

Pipeline Quarterly

A quarterly feature publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

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- Director's Column -

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Enrollment Begins

by John Martin
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Enrollment for the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver begins on July 1, 2012. Ohio's developmental disabilities community has shown some excitement about this new waiver option, as it is the first to allow individuals with developmental disabilities the freedom to determine *how* and *where* they receive supports paid with the state's Medicaid funding.

Individuals will be able to self-direct where and how services are provided.

SELF waiver capacity for the first year is up to 500 individuals, accumulates to 1000 in the second year, and to 2000 in the third year. Waiver capacity also includes 100 children with intensive behavioral needs who meet defined criteria.

Unique to the SELF waiver, *an explanation must be provided when an individual chooses an Adult Day service that is not an employment service.* Community Inclusion services available with the waiver support individuals' full participation the community. In the next *Pipeline Quarterly* we look forward to featuring individuals served by this new waiver. 

-Respectfully, John Martin

"I've been able to make new friends."

-page 8

Ohio's DD Community Fostering Individual & Collective Strengths



Above: Bobby with friend, Winse, at Sinclair Community College in Dayton (pp. 6-7); **Right:** Debbie Fogg earns Ohio's first national Direct Support Professional credential (p. 5); **Below:** Goodwill Columbus' Holly Hunt attends an Autism Awareness Event and proudly sports an 'autism puzzle' pin made by Ohioans with disabilities (p. 4).

During Spring 2012, Ohio's developmental disabilities community saw exciting progress with Governor John Kasich's *Employment First* Executive Order in March, followed in June by the signing of Senate Bill 316, which includes statutory provisions making Ohio an *Employment First* state, and reinforcing efforts to create an environment that fosters work opportunities for *all citizens* to explore.

In addition, the Administration's Mid-Biennium Budget Review was completed, including many reforms focused on state human services programs. DODD's efforts toward these reforms were recently recognized by Office of Budget and Management Director Timothy Keen, who noted, "DODD's many recommendations for improvement that help the Department and its local agency partners provide better, more efficient services." Read on for more! 



"School has helped me connect the dots ..."

-page 4

In this Issue of PQ

- p. 2-3 *Spotlight on Employment; Advocacy at the Grassroots Level*
- p. 4-5 *Partners in Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community*
- p. 6-7 *Sinclair Community College Puts the 'Fun Factor' in Learning*
- p. 8-9 *Developmental Centers Open Doors to New Homes; J. Gumbo's BELL Training*
- p. 10 *Emerging County Board Best Practices - Delaware County*

Hollinger to Lead Employment First Initiative at DODD



Ben Hollinger

The initiative's policy and task force will encourage Ohioans with DD to take part in the community workforce whenever possible, rather than in more traditional 'sheltered workshop' settings.



DODD announced in April that Ben Hollinger would be joining the Department in May as Assistant Deputy Director for the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction. Formerly the Scioto County Board of DD Superintendent, Hollinger will spearhead DODD's *Employment First* initiative and related efforts. In making the announcement, DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr stated,

"Ben brings the right mix of leadership, experience, and passion for serving people with disabilities from a community-driven perspective."

An example of this kind of perspective is the Scioto

County program, 'Vocation Station' (*see below*), a project begun during Hollinger's superintendency there.

Kerr added, "Ben knows the true value in what we do is to empower people, and then support their choices in how they want to live. That's the very essence of our goal in supporting opportunities in community employment." Hollinger commented,

"Governor Kasich has shown strong leadership in his Executive Order to make community employment a priority for Ohioans with disabilities, and I am confident the field is ready to rally around this issue to move our system forward together."

He continued, "I am very excited about the Department's efforts to increase integrated employment for people with disabilities across the state."

DODD's *Employment First Task Force* will identify best practices, effective partnerships, sources of funds, opportunities for shared services among County Boards and other service providers, and expand model community-based employment options.



Contact Ben at ben.hollinger@dodd.ohio.gov

The Employment First Task Force, created in line with the Executive Order, will explore and expand employment opportunities for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Scioto County's Vocation Station Earns Appalachia Microenterprise Award



Vocation, Not Vacation!

John Bloomer (left) and Adrienne Seymour (right) review a manual designed to enhance business development skills. Laurie Green (center), Community Employment Team Leader, facilitates the learning process.

Griffin-Hammis Associates' 2012 Appalachia Microenterprise Project awarded to the Vocation Station, is funded as a project of the Ohio DD Council.

Training is a key component in preparing for any job. The *Vocation Station*, a program of the Scioto County Board of DD, was recently awarded the 2012 Griffin-Hammis Associates' Appalachia Microenterprise Award. "This allows us to offer a training series to individuals in our area, enabling them to acquire a nationally-recognized Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Community Employment (CE) Specialist Certificate," explained Laurie Green, SCBDD Community Employment Team Leader.

The training series is a five-tier classroom curriculum that introduces elements of wage-earning and self-employment. Green notes, "We want to build a Community Action Team to focus on employment needs for *our* community." The team will include business owners, officials, members of civic organizations, and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. More at www.appalachiamicroenterprise.com/



Advocacy at the Grassroots Level Living the Bill of Rights, Erie County Style

At the May 15 DODD Central Office 'All Staff' meeting, the agenda went well beyond the usual update on Department goals and initiatives, by bringing in the expertise of Erie County self advocates and support staff. Drawing DODD staff from the Rhodes State Office Tower to the William Green Building in downtown Columbus, the rest of the staff, at Developmental Centers around the state, was connected via teleconferencing.

Following Director John Martin's presentation outlining current key projects and the state budget outlook, the Erie County team took the stage for a lively demonstration of self-advocacy in action, illustrating themes from the *Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*, and focusing on responsibilities, as well. Erie County self advocates are a well-practiced team of individuals who role-played with enthusiasm, and have taken their program to other counties around the state. Skits emphasized the 'rights and wrongs' of personal interactions, shining a light on things like the need for personal space and personal belongings (see list at right).

DODD staff were especially interested to see the role-played staff, parents, and individuals receiving services as 'real-world' examples of how far individual expectations for people with developmental disabilities have come – and how far there is yet to go. The Erie County self advocates noted,

"We've shown self advocates in some other counties how to stand up for themselves! We picked examples that we know about first-hand."

For more about Erie County efforts go to: www.eriecbdd.org



Director Martin with "The Cast" from Erie County
Representing Erie County's self advocacy efforts are (l. to r.) Superintendent Lisa Guliano*, Harry Miller, Carly Sabo, Linda Carone, and staff support (at back) Kristy Ferback and Joe Casey. *Now Superintendent in Butler County

Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Full List at: dodd.ohio.gov/BillofRights/Documents/Bill%20of%20Rights.pdf

We all have basic rights! Here are the Top 10 Rights on the List

- I. Be treated nicely at all times, and as a person.
- II. Have a clean, safe place to live, and a place to be alone.
- III. Have food that is good for you.
- IV. Be able to go, if you want, to any church, temple, or mosque.
- V. Be able to go to a doctor or dentist when you are sick.
- VI. Be able to have people help you with the way you walk, talk, do things with your hands, act, or feel, if you need it.
- VII. Be able to have people help and teach you, if you want.
- VIII. Be able to have time and a place to go to be by yourself.
- IX. Be able to call, write letters, or talk to anyone you want, about anything you want.
- X. Be able to have your own things and be able to use them.

Plain, 'People First' Language

This list was updated in 2010 to reflect plain, 'People First' language. Ohio Public Images* (OPI) worked with other statewide advocacy groups to revise the Rights following requests from self advocates, after the words 'mental retardation' were removed from usage in statute (2009).

More at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

Partners in Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Community Spring 2012 saw many examples of individual and collective strength

Legislative Advocacy Day theme, 'Get Your Voice Heard'

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) annual *Legislative Advocacy Day*, May 8, at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, welcomed more than 400 advocates and self advocates who were there to 'get their voices heard' on key issues.

In addition to a short introductory program, helpful information was provided to prepare for scheduled visits with legislators on subjects such as the *Employment First* initiative (Senate Bill 316) and *Visitability* (House Bill 332). Information was provided in several formats so that individuals had many ways to communicate their thoughts and ideas to legislators who may not be as familiar with these subjects as others.

Sue Willis, with the *AXIS Center for Public Awareness* – working in collaboration with DD Council to develop and host the event – stated, “We are

hopeful that people will make the most of today’s opportunity to speak with legislators about things that are important to them.” And they did.

Tonya Dillon, a self advocate from Licking County and active in *People First of Ohio*, was there to do exactly that. She noted,

“I’m here in Columbus to find out more about the SELF waiver, and how I might be able to help others learn more about waivers, as well as employment.”

Autism Awareness Day Spotlights Progress

Individuals with autism, advocates, families, and state legislators gathered for Autism Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium April 26, to raise awareness and understanding during Autism Awareness Month. The annual event was sponsored by Autism Speaks, the Autism Society of Central Ohio, the Autism Society of Ohio, and others. The program included comments by state officials, self advocates, parent advocates,

“We are hopeful that people will make the most of the opportunity to speak with legislators about things that are important to them.” - Sue Willis, AXIS Center

(cont. on p. 5)



Having their voices heard at Legislative Advocacy Day. Renee Wood (center) and husband Floris, (left) speak with Chuck Beatty. Renee is the DD Council Chairperson, and Chuck is a longtime advocate and advisor to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.



Zach, a young man who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, addressed the group at Autism Awareness Day:

“The school I attend now is more quiet and calm ... it has helped me connect the dots that were scattered before.”

More Partners in Ohio's DD Community *(cont. from p. 4)*

and professionals in the statewide autism community. Several Ohio legislators stepped up to the platform noting some of the positive legislative actions that have provided new opportunities in education through the school voucher program for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and outlined legislative issues ahead, including insurance mandates for autism coverage, and the importance of ensuring Early Intervention services. State Representative Louis Terhar, explained,

**"Early Intervention is a saver of money,
not a spender of money."**

OADSP Announces First Nationally-Credentialed DSP, Debbie Fogg

by Tony Thomas, OADSP President

Debbie Fogg has achieved a milestone. She recently was awarded the very first 'Direct Support Professional - Certified' (DSP-C) credential from NADSP (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals - the national organization representing states, including Ohio's OADSP). The award was earned through her work in the Ohio PATHS program (Professional Advancement Through Training and Education in Human Services) along with additional work documentation for the credential at the national level.

She has become not only the first person to receive this national credential in Ohio, but also is the first Independent Provider to do so in the state.

The NADSP credentialing system is very new. Debbie is now the 34th person in the country to receive this prestigious credential.

Debbie Fogg is an Independent Provider in the Cleveland area, and has been a provider more than ten years. She successfully completed both the Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) and the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP) levels of the OADSP program, PATHS.

Following that, she decided to seek the national certification for her work by completing additional work-based materials, and submitting the entire package to NADSP. *It has taken Debbie more than three years of diligent work to complete all of this!*

When asked why she chose to pursue both the state and national credentials, Debbie replied that it was a way to ...

" ... encourage other independent service providers to seek this credential, and to help provide the best care and support for the people I serve ... and also to pursue and further my own education."

What also helped to motivate Debbie in this process was a stipend she received from the Cuyahoga County Board of DD.



Debbie Fogg, Independent Provider, recently earned the very first National Direct Support Professional certification credential in Ohio.

Congratulations, Debbie!

Debbie works with approximately ten individuals and their families, and is proud to tell families that she is a *credentialed* Independent Provider. She also is quick to tell families and individuals that she works hard to be the best provider and support person she can be.

That's why she did it - And you can't argue with that reasoning! - T. Thomas

More about OADSP at www.ohiopaths.org



OADSP launched the PATHS Program in 2000. OADSP is a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to recruiting, training and retaining people to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

Sinclair Community College Puts the Fun Factor in Learning

Fun & Relationship-Building are Key to Enriching O.T.A. Curriculum

Sara Casey, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (O.T.A.) and faculty member at Sinclair Community College, Dayton, loves the organized chaos that is 'Fun Night' in the Clinical Classroom on a Tuesday night in June.

It's actually *learning disguised as fun*, and everyone is in on the action. She remarks, "It's the last time this school year that our group of 11-15 participants and our O.T. students will be together before the Annual Picnic next week ..." and here she is interrupted by a chorus of voices excitedly repeating "Picnic!" No matter – they are still focused on their games of UNO, making 'Super Sammies' ('designer' PB&J sandwiches), and keeping up with news of their mutual friends -- so the learning continues, now mixed with picnic anticipation.

The Clinical Classroom was never so much fun before several families got together about fourteen years ago, to talk with Sinclair staff about what has evolved into a regularly-scheduled 'Fun Night.' Here, elements of the curriculum focus on improving fine and gross motor skills and other goals, all rolled into a plan for relationship-building and learning between O.T.A. students and adults with developmental disabilities.

At Sinclair, the Occupational Therapy Assistant program uses a case-based format, and reinforces opportunities to gain practical experience, exploring all aspects of a situation through research and group interaction. Students participate in clinical training, including opportunities like "Fun Night," allowing students to gain first-hand experience in working with individuals of all ages and their families and service providers. Says Sara,

"I like to have the families and providers who come in here with the individuals on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for this program give us input and feedback, and share what is helping or working, and what is not.

This makes for more and better follow-through for the individuals when they are not here, and then everyone wins."



Checking In

Joyce Brun (left) and daughter, Janice, arrive for Fun Night and bring their \$2 activity donation for snacks and supplies.



"Are you looking at my hand?!"

Despina Bourbakis, parent of Evelyn, (with red scarf) observes, "My daughter has participated in this activity for at least nine years, and she loves it!"

(cont. on p. 7)

Sinclair Community College *(cont. from p. 6)*

Speaking of winning, what about the UNO game quickly moving along on one side of the Clinical Classroom? It appears that Evelyn has noticed someone trying to look at her cards! "I'm just holding them for you, Evelyn!" says Sinclair student, Tracy. Evelyn smiles and nods.

One table away, Bobby uses his ECO-2 communication device to tell his friend, Winse, that his Super Sammie is better than hers. And, at another table, Marcia says, "I need help!" That organized chaos is why Fun Night works for everyone. 

More info. at: <http://www.sinclair.edu/>



Super Sammies and Friends

Marcia (above, left) and Beth prepare their 'Super Sammies' (sandwiches), although Marcia seems to be much more into the sandwich than Beth, who would rather 'interview' her friends! In fact, at right, Beth produces her ID Card to make sure that everyone at the table has her correct and updated contact information,

"In case you need to get a hold of me."

Below, Bobby plainly likes being the only guy at Fun Night! Bobby and Winse ('WIN-see') catch up on their ongoing friendship before sharpening their fine motor skills preparing Super Sammies.



Sinclair Community College curriculum description notes, "Occupational Therapy Assistants Help Others Live Independently"

O.T.A. uses a variety of skills and techniques—including daily life activities, exercises, and adaptive equipment—to help people learn the skills they need to live as independently as possible. 

A Note from the Chairperson, Sinclair O.T. Assistant Department

"There are about five members who have been attending Fun Night the entire 14 years! Our Occupational Therapy Assistant program has been greatly enriched by the individuals and families who participate with our students. It has become an important part of our curriculum."

Kay Ashworth, MAT, OT/L, Chairperson, Occupational Therapy Assistant Department, Sinclair Community College, Kay.Ashworth@sinclair.edu

Developmental Centers Open Doors to New Homes, New Opportunities

Warrensville Developmental Center, in Highland Hills, shares individuals' success stories.

Warrensville Developmental Center (WDC) is located on 42 acres in Highland Hills, Ohio. Located near shopping malls and a community park, WDC serves approximately 130 residents who need extensive supports in areas such as health care and social skills development.

WDC serves 15 counties: Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Summit, Portage, Medina, Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Stark, Mahoning, and Columbiana.

The number of individuals served at WDC and at all of Ohio's Developmental Centers is growing smaller as community-based residential service waivers are accessed through a planned, ongoing census reduction.



Notice: Leon and Frieda have moved!

by Wendy DiGregorio, Superintendent, WDC

Leon lived at Warrensville Developmental Center (WDC) for more than seven years before the right community-based residential opportunity was found for him. In 2009, Leon was offered the opportunity to live in the community in Edgerton Home, located in University Heights. Edgerton Home is part of New Avenues to Independence, a residential service provider serving our area of the state.

One day not long ago, I saw Leon on the grounds at WDC -- he works on a lawn maintenance crew here -- and I asked if he would like to be interviewed for a story about his move to the Edgerton Home. Leon was happy to be asked, and sat with me for a few minutes to be interviewed. He told me that that he has lived there now more than three years, and added that he likes being a part of the home, and doing chores to help out.

Leon also said that to live in the home, everyone has to help and they all have things that they have to do. He offered this example of his day, "We get home after work and eat dinner, take a shower, pack our lunches, take our medicines, and then sometimes do activities. Then we come back and I go to bed."

I asked Leon, "What's the one thing you would like other people to know about living in a home in the community." His reply? "We have people (social

When asked what kind of activities he likes, Leon emphatically states, "Bowling! We go bowling on Saturdays... I've been able to make new friends."



Frieda is a no-nonsense kind of lady! She says, "What do I like about living here? People are nice, and you see puppy dogs."



workers, guardians) to help us. Staff in the home help us, too."

Winding up the interview I asked, "What's the thing you like best about living in your home in the community?" Leon smiled at this question and said, "I've been able to make new friends."

In talking about Leon's story with Daryl Weiland, Program Director at New Avenues to Independence, he stated,

"Leon has demonstrated that making the transition from a large facility to a smaller home is both possible and beneficial."

(cont. on p. 9)

More about WDC at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Warrensville-Developmental-Center---.aspx>

J. Gumbo's Employment Model Combines On-Site Training

J. Gumbo's in Delaware County offers a blend of Cajun fast food, and a unique experience for the franchise -- an on-site classroom for Delaware area residents with disabilities.

In May, J. Gumbo's restaurant opened in downtown Delaware, Ohio with Cajun-style food and a unique twist to the business model. Housed within the restaurant is the BELL (Business Education ~ Learning Liaison) Training Program for adults with developmental disabilities.

The innovative approach starts with each applicant learning skills pertaining to the restaurant business, and augmenting their own personal growth at the area's Life Builder's Day Support Program. Participants apply for the training to learn job skills that can be utilized in any setting, and once accepted, participants focus on core skill areas,



The BELL Training Program, located in J. Gumbo's Delaware County restaurant, provides an authentic work environment. At the Grand Opening are Ashley Yore, Fox28/abc6 News; Joseph Scherler III, BELL participant and part-time J. Gumbo's employee; and Joe's dad, Joseph Scherler II.

"We are a locally-owned business that is fully committed to providing training and equal employment for individuals with developmental disabilities."

- Richard Upton, J. Gumbo's

and visit other businesses to gain understanding of different career choices. The BELL Program is located in the restaurant to provide an authentic work environment. After core skill areas are mastered, trainees decide their career focus. Goals are then designed to fit each trainee and career desired. There is no set length for the training, and individuals progress at their own pace until they reach their goals.

Participants may apply to work at J. Gumbo's, start their own micro-enterprise business, or work in another career field of their choice. Assistance is provided in acquiring employment, transitioning to the workforce and maintaining the position -- a long-term approach to ensure success. 

Contact: Wilma Justice, Life Builders, email: wjustice@lifebuilders.us

New Homes, New Opportunities

(cont. from p. 8)

And now, about Frieda

As some others began moving out of WDC, Frieda wondered when her turn would come. Then, one day she met with the folks from Community Quality Care and visited Saratoga House. When Frieda saw the house and met the people living there, she had a good feeling that this was where she wanted to live. Finally, one day Frieda received the news she'd been waiting for – her residential services waiver had been approved, and she was going to live at Saratoga House! After more than eight years at WDC, she'd found a new home. She proudly told *everyone* that she was moving.

The day finally arrived, and after many good wishes, she moved from WDC to Saratoga House. It's been three years since that move, and Frieda agreed to be interviewed for this story. She answered questions in her usual direct, no-nonsense way:

Q: "How long have you lived in your (new) home?"

A: "A long time."

Q: "What's the one thing you'd like people to know about living in the community?"

A: "It's fun and pretty, and you go places."

Q: "What's the one best thing you like about living in your home in the community?"

A: "People are nice, and you see puppy dogs."

"Frieda has made the transition from WDC to Saratoga House a true success story. It's wonderful to see her develop new relationships and explore her new community."

-Wendy DiGregorio, Superintendent, WDC



Emerging County Board Best Practices - Delaware County

Paper Becoming Scarce at Delaware County Board of DD

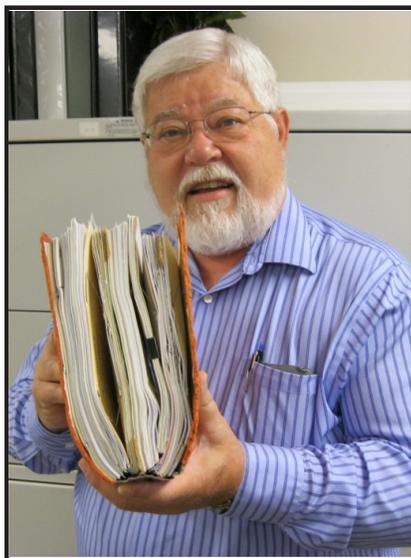
Previously ubiquitous 8-1/2" x 11" white rectangles known as 'sheets of paper' are appearing less and less frequently on the desks of employees at the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DCBDD) -- the first of Ohio's 88 County Boards to have implemented electronic Board Meeting packets, and to scan and index all client records. The automation process began seven years ago with Board Meeting agenda packets 'going digital.'

Copying, binding, and mailing the paper packets previously cost more than \$2500 per year, not to mention the copier equipment and staff time involved. Today, the packets are prepared in just a few hours, emailed at no cost, and received by DCBDD Board members in minutes, instead of days.

Scanning client records began in April 2007 and was completed in March 2008, involving more than 2,000,000 pieces of paper, weighing more than 48,000 lbs.

Employees receive their own paper personnel files as the agency completes scanning and indexing. The agency's shift to electronic storage also has eliminated the inherent dangers of paper storage, including fire, water damage, and light exposure -- and greatly reduced storage/space costs. Documents are backed-up on the DCBDD computer system servers with the safeguard of an off-site document storage grid to further assure against document loss. The new business model allows convenient off-site/electronic access to records when DCBDD staff meet with individuals and families in the community.

The agency has realized considerable cost savings associated with the transfer of paper documents to an electronic business model.



Automating the previous paper trail is one reason why DCBDD's operating Cost Per Individual Served has been reduced every year since 2008. The final stage of the project is to set up a digital record system of the Delaware County *Family & Children First Council* and the *Help Me Grow* program, which will transfer under the Board's administrative authority on July 1.

Bob Morgan's 28 years of DCBDD history! Replacement of paper personnel records has reduced DCBDD Superintendent Robert Morgan's 28 years of history with the agency to a mere 115 MB of space on the agency's computer server -- replacing a file folder several inches thick.

Thanks to DCBDD's Sue Munday for this information. Contact: Sue.Munday@dcbdd.org

Pipeline Quarterly

Published four times annually (*fall, winter, spring, summer*) by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DODD) Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications, *Pipeline Quarterly* focuses on people, highlights topics of interest to the developmental disabilities community, and reinforces DODD core concepts and philosophy.

We thank all who have allowed us to speak with them for this issue, and all who have contributed to its preparation. Reader comments, ideas, and feedback are welcomed!

Submit ideas for *Pipeline Quarterly* to editor Sherry Steinman: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov, or call (614) 644-0262. *Pipeline Quarterly* and the twice-monthly *Pipeline* are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>



^ Looking forward to the SELF Waiver.