

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov
Click here for Pipeline [Audio](#)

March 28, 2012
Volume 6, Issue 7

In This Issue ...

- 1. *Administration Update*: Governor Kasich Signs Executive Order Launching *Employment First*
- 2. *People First* Conference Blazes New Trails
- 3. More Community Engagement: Statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Events
- 4. DODD Participates in *The Arc's* Annual Information-Packed Event, '*Knowledge is Power*'
- 5. The Mahoning Valley is Very Much Alive!
- 6. 2010 ADA *Standards for Accessible Design* in Effect as of March 15, 2012
- 7. Severe Weather Awareness Week – Be Alert

Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Upcoming Events and Opportunities

-Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month-

Thanks to all who have shared information about local activities!

Administration Update

1. Employment First Initiative, Executive Order Signed

On March 19, Governor John Kasich signed an Executive Order establishing the *Employment First* initiative in Ohio, including the formation of a task force to expand employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The *Employment First* policy and task force will encourage Ohioans with developmental disabilities to take part in the community workforce whenever possible, rather than in more traditional 'sheltered workshop' settings.

The signing ceremony was at Dublin Methodist Hospital, and hosted by Ohio Health CEO David Blom. Ohio Health participates in Project SEARCH, a school-to-work program that provides hands-on work experience, along with training in employability and independent living. Several of Ohio's Project SEARCH students/employees attended the event, including parent-advocate Sue Hetrick, and her son Micah -- who shared a personal experience of his journey to seek and obtain community employment.

Highlighting the impact of Project SEARCH, DODD Director John Martin noted,

"Project SEARCH really kick-started Micah's ability to work. We greatly appreciate this Executive Order. It will help challenge the stereotypes and change an entire culture in Ohio."

Prior to signing the Executive Order, Governor Kasich enthusiastically stated,

"We're going to push, push, push on this employment theme! People with disabilities want to work in the community, and Director Martin tells me that many people who now are in workshops around the state would like to have other opportunities available to them. Well, I'm going to say right now, that people with disabilities have a voice in this Administration."

The [Executive Order](#) calls for DODD to take the lead on developing the Employment First Task Force, which will include representatives from the departments of Education, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. In its first six months, the Task Force is expected to focus on key areas, including:

- Reviewing the recommendations of the recent State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) report ([linked here](#)) which addresses various ways to increase community employment opportunities for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- Aligning and streamlining policies, procedures, eligibility, enrollment, and planning for services that help to increase opportunities for community employment.
- Developing universally-available tools for appropriate agencies for improved documentation, eligibility, selection, assessment, and planning of services.
- Identifying best practices, effective partnerships, sources of federal funds, opportunities for shared services among County Boards of DD and other service providers, and expanding model programs to increase community employment opportunities. In addition, establish interagency agreements to improve coordination of services, allow for data sharing, and set benchmarks for improving community employment outcomes.
- Addressing specific areas where additional options or support is needed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to work in community jobs.

The Governor's Executive Order is a strong first step in a policy proposal included in the Mid-Biennium Budget bill introduced earlier this month. It calls for an initial focus on students with developmental disabilities, ages 14 and up, who are transitioning from school settings to jobs in their communities - determining what their skills and abilities are best suited for in terms of other employment beyond 'sheltered workshops.'

Ohio's DD system currently spends less than 6% of its adult services funding on placing and supporting individuals in the general community workforce. Current state and federal efforts are increasingly focused on redirecting Medicaid spending to promote community-based services.

Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Executive Director Greg Moody also has noted that the bill requires that the Individualized Education Plan for each student with developmental disabilities in Ohio's education system will include a goal of preparing the student for community work. Changes in the law would make meaningful community employment the preferred option for these students in Ohio.



Prior to the Governor's Arrival ...

Micah Hetrick (left) checks out the crowd. Seated are Licking County People First members, Tonya Dillon and Kyle Howell, attending in support of greater employment opportunities.



**Signing the Executive Order: Only in Ohio could 'dotting the 'i' be so much fun!
(From back, left to right) DODD Director John Martin, RSC Director Kevin Miller, JFS Director Michael Colbert, Micah Hetrick, and Governor John Kasich. Micah dotted the 'i' in 'Kasich.'**



John Hannah (center) talks with Governor Kasich following the program.
(L. to R.) Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Executive Director Mark Davis, self-advocate John Hannah, and Governor John Kasich. Knowing John Hannah, he probably was giving the Governor some new statistics to use in his next speech about employment.
[More Photos Here](#)

Following Up on the Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR) Proposal

Also offering opportunities for transformational change within the state, OHT's provisions within the MBR include the authority to create 'agencies without walls' to allow state agencies offering health and human services programming to collaborate and share resources, including funding. For example, the proposal allows for the sharing of data, personnel, funds, and other operating resources among designated state agencies to support agency collaboration, in accordance with any requirements in federal law.

In doing this, Ohio's health and human services agencies would be recognized as a "single enterprise" for initiatives authorized and managed by OHT, which would eliminate the necessity of formal interagency agreements -- which can be cumbersome or counter-productive.

The MBR authority would expire June 30, 2013. OHT plans to recommend a more permanent health and human services structure in the fiscal 2014-2015 biennial budget.

More information on the MBR will be posted at: <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/> and at www.dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom.



2. People First Conference Blazes New Trails

"Don't let anyone fence you in!" - Victoria Baker Willford

"Blazing New Trails," the *People First of Ohio* Conference held March 22-24, at Roberts Convention Centre in Wilmington, Ohio, used the western theme to drive home lessons learned and trails explored to help the nearly 600 people in attendance learn new things, and strengthen efforts geared toward community employment and involvement. *People First*, long known for

‘telling it like it is,’ and doing so with a sense of humor and a sense of pride, was at its best this year during a conference that celebrated nearly 20 years of training and advocacy.

Speakers included DODD Deputy Director Zach Haughawout – who told the room full of self advocates,

“We want you to talk with us and help us plan better programs for you - it's so important that we hear from you and that we have an ongoing dialogue.”

Haughawout noted the importance of the signing of the *Employment First* Executive Order last week (*see previous article*), and participated in a skit that illustrated the folly of not planning your transportation needs -- using an imaginative ‘horse’ that broke down before getting him from point A to point B (*photos below*).



Reliable Transportation is Very Important!

(Left) The ‘horse’ balks at Zach Haughawout’s attempts to get it moving ... (right) Sadie Hunter, forefront, and Joellen Hunter emerge from the costume, as Zach contemplates other travel options.

Dan Connors, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Deputy Director of the allied Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, presented information on Vocational Rehabilitation and Project SEARCH, as well as this over-arching message:

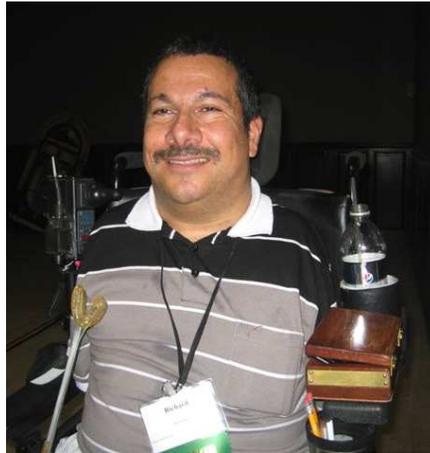
“We have to change the message from ‘Employing people with disabilities is the nice thing to do,’ to, ‘You can’t afford not to hire people who have developmental disabilities. They are a market not to be ignored, but to be encouraged.’”

In addition, speakers who are self advocates included Victoria Baker-Willford who is blind, and who illustrated her “Don’t fence me in” concept by building a picket fence onstage, and Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Devylder was remarkable not only for his forthrightness in telling his personal story of being born without limbs, but for his practical approach to life, and his work involving the pursuit and guarantee of rights that *all people* should expect, especially in terms of accessible transportation. He stated,

“Accessible, reliable transportation is a civil right. We're not kidding when we say that we are working to ensure reliable and safe transportation services that include people with disabilities in an integrated manner.”

Technology Makes the Difference

Devylder added that assistive technology makes the difference for him and others with severe developmental disabilities, and that several rules and regulations are in development to assist in traveling more easily by land, air, and water – such as 'level boarding' platforms in train stations. Devylder also made the important distinction between considering something an *accommodation* for a disability, versus offering options for *diverse functional needs*. The entire population has diverse functional needs -- and will benefit by this no-nonsense approach to accessibility.



“Accessible and reliable transportation is a civil right.”

Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation for the U.S. Department of Transportation

Click for: video of Richard Devylder

Conference breakout sessions included information about voting, employment – including **Medicaid Buy-In**, leadership, how to make the most of Individualized Service Plan meetings (ISPs), and much more (be sure to see the video at <http://www.peoplefirstohio.org/>). Emphasis throughout the event was on self advocates taking the lead in planning their futures whenever possible, knowing their rights and respective responsibilities, and learning what they can to assure independence in making choices or selecting any needed supports.

“Don't let people talk you into stuff in your ISP meeting or pressure you! You are in charge of your meeting, and it can be anyplace you want it to be.”

- Christine Brown, self advocate

“Medicaid Buy-In helps to make the money you earn work *for* you.”

- Chuck Beatty, People First Advisor

There were many lessons learned at the *People First* conference, and with the gentle guidance and leadership of Sadie Hunter and Joellen Hunter, self advocates left the convention having learned that there is *more than one trail to ride on* – and some are bumpier than others.

While lying on the train tracks with his money stolen in 'The Great Train Robbery' skit, he knew he had not practiced the safe travel techniques he had been taught.

"I need to plan better," he thought.

- Lesson Learned by All, and especially John Hannah, who was lying on the tracks

More information at the People First website: www.peoplefirstohio.org



DD Awareness Month Wrap-Up

3. Awareness Awards and Community Engagement Efforts

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness activities and events around the state this month.

Thanks to all who have shared information and photos of your local activities!

Superintendent's Conference Hosts Annual Awards Event

The Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards (OASCB) Winter Conference in Columbus, March 19, also hosted the Ohio Public Images Annual Awards, conferring on nearly 50 individuals and organizations various awards recognizing excellence in promoting *awareness and understanding* of people who have disabilities, and their participation as full citizens in communities throughout the state. Awards honored efforts during 2011. Conference attendees also heard updates on budget information and specific programs.



Self Advocates of the Year receive Passion Flower* Awards

The Merit Award, left, is presented by OASCB president Rick Marriott to Denver Gray, Hocking County. The Excellence Award was presented to Joe Scherler, Delaware County. Joe says,

"Thank you to my Mom and Dad for all their support, and to all my friends who help me. I love you guys!"

**Our
Community
is Better
together**

*Passion Flowers are unique metal art works made by Athens County Board of DD's PassionWorks Studio. A video of all the OPI award winners is at: [OPI Awards Luncheon Video](#)



Lake County

Lake County is celebrating DD Awareness Month by showcasing the many talents of individuals served. Lake County DD notes that the Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) has hosted a "VGC Idol" competition for four years, and decided to broaden the competition by encouraging each of four area day habilitation programs to run a semi-final competition, with finalists to appear 'center stage' at the Great Lakes Mall -- complete with professional judges and media coverage. On March 31st – billed as “Deepwood Idol” – volunteers from a local high school will escort contestants down the red carpet to the stage. Great Lakes Mall Marketing Director Renee Lanzara noted, “Hosting the Deepwood Idol is important to us! It’s a wonderful platform to highlight the talents of individuals served by Lake County DD/ Deepwood.”



Photo courtesy, Lynnmarie Landwei-Phillips

Enthusiastic Lake County Idol Contestants Prepare for Limousine Ride.

The limo ride to the Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) “Idol” competition was enjoyed by all. The ride was donated by local performers, Merle & Munchkin.

Semi-finalists’ talent has ranged from VGC Idol contestant, Jean G., with her rendition of Etta James’ song, ‘At Last,’ to Willoughby Workshop’s winner, David S., who sang Ce & Ce Music Factory’s ‘Everybody Dance Now.’ According to listeners, he was able to sing the high notes in one breath, and the next minute start bass rapping! Students from Auburn Career Center will record Deepwood Idol and create a memory DVD as a gift for contestants and judges.

Contact: Lynnmarie Landwei-Phillips, Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood, (440) 918-5173.



Trumbull County

The Fairhaven Foundation, a residential facility, recently hosted a legislative breakfast in recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The spirit of the 2012 Awareness theme, “Our Community is Better Together” was illustrated by program participants Robert Elek and Lyle Barshney, who described their journey to find community employment with the help of Trumbull County Board of DD/ Fairhaven Direct Link Program. Robert Elek noted, “Then I decided I would like more of a challenge and I was referred to the Direct Link Program. A short time after, Lyle and I were called to tour Star Manufacturing.” He continued,

“We knew we wanted the job, but knew we would need help getting started. The Fairhaven Foundation helped us each get a new pair of work boots. We had to have special boots for this job

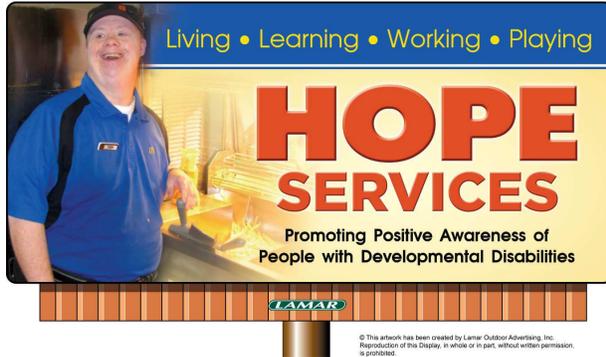
and we needed them quickly. Since November 2011 we have been working at Star three days a week, and at the Champion Workshop the other two days to keep busy.”

Contact: Linda Tiihonen, Fairhaven Foundation, Linda.Tiihonen@TCBDD.org



Henry County, Ottawa County

Billboards across the state have told many local stories during DD Awareness Month this year. Thanks to all who have localized the positive awareness message!



The positive awareness message in Henry County (left), and in Ottawa County.



Richland County

In Mansfield, 25 people representing businesses, schools, and agencies in Richland County experienced first-hand what it means to have a disability as Richland Newhope sponsored its 11th Annual Community Awareness Day. The purpose of Community Awareness Day is to focus attention on a person’s *abilities* and to show that people with developmental disabilities can be valuable members of our community. Event participants are paired with individuals served by Newhope, along with a staff member, and are provided a simulated ‘disability.’



What’s for lunch?

Richland County Community Awareness Day participant Dan DeVille, employed by FirstEnergy, visited Raintree, an Intermediate Care Facility. Here he communicates in a new way to a Raintree employee, as he experiences being non-verbal, and wanting to ask for something in particular for lunch.

Also in Richland County, 18 students were selected winners of the 19th Annual Third Grade Coloring Contest, sponsored by Newhope as part of DD Awareness Month. All County schools

with third grade classes were invited to participate in the contest. Participants were asked to complete a picture featuring three children, one of whom uses a wheelchair. Newhope received 530 entries from 18 schools, demonstrating understanding of the awareness message.



The Arc of Ohio

4. DODD Participates in “Knowledge is Power” Event Today

The Sheraton on Capitol Square in Columbus is the site of today’s “Knowledge is Power” event, sponsored by The Arc of Ohio, and providing a venue for people with developmental disabilities, their families, support professionals, and educators to gather for education and advocacy.

Beginning the program this morning was DODD Director John Martin who provided a status report on progress in various areas within the state’s developmental disabilities community, under the ‘umbrella’ of the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and pertaining to the Mid-Biennium Budget Review proposal and related efforts. Director Martin spotlighted several key areas, noting,

“ We are very excited about the Employment First initiative, and the Executive Order signed by Governor Kasich last week. If we are going to ‘move the needle’ toward community employment for Ohioans with developmental disabilities we need to show that it is priority in this Administration. We also need to look at the education system, and the school-to-work transition coordinators to be sure they are on-board with helping students early-on in this effort.”

Director Martin fielded several questions from the actively engaged attendees, including this question from a parent who has a son with autism:

Q: “I think you need to ‘put some teeth’ into the requirements to make staff in the DD system consider the community employment option as a priority for individuals who want that option. I’m not seeing that approach with Supported Employment or Customized Employment now.”

A: “You make a great point, and the emphasis that the Executive Order adds will help us to get there. We also need to remember that people with *and without* disabilities do not always succeed in every job they attempt! It is not reasonable to expect a perfect fit all the time, and declare that a person can or cannot do something based on one attempt. This is an area that we will be looking at closely, and working with individuals, families, and stakeholders to address.”

Following Director Martin, Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio, presented information regarding the need for persistence and consistency in advocacy. He stressed the need for legislators to know what Ohio’s DD community is concerned about, and explained,

“It is more essential than ever that we make our voices heard. It is important to remember that, although we in the DD community ‘take care of our own ... that we don’t do such a good job of it that our needs become invisible. One in ten Ohio families is affected by a disability, and we need to tell our story. Every one of you have a story. Tell it. If we don’t tell them. They won’t know.”

The morning agenda also includes information about the Jon Peterson Special Education Scholarship - available beginning this year for school-age children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Approximately \$7,000 - \$20,000 will be available to leave public education and receive educational support from certified private scholarship providers. This scholarship is in addition to the Autism Scholarship, expanding educational options.

Patrick Stephan, DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration will answer questions about the DD Transitions Waiver. A new timeline and proposed plan will be presented regarding the more than 2000 children and adults scheduled to transition to County Boards. Stephan also will address DODD's newest waiver, the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver which is scheduled to be available this summer.

Other presentations will include information from Ohio Legal Rights Services, and an overview of the County Board review process, which includes monitoring the quality of services provided. Included in this session will be an open dialogue with participants about what kinds of questions should be asked in gathering this kind of information across the state. A Legislative Reception will follow the day's sessions, and is sponsored by The Arc and several event co-sponsors.



[As Governor Kasich has so strongly stated...](#)

5. The Mahoning Valley is Very Much Alive!

In preparing his State of the State speech earlier this year, Governor John Kasich made the decision to deliver the speech from a high-performing school in Steubenville, Ohio – within the Mahoning Valley. During the speech he looked around the school and local area and said,

“The Mahoning Valley is alive again! I can see it. We’re out of the ditch.”

Indeed, Mahoning County and the surrounding communities can be proud of many things, and is looking to a brighter future. Last week, *Pipeline* visited several area service providers, as well as Youngstown Developmental Center in Mineral Ridge (includes both Mahoning and Trumbull Counties), which partners frequently with neighboring County Boards of DD.

Capturing the essence of the disability community in the [Mahoning Valley](#) is no short story, so we’ll take a quick look in this issue of *Pipeline*, and then a deeper look in the upcoming *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing in early April.

The Mahoning Valley story illustrates that supporting people with developmental disabilities is not just 'matching them to a program.' Sometimes the people take charge themselves - and their lives grow accordingly.

Attesting to this growth are people with developmental disabilities who are participating in their communities with a little support and a lot of enthusiasm. Examples include:

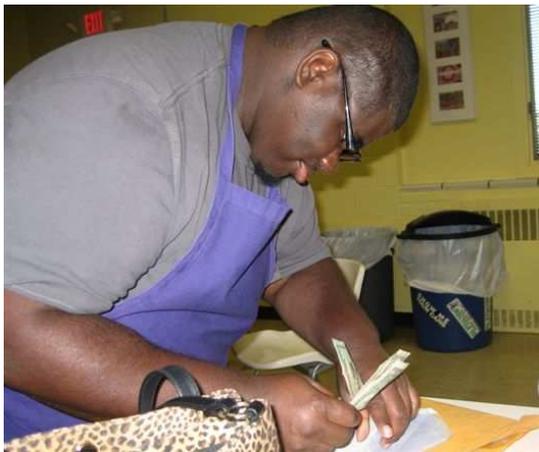
- ... *Getting a black belt in karate* (meet [Matt Hynes](#), who also works at the Centre at Javits Court, and who also happens to have [galactosemia](#)) ...

- ... *Participating in the Positive Culture Advisory Committee* at Turning Point Day Service Center, learning teamwork skills (meet *Ashley*, who is also learning yoga) ...
- ... *Managing a successful golf outing* benefiting Special Olympics (meet *Jimmy Tricomi*, taking his idea to the fairways of Trumbull County) ... and,
- ... *Working at the Mission Kitchen* and its day program, The Purple Cat, (meet *Elijah*, who used to be shy - and now uses super salesmanship to sell tickets for a camp fundraiser, all while making you a quesadilla!



Working and Learning in the Mahoning Valley Community

Matt explains the DNA diagram for galactosemia, an inherited digestive disorder, while wearing his karate 'gi' (uniform); *Ashley* displays her yoga skills at Turning Point Day Service Center, after the facility tour she led.



Elijah writes out a receipt for tickets while the quesadillas are finishing up in the Mission Kitchen; *Jimmy* invites everyone to participate in the second annual Golf Outing for Trumbull County Special Olympics.

Meet them all in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2011-2012 ...

publishing in April.

Pipeline Quarterly is archived [Here](#)



6. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design Now in Effect

The U.S. Justice Department has announced that the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are now in effect, *as of March 15, 2012*. On July 26, 2010, the 20-year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), President Obama announced newly-revised ADA regulations, reflecting the fundamental principle that all Americans with disabilities should have equal access and an equal right to participate fully in our society.

These standards were adopted as part of the revised regulations for Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and will make buildings and facilities accessible to more than 54 million Americans with disabilities.

The standards can be found at: [Click Here](#)

The 2010 Standards set new requirements for fixed or built-in elements in facilities such as courtrooms, boating areas, golf facilities, swimming pools, and other play areas. The rules also clarify and refine issues that have arisen over the past 20 years, including restroom dimensions and accessible routes. The newer Standards also provide more clearly-defined requirements for accessible seating in assembly areas such as stadiums; and guidelines for accessible hotel rooms, including wheelchair-accessible rooms and those with communication features.

In the 2010 final regulations, Title II of the ADA protects people with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by state and local government entities. Title III prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by places of public accommodation -- businesses that are generally open to the public and that fall into one of 12 categories listed in the ADA, such as restaurants, schools, and day care facilities.

Newly-constructed or altered public places, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities are required to comply with the ADA Standards. Public areas in existing facilities are required to remove accessibility barriers to the extent that it is reasonably easy to accomplish. State and local governments using existing facilities are required to ensure programs, services, and activities overall are accessible.

Information provided by Great Lakes ADA Center (www.adagreatlakes.org) and ADA-OHIO (www.ada-ohio.org)



Health & Safety

7. This is Severe Weather Awareness Week – Be Alert!

March 25-31 is Severe Weather Awareness Week, proclaimed by Governor John Kasich and supported by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA), to encourage Ohioans to prepare for weather incidents that typically occur during spring and summer months. Providers of services to individuals with disabilities need to be aware of how to handle weather-related safety issues, and assure that their facilities are as prepared as possible.

Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Nancy Dragani, states, “This month’s line of storms and tornadoes are prime examples of why we need to be prepared at all times for severe weather.” She adds,

“Make a disaster preparedness plan. Know what to do for all incidents that can impact your home, such as tornadoes, flooding, thunder and lightning storms, and fires. Practice your plan. Know how to ‘shelter indoors’ and how to evacuate your home.”

After several days of surveying storm damage on March 2, the National Weather Service confirmed that seven tornadoes touched down in Ohio. The strongest tornado formed in Kentucky and swept across Clermont County and Brown County. Governor Kasich declared a ‘state of emergency’ for Clermont County on March 3, and after damage assessments were conducted, the Governor requested a presidential disaster declaration. The state was denied a federal declaration, but was granted a Small Business Administration disaster declaration on March 12 for Clermont and its contiguous counties.

Ohio will participate in a statewide tornado drill and test its Emergency Alert System today, March 28, at 9:50 a.m.. At this time, counties will sound their outdoor warning sirens. Schools, businesses, and households are encouraged to practice their tornado drills and emergency plans.



To see the immense power of a tornado, visit the OCSWA website: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov and under ‘Tornado Safety,’ click on the video link, Train vs. Tornado.

Supporting Positive Outcomes

The health and safety of individuals is of paramount concern to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, and DODD strongly supports efforts to assure positive health and safety outcomes in our system (Example: Three standing committees: Mortality Review, Statewide Trends & Patterns, and the External Abuser Registry Review Committee). Staff supporting these key areas remind individuals, families and service providers to practice tornado safety: During tornado drills or actual tornado warnings, follow the acronym ‘DUCK!’ This stands for: D – Go DOWN to the lowest level; U – Get UNDER something (basement staircase, heavy desk); C – COVER your head; and, K – KEEP sheltered until the storm has passed.

Assistant Deputy Director for the DODD Major Unusual Incident Investigation Unit, Scott Phillips observes,

“ The early warm temperatures have been very nice this year – however, as a result, storms in Ohio have been numerous and intense. Having a specific plan, taking necessary precautions, and practicing well in advance will go far to keep people with disabilities safe during severe weather.”

For additional information on tornado and other severe weather safety and preparedness, visit the OCSWA website at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

***Postscripts***

🌀 REGISTER NOW! DD Council Legislative Advocacy Day, May 8th

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has scheduled their annual Legislative Advocacy Day for Tuesday, May 8, in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. The event is free.

Everyone must register to attend. To obtain registration forms, please go to www.ddc.ohio.gov and register online, or follow this link ; contact AXIS at (614) 263-8076; or axiscenter@columbus.rr.com. Arrival is suggested at 10:00 a.m. (light refreshments available), and the program begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.. Following the short program will be visits with legislators. If attending with a group, it is suggested to keep the group to four or five people, so there will be space to comfortably sit and talk in your legislators' offices. Some funding is available, if needed, to assist with funding transportation and attendants. Come and have your voice heard!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OPRA Spring Conference, April 17-18

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) will host its Spring Conference this year at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, April 17 - 18. The conference is an opportunity to network, discuss issues facing providers, find resources to benefit your organization, and learn from first-rate speakers. The OPRA conference generally attracts more than 500 attendees and dozens of exhibiting organizations. Program content provides learning opportunities to enable professional growth, and prepares service providers to take new ideas back to the community. [Read more about the sessions!](#) [Register now!](#) Here is the link to further information: [Conference](#).

APSI Requests Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award Nominations, Last Call!

APSI is accepting nominations for this year's recipient, through March 30.

[Access the nomination form at www.apsiohio.org](http://www.apsiohio.org)

The APSI Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of the agency's former Executive Director's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. The award is given annually to a person or entity, outside of APSI, who has *demonstrated a lifetime achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities*, and has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system. The award will be presented at APSI's All Staff Training and Luncheon in June. Contact Cindy Ison, cison@apsiohio.org for more information.

Twelfth Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference April 24-25

The theme for the Twelfth Annual *Multiple Perspectives Conference*, "Experience Understood in Image, Poetry, Narrative, and Research," reaches across disciplines and professions for a greater understanding of disability. The April 24-25 event on the OSU Columbus campus offers a twelve-year exploration of disability as a reflection of the human condition, seen through various lenses of understanding. Conference updates, as they become available, are at ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm. The Multiple Perspectives Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation Endowment Fund and ongoing support from The OSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

To be on the mailing list for the conference, e-mail ADA-OSU@osu.edu

Contact: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

SAVE THE DATE! September 12 Direct Support Professionals Event

The third annual Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) recognition event will be hosted at the Xenos Complex in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free, fun, interactive, and motivational -- this event is not to be missed for celebrating the workers who care for and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Details available soon at www.OADSP.org, or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at (800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, July 2012

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities is inviting high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to apply to attend its annual Youth Leadership Forum, to be held in Columbus this year, July 16th - 19th. Forty students will be selected. All their expenses will be paid. To be eligible, students must have a disability, be in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2011, have demonstrated leadership

potential, and reside in Ohio. This year's forum in Columbus is geared to prepare students to take advantage of new and different community-based opportunities, and develop as constructive, contributing members of society. To learn more about the program, go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614) 438.1394 or 1.800.282.4536 ext.1394.

 **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 ... direct from you to the state ...

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.