



# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

*Pipeline* is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>  
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**December 19, 2012**  
**Volume 5, Issue 27**

## In This Issue ...

- 1. SELF Waiver Progress, at the One Year Marker

**Special Feature: 2012 – The Year in Review, Month to Month ... & Bonus ‘Holiday Spirit’**  
January; February; March; April; May; June; July; August; September; October; November; December  
*You can skip to each month by clicking above on desired month. Click the ‘return to top icon’ as desired.*

## Wishing You Safe & Happy Holidays!



Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) Superintendent Sara Lawson surveys the Center’s greenhouse during the October growing cycle for poinsettias. This month – fully grown and colorful\* – they will be purchased and displayed by various public and private facilities around the area.

[See the last photo in this issue of Pipeline \(p. 46\) for the mature and colorful poinsettias!](#)



## 1. SELF Waiver Progress – At the One Year Marker

One year ago this week on December 13, DODD announced, “Ohioans with developmental disabilities will have a new option that allows them freedom to control how they receive support services. Under the new federally-approved Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, individuals would be able to direct how their approved support dollars are allocated, and how they receive waiver services such as remote monitoring, and health equipment. They also can utilize new designated services such as Community Inclusion and Integrated Employment to live more inclusive lives within their communities.”

As anticipated, enrollment began on July 1, 2012, when DODD Director John Martin stated,

**“The new SELF waiver is the next evolution in understanding how to support individuals to direct how they live, not just where they live.”**

DODD is on-target for enrollment projections, anticipating an enrollment of up to 2000 individuals in the SELF waiver over three years. Within those numbers, up to 100 Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs (CIBN) will receive a state-funded waiver, offering flexible service options for families of children with autism and other behavioral support needs. The first adult to enroll in the SELF waiver was Christine Brown (*Pipeline Volume 6 issue 18, August 15, 2012*) of Franklin County, and the first CIBN enrollee was Bradley Shonkwiler (*Pipeline Volume 6 issue 24 November 7 2012*) of Warren County.

**As of December 10, 2012, there are 26 individuals enrolled on the SELF Waiver, 10 of whom are utilizing a state-funded Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs (CIBN) SELF Waiver.**

DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Administration Patrick Stephan comments, “The SELF Waiver has been much-awaited by many in the developmental disabilities community because it recognizes individuals’ capabilities and desires to live more independently, and to take responsibility for directing their own lives.”



**No, not the  
ELF Waiver!  
The SELF  
Waiver!**

### **SELF Training, January 23**

**Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/398116824>.**

If you are interested in the SELF Waiver and have not been able to attend the two-day trainings recently conducted across the state, DODD has scheduled a one-day webinar on *January 23, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.* that reviews the waiver’s main components. Information has been condensed from the two-day training sessions, and will provide a review of Eligibility Criteria, Service Definitions and Limitations, and Participant-Direction, and the various upgrades and changes made to applicable (DODD) online systems.



## Special Feature

# 2012 Year in Review

The *2012 Year in Review* illustrates progress and challenges pertaining to goals and key issues within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and specifically, DODD. Take a snapshot of 2012 via these shortened versions of selected articles, representing each month.

NOTE: The complete version of each issue is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>

## -January-

### Pipeline, January 4, 2012

#### **Office of Health Transformation: Accomplishments**

Governor John Kasich's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has published a 2011 *Year-End Report*, including overall changes in the area of Health and Human Services in which the Administration has cut costs, boosted efficiency, and improved the environment for the state and its citizens. OHT projects that reforms in the state's biennial budget will enhance Medicaid-funded services for the 2.2 million Ohioans who benefit from them, while saving the state nearly \$1.5 billion over the next two years.

These efforts are part of Governor Kasich's platform to streamline and improve Medicaid-funded services and rein-in Medicaid spending, which accounts for nearly one third of the state's budget. For example, at the outset of the Administration, OHT noted that Ohio was ranked 14<sup>th</sup>-highest in health spending in the nation, while ranking 42<sup>nd</sup> in health outcomes. According to the accomplishments overview,

**"By re-setting Medicaid payment rules to reward value rather than volume, the budget will improve the quality of health care for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens, reduce costs for taxpayers and ensure the fiscal stability of the Medicaid program."**

### Pipeline Profile

#### **Patrick Stephan, Medicaid Development and Administration**

While the administration and distribution of Ohio's Medicaid dollars may not be a glamorous subject, it is infinitely more interesting when discussed by someone who knows what they're talking about, is enthusiastic about progress, and prompts thinking in new ways. One of those people is Patrick Stephan, DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA) -- one of the more complex areas within the Department. As Stephan will readily agree, MDA requires constant vigilance in order to define and simplify system issues.

He explains, "We are working hard to provide real customer service to our stakeholders with our Call Center (800-617-6733), the DODD Gateway at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov), webinars, and other training ... and in working through initial challenges as the new Medicaid Information Technology System (MITS) got underway in 2011. I believe we have made progress in streamlining service delivery to our stakeholders, and, while we are still challenged in some areas, we are beginning to receive good feedback regarding service responsiveness." He continues,

**"In MDA we are looking forward to upgrading our information management systems, and providing good training to the field, so that when the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver opens for enrollment in July, we – as a system – are ready."**

Pipeline, January 18, 2012

Kasich Administration Marks One Year

## **Ohio's New Initiative on Health Care Payment Reform**

On January 10, 2011, John Kasich was sworn-in as Ohio's 69th Governor. At the outset of the new Administration, he commented,

**“Getting people to be in a position where they can see a better tomorrow. That's what we need to be doing.” – Governor John Kasich, at January 2011 inauguration**

And exactly one year later, Governor John Kasich's Administration launched a formal initiative to partner with health care stakeholders to begin to change Ohio's public and private health care business models from one that is based on volume, to one based on value and performance.

The Office of Ohio Health Plans (Ohio Medicaid) has begun to work with Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR), *making Ohio Medicaid the first state Medicaid program to participate in the organization's efforts*. CPR is an independent, national, non-profit organization that leverages the collective strength of private and public sector health care purchasers to achieve greater value and quality in health care. Other members include General Electric, Wal-Mart, and Xerox Corp.

**The Administration furthered its effort to match health care payments to outcomes also announcing that the Medicaid program will include provisions prioritizing quality over quantity in future contracts with managed care plans.**

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody commented, “We must do a better job of meeting the health needs of individuals, and creating a healthy and productive workforce at a price that is affordable for businesses, governments, individuals, and other payers. In partnership with CPR, we are setting clear expectations for providers and health plans in Ohio and developing tools to give Ohioans more bang for their health care buck.”

**The overall goal of the new initiative is to improve the health of the many Ohioans who rely on Medicaid for care, and to save taxpayers money.**

The Movers & Shakers

## **Family Advisory Council Welcomes Waivers and Work**

**New SELF waiver, employment opportunities, among topics at first FAC meeting of 2012.**

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) began the year continuing its commitment to providing families an open forum for the information they need to make good decisions for family members who have developmental disabilities, and to improve the system of services and supports, statewide. In that ongoing effort, topics suggested by this important stakeholder group were apparent in the mix at the January 10th meeting, including the following:

- ‘Director’s Chat’ with John Martin – “Keys to Sustainability”
- Medicaid updates and the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver
- Developmental Center updates
- *Where Are We Going?* Representatives of Ohio Self Determination Association
- Employment updates and opportunities for Ohio

Keys to Sustainability

Director John Martin noted that in 2011, DODD made good progress in gathering data that helps drive decision-making, including benchmarks that rate Ohio's DD services performance as perceived by

individuals served, as well as compared to performance outcomes of other states. He stated that affiliations with national efforts such as the National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative and the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) have ...”Provided new windows of understanding in the process of improving our service system, and helping us to plan for greater sustainability.”

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

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## - February -

### Pipeline, February 1, 2012

#### **NOTE: Governor Kasich Sets ‘State of the State’ Address for Steubenville, Feb. 7th**

*Governor Kasich will deliver his second State of the State address on Feb. 7 from Wells Academy – an elementary school in Steubenville, said to be Ohio’s highest-ranking public elementary school. The Address typically is made to a joint session of the General Assembly in Columbus, making this 2012 setting a unique one.*

### DODD on the Road

#### **Butler County Board Demonstrates Positive Culture Shifts**

Several members of the DODD Central Office met last week with staff at the Hamilton, Ohio, offices of the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities (BCBDD) as part of an ongoing outreach and education effort spearheaded by Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Direction. “On-site visits around the state are one way to help us develop stronger engagement and understanding with our stakeholder groups at the grassroots level,” says Kerr, adding,

**“It is important that we keep up with what’s happening in the field and learn how to better support local County Boards and providers. Making those connections in-person sometimes provides.”**

Central Office participants on the trip were involved in meetings and tours at Butler County’s Liberty Center (adult day habilitation services), the Janet Clemmons Center (met with staff from Early Intervention services and other family-oriented programming), and a local Intermediate Care Facility, Takota Trails, as well as a supported living residence. On the agenda also was a presentation on the [Positive Culture Initiative](#). A Positive Culture approach to working with individuals who have disabilities focuses on affirming relationships and interactions, and providing a safe, caring environment.

### Pipeline, February 15, 2012

#### **Input Requested from Medicaid Waiver Recipients**

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) is seeking input from Medicaid waiver recipients and Medicare/Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries. Ohio Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Aging have prepared draft versions of ‘concept papers’ that provide a high-level overview of the state’s initial proposal to implement a new, more streamlined Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program in January 2013.

Concept papers are for discussion, input, and testing, and are not finished products. OHT leadership notes that *input from individuals and family caregivers is essential to the process* and will be used to develop the final proposals that Ohio will submit to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

## Pipeline Profile

### Update on the Department of Residential Resources

As reported in *Pipeline Volume 5 issue 20 September 14, 2011* the DODD Division of Developmental Centers changed its name late last year to *Division of Residential Resources* due to the expanded role of the Division, and to convey a stronger focus for Developmental Centers as a community resource beyond the more traditional Center-based services.

The Division continues to operate and downsize the census at DODD-operated Developmental Centers (DC's) around the state, and has added other key Department initiatives, including: Voluntary conversion of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs); Community and DC Capital projects; Health Policy initiatives; HOME Choice (formerly 'Money Follows the Person' grant); and, the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) initiative. In announcing the restructuring last year, Whisman commented,

**"The expanded role of what has been the DODD Division of Developmental Centers has prompted us to take a good look at what we can do to better identify these critical areas, and streamline overall operations."**

Now at the outset of 2012, Whisman explains that efforts toward the voluntary conversion of ICFs, and the gradual downsizing at DODD-operated Developmental Centers are moving forward with stated plans for the biennium, and with the focus on a more holistic approach to individuals' needs in community-based, smaller settings.

### County Boards' Collaboration Spotlights in Eastern Ohio

Last week in St. Clairsville (Belmont County), a highly successful collaboration between the Belmont, Harrison, and Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, known as the 'BHN Alliance,' was celebrated and recognized by DODD. *Visionary Leadership Awards* were presented to the three County Board Presidents, recognizing them for pioneering the concept of shared administrative services between County Boards of DD, and paving the way for other agencies to follow suit.

The BHN Alliance, the first collaboration between two or more County Boards of DD in Ohio, was created to promote financial efficiencies due to decreasing revenue, coupled with increasing needs of people with disabilities. The Belmont and Noble County Boards of DD began sharing a superintendent in 1993. Today, the three agencies in the BHN Alliance share nine administrative functions and personnel -- including superintendent, service/support administration, financial management, and human resources.

Discussing the *Visionary Leadership Awards*, DODD Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs and Communications, Zach Haughwout, underscored the difficulty in being the first to try something as new and different as the tri-county shared services collaboration. He commented,

**"The Governor always talks about shared services, and holds up Ohio's developmental disabilities field as an example of good stewardship over taxpayer dollars. It takes a certain amount of character and courage to go first ... and we appreciate your willingness to be leaders."**

Stephen Williams, Director of Operations for the BHN Alliance, recognized the support given by DODD, the local county commissioners, and the service providers who share the County Boards' vision for people with disabilities. He noted, "When we become more efficient, we can direct more dollars into supports for people with disabilities that will improve their quality of life, and that's the bottom line of what we are here to do."

## Arc of Ohio President John Hannah Participates at White House

Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) Consumer Advocate, John Hannah – also recently elected as The Arc of Ohio’s President – participated in the White House Community Leaders Briefing February 9, 2012, a day-long meeting including staff in the Office of President Barack Obama. Gary Tonks, Director of The Arc of Ohio, and Than Johnson, CEO of Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI) noted that it was an honor for Hannah to be included among leaders of The Arc chapters from across the country, participating in discussions with Administration officials. Topics included Medicaid, education, community living, and employment for people with developmental disabilities.

### Pipeline, February 29, 2012

## Office of Health Transformation Priorities

*On February 27, Ohio Medicaid issued a draft Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) demonstration proposal that builds on a conceptual model, and reflects individual and family caregiver recommendations to protect and enhance existing benefits. The proposal will be posted for public comment on the OHT Website at [www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov).*

The Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (OHT) recently provided updated information to its partner agencies regarding Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy's recent [testimony](#) to the Joint Legislative Committee, including a [timeline](#) to implement a new Integrated Care Delivery System for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. Among the many subjects covered in the testimony was modernizing eligibility determination systems. Current eligibility processes for health and human services programs in the state are fragmented, overly-complex, and rely on outdated technology.

It was stated that Ohio uses more than 160 categories to determine eligibility for Medicaid funding, and two separate processes are used to determine Medicaid eligibility based on disabling conditions.

## Ideas, Services, Products to Enhance Employment Options for People with Disabilities

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) options are two vital resources that, when used in tandem, can be a proven strategy to help low-income individuals improve their financial position. Lack of information, and misunderstandings about the tax system, are two of the most common reasons that the EITC and VITA are under-utilized by eligible individuals.

The EITC is the largest federal support program for low-income individuals and families. *It is a refundable credit.* What this means is that if you qualify based on your income -- even when you have no tax liability -- you will receive a tax refund. You must file your taxes to receive this refund, even if you do not have any tax liability. [More information here.](#)

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# March - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

## Pipeline EXTRA, March 7, 2012

### Results, March 6 Election - County Board Levy Issues

Results on issues in the March 6 election affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

*(Percentages are rounded)*

- Fulton County: 2 mills, renewal **PASSED** by 61%
- Licking County: 1 mill, renewal **PASSED** by 62%
- Marion County: .5 mill, renewal **PASSED** by 54%
- Morrow County: 1.25 mills, additional **FAILED** by 61%
- Sandusky County: 2 mills, additional **FAILED** by 51%
- Seneca County: .5 mill, renewal **PASSED** by 75%

**Results are unofficial and will be certified by respective County Boards of Elections at a later date.**

*More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>.*

## Pipeline, March 14, 2012

### Mid-Biennium Budget Review Proposal Presented

Governor John Kasich presented a Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR) proposal today, which includes a plan to cut the state income tax, overhaul energy policy, and help urban schools, as well as affect state agencies' policy language. Provisions regarding policy language have been requested by the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), DODD, and the Department of Taxation. The proposed MBR also includes minor budget cuts for fiscal year 2013, as Governor Kasich has asked department leaders to identify ways to reduce an amount equal to about 1% of current appropriations.

Proposals by OHT are designed to further the Administration's Medicaid-related reforms contained in the biennium budget, including language to continue consolidation of Medicaid administration, and tying quality measures to inpatient hospital rates. Following are a few of many notable items:

- *Workforce efforts* include a codification of the workforce board, a new focus on employing veterans and training for shale jobs, and an important step forward for Ohioans with disabilities by changing our mindset from, "they can't work" to, "they can."
- *Management improvements* include the "Management Efficiency Plan," which makes adjustments to agency spending, and a range of statutory tweaks designed to help agencies work more effectively, free of outdated or unnecessary barriers.
- *Managing state government* to do a better job of providing Ohioans with the services they need while offering taxpayers a better value. The MBR project reduces spending where possible, increases it where absolutely necessary, streamlines and consolidates where justified, and tears down barriers to more effective service delivery.
- *Do a better job preparing Ohioans for job success* by training adults more effectively. By simplifying the process for workers and companies to get training benefits, more Ohioans can get the training they need so they and their employers can succeed. Special efforts also are proposed for veterans, and people with developmental disabilities.

### **Other Administration News: DODD Rolls Out Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Project**

In line with policies developed at the outset of the Kasich administration to streamline and improve services to individuals with developmental disabilities, DODD recently began scheduling assessments with individuals consenting to participate in the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) project. The project is designed to provide information needed to make data-driven decisions to use resources most efficiently, and serve more people effectively by focusing on supports needed for full participation in community life.

DODD is identifying 700 individuals who have significant support needs, including people on an Individual Options (IO) waiver with annual support costs of \$130,000 or more; new admissions to Developmental Centers; and, residents of mental health hospitals. In addition, DODD will assess a random sample of another 700 individuals for comparison profiles across varying levels of support needs. Project duration will be approximately three years.

### **Awareness Event Draws 600 People, Representing 35 Counties**

The Ohio Statehouse Atrium hosted the annual kickoff celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month on March 1, uniting hundreds of attendees under a statewide theme for this year's activities, *"Our Community is Better ... Together."* The event spotlighted many opportunities emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and raised public awareness of the many talents that people with disabilities bring to a community. Sponsored by DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), a statewide information and advocacy organization, the two agencies collaborated with stakeholders to provide a unique public venue for advocates and self advocates to participate. Director John Martin addressed the crowd of approximately 600, noting,

**" I am excited about what I see here today – the sheer number of people in Ohio's developmental disabilities community gathering here at the Statehouse ... together! For, as the DD Awareness theme for this year says ... 'Our community is better together,' and looking around this room I think we all can see and feel that."**



*This issue included many photos and quotes from the event. See it at: [Pipeline, March 14, 2012](#)*

### **Family Advisory Council Learns About Work, P.L.A.Y.**

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) continues its commitment to providing families an open forum for the information they need to make good decisions for family members who have developmental disabilities, and improve the service system, statewide. In that ongoing effort, topics suggested by this important stakeholder group were on the agenda at the March 13 meeting, including the following: 'Director's Chat' with John Martin; Provider Certification Information and Updates; The Positive Culture Initiative; Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters -- the P.L.A.Y. Project.

Rounding out the packed agenda was a discussion of progress being made via the statewide Positive Culture Initiative [Read More](#), presented by Willie Jones of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), and a description of the Play and Language for Autistic Youth "P.L.A.Y." program, which is reaching more and more Ohio families. DODD presenter, Molly Kurtz, noted, "The results we see when P.L.A.Y. techniques are used consistently with a child are just dramatic. We are very excited about what

we have seen families be able to do with this approach for their children.” \*More about PLAY at <http://www.playproject.org/> and at Pipeline Volume 5 issue 17 August 3, 2011 ‘In Support of Young Children with Autism and Their Families.’

## **Pipeline, March 28, 2012**

### **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.

### **People First Conference Blazes New Trails**

"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 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 Haughwout – who told the gathering 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.”**

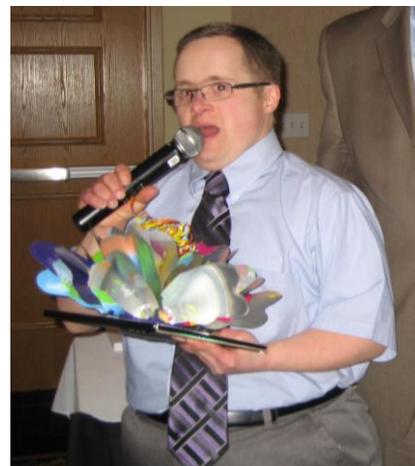
Haughwout noted the importance of the signing of the *Employment First* Executive Order last week (*see previous article*), and participated in a skit that illustrated the folly of not planning your transportation needs -- using an imaginative 'horse' that broke down before getting him from point A to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

## [DD Awareness Month Wrap-Up](#)

### [Awareness Awards and Community Engagement Efforts](#)

#### [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. More at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org).



[Self Advocates of the Year](#) receive awards during [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#). 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.

## [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 more accessible to nearly 54 million Americans with disabilities.](#)

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# April – Autism Awareness Month

[Pipeline, April 11, 2012](#)

## Office of Health Transformation Updates Proposal

The Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (OHT) has submitted an updated proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for improving service to individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. The updated pilot proposal includes language that the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging now supports as an overall Integrated Care Delivery System. The proposal is for a three-year pilot project that will be conducted in 29 counties covering seven regions around the state's major urban areas.

According to OHT, it will cover 114,972 of the 182,328 Ohioans eligible under both programs. Medicaid Director John McCarthy explained that changes made between an earlier ‘concept paper’ and the new proposal focused on individual protections, such as ensuring that there is continuity of care in services. He stated, “These assurances will help individuals to live independent lives ... and the plan can't come in and drastically reduce services for somebody.”

In addition, OHT has strengthened the new proposal in the area of prior authorizations for services. McCarthy noted that with the Integrated Care Delivery System concepts in place, an individual would, for example, have mobility needs considered and taken care of, while waiting for a wheelchair to be repaired.

## Autism Awareness Month Spotlights Progress, Issues

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released a [March 2012 report](#) stating that the incidence of autism in the United States is now one in 88 children, which represents a 78% increase when compared to a decade ago. The report states that Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest-growing disability in the United States, and that boys with autism continue to out-number girls by a ratio of five-to-one. It estimates that one in every 54 boys in the United States has autism, and the Autism Society of Ohio estimates that more than 58,000 Ohioans have ASD.

Current studies concerning ASD continue to reinforce that the disorder affects individuals differently, and to widely varying degrees. In addition, ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors, and there usually is nothing about how a person with ASD looks that sets them apart from other people. Individuals on the Spectrum generally may be described as communicating, interacting, behaving, and learning in ways that are different from most people.

**[Individuals with autism, advocates, families, and state legislators will gather for Autism Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse, April 26, to raise awareness during Autism Awareness Month.](#)**

Also on the subject of Autism Awareness Month, the [Interagency Workgroup on Autism \(IWGA\)](#), convened by DODD, continues to coordinate efforts among state agency partners so that the gifts, talents, wishes, and needs of Ohioans with ASD are recognized, valued, and addressed. Recently, the IWGA has asked the Advisory Board of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to spearhead the process of developing a set of Autism Recommendations for the state.

## The New SELF Waiver, A Refresher on the Basics

*In anticipation of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline will contain a short series of articles prior to the waiver launch. This article is the first in the series.*

On December 9, 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for a 1915c waiver, named the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, had been approved. As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin.

DODD has been working closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials. The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.

**SELF Waiver annual cost caps are \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults, with some service-specific limitations built in to the waiver.**

In upcoming *Pipeline* articles in this series, look for more information about specific characteristics of the SELF waiver that make it different from the DODD Individual Options waiver, and Level One waiver.

### [At Northwest Ohio Developmental Center](#)

## Developmental Centers Foster Skill Development

### When Your Family Flies South for the Winter – Colin’s Story

*Special thanks to NODC staff member Matthew P. Mundrick, for this personal perspective illustrating a Developmental Center as a community resource for individuals served. He writes...* “Colin and I have been friends for a year now. During that time, Colin has been presented with a variety of personal challenges. As an individual with a severe visual impairment, who also has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Colin is most comfortable when life is structured.

Over the last year, Colin’s friends, family, and staff have taken steps to increase his encounters with the unexpected, with the hope of broadening his routines and increasing his flexibility in various situations. It was apparent that contact with his family would be the most appropriate place to start.

*Click on: [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 8](#) for the full story.*

**Developmental Center residents-in-transition stories are featured in many 2012 Pipeline issues.**

### [Pipeline, April 25, 2012](#)

### [Autism Awareness Month](#)

## Ohio Seeks Public Comment on Autism Needs

### Series of Public Forums to Gather Feedback on Policy and Support Services Recommendations

Ohio’s Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) invites public comments at an open forum in Columbus on the subject of state autism recommendations. The Columbus forum is one of five to be held across the state this spring to gather practical input from parents, professionals, and other stakeholders with first-hand knowledge of what supports and services are most needed.

The Open Forum on State Autism Recommendations will be May 17, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the OCALI office, 470 Glenmont Ave., Columbus. Hosted by the OCALI Advisory Board, the forum will provide an

overview of the proposed recommendations followed by time for feedback and comments. Responses and suggestions will be used in developing final recommendations, which will be presented in June to the Governor's Office, and to the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) for implementation. See the recommendations at <http://www.ocali.org/>.

### **April 26 – Autism Awareness Day Event**

Individuals with autism, advocates, families, and state legislators will gather for Autism Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse on April 26th, to raise awareness of autism issues during April, Autism Awareness Month. The event will be in the Statehouse Atrium at 4 p.m. Speakers for tomorrow's event include DODD Director John Martin, who will address various topics that affect families, including employment opportunities for individuals with ASD, education funding, and insurance reform. The event is sponsored by Autism Speaks, the Autism Society of Central Ohio, and the Autism Society of Ohio.

*More information at [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org); [www.autismohio.org](http://www.autismohio.org); [www.autism-centralohio.com](http://www.autism-centralohio.com)*

### **OPRA Spring Conference, Perspectives on Key Issues**

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) hosted its Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, April 17 - 18. The conference offers an opportunity to network, discuss issues facing providers, find new resources, and learn from first-rate speakers. At this year's conference, DODD Director John Martin presented an informative update on work in-progress at the Department.

A few highlights of the presentation, "More Opportunities for Choice," began with Director Martin stating, "Let me share some data with you ..." a phrase stakeholders in Ohio's DD community know will preface useful information gathered by local, state, or national researchers - and upon which decisions can be based. For example, following slides showing perceptions of Ohio's DD services, and their ranking among national developmental disabilities efforts, he noted areas of strength and weakness, and stated,

**"We recognize the many barriers and imperfections of our system, and look forward to working with you to evolve toward defined values. What is so important here is the opportunity for fully-informed choice for individuals. It's fundamental."**

### **Medicaid Buy-In – A Refresher on the Basics**

Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) is an Ohio Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities. Historically, people with disabilities may have been discouraged from working because their earnings made them ineligible for Medicaid coverage. MBIWD was created to enable Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage.

To qualify for MBIWD, a person must: Be 16 to 64 years old; Be disabled per Social Security Administration guidelines, or as determined by Ohio Medicaid, or eligible under the MBIWD 'medically improved' category; Be employed in paid work (includes part-time and full-time work) at the time they file an MBI application with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) office; Pay a premium (If applicable -- monthly premiums are required for those eligible who have an annual gross income more than 150% of the federal poverty level); Obtain and maintain health coverage, and the amount of the premium must be paid on time; and, Meet certain [basic requirements](#) and [financial criteria](#).

*See the Fact Sheet at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bcps/factsheets/MBIWD.pdf>*

## SELF Waiver Implementation Progress – Rules Filed

On April 13, DODD filed rules to implement the new Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services *Self-Empowered Life Funding* (SELF) Waiver approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in December 2011. (See *Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011 SELF Waiver Approved.*) The rules are available at the Register of Ohio website: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us> and the DODD website: [the DODD website, under 'Rules.'](#) The rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

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- May -

[Pipeline, May 9, 2012](#)

### Legislative Advocacy Day, A Forum for New Directions

**Event Theme: “Get Your Voice Heard.”**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) annual Legislative Advocacy Day, hosted yesterday in the Statehouse Atrium 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, attendees were provided helpful information to prepare for scheduled visits with legislators on subjects such as the *Employment First* initiative (SB 316) and *Visitability* (HB 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.

*Employment First* will, among other things, require Individual Service Plans (ISPs) to include a goal of competitive, integrated employment - a job working beside people without disabilities and making a similar wage. And, *Visitability* describes making a home or other facility more accessible for people with disabilities, especially those who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids. It does not include all the elements of the terminology, ‘Universal Design,’ but is a similar concept.

Legislative Advocacy Day was hosted by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, along with the Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Legal Rights Service, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, the Autism Society of Ohio, and others. The AXIS Center for Public Awareness worked in collaboration with DD Council to develop and host the event.

### Autism Awareness Event Spotlights Progress

Individuals with autism, advocates, families, and state legislators gathered for Autism Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on April 26, to raise awareness and understanding during April, Autism Awareness Month. This year’s annual event was sponsored by Autism Speaks, the Autism Society of Central Ohio, and the Autism Society of Ohio. The program included comments by state officials, self advocates, parent advocates, 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 (ASD), and outlined legislative issues ahead including insurance mandates for autism coverage, and the importance of ensuring Early Intervention services.

In addition, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) Director Kevin Miller commented that as the father of a young boy with autism, his personal knowledge of the need to create employment opportunities for individuals with ASD is a driving force for RSC efforts in this area. He later described the *Employment First* partnership between DODD and RSC, the Department of Education, and the Department of Job and Family Services. Miller said,

**“Being in the midst of parents, children, and service providers, and seeing the excitement they share over a state commitment to make integrated community employment the first option for young people with developmental disabilities, shows me how much rides on the success of the Employment First initiative.”**

### **National Scene, Dual Eligibility**

## **Serving Individuals Eligible for Both Medicare, Medicaid**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) recently released a Request For Proposals for the plan to revamp how the state serves individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (See Pipeline, April 11, 2012). DJFS submitted its proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April, and is awaiting approval. Seventeen health plans submitted letters of intent to CMS, and are eligible to apply for the *Integrated Care Delivery System* that would be implemented in certain regions of the state starting in January 2013.

Plan responses are due by May 25, and DJFS expects to release scoring results June 18 with tentative selections made July 25. Readiness reviews would be conducted in the interim, and the signing of agreements is planned for September 20, according to the request. The proposal is for a three-year pilot project that will transform how the state serves Ohioans dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The pilot will be conducted in 29 counties in seven regions surrounding the state's major urban areas.

## **SELF Waiver Progress – Public Hearing May 17**

*In anticipation of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles prior to the waiver launch. This article is the second in the series.*

*History:* On December 9, 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for a 1915c waiver, named the Self-Empowered Life Funding (or SELF) waiver, had been approved. (See *Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011*) As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD is working closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and other stakeholder groups to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

*Public Hearing:* On April 13, DODD filed rules to implement the new Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services SELF waiver approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in December 2011. Two rules have been proposed for amendment and eight have been filed for adoption. (See *Pipeline, April 25, 2012*) A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held *May 17, 2012*, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2921 on the 29th Floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration. See the Register of Ohio website: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us> and [the DODD website](#), under 'Rules.'

## [Division of Residential Resources](#)

### [Developmental Centers as Community Resources](#)

*We continue to spotlight stories about people who have transitioned into the community from DODD-operated Developmental Centers. This story follows a gentleman who previously resided at Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC), and supports action steps set forth in the Department's Olmstead Act Compliance Plan. This installment on the subject is provided by CaDC staff member, Rob Robbins.*

Dreams can come true! All that is needed is - well the dream, of course - a desire to work for what you want, and people that believe in you. In July 2011, David B. realized one of his dreams. He was able to move from the Developmental Center into a home in Cambridge. He shares his new home with three other men, and Daisy - a Rottweiler dog with three legs - that has lived with David for several years. *To read more click on: [Pipeline, May 9, 2012](#).*

## [Pipeline, May 23, 2012](#)

### [Pipeline Profile](#)

### [A Look at the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight](#)

The Division of Legal and Oversight represents DODD in legal matters, and provides assistance and counsel as needed. The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) and Abuser Registry Unit, and the Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR) are a part of this team, providing oversight and technical assistance to County Boards of DD and other service providers, as well as monitoring the health and safety of Ohio citizens receiving services. OPSR also conducts compliance reviews of licensed and unlicensed waiver-funded settings, licensed Intermediate Care Facilities, and in County Board settings.

According to the 2011 *OPSR Annual Report*, the year marked the initial implementation of a paperless review system, capable of collecting data in a more efficient way to track trends and patterns, and ensure better outcomes for individuals served. In addition, a 'single review process' has been implemented for all service providers, regardless of setting. This process has streamlined efforts, and allowed for increased technical assistance to providers. According to OPSR Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Miller,

**[“We are beginning to develop another phase of these reviews – hoping to gain information with the assistance of self advocates that would drive a more outcome-based process. Our hope is to eventually hire self advocates to help us with the development and implementation of this phase, and provide insight into what is important to service recipients in Ohio’s DD system.”](#)**

### [Family Advisory Council Learns More, Asks Questions](#)

*The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) continues its commitment to providing families a forum for the information they need to improve the service system, statewide, and make good decisions for family members with developmental disabilities.*

If there's one thing the DODD Family Advisory Council meetings are known for, it's the open forum for questions posed to Director John Martin -- and his candid, sincere, and interesting responses. Here are two such questions and responses from this week's meeting:

#### **[Q: What can you tell us about downsizing at Developmental Centers during the coming year?](#)**

**A:** The movement from institutions to community-based settings is continuing, and follows compliance with the Olmstead Act to provide services in the least restrictive setting. We are averaging approximately 90 individuals each year moving from DC's to community-based settings, and it is a national movement in which we have been participating over the past few years. We owe a great deal of the success in these

efforts to the individuals and families served, and their flexibility in looking into new experiences, and to our DC staff for their work with each individual and family in ensuring success in these efforts.

**Q: Can you explain further what you mentioned about the current law on the subject of guardianship, and the desire to offer additional options?**

**A:** This is an often-asked question, and it is an important one as we look to offering individuals with DD more choices in their lives. In the Mid-Biennium Review we have added two options in terms of guardianship: “assisted capacity,” and “substitute decision-maker.” Briefly, these options allow a person to have advice from a trusted family member or friend in order to make decisions about their lives, just like the rest of us do when we have difficult or major decisions to make.

## **SELF Waiver Progress Continues, Training Begins**

*In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles highlighting specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the third in the series.*

In April, DODD filed administrative rules to implement the SELF waiver. Two rules have been proposed for amendment, eight have been filed for adoption, and all are on track for a July 1 effective date. (See Pipeline, April 25, 2012). SELF waiver training is now underway, some of which is targeted to staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Governments (COGs), and some of which is targeted for potential providers and families, including an online, statewide webinar.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with The Arc of Ohio to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding the SELF waiver. This training provides an overview of the waiver, and allows families opportunities for comments and questions. Training for individuals and families began last week in Hamilton County, and as the schedule develops, trainings with dates and times will be posted online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov).

## **May is National Foster Care Month**

National Foster Care Month spotlights the experiences of more than 400,000 children in the nation’s foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, employers, or other support roles. It is important to note that not only children are in need of good foster homes -- more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home’ through hardships or other circumstances beyond their control. The ‘Home Sharing’ concept emphasizes the value, and day-to-day support that ‘adult foster care’ or ‘adult foster support’ provides, rather than focusing on a funding stream’s billing code language (Medicaid’s ‘Adult Foster Care.’)

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**- June -**

**Pipeline, June 6, 2012**

## **Mid Biennium Review Continues on Path to Finalization**

The Mid Biennium Budget Review (MBR) awaits Governor Kasich’s signature, and as of July 1, Ohioans will begin a new budget year with several challenges and opportunities. In preparation for the year ahead, an informative June 29 conference titled “*A New State Budget – How Will It Affect Me?*” will explore how the new budget will affect Ohioans with disabilities. At the conference, leaders and policy-makers representing Ohio’s developmental disabilities community will provide information and answer questions on the subject, and offer input regarding specific service enhancements and changes. Sponsored by *The*

*Arc of Ohio*, the program will include presentations by the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody; DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director Patrick Stephan.

## **Project STIR Honors 57 Graduates in Franklin County**

The 57 graduates of Franklin County's Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) leadership course celebrated completion of their training on May 18 with a graduation ceremony at the Franklin County Board of DD offices in Columbus. Superintendent Jed Morison was Master of Ceremonies, Self Advocate Christine Brown provided comments, and Self Advocate Ruben Garcia was the keynote speaker. During his keynote address, Garcia stated,

**"This tells me that self-advocacy is going to last forever. You guys are the next generation."**

Organized and supported by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and others with whom they partner, Project STIR training is designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others toward positive efforts, and gain leadership skills and experience. Superintendent Morison noted,

**"Project STIR has been very well-received, and will continue to be a focus of our Self Advocate Advisory Council in Franklin County. Special thanks to Seneca County Board of DD Superintendent Lew Hurst for his leadership in promoting Project STIR in Ohio."**

DODD applauds the efforts of Project STIR and its steadily increasing efforts across the state, providing consistent training in self advocacy and emphasis on community participation.

## **SELF Waiver, Training Continues**

### **SELF Waiver Continues on Pace for July Launch**

*Anticipating the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles highlighting various aspects of the waiver. This article is the fourth in the series.*

In April 2012, DODD filed administrative rules to implement the SELF waiver. Two rules have been proposed for amendment, eight have been filed for adoption, and all are on track for a July 1 effective date. (See Pipeline, April 25, 2012). Currently, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with *The Arc of Ohio* to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding this new waiver, and allows time for families' comments and questions. Training dates and times are posted online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Contact Peggy Martin at (614) 466-8706; [peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov).

## **Pipeline, June 20, 2012**

### **Mid Biennium Review Completed**

### **House Bill 487 Focuses on Management Efficiency**

The product of a 'top-to-bottom review of state government operations,' the Mid Biennium Review (MBR) package was signed by Governor John Kasich on June 11, and moves forward many initiatives begun earlier by the Administration, while taking steps to streamline and improve the overall management of state government. As one of the Governor's Cabinet-level agencies, DODD was heavily involved in this process, reviewing system-wide operations and focused on efforts to improve efficiencies

and streamline service delivery. In addition, as a partner in the state's Office of Health Transformation, DODD worked with other partnering agencies to improve communication, and share resources.

In preparing the MBR, Governor Kasich instructed Cabinet directors to analyze spending and seek reductions wherever possible. The majority of the resulting Management Efficiency Plan was included in House Bill 487 and contains many appropriation changes related to proposed program reforms. While increases in a few agency programs were identified to meet unanticipated needs, the overall result is a net reduction in agency appropriations for FY2013.

**The Plan is designed to improve state-run programs, streamline regulations, consolidate duplicative efforts, and lessen 'red tape' to save taxpayer dollars and make government more efficient.**

## **SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins Next Month**

*Anticipating the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline has featured a short series of articles highlighting various aspects of the waiver. This article is the last in the series.*

*See "SELF Waiver" in the DODD News Room at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) for all articles*

### **Handbook Available, Training Continues**

Training for the SELF waiver is well underway. Statewide training opportunities include in-person and online sessions, some of which is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Government (COGs), and some of which is targeted to potential providers, individuals and families. The new [Self Waiver Handbook](#) also has been prepared to use in tandem with the training.

### **Support Broker Training**

DODD has contracted with a national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed to ensure that interested parties in Ohio's developmental disabilities system have the opportunity to learn more about this new function. Training will be conducted regionally around the state, beginning in late June.

### **Health & Safety**

## **Safeguarding Individuals - Protecting Against Fraud, Theft**

National newspapers often contain stories describing wrong-doing against individuals with developmental disabilities who are scammed or defrauded by unscrupulous individuals - some of whom, unfortunately, serve in positions of trust with the individual. The subject of protecting vulnerable individuals from fraud, scams, or theft of their identity or belongings, and empowering individuals to be aware of and help thwart such attempts, is in the spotlight more than ever, as technology affords new tools to unscrupulous perpetrators.

**Misappropriation of funds (and other similar actions) is dealt with firmly in Ohio's developmental disabilities system. Theft from an individual served by the system is elevated to a felony offense, and also can result in placement on the State of Ohio's Abuser Registry.**

**See DODD Health & Safety Alert [32-10-11](#): 'Misappropriation'**

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## - July -

Pipeline, July 3, 2012

### Governor Kasich Signs SB316, Other Key Legislation

Governor John Kasich signed Senate Bill 316 into law on June 25, 2012. The legislation includes statutory provisions making Ohio an *Employment First* state. This is in addition to the Executive Order signed in March that created an *Employment First* Task Force, further reinforcing efforts to create an environment that fosters work opportunities for *all citizens* to explore.

Specifically, a section of SB316 states, “It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities be directed at placement whenever possible of each individual in a position in the community in which the individual is integrated with the employer's other workers who are not developmentally disabled. The departments of Developmental Disabilities, Education, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health; the Rehabilitation Services Commission; and each other state agency that provides employment services to individuals with developmental disabilities shall implement this policy, and ensure that it is followed whenever employment services are provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.”

### Budget Information

With the completion of the MBR, the Administration now will be turning its attention to the next Biennial Budget plan, (2014-15), for which the Governor has asked state agencies to consider two scenarios ... one for no growth in funding, and one in which agencies would have a 10% reduction in general revenue funds. The 2014-15 budget must be in place by July 1, 2013.

### Terminology Clarification, Changes for ICFs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Services officially has changed the terminology from ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded) to ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities). The change follows approximately three years after Ohio passed legislation (2009) to rename the state Department, all 88 County Boards and related agencies, as well as changing any previously-used descriptive language that used “mental retardation” to the words “developmental disabilities.”

The new rule also would replace the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” with “intellectual disability” and “intellectually disabled” in language describing the governance of the ICF program, and would remove the time limit on provider agreements with ICFs.

**NOTE: The change from ICF/MR to ICF/IID may be simplified in documents by using the wording, “Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities” followed by the acronym (ICF/IID) at first usage, and then referring to it as Intermediate Care Facility or “ICF” thereafter within a given document or presentation.**

The rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-16/pdf/>

### ‘Surviving Change’ Training Explores Medicaid Waivers

*The Arc of Ohio* hosted training on June 29 in Worthington, featuring the latest information on Medicaid waivers affecting Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. The theme, “Surviving Change,” addressed changes currently underway in Ohio's Medicaid system as it moves to a Managed Care concept, as well as information about the Transitions Waiver and the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.

## Medicaid/Medicare and Managed Care

Ohio Medicaid Director McCarthy noted that in putting together a Managed Care demonstration proposal, Ohio Medicaid utilized a payment structure that blends Medicare and Medicaid funding, and mitigates the conflicting incentives that have existed between them. As a demonstration project, the Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) proposal is intended to be rolled out in seven urban regions within the state, and enrollment would begin in 2013.

## Transitions Waiver

DODD lead person on the Transitions Waiver, Lori Horvath, presented an update on the Transitions Waiver – also known as the Transitions/Developmental Disabilities or “TDD” waiver. Developed in 2002 and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Transitions Waiver was recently mentioned as an element within HB 153, as a tool for improving services to individuals with DD who are transitioning from school to work environments.

## SELF Waiver

Enrollment for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began this week, in-line with the July 1 effective date. At the June 29 training, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin and The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks combined efforts to provide information from their unique individual- and family-oriented perspectives. The new [Self Waiver Handbook](#) has been prepared to use in tandem with the training, and as a general resource.

## ODMH/ODADAS Agency Consolidation Information

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) Director Tracy Plouck, and Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) Director Orman Hall have announced the launch of a website dedicated to the topic of the consolidation of the two agencies. As announced earlier this year by Governor John Kasich, the two agencies will be merged in order to reduce the cost of service administration to the populations served, making more funds available for treatment, as well as other ‘common sense’ efficiencies. Effective date for the merger is July 1, 2013.

## Pipeline, July 17, 2012

**NOTE: July 26th will be the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).**

## Pipeline Profile

## Fiscal Administration Gears Up for FY 2013-‘14

Management of a \$3.1 billion budget is the top priority for the DODD Division of Fiscal Administration, a team of approximately 20 staff at the Columbus-based Central Office led by Deputy Director Ann Rengert. With the recent transfer of the Transitions Waiver, and funding for Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs) moving from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to DODD, the Division’s responsibilities increased from managing a budget of about \$1.9 billion, to the \$3.1 billion figure. Rengert notes, “Fiscal keeps in mind the two core goals *of funding sustainability and streamlined service delivery.*” She adds,

**“Fiscal is in the background in an agency-wide support role, and we take seriously the responsibility of basing fiscal decisions on data. Reliable data-driven decision-making allows us to better understand and anticipate the needs of County Boards and other service providers. In looking at trends, along with budget constraints, we can develop collaborative efforts that help support the delivery of needed services.”**

Rengert continues, “DODD Director John Martin is always clear about the ‘business side’ of the Department needing to study and analyze data, such as the ongoing survey information provided through National Core Indicators. We use data such as this to ensure that we are supporting effective programs that individuals with developmental disabilities indicate they need and want.

## County Boards’ Collaborative Efforts

### **Shared Services/Shared Resources Gain Momentum**

Exploration into the sharing of certain key administrative functions across two or more County Boards of Developmental Disabilities has been a topic of much discussion over the past couple of years, as the concept gains momentum around the state.

#### **Rising costs and decreasing revenue continue to dictate the need for greater efficiencies within the system of support for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.**

Among the shared services/shared resources conversations are discussions regarding how the sharing of Superintendent functions, and sharing other administrative functions and services across county boards and borders, can create greater efficiencies while preserving quality operations. Monty Kerr, now DODD Deputy Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, was the first to serve three county boards as Superintendent (Belmont, Harrison, and Noble) during his years of service at the local level.

Late last year, Kerr joined forces with the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) in Chillicothe, and invited County Board Superintendents, County Board staff and Board members, and others to learn more about effectively sharing resources. Attendees left with a lot of collaborative ideas to consider. *See Pipeline Volume 5 issue 20* September 14, 2011, “*SOCOG: Focus on Shared Functions.*”

And, Fayette County Superintendent Fred Williams reports that with the recent addition of Superintendent responsibilities for Highland County as well,

**“Sharing services has changed my/our mindset. I think more broadly now in terms of finding ways ‘to share’ – and it goes beyond the two counties with which I am associated. For example, Clinton, Fayette, and Highland now share an Investigative Agent.”**

He added, “Sharing services also influences how we think about work for individuals. Recently, Fayette County’s non-profit had contract work with a local hospital that involved some very tough work and tight deadlines. It became clear that Fayette County was not going to be able to meet the deadline without compromising quality, and potentially jeopardizing future work. In this case, the Adult Services Directors were able to partner and share the work load. In the end, all parties benefited and are satisfied.”

## Health & Safety

### **Update on Ohio’s Severe Storms, Recovery**

*Many areas of the state continue to deal with the aftermath of the June 29 storms. DODD thanks our partners in the Ohio Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and other agency partners and direct service providers for their many extra efforts during this difficult time.*

#### **From the Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Emergency Operations Center**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is making disaster assistance available to low-income families, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities in 45 counties that were hit hardest by the severe storms on June 29. Low-income families with children, including women who are pregnant,

may be eligible for up to \$1500 in assistance, per household. Elderly individuals and those with disabilities may be eligible for up to \$750 in assistance, per household. The funds may be used for a range of necessary expenses and essential purchases. More at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

## **SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins, Statewide**

Enrollment for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began July 1. To prepare for a smooth statewide roll-out for the new Medicaid-funded waiver, DODD Medicaid Development and Administration staff have worked with the Department's Information Technology team to develop and update the infrastructure/systems needed to support implementation.

County Boards of DD now may access the necessary systems in order to enroll individuals on the new waiver, and providers now may submit applications for certification (for SELF waiver services), using the DODD online Provider Certification Wizard. According to staff at DODD Central Office, applications for enrollment on the waiver, as well as applications to become certified as a provider under the SELF waiver, are beginning to roll in.

In addition, DODD has contracted with national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed by Public Partnerships Limited to ensure that the unique role of the Support Broker is fully understood.

### **Developmental Centers as Community Resources**

## **Gallipolis Developmental Center Residents Happy to Help**

A group of Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) residents dedicated their time in late June (before the storms!) to help the City of Gallipolis in the upkeep of the area's Pine Street Cemetery. The effort to help clean and clear away debris from the many headstones in the cemetery is the first of the community volunteer projects participated in by GDC residents and staff through a new program named 'GDC Gives Back.' They plan to be involved in many such projects as a way to care for their community.

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## **- August -**

### **Pipeline, August 1, 2012**

## **Ohio Medicaid to Become Separate State Agency**

*Excerpted from Gongwer News Service and OHT reports*

Governor John Kasich announced on July 27 that *Ohio Medicaid* will become a separate state agency effective July 1, 2014. Currently it is a division of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Also known as the *Office of Ohio Health Plans*, Ohio Medicaid's separation from ODJFS is aimed at furthering the Kasich Administration's work to improve the overall performance of the \$18.8 billion program.

ODJFS currently is the single state department responsible to the federal government for administration of the state's Medicaid-funded programs. However, five other state agencies, including the Ohio departments of Developmental Disabilities; Mental Health; Aging; Health; and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services also administer Medicaid-funded programs. Cross-agency coordination is provided by the Office of Health Transformation (OHT).

OHT Director Greg Moody noted that proposed legislative changes to finalize the agency separation plans will be part of the Administration's 2014-15 biennial budget to be released next year. In announcing the change, Moody stated,

**"This is a change that is overdue. It was recommended by separate study commissions in 2005 and 2006 but never acted on. Governor Kasich believes it is time to act, and time for Medicaid beneficiaries and Ohio taxpayers to begin seeing the improvements that this transformation will provide ... a program that will run better and more efficiently."**

## **Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrates 22 Years**

The 22nd anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was celebrated July 26. Signed into law on that date in 1990, the landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

**In the broadest sense, the ADA requires that public space be accessible to people with disabilities. However, accessibility is not just physical access, such as assuring ramps and curb cuts. Accessibility, as defined by the ADA, includes how programs, services, and activities are delivered, and whether there are policies that prevent someone with a disability from participating.**

These kinds of non-physical barriers include things like rules that state, "no animals allowed," which exclude people who use assistance dogs. Accessibility barriers also include eligibility requirements that tend to screen out people with disabilities, such as requiring people to show or have a driver's license when driving is not required.

The ADA was built upon Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and impacts a broader community than just those programs that receive federal funds. The Act covers all state and local governments, including those that receive no federal financial assistance. The ADA also applies to private businesses that meet the definition of "public accommodation" such as restaurants, hotels, movie theaters, doctors' offices, and commercial facilities such as office buildings, factories, and many private employers.

### **The Movers & Shakers**

## **Family Advisory Council Reviews Budget Scenarios**

*The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) continues its commitment to providing families a forum for the information they need to improve the service system, statewide, and make good decisions for family members with developmental disabilities.*

DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meetings are especially known for Director John Martin's open forum format for questions and comments – a candid "Director's Chat" – that begins each meeting. At yesterday's meeting, Director Martin offered insights into current Department initiatives, as well as opportunities for FAC members to offer input on budget planning for 2014-15. A spirited conversation was sparked, including the difference between an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities ("ICF/IID" or "ICF") and a waiver setting. Director Martin noted that a basic difference is that with ICF funding, the state funds the slot or "bed", and in a waiver setting the funds follow the person, not the setting. He noted,

**"There are many complexities when you consider waiver funding. Whenever you transition programs and people you have complex issues, and that's what we're working through now."**

FAC attendees took a few moments to review various budget ‘spend’ and ‘save’ options, and some of the suggestions included: More waiver options; improving direct service provider rates; identifying ‘best practice’ providers and incentivizing them; and, looking at emerging trends that might result in cost savings (technology-driven and shared services-driven) while providing quality services.

### [DCs as Community Resources](#)

## **News from Tiffin and NW Ohio Developmental Centers**

### **Tiffin Developmental Center – “Go For It, Jesse!”**

*by Heather Geary and Jeff Greer, TDC*

Ask any staff person at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) what one dream and goal a resident named Jesse had, and they would remember him telling everyone “... moving to a community-based home, and some day moving back to Convoy (Ohio) by my family.” Well, now he is well on his way!

At age four, Jesse was placed in a home for children with developmental disabilities, and at age six, he moved to what was then named “Columbus State Institute,” where he lived until he was transferred to Tiffin Developmental Center in 1977. Over the years at TDC, Jesse worked on techniques to help minimize certain behaviors and help him reach his goals.

Many years later -- in June 2010 -- TDC staff learned of an opening at the Burrwood Group Home, a four-bed waiver-funded home in Burgoon, Ohio. Jesse’s guardian agreed to refer him. Now the ball was rolling! After several visits to the home, and overnight stays for Jesse to become acquainted with a new staff and setting, things seemed to be in place for his move.

**And, on January 4, 2011 – after nearly 34 years of residence at Tiffin Developmental Center – Jesse made his first step in starting a new future at a home in the community.**

*More about Jesse’s story at Pipeline Volume 6 issue 17 August 1, 2012*

## **RSC Issues Comprehensive Needs Assessment Report**

The just-published Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) *Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment* report is the culmination of nine months of work between RSC staff and The Ohio State University (OSU). Collaborating with OSU staff, including noted experts Dr. Dave Julian, Dr. Margo Izzo, and others with the OSU Center for Learning and Excellence, as well as the OSU Nisonger Center, the assessment report will provide a blueprint for the direction of future efforts serving Ohioans with disabilities. The comprehensive 149-page document includes a great deal of specific data gathered during a statewide assessment process. [Click here to see the full RSC Report.](#)

### [Pipeline, August 15, 2012](#)

## **Recent Initiatives, Opportunities for System Improvement Strengthening Health-Related Disability Programs**

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will receive a \$900,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote health, prevent chronic disease, and increase the quality of life among people with disabilities.

**According to OSU, this is the first time Ohio is among the states receiving this grant to develop and strengthen health-related disability programs. The statewide efforts will work to increase capacity in the areas of health promotion, access to healthcare, and emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.**

The *Ohio Disability and Health Program* -- a partnership between ODH, the Nisonger Center, and the University of Cincinnati at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center -- will establish and work with a disability community planning group that will guide, advise, and assist program activities. The group will include state and community disability agencies, individuals with disabilities, and family members.

### **Nursing Homes, Quality Measures**

In other news, after changes made in last year's budget, Ohio nursing homes must meet five quality measures in order to qualify to receive their normal reimbursement amount. As reported by news outlets last week, just-released data shows that all but five facilities have met that goal. The change was established in the biennium spending measure (HB153) as a means to drive patient-centered quality, with the specific measures later finalized through separate legislation (SB264).

## **DODD Releases ICF-IID Program Vision Paper**

DODD recently released a vision document, The Future of the ICF-IID\* Program. Now posted on the Department's website, the [ICF White Paper](#) also was mailed to service providers this week. The document describes the Department's vision in support re-balancing efforts, as Ohio's developmental disabilities system continues to move toward more choice and community integration for individuals served. DODD makes clear in the document that the ICF-IID Program will remain a vital part of the future service delivery system, but over the next ten years will transition to a smaller, more targeted role.

**This long-term transition supports system stakeholders' shared goals of improving the quality of services, connecting resources to the level of individual need, and assuring long-term financial sustainability of the system.**

*\*More on the DODD website at: [ICF-IID Program](#) . At the bottom of the webpage, those who wish to receive regular updates related to ICFs also may sign up to receive announcements via e-mail.*

### **The SELF Waiver**

## **Ohio's First SELF Waiver Recipient, Christine A. Brown**

Ohio's first Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver recipient is Franklin County resident and long-time self-advocate, Christine A. Brown. Christine has lived in Franklin County since May 2009, and enjoys experiencing living life to the fullest, including all the joys and challenges that come with it. Ask anyone who knows her -- she is *always* thinking about ways to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

As the owner of *Brown-Cooley Associates in Self-Determination* Christine is well known to many in Ohio's developmental disabilities service system. She has been advocating for people with disabilities since 1994, and has a real passion for positive change, and seeing choices for people with disabilities. Christine has worked with many County Boards and local officials to foster awareness for disabilities issues affecting individuals in the community.

In addition, Christine has been recognized by various organizations for her enthusiastic advocacy efforts, including the Ohio Public Images' Self-Advocate of the Year Award in 2005. She is affiliated with several organizations and projects to promote concepts related to self-determination, including serving as the Ohio Self Determination Association Central Region Chair; and People First of Franklin County.

**[Read More about Christine Brown and the SELF Waiver in Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2012](#)**

Archived at *Pipeline Quarterly* <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>

## Community Collaboration, Mahoning County

### **Local Government Innovation Grant Offers Options**

#### **Sharing Technology Resources Via \$100,000 Grant**

Keeping up with technology is important to any modern organization, and smaller government agencies like many County Boards of DD need to keep up, too -- often without adequate financial and other resources to do so. Local Government Innovation Grants are another option that may bring with them opportunities to collaborate and share resources within larger systems.

ACCESS currently helps schools in Mahoning County share technology resources. Now, with a \$100,000 Local Government Innovation Grant -- part of Governor Kasich's \$50 million allocation for local government innovation projects that demonstrate collaboration/shared services projects and create greater efficiencies -- ACCESS will help townships, cities, and counties in the Mahoning County area fund technology improvements. ACCESS is one of 23 'Data Acquisition Sites' licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, and serves 26 school districts in Mahoning and Columbiana counties, two Educational Service Centers, 20 non-public schools, and two Special Education Resource Centers.

## DCs as Community Resources

### **Mount Vernon Developmental Center and Madison Avenue**

#### **Ada, Patsy, and Robert**

*As Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) continue a gradual downsizing process and sharper focus on community involvement, facilities report that strong regional support from their county service areas has offered exciting opportunities for DC residents. Mount Vernon Developmental Center reports some successes and some challenges -- all with the helping hands of community partners. Story submitted by Laurie Johnson L.S.W., Dana Mattison, and Ernie Fischer, at MVDC.*

Mount Vernon Developmental Center's (MVDC) first major experience with broad-based community development was as a partner with the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities (KCBDD). The County Board invited MVDC staff and residents to experience planning for, renovating, and decorating a four-bedroom home in Mount Vernon with a specific purpose in mind -- and with a firm grasp of managing the large project from the ground up. On June 15, 2011, Ada, Patsy, and Robert moved to their new home on Madison Avenue in Mount Vernon...

**More about Ada, Patsy, and Robert in Pipeline Quarterly**

[Click Here > Summer 2012](#)

**Since January 2010, MVDC has successfully transitioned 49 people into the community, with 22 moving to Medicaid waiver-funded homes, and 27 moving to Intermediate Care Facility settings.**

## Pipeline, August 29, 2012

### **Transitions DD Waiver; OHT Update**

#### **Transitions Developmental Disabilities Waiver**

Earlier this month, DODD Director John Martin provided updated information to stakeholders on the status of the Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) waiver, including an overview of proposed changes to the administration process. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) was given the authority, in July 2011, to transfer the administration of the TDD waiver to DODD, and both departments have worked closely together to assure a smooth transition and continuity of care for individuals enrolled on the waiver. As a result of this concerted effort, a decision was made to move forward and transfer operation of the waiver to DODD on January 1, 2013. Some changes will be made to

the waiver to reflect the administrative processes used by DODD, and assure that the transition is efficient and cost-effective.

### **OHT Update**

The Office of Health Transformation (OHT) announced early this week that Ohio Medicaid has made a final tentative selection of Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) health plans, and the ICDS participants have selected the geographic regions in which they will operate, based on previously-released scoring results and established protocols. The goal of the ICDS demonstration project is to create a fully integrated care system that comprehensively manages the spectrum of Medicare and Medicaid benefits for dually-eligible (Medicare, Medicaid) enrollees. More information and a timeline on this subject is online at the [OHT website](#).

## **Wood County Leads the Way in Employment Efforts**

Always looking for ways to share good information and ideas, DODD Director John Martin asked Wood County leaders last week for their thoughts on successful community employment for individuals with developmental disabilities that could be shared and implemented elsewhere. Director Martin noted that an analysis of recent employment data has shown that Wood County is the most successful of Ohio's 88 counties in terms of people with disabilities working in the community. He added that he would take the shared information and ideas to other counties that have not yet gotten on-board with strong employment programs and help to develop some consistent best practices.

**"How you've done such a nice job of integrating folks with disabilities into all segments of community life is really something to be admired. It allows the community to benefit from the wonderful gifts and abilities that folks with disabilities have."**

At a community employment roundtable discussion, local leaders stated that Wood County has a long-standing commitment to employing people with developmental disabilities, dating back to 1985. The county is Number One in the state in that employment category, with 40% of enrolled adults employed in the community. There are approximately 100 businesses that are a part of the local employment network.

### **Not A Single Drop**

## **September to Spotlight FASD Awareness and Prevention**

Recognizing the lifelong detrimental effects caused by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and the high costs associated with the effects of FASD, Governor John Kasich has declared September 2012 *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. FASD is an 'umbrella term' describing the range of physical, behavioral, and mental effects that can result from prenatal exposure to alcohol. It is estimated that spending related to the care of persons with FASD can cost the state more than \$300 million per year.

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly advises that no amount of alcohol consumption by a pregnant woman is safe, and urges that women who are pregnant, think they may be pregnant, or are planning to become pregnant should not drink alcohol in any amount.**

In Ohio, the FASD Steering Committee has been actively involved in information and advocacy efforts, including *Not a Single Drop Day*. Learn more at [www.ocali.org](http://www.ocali.org).

### **Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals**

## **Direct Support Professionals Empower Others Every Day**

**The week of September 9, 2012, is National Direct Support Professionals Week**

Sponsored by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), and recognizing the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every

day, *National Direct Support Professionals Week* begins on Sunday, September 9 -- Remember, DSP's work 24/7! The designation provides an opportunity to spotlight the role Direct Support Professionals play in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities of all ages -- as well as the challenges faced in recruiting and retaining a quality, competitively paid workforce. ANCOR notes that this is an annual, unified opportunity for organizations and communities around the nation to honor the direct support workforce, and make plans to host local DSP Recognition Week celebrations. Ohio is definitely on-task!

### **In Ohio, Direct Support Professionals Prepare to Blaze Trails on September 12**

Governor John Kasich will recognize the month with a Proclamation spotlighting the vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages. And, around the state there will be many events illustrating the positive impact of DSPs within Ohio's developmental disabilities community. One such event, the third annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition day, is coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) and slated for September 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Xenos complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus. The theme is, "*Blazing Trails, Leading the Way, Enhancing Lives Every Day.*" Keynote speaker is New Yorker, John Raffaele, who emphasizes the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) *Code of Ethics* in his presentations.

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## **- September -**

**This is National Direct Support Professionals Week – We Salute Ohio's DSPs!**  
September also is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Month, and National Preparedness Month

### **Pipeline, September 12, 2012**

#### **Focus on Employment First**

##### **Governor Kasich to Address DisAbility Jobs Summit, September 17**

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) reports that speakers addressing the upcoming *DisAbility Jobs Summit*, September 17-18 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center will include Governor John Kasich, and JobsOhio President Mark Kvamme on the morning of the first day of the event. In addition, DODD Director John Martin will present and participate as a panel member, as will Directors of several other state agency partners. The event is focused on actionable information that can help Ohioans with disabilities find or keep employment.

##### **DODD Promotes Governor's Employment First Initiative, Learns Best Practices from Communities**

Expanding community and integrated employment opportunities received well-deserved, statewide attention this past March when Governor Kasich issued an Executive Order establishing Ohio as an *Employment First* state. Since then, the task force and advisory committee created by the order have been working throughout the summer to develop thorough recommendations on successfully implementing the policy and collaboration goals to improve employment outcomes.

Also this summer, when the Governor's mid-biennium budget review legislation became law, another important *Employment First* policy became reality: Now every student with DD will begin the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process two years earlier at age 14, and every IEP is required to include a strategy for learning about and preparing for employment, by establishing post-secondary goals related to community employment.

## **Medicaid Buy-In Supports the Employment Picture**

Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) is a Medicaid-funded program that allows Ohioans with disabilities to work and continue to receive Medicaid benefits. Historically, people with disabilities were often discouraged from working, and earning more than a certain prescribed amount of money annually, because the earnings would make them ineligible for Medicaid coverage. MBIWD was created to enable Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage, and was authorized in Ohio in 2007. Participants began enrolling in April 2008. More about MBIWD at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/mbiwd.stm>.

## **Pipeline Profile**

### **DODD Division of Human Resources**

*Pipeline Profiles appear periodically, and spotlight each of the eight Divisions within DODD.*

*All issues are archived at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline).*

Discussing the Division's efforts during the past year in the areas of Labor Relations, Benefits Administration, EEO/Diversity Affairs, Personnel Services, and Workforce Development, DODD Deputy Director for Human Resources Laura Frazier, emphasizes the overall goals of streamlining, simplifying, and saving money through consolidation of functions. "We have concentrated on making several transitions during the past year, consolidating several functions that had been more fragmented, and in that process we have been very happy with the results -- both in terms of lower costs, and in managing and tracking information within our system."

Frazier goes on to explain, "It's important to consider that, while DODD Central Office is the 'hub' for the Division of HR, there is a great deal of HR activity going on at each of our ten Developmental Centers around the state. So, establishing one consistent way of doing things is much more effective and efficient than trying to accommodate ten or eleven different ways of doing things." For example, Frazier notes that the Division has consolidated payroll and benefits functions at Central Office, and has implemented some systems-related programs that organize and track various functions such as mediation and arbitration activity, as well as absenteeism and Workers' Compensation benefits.

This capability will allow for improved forecasting, and better overall information management along with long-term cost savings. In addition, Frazier explains that looking ahead, streamlining and simplifying – along with consistent messages and information – are key to improving the functions and services provided by the Division. She adds,

**"Human Resources must constantly deliver the message that we're one agency, and we need to give a 'one agency' message to our staff and other agency partners."**

## **FASD Steering Committee Hosts 'Not a Single Drop Day' Awareness and Prevention Information**

The Ohio Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Steering Committee hosted families, professionals, and interested members of the community attending the *Not a Single Drop Day* event on September 7, last week at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) gymnasium, in Columbus. Opening remarks were offered by Dr. Jessica Foster (Ohio Department of Health) who noted, "This steering committee is a wonderful example of what we can do in state government when we bring our partners together – along with professionals and families – to make a real difference to the health of Ohio citizens around the state."

Attendees learned about the reality of FASD from families affected, including the difficulty in diagnosing the condition, and sometimes receiving conflicting information from different medical practitioners largely unfamiliar with FASD. The event also provided valuable information about advocacy and prevention, respite services, and Individual Service Plans (ISPs), from professionals who work with individuals affected by FASD.

#### **Governor's Proclamation**

Recognizing the lifelong and detrimental effects caused by FASD and the high costs associated, Governor Kasich has declared September 2012 *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio. Annual spending related to the care of Ohioans with FASD is estimated at approximately \$300 million.

#### **Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals**

### **Direct Support Professionals Blazing Trails This Week**

#### **The week of September 9 is National Direct Support Professionals Week**

*National Direct Support Professionals Week* is sponsored by the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), and recognizes the important contributions that Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) make in every community, every day. Governor John Kasich has recognized the month with a Proclamation spotlighting the vital role of Direct Support Professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages.

One of the premiere events illustrating the positive impact of DSPs within Ohio's developmental disabilities community is free to DSPs and is being celebrated today -- the annual Ohio Direct Support Professionals recognition day, coordinated by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) at the Xenos complex in Columbus. The 2012 theme is, "*Blazing Trails, Leading the Way, Enhancing Lives Every Day.*" DODD Director John Martin addressed the group with heartfelt opening remarks, stating,

**To say 'thank you' to you all for your work is not enough. Thank you is not enough because we, in this state, have not done enough to improve the wages you are paid in the service system. Our work is not done in this area, and we have not yet been able to reward your work with improved wages.**

**We are continuing to focus on that as a high-priority issue with our agency partners, and with our legislators. I, personally, deeply appreciate the work that Direct Support Professionals do, and your commitment to it. If it were not for you, individuals like my son could not survive."**

#### **Health & Safety**

### **Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, Annual Report 2011**

The 2011 Annual MUI Report is now available on the DODD website at 2011 MUI / Registry Unit Annual Report. This latest report was developed using the large volume of data compiled from the Incident Tracking System (ITS) for calendar year 2011. Information highlights some of the challenges that individuals with disabilities faced during the year regarding health and welfare concerns, as well as reports on the work of providers, County Boards of DD, and DODD staff in providing ongoing supports to address these health and safety concerns.

**All MUI/Registry Unit Annual Reports since 2005 are at the Health & Safety tab at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)**

## National Emergency Preparedness Month Honors Many

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to view new information for 2012, under the theme, 'Today Is the Day Before Tomorrow.'

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies. Nationally, the Preparedness Month efforts are led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA) 'Ready Campaign,' in partnership with related state and local organizations. As Ohio honors the nation's First Responders during *National Preparedness Month*, an event at the Ohio Statehouse West Lawn was held last week, in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to view new information for 2012, under the theme, 'Today Is the Day Before Tomorrow.'

## Pipeline, September 26, 2012

### Addressing Employment First, Other Key Topics

**"Contact my office if you don't see the Employment First initiative working for you in your town. I mean it. If you have not noticed a difference, you send me a letter. It really is in your hands, people at the local level ... because we cannot run it from here."**

**- Governor John Kasich addresses DisAbility Jobs Summit attendees**

In addition to Governor John Kasich's energetic address to those attending the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) *DisAbility Jobs Summit*, September 17 at the Columbus Convention Center, a panel of state agency Directors well-versed on the subject of employment fielded a variety of thoughtful questions. As a panel member, DODD Director John Martin, was pleased to respond to questions regarding how the *Employment First* initiative has changed the way the Department operates.

As community-based employment is a key priority in this Administration, and a major focus of stakeholder efforts, Director Martin stated, "One of the things that *Employment First* has done is to cause us to look at our system through a different prism. Our system was de-emphasizing supported employment and rewarding the opposite – sheltered workshop settings. Our Individualized Service Plans and our waivers need to put employment as a priority. We need to have our system support community employment outcomes. And now, we are beginning to transform our thinking within Ohio's DD system."

Later during the panel discussion, Director Martin had an opportunity to address another DODD priority subject in support of Early Intervention (E.I.) services for young children with developmental disabilities, noting the correlation found between those services in a person's life and their subsequent ability as an adult to gain skills for jobs in the community. He noted, "With E.I. we *establish hope early on*. That's important. Hope for the family, and the child."

### Autism Funding - \$1.3 Million from Transformation Fund

*According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism affects one in every 88 children in the United States, and is the fastest growing developmental disability in the nation.*

Last week slightly more than \$1.3 million was released from the Health Transformation Innovation Fund to ramp-up autism services. The funding is provided for three innovative projects that will help improve early diagnosis and interventions for individuals with autism.

#### The Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP)

ADEP trains pediatricians to correctly identify the early signs of autism, to aid in early intervention. The project facilitates unique partnerships between community-based primary care practices and professionals providing early intervention and early childhood services to increase opportunities for children to receive timely and comprehensive evaluations. ADEP was originally piloted through funds from the Ohio

Department of Health (ODH), and administered by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and has formed these Diagnostic Partnerships in 30 Ohio counties. Health Transformation Funds will support existing partnerships and allow more expansion in resource-poor regions of the state.

## **Family Advisory Council Meeting an Interactive Forum**

Yesterday's meeting of Family Advisory Council (FAC) saw much interaction from attendees, as presenters offered information requested by family members around the state. Meeting at the Columbus Developmental Center, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin welcomed the group, highlighting an agenda offering updates on Guardianship, Quality Assurance, Home Health Services, and more.

Kate Haller, DODD Deputy Director for Legal and Oversight, discussed changes in the law pertaining to guardianship issues, and noted that changes in statute will mean that individuals with developmental disabilities now will have more opportunity to seek advice in decision-making – just as most people do.

She stated, "Decision-making in the DD system used to offer individuals little room for soliciting help, and we felt it was a hindrance to only offer assessments of either 'fully competent' or needing a guardian. We have worked with a large group of stakeholders to craft language on the subject of guardianship that will allow an individual to have avenues of support and advice, helping the person to make good decisions, without automatically determining that they must have a guardian named. This is still a work-in-process, and we now are working to update a guardianship handbook, and prepare a presentation to get the word out in a consistent manner."

## **September is FASD Awareness Month**

### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Message is Clear**

#### **Awareness and Prevention – 'Not A Single Drop'**

Governor John Kasich has declared September as *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio, and underscored the fact that annual spending related to the care of persons with FASD in Ohio is estimated at approximately \$300 million. The Ohio Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Steering Committee's event earlier this month, '*Not a Single Drop Day*,' at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus, was but one example of a cohesive overall effort. The Steering Committee is an example of state government partners working together with a strong message supported by both professionals and families to make a difference to the health of Ohio citizens, and those yet to be born.

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## **- October -**

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

The 2012 theme is, "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues, and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. More at [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam)



### **The Subject? Employment!**

Tony Blasingame (left), along with Mark Kayes (center), participated in a panel discussion with DODD Director John Martin (right) late last month in Cincinnati.

Blasingame is an employee of Kaiser's Pickles – whose Vice President, Bob Kaiser, spoke with enthusiasm for hiring people with disabilities, including the request, "Find me another Tony!"

Kayes is an employee of the LaRosa's Pizza restaurant in Cincinnati, and his employer, Mike LaRosa is a huge proponent of hiring individuals with the strong work ethic Mark displays daily.



### **Pipeline, October 10, 2012**

## **Focus on National Disability Employment Awareness**

*NDEAM began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October 'National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.' In 1962, the word 'physically' was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."*

Emphasizing the strength of an inclusive workforce, ODEP Assistant Secretary Kathleen Martinez notes, "When a workplace is welcoming to people with disabilities, employers gain needed skills and new perspectives on ways to manage challenges and achieve organizational success, and employees with disabilities gain dignity, respect, and greater economic stability."

### **In Ohio, Statewide Leadership**

In 2011, DODD focused additional efforts on employment issues faced by individuals with developmental disabilities by becoming a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), via a grant from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The SELN brings states together to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, and members participate in a self-assessment that identifies strengths and challenges of their existing employment services system. Recommendations and action items following DODD's initial assessment now are helping to guide the Department's employment efforts.

### **In Columbus, Director Martin Addresses NDEAM Event at Statehouse**

DODD Director John Martin spoke on the subject of *Employment First*, the SELN relationship, and other employment initiatives at the *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* celebration this morning at the Ohio Statehouse, hosted by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC). He noted that during the past couple of months he and other Department staff have been visiting employers around the state that are employing people with disabilities, including both large and small businesses, ranging from The Cleveland Clinic, to LaRosa's Pizza in Cincinnati and many in smaller cities. He noted that their mission on these trips was to speak with the employers and their employees, to learn what could best inform the *Employment First* initiative, and be shared as best practices around the state. He explained,

**"Common themes we have heard were that the employers really value their employees. They would say, 'Can you send me more people like Matt? - people who care about their jobs and about being on time every day?' We also learned that many different partners help make these employment options happen. Our job at DODD is to make sure our system supports these opportunities."**

## At the County Level

Counties around the state are recognizing and celebrating NDEAM in their own unique ways, including official Proclamations by local governments describing the importance of these local efforts. Adding special events to the mix, many County Boards of DD, employers, service providers, and other community-based organizations are spotlighting the *employees* and *programs* that are working for them in their communities, and will host employee/employer recognition events. (*More in the next Pipeline*)

## Issues Update – Medicaid and More

### News from the Office of Health Transformation – Medicaid Modernization

Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy's testimony to the Joint Legislative Committee for United Long-Term Services and Supports included project updates and a preview of FY 2014-15 budget policy priorities. The testimony last week included progress on current major initiatives, including:

### Integration of Medicare and Medicaid Services

Ohio submitted its Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April 2012. The proposal presents a new approach to meeting the needs of individuals who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Ohio's vision for the ICDS is to create a fully integrated system of care that provides comprehensive services to Medicare-Medicaid enrollees across the continuum of Medicare and Medicaid benefits. It is anticipated that through this model, more Medicare-Medicaid enrollees will receive the medical and support services they need in their own homes and other community-based settings, rather than in more costly institutional settings.

## OPRA Fall Conference Spotlights Service, Leadership

The Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin hosted the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Fall Conference late last month – a venue for nearly 600 attendees and dozens of exhibitors. OPRA President Mark Davis and other key staff presented briefings on issues, policies, and projects concerning Ohio's DD service system, and an overview of legislative activity in the state, including presentations on Health Care Reform and an update on the efforts of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT).

The conference also showcased an Annual Awards Luncheon, honoring individuals in several categories, honoring service, leadership, and special achievements. In 1991, OPRA established the awards to recognize individuals who made significant contributions in the areas of direct service to and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities. OPRA recognizes and celebrates those efforts across the state, and DODD joins in saluting each of these individuals.

Keynote speakers addressing Fall Conference attendees included DODD Director John Martin providing a "State of the State" snapshot, updating attendees on several DODD priority program and service areas, and acknowledging that there is much yet to be done to improve the overall economic outlook for Direct Support Professionals. He stated, "We are still working on this, and we know we are not there yet."

## PAR/OSDA Meeting Continues Strength in Combination

When PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) and OSDA (Ohio Self Determination Association) combined forces for a first-ever dual conference last year, the organizers realized strong attendance numbers and active participation. This year's event, October 3-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, built on that strength with the theme of "*Synergy*."

Again this year, Ohio's self advocates, along with DD professionals and other advocates numbering nearly 600, were learning from one another and finding ways to make more significant progress toward improved community-based services, employment options, and more independence. Traditionally, a high percentage of any group of OSDA and PAR members represents people served in Ohio's DD system, so the conference takes on a more informal, grassroots approach, and offers unique opportunities for speaking one's mind and sharing original ideas. During the information session on the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, the state's first SELF waiver recipient, Christine Brown, noted,

**"The SELF waiver is more flexible with dollars. It helps to not be stressing all the time about money. I know I can take a taxi once in a while to church, for instance, instead of having to wait to get a whole vanful of people going to the same church at the same time."**

**More about Christine and the SELF waiver in *Pipeline Quarterly*. [Click](#)> Summer 2012**

## **Pipeline, October 26, 2012**

### **A Potpourri of Progress**

## **Focus on National Disability Employment Awareness**

### **Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**

As National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) continues this year's national emphasis on the greater strength of a truly inclusive workforce, Ohio has focused on recognition and celebration of these strengths at venues across the state. The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) on October 16 in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium was one such effort. Marking progress for Ohioans with disabilities and highlighting continuing work toward improved community inclusion, awards presented at the event included those for employers, legislators, advocates, leadership, and scholarship. In welcoming attendees to the event, GCPD Vice-Chairperson Matt Sauer observed,

**"Governor Kasich has given us a simple charge ... employment is everything!"**

And in his opening comments, Rehabilitation Services Commission Executive Director Kevin Miller stated, "As we move forward and grow the *Employment First* initiative in Ohio, here's something we need to remember ... while it's true to say that hiring people with disabilities is the right thing to do ... It's also OK to say that hiring people with disabilities is profitable – is good for the bottom line."

### **DODD Learns About Employment Success in Hamilton County**

As noted in [Pipeline, October 10 2012](#), DODD Director John Martin and other Department staff have been visiting employers around the state that are employing people with disabilities, including both large and small businesses. He noted that their mission on these trips was to talk with the employers and their employees, learn what could best inform the *Employment First* initiative, and share best practices around the state. In Cincinnati late last month, he led a panel discussion about the *Employment First* initiative.

### **Awards Dinner Highlights Employment in Athens County**

PersonnelPlus, the supported employment arm of the Athens County Board of DD held a Business & Employee recognition dinner on October 18 at the Athens Community Center. More than the anticipated 300 people attended – including many local business and community leaders, employees, and their families and friends.

### **Reminder: Free *Employment First* Training**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) will host a new *Employment First Training Series* -- a professional development program dedicated to the successful implementation of Ohio's *Employment First Initiative* and other DD-related employment programs throughout the state. The three-part *National*

*Organization on Disability Employer Relations Seminar* is set for November 8, November 29, and December 13, with support and sponsorship from DODD and the National Organization on Disability.

## **A Good Life – And a Great Statewide Community**

'*A Good Life*' is not a "program" ... exactly. It's not a "project," either. It's a way of thinking about and relating to others. It's also learning about oneself so that the "other-directed" thinking can be understood from one's own perspective. *A Good Life* involves working with people who have developmental disabilities in a "start from scratch" way.

Still, it's more than that. That's why *Pipeline* headed to Tiffin to see the graduation of a few dozen people who work for County Boards of DD in Ottawa, Henry, Marion, Crawford, Huron, Seneca, Erie, and Morrow counties – a multi-county alliance known as Clearwater COG (Council of Government).

**Immediately it was learned that *A Good Life* is not *The Good Life*. Because there is not one "packaged" Good Life to strive for, but there is one unique Good Life for every person. It's theirs, and they will help create it.**

Under the auspices of the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), Pete Moore and Willie Jones facilitate *A Good Life*, along with the blessing and support of the Clearwater COG. They describe it as, "...founded on the general beliefs of the *Positive Culture Initiative* championed by DODD, with new layers added to the foundation." *A Good Life* training encourages confidence, respect, and self-esteem for both the giver and the receiver in any work relationship. It's about staying in a "Stretch Zone" to always be on the lookout for the many possibilities in any person, any situation.

Willie Jones also calls *A Good Life* a "learning collaborative" – and says everyone "brings their own tools." It's something different for everyone, and as it bubbles up from the foundation of the [Positive Culture Initiative](#), it seeps into the culture of the community – to build a stronger statewide developmental disabilities community. According to Pam Berry, Senior Policy Advisor for DODD, who oversees the Positive Culture Initiative, *A Good Life* training has been very well received throughout Ohio, and helps create an environment where that important shift in thinking and beliefs can occur – a shift away from power, control, and coercion, and toward relationships that are nurturing and uplifting for everyone.

## **Supports Intensity Scale Evaluation Project Enters Second Year**

Last year, DODD began a three-year evaluation project to evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). The goal is to see if the SIS assessment provides the best information needed to make data-driven decisions about how to use resources most efficiently, and serve more people effectively.

**SIS puts a focus on supports needed to participate fully in life, rather than focusing on what a person is unable to do.**

The evaluation project has been underway since last year, with assessments conducted by DD professionals who have completed in-depth training on SIS. The data gathered is then reviewed by experienced researchers. Priority emphasis is placed on maintaining consistency in *what* is being measured and *how* the data is measured. Interviewers have so far conducted 148 assessments in 20 counties, and at each of the ten DODD-operated Developmental Centers. Of those assessments, 112 were with individuals who are on the Individual Options waiver, and the remaining 36 were with individuals who were new admissions to a Developmental Center. DODD is continuing the project through September 30, 2013.

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## - November - November is National Family Caregivers Month

[Pipeline EXTRA, November 7, 2012](#)

### Results of the November 6, 2012 Election - County Board of DD Levy Issues, Across the State

Results for issues on November 6 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:  
(Percentages are rounded.)

*Carroll County:* 1 mill, renewal **PASSED**, by 57%  
*Clark County:* 1.75 mills, additional **FAILED** by 51%  
*Defiance County:* 0.85 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 68%  
*Fayette County:* 1.5 mills, replacement **PASSED**, by 67%  
*Medina County:* 1.9 mills, replacement **PASSED**, by 63%  
*Meigs County:* 2 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 61%  
*Morrow County:* 1.5 mills, replacement **FAILED** by 56%  
*Paulding County:* 1.4 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 63%  
*Sandusky County:* 2 mills, additional **PASSED**, by 56%  
*Trumbull County:* 1.5 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 67%  
*Tuscarawas County:* 1.7 mills, renewal **PASSED**, by 71%

**Results are unofficial and will be certified by respective County Boards of Elections at a later date.**

*More info at: Ohio Secretary of State website: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>*

[Pipeline, November 7, 2012](#)

### Funds to Support Shared Services, Other DD Initiatives

DODD has been awarded \$500,000 from the Governor's *Health Transformation Innovation Fund* to support a broad-based information technology (IT) infrastructure project to improve planning and shared services goals among Ohio's County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Specifically, the project scope is to build a new information system allowing an 18-county collaborative area to share administrative activities, standardize person-centered planning practices, and more efficiently support people in the developmental disabilities system.

The 18 counties in the project are: Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Fairfield, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Jefferson, Knox, Licking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Tuscarawas and Washington. Announcing the funding, DODD Director John Martin stated,

**"We're working to provide a better technology platform as an important tool to make sure timely and relevant information is accessible for DODD, County Boards, and individuals served. The project is driven by a collaborative group of counties that are committed to creating and implementing simpler, more person-centered practices that do away with duplicative or burdensome processes."**

The information technology project is branding its efforts under the theme, "*Imagine*," and is part of the Region V County Collaborative. The group has worked for the past few years to identify opportunities for

building more efficient, person-centered practices that standardize processes across county borders, and without counties losing their local identities. Example: DODD and the counties involved in the project have identified a shared IT system, where support coordination is digitally documented, as a critical component to successfully standardizing practices while ensuring better customer service.

### **Controlling Board Approves Additional Funding**

The Ohio Controlling Board has increased the DODD appropriation authority by \$1.57 million, allowing the Department to fund targeted disability programs using money awarded by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. These *Health Transformation Innovation Fund* dollars will support programs to expand early intervention for Ohio's youngest children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to improve employment outcomes for young adults with ASD.

### **National Family Caregivers Month Honors Many**

In 1994, the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) began spotlighting the role of family caregivers during the week of Thanksgiving. In 1997, then-President Bill Clinton signed the first Presidential Proclamation appreciating the work of family caregivers. As interest grew in family caregiving issues, National Family Caregivers Week became National Family Caregivers *Month*.

**New national estimates are that more than 65 million family caregivers fulfill this vital role. NFCA's core "Caring Every Day" messages are "Believe in Yourself ... Protect Your Health ... Reach Out for Help ... Speak Up for Your Rights"**

The NFCA and DODD acknowledge that family caregivers are the most familiar with their care recipients' medication regimen; they are most knowledgeable about treatment needs; and, they understand any dietary or other recommendations that would benefit their family member. DODD celebrates November as a time to thank, support, educate, and empower family caregivers, and to raise awareness of family caregiver issues. More information at <http://www.nfcacares.org/>.

### **Update on the SELF Waiver**

#### **Bradley Shonkwiler, First Child on SELF Waiver**

Bradley Shonkwiler is making state news at only 8 years old, as the first child to be enrolled on the new DODD Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver. Bradley's enrollment was effective October 1, and already his mom, Tracey, is excited about the options now available to him and the Shonkwiler family in Warren County.

In developing SELF Waiver service options, DODD and its stakeholders felt that it was important to incorporate 100 state-funded SELF Waivers designated for Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs (CIBN) to specifically serve children who have demonstrated such needs. Some of the services available within the SELF Waiver were particularly designed to assist individuals who exhibit intensive behaviors. Tracey Shonkwiler worked closely with Kelly Detherage, Service and Support Administrator at the Warren County Board of DD, to apply for the SELF waiver.

Bradley utilizes the *Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention* services that are available with the SELF Waiver. These services include those that assist unpaid caregivers and/or paid support staff in carrying out individual treatment/support plans that are needed to reduce the individual's intensive behaviors, and implementing supports that are necessary to improve the individual's independence and interaction with the community. To access these services, Bradley participated in a *Functional Behavior Assessment*, which was completed in 2011, under the Autism Scholarship.

For Bradley, these services include an aide/provider coming to his home three to four days per week to work with him to help reduce unwanted behaviors. They work with Bradley at his home, as well as out in the community. According to Detherage,

**“When reviewing the SELF Waiver with Bradley’s mom, she was very excited that her son would be able to obtain these services under SELF, as the Level One and Individual Options waivers do not offer these services. Tracey knew that Bradley would benefit greatly from having Clinical Therapeutic Intervention, and was excited about the flexible options in this waiver.”**

*For more information about the SELF Waiver, click on [Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver](#)*

## **Annual Ohio SIBS Conference Gathers Strength**

The 12th Annual *Ohio Adult Sibling Conference*, October 26-27 in Columbus, convened more than 100 siblings from across Ohio, and a scattering of other states, to gain information and support from fellow siblings. Just ahead of National Family Caregivers Month (November) the event is a venue growing in family participation each year. DODD Director John Martin addressed the group, noting that the network of support for families of Ohioans with developmental disabilities is further strengthened by gatherings such as the annual SIBS conference. He observed,

**“This is a unique gathering, about which the Ohio SIBS organization can be very proud. It is always exciting to see families helping families through their own personal experiences.”**

## **Ohio Public Images Begins 2013 DD Awareness Efforts**

Ohio Public Images, Inc. (OPI), a volunteer information and advocacy organization encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the ‘*Call for Entries*’ for its annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2011 through November 30, 2012*. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe.

The awards competition honors individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through their exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities. It also recognizes outstanding self advocates, elected officials, and employers who champion and support people with developmental disabilities.

### **OPI Recognizes Administration’s Focus on Employment**

The *Call for Entries* details more than 20 categories for award nominations, and includes a specific category for outstanding efforts by Ohio employers. Such efforts could include those that foster a positive environment for individuals with disabilities in the workplace; unique or exceptional efforts to train and hire individuals with DD for specific employment opportunities; and employers who partner successfully with community agencies that serve people with DD to provide successful employment outcomes.

*The 2012 ‘Call for Entries’ is posted on the OPI website at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>*

### **Pipeline EXTRA, November 13, 2012**

## **In Memorium - John McGee**

We at DODD have learned that John McGee, author and founder of Gentle Teaching Methodology, passed away on November 12, 2012. John McGee will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his friends and loved ones. Our developmental disabilities community shares a great loss with John’s passing. His devotion to promoting non-violence and unconditional love has borne tremendous progress toward an enduring positive culture. We are grateful for the insight this caring leader and teacher

has brought to us over the years. Please join us in honoring his memory by ensuring his efforts continue—that every person we serve and care for feels safe, loved, and engaged.

Visit [www.gentleteaching.com](http://www.gentleteaching.com) for more about John McGee

## **Pipeline, November 21, 2012 – Annual ‘Thanksgiving’ Issue**

### **Intermediate Care Facility Transition and Other News**

As part of the transition of the ICF-IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities) program from the Department of Job & Family Services to DODD, the legislation involved (Amended Substitute House Bill 153) required the departments to conduct a study of the Individual Assessment Form (IAF). DODD has completed several phases of this study, and most recently revised the instructions to the IAF to provide more guidance to providers and increase consistency in application of the tool. DODD will be providing training to staff who complete IAF assessments beginning in December 2012. To view the recent IAF communication, revised instructions and training schedules, visit the DODD website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/Pages/ICF-IID.aspx> ).

### **Ohio’s Health Care Exchange**

Governor John Kasich confirmed late last week that Ohio has opted to allow the federal government to run the state’s health care exchange, as mandated under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and said the state will retain control over regulating the insurance industry and determining Medicaid eligibility. In Governor Kasich’s letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) he also stated that Ohio would submit additional details to the federal government prior to HHS’s February 2013 deadline. More information is online from the Office of Health Transformation at [www.ohio.gov](http://www.ohio.gov).

### **Health & Safety**

Two new DODD Health & Safety Alerts -- *Winter Weather (#52-11-12)*, and *Health and Safety, Priority One (#51-09-12)*, have been updated and added to the DODD website at [DODD Health and Safety Alerts](#). The purpose of the alerts is to remind all service providers of their responsibility to assure the health and welfare of individuals and offer specific information toward that outcome.

### **Ohio Recognizes National Family Caregivers Month**

Across Ohio and the nation, recognition of National Family Caregivers Month continues, highlighting the many individuals and families responsible for the health and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities, the elderly population, and others in need of special care. More than 65 million family caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members. Ohio’s developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts *by* so many, and *for* so many. DODD salutes the efforts of Ohio’s many family caregivers.

#### **Families in Action – The Family Advisory Council**

The DODD Family Advisory Council meets regularly to discuss family caregiver issues and share ideas and concerns. Information on a wide range of subjects requested by individuals and families served in Ohio’s DD system is always on the Council’s agenda.

**The next Family Advisory Council meeting is December 4, at Columbus Developmental Center.  
Meetings are open to everyone!**

**More about Family Advisory Council at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/families/familyadvocate.htm)**

## **Giving Thanks ... Thoughts from Across the State**

*Here’s one of many examples of thankfulness from around the state in this issue:*

## Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others

### Service Providers and Others Share Their Thoughts

**From: Independence Inc. – Thankful for Direct Support Professionals**

Memorable moments from the recent 2012 Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) conference included the story of Kelly Marsh, representing Independence Inc., who received an Outstanding Direct Support Professional award for "...being the best at going out of her way for the residents she serves."

The story goes:

**"Last Thanksgiving, the holiday turkey caught fire in the oven! After following practiced evacuation procedures, dealing with the Fire Department's arrival and departure, and reviewing the damages, Kelly took the residents – including their cat, Cooper – to her own mother's home for a hastily-arranged substitute Thanksgiving Dinner! Kelly then returned to the residence and spent the rest of the day cleaning smoke residue and restoring order."**

### - A Thankfulness Potpourri -



<A



<B



<C

**A>** Thankful for a new home – Marsha Mace, Southeast Ohio, also thankful for her cat, Yum-Yum.

**B>** Thankful for a new job – Dave Schull, Kroger Athens Store Manager, names Blane Morris his next new employee at Athens County's Personnel*Plus* Employer Appreciation event last month. Blane took the surprise in stride, giving Schull a Thumbs Up!

**C>** Thankful for a new waiver – Bradley Shonkwiler, first child enrolled on DODD new SELF waiver, enjoys the new options available to him, including Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention services.

## DD Awareness & Advocacy Event, March 5, 2013

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

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

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

**SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013.**

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

More information as the date draws nearer.



^A sneak peek at the 2013 Awareness & Advocacy theme.

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**- December -**

**Pipeline, December 5, 2012**

## **Preparing for the 2013-14 Budget, and Other Updates**

Now that Ohio state agencies' budget proposals have been submitted for consideration for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, preparation begins for what may lie ahead regarding proposals and initiatives that affect the lives of Ohioans with disabilities and their families. A seminar sponsored by The Arc of Ohio on November 29, in Worthington, featured several such insights by representatives of the Office of Health Transformation, DODD, the Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Education, and other related agencies.

Topics addressed included the 2013-14 budget, the *Employment First* initiative; Ohio Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) Waiver; Medicaid State Plan services; Special Education and Autism Scholarships; and, the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver.

DODD Director John Martin provided a status report on several subjects, including a look at what we might expect in the upcoming budget. He explained,

**“As we put together the budget as partners within the Office of Health Transformation, for the first time ever state agencies that use Medicaid funds are aligning all of our spending categories to include the same line items. This is immensely helpful ... as we are operating, then, as a single Medicaid entity. Medicaid funding does not stay flat, so we can better forecast growth and needs.”**

Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, DODD Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, discussed the state's *Employment First* efforts from the perspective of what the initiative can mean for families, including how they can work toward community-based employment for family members with disabilities. He stated, “In looking at the statewide employment picture for individuals with developmental disabilities, we will be gathering and reviewing more data, and measuring success. Measuring not just that a person is working – but *where* they're working, *how* and *why* they are successful, and learning how can we spread that success around.”

**Part One of a Two-Part Series**

## **Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project ... Providing Care & Support**

*Originally launched in February 2012 as “Ohio's Tele-medicine Project” a closer look at specific needed services has prompted the project to be more accurately named “Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project.”*

DODD and Wright State University, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have developed *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project*. The goal of the project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and

community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/ developmental disabilities (MI/DD) who reside in remote areas across the state.

Begun in February 2012, the project is currently serving approximately 40 individuals residing in 13 Ohio counties, where there are few if any such services available by qualified practitioners. In a letter introducing the project to Superintendents of Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, DODD Director John Martin stated,

**“The lack of appropriate care severely impacts the quality of life for people in these areas while also inflating the cost of care due to increased staffing needs, unnecessary hospitalizations, forced institutionalization, and expenses to transport the person out of the local area for treatment. Through this collaborative effort Ohio hopes to provide treatment and ongoing local support to as many as 120 under-served individuals by the end of FY2013.”**

The project also was developed to encourage collaborative relationships between local County Boards of DD and local Boards of Mental Health that could bridge the gap in services to people with complex issues, and help prepare the agencies to see the ‘whole person.’ These inter-disciplinary teams then can offer a more comprehensive approach to treatment. Success has been shown in treating individuals exhibiting depression, dementia, schizophrenia, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, panic disorder, substance abuse, and similar issues.

### **Tele-psychiatry and Positive Outcomes**

Other positive outcomes are realized due to factors such as the ‘distancing effects’ of not being face-to-face, that actually can improve disclosure and honesty due to an increased sense of security or privacy. Research shows that tele-psychiatry currently is being utilized in many settings, including clinics, hospital emergency departments, patients’ homes, nursing homes, schools, and in military combat zones.

Probably the most exciting outcomes in *Ohio’s Tele-psychiatry Project*, employing technology to link under-served individuals to needed services in remote areas of the state, will be told by the individuals themselves, their families, and by participating physicians. That’s what we’ll explore in *Part Two* of this two-part series ... coming soon in *Pipeline*.

### **OACB Convention Spotlights Strengths, Innovation**

At the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) convention Dec. 5-7, the agenda is focused on ideas and information that would help attendees find ways to evolve, find new efficiencies, and continuously improve. The event, hosted at the Hilton at Easton (Columbus) garners plenty of interest from across the state and showcases many people and programs of interest to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community.

For example, at today’s opening session, DODD Director John Martin highlighted several points in his presentation as examples of transformational change, and data-driven decision making. Continuing a theme noted often throughout 2012, Director Martin emphasized the Department’s emphasis on the sustainability of programs that benefit Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families, as well as exploring different service models to help support the needs of families most efficiently and effectively. Building on that, his observations included this comment on the fiscal outlook for 2013 ...

**“Budget negotiations are going well ... we’re being listened to, and being understood ... as we move forward exploring new ways to provide sustainable services in a collaborative environment.”**

## Health & Safety

### **Safety Tips for Happy Holidays**

Many residential service providers and families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities have observed over the years that the holiday season offers one of the best opportunities to involve those individuals in special activities such as decorating, baking, singing carols, and attending unique religious programs. Along with all of these wonderful activities to share with each other should be an extra measure of care and safety.

A helpful chronological listing of seasonal and other Health & Safety Alerts, covering areas in which DODD has identified a risk to people, and what can be done to avoid or minimize that risk, is at [DODD Health & Safety Alerts](#).



## **In the 2012 Holiday Spirit**

Back by popular demand, and excerpted from, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', by Theodore Geisel

He puzzled three hours, 'til his puzzler was sore.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.  
Maybe Christmas, he thought ... doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Christmas, perhaps ... means a little bit more!

More at <http://dearsantaclaus.biz/grinch.htm>



**And meanwhile, back in Ohio ...\***

He puzzled for hours, couldn't do it no more.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.  
Maybe Christmas, he thought ... doesn't come from a store.  
Then he went to the map on the Statehouse floor.  
He said, "Why of course! It's from Every County!"  
And then he set out ... to sample the bounty.

- \*NOT by Theodore Geisel



**Now THOSE are some healthy poinsettias!**

Michael Geier helps care for the poinsettias at NorWesCo greenhouse (Tiffin DC) along with other residents. The greenhouse full of flowers is sold during the holiday season to non-profit organizations, churches and schools – which they, in turn, use for fundraisers. Some of the greenhouse’s customers include Riverview Industries; School of Opportunity; Women’s Club of Bucyrus; Angeline Industries; Ebenezer Church; Fostoria United Methodist Church; and Missler’s IGA in Willard.

More about Ohio’s Developmental Centers in the next issue of [\*Pipeline Quarterly\*](#)



## *PostScripts* .....

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

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

### **Ohio Public Images (OPI) ‘Call for Entries’ Deadline is January 4, 2013**

‘Call for Entries’ Information is at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org/](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/) Click on ‘Call for Entries’

Ohio Public Images awards honor individuals and organizations across Ohio who, through exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding of people with developmental disabilities. The competition also recognizes outstanding self advocates, elected officials, and employers who champion efforts that improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The awards will be presented on March 19, 2013, at the Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities conference luncheon. Contact Mary Pat Riker, (419) 380-4049.

### **2013 DD Awareness Campaign Materials Now Available**

Again this year, Ohio Public Images has created a campaign to help organizations promote positive awareness of people with developmental disabilities. This year the theme is “Look Beyond!” and all materials will be ready to ship on January 1, in time for use during March, Developmental Disabilities

Awareness Month. Visit the OPI website [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org) to view the new catalog and other tools that can be used in awareness campaigns.

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

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

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

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

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