
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
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In This Issue ...

- 1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... House Prepares Substitute Bill
- 2. Autism Awareness Month Explores Emerging Information
- 3. *Division of Residential Resources*: 'Request for Interest' Yields 25 Applications
- 4. Employment First Conference, June 4-5, 'Changing Expectations'
- 5. Employment First Community Leadership Teams Needed
- 6. OSDA Central Ohio Chapter Hosts First Legislative Event, Spotlights Issues
- 7. Participation Grows at Ohio SIBS Annual Retreat
- 8. Office of Provider Standards and Review Publishes Annual Report
- 9. May 7 Ballot Issues: County Board of DD Levies, Statewide

Pipeline PostScripts: Many New Opportunities Scheduled for 2013



April is Autism Awareness Month

See Article #2

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

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

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

Statehouse Rally – Thursday, April 11

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



OHIO'S JOBS BUDGET 2.0

JOBS. MOMENTUM. TRANSFORMATION.

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

[↻ Return to top](#)

2. Autism Awareness Month Explores Emerging Information



The cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is still a puzzle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADEP Expansion Underway

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



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

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

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

[Return to top](#)

3. 'Request for Interest' Yields 25 Applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

 [Return to top](#)

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

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

Register for the conference at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

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

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

[↻ Return to top](#)

5. Employment First Community Leadership Teams Needed

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

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



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

[↻ Return to top](#)

6. First-Ever OSDA Legislative Event Spotlights Issues

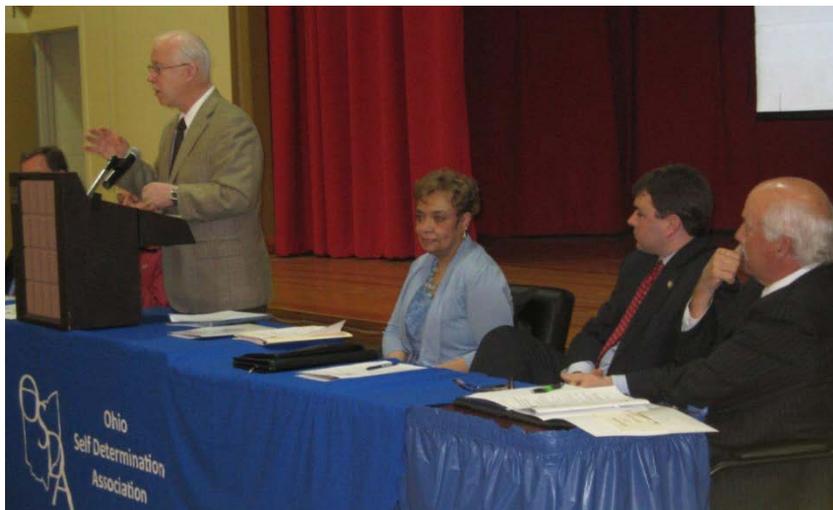
The Central Ohio Self-Determination Association (COSDA) hosted its first-ever Legislative Day on April 5 at the Franklin County Board of DD Bixby Living Skills Center, in Groveport. Legislators attending included State Representatives Michael Curtin, Bob Hackett, and Michael Stinziano, and Senators Charleta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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ready to Speak Up ...

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

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

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



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

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

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

 [Return to top](#)

7. Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat

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

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

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

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



Photos courtesy, Peggy Martin

Sibling Synergy

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

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

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

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

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

 [Return to top](#)

[Office of Provider Standards and Review](#)

8. OPSR Issues Annual Report

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

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

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

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

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

 [Return to top](#)

9. May 7 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

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

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

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



Every Person's Vote is Important!

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

[Return to top](#)

PostScripts

OPRA 2013 Spring Conference, April 16 – 17

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

Special Note: RN Train the Trainer

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

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free Conference, April 12

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

OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

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

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

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

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

Nominations Accepted for APSI's Kozlowski Award through April 19

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

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

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

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

SELF Waiver Training, April 23 – Webinar

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

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

'A Different Day' Spring Festival, April 27

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

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

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

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

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

DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting, May 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.**