange.com)) and will provide accessible fishing, shooting, archery, and craft opportunities. Admission is FREE to all people with disabilities, their families, friends, and caregivers. The event includes a lunch of hotdogs, chips, and bottled water. *Pre-registration is required!* Visit [www.abilitycenter.org/oh-day-range](http://www.abilitycenter.org/oh-day-range) to register. For more information contact Tory Thompson, event coordinator, at 419-734-0330 or [tthompson@abilitycenter.org](mailto:tthompson@abilitycenter.org).

## Final Reminder: Promoting Healthy Choices Training, September 30

The Healthcare Advisory Committee conference, *Promoting Healthy Choices*, is September 30 in southwest Ohio. The conference will focus on accessing resources and promoting healthy living for people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. The training will be useful for nurses, SSAs, direct care staff, parents, and guardians. Speakers include: Erica Coleman, University of Cincinnati Center of Excellence in DD; Susan M. Havercamp, The Ohio State University Nisonger Center; and, Beth Marks, University of Illinois. Breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee. The Healthcare Advisory Committee is an independent non-profit organization that provides up-to-date information on health and related matters to nurses and others responsible for assuring the health and safety of people with DD. Registration is at <http://highdd.org>.

## Register Now! Synergy Conference, October 1-3

The 2014 SYNERGY Conference, sponsored by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) will be October 1-3 at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Dublin. Conference sessions target DD professionals, individuals with DD, parents, guardians, family members, County Board staff, and other service providers. Registration and conference information are online at [www.synergyohio.org](http://www.synergyohio.org).

## OPRA Conference, October 21-22

The 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference, October 21-22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Dublin, will celebrate the organization's 40-Year Anniversary. The conference offers an opportunity to learn about the latest issues facing providers, and hear from first-rate speakers. More information is at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org), or contact Teri Derry at 614-224-6772, [tderry@opra.org](mailto:tderry@opra.org).

## Ohio SIBS Conference, November 7-8

The 14th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (SIBS) will be November 7-8, at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference provides a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. Speakers include: Andrew McQuaide, an adult sibling who works for the State of Rhode Island Department of DD; Meghan Burke, an adult sibling who works for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, Kim Linkinhoker, associate director for the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Register at [www.OhioSIBS.com](http://www.OhioSIBS.com).

## OACB Annual Convention, December 3-5

The 14th Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 31st Annual Convention will be December 3-5 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. In addition to a full schedule of informative presentations and sessions, OACB will present annual awards - during the three-day event. Details and registration coming soon at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>

## Reminder: Ohio Veterans Bonus, Deadline is December 31

Providers, County Board staff, and DODD staff are focused on service, and some have given back to their country by serving in the military. If you or a family member served in the Iraq War or the Afghanistan War, you may be eligible for the [Ohio Veterans Bonus](#). The Bonus is available to military service members who served anywhere in the world during the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. Next-of-kin of eligible service members who are killed or die as a result of injuries or illness sustained in Iraq or Afghanistan also may receive the Bonus. Veterans of the Iraq War era have until December 31, 2014, to apply for the bonus; no end date has been announced for veterans of the Afghanistan War era. Service members and veterans must have entered the military from Ohio and be an Ohio resident at the time they apply. For more information about eligible service dates and how to apply, call 877-644-6838 and select option two, or visit [www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov).

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 8, Issue 20

October 1, 2014

## In This Issue:

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- DODD and OOD Note One-Year Milestone
- Family Advisory Council Meeting, October 8
- Pipeline Pix: ViaQuest Honors Employees
- PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar

## Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month



A great deal of information about NDEAM is on the [Office of Disability Employment Policy website](#).

## Ohio at Forefront of Employment Efforts

A statewide employment conference in September, just ahead of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), *WORKING Together* united more than 300 people with an interest in expanding employment options for people with disabilities. There, speakers from outside Ohio made it clearer than ever that our state is several steps ahead of many others, due in part to strong support

from the top – with Governor John Kasich and his administration leading the charge on the [Employment First](#) initiative, and keeping the subject high on their radar. The event’s morning keynote speaker on [customized employment](#), Katie Wolf Whaley, with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute, noted:

*“We in Kentucky are envious of you in Ohio, with the awesome resources you are putting forward and the lead you are taking -- because employment matters! It matters a lot, and to everyone. That’s how people identify themselves.”*

Describing customized employment as a natural next step for the national DD service system to take in helping people find work that they like and are suited to doing, she remarked, “We have to listen to people and observe – what makes them enthusiastic? What have we missed before, when talking with someone about jobs?”

In a new approach to promoting NDEAM in local communities, the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) recommends ideas for each week in October -- including helping employers to launch disability Employee Resource Groups (ERGs). Sometimes referred to as Employee Networks or Affinity Groups, ERGs offer employees an opportunity to connect to and receive support from others with similar backgrounds or interests. Information about ERGs includes [A Toolkit for Establishing and Maintaining Successful Employee Resource Groups](#). The U.S. Department of Labor [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\)](#) website offers many other ideas for ways to celebrate local successes and to pave the way for more.

## Employment Success Stories

*Send your employment success stories to Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) for consideration in a future Pipeline. Please provide a short paragraph, a link for more information, and a photo.*

A great national employment story was shared by Belmont County Board of DD Communications Coordinator Pamela McCort. She explained, “I found this video about Walgreens’ commitment to hiring people with disabilities ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeUQuul\\_p7w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeUQuul_p7w) ). It is a presentation by Randy Lewis, Senior VP at Walgreens. He ties mission, meaning, and the benefits of hiring people with disabilities together beautifully.”

And, Richland County Director of Community Relations Jane Imbody sent along this billboard, now posted along the roadways in the Richland/Newhope service area, supporting the NDEAM theme:



## NDEAM History

In 1945, the U.S. Congress declared the first week in October *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. And, in 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month, and changed the name to *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*.

*Related resources are at the [Employment First website](#) and at U.S. Department of Labor [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\) website](#).*

## SFSC Grantees Gather to Further Initiative's Momentum

*In July 2013, DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (OhioMHAS) announced awards of nearly \$3 million out of a \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships to implement the Strong Families, Safe Communities (SFSC) 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. SFSC dollars also will train mental health and developmental disabilities professionals in crisis intervention.*

When DODD Director John Martin recently addressed a group of Findlay-area partners involved in [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) efforts, he noted,

*"We are looking forward to convening a group of the participants in SFSC grants begun last year to see what we can learn from them toward recommending best practices. Many of these families have reported a great deal of success with these targeted efforts."*

These first-year grantees met on September 29 and 30 to share information and ideas, and learn what approaches have had the most positive outcomes, as well as what new approaches and opportunities were discovered along the way. Each of the grantees described their local collaborative efforts to expand and improve options for families with children in crisis who present a risk to themselves, their families, or others due to mental illness and/or a developmental disability.

Information from presentations on the first day was distilled on day two, into common themes or unique approaches that could become models for future SFSC grantees and agency collaborations. DODD Director John Martin, and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck attended the meetings and noted, "We are here to listen to you, and to learn from you. We want to know what you think is worth doing elsewhere, and how the families feel about the services – how did it help their child?"

Teresa Kobelt, DODD Assistant Deputy Director attended the meetings and observed, "These projects are so impressive. For example, in the Licking/Knox collaboration their goal was to serve just over 100 people -- and they wound up serving more than 200 -- in large part because their mental health board said, 'We're going to do whatever it takes.' These are some pretty impressive outcomes."

Draft recommendations were presented on day two for consideration and review -- with an emphasis on what models and approaches might be ready to take statewide. Comments on day one included,

*"The extensive training of staff across agencies helped our Rapid Response Team (RRT) to have a common language during crises. This is very important! The multi-disciplinary teams were able to talk to each other and quickly get to the heart of a situation – helping to stabilize an individual and have a plan for the family."*

*-Micki Lamb, Athens, Hocking, Jackson and Vinton County SFSC grant.*

*“We learned that family-based, holistic interventions worked best for us. Our local partnering agencies have changed the way we work together – there’s less competition, and a more collaborative and open approach. Family outcomes have been positive. One young man stated, ‘I have never been happier in my life,’ when asked about his progress over the past year.”*

*- Darlene Pempek, Belmont/ Harrison/Monroe County SFSC grant.*



*Darlene Pempek, Belmont County (left), describes the environment of open collaboration that has developed among the SFSC partners during the past year.*

SFSC information is updated regularly at [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#). Contacts for more information are: DODD -- Kerry Francis, [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov); OhioMHAS -- Eric Wandersleben, [eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:eric.wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov)

## **Sex Offender Supervision Protocol Developed**

In August 2013, DODD convened a group to develop a supervision protocol for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex crime, to better serve these individuals and the communities in which they live. The work group was convened by Deputy Director Zach Haughawout and Associate General Counsel Vicki Jenkins, and comprised of County Board of DD staff and agency providers who have specific expertise in this field. Key tasks for the group included:

- Reviewing current practices used by County Boards and provider agencies to set supervision levels for individuals with developmental disabilities who have been convicted of a sex offense;
- Identifying specific challenges when working with this group of individuals;
- Reviewing currently available resources; and,
- Developing recommendations to assist with determining the level of supervision needed.

Group participants then developed recommendations and tools, which complement the person-centered planning process. [The new SSA tools](#) include:

- *Develop a protocol for assessments.* The [protocol](#) should include a description of who is qualified to perform the assessments, the type of information the assessments should obtain, and how to use the information to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP).
- *Develop a guide to help determine appropriate supervision levels.* The [guide](#) should aid Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) and others on a person's service team in determining supervision levels by examining supervision across settings. A supervision level [worksheet](#), Service Plan Development and Implementations Checklist for Sex Offenders, is available online.
- *Develop a tool to examine the effect of environmental factors on an individual's treatment and progress.* The [environmental assessment](#) requires SSAs and the team to examine the impact of a particular dwelling or building, as well as its location, content, and features, on an individual's treatment or progress.
- *Develop a plan for relapse prevention.* A new [worksheet](#) explains the purpose of a safety plan and the factors the SSAs and the team should consider in preparing a safety plan.
- *Develop training regarding these recommendations and tools to ensure they are useful.* The work group recognized that direct care staff often do not have the time to attend training, and will work with the Department to develop an online training program.

DODD greatly appreciates the efforts of the Sex Offender Protocol Development work group in devoting their time and expertise to discuss and prepare these recommendations and tools. Additional input and ideas for successfully serving this population are welcomed. Contact Vicki Jenkins at [Vicki.Jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Vicki.Jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov).

More information, tools on the SSA work space: <https://sites.google.com/site/ohiododdssa/tools-from-dodd>

## **DODD and OOD Note One-Year Milestone**

It has been a year since the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission changed its name to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), and the agency has begun to see gains in awareness and understanding, according to OOD Director Kevin Miller. He stated, "The reason why we felt it was important to change our name is that people need to understand that we are a jobs program. We connect Ohioans with disabilities to quality employment opportunities."

OOD has reported that, as of August, more than 4,000 Ohioans had received vocational rehabilitation services and were job-ready, compared to the 2,291 who were job ready one year ago. In addition, when compared to last year at this time, OOD has written 917 more Individualized Plans for Employment, successfully employed and closed 775 more disability determination cases, and increased the total number of Ohioans served by 1,938.

During the past 12 months, DODD partnered with OOD to improve employment options for people with developmental disabilities via a new program designed to move individuals with DD out of sheltered workshops and other more segregated settings, and into jobs in the community (*See [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)*). The effort matches adults with community-based jobs, and provides training and support services to help them keep those jobs.

According to DODD Director John Martin, the service model is groundbreaking -- with OOD job counselors placed in County Board of DD sheltered workshops, working closely with individuals to learn

about their skills and interests. The program targeted about 5.5 percent of the people currently employed in these settings to receive the new vocational services during the first year. "I'm not aware of anybody else doing this in the country," he said.

***Funded by about \$1.75 million in state dollars, along with federal matching money through OOD, the total financial support for the partnership is about \$7 million per year.***

The plan, along with other OOD and DODD efforts, reflects Ohio's Employment First initiative, supporting community employment for people with disabilities as a preferred outcome for adults in the service system.

## Family Advisory Council Meeting, October 8

### DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin to Retire in November

On October 8, the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will welcome several exciting speakers -- including families themselves -- discussing topics of interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. This meeting also marks the last one with DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin at the helm. She will retire in November, following approximately 20 years in the DD field, 12 of which have been with the Department.

Presenters at this meeting will include longtime advocate and sibling Dean Fadel, with his brother Jeff, who each will offer their versions of "My sib is my greatest fan." Dean and Jeff have spoken widely on the subject of being themselves, and they tell it like it is. In addition, a group of extended family members and support staff will present, "Everyone working together for Marsha." Marsha Mace's story has been featured in [Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2014](#), and helps to illustrate the concept of family host-homes (shared living) as a strong residential option.

Also on the agenda are DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips, who will provide updated information for families on Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs), and self advocate Christine Brown, who will share her knowledge and experiences about self advocacy, and what self advocates can do to be better informed about things that matter to them.



*Peggy Martin (left), with daughter Jennifer. Peggy has been the DODD Family Advocate for 12 years and will be retiring in November.*

Family Advisory Council is open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The meetings are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the training room at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street in Columbus. If you plan to attend this meeting please RSVP to Michele Kanode at [Michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Pipeline Pix

### ViaQuest Honors Employees



***A great attitude at work makes all the difference to their employer. (L. to R.) Wally, Trevor, and William stand to be recognized for their contributions to MCR Medical, their employer. MCR hired them to work four days per week in the company warehouse after initially working for MCR at the ViaQuest/Grove City day program -- going from a piecework pay rate there, to an hourly rate at MCR. During a moving presentation by motivational speaker John O'Leary, Trevor volunteered that he was overcoming current health challenges because he is motivated to work and be healthy. MCR owners Karen and Charlie Morrison stated,***

***"They are trustworthy, skilled, and productive. Once we met the folks at ViaQuest, the possibilities for our business were limitless. These guys have given us our lives back, as the business was growing so fast it was impossible for us to keep up."***

## PostScripts

### Election Day is November 4 – Register to Vote by October 6

The deadline to register to vote in the November 4 election is Monday, October 6. Not sure if you're already registered? Check the Ohio Secretary of State's [My Voter Information website](#) to find out. Individuals can register to vote in person at [many locations throughout Ohio](#), including [their local Board of Elections](#), local office of the [Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles](#), and public libraries. They also can [download a PDF of the voter registration form online](#), fill it out, sign it, and mail it to their county board of elections. There will be seven

County Board of DD levy issues on November 4 ballots, including Ashland, Athens, Holmes, Monroe, Paulding, Perry, and Pike County Boards. More information will be in the October 15 *Pipeline*.

## Please Take Our Website Survey

It's time to refresh our website – [dodd.ohio.gov](http://dodd.ohio.gov) – and we want feedback from you, our users. Please take a few minutes to tell us how we can improve the site by completing this survey. We'll use your feedback to make improvements to the site.

## Reminder: Compliance Reviews Now Online

Compliance reviews for Ohio service providers now are posted on [the DODD website](#) in the Provider Search section. To find specific information follow the [simple steps](#) to access desired information.

## New Report Available: Making Healthcare Reform Work

You may remember participating in an online survey, focus group, and/or a health care summit between March and June of 2013. The report resulting from this work, "[Making Healthcare Reform Work for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)," now has been released by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. It includes a review of many issues related to health care access for individuals with disabilities.

## News Posts

News Posts highlight news items of particular interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. Links to related news stories noted in *Pipeline* articles, also may be recapped here.

- Cincinnati Enquirer -- [Opinion: Community Jobs Preferred](#)

## Project STIR Training Opportunities During October

Steps Towards Independence & Responsibility (STIR) Training is *by and for* people with disabilities. Trainers are Project STIR graduates trained by the Ohio Self Determination Association. Training is designed to provide tools to help individuals with DD advocate for themselves, connect with other advocates, and gain leadership experience that can lead to community employment. Click on the date-links below to register.

[October 8, 2014](#): 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., Wayne National Forest, 13700 US Highway 33, Nelsonville

[October 10, 2014](#): 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Queensgate, Hamilton County DD, 801 A West 8th St., Cincinnati

[October 29, 2014](#): 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2012 West 25th St., Suite 900, Cleveland

## OPRA Conference, October 21-22

The 2014 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference, October 21-22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Dublin, will celebrate the organization's 40-Year Anniversary. The conference offers an opportunity to learn about the latest issues facing providers and hear from first-rate speakers. Topics will include Strengths-Based job matching, Ohio Shared Living residential options, and provider-controlled settings under the HCBS rule. Registration is at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org). Contact is [Teri Derry](#) at 614-224-6772, [tderry@opra.org](mailto:tderry@opra.org).

## Job Coach Academy, October 22

A job coach training will be offered October 22 at the DoubleTree/Akron, 3150 W. Market St., from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Senior Employment Consultant Mike Heifner will present hands-on, practical skills. Job coaches can leave the training with skills that can immediately improve employee retention outcomes. Training includes developing an Employment First culture, understanding learning styles, career development, and more. Cost is \$119 per person and includes training materials and lunch. Register at [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com).

## Supported Employment Excellence Training, November 3

Supported Employment Excellence Training will be offered November 3, at Quest Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Senior Employment Consultant Mike Heifner will present information about Ohio's supported employment funding systems. Cost is \$119 per person and includes training materials and lunch. Register at [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com).

## Ohio SIBS Conference, November 7-8

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (SIBS) will be November 7-8, at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference provides a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. Speakers include: Andrew McQuaide, an adult sibling who works for the State of Rhode Island Department of DD; Meghan Burke, an adult sibling who works for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, Kim Linkinhoker, associate director for the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Register at [www.OhioSIBS.com](http://www.OhioSIBS.com). Contact for the event is Dr. Tom Fish, 614-685-8723.

## The Arc of Ohio Training, November 19

The Arc of Ohio will host a training November 19 at the Holiday Inn/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.), offering an update on Ohio's developmental disability system. To learn more about programs, challenges, and changes ahead [register now!](#)

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

**John L. Martin, Director**

**Volume 8, Issue 21**

**October 15, 2014**

## **In This Issue:**

- Spotlight on State and Local Employment Efforts
- SPLG Looks to 2024 in Benchmarking Process
- The Family Legacy – Sharing Their Stories
- Legislation Introduced, Senate Bill 367
- November 4 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD
- Pipeline Pix: Synergy Conference
- PostScripts: Several New Updates for Your Calendar



## **Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

*Information about NDEAM is on the [Office of Disability Employment Policy website](#).*

## **Spotlight on State and Local Employment Efforts**

### **Interagency Agreement Fosters Collaboration**

An interagency agreement to strengthen the network of services that will help transition students with disabilities into the workforce was signed earlier this month in Medina County, bringing additional support to current collaborative efforts. The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities

(MCBDD), area school districts, and other community-based organizations have teamed up to promote the mission and vision of the [Employment First](#) initiative, making opportunities for jobs that are integrated into the community the first priority for people with developmental disabilities. More than 20 state and local officials gathered at the MCBDD Achievement Center for the symbolic signing, where MCBDD Superintendent Annette Davis-Kramp observed, “Employment First is everyone’s business – schools, County Boards of DD, families, and employers. It is steps such as these we are taking today that will make it successful.”

Agencies supporting the interagency agreement include all Medina County local school districts, MCBDD, Medina County Educational Services Center, and several local community partner agencies. The DODD Employment First team is excited about the new opportunities that can evolve from a county-wide approach. Speaking at the signing, Employment First Project Manager Joe Kowalski noted,

*“Medina County is helping to lead the way in terms of leveraging the collective strengths of local and state agencies to employ people with disabilities. While some other communities have been struggling a little with the needs of transition-age students, Medina County has found a way to energize these efforts. We will follow this approach with interest.”*



*Melanie Kasten-Krause, executive director of the Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County (sic), signs the Employment First Interagency Agreement for Transition of Students with Disabilities into the Workforce earlier this month at the Medina County Board of DD. (Photo courtesy, [Medina County Gazette](#))*

## **ODJFS New Online Services**

Furthering the statewide approach to expanding opportunities for community-based employment for people with DD, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is offering job search assistance for people with disabilities with a new online service. [OhioMeansAccessibility.com](#) works along with the ODJFS' site [OhioMeansJobs.com](#) posting resumes and providing referrals to potential employers interested in hiring people with disabilities. The website also offers information about starting a business, building financial assets, transitioning from school to work, work incentive

programs, and health care. Employers can use the site to find information about hiring incentives, workplace accommodations, employment law, and engaging a qualified and diverse workforce.

### **Agency Employee Exemplifies Ability at Work**

Individuals working in paid employment that recognizes and utilizes their skills and talents were among those honored at the recent [Synergy Conference](#) in Columbus. Among them was Michelle Marcellus, an employee of Ability Works in Sandusky. Michelle beamed a surprised smile as her name was called to receive an ESDY award recognizing her many on-the-job contributions to the agency where she ably uses her credentials – including a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Kent State University. She also is in the process of re-connecting with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) early next year to further explore other paid employment options. She stated,

*“Being presented the ESDY Award was a huge validation of my work. I sincerely want to thank my Service and Support Administrator Larrick Zirkle, and Lisa Moore, a friend and Ability Works colleague for the nomination.”*



*Michelle Marcellus (right), who received a coveted ESDY Award at the recent Synergy Conference, attended with Samantha Klinow, community employment job coach with Ability Works in Sandusky. In addition to providing administrative support and effective organizational skills in her paid position at Ability Works, Michelle facilitates a monthly self advocacy discussion group, volunteers in her community, and enjoys writing.*

### **Job Training for Better Community Employment Outcomes**

After 58 years, the Lucas County Board of DD’s Lott Industries is expanding its employment options by offering training for jobs in the restaurant/food service industry. The non-profit agency trains employees to work on-site at businesses throughout the community, and operates two facilities – one in Toledo and one in Maumee.

Lott Industries Sales Manager Tim Menke explained, “Our goal is to be more of a training facility where we teach individuals different jobs to build their skill sets so we can prepare them to find them a job in the community. With the kitchen facility at the Toledo location, we will be training people in food

preparation and related skills — everything they would need to know to work at a restaurant so they can work there successfully.”



*Lott Industries Chief Operating Officer Dan Clemens, center, with Pat Howard and Angela LaPlante at Lott Industries' kitchen. See article in [Toledo Free Press](#), photo by Christie Materni.*

## **Darke County Connections Work for Sam**

According to Eric Lee, public information specialist at the Darke County Board of DD, the agency operates under two philosophies -- Employment First, and Community First. Sam Ploch is a great example of how this dual philosophy can result in positive employment outcomes. Sam is a young man with Asperger's Syndrome who graduated from Greenville High School where he studied Interactive Media (IMTV) through Greenville's Career Tech Center. His goal is to become a professional videographer.

After graduation, Sam began working at Wayne Industries. Sam was afraid that at Wayne Industries he wouldn't be able to use his skills from IMTV, but instead he was asked to video-record events and trainings, work previously done by staff. Sam is responsible for setting up and tearing down the equipment, along with recording, copying, and cataloging the DVDs. He said,

*“It is so great to continue to use my talents that I learned in IMTV. Thankfully, Jeff Miller (Director of Wayne Industries) saw my potential.”*

Sam also is now contracted to work with two neighboring agencies as a videographer, earning well above minimum wage. In addition, he explores his love of history and nature through both paid and volunteer work in the community.



*Sam (left) wanted to learn about the Log House at [Shawnee Prairie Preserve](#). Roger Van Frank, (right) Director of Darke County Parks, met with him to discuss ways he could volunteer. Sam now is training to be the host for the Log House. This includes learning the history of the time period as well as learning skills such as using a loom and spinning wheel, and what it was like to live 200 years ago on the frontier. Through this opportunity, Sam is gaining experience and is actively engaged in what is interesting to him. Photo courtesy, [Darke Journal.com](#).*

## **Medicaid Buy-In Now Helping 9500 Ohioans**

Long-time advocate for improved employment opportunities within Ohio's DD community, Chuck Beatty recently reported updated information on the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program. This [Medicaid-funded program](#) allows individuals with disabilities who are employed to qualify for Medicaid benefits with higher income and resource limits, and to buy into Medicaid by paying a premium based on income. The program launched in 2008.

Beatty notes that, as of this month, there are now 9500 Ohioans with disabilities enrolled. In May there were 9408. Chuck tours the state providing information about Medicaid Buy-In, and is available to give a presentation on the subject, at no charge, anyplace in Ohio. He noted recently, "My personal goal of having 10,000 enrolled in Medicaid Buy-In by January 1, 2015, is looking more reachable every month."

*Connect with [DODD on Facebook](#) where we are sharing news and information highlighting NDEAM.*

*Related resources are at the [Employment First website](#) and at U.S. Department of Labor [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\) website](#).*

## **SPLG Looks to 2024 in Benchmarking Process**

The DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) met last week to delve further into the benchmarking process, planning for a stronger and more sustainable statewide developmental disabilities service system in ten years. Subjects discussed at the meeting included Developmental Centers, private Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), and waivers. DODD Director John Martin noted, "As we close-in on some final ten-year benchmark recommendations, there is some heavy lifting to do. This planning and discussion process is critical in pointing us toward a set of benchmarks that are both attainable and measurable."

SPLG members also discussed benchmarks that would support a positive lifestyle throughout a person's lifetime. Included were recommendations from self advocates, parents, and sibling advocates that address and support service delivery and system infra-structure, as well as individual life experiences and opportunities. One example included using creative strategies for recruiting, matching, and supporting more waiver recipients who choose to live in family host home settings. The draft example also stressed developing community connections and using assistive technology.

The final meeting of the SPLG will be November 4, during which the ten-year and two-year benchmark recommendations will be finalized. A report containing the recommendations will be issued before the end of the year. The SPLG also will review the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) draft Plan.



*Sharon Travis (gesturing), representing the Ohio Self Determination Association, makes a point regarding services provided to individuals in residential settings.*

## **The Family Legacy – Sharing Their Stories**

### **DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin Recognized for Service**

*Last week, the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) welcomed several exciting speakers -- including families themselves -- discussing topics of interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. The meeting also was the last one with Family Advocate Peggy Martin at the helm. She will retire in November.*

Before introducing the many presenters on the FAC meeting agenda last week, Family Advocate Peggy Martin underscored the importance of the group representing the needs and interests of all families in the statewide DD service system. She observed,

*“Reaching out to and listening to the families in our system is absolutely critical. The Department values families. We continue to learn from you, and we have all respected each other in the process of meeting -- throughout the 12 years our Family Advisory Council has been in existence. I thank you for all you have taught me. Knowledge is power!”*

DODD Director John Martin added a few thoughts on the subject, noting, “The amount of change our system is facing now and in the immediate future is huge, and it is stressful to families. We know this,

and you tell us this. So, at the Department, we must consider how to manage change so that it's not too stressful for families. We appreciate your support in working with us at these meetings and others, and your input is crucial as we work through all the plans and issues ahead."

Presenting more family insight were long-time advocate and sibling Dean Fadel, and his brother, Jeff. Dean and Jeff displayed the easy give-and-take of close siblings with and without disabilities, and they both offered this advice,

*"Don't wait too long to take an active role in your sibling's life. Don't wait until they're an adult and then start trying to get to know them. It's best when you can grow up together."*

In addition, a group of extended family members and support staff presented, "Everyone working together for Marsha." Marsha Mace's story has been featured in [Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2014](#), and helps to illustrate the concept of family host homes (shared living) as a strong residential option.

Meeting attendees also stood up to share a few words on the subject of Peggy's retirement, and there were many heartfelt stories of critically needed assistance and caring. Comments included:

*"People at state level departments are usually 'not there' for families -- especially families in small rural communities. But Peggy was there for me! She drove out in person to help me. I was in crisis, and couldn't have managed without her."*

*"Thank you for remembering that 'family' includes brothers and sisters! When people ask me about who they should talk to about a brother or sister in their family who has a developmental disability, I always say, 'Have you talked to Peggy yet?'"*



*(Left) Brothers Jeff Fadel (striped shirt) and Dean Fadel relax before their presentation to Family Advisory Council.  
(Right) Beth Roberts, parent advocate, shares her story with the group, adding, "Thank you for being so welcoming, and making us feel valued and important."*



*Parent Advocate Despina Bourbakis thanks Peggy Martin (right) for all her work on behalf of individuals and families in the DD service system.*

Family Advisory Council is open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Meetings are hosted at Columbus Developmental Center. The next meeting will be in early 2015.

*For more information about FAC, contact Michele Kanode at [michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).*

## **Legislation Introduced - SB367 to Further Scrub Dated Language**

**SB 367**, a measure to further scrub the words 'mentally retarded' from statute, was introduced last week by Senator Peggy Lehner and Senator Eric Kearney. The bill recommends changing all usages of the words 'mentally retarded' in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to the words 'intellectual disability,' 'developmental disability,' or other similar language. Although the General Assembly enacted a similar measure in 2009 (SB79), which ultimately changed the name of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the two words still appear in portions of law.

Senator Lehner noted, "Though we, as a culture, have long accepted that the terminology 'mental retardation' is outdated and insensitive, this is not yet fully reflected in Ohio law. The time has come for Ohio to recognize the rights of people with intellectual disabilities by striking stigmatizing language from our state law and joining many other states which have already done so." The new bill would provide an exception to the language change in a few instances where ORC must mirror federal law.

## **November 4 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD**

*The [Ohio Secretary of State's website](#) contains information about the November 4 ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.*

On November 4, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. [A complete list of local issues](#) appearing on the ballot is available online. There will be seven levy issues on Ohio ballots affecting County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. They are:

- Ashland County: 2.1 mills, renewal
- Athens County: 1.5 mills, additional
- Holmes County: 2.5 mills, renewal
- Monroe County: 1.0 mills, renewal
- Paulding County: 1.5 mills, renewal
- Perry County: 3.5 mills, replacement
- Pike County: 1.0 mills, renewal

To be well-informed about issues that matter to you, and to learn more about your voting rights, as well as *when* and *where* you can vote, visit [MyOhioVote.com](http://MyOhioVote.com). The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

## Pipeline Pix

### 2014 Synergy Conference Draws 600+. That's a lot of Synergy.

The combined PAR/OSDA (Professionals, Advocates, Resources/Ohio Self Determination Association) conference this month amped-up the synergy among stakeholders throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community. In addition to excellent presentations such as, "The Employment First Imperative," by [Allan Bergman](#), annual ESDY awards and other honors were presented. See them on [the OSDA Facebook page](#).



#### ***Patrick Stephan Honored; WASCO Micro-Enterprises Making Money***

*(Left photo) Steve Oster presented former DODD Deputy Director Patrick Stephan with a coveted Award of Excellence, honoring him for his efforts in helping to move the statewide DD system forward. As noted in [Pipeline, September 3, 2014](#), Stephan moved this month from his role in the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, to the Ohio Department of Medicaid.*

*(Right photo) Nancy Harris (at left, with customer) staffs a table for WASCO, a non-profit agency that provides employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities in Washington County. WASCO was one of many vendors at the Synergy Conference selling products made by individuals in micro-enterprise businesses.*

# PostScripts

## Go Baby Go! Workshop is Tomorrow

The Franklin County Board of DD will be hosting a 'Go Baby Go!' workshop October 16 at 2879 Johnstown Road. This hands-on training on power mobility will be taught by Dr. James Galloway and Dr. Sam Logan from the University of Delaware, and will include information on how children ages 0-3 who have disabilities can inexpensively gain mobility in child-size, battery-operated and adapted cars. Go Baby Go! recently was featured on NBC national news programming. For details, visit the [Go Baby Go!](#) website, or call Pat Tietz, 614-342-5777.

## Please Take Our Website Survey

It's time to refresh our website – [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) – and we want feedback from you, our users. Please take a few minutes to tell us how we can improve the site by completing [this survey](#). We're listening!

## Role of Rehab Engineering/Assistive Tech Center in Supporting Employment

A free webinar on October 27 will present information on how rehabilitation engineers and assistive technology centers have important roles in supporting employment for people with disabilities. [Register here.](#)

## News Posts

News Posts highlight news items of particular interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. Links to related news stories noted in *Pipeline* articles, also may be recapped here.

- Toledo Free Press: [Lott Industries Expanding Into Food Service Industry](#)
- Cleveland Plain Dealer: [Website offers job help for Ohioans with disabilities](#)
- Darke Journal.com: [Community Connections Help Individuals](#)

## Supported Employment Excellence Training, November 3

Supported Employment Excellence Training will be offered November 3, at Quest Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Senior Employment Consultant Mike Heifner will present information about Ohio's supported employment funding systems. Cost is \$119 per person and includes training materials and lunch. Register at [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com).

## Ohio SIBS Conference, November 7-8

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (SIBS) will be November 7-8, at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference provides a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. Speakers include: Andrew McQuaide, an adult sibling who works for the State of Rhode Island Department of DD; Meghan Burke, an adult sibling who works for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, Kim Linkinhoker, associate director for the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Register at [www.OhioSIBS.com](http://www.OhioSIBS.com). Contact for the event is Dr. Tom Fish, 614-685-8723.

## Foundation for the Challenged (FFC) Event, November 12

On November 12 at 5:00 p.m., FFC will host a reception honoring the retirement of agency Director Fran Wesseling. The reception will be followed by a performance by nationally-known Cleveland-based dance company, [Dancing Wheels](#). This event is free, but reservations are required. The events will take place at the

Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus, at 1125 College Ave. Donations will be accepted at the event. Contact Carolyn at [carolyn@ffcoho.org](mailto:carolyn@ffcoho.org) to make your reservation. Online donations can be made at [www.ffcoho.org](http://www.ffcoho.org).

### **The Arc of Ohio Training, November 19**

The Arc of Ohio will host a training November 19 at the Holiday Inn/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., offering an update on Ohio's developmental disability system. To learn more about programs, challenges, and changes ahead [register now!](#)

### **OACB Annual Convention, December 3-5**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 31st Annual Convention will be December 3-5 at the Hilton Columbus/Easton. In addition to a full schedule of informative presentations and sessions, OACB will present annual awards during the three-day event. Details and registration will be at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>. Note: The Disability Housing Network (DHN) track of sessions will be on Thursday, December 4.

### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 8, Issue 22

John L. Martin, Director

October 29, 2014

## In This Issue:

- Employment Spotlight Continues, Statewide
- Health & Safety: DODD Sponsors Combating Human Trafficking Training
- OPRA Celebrates 40 Years of Service
- Pipeline Pix: Pipeline Quarterly Preview; TAC Choir Teams Up with GCPD
- PostScripts: Several New Updates for Your Calendar



## Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

*Information about NDEAM is on the [Office of Disability Employment Policy website](#).*

## Employment Spotlight Continues, Statewide

### Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Honors Employers

The Kroger Company in Warren County, and AMC West Chester 18 Theaters in Butler County were honored by the [Governor's Council on People with Disabilities](#) (GCPD) this month as employers who have made significant contributions to the disability community in Ohio. The employers were among several GCPD awardees at the annual event last week at the Ohio Statehouse recognizing individuals and organizations in categories such as employment, advocacy, accessibility, leadership, scholarship, and legislation.

In selecting Kroger and AMC West Chester 18 Theaters, GCPD members awarded the Employer of the Year honors for, "Significantly contributing to employment opportunities for people with disabilities and welcoming the talents of all people into their businesses." According to the Warren County Board of DD, the Kroger Company has partnered with them for more than 20 years, and emphasizes ability rather than disability as the most important factor in employment, promotion, and advancement within the company.

In accepting the award for AMC West Chester 18 Theaters in Butler County, supervisory staff noted,

*"We find that our employees referred by the Butler County Board are prepared, on-time, on-the-job, and on top of things ... every day."*

GCPD's vision is to be a catalyst for system change, and to promote awareness of disability-related issues that can ultimately benefit all citizens of Ohio. The Council serves as an advisory body for the Governor and General Assembly on statewide disability issues.



#### **Warren County Kroger Company Store named an Employer of the Year.**

*Staff and employees at Kroger received a few moments in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium spotlight during the Governor's Office on People with Disabilities annual event. Pictured are: (front, L. to R.) Christy Williams, Cincinnati/Dayton Human Resource Manager, Kroger; State Senator Shannon Jones; Senchal Murphy, Columbus Talent Manager, Kroger; (back, L. to R.) Eugene Rose, Board President, WCBDD; Ryan Wise, Courtesy Clerk, Kroger; and, Eric Smucker, Courtesy Clerk, Kroger. Also named an Employer of the Year was West Chester 18 Theaters in Butler County. [See story online.](#)*

#### **Grant Boosts Transportation to Work**

The [Wayne County Community Foundation](#) recently awarded an \$8,000 grant for transporting people with developmental disabilities to jobs in the community. The Foundation invested in work opportunities for local people with DD by awarding the grant dollars to Service Provider [Horizons of Tuscarawas and Carroll Counties](#). According to the agency's Executive Director Donna Merrill, "The purpose of the grant is to purchase a vehicle for the transportation of residents in Wayne and Ashland counties with developmental disabilities to travel and from community work placements." Because

reliable transportation to and from work is often one of the most important elements of job retention, the grant serves as a positive boost toward those efforts.

## **P&G – Partnership Leads to Paid Internships**

A successful Cincinnati-area partnership named Project Reach involves high school students with disabilities participating in paid internships within Proctor & Gamble (P&G). According to Chris Filler at the [Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence \(OCALI\)](#), “Deb Stroud, a member of the *Realizing Employment First for Youth Leadership Team*, is one of the school partners that made this a reality!” Currently, four of the six P&G Cincinnati locations have begun participating in Project Reach, with plans for the final two launching in the next three months. [See the complete story](#) online. For more information, contact Chris Filler, [chris\\_filler@ocali.org](mailto:chris_filler@ocali.org). Opening the doors of opportunity to a large corporation is a great way to jump-start the transition process and realize individual potential.

## **Employment Resources – New Report**

An online resource, [I'm In To Hire](#), features a new report released by Best Buddies International in coordination with the Institute for Corporate Productivity, titled, “[Employing People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#).” The purpose of the study is to “examine the practices, outcomes, and beliefs surrounding hiring people with IDD.”

*Connect with [DODD on Facebook](#) where we are sharing news and information highlighting NDEAM.*

*Related resources are at the [Employment First website](#) and at U.S. Department of Labor [Office of Disability Employment Policy \(ODEP\) website](#).*

## **Health & Safety: Recognizing and Combating Human Trafficking**

Governor John Kasich has strengthened efforts to report and combat Human Trafficking in Ohio through a key initiative launched early this year. [The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force](#) was formed to marshal state agency resources to coordinate efforts in identifying and rescuing victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives. Eleven state agencies are members of the task force and have identified service and training gaps, and made recommendations to remedy those gaps.

An active participant in the Task Force efforts, DODD strongly supports these recommendations, and hosted a training this month for professionals within the statewide developmental disabilities service system who, at the grassroots level, can be key players in recognizing and combating human trafficking.

The training, “Combating Human Trafficking for Investigation Agents and Service and Support Administrators,” included an overview of what trafficking is, why it is a growing issue, how trafficking is defined under state and federal laws, and various reporting requirements. Participants reviewed a model of how trafficking occurs, as well as learned about cases involving victims with developmental disabilities including a discussion of vulnerabilities. The training curriculum also included specific signs and other not-so-obvious indicators of human trafficking, screening tools, and resources available.



*Elizabeth Ranade Janis (left), Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and Michelle Hannan, Director of Professional and Community Services, The Salvation Army, trained Service and Support Administrators and Investigative Agents in Ohio's DD service system on Human Trafficking, and what to do if they suspect a person with developmental disabilities is a victim of human trafficking.*

Major Unusual Incident Investigation (MUI) Unit Deputy Director Scott Phillips commented,

*"Human trafficking is a concern that impacts all Ohioans. Individuals with developmental disabilities are at particular risk as traffickers are known to prey on vulnerable populations. This training day clearly defined human trafficking, and highlighted what to look for and who to contact with any concerns. Being proactive and preparing people to address trafficking issues will go a long way in maximizing our efforts to keep people safe."*

Phillips went on to note that a system-wide approach -- with consistent information and available resources -- will strengthen Ohio's efforts to combat human trafficking and help individuals at-risk by working across agencies and communities.

*For additional helpful information, see the [Human Trafficking Information Toolkit](#).*

## **OPRA Celebrates 40 Years of Service**

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) (OPRA) Fall Conference last week celebrated the organization's 40-Year Anniversary. The theme, "Advocate, Educate, Connect," focused the historic celebration, as did opening comments by Executive Director Mark Davis. Describing the evolution of the organization since 1974, he noted, "Over the years we have asked to be *at the table* ... have been

*invited to the table ... and now are helping to set the table when it comes to policy decisions that affect the people we serve.” He added,*

*“As a coalition of service providers, we are shifting our focus from inputs or activities, to outcomes. We will move the lives of people with developmental disabilities forward when (for example) we focus not on someone brushing their teeth, but on someone having a good dental checkup. This focus on outcomes that improve lives strengthens the system for everyone.”*

The conference featured several informative sessions attended by providers from across the state, on topics including home-and community-based services, budget implications for next year, and the residential opportunities that shared living services in a family home can provide. Congratulating OPRA on 40 years of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities were several key players in the statewide DD community via a video featuring a mix of history and humor. In it, DODD Director John Martin observed,

*“I appreciate the role OPRA has played in our system to make it stronger and better, overall. We look forward to the continued partnership in moving the statewide service system forward.”*



*Celebrating 40 years of service to Ohioans with developmental disabilities, OPRA Executive Director Mark Davis and Board President Janice Hall pause for a photo at the conference. They agreed, “A qualified, sustainable workforce is our number one priority.”*

OPRA is among the many stakeholders involved in the DODD [Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#), currently in the process of recommending benchmarks for Ohio’s DD service system over the next ten years. The Department appreciates the involvement of OPRA staff in this process.

*More information is available at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org); contact [Teri Derry](#) at 614-224-6772.*

# Pipeline Pix

## Pipeline Quarterly Preview!

The autumn issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing next month, will be focused on community-based integrated employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. There's a lot going on around the state, and not just in large cities! For example, we checked back with Michael and April Richards in Hillsboro (Highland County), to find out how their business, M&A Small Engine Repair, is doing. We featured the business in *Pipeline Quarterly, Spring 2013*. While following up, we learned about a few new twists and ideas, including help from assistive technology. All issues are archived online at [Pipeline Quarterly](#).



*M&A Small Engine Repair owner Michael Richards (center) updates his employment support team about business at the shop, located in downtown Hillsboro. (L. to R.) Craig Walker and Casey Fraley, Highland County Board of DD; Erin Shaffer, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; and Michael's wife and business partner, April.*

## TAC Choir Teams Up with Governor's Council for O-H-I-O!



*The TAC choir, representing Clark County area developmental disabilities services organizations, energized the crowd at the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities annual meeting this month (see Employment article,*

*this issue) with several musical selections, including the ever-popular ‘Hang on Sloopy’ -- punctuated by several enthusiastic choruses of “O-H-I-O!”*

## PostScripts

### REMINDER: November 4 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

On November 4, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. The [seven levy issues on Ohio ballots affecting County Boards of DD](#) are in the following counties: Ashland, Athens, Holmes, Monroe, Paulding, Perry, and Pike. [A complete list of local issues](#) appearing on the statewide ballot is available online. The [Ohio Secretary of State's website](#) contains detailed information about the ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to voters with disabilities.

### Largest DD Waiver Provider Fair in Ohio – November 19

It's growing! The largest DD waiver provider fair in Ohio will be bigger than ever this year and is now located at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, Wednesday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. You can learn about who is providing what services and where, plus much more. There will be entertainment, snacks, and free parking! Providers contact Joni Sparks, [joni.sparks@fcbdd.org](mailto:joni.sparks@fcbdd.org); individuals and families contact your Franklin County Board of DD service coordinator, or Alex Corwin at [alex.corwin@fcbdd.org](mailto:alex.corwin@fcbdd.org).

### News Posts

News Posts highlight news items of particular interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community. Links to related news stories noted in *Pipeline* articles, also may be recapped here.

- Dayton Daily News: [Kroger Company Receives Employer of the Year Award](#)
- Cable News Network: [Kroger Named Employer of the Year](#)

### Last Call for Registration! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 7-8

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference (Ohio SIBS) will be November 7-8 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. The conference provides a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. Speakers include: Andrew McQuaide, an adult sibling who works for the State of Rhode Island Department of DD; Meghan Burke, an adult sibling who works for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, Kim Linkinhoker, associate director for the Ohio Association of County Boards of DD. Register at [www.OhioSIBS.com](http://www.OhioSIBS.com). Event contact is Dr. Tom Fish, 614-685-8723.

### Foundation for the Challenged (FFC) Event, November 12

FFC will host a reception honoring the retirement of agency Director Fran Wesseling on November 12 at 5:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus, at 1125 College Ave. The reception will be followed by a performance of the nationally-known Cleveland-based dance company, [Dancing Wheels](#). This event is free, and reservations are required. Contact Carolyn at [carolyn@ffcoho.org](mailto:carolyn@ffcoho.org) to make your reservation. For more information visit [www.ffcoho.org](http://www.ffcoho.org).

### OCALICON 2014 - National Conference, November 19-21

OALICON, considered the nation's premier autism and disabilities conference, will be held on November 19-21 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Ami Klin, Chief of Autism and Related Disorders at Emory University and Dani Bowman, Animator, Illustrator and Writer. More than 140 sessions are scheduled, and the 2014 OCALI awards will be presented. For details or to register, go to [www.ocalicon.org](http://www.ocalicon.org).

### **The Arc of Ohio Training, November 19**

The Arc of Ohio will host a training November 19 at the Holiday Inn/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., offering an update on Ohio's developmental disability system. To learn more about programs, challenges, and changes ahead [register now!](#)

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### **SAVE THE DATE! DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3, 2015**

Next year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day will be March 3, 2015, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and Museum Gallery. Mark your calendars, and if you haven't attended before, [here's some information about the 2014 event](#).

### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Volume 8

John L. Martin, Director  
November 5, 2014

## Pipeline EXTRA! Results of Voting on November 4 County Board of DD Levy Issues

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Following are results for the issues on November 4 ballots affecting Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities:

- Ashland County: 2.1 mills, renewal **PASSED, by 63.8 percent**
- Athens County: 1.5 mills, additional **PASSED, by 58.8 percent**
- Holmes County: 2.5 mills, renewal **PASSED, by 64.8 percent**
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional **FAILED, 59.4 percent rejected**
- Monroe County: 1.0 mill, renewal **PASSED, by 66.9 percent**
- Montgomery County: 7.21 mills renewal and 1 mill increase – as part of a combined health and human services levy to provide funding to five county agencies, the measure **PASSED, by 64.1 percent**
- Paulding County: 1.0 mill, renewal **PASSED, by 61.9 percent**
- Perry County: 3.5 mills, replacement **FAILED, 51.6 percent rejected**
- Pike County: 1.0 mill, renewal **PASSED, by 61.7 percent**

**Corrections and Additions:** The October 15 Pipeline omitted Marion DD and Montgomery DD levy requests. The local ballot issue database generated by the Ohio Secretary of State's (SOS) office was incomplete, leading to gaps in our compilation. The SOS office has been contacted regarding this matter.

Results are unofficial as of 11:30 p.m. 11-4-14 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](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.



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 8, Issue 23

John L. Martin, Director

November 12, 2014

## In This Issue:

- Our Future: New Information Resources
- Administration Update: Budget Considerations and More
- Strategic Planning Leadership Group Wraps Up Meetings
- National Family Caregivers Month: Siblings Offer Support and Input
- Pipeline Pix: Pipeline Quarterly Spotlights Employment
- PostScripts: New Updates for Your Calendar into 2015

The next issue of Pipeline, November 25, is our annual Thanksgiving Issue.



It will highlight some things for which we, in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, are thankful. Again this year we invite you to tell us for what *you* are thankful. Please submit items for consideration by November 19, to [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, is best. Here is last year's Thanksgiving Issue: [Pipeline, November 20, 2013](#)

## Our Future: New Information Resources

As 2015 moves into view, we are moving ahead to several busy months including budget considerations, with Governor John Kasich announcing the biennial budget in early February. In addition, new guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that redefine reimbursement for waiver services, and discussions around services currently provided in large institutional settings are at the forefront of our work.

A new area on our [DODD website](#), at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture), offers a preview of work in-process, and addresses changes currently taking place in the statewide DD service system. Look for updated information in the Our Future section including answers to frequently-asked questions regarding systems change, and documents concerning state budget testimony and other matters. In addition, the site soon will be updated with a comment form that can be used to provide feedback on the topics of

systems transformation and CMS rule changes. As noted online, we need everyone to be a part of this process. In addition to staying informed, we need everyone – individuals, families, advocates, providers, County Board Staff, and more – to share input. We hope that site users will find the Our Future section of our website to be useful and helpful, and look forward to everyone’s participation in working together.

## **Administration Update: Budget Considerations, and More**

Discussing the overall scope of the upcoming budget, Gongwer News Service and several statewide news outlets recently reported that Office of Health Transformation Director Greg Moody affirmed plans to, once again, introduce Medicaid expansion in the budget -- and said the administration also is looking at several policy changes. He stated, "There will be a lot of reforms though. We're not taking anything for granted. I'm actually excited that we have John McCarthy, (Department of Medicaid) Tracy Plouck (Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services), John Martin (Department of Developmental Disabilities) - all of our directors have some really exciting improvements in all their programs, and it's going to be a good budget."

Director Moody also noted that a key element in the overall budget discussions is the concept of personal responsibility in relation to Medicaid and other welfare benefits.

### **Update from the Office of Health Transformation (OHT)**

OHT recently announced that the Ohio General Assembly has established an Adult Protective Services (APS) Funding Workgroup to set priorities for spending \$10 million in one-time money to improve Ohio’s APS system. The workgroup recently [reported its recommendations](#) to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and the agency will seek authority from the Ohio Controlling Board to distribute the funds. The recommendations support county-level planning that builds capacity to meet APS program requirements, and a statewide infrastructure that supports county APS activities.

[HB 483](#) established the APS Funding Workgroup and instructs the workgroup to investigate programmatic or financial gaps in the adult protective services system, identify best practices currently employed at the county level as well as those that can be integrated into the system, identify areas of overlap and linkages across all human services programs, and coordinate with the Children Services Funding Workgroup at ODJFS. The APS workgroup is charged with addressing this subject keeping in mind the [OHT Guiding Principles](#) including value and transparency. A new [video](#) about APS in Ohio is available for more information.

## **Strategic Planning Leadership Group Wraps Up Meetings**

The final meeting of the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) last week included completing draft language for several ten-year and two-year benchmarks. The recommendations are being developed to guide the future of the statewide developmental disabilities services system, and

create a sustainable, quality environment for individuals with developmental disabilities to live, work, and learn in their communities.

DODD Director John Martin noted at the outset of the meeting that all of the benchmarks under discussion must be measurable, attainable in ten years, and not repeat what is already in state law. A report containing the recommendations will be issued before the end of the year.

The SPLG also reviewed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) draft Plan. DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Lori Horvath explained that this year, new guidelines from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) redefined reimbursement for waiver services. She noted that the information from CMS gives the Department an opportunity to see what we are doing well now, as well as what areas need improvement. She stated,

*“For example, our [Service and Support Administration rule](#) is a good example of dove-tailing nicely with what the CMS guidelines are recommending. The person-centered approach and related requirements are right in line.”*

Wrapping up the final meeting, Director Martin observed that there is a great deal of change going on the statewide DD service system, as well as on the national scene. He acknowledged the anxiety that change produces for everyone involved with the system, and also the opportunities that change provides to move forward in new or different ways. He said,

*“Our job as leaders is to manage this change. There are a lot of decisions that will need to be made. We appreciate the incredible amount of work you, as a group, have put into this process. And, we are going to continue to need your help along the way to manage change responsibly. This is a significant point in the lives of people with disabilities in Ohio.”*



*A representative group of SPLG members gathered for a group photo during a break in the benchmarking process. The final meeting was November 4, wrapping up 12 months of discussions and planning.*

# National Caregivers Month: Siblings Offer Support & Input

## OhioSIBS Conference a Model for Strengthening Families

The Ohio Adult Sibling Conference ([OhioSIBS](#)) this past weekend in Columbus provided a unique opportunity for people whose siblings have a disability to network with and gain support from each other. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference included Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) trainers sharing their expertise, as well as several state and national presenters who are adult siblings. Attendees again this year reported that the best thing about the conference is the spontaneous and natural sharing of stories and ideas that can help and support others.

During [National Family Caregivers Month](#), DODD joins OhioSIBS in saluting family caregivers -- the nearly 90 million people across the nation who play critically important and sometimes exhausting roles in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The 2014 theme is 'Care Comes Home,' acknowledging that care does not always take place in hospitals, nursing homes, or doctors' offices. In fact, most caregiving occurs in a family home, helping people who rely on them to stay at home longer, where they are happier and healthier.

At the OhioSIBS conference, topics of discussion included the fact that more and more Americans are caring for a family member with a condition due to a disability, or issues related to advancing age. And, many families headed by aging parents will be looking to their children and extended family members to step in when they are no longer able to care for a family member with a disability.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin attended the conference, and explained,

*"We often fail to recognize the extended family members, such as in-laws who marry into a family's responsibility for a sibling with developmental disabilities. Here at this conference there are several examples of how well this relationship can work for everyone involved, with a little care and planning."*



*Left: Project STIR trainers share their knowledge of self advocacy. Right: From Portage County, Kevin O'Connor (front) with his sister, Maureen Brawn, and her husband all enjoyed the camaraderie at this year's OhioSIBS conference.*

To learn more about OhioSIBS visit the [OhioSIBS](#) website or contact Dr. Tom Fish at 614-685-8723.

More information about National Caregivers' Month is at [www.caregiveraction.org/](http://www.caregiveraction.org/)

## Pipeline Pix

### Newest Pipeline Quarterly, Now Online!

All issues are archived at [Pipeline Quarterly](#).

The autumn *Pipeline Quarterly* focuses on community-based employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. There's a lot going on around the state, and not just in large cities! For example, in Greenville, we caught up with Erika, a participant in the Darke County Board of DD employment initiative, Project: Transformation. When Erika began looking for a job she knew exactly what she wanted. She loves working with senior citizens, and has a heart for serving them. *See page 9, Pipeline Quarterly, Autumn 2014.*



***On-the-Job in Darke County***

*Erika enjoys helping and interacting with residents at Village Green.*

## PostScripts

### Project STIR: Job-Seeker Support Training Series, November-January

As part of the Family and Job Seeker Support for Ohio's Employment First Initiative grant from DODD, ten Leadership Classes are offered around the state to inform job-seekers who have developmental disabilities and their families about self-advocacy, self determination, community employment, and the Employment First initiative. Information about these classes and how to register is included in a [new flyer](#). Registration is required. Additional initiatives soon will be rolled out as part of the grant. For more information, contact Dana Charlton at [dcharlto@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dcharlto@columbus.rr.com).

### Reminder: Largest DD Waiver Provider Fair in Ohio – November 19

It's growing! The largest DD waiver provider fair in Ohio will be bigger than ever this year and is now located at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, November 19, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. You can learn about who is providing what services and where, plus much more. There will be entertainment, snacks, and free parking! Providers contact Joni Sparks, [joni.sparks@fcbdd.org](mailto:joni.sparks@fcbdd.org); individuals and families contact your Franklin County Board of DD service coordinator, or Alex Corwin at [alex.corwin@fcbdd.org](mailto:alex.corwin@fcbdd.org).

## **OCALICON 2014 - National Conference, November 19-21**

OCALICON, considered the nation's premier autism and disabilities conference, will be held November 19-21 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Keynote speakers include Dr. Ami Klin, Chief of Autism and Related Disorders at Emory University, and Dani Bowman, an animator, illustrator, and writer. More than 140 sessions are scheduled, and the 2014 OCALI awards will be presented. For details or to register, go to [www.ocalicon.org](http://www.ocalicon.org).

## **The Arc of Ohio Training, November 19**

The Arc of Ohio will host a training opportunity November 19 at the Holiday Inn/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., offering an update on Ohio's developmental disability system. To learn more about programs, challenges, and changes ahead [register now!](#)

## **Supported Employment Excellence Training, December 8**

The Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) will host Supported Employment Excellence training on December 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Quest Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, in Columbus. Presenter Mike Heifner will provide information including Ten Components of Supported Employment Excellence, and how to develop an Employment First culture. Cost is \$119 per person, including lunch, or \$75 for OWN members. Register at [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com).

## **OACB Annual Convention, December 3-5**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 31st Annual Convention will be December 3-5 at the Hilton Columbus/Easton. In addition to a full schedule of informative presentations and sessions, OACB will present annual awards during the three-day event. Information and registration is at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>. Note: The Disability Housing Network (DHN) track of sessions will be on Thursday, December 4.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Statewide DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3, 2015**

Next year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day will be March 3, 2015, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and Museum Gallery. Mark your calendars! If you haven't attended before, [here's some information about the 2014 event](#).

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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John R. Kasich, Governor

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November 25, 2014

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- Our Future: Change in Public Forums, Feedback Link Online
- Family Caregivers Month: Health and Welfare a Top Priority
- The Arc of Ohio Training Spotlights Issues
- Autism Certification Program Website Launches
- Special Feature: Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community Gives Thanks
- PostScripts: New Updates for Your Calendar into 2015



## It's our annual Thanksgiving Issue!

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 appreciate your input, and take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback and comments during the year. Many *Pipeline* articles are the result of reader input. Please see the special Thanksgiving feature before PostScripts.

## Our Future: Change in Public Forums, Feedback Link Online

We have learned that there likely will be a delay in the release of the state's CMS Transition Plan, and it will not be available December 1 as planned. To ensure the DODD CMS Transition Plan Forums are meaningful for you, we are rescheduling some or all of the meetings until after the transition plan has been released. We will send an updated schedule once we confirm that date. Watch for more information about the revised schedule, and when and how to view the state's draft CMS Transition Plan. Thank you for your patience with this change.

## New Online Information, Resources

More information has been added to the [Our Future](#) website, including frequently asked questions and an online feedback form. Find answers to common questions – topics and questions will be updated regularly based on the questions submitted to DODD, so site-users are encouraged to check back often. Also, an online [feedback form](#) has been added to make it easy to submit comments and questions. Find up-to-date information about the changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system online at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture).

## Family Caregivers Month: Health and Welfare a Top Priority

DODD salutes family caregivers during [National Family Caregivers Month](#). The 2014 theme, 'Care Comes Home,' acknowledges that care does not always take place in hospitals, nursing homes, or doctors' offices, and that a large percentage of caregiving occurs in a family home. Across the nation, nearly 90 million people play this critically important and sometimes exhausting role in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. And, many families headed by parents entering their senior years will be looking to their children and extended family members to step in when they are no longer able to care for a family member with a disability.

Helping to ensure the health and welfare of all family members involved in the caregiving process is a key priority for DODD, and is the purpose of [DODD Health and Welfare Alerts](#). Ohio's health and safety system for individuals with developmental disabilities is built on incident prevention, providing timely care when needed, and appropriate reporting. The periodic Alerts provide critical information to caregivers on specific subjects for which DODD has identified a risk to peoples' health and welfare. Each Alert provides timely data, additional resources, and guidance to the field on what can be done to avoid or minimize a risk.

Toward that positive outcome, two [DODD Health and Welfare Alerts](#), Preventing the Flu, and Winter Weather have been updated and reposted online. DODD Deputy Director Scott Phillips explained,

*"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."*

Phillips added, "Each time someone takes action as a result of critical information shared in a Health and Welfare Alert, a serious injury -- or even a death -- can be avoided."

In addition, DODD supports key state agency initiatives such as [Steady U](#), a program to prevent falls, led by the Ohio Department of Aging. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization and death among Ohioans aged 65 and older. See additional specific information in the DODD Health and Welfare Alert, [Falls](#). National Family Caregivers Month offers a good opportunity to think about home safety, as well as to thank those who help others stay safe and healthy all year.

*For more information regarding DODD Health & Welfare Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at 614- 995-3810, and read [Well-Informed Newsletter, October 20, 2014](#).*

## Autism Certification Program Website Launches

A new website, [autismcertificationcenter.org](http://autismcertificationcenter.org), offers up-to-date information about *ASD In Action*, the online training and certification program being developed by DODD and OCALI (Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence). Launching in autumn 2015, *ASD In Action* is designed to help ensure that providers – including paraprofessionals, job coaches, residential facilities staff, childcare providers, and others – are properly trained to work with and meet the needs of individuals with autism.

The program, which will be free to all Ohioans, has three tiers to meet the needs of different audiences, and offers optional certification for professionals who work with individuals with autism. The website offers more information about the program, including an overview video, highlights of the modules under development, and more information about the different levels of training. The site will be updated regularly as progress continues to be made.

To receive updates about the progress of *ASD in Action* in your email inbox, join the [mailing list](#).

## The Arc of Ohio Training Spotlights Issues

Managing change responsibly was the over-arching theme of DODD Director John Martin's presentation at The Arc of Ohio Fall Training last week in Worthington, where approximately 150 participants attended to learn more about the direction for Ohio's developmental disabilities service system during the next several years. The group, comprised of parents, developmental disabilities service providers, and other professionals, also learned more about Ohio Shared Living residential options and the Employment First initiative, and heard [presentations](#) from Disability Rights Ohio, Advocates United, and People First of Ohio.

Director Martin noted, "Among the many elements of change we are facing in our future are the new federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule concerning Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), and what it means for us going forward. We are developing recommendations for the upcoming biennial budget. We do not know what the budget holds for us yet, and are working through that process now." He added,

*"It's important to note that many of the things under consideration, and challenging us at this point, have been going on for a long time – and we need to manage changes responsibly. Sometimes, the speed at which change is happening feels very slow, and sometimes it feels too fast – it depends on a lot of variables. In any case, we are committed to keeping you informed as we learn more."*

The interactive session brought forward several questions and concerns regarding residential service options, waivers, Developmental Centers, and dollars available for various services, all of which are currently under discussion as planning for a sustainable system in the future continues.



*Following Director Martin's presentation, there were several comments and questions. Here, session participant Sally Meckling takes the microphone to share her thoughts.*

## **Special Feature: Ohio's DD Community Gives Thanks**

### **Thankful for Families – A Message from Director Martin**

"The Family is at the core of all we do – it is a person's first community." I shared this thought at a DODD Central Office staff meeting earlier this year, and was thinking about it again this week as we all prepare for Thanksgiving. It's a good time to remember that all families are not traditional families. Not all families have two parents and only their own children living in the home. There are many families comprised of people who take others into their homes who are not related to them, including persons with developmental disabilities. This arrangement we now call Ohio Shared Living is working for many families, and providing stability for individuals served. There also are many families who have developed an extended network of relatives and friends who can help provide respite, to provide a loving and safe environment when needed. And, there are service providers who are thought of as family, and care every bit as much. As I think about Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and the many families we depend upon as the backbone of our service delivery system, I deeply appreciate that commitment -- and the wonderful, warm, and nurturing environments each of you create. *–John Martin*

### **Thankful for Active Advocacy Leadership Network**

Hamilton County DD Services noted that candidates for local and state offices on the November ballot flooded their office last month, during the agency's annual public election forum hosted by self advocates who comprise the Advocacy Leadership Network (ALN) of Hamilton County. ALN members were thankful for the excellent turnout, with 18 candidates and 75 audience members -- the most well-attended election forum ever for the organization. Attendees included candidates for state representative, county commissioner, auditor, and various judge seats – as well as speakers for ballot issues. HCDDS Superintendent Alice Pavey noted, "Candidates attended because they were invited by an ALN member they know, which shows the value of the many years of advocacy and relationship-building by our local ALN members. We truly are thankful for this positive response to self advocates' work in the political process."



*Logan Brinson, HCDDS self advocate, with Probate Judge Candidate Charlie Luken at the recent Advocacy Leadership Network public election forum.*

## **Thankful for Great Volunteers**

The Butler County Board of DD is thankful for their growing group of volunteers, organized through the FANS Network (Friends, Allies, and Neighbors) of Butler County. Tim Hessling is one of their awesome volunteers, and has provided expert handyman help along with countless volunteer hours helping individuals with disabilities and their families with all kinds of home repair and improvement projects. In Butler County, they are thankful for volunteers like Tim, and his wonderful heart of service.



*Tim Hessling (left) with Jessi, after installing a new railing at her house.*

## **Thankful for Music Therapy Programs at New Avenues**

[New Avenues to Independence](#) is thankful for the William M. Weiss Foundation, for their generous support of the agency's Music Therapy program. The Foundation has provided financial assistance to this program since the 1990s, demonstrating support for the therapeutic value of music in the lives of the many children and adults served by the agency. Nearly 90 men and women received music therapy services at New Avenues over the past year, due to the Foundation's support. The sessions are an opportunity for participants to develop social and verbal skills, improve attention to tasks, and improve gross and fine motor skills in a positive, structured

environment. This year, a group was formed for participants to learn basic guitar skills, and another group was formed to discuss lyrics and music sharing. The group activities enable them to learn together in a positive social setting, with music enjoyment as the common factor that all members share.

## Thankful for New Residential Options at SODC

Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) Superintendent Scott McVey shares his thoughts: “This month, I find myself being thankful for many things, however it’s easy to identify one thing in particular, as it has benefited residents at Southwest Ohio Developmental Center (SODC) as well as staff. Over the past two years, we have worked with our area County Boards (Preble, Montgomery, Greene, Butler, Warren, Clinton, Hamilton, and Clermont) to create five transitional group homes. Three of these homes are currently in place, and two are being purchased. This allowed us to place 17 individuals into the community, living in smaller residential settings. We also have been successful in working with the counties to place an additional 24 residents in community settings this year. We are thankful for the positive relationship we have with our County Boards, and for the SODC staff who work tirelessly on behalf of the individuals at SODC. These relationships have allowed residents to move out of the Developmental Center knowing that proper follow-up will be provided among County Board staff, providers, and DC staff. Open communication and a willingness to put people first has been key to the success of these endeavors. I am thankful to have such great people to work with.

## Thankful for a 30-Year Employment Partnership

Roppe Rubber Corp. and Seneca Re-Ad Industries celebrated their 30-year collaboration this month with an open house. Through this employment partnership, nearly 100 workers with developmental disabilities produce more than 25 million merchandise sample pieces per year for Roppe, and others in the flooring industry. Seneca Re-Ad Industries is a non-profit entity working in collaboration with the Seneca County Board of DD to provide vocational services and work opportunities. According to Adult Services Director Rodney Biggert, “Our partnership with Roppe gives people a good job and the opportunity to make good money -- then paying taxes and spending that money back into the community. It strengthens the individual and the entire community.” What started in a 2,500 square foot building with only eight employees in 1984 has grown into a 30,000 square foot building with nearly 100 employees today.



*In 2011, Pipeline took this photo of Cora completing a chain set, carefully threading a metal chain through pre-punched vinyl sample pieces. The Roppe story was featured in [Pipeline Quarterly, Spring 2011](#)*

## Thankful for Persevering Staff

Joseph Knetzer, President of Midwest Health Services, Inc., shared a note of thanks on behalf of Kathy, a program participant who has had some challenges over the past few years: "For whatever reason, and we do not know the reason, Kathy asked to start doing her laundry in a Laundromat, and she asked to go to the Akron Zoo. She had a great time at both. We hope this will continue, but we never know. Our staff were willing to plan for success (even if it didn't happen) and not just look at Kathy's past and say, "No." Whether she has any more successes, we don't know that either, but she had two this month! There's the difference in someone's life -- not just an empty 'brochure picture.' Outcomes happen quietly with love and perseverance, not some shingle we hang up saying how great we are."



*Kathy, enjoying her day at the Akron Zoo.*

## PostScripts

### OOD Announces Business Recognition Program

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities has created a new annual business recognition program to honor companies that provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities. Annual awards will be presented in three categories: Creating Opportunity, Committed to Opportunity, and Champion of Opportunity. The Opportunity Awards recognize companies at various levels -- from those who have just begun to recruit, hire, and retain individuals with disabilities, to those with a proven track record of integrating individuals with disabilities into their work force. OOD representatives will be visiting the [2014 award winners](#) in-person for award presentations during the next few months. Kudos to OOD for spotlighting these Ohio employers.

### Let's Talk About College Seminar, November 16

On Sunday, November 16, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at The Ohio State University Student Union, there will be an opportunity for parents and self advocates of the Down Syndrome community to participate in a seminar for teens and adults to talk about post-secondary education options. For details, email Lauren Flynn at [flynn.222@osu.edu](mailto:flynn.222@osu.edu).

## **Training Sponsored by Ohio Partners in Justice, December 9**

On December 9, join Ohio Partners in Justice presenters as they discuss the revised Behavior Support Rule and how it may impact processes, assessments, environmental supports, Major Unusual Incidents and writing Behavior Support Plans for individuals with intellectual disabilities who engage in sexually offensive conduct or other conduct that places the individual or others at risk for harm. Training will be held at the ODOT Auditorium in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Register today!](#)

## **OACB Annual Convention, December 3-5**

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## **Break Every Chain: Human Trafficking Conference, January 17**

Combatting human trafficking in Ohio is one of Governor John Kasich's key initiatives. In support of this work, the Reynoldsburg Youth Human Trafficking Coalition and Councilman Cornelius McGrady III will host their annual "Break Every Chain" anti-human trafficking conference on January 17 in Reynoldsburg. More information and registration information will be available shortly. Contact for the event is Councilman McGrady, at [mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com)

## **Ohio Public Images: Call for Entries Announced**

Ohio Public Images (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 during the timeframe December 1, 2013 - November 30, 2014. Entries eligible for consideration must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred within those dates. The awards competition honors individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through their exceptional efforts, have created a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities. It also recognizes outstanding self advocates, elected officials, and employers who champion and support people with developmental disabilities. The 'Call for Entries' is posted on the OPI website at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org/](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/).

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**Volume 8, Issue 25**

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**December 10, 2014**

## **In This Issue:**

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## **The next issue of Pipeline features the annual Year in Review!**

Just as these freshly-baked gingerbread men will disappear at the end of the month, so will 2014.

## **Our Future: DODD CMS Transition Plan Public Forums Scheduled**

A new schedule for the DODD CMS Transition Plan forums has been set. Join members of the DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee to learn more about the new rule from the federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and what the state is doing to ensure we're in compliance. Anyone interested in learning more -- including families, providers, and County Board staff -- is encouraged to attend. See the [updated schedule online in the December 4 Pipeline Extra](#), and share [this flyer](#) with others who may be interested in attending.

More information about changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system -- including the new CMS rule, the letter from Disability Rights Ohio, and the Strategic Planning Leadership Group -- is available online at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture), and please continue to read *Pipeline* for more information.

The Department appreciates your patience with the changes in scheduling.

## Achieving a Better Life Experience: Congress Supports Legislation

Last Wednesday, a vote of 404-to-17 in the U.S. House of Representatives moved forward legislation that would allow people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing their government benefits. The bill -- known as Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, or ABLE -- could be slated for a vote in the Senate as early as this week.

Sara Weir, interim president of the National Down Syndrome Society, stated, "This is historic for the disability community. I can't think of another piece of legislation that puts a stake in the ground that says that people with disabilities can work and save money." She added,

*"This is a bill that allows families and people with disabilities to save their own money. This is not a handout."*

The bill would allow people whose disability occurred before age 26 to create ABLE accounts at any financial institution and deposit up to \$14,000 annually under current gift-tax limitations. As much as \$100,000 could be saved in the proposed accounts without risking eligibility for Social Security and other government benefits. In addition, they could retain Medicaid coverage no matter how much money is deposited.

Modeled after the popular [529 college savings plans](#), interest earned on savings within the accounts would be tax-free. Money saved could be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing, and other expenses.

*Condensed from a recent post at [DisabilityScoop.com](#)*

## Developmental Centers Embrace Trauma Informed Care

[Trauma Informed Care](#) is an organizational structure and treatment approach that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma on individuals. This holistic approach to serving people within Ohio's developmental disabilities system is being embraced statewide, in partnership with Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and in line with the national [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) and the state's [Office of Health Transformation](#) initiatives.

With an emphasis on person-centered services and positive interventions, Trauma Informed Care focuses on the importance of physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both service participants and providers, and helps survivors of traumatic experiences rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. Training for DODD staff is being conducted around the state, including at each Developmental Center, and many other agencies throughout the state's human services system are building Trauma Informed Care into their training plans, as well. This approach offers new tools and techniques to help people feel more prepared and empowered for changes and transitions.

At Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) last week, training leader Raul Almazar, R.N., a nationally-recognized expert on Trauma Informed Care, commented at the outset of training:

*"Everyone walks around with trauma in their history. Every one of us! So, of course the people you serve do, too. They have things in their experience that you cannot imagine or know about."*

*Understanding this, and asking the right questions, can help us to transform the human services system – not just at DODD – but at whatever agency a person may go to for help and guidance.”*

Almazar added, “When people come to your facility, do you ask them in a caring way, “What has happened to you? What are your experiences? What makes you upset? What makes you feel good? For too long, people needing various services have not been asked these questions. They may have been asked something that could be perceived as, “What’s wrong with you? Why are you like this?” He noted several examples of trauma and resulting behaviors people use as coping mechanisms. They include not communicating due to fear, and acting out due to anticipating a specific bad experience. Learn more in [this presentation by Almazar on Trauma Informed Care](#).



*Participants from the first of three Trauma-Informed Care training sessions at MVDC gathered around the Christmas tree in the Administration Building’s Great Room. Superintendent Dana Mattison noted that it was important for everyone at every level of staffing to be involved in the training. She said, “Everyone – from our maintenance workers, to our front desk, to our direct care staff – everyone needs to learn about this, because it is a system-wide cultural shift that will help us all to better understand and work with each other, and with the people we serve.”*

Mattison continued, “We all know our system is in transition, and we have been in the process of downsizing for some time now. Training such as this can help our staff and residents find ways to feel more comfort and control as they look to integrate more fully into the larger community.”

Summing up the training, Mattison noted, “One of our top priorities is to have a transition plan for staff when someone that they have cared for -- often for many years -- moves out of the DC and into the community. It is so important to have that sense of continuity for the people we serve, as well as for staff. We feel strongly that the practice of Trauma Informed Care will help us in these efforts.”

DODD Senior Policy Advisor and lead for the Trauma Informed Care initiative Pam Berry explained that the trainings are part of a larger framework for system-wide change that will continue throughout the coming months. She noted, "We are very fortunate to have Raul and his partners at our Developmental Centers, as they bring such strong clinical expertise as well as Inspirational stories of transformation and healing. Understanding the impact of trauma, and developing trauma-sensitive approaches within our DCs is critical as we search for ways to better support people with complex needs."

More information at [www.samhsa.gov/](http://www.samhsa.gov/)

## Behavior Support Rule Training Clarifies New Information

### Training Sponsored by Ohio Partners in Justice

DODD and Ohio Partners in Justice collaborated to present a training yesterday on the proposed revised Rule [5123:2-2-06](#) (*Behavioral Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures*) that limits the use of, and sets forth requirements for development and implementation of, behavioral support strategies that include restrictive measures. The rule applies broadly across the developmental disabilities service system, and replaces rule [5123:2-3-25](#) and paragraph (J) of existing rule [5123:2-1-02](#). The training acknowledges that the rule impacts processes, assessments, environmental supports, Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs), and writing Behavior Support Plans for people with intellectual disabilities who engage in sexually offensive conduct, or other conduct that places the person or others at risk for harm.

Presenters included Randy Shively, Ph.D. and Vice President Clinical Services at [Alvis House](#), and Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director for the [Major Unusual Incident \(MUI\) Unit](#), as well as others with expertise in the field of behavioral support. Training attendees included approximately 150 staff representing County Boards of DD, private providers, and other direct service personnel who work with individuals that exhibit risky behavior. Shively noted that the new behavior support rule will challenge the statewide DD community to learn how to best support these individuals in the community environment. He explained,

*"Risk is dynamic. It is not a static thing, and neither are the people who exhibit such behavior. So, our treatment and our approach must be creative and fresh if we are going to make progress using the least restrictive means. We must look at the data pertaining to each person, to see what makes sense."*

### Related Cleveland Clinic Video

Many thanks to Willie Jones at the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) for forwarding a link to [a short, powerful video](#) from the Cleveland Clinic that can be viewed as a helpful resource toward better understanding people served in the DD system by placing ourselves in their shoes. Jones states, "It is my hope that the new Behavior Support rule will carry a powerful message to our field that our role is to help people who are in difficult situations, or have placed themselves in a position of immediate or imminent risk. The role of our profession is to reduce the fear, risk, and vulnerability of people served by placing ourselves in their shoes, and taking an approach driven by empathy and understanding."

## OACB Conference Spotlights Change

Managing change was the focus of last week's Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference. Dozens of informative sessions were attended by more than 1000 people during three days, and focused on ways to continue to improve services for individuals and families in their communities, within an environment of system transition and change.

At one session, DODD Director John Martin highlighted several points in a presentation describing the draft benchmark recommendations which are being reviewed as guidance for a two-year and ten-year plan for the statewide DD service system. He addressed comments and questions from session attendees and noted that one of the over-arching goals for the long-term plans will be that,

*"... Services will be person-centered, not waiver-centered. We need to not lose the person in the process."*

In addition to Director Martin, several other DODD staff led sessions on timely subjects, including Deputy Director Lori Horvath -- Medicaid Updates including the CMS Transition Plan and Transitions DD Waiver; Assistant Deputy Director Teresa Kobelt -- DODD Initiatives and Projects to Support People Across Systems; and, Employment First Project Manager Kristen Helling -- Funding System Redesign for Day and Employment Services.

DODD salutes OACB for the comprehensive and well-planned conference designed to help move the system forward by keeping DD professionals better informed and prepared to manage change. Preparing the people who drive the system to anticipate transformational changes in the future will help to build resiliency into the system.



***In addition to Director Martin, several other DODD staff led sessions on timely subjects.***

*They included (left) Deputy Director Lori Horvath -- Medicaid Updates including the CMS Transition Plan and Transitions DD Waiver; (center) Employment First Project Manager Kristen Helling -- Funding System Redesign for Day and Employment Services; and, (right) Assistant Deputy Director Teresa Kobelt -- DODD Initiatives and Projects to Support People Across Systems. Photos courtesy OACB -- see more on [the OACB Facebook page](#).*

## Pipeline Pix

### A Bronzed Brutus Says, “Take *That*, You Badgers!”



*Brutus Buckeye looks rather relaxed and pleased with himself, following outcome of the December 6 football game against the Wisconsin Badgers. Brutus is lounging permanently on a bench in The Ohio State University Student Union on Main Campus.*

## PostScripts

### New Tool for Business E-Access

The partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology (PEAT) is a federally-funded organization that focuses is on employment accessibility, with a primary goal of improving the accessibility of online application systems. PEAT has created a tool for assessing an organization’s accessibility in recruitment, employment, and policy for individuals with disabilities. Features include an action guide for employers, informational articles, and ‘TechCheck,’ an interactive tool to help employers assess their technology accessibility practices, and to find resources to help develop them. See more at [www.PEATworks.org](http://www.PEATworks.org).

### Project STIR Training for Job Seekers and Families, December 12

There still are a few openings available for self-advocates and family members to sign up for a Project STIR training December 12 in Pickerington, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Attendees will connect with others and move forward on the path to community employment. To sign up, call 614-563-0788 or email [osda2011@gmail.com](mailto:osda2011@gmail.com).

### ODOT Accepting Applications for Specialized Transportation Grants Program

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is accepting [applications](#) for vehicles, computer hardware and software, communications equipment, capitalized maintenance, and mobility management as part of a Specialized Transportation Grants program to support transportation services that meet the needs of people with disabilities and senior citizens. ODOT is accepting applications only for projects in small urban and rural areas. The FY 2015 application deadline is February 6. To request an application, contact Macie Legge at 614-728-9609 or [macie.legge@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:macie.legge@dot.state.oh.us). In addition, ODOT has released [a state-wide transit needs report](#).

The report details transportation needs of Ohioans and explains how much funding is needed to meet those needs. It also shows that many people with disabilities need and do not have affordable public transit.

## **Deadline is December 31 for Iraq Veterans to Apply for Ohio Veterans Bonus**

Many *Pipeline* readers are Ohio veterans, who may be eligible for the Ohio Veteran Bonus. Ohio veterans who served in Iraq have less than a month to meet the December 31 deadline to apply for the bonus. This deadline applies to Ohio-resident veterans and Ohio residents currently in active duty military who served in Iraq from March 19, 2003 through December 31, 2011. The bonus will continue to be awarded to Ohio-resident veterans and active duty service members from Ohio who served in Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world, since October 7, 2001. Eligibility for the bonus will end when the President declares an end to the war in Afghanistan. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services asks all eligible veterans to [apply online](#).

## **Break Every Chain: Human Trafficking Conference, January 11**

Combatting human trafficking in Ohio is one of Governor John Kasich's key initiatives. In support of this work, the Reynoldsburg Youth Human Trafficking Coalition and Councilman Cornelius McGrady III will host their annual "Break Every Chain" anti-human trafficking conference on January 11 in Reynoldsburg, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg High School Summit campus, 8579 Summit Road. Information and registration information [now online](#). Contact for the event is Councilman McGrady, at [mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com)

## **DD Awareness Month Theme Announced for 2015 – *Can Do, Like You!***



*Free artwork will be online soon at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org)*

The 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) theme is "Can Do, Like You!" The concept is designed to be used for March events around the state, and can be used all year, if desired. Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation promoting positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, creates the annual statewide theme, and allows for easy customization by County Boards of DD and other service providers to unify and brand their local efforts. Look for posters and other materials online at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org).

## **Reminder: Media and Awareness Awards – Entry Deadline, January 10, 2015**

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. Look for the official Call for Entries on the [OPI website](#) at 'Ohio Awards.' Entry deadline is January 10, and winners will be recognized at a luncheon March 12, at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards conference.

## **SAVE THE DATE! Statewide DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3, 2015**

Next year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day will be March 3, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and Museum Gallery. Mark your calendars! If you haven't attended before, [here's some information about the 2014 event.](#)

### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 8, Issue 26

December 23, 2014

## In This Issue:

- Our Future: CMS Transition Plan Posted, Public Forums Underway
- Administration Update: Strategic Leadership Planning Group, Final Report; NCI Data
- **Special Section: 2014 Year in Review**
- Pipeline Pix: A Snapshot from *Pipeline Quarterly*
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar



**It's the 2014 Year in Review!**

## **Our Future: CMS Transition Plan Posted, Public Forums Underway**

The DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee hosted forums in Toledo and Columbus last week, where people with developmental disabilities and their families, service providers, and County Board staff attended to learn more about the new rule from the federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and what the state is doing to ensure we're in compliance. Members of the DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee discussed the new regulation, and shared an overview of DODD's portion of the state's transition plan, as well as how to provide comments about the plan to the Office of Health Transformation. The committee also answered attendees' questions about the plan.

Meetings resume the first week of January, and are scheduled in Athens, Cleveland and Cincinnati. The complete [schedule is online](#) - share [this flyer](#) with anyone who may be interested in attending. If you are not able to attend a meeting in person, you can download the [presentation](#) and [handout](#).

More information about changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system – including the new CMS rule, and how to provide comments on the state's CMS Transition Plan – is available online at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture), and please continue to read *Pipeline* for more information.

## **Administration Update – SPLG Final Report; NCI Data**

The Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) [Final Report](#) now is online. The SPLG engaged the statewide developmental disabilities community in processes to help set strategic direction, and improve Ohio's developmental disabilities service system during the next ten years. From November 2013 to November 2014 SPLG members worked to develop various benchmarks toward this goal. The resulting 24 benchmarks are contained in the report, as well as information about the planning process. DODD thanks the 24 members of the SPLG, and greatly appreciates their commitment to this important work. The recommendations will help to inform and guide the future of Ohio's DD service system. More information about the SPLG is [online in the Our Future section of the DODD website](#).

### **National Core Indicators**

DODD is preparing to begin the process to collect data for the 2014-2015 [National Core Indicators \(NCI\)](#) survey cycle. NCI is a voluntary effort by public developmental disabilities agencies to measure and track their own performance. NCI began in 1997 as a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to encourage and support NASDDDS member agencies to develop a standard set of performance measures that could be used by states to manage quality, and to work together to make comparisons and set benchmarks.

Approximately 700 individuals from across the system will be interviewed, as well as 100 individuals who have moved from Developmental Centers into community-based settings. County Board staff may be asked to gather information and coordinate interviews for a few individuals in their county – County Boards soon will receive more information from the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research.

DODD has participated in NCI for seven years, and uses the data to measure system performance, and collect systems-level data that is used to monitor the service delivery system, make policy decisions, allocate resources, and help determine where to make improvements to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. DODD Director John Martin frequently refers to NCI data in presentations and discussions, noting the value of national comparisons for planning purposes.

HSRI recently released reports for 2012-2013. Ohio reports are posted on DODD's website – visit [dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/nci/Pages/default.aspx) to read the reports and learn more about NCI.

## **Special Feature: DODD Year in Review**

The *Year in Review* issue is published in late December, and takes a look back each year at the progress we have made as partners in Ohio's developmental disabilities services community. Previously, this issue became rather lengthy. So, in keeping with the June 2014 redesign of *Pipeline* as a more condensed publication, we have done the same with the *Year in Review*, grouping the highlights into

four Quarters. We hope you enjoy this approach, and thank you for your readership of *Pipeline* throughout the year. Please send any feedback to [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov).

## January – March 2014

### During First Quarter, key topics included:

#### *Strategic Planning Leadership Group, Human Trafficking, SSA Rule, Employment First, Budget, Legislation*

- Kasich Administration works to stem human trafficking – Task Force appointed.
- *Service & Support Administration Rule* (5123:2-1-11) moved forward with a focus on person-centered planning and strengthening involvement of individuals served. The new rule describes and encourages the participation of people with developmental disabilities in the content and development of their Individual Service Plans (ISPs), and the selection of people they choose to help them in this process and achieve desired outcomes.
- Ohio reached an agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a new initiative to coordinate care for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (dually-eligible). *MyCare Ohio* is a system of managed care plans selected to coordinate physical, behavioral, and long-term care services for people over age 18 who are dually-eligible, including people with disabilities, older adults, and people who receive behavioral health services.
- The DODD *Strategic Leadership Planning Group* (SPLG) announced an Open Forum and presentation regarding recent changes to the CMS rule that governs how states may use federal Medicaid funds to pay for Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The SPLG is tasked with exploring ways to improve services for Ohio citizens with DD, and determine benchmarks to guide the future. At the Forum, DODD Director John Martin stated,

*“It’s important for us to use this opportunity to change the system – to do this planning – and we have about a year to do it. Then, the implementation will span about five years – and at that time, this process will be complete.”*

- The Ohio Senate moved forward with legislation (HB123) to expand opportunities for medical professionals to provide health care services through remote communication technologies, thereby expanding access to care for Ohioans across the state, especially in more rural or remote geographic areas. It was signed into law by Governor John Kasich on February 18.

- Expanding Medicaid health care to individuals earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level has been a high priority for the Kasich Administration, and can positively impact insurance benefits for many of those newly-eligible, including many Direct Support Professionals.
- We saw *Ability at Work* on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day -- The annual event at the Ohio Statehouse drew hundreds of attendees from across the state, most of whom were self-advocates. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) also was celebrated locally in many creative ways by County Boards of DD and other service providers.
- Medina County Rolls Out the Red Carpet for the *State of the State Address* – Governor John Kasich spotlighted employment growth in Ohio, and the state’s improving financial outlook.
- Mid-Biennium Review – Budget process underway.
- Employment First Celebrates Two Years – Since the outset of the Employment First initiative, improvements in state policies have enabled Ohio’s local communities to be better prepared to transform services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for improved community employment opportunities for people with DD.
- DODD Funds Grants to Assist in Training Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – Highly-qualified DSPs are valuable resources within Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. DODD is committed to supporting the availability of these funds, and provides grants to agencies who are dedicated to offering provider training.

*Representing First Quarter is this photo from the March 5 issue:*



***Look Out When This Dynamic Duo Teams Up at the Statehouse! Christine Brown (left) and Shari Cooper have the energy to match their enthusiasm for DD Awareness and Advocacy Day. Christine is a state leader on legislative advocacy issues, and Shari Cooper, MC for the event, kept the program moving along and displayed her ready wit and grace under pressure.***

To read complete issues during First Quarter, see:

[January 8, 2014](#); [January 22, 2014](#); [February 5, 2014](#); [February 19, 2014](#); [March 5, 2014](#); [March 19, 2014](#).

## April – June 2014

### During Second Quarter, key topics included:

#### *Strategic Planning Leadership Group, Autism, Budget, Family Advisory Council*

- Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) Hosts Forum, "Creating Work Opportunities, Learning from Change"— Presenters from Vermont and Rhode Island addressed events and issues arising from the Olmstead Agreement. Rhode Island presenter Andrew McQuaide noted,

*"Struggling with the transformation is OK, I think. Too often we're focusing on the finish line. Here we are establishing the start line, and looking towards the marathon. We have to 'meet the people where they are at now,' and assess accordingly."*

Two other Forums were hosted during Second Quarter -- "Creating Opportunities for Community Living" – where presenters from Colorado and Arizona discussed concepts including Host Homes, Support to People with Complex Health Issues, and Conflict of Interest, and "Family Supports, Listening to People" – where presenters included representatives from the University of Missouri/Kansas City Institute for Human Development, and from The Arc of Rensselaer County, in Eastern New York State.

- Mid-Biennium Review – Budget work continued. In June, Governor John Kasich signed House Bill 483, also known as the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR), passing legislation that will enhance the lives of Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities. DODD focused on a few key areas in which to innovate: Autism, shared services, and transparency.
- April is Autism Awareness Month – Educational programs are key to unlocking the puzzle of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), including an innovative project using Tele-Health technology, offering a unique approach for Ohio families with children under age three and newly-diagnosed with ASD. The project is piloting ways for virtual home-based services to provide Early Intervention (EI) and bring a needed service to families.
- Family Advisory Council (FAC) – Members explored several topics including the new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rule; Ohio's Developmental Center downsizing initiative; and, a review of the new Service and Support Administration (SSA) Rule. FAC members always offer fresh perspectives to DODD staff.
- Ohio Named 'Most Improved' in UCP Study, *'The Case for Inclusion'* -- Ohio jumped 39 places and now is ranked ninth and 'most improved,' in the annual United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) report, *The Case for Inclusion*. The report is a yearly ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve

Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ohio's most dramatic increase came in the community inclusion ranking.

- Trauma Informed Care – DODD partnered with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and Ohio Partners in Justice to present a free training opportunity in June titled, “Trauma Responsive Care – Universal Precautions.” Trauma and chronic stress now are recognized as more common experiences for individuals with developmental disabilities than for the general population, and often result in a complex array of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.
- Combatting Human Trafficking – DODD and other state agencies continue to focus on this issue spotlighted by Governor John Kasich’s Human Trafficking Task Force. Training is offered to staff via Task Force members and allied agencies.

*Representing Second Quarter is this photo from the April 30 issue:*



***What could services be like in 2024?*** Planning for the future of Ohio’s developmental disabilities service system, SPLG members used a small-group brainstorming framework to address four key areas – Early Intervention, Schools, Day Services, and Residential Supports. Many good ideas were generated for benchmarks to consider.

**To read complete issues during Second Quarter, see:**

[April 2, 2014](#) ; [April 16, 2014](#); [April 21, 2014](#); [April 30, 2014](#); [May 14, 2014](#); [May 28, 2014](#); [June 11, 2014](#).

***Editor’s Note:*** Pipeline was re-formatted beginning with the June 25, 2014 issue. These issues maintain their blue hyperlinks. See the complete articles at the [DODD website, Pipeline page](#).

## **July – September 2014**

**During Third Quarter, key topics included:**

*Letter from Disability Rights Ohio, Budget, Strong Families Safe Communities, Strategic Planning Leadership Group, Legislation*

- On July 1, Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) sent [this letter](#) to DODD Director John Martin, Governor John Kasich, and other state agencies outlining their concerns with the status of Ohio’s

developmental disabilities system. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with our partners, including Disability Rights Ohio, in pursuit of our common goal – helping Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities live and work as integrated members of the community; [DODD Responded on July 31](#) -- In [his response](#), Director Martin noted that, while we disagree with DRO’s findings, both organizations share a similar vision for supporting individuals with disabilities. DODD, the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid plan to meet with DRO to discuss their concerns, and share more information about work underway.

- [SPLG Discusses Workforce Development](#) -- Continuing to explore ways to improve services for Ohio citizens with DD and determine benchmarks to guide the future, the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) met during Third Quarter to discuss workforce development for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Provider organizations representing DSPs offered input regarding the affect improvements to this profession can have on people with developmental disabilities and their families. In addition, the July SPLG meeting provided opportunities for participants — including people served in Ohio’s DD system and representatives from other stakeholder groups — to share observations on changing systems, as well as focus on opportunities to collaborate with other state agencies.
- [Focus on Early Intervention – Best Practices](#) -- Last year, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced a plan to move some areas of technical assistance and training to DODD, and improve coordination efforts for Early Intervention (EI) Services, Part C. A federal program administered by states, EI Part C serves families with infants and toddlers through age two with developmental delays, or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions likely to result in developmental delays. To support these efforts, DODD hired an Assistant Deputy Director in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction who manages the Department’s responsibilities for Part C, offered under the ODH [Help Me Grow](#) program, ensuring that Ohio children and families in all counties can access the full range of services throughout the system.
- [Strong Families, Safe Communities \(SFSC\)](#) -- DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced more than \$1.4 million in funding for the SFSC initiative to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk due to a developmental disability and/or mental illness. This new funding supports seven new projects, and brings the total number of counties served by the initiative to 46. DODD Director John Martin and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck are visiting each of the community partnerships to announce the grants and share project details, and a group was convened in late September to brainstorm best practices regarding the grant-funded projects.
- [Budget Information; Annual Report](#) -- The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) issued guidance to state agency directors for use in planning for fiscal years 2015-2016. Agencies in Governor John Kasich’s cabinet are required to submit budget and language requests for this time period to OBM by October 31. Following the initial submission, OBM will review and analyze the requests, and may ask for more information to help develop recommendations, or

propose modifications. Also, wrapping up Fiscal Year 2014 at the end of July, the [DODD Annual Report](#) published and was posted in the [DODD online News Room](#).

- [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Celebrated](#) -- The 24th Anniversary of the ADA was celebrated July 26. Good progress has been made since its enactment in 1990, and yet some challenges remain. In addition, new legislation – the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) – moved forward in July. The bill redirects funding for sheltered workshops, and has been signed by President Barack Obama. Included in the bill are major changes to the path from school to work.
- [9408 Now Enrolled in Medicaid Buy-In](#) – An update on the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program was provided at the DODD Family Advisory Council meeting in July. This Medicaid-funded program allows individuals with disabilities who are employed to qualify for Medicaid benefits with higher income and resource limits, and buy into Medicaid by paying a premium based on income. As of May 2014, there were 9408 Ohioans with disabilities enrolled, showing a significant monthly increase during the past year;
- [Administration News, MBR Clarifications](#) -- In the Mid-Biennium Review bill (HB483) signed by Governor John Kasich in June, language was included that requires County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to consider sharing the services of Superintendents, or other management employees, when vacancies occur. The intent is to encourage the shared services model and consider other collaborative opportunities and efficiencies.
- [Trauma-Informed Care](#) -- At a June training, the effects of emotional and physical trauma on brain development and resulting behavior opened new doors to greater understanding. *Trauma-Informed Care: A Universal Precaution for Service and Support Administrators and Individuals with Developmental Disabilities* training focused on serving the emotional needs of people who have developmental disabilities, and/or co-occurring mental illness.

*Representing Third Quarter is this photo from the FY2014 Annual Report, published in August.*



*DODD Director John Martin steps to the podium with students in The Ohio State University TOPS program. Adam Moss (at podium) addressed nearly 600 attendees at the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse. TOPS stands for Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

All issues from Third Quarter are in the new *Pipeline* format at the [DODD website, Pipeline page](#).

*They include: July 3, 2014; July 9, 2014; July 23, 2014; August 6, 2014; August 20, 2014.*

## October – November 2014

### During Fourth Quarter, key topics included:

*CMS Transition Plan, Budget, Strategic Planning Leadership Group, Employment, Family Caregivers, Managing Change, Our Future*

- **Ohio releases draft plan to comply with new federal HCBS requirements** -- In January 2014, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released new requirements for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers administered by states. December 15, as required by the new federal rule, the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) released a draft transition plan for public comment. Based on the comments it receives, OHT will refine and submit a final transition plan to CMS by March 17, 2015. The [draft plan](#) is on the OHT website, along with a [public notice](#), a [one-page summary](#) and [Q&As](#).
- **Our Future: DODD CMS Transition Plan Public Forums Scheduled** -- A new schedule for the DODD CMS Transition Plan forums has been set. Join members of the DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee to learn more about the new rule from the federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and what the state is doing to ensure we're in compliance. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to attend. See the [updated schedule online in the December 4 Pipeline Extra](#), and share [this flyer](#) with others who may be interested in attending.
- DODD debuts the **Our Future** section of website – The new section includes frequently-updated information about changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system – including the new CMS rule, the letter from Disability Rights Ohio, and the Strategic Planning Leadership Group. The website is [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture).
- **Legislation: Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE)** – In December, the U.S. House of Representatives moved forward legislation that would allow people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing their government benefits. The bill — known as Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, or ABLE — could be slated for a vote in the Senate before January 1.
- **Developmental Centers Embrace Trauma Informed Care** -- A holistic approach to serving people within Ohio's developmental disabilities system is being embraced statewide, with an emphasis on person-centered services and positive interventions. Trauma Informed Care focuses on the

importance of physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both service participants and providers, and helps survivors of traumatic experiences rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. Training for DODD staff is being conducted around the state, including at each Developmental Center.

- **Managing Change** – During Fourth Quarter, many *Pipeline* articles touched on the subject of managing change either through legislation, rules, conference training sessions, or other means. These included: [Behavior Support Rule Training Clarifies New Information](#) – DD professionals attended a training on the proposed revised Rule 5123:2-2-06 (Behavioral Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures), sponsored by Ohio Partners in Justice; [OACB Conference Spotlights Change](#) -- Informative sessions including updates by DODD staff focused on ways to continue to improve services for individuals and families in their communities; and, at the [Family Advisory Council Meeting in October](#), several speakers — including families — discussed changes within the statewide DD community.
- **Ohio at Forefront of Employment Efforts** -- A statewide employment conference, WORKING Together, was hosted during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM - October), and united more than 300 people with an interest in expanding employment options for people with disabilities. Speakers from outside Ohio made it clear that our state is several steps ahead of many others. In addition, at the Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) recognition event, several employers were honored for making significant contributions to the disability community in Ohio.
- **Family Caregivers Month (November)** -- The 2014 theme, ‘Care Comes Home,’ acknowledges that care does not always take place in hospitals, nursing homes, or doctors’ offices, and that a large percentage of caregiving occurs in a family home. DODD salutes the thousands of families that include and rely on these dedicated caregivers.
- **Special Feature: Ohio’s DD Community Gives Thanks** – The November 25 issue of *Pipeline* included many reasons for thankfulness submitted by readers. It also included a message from Director Martin. In it, he stated:

*“The Family is at the core of all we do – it is a person’s first community.”*
- **Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) Wraps Up Meetings** – During Fourth Quarter, the SPLG delved further into the benchmarking process, planning for a stronger and more sustainable developmental disabilities service system in ten years. Subjects discussed included Developmental Centers, private Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), and waivers. The final meeting of the SPLG in November included completing draft language for several ten-year and two-year benchmarks. The Report containing the recommendations will publish in December and will help to inform and guide long-range planning.

*Representing Fourth Quarter we share this photo from the December 10 issue.*



Participants in the Trauma-Informed Care training at Mount Vernon Developmental Center gathered around the large Christmas tree in the Administration Building's Great Room. Superintendent Dana Mattison noted that it was important for everyone at every level of staffing to be involved in the training.

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*They include: October 1, 2014; October 15, 2014; October 29, 2014; November 12, 2014; November 25, 2014; December 10, 2014; December 16, 2014.*

## **Pipeline Pix – We're All About Families!**



**Ohio Shared Living Opportunities offer family home relationships in the community.** At home in Mahoning County are (L. to R.) Sam, Mary Lou, and Susan Neva, with Regina, Lori, Debbie, and Kathy.

*Photo from Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2014. See all issues online at [Pipeline Quarterly](#).*

## PostScripts

### **Governor John Kasich: Official Swearing-In Ceremony and Inauguration**

The Office of the Governor notes that the official swearing-in ceremony will be at midnight, Monday, January 12 in the Ohio Senate Chamber. Governor Kasich, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor, and Kasich Administration cabinet members will take their oaths of office during a brief ceremony. The official inauguration will be at 11:30 a.m., January 12 at the Southern Theater in Columbus. This is a ticketed event. Members of the public may visit [www.NewDayOhio.com](http://www.NewDayOhio.com) to enter for a chance to win a ticket. *All entries must be submitted by December 31.* The Inaugural Gala will be at 8 p.m., January 12 at the Hilton Columbus. This is a ticketed, invitation-only event.

### **Interested in Starting a Next Chapter Book Club? Training, February 18**

The Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC), a Columbus-based nonprofit organization that organizes book clubs for people with developmental disabilities, will offer training for organizations interested in becoming affiliate members. The training -- in Columbus on February 18 -- will cover an introduction to the NCBC model, and how establishing book clubs that include people served in Ohio's DD system can further community integration. The cost of the training is \$550 per organization. [Download the registration form](#), and complete it by February 6. Questions? Call Jillian Ober at (614) 685-6718 or Tom Fish at (614) 685-8723.

### **New Transportation Advocacy Group to meet January 14**

A new Transportation Advocacy Group is seeking participants with disabilities, and will meet January 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at new Mount Carmel West /Medical Offices, First Floor, 777 West State Street in Columbus. Call the Center for Disability Empowerment to Register: (614) 575-8055. Parking vouchers are available at meeting.

### **Break Every Chain: Human Trafficking Conference, January 11**

Combatting human trafficking in Ohio is one of Governor John Kasich's key initiatives. In support of this work, the Reynoldsburg Youth Human Trafficking Coalition and Councilman Cornelius McGrady III will host their annual "Break Every Chain" anti-human trafficking conference on January 11 in Reynoldsburg, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg High School Summit campus, 8579 Summit Road. Information and registration information is [now online](#). Contact for the event is Councilman McGrady at [mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com)

### **DD Awareness Month Theme Announced for 2015 – *Can Do, Like You!***

Ohio Public Images (OPI) has announced the theme for the statewide 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) campaign – *Can Do, Like You!* The annual campaign helps to create positive awareness of persons with developmental disabilities. Artwork, posters, and other products with the *Can Do, Like You!* logo will be ready to ship on January 2. Visit the [Ohio Public Images website](#) for more information.

### **Final Reminder: Media and Awareness Awards – Entry Deadline, January 10**

The OPI Call for Entries for the organization's annual Media and Awareness Awards for the period December 1, 2013, through November 30, 2014, is 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 'Ohio Awards.' Entry deadline is January 10, and winners will be recognized at a luncheon March 12 at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards conference.

## Statewide DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3

Next year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day will be March 3 at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and Museum Gallery. Mark your calendars! If you haven't attended before, [here's some information about the 2014 event](#).

### DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, 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.



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