

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 6, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Our Future: CMS Transition Plan Public Forums – **Athens County Forum Today is Cancelled**
- Administration Update: DODD 2014 Accomplishments; Other Updates
- Achieving a Better Life Experiences (ABLE) Act Signed; More Legislative News
- Workforce Integration Task Force Issues Report
- Pipeline Pix: Seasonal Spirit Shared at Central Office
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar



**Happy New Year!**

## **Athens County CMS Transition Plan Public Forum CANCELLED**

The DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee public forum in Athens County today has been cancelled due to inclement weather. Two more are planned this week – in Independence (Cuyahoga County) tomorrow, and in Cincinnati (Hamilton County) on Saturday. This series of meetings provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families, service providers, and County Board staff to learn about the new rule from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and what the state is doing to ensure we are in compliance. At each forum, members of the DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee discuss the new regulations, and share an overview of

DODD's portion of the state's transition plan, as well as how to provide comments. All comments are to be directed to the [Office of Health Transformation](#).

A complete forum [schedule is online](#) – and, share [this flyer](#) with anyone interested in attending. If you are not able to attend a meeting in person, you may wish to download the [presentation](#) and [handout](#). More information about changes to Ohio's developmental disabilities system – including the new CMS rule, and how to provide comments on the state's CMS Transition Plan – is available online at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture), and please continue to read *Pipeline* for more information.

## Administration Update – 2014 Accomplishments, Other Updates

Each year in December, DODD and other state agencies report to the Governor's Office a list of major accomplishments for the calendar year. Below we share a short list of the top five for 2014:

1. **\$5 million to help kids in crisis:** DODD and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services awarded more than \$1.4 million in Strong Families, Safe Communities funding to seven community collaborative projects to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk due to a mental illness and/or developmental disability. The grants are part of a two-year, \$5 million statewide initiative launched last summer. Currently, 46 counties are served by the Strong Families, Safe Communities initiative, and the projects are making a difference for families and communities. Best practices will be shared across the state so other communities can look to implement similar programs in their area.
2. **More opportunities for community-based employment:** With the support of the Employment First initiative, 905 individuals with developmental disabilities are receiving integrated employment services – this is an increase of 13 percent. An additional 1,200 are working with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities counselors to prepare for and secure community-based employment. More than 1,200 staff have completed training around supported employment, and 15 pilot sites are working toward collaborative, multi-agency transition planning.
3. **Improving the lives of individuals with autism:** Ohio continues to be on the forefront of providing support to individuals with autism, and is developing a new online training and certification program to better equip community members and professionals to work with individuals with autism, and increase the number of qualified providers. Also, the Autism Diagnosis and Education Program (ADEP) continues to aid in early diagnosis – in Ohio, the average age of diagnosis is 30 months, compared to the national average of four years – and the P.L.A.Y. project is teaching families effective strategies for working with their young children during daily interactions. DODD led the Interagency Work Group on Autism to increase collaboration and improve the experience for Ohioans when working with partner agencies across the system.
4. **Increased transparency helps families make informed decisions:** To enable individuals, families, and guardians to have the opportunity to make informed decisions about where loved ones live and work, DODD posted providers' survey and compliance reports online at the Department's website. Information for 2013-forward is available for the public to review. This simple step gives families peace of mind, and helps families make informed decisions when selecting a provider.

5. **More individuals are living in the community:** DODD began a major effort to modernize the state's system of residential resources, including Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs) and state-operated Developmental Centers. DODD negotiated an historic agreement with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in community-based settings, including a commitment by the field to convert 600 or more ICF/IID beds to waiver-funded supports, and to downsize 600 or more beds at larger ICF/IIDs to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Forty-eight (48) individuals moved from ICFs into a community-based setting in 2014, and 38 individuals were discharged from Developmental Centers and moved into a community-based setting.

### ***imagineIS* moves forward in 2015**

The DODD *imagine Information System (imagineIS)* is an online tool built to support person-centered planning and administration processes while improving ways to engage the service participant, their family, and their entire planning team. A new logo has been developed to highlight an important distinction between the interactive IT platform that supports person-centered work (*imagineIS*), and the work done previously to change system processes to be more person-centered (*imagine*). Learn more about the system processes in the [imagine report, online](#).



Learn more about the [imagineIS project online](#).

### **SPLG Final Report Online**

The Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) [Final Report](#) was released and noted in the [Year in Review, December 23 issue of Pipeline](#). This group engaged Ohio's developmental disabilities community in processes to help set strategic direction, and improve the state's service system over the next ten years. SPLG members developed benchmarks toward this goal, resulting in the 24 ten-year benchmarks contained in the report. The recommendations will help to inform and guide the future of Ohio's DD service system. DODD greatly appreciates the commitment shown by all involved in this important work. More information is [online in the Our Future section of the Department's website](#).

### **Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act Signed**

The legislation known as the ABLE Act — [Achieving a Better Life Experience](#) — was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 19, 2014. The bill allows families of children with disabilities to save for college and other expenses in tax-deferred accounts and is considered to be the broadest

legislation to help people with disabilities in decades, since Congress passed the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) in 1990.

The ABLE Act amends the Internal Revenue Service Code to allow use of tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities, and allows families to use savings account funds to pay for education, housing, medical, and transportation, among other expenses. Until now, families of children with disabilities had little incentive to save for their future, because if they saved more than \$2,000 for college, an apartment, or transportation to work, they risked losing (for their children) critical benefits, including medical and supplemental coverage.

## Other Important Legislation

Good news for Ohio self-advocates! The state's General Assembly passed a bill last month that requires *all new signs* erected to designate accessible parking spaces to use the word 'accessible' instead of the word 'handicapped.' This bill has been introduced in some form during the last two sessions of the Ohio General Assembly, most recently as Senate Bill 55. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) notes that during hearings on a separate bill, House Bill 552, requiring the Ohio Department of Health to create and distribute an information sheet for new parents of children with Down Syndrome, the Senate amended the bill to also include the language contained in Senate Bill 55. Congratulations to the many advocates who helped educate their legislators about this issue.

## Workforce Integration Taskforce Issues Report

*The report states that the term 'accessibility' means more than making sign language interpreting or captioning available.*

The Workforce Integration Taskforce, focused on finding ways to better integrate Ohioans with vision and hearing impairments into community-based jobs, has issued a report recommending improved workplace accommodations and increased training efforts.

[The report](#) indicates that employers still have much to learn about workers with disabilities and how to effectively integrate them into Ohio's workforce, and that individuals with vision and hearing impairments need more access to career training and development.

Recommendations include strengthening efforts to assure that pre-vocational and vocational training are available and accessible to the statewide blind and deaf community, and that [Ohio Means Jobs centers](#) work to connect qualified people with available job openings. In addition, the report suggests that the state explore ways to better leverage existing facilities, services, and programs that serve this population to create more effective hands-on training.

Aligning with the report's findings, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has requested training funding in its 2016-17 budget proposal. Executive Director Kevin Miller, has stated that an estimated \$127.2 million is available to Ohio in federal vocational rehabilitation funds, which the state can access by providing an obligation of \$1 for each \$3.69 in federal match funds.

The report also notes the impact of state and federal benefit programs on decisions to pursue work. OOD program participants who receive Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability

Insurance tend to work fewer hours and earn less income than those who do not receive the federal benefits. The Taskforce recommends that state and federal government entities explore ways to remove disincentives to work due to income and asset limits.

Created in the mid-biennial review (budget), the Workforce Integration Taskforce began work in October and had a December 31 statutory deadline for submitting its recommendations. It is now dissolved.

## Pipeline Pix – Seasonal Spirit Shared at Central Office



*A surprise holiday visit by several carolers from Columbus Developmental Center was a welcome addition to a DODD Central Office staff meeting at the Rhodes State Office Tower late last month. Here, Deputy Directors Lori Horvath (left) and Ginnie Whisman (right) accept donated ornaments from caroler, Christy Maxwell.*

## PostScripts

### In the News

Recent news clips relevant to Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Uncertain future for workshops](#) (Ashtabula Star Beacon © 12/29/2014)

[ACBDD to host forum on upcoming federal changes](#) (Athens Messenger © 12/28/2014)

[Special-needs residents to get into events free](#) (Toledo Blade © 12/28/2014)

### Summit County Artists Showcase Talents, January 15

The Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board (Summit DD) is hosting an opening reception for its Dream Out Loud Studio art exhibition. The reception will be held at the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation gallery, 10 W. Streetsboro Street in Hudson, on January 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. At Dream Out Loud Studio, artists with developmental disabilities have opportunities to hone creative skills, enjoy personal expression, and gain independence as valuable members of the community. The January 15th reception kicks off the exhibition, which runs through March 4th. During this time, more than 30 pieces of art will be displayed at the Hudson

gallery. Artwork includes pieces by individual Summit DD artists and collaborative works by multiple artists. More information at [SummitDD.org](http://SummitDD.org).

## **New Transportation Advocacy Group Meets January 14**

A new Transportation Advocacy Group is seeking participants with disabilities, and will meet January 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at new Mount Carmel West /Medical Offices, First Floor, 777 West State Street in Columbus. Call the Center for Disability Empowerment to Register: (614) 575-8055. Parking vouchers are available at meeting.

## **Break Every Chain: Human Trafficking Conference, January 11**

Combatting human trafficking in Ohio is one of Governor John Kasich's key initiatives. In support of this work, the Reynoldsburg Youth Human Trafficking Coalition and Councilman Cornelius McGrady III will host their annual "Break Every Chain" anti-human trafficking conference on January 11 in Reynoldsburg, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg High School Summit campus, 8579 Summit Road. Information and registration information is [now online](#). Contact for the event is Councilman McGrady at [mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrady.cornelius@gmail.com)

## **Interested in Starting a Next Chapter Book Club? Training, February 18**

The Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC), a Columbus-based nonprofit organization that organizes book clubs for people with developmental disabilities, will offer training for organizations interested in becoming affiliate members. The training -- in Columbus on February 18 -- will cover an introduction to the NCBC model, and how establishing book clubs that include people served in Ohio's DD system can further community integration. The cost of the training is \$550 per organization. [Download the registration form](#), and complete it by February 6. Questions? Call Jillian Ober at (614) 685-6718 or Tom Fish at (614) 685-8723.

## **DD Awareness Month Theme for 2015 – *Can Do, Like You!***

Ohio Public Images (OPI) has announced the theme for the statewide 2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (March) campaign – *Can Do, Like You!* The annual campaign helps to create positive awareness of persons with developmental disabilities. Free artwork is online now, and posters and other products with the theme are ready to ship. Visit the [Ohio Public Images website](#) for more information.

## **Statewide DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3**

The annual statewide Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day is slated for March 3 at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and Museum Gallery. Details coming soon! If you haven't attended before, [here's some information about the 2014 event](#).

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 2

January 21, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Our Future: CMS Transition Plan Comments Due by January 23
- Administration Update: Kerr to Retire, Kobelt to Lead Division
- Ohio Shared Living Gathers Support
- Register for Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3
- Pipeline Pix: Provider Spotlight - Leola Howe Retires with 57 Years of Service
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar

*“Our future is going to be as strong and joyous and prosperous as you want to make it. Yeah, there’s a lot of work involved. When we get together to see what we can achieve, a fire burns and we want to work even harder because we relish the constant churn and forward motion that teams can make.”*

---

*–excerpted from [Governor John Kasich's inaugural address 1-12-15 \(Transcript\)](#)*

## Our Future: CMS Transition Plan Comments Due by January 23

The DODD CMS Transition Plan Committee public forums in Cuyahoga County, Hamilton County, and Athens County earlier this month completed the series of informational meetings. At each forum, members of the Committee discussed the new regulations, and shared an overview of DODD’s portion of the state’s transition plan, as well as how to provide comments. All comments must be directed to the [Office of Health Transformation](#) and submitted by January 23.

If you were not able to attend a meeting in person, you may wish to download the [presentation](#) and [handout](#) and watch a video of the Columbus Forum. More information about changes to Ohio’s developmental disabilities system – including the new CMS rule, and how to provide comments on the state’s CMS Transition Plan – is available online at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](http://DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture). Please also continue to read *Pipeline* for updated information.

## Administration Update – Kerr to Retire; Kobelt to Lead Division

Monty Kerr, Deputy Director for the DODD Office of Policy and Strategic Direction since May 2011, has announced his retirement effective February 6. Teresa Kobelt – currently Assistant Deputy Director for the division – will succeed him as Deputy Director.



*Monty Kerr*



*Teresa Kobelt*

Director John Martin noted, “During Monty’s tenure, the Department took a leadership role in a number of important initiatives. They include: Employment First; Early Intervention; the Positive Culture Initiative; National Core Indicators; *imagine*; the Autism Certification program, and many other key projects. The lives of individuals with developmental disabilities will continue to be positively impacted by the work done in these areas, under Monty’s guidance at the Department.”

DODD greatly appreciates the vision and the enthusiasm Monty has brought to the DD field– and we know that, through his efforts, many positive strides have been taken that will benefit the thousands of participants in the statewide service system. In addition, we appreciate Monty’s foresight in bringing Teresa Kobelt onboard last year. She is well-prepared for the leadership role, having served as Director of Adult Services for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and in key roles previously at DODD. Her depth of knowledge and ability to forge and strengthen partnerships will allow for a seamless leadership transition.

We wish Monty all the best in his retirement, and welcome Teresa to this new role.

## Ohio Shared Living Gathers Support

Discussions around the state continue to gather strength for Ohio Shared Living, a residential service option currently billed under Medicaid as Adult Foster Care. The concept, and its reality as a family home-centered option, has been poorly understood in the past, and Shared Living has been under-utilized. To be eligible, an individual needs only to be enrolled for services through an Individual Options waiver, and have an interest in living in a small family environment. County Boards of DD are taking a fresh look at this service option and the possibilities it offers to the people served, as well as to the host families.

In the [January 2015](#) issue of the Franklin County Board of DD’s *Dateline*, a cover story noted,

*“Simply stated, it is a residential service possibility, available through the Individual Options Waiver, which allows an individual to receive continuous care and support while living in the home of a carefully-selected family in a typical neighborhood.”*

The article continued, “While this type of arrangement may not be desirable for everyone, for a person who wishes to live in a small, nurturing family environment, there are numerous advantages. Chief among them is stability.”

In discussions with families about ways to provide quality care that is sustainable and flexible, DODD staff have noted that people often express concern about frequent staff turnover in typical residential settings. In comparison, Ohio Shared Living offers the potential of a long-term stable relationship with the host family. It also offers a small, inclusive setting in which to experience the natural rhythm of family life and community activities, which is consistent with recent federal directives.

DODD continues to work with agency partners including the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) and the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), along with several service providers, to determine how individuals and families can be better informed about this residential option. Currently, expanded training is scheduled for Service Coordinators at several County Boards of DD, and a number of provider agencies are prepared to assist in recruiting and matching host families with interested individuals.

As Ohio Shared Living expands in Ohio, we are learning more about the many people who are enjoying the changes in their lives since choosing this family-based model. Some of their experiences are featured in the [Summer 2014 Pipeline Quarterly](#). If you have a story to share about Ohio Shared Living, please contact Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) or call 614-644-0262.



*Mahoning County Shared Living service provider Anthony (left), with Jeff -- leaving the house to grab a hot dog and soda on a beautiful day in Youngstown.*

*For more information, see the [Adult Foster Care Rule](#).*

## Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3

Registration for Ohio's annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3 at the Ohio Statehouse, is now online at [www.ddc.ohio.gov](http://www.ddc.ohio.gov). The event is free, and registration is required. Due to space limitations at the Ohio Statehouse, event participation will be limited to the first 450 registrants. Each year in March, people with disabilities and their families, providers, and other advocates for Ohio's developmental disabilities community gather at the Statehouse to raise awareness about issues that are important to them. Event participants also will receive updates on the state budget and other legislative issues, before meeting with legislators to share their viewpoints.

The program will include People First of Ohio President Paul Day, Best Buddies Ambassador Jody Mann, DODD Director John Martin, and legislative advocate John Munnis. In addition, the event will feature the story of Jack Wolf, a young man with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and a presentation by Michael Richards, a man with developmental disabilities who owns his own business in Highland County. (See Michael's story in *Pipeline Quarterly*, [Spring 2013](#), page 2.)

The 2015 theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is, *Can Do, Like You*. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Executive Director Carolyn Knight observed, "The theme shares the message that people with disabilities are capable of working, living independently, and exercising self-determination -- like anyone else."

This year's event is cosponsored by DODD, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB), Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc of Ohio, People First of Ohio, the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), Disability Rights Ohio, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, Ohio Public Images, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.



Download the free 2015 DD Awareness Month theme artwork at [www.publicimagesnetwork.org](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org).

## Pipeline Pix – Leola Howe Retires with 57 Years of Service

[Sunshine Communities](#) hosted an open house last week to celebrate the career of a Direct Support Professional (DSP) retiring after 57 years of dedicated service to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Leola Howe, known widely as "Miss Lee," is one of the original employees hired by the agency's founders shortly after opening the doors to Sunshine Children's Home. Howe is being recognized for her employment longevity, and for her tenderness and devotion in serving Sunshine residents -- some of whom she has cared for throughout their lives. Miss Lee's work history is a testament to how many lives one person can affect! Sunshine staff added that it is likely Howe has been the longest-serving DSP in Ohio.



*Leola Howe (left) at her retirement celebration with Sunshine Communities President and CEO Elizabeth Holland, who presented Leola a Proclamation from Governor John Kasich and DODD Director John Martin. Miss Lee was touched that so many people wanted to recognize her for her dedication to the field. She said, "I never thought of this as a job. The people here are my friends. I feel like this is what I was meant to do -- give them loving care."*

## PostScripts

**Stay Healthy! Check out two new and timely Health and Welfare Alerts!**



[Winter Weather](#) and [Preventing the Flu](#), along with the rest of our Alerts, are [archived online](#).

## Stay Informed! New 2015 MUI Training Schedule

The first half of this year's Major Unusual Incident Unit (MUI) Training schedule, along with registration information, now is available online at [the MUI Training page](#). Based on feedback from DODD agency partners, the MUI Unit has expanded the number of health and welfare webinars offered, and added new training topics including new webinar series' on Choking, and Preventing Falls. These programs are presented by experts in the field, and highlight multiple aspects of choking and falling that specifically impact people with developmental disabilities. In addition, the 2015 Training Schedule includes basic MUI Rule training, Unusual Incident investigations, and other often-requested topics. Contact the MUI Unit at 614-995-3810 with any questions, or with suggestions for future training subjects.

## Employment First – New Opportunity! Deadline to Apply, January 28

Ohio recently was selected by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy as a core state for the Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program. Through this partnership, Ohio will receive expert technical assistance to support eight agencies (public and private) in transforming their facility-based services to community-based employment and day supports. Applications must be submitted *by email only*, to [EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov), with *Project Transformation 2.0* in the subject line. Deadline is 5 p.m., January 28. Learn more by visiting the Ohio Employment First [website](#).

## Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

The Different Needz Foundation 2015 grant application period has begun. Applications are for medical services or equipment that will benefit people with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them. Qualifying applications must be post-marked no later than March 2. Grant applications are available at the [Foundation's website](#), and awards will be announced by the Foundation in May.

## In the News

Recent news clips relevant to Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Koinonia, Alliance for Working Together program is opening doors](#), (Crains Cleveland Business © 01/11/2015)

[OU-L to open Bobcat Bistro on Monday](#), (Lancaster Eagle-Gazette © 01/11/2015)

[Artists with disabilities showcase talents at Margaret Clark Morgan Gallery](#), (Hudson Hub Times © 01/11/2015)

## Interested in Starting a Next Chapter Book Club? Training, February 18

The Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC), a Columbus-based nonprofit organization that organizes book clubs for people with developmental disabilities, will offer training for organizations interested in becoming affiliate members. The training is in Columbus on February 18, and will cover an introduction to the NCBC model, and how establishing book clubs that include people served in Ohio's DD system can promote community integration. The cost of the training is \$550 per organization. [Download the registration form](#), and complete it by February 6. Call Jillian Ober at 614-685-6718 or Tom Fish at 614-685-8723 with questions.

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

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



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

# Pipeline EXTRA!

Breaking News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

February 2, 2015

## **Governor Kasich Announces Historic Budget – Supports Transformational Change**

**The 2016-17 biennial budget represents the most significant influx of new money in the history of the Department, and invests \$316 million over two years in developmental disabilities system redesign. The Administration's investment in new and improved opportunities for Ohioans with developmental disabilities is historic, and is the most significant health and human services investment in the Executive Budget.**

---

Governor John Kasich today announced a budget that will build on the positive momentum begun by the previous state budget, and continue Ohio's economic progress over the 2016-17 biennium. The budget takes into consideration the needs of all Ohioans, and provides funding for initiatives designed to help people of all abilities to live, work, and learn in their communities.

In state dollars, the DODD portion of the budget is increased by \$45 million in year one, and by \$102 million in year two, over FY2015 levels. Director John Martin noted,

*"The funding for Home and Community-Based Services (waivers) goes from \$184 million (FY2015) to \$279 million (FY2017) in support of those receiving - and those waiting for - waivers. That's an increase of \$95 million in funding in this area, and will move forward the statewide efforts to provide more choices for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, including downsizing institutional care settings, and building into the system more opportunities for community inclusion at home and at work. It is a historic demonstration of support, and makes a down-payment on the recommendations made by the Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG)."*

### **How the Money Will Be Used – Additional Waiver Services**

Additional waivers will increase support to people on the waiting list, or who choose to leave Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) settings:

- Adding approximately 2,000 new IO waivers and 1,000 Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waivers over the biennium to assist people on the waiting list, and those that choose to leave an ICF.
- Adding 2,890 more IO waivers by converting the Transitions DD (TDD) waivers, thereby providing enhanced payments and day services, reducing the types of waivers from four to three, and simplifying the system.

### **How the Money Will Be Used – Strengthening Waiver Services**

The budget continues to prioritize funding to reflect the growing demand for Home and Community-Based Services. Funding will allow DODD to:

- Add nursing services to the IO waiver to serve people with medical needs who live in community settings.
- Increase waiver rates by 6 percent to provide for increased wages for direct care staff.
- Increase the availability of add-on services for individuals with complex needs and behavioral challenges.
- Provide training for those who receive, plan, and deliver waiver services.
- Strengthen oversight and quality assurance efforts so the person-centered plan is delivering meaningful outcomes.
- Develop a daily rate to decrease administrative complexity.

During the budget development process, the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation looked holistically at the budget impact on waiver services and observed,

*“The scale of change is transformational, not incremental.”*

### **How the Money Will Be Used – Employment and Day Services**

The budget includes nearly \$3 million for each of the two years. Funds will be used to create new service models that promote community employment and integrated day services. Individuals will transition from workshops and other facility-based day settings to community-based alternatives over an extended timeframe.

Additional funds for community employment are earmarked for ongoing support of DODD’s partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to assist in the cost of transitioning to integrated day services and supported employment, and to inform and assist individuals and families, as well as those who develop person-centered plans, regarding the options available to them.

### **How the Money Will Be Used – System Infrastructure Improvements**

Director Martin noted that statewide system infrastructure improvements have been built into the budget plans so that a foundation of excellence in service can be encouraged and supported. He stated, “We will have approximately \$8 million per year to provide training to the statewide DD services workforce to better equip them to provide community services, while covering some of the costs associated with system transformation efforts. We also will provide some rental assistance to

support community living, strengthen employment and day service integration, and help some providers transition from Intermediate Care Facilities to waiver services.”

## How the Money Will Be Used – ICF Program

Continuing the community-based services direction in the previous two budgets, DODD will move forward with the modernization of the ICF program in line with the vision outlined in the [ICF white paper](#) three years ago. It included plans for smaller facilities, conversions to waivers, and a focus on services to individuals with the most intense needs. DODD will honor the choice of individuals who want to stay in ICFs, while encouraging and supporting the choice of those who want to leave. This budget will include the following initiatives to accomplish that. DODD will:

- Remove the grandfather clause that permits more than two people in a bedroom. This will be accomplished by requiring a downsizing plan that brings the provider into compliance within ten years, and restricting admission to facilities that do not meet the two-persons-per-bedroom standard.
- Include a modest increase in funds in the ICF line item to accommodate downsizing. When coupled with a flat rate for people in acuity assessment categories five and six, it will provide more funds for people with high acuity.
- Contract to redesign the ICF reimbursement system to reward quality measures.
- Request a recommendation from a County Board of DD prior to a person entering a large ICF. The County Board and DODD must determine that admission to the large ICF is the least restrictive environment for that person, while leaving the final decision to that person.
- Deem persons in ICFs as a priority on the waiver waiting list. Persons in ICFs on the waiver waiting list will receive options counseling, and be contacted by someone not affiliated with the ICF to determine their interest in community options.
- Allow funding to follow a person who chooses to leave a large ICF.
- Include money for bed buy-back and, for the first time, offer rental assistance for people leaving ICFs.
- Permit providers to file cost reports with quicker adjustments for the Individual Assessment Form (IAF) changes, franchise fee adjustments, and accommodations for capital costs that exceed the current ceiling, due to downsizing.
- Consider debt forgiveness for those large ICFs exiting the business that have a liability for state grants.

DODD is very appreciative of the Kasich Administration’s additional investments in community-based services for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, supporting the trend away from large, institutional settings, and workshop-based employment, and reflecting recommendations developed by the SPLG (See [SPLG Report](#)). We understand that the budget just announced is a complex construct with many moving parts. DODD will actively engage the statewide developmental disabilities community to review and explore the options now available to the system. We look forward to working with our partners to continue modernizing the system.

**If you have questions about the budget, call the DODD Budget Hotline Toll-Free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO), or 614-728-5311. Look for additional budget information in future issues of *Pipeline*.**

*More information about the state budget online at the [Office of Health Transformation](#). Updates will be available at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](#). Please also continue to read *Pipeline* for updated information.*



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 3

February 4, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Biennial Budget: Blueprint for a New Ohio
- Family Advisory Council to Discuss Statewide Engagement Plan
- Administration Spotlights Human Trafficking Awareness
- Multi-Location Training for Behavior Support Strategies Rule
- DODD's Redesigned Website to Launch in Late February
- Pipeline Pix: Giant Eagle, Champions of Opportunity
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar

### **Governor Kasich Chooses Wilmington for State of the State Address**

*Governor John Kasich has announced that he will continue his tradition of taking the State of the State Address on the road, delivering the speech on February 24 at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington. The Governor's annual address is expected highlight the budget bill's policy initiatives. See the 2016-17 Budget Announcement in the February 2 [Pipeline EXTRA!](#)*

---

## **2016-17 Budget – Blueprint for a New Ohio**

Governor John Kasich's budget proposals continue to transform Ohio into a national leader in health care. In a budget announcement, the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) noted, "This latest series of reforms focuses on improving the quality and outcomes associated with our state's health care programs, while staying accountable to Ohio taxpayers and finding new ways to support all Ohioans. Despite significant new investments in primary care, behavioral health, and for persons with developmental disabilities, good program management will hold Medicaid's per-member cost growth to below three percent."

Included in the historic budget, [Blueprint for a New Ohio](#), are many areas affecting DODD and the statewide developmental disabilities community. Among them:

- *Raising the Medicaid Asset Limit:* The recommendation that the asset limit for Medicaid recipients be raised to \$2,000 from the current \$1,500. Many self advocates have requested this increase as a common sense approach to allowing them improved economic security without penalizing them for earning money.
- *Transitioning to an agency-only model.* To improve oversight, decrease fraud and abuse, and improve health outcomes for people, a majority of states -- along with the federal Medicare program -- allow Medicaid-funded services provided only through home health care agencies, not independent providers. Under the proposed budget, the Ohio Department of Medicaid would not take any new independent service providers after July 1, 2016, and by July 1, 2019, only accept claims submitted through home health agencies. These providers will be able to continue providing Medicaid-funded HCBS waiver services if they seek employment through a home health agency, or if they provide services to an individual who is using a self-directed option where the recipient is the employer of record; this includes services provided under the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver. Read more about these changes in [this white paper from OHT](#).

The budget introduced on February 2 by Governor Kasich will move forward this week toward discussions in the Ohio Legislature, and state legislators are expected to begin review of the full budget bill early next week. Review of the proposals is a thorough process which culminates in the adoption of an agreed-upon version of the budget bill by June 30, 2015. *Pipeline* will continue to bring you news of this ongoing process.

*Learn more about the budget at these links: [Our Future](#); [Policy Detail](#); [Fact Sheet](#); [Governor's website](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## **Family Advisory Council to Discuss Statewide Engagement Plan**

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) digs in to a full agenda on February 10 at Columbus Developmental Center, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., including a review of the [Strategic Planning Leadership Group \(SPLG\) Final Report](#) prepared in late December, and an interactive afternoon session to explore ways to build a broader Family Network across the state.

“Strengthening family engagement within the developmental disabilities community will be a priority for the Council this year,” noted DODD Project Manager Tom Hess. Hess is taking an interim leadership role with FAC, prior to a fulltime Family Liaison joining the Department, following the retirement of Peggy Martin late last year. He added,

*“The Family Advisory Council is a critical participant in steering our system of services and supports. My goal is to make it an even more integral part of the agency’s operations, and energize an improved statewide conversation on concerns and issues. We are looking forward to this meeting as being a springboard to some great discussions.”*



*Tom Hess, Family Liaison*

The morning of February 10 includes a panel discussion with members of the SPLG, and comments and updates from Director John Martin and Deputy Director Lori Horvath. The afternoon will focus on the SPLG recommendations specific to the experiences of family members, and provide an opportunity for attendees to offer input on how to better support families and build family networks throughout Ohio.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The meetings are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street, Columbus. If you plan to attend this meeting please RSVP to Michele Kanode at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).

*Read more online at [www.familysupportagenda.org](http://www.familysupportagenda.org), and at [DODD Family Advisory Council](#)*

*Contact Family Liaison Tom Hess at [Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov), or 614-466-7480.*

## **Administration Spotlights Human Trafficking Awareness**

*DODD joins its state agency partners in educating all Ohio citizens, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about the realities of human trafficking – the illegal trade of people for commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor. Recommendations to combat human trafficking include creating greater awareness of the vulnerabilities in people that perpetrators prey on, to perpetuate their inhumane business.*

In 2012, Governor John Kasich formed Ohio's [Human Trafficking Task Force](#), which was later reconvened by Ohio Attorney General Michael DeWine. The Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission last week reported that state police departments made 98 arrests last year during human trafficking investigations in Ohio, and identified 181 potential victims. The report states that 85 investigations also led to 113 suspected traffickers, and identified 68 people suspected of trying to pay for sex. In addition, the Commission documented the rescue of 17 potential victims and the referral of 67 victims to social services.

A 2014 state law, known as the Safe Harbor Law, put more teeth into the statewide efforts to combat human trafficking by increasing penalties for people convicted of soliciting sex from children or people with developmental disabilities, and improving care for victims. Ohioans are urged to report any suspicious activity that may indicate human trafficking, and can learn more about spotting such behavior on the [Human Trafficking Task Force website](#).

The DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit notes that suspicious activity also may be reported to the MUI hotline, toll-free at 866-313-6733.

Additional information is online at the [Public Safety website](#) and at [the Polaris Project](#).



*It may be a little difficult to watch or listen to [this video](#), as there are many disturbing stories to be told. However, it clearly tells the undeniable facts to be learned about the presence of human trafficking in Ohio.*

## Multi-Location Training for Behavior Support Strategies Rule

DODD and the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP) are partnering to offer in-person and online training that promotes a better understanding of the new Behavior Support Strategies rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), effective January 1. [Online registration](#) for the in-person training is now available.

In-person training will be available at several locations across the state in February, March, and April, and include an overview of the new rule, as well as:

- An overview of person-centered planning as it relates to the rule;
- Definition of what are deemed restrictive or prohibited measures;
- How to develop effective behavior support strategies that include restrictive measures;
- Information about trauma-informed care; and,
- The responsibilities of various support staff.

Superintendents, Service and Support Administration (SSA) directors, SSAs, Behavior Support Specialists, Intermediate Care Facility directors, Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professionals (QIDPs), and others responsible for writing or overseeing behavior support strategies are encouraged to attend. The training sessions are scheduled from February 5 until April 23. Six hours of DODD professional development credits are available for attending.

*For more information, contact Molly Shaw at [Molly.Shaw@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Molly.Shaw@dodd.ohio.gov), or call 614-563-5923.*

## DODD Redesigns Website to Launch in Late February

As a part of DODD's mission to improve the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities, we strive to improve the technology that makes information about our system and its services as accessible as possible. Throughout the past year, we have conducted surveys to gather user feedback on our current website at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). We thank those who have contributed their thoughts, questions, and concerns about our website's usability. The survey responses laid the foundation for a completely redesigned website. The more user-friendly website is scheduled to launch in late February. Visit the current [DODD website](#) for updates, and look for the February 18 edition of *Pipeline* for new information.

## Pipeline Pix –

Giant Eagle was recognized last week by DODD state agency partner Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for its efforts to provide quality employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The OOD Champion of Opportunity Award was presented by OOD Executive Director Kevin Miller, to Jeremy Shapira, the senior director and human resources business partner for Market District and GetGo.

### Giant Eagle, Champions of Opportunity



*At the Giant Eagle ceremony, OOD Director Kevin Miller (at left of podium) joins many Giant Eagle employees and OOD support staff in celebrating the Champion of Opportunity Award. Accepting the award, Market District and GetGo official Jeremy Shapira said,*

***"For more than 30 years, Giant Eagle has provided career opportunities for people with disabilities. Like all of us at Giant Eagle, these Team Members help create an inclusive and diverse working environment, and are relied upon to meet the needs of our customers."***

---

## PostScripts

### Registration is Full! Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 3

Registration for Ohio's annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3 at the Ohio Statehouse, is full! Due to space limitations at the Ohio Statehouse, event participation is limited to the first 450 registrants. All registrants will receive a message within the next two weeks with details, including any legislative visits, if applicable. This year's program includes People First of Ohio President Paul Day, Best Buddies Ambassador Jody Mann, DODD Director John Martin, and other excellent presenters. Check the [Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council website](#) for updates and more information. The 2015 DD Awareness Month theme is *Can Do, Like You* – see the free logo artwork and more on the [Ohio Public Images website](#).

## Health & Safety: Winter 2015 Well-Informed Newsletter now online

The newest edition of the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit's [Well-Informed newsletter](#) now is online. Each issue focuses on topics that impact the health and welfare of the individuals we serve. This edition includes several articles with a medical focus including articles on anticoagulant medications, tracheostomy cuff measurements, and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The MUI Unit always is interested in new items to include in the publication so that the content remains varied, interesting, and informative. If you have ideas for future articles, please contact the office at 614-995-3810.

## Governor's Council on People with Disabilities to Meet, February 18

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities next meeting is February 18, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the office of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ken Campbell Meeting Room, 150 East Campus View Boulevard in Columbus. Parking is free, and accessible in front of the building. Contact for the meeting is Donna Foster, [donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov), or call 614-438-1394.

## Hancock County to Host Workshops for Siblings in February and March

The Sibling Support Project is a national effort dedicated to the life-long concerns of brothers and sisters of people who have developmental disabilities, mental health concerns, or other health issues. The Project's Sibshops are workshops founded on the belief that disabilities, illnesses, and mental health concerns affect the lives of all family members. The Hancock County Board of DD is hosting Sibshops on February 28 and March 21. Call 419-422-8173 for more information, and visit [www.siblingsupport.org/](http://www.siblingsupport.org/).

## In the News

Recent news clips relevant to Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Report says 98 arrested last year for Ohio human trafficking](#), (Dayton Daily News © 01/27/2015)

['Certified' home-care providers can deceive](#), (Columbus Dispatch © 02/01/2015)

[Here's some early reaction to John Kasich's budget plan](#), (Cleveland Plain Dealer © 02/02/2015)

## DODD Cost Report Training, March 11

DODD and the County Board Cost Report Committee will offer Cost Report training on March 11, at 1980 W. Broad Street in Columbus, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This training will benefit anyone who prepares or assists with Cost Reports. Topics will include preparation, common mistakes, best practices, cost report settlement, Title XX changes, and other topics. The training format will be somewhat different than past trainings, adding the vast experience and expertise of various business managers who will share their techniques, reports, templates, and other tips that they have learned over their years preparing cost reports at the grassroots level. Registration for the annual training is [now online](#).

## SIBS Looking Forward Transition Retreat, April 10-12

The [Ohio SIBS Looking Forward](#) transition retreat is set for April 10-12 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. This camp is a great opportunity for students with disabilities, ages 17 - 22, and their siblings, ages 15 - 25. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this retreat, contact Dr. Tom Fish at

McC Campbell Hall, 1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210, and look for registration information coming soon to the Ohio SIBS website.

## **Save the Dates! Youth Leadership Forum, August 2-6 -- Applications Now Online**

Applications are available now for [Ohio's Youth Leadership Forum](#), a five-day leadership training program for high school students with disabilities who are in grades 11 and 12. Sponsored by the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, and by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the Forum offers opportunities for student delegates to learn about choosing a career, disability as a culture, technology and resources, and self advocacy. Delegates meet professionals with disabilities, and take time to develop their own Personal Leadership Plan to set goals in education, employment, and the community.

## **Summer Internships Available**

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) 2015 Summer Internships will be available again this summer in Washington, DC. For details, see their [Summer Internship Announcement](#).

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline EXTRA!

Breaking News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

February 10, 2015

## **DODD to Close Two Developmental Centers by June 2017**

### **Montgomery and Youngstown Centers Slated for Closure**

---

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin today informed individuals, families, and staff of the Department's intent to close Montgomery Developmental Center and Youngstown Developmental Center by June 30, 2017. An official public announcement is slated for February 20. The state's other eight Developmental Centers (DCs) will remain open, and will continue to serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities who have the most complex needs. Director Martin stated,

*"The decision to close two DCs was not made easily, and much thought was given to selecting which centers to close. Because the number of people living in state-operated DCs has declined by more than 40 percent during the last eight years -- and will continue to decrease by about 90 people each year -- it no longer makes sense to continue operating ten centers."*

Director Martin's announcement noted that the Montgomery and Youngstown centers offered the most transitional opportunities and options for the individuals who live there, and for the staff who work there. He stated, "It's important to note that this is not a reflection on the staff who work in Montgomery and Youngstown. The staff at each of the centers are dedicated to the people they serve, and provide quality services to each individual. Our decisions are based on the needs of individuals to live in the least restrictive settings appropriate to their needs, and on the sustainability of a quality service system."

DODD leadership is committed to helping everyone involved during this transition, and we understand that changes such as these are difficult for the residents, their families, and staff. Residents of the Montgomery and Youngstown centers will have the option to move to another DC, move to a small Intermediate Care Facility, or move into another community-based residential setting.

A personalized transition plan will be developed for each resident to make each move as smooth as possible. Staff also will receive assistance in finding employment at another DC, or in the public or private sector.

More information will be available beginning today at the [Our Future website](#), including Frequently Asked Questions. If you have questions, call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO), or 614-728-5311.

Read this *Pipeline EXTRA!* in PDF form.

**If you have questions about the 2016-2017 Executive Budget or the closure of the two Developmental Centers, call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO), or 614-728-5311.**

**Look for more budget information in future issues of Pipeline.  
Updates will be available at [DODD.Ohio.Gov/OurFuture](#).**



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 4

February 18, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Biennial Budget Testimony: Blueprint for a New Ohio
- DODD Leadership Visits Developmental Centers Slated for Closure
- Statewide Engagement Plan Discussed at Family Advisory Council
- Ramping Up for Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3
- Health and Welfare: *Steady U* Initiative Focuses on Preventing Falls
- Pipeline Pix: A Portrait of Awareness and Advocacy
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar

**Reminder: Governor Kasich's State of the State Address is February 24, and will broadcast from the Roberts Centre in Wilmington.**

*Look for it streaming live [online at The Ohio Channel](#).*



***"The proposal for the 2016-17 budget is a down-payment on a longer-term and more aggressive plan."*** -Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director, Greg Moody

---

## **2016-17 Budget Testimony– Blueprint for a New Ohio**

Testimony last week on the Health and Human Services agency funding areas contained in Governor John Kasich's 2016-17 budget proposal, [Blueprint for a New Ohio](#), included a great deal of interest in the budget allocations to DODD, (see [Pipeline EXTRA, February 2, 2015](#)). Office of Health

Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody, Department of Medicaid Director John McCarthy, and DODD Director John Martin each responded to legislators' questions regarding budget specifics and long-range plans for services.

Director Moody told the House Finance and Appropriations Committee that the bill would provide \$316 million over the biennium to enhance services for people with developmental disabilities in their communities. He noted that the budget would lay the foundation for a 10-year vision for responsible system change to support Ohioans with disabilities who wish to live and work in the community, and offer new and different choices for services.

Under the proposed budget language, institutional settings such as DODD-operated Developmental Centers and private Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) will be encouraged to reduce their institutional capacities while increasing their community capacities. Director Martin added that the initiatives will help strengthen the system in the long-run. Speaking of the guidance offered by stakeholders, including the [Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#), he noted,

*"We really support the direction they have given us, and we know that there's a lot of work involved to move the system forward. Change cannot happen overnight."*

Director Martin added that the support from Governor John Kasich's budget proposal is "... historic, and greatly appreciated. We're going to be able to help 3,000 additional people, add nursing services to the Individuals Options waiver, and do many other really good, exciting things."

State legislators currently are reviewing the [proposed full State Budget bill](#) -- a thorough process which culminates in the adoption of an agreed-upon version of the bill by June 30, 2015. *Pipeline* will continue to bring you news of this ongoing process, and be sure to check online at these links: [Our Future](#); [Policy Detail](#); [Fact Sheet](#); [Governor's website](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).

## **DODD Leadership Visits Centers Slated for Closure**

Following the announcement last week that DODD intends to [close two Developmental Centers by June 2017](#), Department leadership visited both the Youngstown and Montgomery Developmental Centers this past weekend to speak with individuals, families, and staff at each center.

As stated in testimony last week (see story above), Director Martin noted during the on-site visits that every year DODD helps individuals move from state institutions to community settings. By the fall, he said, slightly more than 800 individuals will be living in the same 10 centers that previously housed 1,600 residents. The Department has decided it is time to consolidate by closing the two centers, as it is no longer sustainable to operate 10 centers. He observed, "We need to develop cost-effective, quality models of care that can be replicated across the state."

Director Martin explained that, unlike other states, DODD is giving families the option to continue care in one of the remaining eight state-run facilities. Individuals also have the option of moving to a privately-operated Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) in the community, or choosing a state-funded waiver for community-based services. If someone chooses one of these options and does not do well in

the new setting, the person has the option to return to a Developmental Center. In addition, Director Martin noted that DODD sees a long-term role for state-operated centers as a residential option for people with developmental disabilities in Ohio.

Visiting the Youngstown and Montgomery Developmental Centers along with Director Martin were DODD Division of Residential Resources Deputy Director Ginnie Whisman, and Assistant Deputy Director Brent Baer, as well as Deputy Director Zach Haughawout. Each spoke with staff, individuals, and families, expressing their understanding of the concerns involved with any change like this. Director Martin noted,

*“We will work one-on-one with individuals, families, and staff to help identify a place that ensures peoples’ health and safety. It is important to note also, that by downsizing from ten to eight Developmental Centers, the Department can open up funds to serve many more people who are on a waiting list for services.”*

## **Family Advisory Council Considers Statewide Engagement Plan**

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) met last week to review recommendations contained in the recently-completed [Strategic Planning Leadership Group \(SPLG\) Final Report](#), and participate in interactive sessions to explore ways to build a stronger, better-informed statewide Family Network. Meeting attendees also heard DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director Lori Horvath discuss the proposed biennial budget--including the future for independent service providers--and listen to concerns regarding other changes in the state’s system of services.

In response to questions and comments, Director Martin noted that workgroups are forming to address specific areas of change, and will include family members and other system stakeholders that represent individuals served. He stated,

*“We have some time before the new requirements kick-in, and we will do this work carefully. Participant-directed services and transitional approaches will be considered, along with other options. We are forming workgroups with a goal of maintaining what is good about the service system, while minimizing health and safety risks, fraud, and other issues that are currently problematic.”*



*A panel of Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) members answered Family Advisory Council questions about the processes used to arrive at and recommend benchmarks for Ohio's DD system during the next ten years. (L. to R.: Barb Sapharas, Pat Cloppert, Kathy Phillips, Icilda Dickerson, and Diana Mairose.) Cloppert, a parent advocate, commented:*

***“While we didn’t always agree on things, the process was always respectful, and the vote to adopt an idea had to be a 75 percent ‘yes vote’ from the group.”***

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The meetings are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street, Columbus. The next meeting will be April 14.

Read more online at [www.familysupportagenda.org](http://www.familysupportagenda.org).

Contact Family Liaison Tom Hess at [Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov), or 614-466-7480.

## **Ramping Up for DD Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3**

It's just around the corner! This year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day event, March 3 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase many self-advocates' stories of personal growth and achievement. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with check-in and refreshments, the one-hour program in the Statehouse Atrium begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings immediately follow the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment.

Enthusiasm for the annual gathering is evidenced by a sell-out crowd registering for the event, capped at 450 attendees due to space limitations. The theme for the event is *Can Do, Like You!*, emphasizing that people with disabilities have many abilities that can benefit and enrich their communities. DODD Director John Martin will be among the program speakers, along with many self-advocates from around the state -- including keynote speaker Jack Wolf, a young man whose personal story underscores the *Can do!* spirit. [Meet Jack Wolf in this video.](#)



**Michael and April Richards at M & A Small Engine Repair Shop.**

*Michael is one of the dynamic speakers on the agenda at the March 3 event. He and his wife own and operate the repair shop in downtown Hillsboro (Highland County).*

Event sponsors include many partners in Ohio's developmental disabilities community: DODD; Ohio DD Council; Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB); Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters (SIBS); The Arc of Ohio; Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD); Ohio Public Images; Disability Rights Ohio; Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA); People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; and, the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Information tables will be hosted by many of these sponsors, as well as other organizations that serve people with disabilities.

Check the [Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council website](#) for updates; 'Like' [the event's Facebook page](#);

Can Do, Like You! Free logo artwork and more on the [Ohio Public Images website](#).

## Health & Welfare: *Steady U* Focuses on Preventing Falls

The DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging's [Steady U Ohio initiative](#), encourages all Ohioans to learn how to help a person with a disability, or a senior citizen, avoid what could be a life-altering fall. Research shows that one in three older adults will fall this year – a disturbing statistic. Talking about the subject shows caring, and helps reduce risk. Here are some ideas from *Steady U*:

- **Talk with a doctor about medications.** Pain medication, as well as common prescriptions for high blood pressure and other conditions, can cause dizziness and loss of balance. Encourage people to talk to their doctor about treatment options to reduce the risk of falling. Ask for a falls risk assessment.
- **Help the person remain physically active.** Any type of movement helps, from simply lifting one's legs while watching TV, to walking and taking part in exercise programs. Focus on activities that build strength and balance.
- **Promote good nutrition and hydration.** A balanced diet promotes overall good health, and drinking plenty of water helps prevent low blood pressure, dizziness, fatigue, and confusion.
- **Encourage appropriate use of assistive devices.** Walkers, canes, folding step stools with hand rails, and reaching and grabbing tools are helpful -- but only if adjusted and used properly.
- **Include people in decisions about changes to their home.** There are many simple and inexpensive changes that can significantly reduce the risk of slipping, tripping, and falling.

### Additional Resources

Visit the DODD Health and Welfare Alerts page for [more information about preventing falls](#), and go to [www.steady.u.ohio.gov](http://www.steady.u.ohio.gov) for more tips and resources, including a risk self-assessment.

In addition, the MUI Unit has developed a [Falls Prevention Webinar Series \(information and registration\)](#). Attend one webinar or all four! Each offers one hour of Continuing Professional Development credit for successful completion.

Your [area agency on aging](#) also can help connect people to services and resources, including minor home modifications and [A Matter of Balance](#) workshops. Call 866-243-5678 for the agency serving your community.

Check out the newest [Well-Informed newsletter](#) now online.

## Pipeline Pix –

### A Portrait in Awareness and Advocacy



***In 2014, JJ House needed no podium to share his story ...***

*JJ House, accompanied by Sadie Hunter, executive director of People First of Ohio, sat center-stage and promptly stole the hearts of just about everyone in the Statehouse Atrium last year. He opened with, "I have seen a dream come true – to produce my own play – 'How I Became a Pirate.' People ask me, how do you, a young boy, make a dream come true? And I say, 'Just keep having faith that it will happen!'"*

[Read more about JJ House.](#)

## PostScripts

### DODD's Redesigned Website to Launch in Late February!

As a part of DODD's mission to improve the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities, we strive to improve the technology that makes information about our system and its services as accessible as possible. During the past year, we have conducted surveys to gather user feedback on our current website at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Survey responses have laid the foundation for a completely redesigned website. The more user-friendly site will launch in late February. Visit the current [DODD website](#) for updates.

### Disaster Preparedness Training, February 28

The Ohio Disability and Health Program will be hosting a Disaster & Preparedness Training for People with Disabilities and Their Caregivers on February 28, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center in Columbus. This is an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about specific hazards and how to be prepared for them. Individuals are encouraged to bring a family member or caregiver with them to the training. All participants also receive a free Red Cross Emergency Preparedness kit and 'Ready Now' packet. Read this [flyer with more information](#). Snacks and lunch are provided.

## **Employment First Training – The Path to Community Employment, March & April**

Employment First, in partnership with The Ohio State University and Griffin Hammis Associates, is offering a training for professionals that will include steps to determine a person's place on the Path to Community Employment, and the services and supports that can help them achieve positive employment outcomes. The training is free, and is being offered in six regions across Ohio. It also will address the career development process, creating individualized learning and work experiences, and the discovery process. [Register for the training](#) and please sign up for only one of the offerings.

## **Healthcare Advisory Committee Conference, March 12**

The Healthcare Advisory Committee spring program is titled, "Orchestrating the Link of Alzheimer's/Dementia and Down's Syndrome, and Available Resources." The event will be hosted at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. [Registration](#) opens at 8:15 a.m. Speakers include: Kathy Service, R.N., of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services; Dawn C. Allain, MS, of the Clinical Internal Medicine Division of Human Genetics at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; and, Linda Council, R.N., who will present a one-hour OBN catalog law research presentation, including rules, for CEU credit. Register by March 4.

## **Goodwill Columbus Workshop: Building an Independent Life, March 21**

Families & Friends Network (FFN) of Goodwill Columbus will host a workshop, Life After School & Beyond, on March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1331 Edgehill Road in Columbus. The annual spring workshop is for people interested in learning about available resources for adults with developmental disabilities. Sessions include information about the ABLE Act, including special needs trusts and guardianships; employment topics; financial information; and, a parent-child panel. Cost for up to two family members is \$10 for FFN members, \$20 for non-members (portion of fee waiver available) and includes refreshments, a take-home reference folder and a DVD of the Four L's of Independence. To register, contact Pat Karshner, [networkffn@gmail.com](mailto:networkffn@gmail.com), or 614-885-2291.

## **In the News**

Recent news clips relevant to Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Youngstown Developmental Center Closing in 2017](#) (WKBN); [Ohio To Close 2 Centers For People With Disabilities](#) (Findlay Courier © 02/11/2015); [Montgomery Developmental Center to close](#) (WDTN NBC Channel 2 © 02/11/2015); [Home care needs independent providers](#) (Columbus Dispatch © 02/15/2015); [Ohio to close 2 centers for people with disabilities](#) (Columbus WCMH-TV NBC 4 © 02/11/2015).

## **DODD Cost Report Training, March 11**

DODD and the County Board Cost Report Committee will offer Cost Report training on March 11, at 1980 W. Broad Street in Columbus, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This training will benefit anyone who prepares or assists

with Cost Reports. Topics will include preparation, common mistakes, best practices, cost report settlement, Title XX changes, and other topics. The training format will be somewhat different than past trainings, adding the vast experience and expertise of various business managers who will share their techniques, reports, templates, and other tips that they have learned over their years preparing cost reports at the grassroots level. Registration for the annual training is [now online](#).

## **SIBS Looking Forward Transition Retreat, April 10-12**

The [Ohio SIBS Looking Forward](#) transition retreat is April 10-12 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. The camp is a great opportunity for students with disabilities, ages 17 - 22, and their siblings, ages 15 - 25. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this retreat, contact Dr. Tom Fish at McCampbell Hall, 1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210, [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu). Look for registration information soon on the Ohio SIBS website.

## **Save the Dates! Youth Leadership Forum, August 2-6 -- Applications Now Online**

Applications now are available for [Ohio's Youth Leadership Forum](#), a five-day leadership training program for students with disabilities who are in grades 11 and 12. Sponsored by the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, and by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the forum offers opportunities for student delegates to learn about choosing a career, disability as a culture, technology and resources, and self advocacy. Delegates meet professionals with disabilities, and take time to develop their own Personal Leadership Plan to set goals in education, employment, and the community.

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 5

March 4, 2015

## In This Issue:

- State of the State Address: Blueprint for A New Ohio
- Director Martin Provides Budget Testimony
- Shift to an Agency-Only Model: Independent Provider Changes
- Update on Home and Community-Based Services Waivers
- DD Awareness and Advocacy Month Celebrated at the Ohio Statehouse
- Pipeline Pix: Awareness and Advocacy Around the State
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar

## Ohio is Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

### State of the State Address Spotlights Blueprint for A New Ohio

*"We're on the move. We're rising. The sun is coming up again in Wilmington. The sun has come up again in Ohio but it hasn't reached its zenith."*

---

In Wilmington last week, Governor John Kasich's State of the State address highlighted elements of the 2016-17 budget proposal, [Blueprint for a New Ohio](#), including comments noting that the bill provides \$316 million over the biennium to enhance services for people with developmental disabilities in their communities. The enthusiastically-delivered speech touched on many topics including proposals in the budget regarding health care, such as moving individuals with developmental disabilities out of institutions and into more home-like settings.



During the address the Governor stated, “We're raising up people with mental illness and developmental disabilities. I'd say that the entity of developmental disabilities is getting the largest raise in this budget. We want to get them in a setting where they can prosper. Some of them are in their homes where parents are under unbelievable stress ... some of them are in institutions. We'd like to get them in a home. If they want to stay in the institution, we'd like them to stay.”

DODD and other state agency leadership representatives traveling to Clinton County made the most of the highly-anticipated State of the State address during the hours preceding it by visiting several local agencies and projects that illustrate successes supported by the Governor’s last budget, and that will be furthered by the Governor’s initiatives during the biennium. Events included a visit highlighting DODD’s Employment First partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), and its success in moving individuals into integrated community employment.

In addition, the Clinton County Board of DD welcomed the visitors to a Provider Alliance Network group meeting, and an Early Intervention Services meeting with parents. DODD representatives also were welcomed to the Wilmington College Athletics Department, where they offer employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, and they toured homes that have been transitioned from Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) to three-person homes using capital housing dollars.



**Lunch at Generations Pizzeria**

*Director Martin presents an Employment First Employer plaque to Kerry “The Pizza Man” Steed, a Clinton County commissioner and owner of Generations Pizzeria. Steed has employed individuals with developmental disabilities for the past decade. Jan Ferris, the Clinton County Board’s Employment First Coordinator, developed the plaques for business owners to display in their establishments so the community can recognize them for their efforts.*



### ***Always Learning Something New***

*Director Martin visits an Early Intervention activity at the Nike Center with Jennifer and Dexter Spei. Clinton County Board of DD Superintendent Kyle Lewis and his staff took Director Martin on a tour so he could see first-hand the impact the Governor's support is having in the local community. Director Martin noted that he was excited to see the innovative activities Clinton County has implemented.*

The Governor's yearly report to the people of Ohio is a reminder of the many exciting opportunities that await the state, as legislators continue the process of reviewing the [proposed full State Budget bill](#). Adoption of an agreed-upon version of the bill must be accomplished by June 30, 2015.

*Pipeline will continue to bring you news of this ongoing process, and be sure to check online at these links: [Our Future](#); [Policy Detail](#); [Fact Sheet](#); [Governor's website](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## **Director Martin Provides Budget Testimony**

Last Wednesday, DODD Director John Martin presented testimony to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriations, Health and Human Services Subcommittee as the legislators consider the 2016-17 biennial budget proposal. Noting the Kasich Administration's historic support for individuals with developmental disabilities and the funding to fuel transformational change, he stated, "This budget expands not only the ways in which individuals can more fully participate in their community, but also increases the number of individuals we are able to serve."

Some of the highlights of the testimony were framed in relation to the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), and noted that responding to change -- or the need to do things differently -- is never easy, and usually complex. ([Read complete testimony.](#)) He noted that change "... should be viewed with the knowledge that it is difficult when looked at through the front windshield, but often is satisfying as we look through the rear view mirror. We acknowledge that change is especially hard for those we serve, and their families who have been through so much already. We know many are satisfied with their services, and they don't object to institutions or workshops. We also know that research shows they won't object to community life once we get there." He added,

*"Today, we are looking through the front windshield. It will take great faith and courage to believe the rear view mirror will tell a different story."*

Director Martin also referred to some data to support statements made in the testimony, including:

- Nationally, research on the closure of state-operated centers shows, prior to closure, 85 percent of the families were opposed to closure. After closure, satisfaction was as high as 80 percent.
- In Ohio, the Department's most recent follow-along visits with those who moved out of a state-operated Developmental Center between January 1, 2011, and February 20, 2015, shows 77 percent of the individuals report feeling happy in their new home, and 81 percent of the families/guardians reported being satisfied or highly-satisfied with their family member's current setting.

Legislators listening to the testimony last week had many questions, and offered examples of constituent concerns surrounding various elements of the proposed changes in services, service delivery, and scope of system change. Director Martin replied to a question regarding the timeframe for changes requested to occur over the next five years, explaining that some aspects of DODD's proposed Transition Plan, which will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by March 18, include a request that the amount of time to accomplish the transitions be extended to ten years.

## Shift to an Agency-Only Model: Independent Provider Changes

In Governor John Kasich's Executive Budget, the State of Ohio is proposing shifting to an agency-only model to improve oversight, fight fraud and abuse, and improve health outcomes for individuals. If approved, this change would phase out independent providers, unless they are providing services under a self-directed waiver.

Below is updated information about who may be impacted by this change, options for those who are affected, and the time line.

### Who is affected?

- Individuals working with agency providers are not affected.
- Individuals on a self-directed waiver are not affected. Currently, one of DODD's waivers is a self-directed waiver – the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver.
- Individuals on the Independent Options (IO) and Level 1 waivers will be affected. However, DODD will add a self-directed option to these waivers, which will allow you to continue working with non-agency providers through Employer Authority.
- Agency providers are not affected.
- Independent providers who provide services under a self-directed waiver are not affected. Currently, one of DODD's waivers is a self-directed waiver – the SELF waiver.
- Independent providers who provide services under the Independent Options (IO) and Level 1 waivers will be affected. However, DODD will add a self-directed option to these waivers, which will allow non-agency providers to serve individuals through Employer Authority.

**Note:** DODD isn't adding a self-directed option to the Transitions DD waiver because that waiver is being phased out.

## What are my options?

- Independent providers can seek employment through an agency provider if that option works for you.
- Independent providers can provide services under a self-directed waiver.
- Individuals working with independent providers can select an agency provider, or continue working with their non-agency provider under Employer Authority.

## What are the key dates?

This change would take place over a three-year period to allow individuals and providers to make any transitions. Key dates include:

- **July 1, 2016:** The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will not enroll any new independent providers.
- **July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019:** Current independent providers will not have their certification renewed when it expires – they can continue providing services until their certification expires.
- **July 1, 2019:** ODM no longer will accept claims with dates of service after July 1, 2019, submitted through independent providers, except in cases of self-directed waiver services.

See a helpful chart, '[What These Changes Mean for Me,](#)' for more information.

Watch for updates in [Pipeline](#), and on [DODD.Ohio.gov](#). If you have questions, please call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO) or 614-728-5311.

## Update on Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers permit a state to furnish an array of home and community-based services that help Medicaid beneficiaries live in the community and avoid institutionalization. Waivers must be renewed on a regular basis, and can be amended as part of the renewal application process. Opportunities for public input are offered prior to submitting the applications to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their consideration.

*The draft waivers will remain on the [DODD website](#), and feedback on changes made in the **SELF and Transitions (TDD) applications will be accepted until March 16. Feedback on changes in the Individual Options (IO) and Level One applications will be accepted until March 23.***

The waiver applications also are available as hard copies and may be requested through DODD and through local County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. Comments may be submitted by email to [waiverfeedback@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:waiverfeedback@dodd.ohio.gov) or by U.S. Mail to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, 30 E. Broad Street, 13th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215. Current renewals and amendments are noted below.

### Level One waiver

[Level One Waiver Amendment](#)

**Summary of changes:** The Level One waiver amendment reflects the DODD revised eligibility assessment tool for determining eligibility for the Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) Level of Care (LOC) to include more relevant items, and greater specificity in describing applicant/beneficiary disability and functioning.

The amendment reflects the HCB Settings Waiver Transition Plan and HCB Settings, as it relates to this particular waiver. Conflict of interest safeguards also are addressed in the waiver amendment. In addition, Safeguards Concerning Restraints and Restrictive Interventions reflect the Department's "Behavior Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures" (OAC 5123:2-2-06) that regulate the use of all restraints and restrictive measures.

## **Individual Options (IO) waiver**

### [IO Waiver Amendment](#)

**Summary of changes:** The IO waiver amendment includes reserved capacity to support the transfer of individuals currently enrolled on the Transitions Developmental Disabilities (TDD) waiver to the IO waiver, and for Statewide HCBS Waiting List Reduction in accordance with Ohio's budget initiatives.

The amendment reflects DODD's revised eligibility assessment tool for determining eligibility for ICF/IID Level of Care (LOC) to include more relevant items, and greater specificity in describing applicant/beneficiary disability and functioning.

The amendment reflects the HCB Settings Waiver Transition Plan and HCB Settings, as it relates to this particular waiver. Conflict of interest safeguards were addressed in the waiver amendment. In addition, Safeguards concerning restraints and restrictive interventions reflect the Department's "Behavior Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures" (OAC 5123:2-2-06) that regulate the use of all restraints and restrictive measures.

## **Transitions DD (TDD) waiver**

### [TDD renewal application](#)

**Summary of changes:** As part of the TDD waiver renewal, the state plans to phase out the waiver during the first two years of the waiver span. This renewal provides for the transition of individuals enrolled in the TDD waiver into Ohio's IO, SELF, and Level One waivers. The phase-out of TDD waiver aligns with the goal of reducing the number of waivers administered in Ohio. In addition, this process will allow individuals presently enrolled in the TDD waiver to have access to a broader array of services that enhance opportunities to enjoy the full benefits of community living.

The renewal also reflects the use of DODD's revised eligibility assessment tool for determining whether individuals meet criteria for an ICF/IID Level of Care (LOC). The new tool includes greater specificity in describing the areas in which individuals require support, and establishes a more efficient, electronic process for LOC determinations.

The state has updated quality oversight strategy and performance measures to ensure alignment with the CMS Quality Letter, dated March 12, 2014, titled "Modifications to Quality Measures and Reporting in 1915c Home and Community Based Waivers."

In addition, the state has updated Appendix G-2: Safeguards Concerning Restraints and Restrictive Interventions to reflect the Department's "Behavior Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures" (OAC 5123:2-2-06), that regulates the use of all restraints and restrictive measures.

## Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver

### [SELF renewal application](#)

**Summary of changes:** The Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver renewal reflects the use of DODD's revised eligibility assessment tool for determining whether individuals meet criteria for an ICF/IID Level of Care (LOC). The new tool includes greater specificity in describing the areas in which individuals require support, and establishes a more efficient, electronic process for LOC determinations. The renewal includes reserved capacity for the Statewide HCBS Waiting List Reduction, in accordance with Ohio's budget initiatives.

The state has updated the quality oversight strategy and performance measures to ensure alignment with the CMS Quality Letter, dated March 12, 2014, titled "Modifications to Quality Measures and Reporting in 1915c Home and Community Based Waivers."

The state has updated Appendix G-2: Safeguards Concerning Restraints and Restrictive Interventions to reflect the Department's "Behavior Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures" (OAC 5123:2-2-06) that regulates the use of all restraints and restrictive measures.

## Statewide Celebration: DD Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 3

*The March 18 issue of Pipeline will include a potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state. To submit a short paragraph and/or captioned photo for consideration in this issue, please send it to Sherry Steinman at [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov). Thank you!*

A capacity crowd attended the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day event yesterday at the Ohio Statehouse, showcasing many self-advocates' stories of personal growth and achievement. Speakers discussed achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and community employment. DODD Director John Martin was among the program speakers, along with many self-advocates from around the state -- including keynote speaker [Jack Wolf](#), a young man whose personal story definitely underscores the *Can do!* spirit.



*The theme for DD Awareness Month 2015, Can Do, Like You!, emphasizes that people with disabilities have many abilities that benefit and enrich their communities. Free logo artwork is at the [Ohio Public Images website](#).*

Following the speakers, many participants met with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics, including accessible parking, [visitability](#), legislation to increase the Medicaid asset limit for people with developmental disabilities, and other issues important to them.

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



**Paul Day and Shari Cooper Keep the Program Moving**

President of People First of Ohio Paul Day, and Shari Cooper, self advocate and master of ceremonies for the program, are fired up about the potential of absolutely everyone in the room.

*“What do you want to do? What do you really want to do? Well, you can do it!”*



**Hocking County Shows a Can Do! Attitude**

Melane Barlow and son Ben (at left), along with an enthusiastic group from Hocking County, get ready to head over to the DD Awareness and Advocacy program in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Ben, CEO of [Ben's Bucket of Wings](#), was handing out business cards left and right for the fledgling Logan County micro-business.

*“We’re here for the first time. We’re going to learn a lot today.”*



***Michael Richards returns to the Statehouse spotlight after 11 years.***

*Michael Richards, owner of M&A Small Engine Repair Shop in Highland County, has been an active self advocate for years, and noted a presentation he made 11 years ago regarding a piece of legislation at that time.*

*Yesterday, he spoke to the promise of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. He observed,*

***“If I had considered myself to be disabled, my business would not have happened. I know I can do! We have a promise from the State of Ohio now for more support. Let’s make it work for all of us.”***

DODD salutes the partnering planners and sponsors for the 2015 DD Awareness and Advocacy Day, including: Ohio DD Council; Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB); Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters (SIBS); The Arc of Ohio; Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD); Ohio Public Images; Disability Rights Ohio; Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA); People First of Ohio; the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University; and, the University of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

*For more photos and information about the event, see the [Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council website](#) and ‘Like’ [the event’s Facebook page](#);*

## **Pipeline Pix –**

### **Supported Employment Success Story, Mahoning County**

**Rickie Salus started at No Limits Day Center, part of Turning Point Residential Inc., with the goal of gaining community employment...**



*... He began working at T.J. Maxx with a group supported by Turning Point's Employment Services and learned the fundamentals of the retail business, working with other T.J. Maxx employees to gain hands-on experience. When the training ended, Rickie decided he wanted to build a career at T.J. Maxx, and worked on his resume and application. His charisma and work ethic were duly noted, and after the interview process Rickie got his dream job! T.J. Maxx recently awarded him a gift certificate expressing appreciation for his hard work. Way to go!*

## PostScripts

### Breaking News – Ohio Receives \$11.9 Million Grant to Expand Affordable Housing Options to Ohioans with Disabilities Who Have Extremely Low Incomes

#### Ohio 811 Project Rental Assistance Program to supply more than 500 units of housing

To advance the integration of affordable housing and help prevent thousands of Ohioans with disabilities from being institutionalized or face homelessness, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) \$11.9 million of new federal funding to support a five-year rental assistance program.

OHFA, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), will administer rental assistance contracts for 508 housing units and coordinate supportive services for households which earn 30 percent less than the area median income, and have at least one person who has a physical disability, an intellectual and/or developmental disability, or a chronic mental illness. ODM, with assistance from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), will create and maintain a referral network to match persons in need with available housing units throughout the state.

*HUD support of state housing agencies is made possible through the [Section 811 Project Rental Assistance \(PRA\)](#) program. Read more in the [news release from HUD](#). As policies, guidelines, and forms are developed regarding the program, information will be posted on [OHFA's website](#).*

## Empowering Families Symposium, March 13

The Empowering Families Symposium: Advocating for Children with Special Needs is scheduled for March 13 at the Xavier University Cintas Center/Schiff Family Conference Center, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Attendees will find special needs resources, access community resources, meet special education advocates, and network with others who are facing similar challenges. Keynote speaker is Gary Tonks, Executive Director, The Arc of Ohio. His presentation, Preserving Your Family's Dreams: Adapting to Systems Change, will provide a wealth of up-to-date information for families. The event also will feature many vendor information booths. Registration is \$25 and includes breakfast and lunch. Registration information and event details are [online now](#).

### **The Arc of Ohio Training – Budget Information, March 26**

The Arc of Ohio will host a one-day informational event for individuals, families, and professionals to learn more about the proposed 2016-2017 state budget, as well as participate in an afternoon of facilitated discussion regarding the future of independent service providers in Ohio. The event will be at the Hollywood Casino in Columbus -- a free and accessible meeting space, able to accommodate a large number of attendees. Due to the venue's legal restrictions, only adults 21 and over may attend. Advance registration is required. [Register Now!](#)

### **Red Treehouse a Resource for Families, Young Adults, Professionals**

The website [www.RedTreehouse.org](http://www.RedTreehouse.org) is a resource for Ohio's families, young adults, and professionals to promote the well-being of children, youth, and young adults through age 26. The website connects users to relevant information, resources, support networks, and events in various communities. The organization has prepared a [video demonstration of how to use the Red Treehouse website](#). Please share this valuable resource for supporting Ohio caregivers to anyone for whom you think it may be helpful.



[www.RedTreehouse.org](http://www.RedTreehouse.org)

### **Employment First Training – The Path to Community Employment, March & April**

Employment First, in partnership with The Ohio State University and Griffin Hammis Associates, is offering a training for professionals that will include steps to determine a person's place on the Path to Community Employment, and the services and supports that can help them achieve positive employment outcomes. The training is free, and is offered in six regions across Ohio. It also will address the career development process, creating individualized learning and work experiences, and the discovery process. [Register for the training](#) and please sign up for only one of the offerings.

### **Call for Presentations: State of Ohio 13<sup>th</sup> Annual IDD/MI Conference, September**

The [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) (NADD) is seeking three-hour and 90-minute workshop proposals for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference (Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/ Mental Illness), September 21-22 at the Crown Plaza Columbus North Hotel. Proposals are encouraged to illustrate this year's theme: *Mental Health Aspects – Treatment and Support*, and must be received by NADD no later than April 24. Submissions received after that date will not be considered. Notification of acceptance will be sent by email by April 30. [Submit your proposal online](#).

### **Franklin County Self Advocate Group Sponsors Legislative Meeting, April 17**

The Franklin County Board of DD Self Advocate Advisory Council is finalizing plans for their second annual Legislative Advocacy Day on April 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, in Groveport. Several legislators are expected to attend to seek feedback from self advocates on various legislative initiatives -- including the recently-introduced biennium budget proposals.

## **Assistive Technology Vendor Fair, April 23**

The annual Assistive Technology Fair will be held on April 23 at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office, 470 Glenmont Ave. in Columbus, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is no registration fee, and there will be door prizes and hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology devices. For details, or to register, call Barbara Conner at 614-753-4679.

## **In the News**

Recent news clips relevant to Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Read Gov. John Kasich's State of the State Address \(Transcript\)](#), (Cleveland Plain Dealer © 02/25/2015); [Dozens go to Columbus to protest YDC closing](#), (WKBN Fox 27 Youngstown © 02/20/2015); [Wood Lane forced to privatize services](#), (Bowling Green Sentinel Tribune © 02/25/2015).

## **Mark Your Calendar! The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point, May 20**

The annual Arc of Ohio Day at [Cedar Point](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. Registration will be online by April 1, but mark your calendars now!

## **Save the Dates! Youth Leadership Forum, August 2-6 -- Applications Now Online**

Apply now for [Ohio's Youth Leadership Forum](#), a five-day leadership training program for students with disabilities who are in grades 11 and 12. Sponsored by the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, and by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the forum offers opportunities for student delegates to learn about choosing a career, disability as a culture, technology and resources, and self-advocacy. Delegates meet professionals with disabilities, and develop a plan to set personal goals.

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 6

March 18, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Budget Hearings – Concerns and Support
- Employment First: Three Years of Success
- New DODD Website Launches Today!
- DD Awareness Efforts Focus on Community Involvement
- Level of Care Training Set for April, May
- Pipeline Pix: Employment in the Spotlight
- PostScripts: News and Updates for Your Calendar

## We're Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

### Administration Update: Budget Hearings – Concerns and Support

On March 10 and 17, Ohioans with developmental disabilities, their families, and those who care for them voiced their concerns and their support, regarding the proposed 2016-2017 budget. In particular, provisions designed to transition residents from large institutional settings to smaller community and home-based programs were in the spotlight.

Approximately 65 people testified on March 10, and more than 100 testified yesterday, before the House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee. Many spoke regarding the DODD [budget proposal](#) language regarding new Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) requirements that limit the number of residents per room, and restructure funding and reimbursement rates.



Advocacy & Protective Services Inc. (APSI) Executive Director Karla Rinto explained that the transitions the state is proposing are consistent with national developmental disabilities trends. She observed that

Ohio is among the states with the largest number of ICF beds in the country, making it vulnerable to a legal challenge.

*Through the proposed 2016-2017 budget, the state can direct and manage the system's transformation before changes are required by the federal government or the courts.*

She stated, "We know there are many family members who have expressed concern about these changes. APSI believes that once family members understand the various, existing community options available -- and that this budget increases the number and types of options available -- that many will welcome these changes as improvements."

State legislators are in the process of reviewing the [proposed full State Budget bill](#). Adoption of an agreed-upon version of the bill must be accomplished by June 30, 2015. Additional information about testimony is on the [House Finance and Health and Human Services website](#), under the date March 10.

## Ohio County Boards Superintendents Conference

Director Martin shared a presentation at the Ohio County Board of DD Superintendents winter conference regarding the proposed budget. In addition to some discussion of managing change within the system, and in our lives, the presentation addressed some budget-related myths and facts. County Board superintendents were interested in learning more about what the current language in the budget will mean in terms of peoples' lives, and hearing more information about budget areas that have caused some confusion. The [presentation](#) is posted in our DODD online newsroom.

*Pipeline will continue to bring you news of this ongoing process, and be sure to check online at these links: [Our Future](#); [Policy Detail](#); [Fact Sheet](#); [Governor's website](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## Employment First – Three Years of Success

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

Tomorrow, Ohio will recognize the three-year anniversary of the signing of Governor John Kasich's [Employment First Executive Order](#), supporting the shift within Ohio's developmental disabilities community to a workplace culture that recognizes and embraces the contributions and abilities of people with developmental disabilities. Since the beginning of the Employment First initiative, improvements in state policies have enabled Ohio's local communities to be better prepared to transform services and expectations, and foster more opportunities for improved community employment outcomes.

According to Kristen Helling, DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative, "Now, at the three-year mark, we have some good, statewide data about the increase in positive employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, and we can share some success stories about individuals who have obtained employment through the partnership DODD has with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)." (See [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)). She continued,

*"Since the signing of the Executive Order, there has been an increase of more than 1,000 people with developmental disabilities who are working in the community, according to data reported by County*

*Boards of DD. This represents an almost 16 percent increase since the inception of the Employment First initiative in Ohio.”*

## **Success Stories**

The kinds of changes and growth experienced by people involved in Employment First efforts range well beyond simply getting a job in the community. While that is a key goal, the three individuals briefly profiled here exemplify the additional, positive life changes many have realized.

### **Tom**

Tom works at the Athens City Parks and Recreation Department, and has experienced a surge in independence and responsibility -- both at work and in his personal life -- since landing his new job. On the personal side, Tom cares for two new birds and two home garden beds, and he responsibly manages his spending money. Tom’s health also has greatly improved since he started working, reducing the need for expensive specialists and emergency services. He has weaned himself off of oxygen, been released from his heart specialist, and quit smoking! Tom still has many needs, but his quality of life has greatly improved, and his reliance on public support has dramatically decreased since obtaining employment. (See Tom in *Pipeline Pix*, this issue!)

### **Kelly**

Previously labeled as having attendance and behavioral issues -- and even dismissed from vocational and day programs in the past -- Kelly experienced boredom and frustration with sheltered workshop and enclave options presented to her before she was referred to an Employment First counselor. Through the partnership between OOD and DODD, she secured a position in a nursing home less than five miles from her home in Fayette County. There, Kelly is a valued asset, and staff report that she is empathetic and caring toward residents, who respond well to her. She earns minimum wage, has paid holidays, vacation, and sick time, and health insurance options -- plus reduced-price meals. According to her mom, Kelly is much happier in her new job than she was in the sheltered workshop.

### **Heidi**

When Heidi aged-out of her segregated school setting several decades ago, she transitioned directly to a sheltered workshop in her area. Once there, Heidi completed piece work and simple production tasks. Then, she was referred to the Employment First partnership in Cuyahoga County and gained employment in a local nursing home. In addition to the financial benefits of the new job, Heidi’s sister has noticed many other positive changes in her. She says that Heidi no longer needs physical therapy, and she participates in a community walking group. Heidi used to participate in a yoga class while seated in a chair -- and now, the chair is gone! Her circle of friends also has increased, and she attends a book club and church with coworkers. Heidi takes care of her work clothes, and is always ready for work. And, for the first time in 45 years, Heidi has chosen to reduce the number of weeks she attends a summer camp because she doesn’t want to miss work! The positive impact of her job extends well beyond a paycheck.

## **Observations for the Future**

Helling observes, “As we shift our culture to one that supports community employment as a *preferred* outcome, more and more individuals are empowered to identify their own interests, and seek jobs that match their skills. This approach is enabling them to participate more fully in their communities.

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

## Redesigned DODD Website Launches Today!

### Navigation Simplified ... Information Updated ... Appearance Upgraded

The [DODD website](#) has been simplified, updated, and upgraded! DODD has listened to your feedback, and has redesigned [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Look for new features, a simplified site, and more appealing, cleaner graphics.

The new homepage invites you to jump in from your ‘visitor’ point of view: My DODD will help people who receive services find relevant information and answers to their questions; the Individuals and Families section invites site visitors to learn more about services and supports they may need or want, as well as how to get started in the eligibility determination process; in the County Boards section, visitors can learn about resources to help ensure quality care, training opportunities, credentialing, and accreditation; and in the Providers area, site users will learn how to become a provider in Ohio's DD system, and how to maintain certification.

Improvements include:

- **Easier access to applications:** To access applications such as Medication Administration and Information System (MAIS), click on the Log In button near the top of the screen – you no longer have to click on the gold key icon that was on the previous website.
- **Content for you:** A new section, My DODD, has content formatted in a way that may be easier for users with developmental disabilities to access. Content will be added to this section, so check back regularly.
- **Streamlined Content:** Content about a topic has been pulled together in a single page, rather than spread out across the site.

**Please note:** With these changes, some of your bookmarks may need to be updated. The improved navigation will make this easy to do.

***[www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov) will be out of operation from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on March 18 to prepare for the website launch. Users of applications please check back after 8:00 p.m. to get online.***

The new website can be accessed with assistive technology such as screen readers. Accessibility for users of various screen-reading programs and adaptive devices has been tested, and the upgrades should provide a better overall user experience.

DODD will continue to update and improve the site, so you'll see more changes over the coming months. To let us know what you think of the new site, and what more can be done to make the site easier to use, send an email to [webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov).



*In the Individuals & Families section ... learn about available services and supports. Get tips on accessing and navigating Ohio's DD system.*

## **DD Awareness Efforts Focus on Community Involvement**

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

*Thanks to all who submitted information for this issue of Pipeline!*

### **Annual OPI Awareness Awards**

The Ohio Public Images (OPI) annual *Awareness Awards Luncheon* last week was hosted by the Ohio Association of County Board Superintendents, and awarded more than 50 honors to individuals and entities that spotlighted positive perceptions of Ohioans with developmental disabilities during the period from December 1, 2013, through November 30, 2014. Entries considered in this competition were published, broadcast, produced, or otherwise occurred during that timeframe. [The OPI awards video](#) shown at the event highlights many of the awardees, while others, including the Self Advocate of the Year honors, are presented in-person at the conference luncheon.

Logan Brinson received the 2014 Self Advocate of the Year/Excellence award. The Hamilton County activist was nominated due to a long and extremely impressive list of achievements, among which was helping to organize an amazing array of community contact opportunities through the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS) Advocacy Leadership Network.



***Logan Brinson, Hamilton County self advocate, with Probate Judge Candidate Charlie Luken last year at an Advocacy Leadership Network public election forum. HCDDS Superintendent Alice Pavey noted that the office***

*was flooded with participants for the forum, and that Logan personally saw to it that each participant felt welcomed and got involved.*

## **Stark County Uses Art to Demonstrate Community**

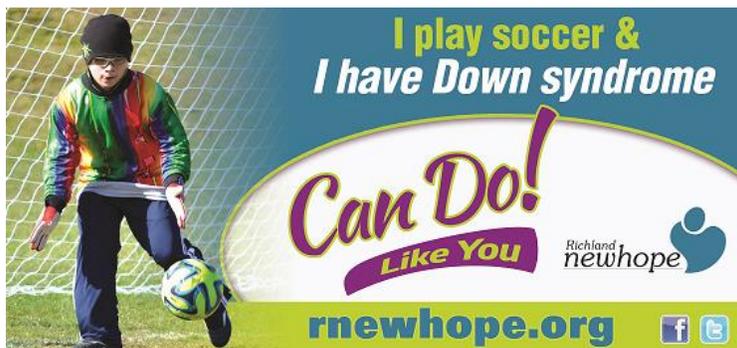
Highlighting the month's activities in Stark County is the collaborative art display, The Art of Community. It joins together drawings of people throughout the county...artists with and without disabilities, parents, neighbors, school children, teachers, local business leaders, and others. The Art of Community visually represents how each citizen in the community contributes their talents and abilities to make something beautiful. The art is made up of more than 1,300 paper squares, 4 x 4 inches in size, glued together to create a patchwork of color. "We were surprised and excited to see how many people participated," said Therese Heitkamp, Stark DD Training Coordinator for the art program. "As we started gluing them together, putting a child's square next to another, we saw how amazing it is all together." She added,

*"The most interesting thing was that, initially, people were intimidated by a blank 4x4 inch white square. But, once they saw their square added to the whole, they saw how well theirs fit in with the others."*

The art show is on display at the main branch of the Stark County District Library downtown branch during the month of March. There are blank squares at the library so visitors will have the opportunity to be part of the project. This is the fifth year Stark DD has collaborated with the Library to raise awareness about developmental disabilities through the arts. Visit [www.starkdd.org](http://www.starkdd.org) or 'like' on [Facebook](#) to view pictures and event details.

## **Richland County Takes the Message Outdoors**

Activities during DD Awareness Month in Richland County include a coloring contest, an art and talent show, an Awareness Day event at Newhope Industries, displays at the main library and the Richland Mall, billboards, and the distribution of 4,700 informational pamphlets at 59 county churches. Below is one of the two billboards seen around the county this month:



*The theme for DD Awareness Month 2015, Can Do, Like You!, emphasizes that people with disabilities have many abilities that benefit and enrich their communities. Free logo artwork is at the [Ohio Public Images website](#).*

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

A rainbow of balloons drifted up to the sky in early March as students from the Open Door School at the Lawrence County Board of DD launched a month of activities to bring awareness of those with developmental disabilities. The balloon launch is the traditional start to the month. A message with an invitation to respond is tied to the balloon, and many have been replied to from miles away. It wouldn't be DD Awareness Month without the annual Balloon Launch says Tim Nunnery, at the Lawrence County Board of DD. "We've been doing this for as long as I can remember."



*Photo courtesy, Lawrence County DD*

## **Scioto County, Ready for the Big Game**

The annual Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game caps a full month of Awareness activities in Scioto County on March 28 at Shawnee State University's Athletic Complex. The event is a fundraiser for the County's Special Olympics, and several local celebrities and officials take on the Scioto County Board of DD (SCBDD) Shooting Stars. Many local celebrities, noted professionals, and elected officials are playing in this year's game. The local program is overseen by an Advisory Committee and is accredited by Special Olympics Ohio. "We have individuals and staff members working hard to make the kick-off of the basketball game very spectacular," said SCBDD staffer Shawn Jordan. More details about participating celebrities will be revealed at a later date. For more information, visit [www.sciotocountydd.org](http://www.sciotocountydd.org).



*Jessica Riggs, Scioto County Special Olympian basketball player, is ready for the grand finale of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March.*

## Level of Care (LOC) Training Set for April, May

### *New Eligibility Determination Tool will Streamline Processes*

Currently, DODD's system for determining the eligibility of an individual for services consists of two different Level of Care (LOC) tools, two separate process rules, and offers no requirements for evaluators. In 2012, a DODD work group was formed to create a single LOC tool for County Boards and Intermediate Care Facilities to ensure a more consistent and efficient process.

The work group created a tool using criteria based on the [Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000](#), and successfully user-tested the tool in 2013 and 2014. On July 1, 2015, all evaluators will be required to use the new LOC tool. Prior to that date, evaluators will be required to complete online e-courses and be given resources to effectively operate the new tool.

To help Ohio's DD system professionals prepare for this change, during April, DODD will host webinars that will provide an overview of the upcoming rule change. [Online registration](#) now is open, and there are several dates and times available to suit individual schedules. Online training on this new LOC system will be available in May. Watch your email, the SSA Update, and *Pipeline* for more information.

*For questions on the upcoming change, please e-mail [LOC@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:LOC@dodd.ohio.gov).*

## Pipeline Pix –

### Employment First, at Work in Athens County



*Tom Gibson is ready for mulching season! Tom's health has greatly improved since he started working -- reducing the need for expensive specialists and emergency services. Read more about Tom's success on the job in the *Employment First* article in this issue of *Pipeline*.*

## PostScripts

### **NOTE: Registration is Closed for The Arc of Ohio Training, March 26**

The Arc of Ohio will host a one-day informational event for individuals, families, and professionals to learn more about the proposed 2016-2017 state budget, as well as participate in an afternoon of facilitated discussion regarding the future of independent service providers in Ohio. The event will be at the Hollywood Casino in Columbus -- a free and accessible meeting space, able to accommodate a large number of attendees. Due to the venue's legal restrictions, only adults 21 and over may attend.

### **Ohio PASRR Education Training Day, March 26**

Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) is a federal requirement to help ensure that individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing homes for long term care. Register today to attend the [PASRR: Then and Now – Working Together to Rebalance Long-Term Care](#) education and training day on March 26 at the [Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium](#), 1980 West Broad St., in Columbus. The training is sponsored by the Ohio Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Aging, Health, Medicaid, and Mental Health and Addiction Services. Space is limited. For more information, contact Brandon Sturgill, PASRR Bureau Quality Manager at [Brandon.Sturgill@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sturgill@mha.ohio.gov), or 614-752-9853.

### **OPRA Conference, April 7-8 – Registration is Open**

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) spring conference will be April 7-8 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Dublin. The conference offers an opportunity for hundreds of attendees and dozens of exhibiting companies to network and learn from each other. Program content provides several high-level learning opportunities that enable professional growth, and prepare attendees to take new information and important new ideas back to share with others in the community. [Read more about Conference sessions and speakers](#) and see the registration information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org).

### **ODOT to Host Accessible Vehicle Fair, April 15**

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) annual Accessible Vehicle Fair will be April 15 at the Ohio Expo Center (Lausche Building). The event is intended for administrative and vehicle maintenance staff from any organization that provides transportation services, such as transit providers, taxi companies, senior centers, and County Boards of DD. Attendees will be able to see the latest wheelchair-accessible vehicles, including models offered on ODOT's term contracts. Vendor representatives will be on hand to answer questions, and educational sessions will include topics such as mobility management, technological innovations, and funding. For more information, see [the event flyer](#).

### **PAR Training – School-to-Work Transition and More, April 29 & 30**

Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) Training on School-to-Work Transition and Social Security Benefit Programs in 2015, including young adult benefits, will be hosted on April 29, at the Delaware County Board of DD, and on April 30, at the Educational Service Center (ESC) in Independence. For details and registration information, visit [the PAR website](#).

### **Direct Support Professional Summit, April 28**

The second annual Direct Support Professional (DSP) Summit will be April 28 at the Xenos complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus. The DSP Summit is packed with unique, fun, and informative presentations that will leave DSPs full of ideas, knowledge, and inspiration. It is the only event of its kind in Ohio, and among the premier conferences for DSPs in the nation! Last year's event sold out, so [register today!](#) The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) receives a small grant from the Ohio DD Council to help defray the cost of the event, and helps keep the registration at \$35 per DSP. Attendees receive five Continuing Education Units (CEUs), lunch, and a one-year membership to OADSP and the national association, NADSP. The Summit is collaboratively planned by the Ohio DSP Council, funded by Ohio DD Council, and is comprised of leading DSPs from around the state. For more information contact Bethany Toledo at [btoledo@oadsp.org](mailto:btoledo@oadsp.org).

### **SIBS Looking Forward Transition Retreat, April 10-12**

The [Ohio SIBS Looking Forward](#) transition retreat is April 10-12 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. The camp is a great opportunity for students with disabilities, ages 17 - 22, and their siblings, ages 15 - 25. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this retreat, contact Dr. Tom Fish at McCampbell Hall, 1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210, [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu). Look for registration information on the Ohio SIBS website.

### **Call for Presentations: State of Ohio 13<sup>th</sup> Annual IDD/MI Conference, September**

The [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) (NADD) is seeking three-hour and 90-minute workshop proposals for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference (Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/ Mental Illness), September 21-22 at the Crown Plaza Columbus North Hotel. Proposals are encouraged to illustrate this year's theme: *Mental Health Aspects – Treatment and Support*, and must be received by NADD no later than April 24. Submissions received after that date will not be considered. Notification of acceptance will be sent by email by April 30. [Submit your proposal online.](#)

### **Franklin County Self Advocate Group Sponsors Legislative Meeting, April 17**

The Franklin County Board of DD Self Advocate Advisory Council is finalizing plans for their second annual Legislative Advocacy Day on April 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, in Groveport. Several legislators are expected to attend to seek feedback from self advocates on various legislative initiatives -- including the recently-introduced biennium budget proposals.

### **Assistive Technology Vendor Fair, April 23**

The annual Assistive Technology Fair will be held on April 23 at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office, 470 Glenmont Ave. in Columbus, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is no registration fee, and there will be door prizes and hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology devices. For details, or to register, call Barbara Conner at 614-753-4679.

### **Tech II - Assistive Technology Fair, May 13-14**

Tech II – Technology Toward Employment, will build on last year's successful technology conference that focused only on tablets. On May 13 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 N. High St. in Columbus, Tech II will present all types of assistive technology that helps people with disabilities get or keep a job—and will emphasize evaluation, funding, and training. Tech II will include hands-on exhibits, break-out sessions, and opportunities to talk one-on-one with assistive technology experts. It is sponsored by DODD, Ohio DD Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, Disability

Rights Ohio, CareSource, and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. Registration is \$150, and financial assistance and scholarships are available on a limited first-come, first served basis. [Registration information is online now.](#)

### **Save the Dates! OACB Spring Conference, May 14-15**

The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD spring conference will be May 14-15 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Join DD service professionals from across the state for two days of professional development and discussions of the latest trends and best practices in the industry. Registration will open on April 1. For more information, visit [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).

### **Mark Your Calendar! The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point, May 20**

The annual Arc of Ohio Day at [Cedar Point](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20. Registration will be online by April 1, but mark your calendars now!

### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 7

April 1, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Budget Hearings, Other Forums
- Helling Named a State Ambassador for Employment First
- Autism Certification Program Gathers Momentum
- New Information: The Direct Line, Pipeline Quarterly, DODD Website
- APSI Requests Nominations for Kozlowski Advocacy Award
- Pipeline Pix: DD Awareness in Butler County
- PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar

## April is Autism Awareness Month!

### Administration Update: Budget Hearings, Other Forums

Based on the stakeholder feedback regarding changes affecting independent providers, the state is strongly considering extending the implementation of changes by as long as two years. This would allow additional time for individuals and providers to transition to self-directed care, where individuals can continue working with their current providers using Employer Authority. More information about [why the state is proposing these changes](#) was released yesterday by the Office of Health Transformation (OHT). OHT also clarified that the budget bill (HB64):

*"...does not eliminate independent providers, but does clarify that the employer for a direct support worker must be either the individual receiving services, or an agency – not the State of Ohio."*

DODD Director John Martin noted that the longer timeline will ensure that we're making these changes in a very planful way that continues to respect the individual's right to select and hire the people providing services to them. He explained, "We want to make sure that folks are comfortable with what we are proposing." He added that individuals and families should not see a disruption of services if they choose the self-directed option, and could continue to recruit, hire, train, schedule, supervise, and

fire (as needed) their service providers. Under the current proposed budget the changes would not apply to those currently receiving adult foster care services (Ohio Shared Living).



Many people have had questions about the self-directed option, and Employer Authority. Lori Horvath, DODD Deputy Director of Medicaid Development and Administration, shared more information about [Understanding Employer Authority](#) at The Arc of Ohio's winter training last week. (DODD will host a webinar in the coming weeks to share more information about Employer Authority; the webinar will be recorded and an online replay will be available. Watch *Pipeline* and the DODD website for details.) At The Arc event, more than 500 individuals, family members, and professionals heard up-to-date information about the state's proposed biennial budget, including a discussion regarding the future for independent providers. At the event, Gary Tonks, executive director of The Arc of Ohio, introduced DODD Director John Martin, stating,

*"Your issues are his issues -- because he is a Dad first. He gets it. Together is the only way we can move forward, and we will be at the table for these discussions."*

During his [presentation](#), Director Martin thanked family members throughout Ohio's developmental disabilities community for participating so actively in the budget development process, speaking their minds, and sharing their insights with legislators and with the Department. He noted, "We are listening, and I believe we can make some adjustments to the proposed budget language -- and possibly, to some of the timeframes for proposed changes."

The revised budget is expected to move through the Ohio House of Representatives during the week of April 20, and then will be reviewed by the Senate. An agreed-upon budget must be in place by June 30.

## New Study Released

An in-depth study of Ohio's developmental disabilities service system, [Ohio at a Crossroads](#), has been released by the Center for Community Solutions. The study notes that the system is facing transformational change, and provides a great deal of current information.

*See more information online at: [Center for Community Solutions](#); See a related article from *The Columbus Dispatch*: [State officials tell people with disabilities that they can still choose ...](#)*

*Also, check these links online: [Our Future](#); [Policy Detail](#); [Fact Sheet](#); [Governor's website](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## Helling Named a State Ambassador for Employment First

Kristen Helling, DODD lead person for the [Ohio Employment First](#) initiative, has been named an Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program State Ambassador by the national Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).



**Kristen Helling**

*“I am excited to be named an Employment First State Ambassador by ODEP. I believe the State Ambassadors Network is uniquely positioned to allow peer states to receive guidance and support from states that already have begun the challenging work of implementing systems change. Each state is unique, and efforts must be customized to work successfully, but by sharing the tips and strategies that have been successfully implemented in Ohio, I believe I can support others to make real progress.”*

In announcing the 2015 State Ambassadors, ODEP noted that [the ambassador role](#) is extremely important in moving the workplace improvement programs forward, nationwide. ODEP recognizes that many states desire to align their efforts to support individuals with disabilities toward an Employment First approach, but may not yet possess the capacity, experience or technical resources necessary to lead and facilitate such change.

The announcement stated, “To address this need, ODEP has initiated the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program, a cross-disability, cross-systems change initiative. It will provide a platform for multi-disciplinary state teams to focus on implementing the Employment First approach with fidelity – aligning policies, coordinating resources, and updating service delivery models – to facilitate increased integrated employment options for people with the most significant disabilities.”

Helling is among only nine 2015 appointees to the group, a network comprised of people demonstrating exemplary leadership among local and state officials who are guiding high-impact systems-change efforts to promote Employment First principles in their state or local community.

DODD Deputy Director Teresa Kobelt noted that ODEP honors only top talent leadership – people who really are making a difference in implementing the vision of Employment First. She stated, “Kristen has helped to lead and advance Ohio's Employment First initiative, and will be a valuable mentor to other states. She has helped to implement Ohio's Employment First Rule, develop a strong partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and has spearheaded greatly improved data tracking. She has a breadth and depth of knowledge that definitely will be an asset to the national efforts.”

*More information: [Learn about Employment First and the 2015 State Ambassadors](#)*

## **Autism Certification Program Gathers Momentum**

*Awareness is on the rise as researchers provide more information - and ask more questions - about the origins of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). During Autism Awareness Month, Pipeline will share information about efforts by DODD and our stakeholder partners to learn more, diagnose earlier, and provide new training opportunities*

*for families and professionals. People who have autism have many gifts along with some challenges. We celebrate these gifts, while we learn to better understand the challenges.*

Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) members met recently at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to track progress on the development of a new online curriculum for autism certification. Information about [ASD in Action](#) is online, explaining the unique training and certification program being developed through a partnership between DODD and the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), with support and funding from the Governor's Office of Health Transformation. Launching in autumn 2015, *ASD In Action* is designed to help ensure that providers – including paraprofessionals, job coaches, residential facilities staff, childcare services, and other caregivers – are properly trained to work with and meet the needs of individuals with autism.



The program, which will be free to all Ohioans, incorporates four modules to meet the needs of different audiences, including families, and offers optional certification for professionals who work with individuals with autism. At the recent IWGA meeting, Program Director for the Autism Certification Center Carly McVey noted that the project's emphasis on filming video sequences at locations around the state effectively illustrates creative ways to open doors to help children with ASD learn, and points the way toward emerging best practices. She explained,

*"We are looking for – and finding – solid practices in action that can be replicated in a curriculum or through instruction techniques. We have found some amazing teachers in this process who really reach out – and into – the people they are working with."*

McVey added, "These will be very powerful visual modules, and it's exciting to see this really coming together now. Curriculum users will move through a progression of learning and responding that keeps them engaged and prepared for each next step."

DODD Deputy Director Teresa Kobelt underscored the importance of the collaborative approach and its progress to-date. She observed, "I am very impressed with OCALI's efforts. DODD hears regularly from families who can't find providers trained to meet the needs of their children, including adult children who are on the Spectrum. This training will increase the capacity of providers greatly – across all systems – to understand, and skillfully use the best tools and techniques to improve the quality of life for people with autism. I can't wait to see the final product."

The [ASD in Action](#) website offers more information about the program, including an overview video, highlights of the modules under development, and details about the different levels of training. To see photos, videos, and more updates about the activities of the Autism Certification Center, [read the Blog](#).

*More about ASD in Action at [www.autismcertificationcenter.org](http://www.autismcertificationcenter.org)*

## New Information: Direct Line, Pipeline Quarterly, DODD Website

The system of services for people with developmental disabilities is experiencing a great deal of change. People served by the system want to participate more fully in their communities, and need more options to help make that happen. We must respond to these needs, and effect appropriate changes. Through our new [DODD website](#), a new series of *The Direct Line* publications, and newest *Pipeline Quarterly*, we explore many changes.



To help individuals, families, and professionals in Ohio's developmental disabilities community better understand these changes, DODD Director John Martin has defined several areas of interest based on input from stakeholders. We will address these areas in *The Direct Line* series of communications. These are briefs on topics such as those bulleted below, distributed March 17. The series of updates will offer an overview of a specific topic, and connect you to more information. Director Martin introduced *The Direct Line* saying:

*“Change can be unsettling, but understanding what is changing and why, and how changes may or may not affect you, can help you prepare for and take advantage of what lies ahead. I hope you find The Direct Line useful in understanding how our system is evolving.”*

- [Independent Provider Changes: Overview](#)
- [Independent Provider Changes: Common Law Employer/Employer Authority](#)
- [CMS Transition Plan: Employment and Day Services](#)

Issues of *The Direct Line* will be sent via email, and all issues will be available on [our DODD website](#). If you receive *Pipeline*, you also are on our list for *The Direct Line*. If there is a specific topic you would like us to cover, please email [kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Pipeline Quarterly, winter 2014-15

In late March, DODD published the winter 2014-15 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*. Its focus is our future – and explores the question, “What lies ahead for Ohio’s developmental disabilities community?” While there are no pat answers to this question, there is a lot of information and conversation about it. Pending budget language, specific definitions of services and how they may be delivered, and a general look back before we move ahead, are elements in the mix of the many changes currently underway. Read [Pipeline Quarterly, winter 2014-2015](#) to learn more.

### New DODD Website, feedback welcomed

The [DODD website](#) has been simplified, updated, and upgraded! Look for new features, simplified navigation, and more appealing graphics. Launched last month, the website’s homepage invites you to

jump in from your 'visitor' point of view: *My DODD* helps people who receive services find relevant information and answers to their questions; the *Individuals and Families* section invites site visitors to learn more about services they may need or want, as well as how to begin the eligibility determination process; in the *County Boards* section, visitors can learn about resources to help ensure quality care, training opportunities, credentialing, and accreditation; and in the *Providers* area, site users can learn how to become a service provider in Ohio's DD system, and how to maintain certification. Let us know what you think of the new site by sending an email to [webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov).

## **APSI Requests Nominees for Kozlowski Advocacy Award**

Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in 2010, to honor the former APSI Director's lifetime of advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. This award is given annually to a person or entity outside of APSI who has demonstrated a lifetime achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities, and who has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the service system.

Now through April 28, APSI is accepting nominations for this year's recipient, and the award will be presented at the APSI All Staff Luncheon in June. To nominate someone, [complete the form on APSI's website](#). The form can be downloaded, printed, and faxed to Cindy Ison at [614-262-3838](tel:614-262-3838) or scanned and emailed to her at [cison@apsiohio.org](mailto:cison@apsiohio.org).

APSI is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to protecting the rights of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The agency advocates for people by helping people make their desires and needs known -- especially when they cannot speak for themselves, or if they have no other advocate. APSI provides an array of guardianship and protective services to individuals, age 18 or older. The agency provides these protective services as a contract agency of DODD, and serves more than 4000 adults.

## **Pipeline Pix – DD Awareness Celebrated in Butler County**



*Photo courtesy, Butler County Board of DD*

*This photo includes Homefront Nursing staff, pictured with the young women they support. Homefront Nursing earned the Agency Provider of the Year award in Butler County last month. The photo was snapped at the Butler County Board of DD (BCBDD) annual Community Recognition Dinner. Check out the [Facebook album of additional event photos](#). In addition, BCBDD prepared [an awareness video focusing on community-based jobs](#), which includes a short commercial advertisement. Several County Boards of DD have made great videos this year, illustrating developmental disabilities awareness efforts in their communities. Congratulations to all!*

## PostScripts

### Video Project Highlights Strong Families, Safe Communities Program Efforts

In 2013, DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) sought collaborative community proposals to establish treatment models that focus on crisis stabilization for youth with intensive needs. Many youth at-risk are not engaged in treatment programs, and may not be known to the community until a crisis unfolds. Care coordination and crisis intervention services can quickly stabilize a child's health, reduce risk of harm, and help a family remain together. A total of \$3 million out of a \$5 million state grant went to seven community partnerships to implement [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) projects, to coordinate services for youth at risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability. In July 2014, DODD and OhioMHAS announced a second round of funding, increasing the number of counties served by the initiative to 46. To learn from program participants involved in the projects, view this [brief, informative video](#).

### New OADSP Website Features Jobs and Training

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) has launched a comprehensive new website focusing on career opportunities in staffing agencies that serve people with disabilities. The new OADSP website at [www.oadsp.org](http://www.oadsp.org) offers online courses, as well as information about on-site training across the state. OADSP is a state chapter of the [National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\)](#) and is nationally recognized for the development of the DSPaths Credentialing Program, the first state program accredited by NADSP. OADSP is a 501c(3) nonprofit with funding from [DODD](#) and the [Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council](#).

### Kent State to Celebrate Autism Awareness with Special Events in April

Kent State University will be hosting 'Living with Autism' during Autism Awareness Month. The event will be held April 9 at 7:00 p.m. Sean Barron, author and speaker, will kick off the evening with a presentation about his own journey with autism. The campus community also will host a Rock-A-Thon fundraiser, earning donations from sponsors that will go toward scholarships for Kent State students studying autism spectrum disorder (ASD). More information is at: [Rock-a-Thon Fundraiser](#).

### Level of Care (LOC) Training, April and May

DODD's system for determining whether or not a person is eligible for services currently consists of two different Level of Care (LOC) tools, two process rules, and offers no requirements for evaluators. In 2012, a work group was formed to create a single LOC tool for County Boards and Intermediate Care Facilities, to ensure a more consistent and efficient process. The group created a tool using criteria based on the [Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000](#). Effective July 1, 2015, all evaluators will be required to use the new LOC tool. Before that date, evaluators will be required to complete online courses to effectively operate the tool. In preparation, DODD is hosting webinars that provide an overview of the upcoming rule. [Online registration](#) is open now, and several dates and times are available. Online training for the new LOC system will

be available in May. Watch your email, the SSA Update, and *Pipeline* for more information. For questions about the upcoming change, e-mail [LOC@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:LOC@dodd.ohio.gov).

## In the News

Items in the news concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[State Considers Delaying Independent Health-worker Proposal](#), (Findlay Courier © 03/27/2015)

['Massive changes' needed in Ohio's care of disabled, report says](#), (The Columbus Dispatch - © 3/27/2015)

[State officials tell people with disabilities that they can still choose caregivers](#), (Columbus Dispatch © 03/26/2015)

[Disability support services at a turning point](#), (Bellefontaine Examiner © 03/20/2015)

## OPRA Conference, April 7-8

The Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) spring conference is April 7-8 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Dublin. The conference offers an opportunity for hundreds of attendees and dozens of exhibiting companies to network and learn from each other. Informational sessions provide high-level learning opportunities that enable professional growth, and prepare attendees to share new information and ideas with others in their local communities. [Read more about conference sessions and speakers](#), and see the registration information at [www.opra.org](http://www.opra.org).

## SIBS Looking Forward Transition Retreat, April 10-12

The Ohio SIBS Looking Forward transition retreat is April 10-12 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. The camp is a great opportunity for students with disabilities, ages 17 - 22, and their siblings, ages 15 - 25. If you or someone you know is interested in attending this retreat, contact Dr. Tom Fish at McCampbell Hall, 1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210, [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu). Look for registration information soon on the [Ohio SIBS website](#).

## Family Advisory Council, April 14

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) digs in to a full agenda on April 14 at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., including updates by DODD Director Martin on the proposed budget, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Transition Plan. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. Contact for FAC meetings is Michele Kanode. To RSVP, contact her at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov), or call her at 614-644-0265.

## Accessible Vehicle Fair, April 15

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) annual Accessible Vehicle Fair is April 15 at the Ohio Expo Center/Lausche Building. The event is intended for administrative and vehicle maintenance staff from any organization that provides transportation services, such as transit providers, taxi companies, senior centers, and County Boards of DD. Attendees will see the latest wheelchair-accessible vehicles, including models offered on ODOT's term contracts. Vendors will answer questions, and educational sessions will include topics such as mobility management, technological innovations, and funding. For more information, see [the event flyer](#).

## Franklin County Self Advocate Group Sponsors Legislative Meeting, April 17

The Franklin County Board of DD Self-Advocate Advisory Council is finalizing plans for their second annual Legislative Advocacy Day on April 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road,

in Groveport. Several legislators will attend to listen to and seek feedback from self-advocates on various legislative issues and initiatives -- including the recently-introduced biennium budget proposals. For more information about the Self-Advocate Advisory Council, visit the [FCBDD website](#).

### **Assistive Technology Vendor Fair, April 23**

The annual Assistive Technology Fair will be held on April 23 at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office, 470 Glenmont Ave. in Columbus, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is no registration fee, and there will be door prizes and hands-on demonstrations of assistive technology devices. For details, or to register,

### **People First of Ohio Annual Meeting, April 25**

The People First of Ohio Annual Meeting will be Saturday, April 25, at Roberts Convention Centre in Wilmington. The agenda will include lots of information about upcoming changes to the developmental disabilities service system, as well as election of new People First of Ohio Board members. [Register now, and learn more.](#)

### **Direct Support Professional Summit, April 28**

The second annual [Direct Support Professional Summit](#) will be April 28 at the Xenos complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus. The DSP Summit is packed with unique, fun, and informative presentations that will leave DSPs full of ideas, knowledge, and inspiration. It is the only event of its kind in Ohio, and among the premier conferences for DSPs in the nation! Last year's event sold out, so [register today!](#) The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) receives a small grant from the Ohio DD Council to help defray the cost of the event, and helps keep the registration at \$35 per DSP. Attendees receive five Continuing Education Units (CEUs), lunch, and a one-year membership to OADSP and the national association, NADSP. The Summit is collaboratively planned by the Ohio DSP Council, funded by Ohio DD Council, and is comprised of leading DSPs from around the state. For more information contact Bethany Toledo at [btoledo@oadsp.org](mailto:btoledo@oadsp.org).

### **PAR Training – School-to-Work Transition and More, April 29 & 30**

Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) Training on School-to-Work Transition and Social Security Benefit Programs in 2015, including young adult benefits, will be hosted on April 29, at the Delaware County Board of DD, and on April 30, at the Educational Service Center (ESC) in Independence. For details and registration information, visit [the PAR website](#).

### **Call for Presentations: Annual IDD/MI Conference, September**

The [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) (NADD) is seeking three-hour and 90-minute workshop proposals for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference (Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/ Mental Illness), September 21-22 at the Crown Plaza/Columbus North Hotel. Proposals are encouraged to illustrate this year's theme: *Mental Health Aspects – Treatment and Support*, and must be received by NADD no later than April 24. Submissions received after that date will not be considered. Notification of acceptance will be emailed by April 30. [Submit your proposal online.](#)

### **Franklin County Provider Fair, May 13**

It gets bigger every year! Save the date for the next Franklin County Board of DD Provider Fair, May 13. This event will be held at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Plans are

being made for even more space for displays and conversations, and more parking for providers and attendees. Details will be provided on the [FCBDD website](#) as plans are finalized.

## **Tech II - Assistive Technology Fair, May 13-14**

Tech II – Technology Toward Employment, builds on last year’s successful technology conference that focused only on tablets. This year, on May 13 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Tech II will present many types of assistive technology that help people with disabilities get or keep a job—and will emphasize evaluation, funding, and training. Tech II will include hands-on exhibits, break-out sessions, and opportunities to talk one-on-one with assistive technology experts. It is sponsored by DODD, Ohio DD Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, Disability Rights Ohio, CareSource, and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. Registration is \$150, and financial assistance and scholarships are available on a limited first-come/first-served basis. [Registration information is online now.](#)

## **Save the Dates! OACB Spring Conference, May 14-15**

The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD spring conference will be May 14-15 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Join DD service professionals from across the state for two days of professional development and discussions of the latest trends and best practices in the industry. Visit [the OACBDD website](#) for more information and registration.

## **Mark Your Calendar! The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point, May 20**

[Registration is now open!](#) Request your tickets today for this is an annual event for Ohioans with disabilities, their families, friends, providers and support staff. The day is open to everyone, and The Arc encourages you to join them and the approximately 10,000 people who have attended each year, for decades. Cedar Point has generously donated a limited number of admission tickets and free picnic lunches again this year, and those tickets will be distributed as fairly as possible. All others can participate for \$32.00, which is almost half the regular admission price, and purchase picnic lunches at \$9.95 each.

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 8

April 15, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: NCI, TDD, and More about the Budget
- Autism Awareness: ADEP Initiative Shows Positive Outcomes
- Burk Joins DODD Leadership Team as Deputy Director, Information Technology Systems
- Family Advisory Council -- The Movers and Shakers
- OPRA Conference Spotlights System Change
- Pipeline Pix: Family Advisory Council in Action
- PostScripts: Many New Updates for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: NCI, TDD, and More about the Budget

A substitute version of the 2016-2017 biennial budget bill (HB 64) was presented yesterday during a House Finance and Appropriations Committee hearing. The Committee will hold further hearings on the new measure today through Friday, April 17. It is expected that, following this process, the bill will move on to the Senate the last week in April. Watch your email for a *Pipeline EXTRA* that overviews what's changed in HB64, and for an update on the progress of legislation.

### National Core Indicators - Staff Stability Survey

Director Martin contacted providers last week with updated information about the [National Core Indicators \(NCI\)](#), a collaboration between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), and a recent pilot of the National Core Indicators Staff Stability Survey. Thanking the providers who have completed the survey, he noted, "We learned a great deal from the data you provided ([read the report](#)), and the Department has used the information to help support our budget initiatives." The pilot now is complete, and NCI will make the survey available to all states.

DODD has decided to continue to administer the survey. In calendar year 2015, the Staff Stability Survey will continue to be voluntary, and will allow a wider range of providers to become familiar with the tool. Beginning January 1, 2016, the Department will require all agency providers to complete the survey.

Questions in the survey relate to volume, stability, compensation, and benefits for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) serving adults, age 18 years and older. Data gathered will help DODD, policy-makers, and advocates to:

- Inform policy/program development regarding direct service workforce improvement initiatives;
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of workforce initiatives; and,
- Compare state workforce outcomes with those of other states.

Ohio providers soon will receive an email from HSRI inviting participation in the survey. Providers that already have completed the survey during the pilot may disregard this notification. It is important to note that DODD will not be able to see individual responses, only that a provider has responded to the survey. Results of the survey will be reported only in the aggregate.

The 2015 survey should be completed by a provider's Human Resources or Payroll office, and reflect DSPs on payroll any time between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014.

**NCI will conduct webinars for providers, which will offer more detailed information. The webinars will be on April 30 at 3:00 p.m., and May 11 at 3:00 p.m., and may be [accessed online](#).**

Contact Tina Evans at [tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:tina.evans@dodd.ohio.gov), or 614-752-9028, if you have any questions regarding the Staff Stability Survey.

### **TDD Waiver Options Update**

Earlier this month, DODD contacted individuals and families currently receiving Transitions DD (TDD) waiver services, to share [information about the options available to them](#) as the waiver is phased out. DODD has worked with individuals enrolled in TDD and their families, and with providers, County Boards, and other state agencies, and determined that a different waiver would meet the waiver participants' needs more effectively. This transition will occur over a two-year period.

Everyone enrolled in the TDD waiver will have the option to enroll in the Individual Options (IO) waiver, which offers a broader array of services than TDD, including day and employment options. IO waiver services are designed to help individuals become more involved in community activities, and a nursing service also will be added to the waiver, effective July 1, 2016. Individuals also may choose to enroll in one of two other DODD waivers – the Level One waiver or the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver. [Information about all three waivers](#) is on the DODD website.

DODD submitted a proposed phase-out plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees Medicaid-funded waivers, in March. If CMS approves the plan, the transition period will begin July 1, 2015. After everyone has transitioned, the TDD Waiver no longer will exist.

*For more information on these and other topics, check these links online: [DODD Newsroom](#); we also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## Autism Update: ADEP Initiative Shows Positive Outcomes

*During Autism Awareness Month, Pipeline shares information about efforts by DODD and our partners to learn more, diagnose earlier, and provide new training opportunities for families and professionals. People who have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have many gifts, along with some challenges. We celebrate these gifts, while learning to understand the challenges.*

In January 2013, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) together announced plans for an expansion of the [Autism Diagnostic Education Project \(ADEP\)](#), statewide. Begun as a pilot project, and supported through the commitment of ODH and the [Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#), the pilot launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. These teams brought together the expertise of physicians and Early Intervention professionals to ensure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of ASD.

*Several positive outcomes resulted from the Diagnostic Partnership teams -- most significantly, the lag time was reduced between the initial suspicion of autism affecting a child, and the actual diagnosis.*

The expansion, funded through the [Office of Health Transformation Innovation Fund](#), now provides training to pediatricians and early interventionists to better coordinate efforts for ASD diagnostic evaluations. Specialized Early Intervention training also has been expanded to include best practices that nurture the parent/child relationship. In addition, funding helps to support a study that will explore the impact of nutrition and wellness for children with ASD.

Since the ADEP expansion was announced in 2013, Ohio has forged ahead to build local capacity for the early diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Now including 47 participating counties, 300 children have been evaluated. According to DODD Autism Project Manager and Family Liaison Tom Hess,

*“A key goal of the project is to lower the age of ASD diagnosis to 30 months or less - which we have done! Considering the national average for the age of diagnosis hovers around four years of age, this a tremendous achievement for Ohio and the approximately 350 County Board staff members, Help Me Grow service coordinators, and various medical providers involved in the project.”*

Under the collaborative umbrella including DODD, the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), Akron Children’s Hospital, and the Family/Child Learning Center, ADEP now is focused on not only sustaining and maintaining the current teams, but also addressing the diagnostic needs of counties and families in parts of Ohio that may not yet have local options available to them. Contact Tom Hess for more information about ADEP: 614-466-7480, or [thomas.hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:thomas.hess@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Burk to Lead DODD Information Technology Services Team

Michelle Burk has joined DODD as Deputy Director, Information Technology Services (ITS), effective April 6. She served most recently in the Ohio Attorney General’s Office as Chief Information Officer, where she was responsible for oversight of more than 100 projects annually, including execution of a multi-location data center plan, and oversight of the design and implementation of new information systems application. Burk also has served as IT Bureau Chief for Services to Families at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and as Director of Information Systems at the Ohio Arts Council.

Announcing her addition to the DODD leadership team, Director John Martin noted, “With her experience in change management, team building, leadership development, and process improvement, Michelle will help us to keep our critical IT work moving forward.”



*Michelle Burk, Deputy Director, DODD Information Technology Systems*

During her first week on that job with the Department, Burk noted,

*“DODD staff have been so welcoming! I am scheduled for several meetings that should quickly bring me up to speed on the work at-hand. There are many great projects already underway, and I see myself as a catalyst in keeping the positive momentum going. DODD’s IT group is a diverse and talented team and I look forward to working with everyone.”*

Burk also serves on the state’s Technology Board, established to [enhance enterprise IT alignment and coordination across state agencies](#). In her new role with DODD, she will serve as the Technology Board’s Health and Human Services lead person.

## **Family Advisory Council – The Movers and Shakers**

The movers and shakers of Ohio’s statewide developmental disabilities community are families of people served in the system. We listen to families for direction, and for their unique perspectives and ideas. No one knows this better than DODD Director Martin, who kicked-off yesterday’s Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting in Columbus by sharing more information about the proposed 2016-2017 budget and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Transition Plan, and leaving plenty of time for questions and input from attendees.

Director Martin was joined by Deputy Director Lori Horvath, who clarified some areas of concern for families. She noted, “Our priority is to make sure we help providers get ready for the new rules and the new service environment. There truly will be more options for individuals to connect with their communities, and CMS is clearly focused on people with developmental disabilities having a variety of life experiences that are outcome-based, not facility-based.”

In addition, the meeting included information presented by providers from around the state regarding employment services and day services, as well as a discussion on improved engagement for families in Ohio’s DD service system. The ongoing culture change, and the exploration of new and different options for individuals and families to consider, continues to energize conversations and allow for a healthy

exchange of ideas. As one parent commented, “Will this (change in waivers) work for me? I don’t know. It worked for you, so I’ll have to think about it some more.”

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. Contact for the meetings is Michele Kanode at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov), or 614-644-0265.

*See a photo from yesterday’s meeting in the Pipeline Pix section of this issue.*

## **OPRA Conference Spotlights System Change**

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) (OPRA) conference last week in Dublin offered an opportunity for the more than 450 service providers attending to learn about the many transformational changes underway in Ohio’s developmental disabilities service system, and across the nation. Keynote speaker for day one of the two-day conference was Barbara Merrill, CEO of the American Network of Community Options and Resources ([ANCOR](#)), an advocate organization and key national resource for private community providers of services for people with disabilities. She wasted no time in naming Ohio a strong leader on the national scene, stating,

*“I want to acknowledge the incredible importance that Ohio has in the scheme of things with ANCOR. Ohio is up there! A long line of Buckeyes has supported and participated in ANCOR since its inception in 1970! You are deeply represented, and when we look at the national scene, we say, ‘Ohio gets it right.’ In fact, Ohio is Ground Zero when it comes to the big picture.”*

Merrill highlighted several trends that currently are challenging the system, including the inherent workforce challenges of an aging population, Medicaid managed care, and resistance to changes in general. She noted, “Nothing produces more challenges than progress.”

DODD Director John Martin presented the keynote address on day two, offering an overview of the current status of the 2016-2017 proposed budget, and related initiatives. His comments underscored the importance of collaboration both within and outside of the developmental disabilities service system, noting the need for ‘give and take’ among agencies and across systems to “... get the job done for the people we are here to serve.”

Conference break-out sessions prompted conversations among providers regarding Home and Community-Based Services regulations, Medicaid expansion’s impact on Ohio healthcare programs, improving direct care workers’ wages, and other topics. OPRA President Mark Davis noted, “Now more than ever, providers have a voice in the system. We have \$316 million in new money invested in our system. We have never seen this magnitude of change, or this kind of investment! It’s an exciting time, so don’t sit this one out.”



*Inside the Nursing Services for the IO Waiver session at the OPRA conference is DODD presenter Donna Patterson, RN. Adding Nursing services to the IO Waiver is one of the upgrades currently proposed for the 2016-2017 budget.*

## **Pipeline Pix**

### **Family Advisory Council, Complete with Family Dog**



*Some of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) participants took a stretch break before lunch yesterday, including a faithful Family Dog, who listened as intently as the rest of the group. Director Martin shares information with FAC at each meeting, and knows that families will keep him focused on what matters most to people served in Ohio's developmental disabilities service system.*

## PostScripts

### Save the Date! Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit, June 17

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will host the Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit on June 17, at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus. The Summit, “Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio,” is designed to promote a shared understanding of the concept of trauma and a trauma-informed approach, as well as to contribute to a better understanding of the principles of trauma-informed care. In addition, Summit presentations will provide an update on the TIC initiative during the past year, and showcase Trauma-Informed Care Champion agencies and organizations in Ohio. Online registration for the Summit will open on or about May 1.

### Introducing: Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care Initiative

The Ohio Department of Medicaid and its partner state agencies, including DODD, have introduced Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care, a new initiative to rebalance long-term care spending, and ensure that individuals receive the services and supports they need. The initiative will launch July 1. Some Ohio County Boards of DD will be community-based entry points where people can get this information. Individuals currently served will be able to connect to other benefits for which they may be eligible, and people who are new to the system can be pointed in the right direction for more information. A website will debut in July at [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov). Please direct any questions to the Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care Communications team at [OhioBenefitsLTC@Medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:OhioBenefitsLTC@Medicaid.ohio.gov).

### OCALI Announces New, Informative Series

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)/Family Center is providing a new, free opportunity. Third Thursday, a new monthly one-hour webstream series, is designed for families of individuals with disabilities. Each month, you can learn from experts in the field as they address hot topics and key concerns, and provide research-based, tested practices and strategies to help address families’ most pressing needs. [Read more about Third Thursdays online.](#)

### Red Treehouse and ODE Announce Kindergarten Assessment and Readiness Webinar

On May 1, from noon until 1:00 p.m., the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), in partnership with [Red Treehouse](#), will hold a [Kindergarten Assessment and Readiness webinar](#) designed to provide parents of preschoolers, ages three and four, with information about kindergarten. Wendy Grove, Ph.D., and Director of the Office of Learning and School Readiness at ODE, is the presenter.

### Apps for People with Disabilities

[A challenge has been issued](#) by AT&T and New York University to develop new apps for people with disabilities. [For inspiration, hear some highlights](#) featuring people who have a disability. They talk about what they need to improve their lives. The challenge is to develop an application that will do so.

### Last Call for Nominees! APSI’s Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award

The Ron Kozlowski award is presented annually to a person or entity outside of Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement in advocacy for individuals with DD, and who has a long-term connection with these efforts within the service system. Applications must be received by April 28!

The award will be presented at the APSI Staff Luncheon in June. To nominate someone, [complete the form on APSI's website](#). The form may be downloaded, printed, and faxed to Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scanned and emailed to her at [cison@apsiohio.org](mailto:cison@apsiohio.org).

## In the News

Items in the news concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Home health community wary of proposed changes](#), (*Bucyrus Telegraph Forum* © April 4, 2015)

[YSU College Democrats Join Fight for YDC](#), (WKBN27 © April 5, 2015)

[Bill would mandate review process for privatization of state institutions, facilities](#), (*Columbus Daily Reporter* © April 10, 2015)

[How best to serve developmentally disabled adults?](#), (*Toledo Blade* © April 12, 2015)

## Franklin County Self Advocate Group Sponsors Legislative Meeting, April 17

The Franklin County Board of DD Self-Advocate Advisory Council's second annual Legislative Advocacy Day is April 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Bixby Living Skills Center, 4200 Bixby Road, in Groveport. Several Ohio legislators will attend to listen to and seek feedback from self-advocates on various legislative issues and initiatives, including the biennium budget proposal. For more information about the Self-Advocate Advisory Council, visit the [FCBDD website](#).

## People First of Ohio Annual Meeting, April 25

The People First of Ohio Annual Meeting will be Saturday, April 25, at Roberts Convention Centre in Wilmington. The agenda will include information about upcoming changes to the developmental disabilities service system, as well as election of new People First of Ohio Board members. [Register now, and learn more](#).

## Direct Support Professional Summit, April 28

The second annual [Direct Support Professional Summit](#) is April 28 at the Xenos complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus. DSP Summit presentations will offer DSPs new ideas and inspiration. The only event of its kind in Ohio, last year's event sold out, so [register today!](#) The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) receives a small grant from the Ohio DD Council to help defray the cost of the event, and helps keep the registration at \$35 per DSP. Attendees receive five Continuing Education Units (CEUs), lunch, and a one-year membership to OADSP and the national association, NADSP. The Summit is collaboratively planned by the Ohio DSP Council, comprised of leading DSPs from around the state, and funded by Ohio DD Council. For more information, contact Bethany Toledo at [btoledo@oadsp.org](mailto:btoledo@oadsp.org).

## PAR Training – School-to-Work Transition and More, April 29 & 30

Professionals, Advocates, Resources (PAR) Training about School-to-Work Transition and Social Security Benefit Programs in 2015, including young adult benefits, will be April 29, at the Delaware County Board of DD, and on April 30, at the Educational Service Center (ESC) in Independence. For registration, visit [the PAR website](#).

## Annual IDD/MI Conference, Call for Presentations due by April 24

The [National Association for the Dually Diagnosed](#) (NADD) is seeking three-hour and 90-minute workshop proposals for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Ohio IDD/MI Conference (Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/ Mental Illness), September 21-22 at the Crown Plaza/Columbus North Hotel. Proposals are encouraged to illustrate this year's theme: *Mental Health Aspects – Treatment and Support*, and must be received by NADD no later than April 24. Submissions received after that date will not be considered. Notification of acceptance will be emailed by April 30. [Submit your proposal online.](#)

### **Franklin County Provider Fair, May 13**

It gets bigger every year! Save the date for the next Franklin County Board of DD Provider Fair, May 13. This event will be held at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Plans are being made for even more space for displays and conversations, and more parking for providers and attendees. Details will be provided on the [FCBDD website](#) as plans are finalized.

### **Tech II - Assistive Technology Fair, May 13-14**

Tech II – Technology Toward Employment, builds on last year's conference that focused only on tablets. This year, on May 13 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Tech II will present many types of assistive technology that help people with disabilities get or keep a job—and will emphasize evaluation, funding, and training. Tech II will include hands-on exhibits, break-out sessions, and opportunities to talk with assistive technology experts. It is sponsored by DODD, Ohio DD Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, Ohio Association of County Boards of DD, Disability Rights Ohio, CareSource, and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. Registration is \$150. Financial assistance and scholarships are available on a limited, first-come/first-served basis. [Registration is online now.](#)

### **OACB Spring Conference, May 14-15**

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) spring conference is May 14-15 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Join DD services professionals from across the state for two days of professional development and discussions of the latest trends and best practices across the state and nation. Visit [the OACBDD website](#) for more information and registration.

### **Mark Your Calendar! The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point, May 20**

[Registration is now open!](#) Request your tickets today for this annual event for Ohioans with disabilities, their families, friends, providers, and support staff. The day is open to everyone. The Arc encourages you to join the approximately 10,000 people who have attended each year. Cedar Point has donated a limited number of admission tickets and free picnic lunches again this year, and those tickets will be distributed as fairly as possible. All others can participate for \$32.00 (almost half the regular admission price) and purchase picnic lunches for \$9.95 each.

### **Save the Dates! Ohio's Youth Leadership Forum, August 2-6**

Applications are now open for Ohio's Youth Leadership Forum, August 5-6, a five-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities, sponsored by the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Student delegates learn about choosing a career, the history of disability as a culture, available technology and resources, and self and systems advocacy. They are introduced to professionals with disabilities and have an opportunity to develop

their own Personal Leadership Plan to reach goals in education, employment and the community. Applications are [online now](#).

### DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 9

April 29, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Budget News, CSS Study, ABLE Act
- Autism Awareness: PLAY Project Delivers Positive Outcomes
- Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals
- Self Advocates Host Successful Legislative Day
- Behavioral Support Rule, Statewide Training
- Pipeline Pix: Teamwork Results in Nathan's Dream Job
- PostScripts: Many New Opportunities for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Budget News, CCS Study, ABLE Act

*A substitute version of the FY2016-2017 biennial budget bill (HB 64) has moved on to the Senate (see [Pipeline EXTRA! overview of House changes](#)). It would: require all DODD decisions on sheltered workshops to come before the legislature; create a Developmental Center (DC) Closure Review Commission and decrease DC funding by \$80 million over the biennium; adopt a new Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) policy agreed to by stakeholders and the Administration; and, decrease state waiver funds. DODD Director John Martin will provide testimony on May 14 at the Ohio Statehouse.*

## Study Focuses on Need for System Change, Community-Based Services

The Center for Community Solutions (CCS) recently released a study, reporting that Ohio relies on institutional care and sheltered workshops. The study, [Ohio at a Crossroads: Developmental Disabilities in Ohio](#), offers recommendations for a more integrated system. Recommendations include:

- Improve the availability of Medicaid waiver services, and identify a plan to eliminate the waiting list;
- Examine funding inequity among counties, and improve funding for the tax-equity line item in the state budget;
- Enhance funding for community employment supports, and streamline access to services;
- Accelerate Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) downsizing and conversion;
- Address wage issues of the direct care workforce, and monitor employee turnover and provider quality; and,
- Develop additional housing supports necessary to fully support community integration.

DODD Director John Martin said that the recommendations outlined in the CCS report support the Department's policy objectives to increase opportunities for community participation while strengthening the experience for individuals who receive facility-based care. He observed,

*"The individual is the core of our system. Our priority is to offer a broad range of services that meet the varying needs of the more than 90,000 individuals we serve. Community participation and facility-based care isn't an either/or proposition. Our goal is to honor the choice of individuals – to help those people who want to live in the community to do so, and help those people who want to live in an ICF to do so."*

Director Martin said several initiatives in the proposed FY2016-2017 Executive Budget are designed to meet those objectives. Proposals include:

- Adding approximately 3,000 waivers (2,000 Individual Options waivers and 1,000 Self-Empowered Life Funding waivers) to reduce the waiting list and help those who want to move from an ICF into the community to do so. These would be state-funded waivers, and don't include increases in waiver enrollment supported by local funds;
- Modernizing the ICF program to increase space and privacy for individuals who live in an ICF;
- Strengthening the direct care workforce through a six percent rate increase, and expanded funding for training; and,
- Developing new employment and day services options. A new service package would increase opportunities for community participation and community employment, and help providers make necessary changes to comply with the new rule from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Director Martin noted,

*"Ohio is at a crossroads, and at a point of transformational change. The Governor's historic investment in our system will enable us to serve more individuals, and to strengthen the wide range of services individuals receive."*

The Senate will continue its deliberations on the budget bill throughout April and May. After passage by the Senate, the bill will be reviewed by a Conference Committee comprised of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The budget must be finalized by the end of the state fiscal year, on June 30.

## **ABLE Act Update**

Proposed legislation that would allow Ohioans with disabilities to create their own tax-advantaged savings accounts, the [ABLE Act \(Federal Fact Sheet\)](#) is an Ohio-specific adaptation of the federal ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act, which was signed into law last December. DODD attended [a press conference](#) earlier this month in support of the legislation. Legislators hope to complete work on it by this summer, so families could access the new option beginning January 1, 2016.

Currently, people with disabilities who receive federal benefits may not have more than \$2,000 in assets, and must have a low monthly income. The bill would direct the State Treasurer to develop a program through which individuals are able to save money for a variety of expenses, including medical care, education, community-based supports, employment training, transportation, and housing. To be eligible for the tax-advantaged savings accounts, a person must meet standards established under the

federal act, including standards for children who qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and adults who qualify for SSI with a disability diagnosis before age 26. The accounts, contributions, and distributions would not count toward determining eligibility for means-based public assistance.

## Other Legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives Bill 188, Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act ([TIME Act](#)) directs the U.S. Secretary of Labor to discontinue issuing to any new profit or non-profit or governmental entity a sub-minimum wage certificate, and amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. Learn more about this legislation at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

*For more information on these and other topics, check the online [DODD Newsroom](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## Autism Awareness: PLAY Project Delivers Positive Outcomes

*During Autism Awareness Month, Pipeline shares information about efforts by DODD and our partners to learn more, diagnose earlier, and provide new training opportunities for families and professionals.*

### What is the PLAY Project?

The [PLAY Project](#) (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) is a play-based early intervention program that can improve social interaction, communication, and functional development in children on the autism spectrum. Highly-trained PLAY Project Consultants introduce the family to the principles and methods that will help them understand the program's goals, and gain skills that will lead to improved engagement and social interaction with their child.

PLAY Project Consultants invite families to share their knowledge about their child to help determine the child's unique profile. Based on this profile, a PLAY Plan is developed that specifies techniques and activities parents use as they interact with their child throughout their daily routine. During each home visit, the consultant supports the family in their role of play partner. They answer questions, coach the parents as they play with their child, model recommended activities and techniques, and provide written feedback. Video footage is taken to track and measure progress. On an ongoing basis, the consultant will reassess the child's progress, and modify the PLAY Plan to best meet the changing needs of the child and family.

### PLAY Project in Ohio

Since 2011, DODD has collaborated with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) to sponsor and support PLAY Project consultant training in Ohio. To date, 45 counties (view [Ohio Play Project Map](#)) have certified PLAY Project Consultants or trainees working on their PLAY Project certification. An additional 17 counties have access to PLAY Project services through their Council of Government (COG), or other shared arrangements among counties. This is a significant, long-term investment in an outcome-based early intervention approach.



*The Mercer County Board of DD got involved in the PLAY Project several years ago. This photo from Pipeline Quarterly, Winter 2010-2011, shows Emmett and his Mom, Tennille. She said that Emmett’s interactions with toys, and with people, “just exploded” while learning and using the PLAY techniques.*

## **PLAY Project Consultant Training**

In addition to the PLAY Project supervision, ongoing support has been provided through webinars by Dr. Richard Solomon (founder of the PLAY Project), advanced training for those who become certified, regional meetings, and technical support. Training to become a certified PLAY Project Consultant involves attending an intensive four-day training that covers the theoretical and practical considerations needed to implement the PLAY Project.

Following the training, each prospective Consultant submits at least ten videos and reports that demonstrate modeling and coaching PLAY activities and techniques. They also must complete five online case studies and attend up to five meetings with PLAY Project Supervisors who facilitate video reviews of participating children. This process takes approximately 18 months.

DODD and OCALI are committed to maintaining the infrastructure of PLAY Project services that has been developed over the last four years, and will continue to offer training to counties licensed in the PLAY Project.

*Contact Tom Hess for more information: 614-466-7480, or [thomas.hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:thomas.hess@dodd.ohio.gov).*

## **Spotlight on Direct Support Professionals**

DODD often spotlights Ohio’s direct support professionals, and is working with stakeholders and partners in the statewide DD community to improve the rate at which DSPs are paid (see budget article, this issue). In keeping up with developments, *Pipeline* attended the second annual [Direct Support Professional \(DSP\) Summit](#), hosted yesterday by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) at the Xenos complex, in Columbus.

Welcoming the more than 260 DSPs from across the state, DODD Director John Martin addressed the group, explaining,

*“I started my career as a DSP. My wife and I were house-parents at a home in northwest Ohio. We know that your days are quite busy helping people. We also are the parents of an adult son with severe disabilities, and who would not survive without the care of DSPs. So I thank you – thank you all.”*

He also stated that the FY2016-2017 budget currently under consideration has a reduced amount of funding for support of Ohio's developmental disabilities system from what was suggested originally, in Governor John Kasich's budget proposal. He explained, "The budget bill now is being considered by the Ohio Senate, and I encourage you to contact your legislators to restore this needed funding as the review process moves forward." Director Martin added that the proposed six percent rate increase for direct care providers has been long-awaited, and would be used to strengthen the system at the grassroots level.

The Summit offered several informational sessions for DSPs on subjects including the changing environment of traditional workshops (Upcycling Workshops), Personal Safety, Team Communication, Sign Language, and more. Attendees received five Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and a one-year membership to OADSP and the national association, NADSP. The Summit was collaboratively planned by the Ohio DSP Council, which is comprised of leading DSPs from around the state, and funded by Ohio DD Council.



### ***Transitioning Leadership***

*At the DSP Summit, Amy Gerowitz (right), who has led OADSP for many years, announced that she is handing over the organization's reins to Bethany Toledo (left), who steps into the role from a foundational career in direct support. Amy's legacy of respecting and elevating the direct support profession through training and accreditation is in good hands -- and DODD congratulates both ladies for their support of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.*

The OADSP Mission is to provide professional development to Ohio human service professionals to strengthen their skills – leading to a recognized, quality workforce, and improved outcomes for each professional and individual served. For more information contact Bethany Toledo, [btoledo@oadsp.org](mailto:btoledo@oadsp.org).

## **Self-Advocates Host Legislative Advocacy Day**

The Self-Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), along with the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), organized and hosted a legislative

advocacy event on April 17, at the Bixby Living Skills Center in Columbus. More than 150 self-advocates attended – representing 11 counties from throughout Ohio’s DD system. Seven Ohio legislators, as well as other state officials, attended and listened to individuals' concerns and ideas. Self-advocates focused on various legislative issues and initiatives, including the biennium budget proposal, accessible parking, the Medicaid asset limit, and more.



*Left: Natasha and friends from Arc West; Right: Representative David Leland talks with a growing line of several self-advocates ready to speak with him at break, about issues of importance to them.*

Franklin County self-advocate and lead organizer for the event Christine Brown introduced the purpose of the meeting in her always enthusiastic and to-the-point manner:

*“We’re here to talk about issues! Things like the Medicaid asset limit – let’s raise it! Let’s get the Miller Trust Fund going ... let’s help to attract and retain dedicated staff by increasing their pay. Come on, folks, we have a lot to do!”*

A [Miller Trust Fund](#) allows people to protect a certain amount of money in order to save it for a specified cause. Information about this and other current topics of interest to Ohioans with developmental disabilities was explained, and participants’ questions were addressed either at the meeting, or written down for follow-up after the meeting.

Legislators at the event pointed out that a proposal regarding independent providers was removed from the state budget bill during April -- due, in part, to a great deal of testimony by Ohioans with developmental disabilities. State Representative Bob Hackett addressed the group at Bixby Living Skills Center, noting,

*“You were heard! The response has been phenomenal.”*

He added that the input provided by Ohio’s DD community during this legislative process, “... has been extremely educational for us.” In addition, Representative Michael Curtin noted, “Groups like yours – that are organized – do better, and do more, than those that are not organized. The allocation of scarce resources is driven by what we learn from people like you, who are involved with the system that serves you.”

*For more information about the FCBDD Self-Advocate Advisory Council, visit the [FCBDD website](#).*

## Behavioral Support Strategies Rule, Statewide Training

A new rule, [Behavioral Support Strategies That Include Restrictive Measures \(5123:2-2-06\)](#), was effective January 1 this year, and aligns with the DODD person-centered philosophy. The rule applies to all persons and entities that provide specialized services -- regardless of payment -- including (but not limited to) County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, entities under contract with County Boards, licensed residential facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), providers of services funded by a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waiver administered by DODD, and providers of Supported Living services. A specific roll-out schedule has been created to ease the transition to the new rule, and all entities will be required to complete the transition by December 31, 2015.

Training has been conducted across the state to help implement, provide technical assistance, and clarify the direction of the rule. The DODD Division of Policy and Strategic Direction has partnered with the Department's Office of Provider Standards and Review, as well as with the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) to conduct the in-person trainings. Each training includes a presentation by OADSP, and a panel discussion led by DODD staff at the end of training to address any questions.

Additional online training opportunities will be available in the next few months. An implementation team is creating webinars tailored to specific audiences, including Human Rights Committees, Transition Plan authors, and individuals and families. Additional resources will be posted on [the DODD Work Space](#).

*Since January, approximately 2000 professionals, family members, and guardians have attended the rule sessions across the state. Response has been excellent, including this participant's observation: "I love the inclusion of different types of training. Very interactive, and captures all learning styles."*

DODD staff are compiling the questions and answers from the rule trainings and will create a Frequently Asked Questions document, which will be available in May. This material also will help identify other training needs and identify future webinar topics.

*See all DODD Rules online at [Rules in Effect](#) and [Rules Under Development](#).*

**(Pipeline Pix and Postscripts, see next pages)**

## Pipeline Pix

### Teamwork Helps Nathan Fulfill Dream



*Leigh Spohler (left), Support Services Coordinator at the Madison County Board of DD (Matco), and Nathan Rouse, Customer Service Associate at the Georgesville Square Lowe's, Columbus, pause for a snapshot in the Garden Center. Nathan came to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) from a workshop at Matco to begin working toward community employment. He met with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor to develop job goals. Nathan wanted to work in landscaping, and decided to connect with the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center to complete a community-based work assessment. After working one-on-one with a Job Developer there, all of the support team members worked together to help Nathan move forward. After months of job searching, Nathan landed his dream job in the Garden Center at Lowe's. Way to go, Nathan!*

## PostScripts

### Two County Board of DD Levies on May 5 Ballot

Two Ohio County Boards of Developmental Disabilities have levies on the May 5 ballot:

- Hancock County, 1.9 mills, renewal
- Scioto, 1.95 mills, additional

Information about the ballot issues and general voting information is on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

### Employer Authority - How it Works: New Webinar, May 6

The service named Employer Authority allows a person participating in DD services to hire, fire, direct, and manage their service providers as employees. With two different models available, and different features that characterize each, it can be difficult for families and non-agency providers to know which model is right for them. Join DODD staff members Lori Horvath and Roxanne Richardson, as they answer important questions about payment, certification, and other aspects of Employer Authority to help make navigating this system more manageable, and empower families and other providers to better understand the choices available to them. [Register for the webinar online](#). For more information about this and other DODD-sponsored webinars, see the [DODD Work Space](#).

## Kindergarten Assessment and Readiness Webinar, May 1

On May 1, from noon until 1:00 p.m., the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), in partnership with [Red Treehouse](#), will hold a [Kindergarten Assessment and Readiness webinar](#) designed to provide parents of preschoolers, ages three and four, with information about kindergarten. Wendy Grove, Ph.D., and Director of the Office of Learning and School Readiness at ODE, is the presenter.

## In the News

Items in the news concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[VSA Ohio, OCALI, launch Nexus to highlight programs and events for those on autism spectrum](#), (Cuyahoga Falls News Press © 04/27/2015); [Museums get creative to engage disabled visitors](#), (Columbus Dispatch © 04/26/2015); [Ohio House passes \\$71.5 billion biennial budget bill](#), (Stow Sentry © 04/26/2015).

## Symposium for First Responders and Nurses, May 11

Build Your Disability Toolkit: A Symposium for First Responders and Nurses is a training opportunity offered by The Ohio State University Nisonger Center on May 7. Nurses, Emergency Medical Service personnel, and law enforcement attendees receive seven hours of Continuing Education Units. The training is a collaboration between The Ohio State University (OSU) Nisonger Center, the Ohio Disability and Health Program, The OSU Center for EMS, and The OSU Studio for Healthcare and Design. The training seeks to help attendees serve patients with disabilities. Sessions include panel discussions with self-advocates and first responders.

[Registration is online now.](#)

## OCALI Announces New, Informative Series

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)/Family Center is providing a new, free opportunity. Third Thursday, a new monthly one-hour webstream series, is designed for families of individuals with disabilities. Each month, you can learn from experts in the field as they address hot topics and key concerns, and provide research-based, tested practices and strategies to help address families' most pressing needs. [Read more about Third Thursday online.](#)

## Americans with Disabilities Act, Essay Contest – Entry Deadline, May 31

[Celebrate 25 Years of the ADA!](#) July 26, 2015, marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is one of the most significant civil rights laws impacting people with disabilities. On July 22 and 23, Columbus will host several events in recognition of this landmark legislation. Included in its celebration, the ADA 25 Columbus Planning Committee has announced an [ADA 25 Columbus Essay Contest Call for Entries](#). Two winning essays will be selected, one from each age category. Each will be awarded a \$250 prize. Winning essays will be included in a commemorative booklet, will be read on the VOICEcorps reading service radio program Morning Exchange, and published in disability-related media.

## Franklin County Provider Fair, May 13

It gets bigger every year! Save the date for the next Franklin County Board of DD Provider Fair, May 13. This event will be held at the Lausche Building on the Ohio State Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Plans are being made for even more space for displays and conversations, and more parking for providers and attendees. Details will be provided on the [FCBDD website](#) as plans are finalized.

## **Tech II - Assistive Technology Fair, May 13-14**

Tech II – Technology Toward Employment, May 13 and 14, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, will feature many types of assistive technology that help people with disabilities get or keep a job—and will emphasize evaluation, funding, and training. The Tech II event will include hands-on exhibits, break-out sessions, and opportunities to talk with assistive technology experts. It is sponsored by DODD, Ohio DD Council, Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, Ohio Association of County Boards, Disability Rights Ohio, CareSource, and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. Registration is \$150. Financial assistance and scholarships are available on a limited, first-come/first-served basis. [Registration is online now.](#)

## **OACB Spring Conference, May 14-15**

The Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB) spring conference is May 14-15 at the Columbus Hilton at Easton. Join DD services professionals from across the state for two days of professional development and discussions of the latest trends and best practices across the state and nation. Visit [the OACB website](#) for more information and registration.

## **The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point, May 20**

[Register now!](#) Request your tickets today for this annual event for Ohioans with disabilities, their families, friends, providers, and support staff. The day is open to everyone. The Arc encourages you to join the thousands of people who attend each year. Cedar Point has donated a limited number of admission tickets and free picnic lunches again this year, and those tickets will be distributed as fairly as possible. All others can participate for \$32.00 (almost half the regular admission price) and purchase picnic lunches for \$9.95 each.

## **Save the Date! Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit, June 17**

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will host the Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit on June 17, at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus. The Summit, “Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio,” is designed to promote a shared understanding of the concept of trauma and a trauma-informed approach, as well as to contribute to a better understanding of the principles of trauma-informed care. Presentations will provide an update on the TIC initiative during the past year. Online registration for the Summit will open on or about May 1.

## **Ohio’s Youth Leadership Forum, August 2-6**

Ohio’s Youth Leadership Forum, August 5-6, is a five-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities, sponsored by the Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Student delegates learn about choosing a career, the history of disability as a culture, available technology and resources, and self and systems advocacy. They are introduced to professionals with disabilities and have an opportunity to develop their own Personal Leadership Plan to reach goals in education, employment, and the community. Applications are [online now.](#)

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 10

May 13, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Budget News, Other Legislation
- Thank a Care Giver - May is National Foster Care Month
- Strong Families, Safe Communities: Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Vulnerable to Abuse: Seniors, People with Developmental Disabilities
- Employment First Initiative, Leadership Update
- *Pipeline* Pix: Steinman Thanks *Pipeline* Readers
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Budget News, Other Legislation

*A substitute version of the FY2016-2017 biennial budget bill (HB 64) is now being reviewed by members of the Ohio Senate (see [Pipeline EXTRA!, overview of House changes](#)). It would: require all DODD decisions on sheltered workshops to come before the legislature; create a Developmental Center (DC) Closure Review Commission and decrease DC funding by \$80 million over the biennium; adopt a new Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) policy agreed to by stakeholders and the Administration; and, decrease state waiver funds.*

### Budget Testimony, Tomorrow

DODD Director John Martin will offer testimony on the FY2105-2016 biennial budget tomorrow at approximately 11:00 a.m., before members of the Ohio Senate at the Statehouse. Director Martin will testify regarding the need to restore the as-introduced budget, as all initiatives are related, and are required to achieve our policy objectives. Also tomorrow, advocates will testify and attend to otherwise show support and air concerns, following Director's Martin's testimony during the Senate Medicaid Committee hearing.

### Legislation Currently Under Consideration

Other legislation currently under consideration that affects Ohio's developmental disabilities community includes [HB 158](#). The Ohio House of Representatives is reviewing the bill, which would remove any remaining usage of the words 'mental retardation' or 'mentally retarded' from state law, and proposes replacing the terms with 'intellectual disability, or 'a person with an intellectual

disability.’ Beginning in 2009, lawmakers made comparable moves to change language in the Ohio Revised Code, including removing the words ‘mental retardation’ from the names of state and local developmental disabilities agencies.

In addition, the House Finance and Appropriations Committee last week advanced a measure that allocates more than \$50 million in the next biennium to expand the foster care system to include individuals up to age 21. The measure, [HB 50](#), directs the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to submit an amendment to the State Plan for child welfare services to expand foster care and adoption assistance, and make payments to persons up to age 21 who agree to meet certain job and education requirements. Currently, foster care and adoption payments cease on an individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. In addition, the measure includes provisions related to a ward's Bill of Rights.

*For more information on these and other topics, check the online [DODD Newsroom](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## **Thank a Care Giver - May is National Foster Care Month**

### **2015 Theme: “Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care”**

*DODD supports the host home concept, which emphasizes the value and the day-to-day support that a community-based family home provides. While the current Medicaid billing terminology used to describe such support is ‘Adult Foster Care,’ it encompasses many different elements involved in sharing a home.*

National Foster Care Month spotlights the experiences of the thousands of adults and children in the national foster care system – many of whom have disabilities. The [National Foster Care Coalition](#) encourages people to get involved by being foster or adoptive parents or mentors. Around the state and nation, many people with developmental disabilities currently need good, community-based homes.

*In fact, it is estimated that more than 100,000 U.S. adults with developmental disabilities now are in need of a family home due to a variety of circumstances.*

DODD spotlights National Foster Care Month by recognizing and promoting efforts to enhance the lives of adults and children in foster care and other family-home based care settings. Research and reporting has shown that a good Home Sharing situation follows these guidelines:

- Screening/matching between individuals and host families for compatibility;
- Requiring background checks for all adults who live in the home;
- Offering pre-home visitation. Homes must be clean, plumbing and electrical systems must be modern, and homes must have smoke detectors and marked fire exits;
- Providing staff training that is individual-specific, and emphasizes community engagement;
- Ensuring that a system for oversight is in place, as well as back-up coverage for emergencies;
- Offering respite care for the Host Family.

This year's theme, “Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care,” draws attention to the importance of permanency. Permanency can mean kinship care, guardianship, or lifelong permanent connections.

DODD salutes Ohio's foster families, and other individual mentors who offer excellent care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive and community-based environment.



***Ohio Shared Living opportunities offer family home relationships in the community.*** The extended family photo above is a group of family members and support relationships in Mahoning County. See this story and others in Pipeline Quarterly, [Summer 2014](#), focusing on the subject of residential options and family home settings. It features several articles about Ohio Shared Living services (Adult Foster Care\*) that explain how this option is working for individuals and families around the state.

*\*Note: [DODD rule 5123:2-9-33](#) contains language on Home and Community-Based Services, Adult Foster Care.*

## **Strong Families, Safe Communities: Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Deadline to Apply -- May 29, 5 p.m.**

DODD and state agency partner Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), together are seeking collaborative community proposals to establish treatment models of care that focus on crisis stabilization for children and youth with intensive needs. This is the third round of funding for the [Strong Families, Safe Communities \(SFSC\)](#) initiative, designed to serve Ohio youth in-crisis through local, community-driven solutions. The two agencies funded a total of 40 projects in State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2014-15.

For the 2016-17 biennium, proposals are welcomed from previous RFP responders, as well as new collaborative groups. All proposals must meet the guidelines and requirements of the [SFY 16-17 Strong Families, Safe Communities RFP](#). The deadline to apply is May 29, at 5:00 p.m. Questions concerning the RFP must be submitted electronically to [MHAS-OPWGRANTS@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:MHAS-OPWGRANTS@mha.ohio.gov), no later than May 22 at 5:00 p.m. Answers to questions will be posted on the OhioMHAS funding web page under the RFP heading. Supporting information and the RFP are [online now](#).



*DODD Director John Martin (center), and other supporters of SFSC programs in Hancock County and surrounding communities, spoke last year to a group of professionals and families involved in local SFSC efforts. Participants were enthusiastic about the differences they had seen in a relatively short time, when using and sharing SFSC techniques and strategies.*

For examples of this initiative in action, see an SFSC [Strong Families, Safe Communities 2014 video](#) in the [DODD News Room](#), and descriptions of the initiative's projects during the past two years, online at the [DODD Initiatives and Partnerships link](#).

## **Deemed More Vulnerable to Abuse: Seniors, and People with DD**

The DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, in cooperation with County Boards of DD and other service providers, continues to work diligently on improving our system for reporting and investigating MUIs pertaining to individuals served – some of the most vulnerable citizens in the state. Reporting, immediate action, notifications, thorough investigations, and prevention planning continue to be the foundation upon which a successful service delivery system is built. The MUI Unit supports efforts to improve reporting of suspected abuse involving individuals with developmental disabilities and senior citizens, and features this and other information in the Unit's next issue of [Well-Informed newsletter](#), Spring 2015, publishing at the end of this month. All issues are archived online at [Well-Informed newsletter](#).

### **Ad Campaign Stresses Reporting Suspected Abuse**

Attorney General (AG) Mike DeWine and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Ohio have joined forces in donating space on more than 200 traditional and digital billboards across the state to urge anyone who suspects a friend or loved one is being abused, to report their suspicions to local authorities, or to the AG's office. The billboards will be seen throughout May, in recognition of Older Americans Month. DeWine stated,

*"Elder abuse is a very serious, and often unreported issue, and we all must work together to protect Ohio's older adults. They are among the most vulnerable citizens in our communities."*

He added, "I am hopeful that this billboard campaign will encourage residents to look for signs of elder abuse and report them to authorities so that those who take advantage of the elderly in Ohio can be held accountable."

## **Crime Victims with Disabilities to Get More Help from the State**

"Ohio is expected to get a big boost in federal crime victims funds this year and programs for disabled crime victims (sic) are likely to get a significant chunk of it," according to Attorney General Mike DeWine, at the recent '2 Days in May' crime victims conference.

Ohio has been receiving about \$15 million in federal dollars for crime victims, and the allocation may improve to as much as \$60 million, allowing for additional victim assistance. According to DeWine, some of the additional money will be targeted for education, prevention, and enforcement programs for crimes against people with disabilities.

## **Employment First Initiative, Leadership Update**

The DODD [Employment First](#) team reports an update on leadership for the initiative, as Kristen Helling, Employment First lead for the State of Ohio, has accepted a new leadership role with [Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities](#) (OOD) as Assistant Deputy Director for the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. In this role, Helling will continue to work with community partners and other stakeholders to advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. She will join OOD on May 18. Stacy Collins, project manager in the DODD Division of Policy and Strategic Direction, will be the DODD lead for the Employment First Initiative, following the departure of Helling.

Collins notes that her recent experience at the Department as Project Manager with the Employment First Initiative, as well as previous related experience in the public and private sectors serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will help to bridge the transition to her new role. She stated, "I am honored to take on this new role, to continue to promote change within our system that will increase the number and improve the quality of community employment outcomes for Ohioans with developmental disabilities."



*Kristen Helling*



*Stacy Collins*



DODD congratulates both of these fine staff members on their new roles within the statewide developmental disabilities service system.

## Pipeline Pix

### Steinman Says, "Thank You, *Pipeline* Readers!"



***It has been my pleasure to serve you.***

*Sherry Steinman, creator and editor of the DODD Pipeline publications since the first issue in February 2007, will retire from state employment effective June 1. She says,*

*"Thank you, Pipeline readers, DODD co-workers, and the vast developmental disabilities community of wonderful people! I will look forward to following your progress from a different vantage point, as I explore new options in a community-based job ... just as so many of you are doing. I will carry the message that, 'Within the heart of each community, everyone belongs,' wherever I go."*

---

NOTE: After June 1, your contact for *Pipeline* will be Kerry Francis: [Kerry.Francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Kerry.Francis@dodd.ohio.gov), at 614-644-0263. In addition, DODD Administrative Assistant Michele Kanode reports that an Open House for Steinman will be hosted on the 12<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower on May 28, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., in room 1240. Contact her at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov); 614-644-0265.

## PostScripts

### Passage of Both County Board of DD Levies on May 5 Ballot

Two County Boards of DD had levy requests on the May 5 primary election ballots. Both were passed, according to unofficial final results from the counties' Boards of Elections. Congratulations to all! Information about the ballot issues and general election information is on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

- Hancock County: Renewal - 1.9 mills (5 years) – PASSED, with 80.9 percent of the vote
- Scioto County: Additional - 1.95 mills (5 years) – PASSED, with 61.57 percent of the vote

## **Start Planning! 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

July 26, 2015, marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is one of the most significant civil rights laws impacting millions of people with disabilities. Columbus will host events in recognition of this landmark legislation on July 22 and 23. DODD will report on these and other events around the state in future issues of [Pipeline](#), as well as on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act, Essay Contest – Entry Deadline, May 31**

[Celebrate 25 Years of the ADA!](#) July 26, 2015, marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is one of the most significant civil rights laws impacting people with disabilities. On July 22 and 23, Columbus will host several events in recognition of this landmark legislation. Included in its celebration, the ADA 25 Columbus Planning Committee has announced an [ADA 25 Columbus Essay Contest Call for Entries](#). Two winning essays will be selected, one from each age category. Each will be awarded a \$250 prize. Winning essays will be included in a commemorative booklet, will be read on the VOICEcorps reading service radio program Morning Exchange, and published in disability-related media.

## **Family Advisory Council - Next Meeting, June 16**

The next DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting is June 16 at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street. The agenda will include an update on the budget, and related news at the state and national level, presented by Director John Martin. For more information about FAC or this upcoming meeting, contact Tom Hess at [Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov), or Michele Kanode at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).

## **In the News**

Items in the news concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[Disabled Crime Victims to Get More Help from the State](#), (Columbus Dispatch, © May 5, 2015); [Legislation being considered in Ohio House would remove 'mentally retarded' references from state law](#), (Cuyahoga Falls News Press © May 6, 2015).

## **Register Now! Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit, June 17**

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will host the Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit on June 17, at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus. The Summit, "Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio," is designed to promote a shared understanding of the concept of trauma and a trauma-informed approach, as well as to contribute to a better understanding of the principles of TIC. Presentations will provide an update on the TIC initiative during the past year. View complete conference details and registration [online now](#).

## **Camp Blue Skies – Overnight Camp for Adults, September 14-18**

Registration is now open for Camp Blue Skies, an overnight camp for adults, age 21 and over, who have developmental disabilities. This five-day camp offers adults opportunities to make friends, participate in fun and unique activities, and develop skills for healthful and independent living within a traditional camp setting. Activities include fishing and canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, bingo, field games, campfire, and much more.

Camp Blue Skies takes place September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited, a fully accredited camp in Ashley, Ohio. More details are available in this [brochure](#) and at the Camp Blue Skies [website](#).

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Volume 9, Issue 11

May 27, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Budget Process, Testimony
- National Foster Care Month: Ten Tips for Family Caregivers
- Employment First Spotlight: Darke County
- Website Updates: New Content, New Easy Read Tools
- *Pipeline* Pix: The Arc of Ohio, Day at Cedar Point
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Budget Process, Testimony

Members of the Ohio Senate currently are reviewing a substitute version of the FY2016-2017 biennial budget bill, HB 64 (see [Pipeline EXTRA!, overview of House changes](#)). While in the lower chamber, the Ohio House created a Developmental Center (DC) Closure Commission, decreased DC funding by \$80 million over the biennium, and adopted a new Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) policy agreed to by stakeholders and the Administration.

DODD Director John Martin presented [testimony on the 2016-17 Budget](#) on May 14, before Senate legislators at the Ohio Statehouse. During the introduction, he stated,

*"I am grateful for the input and counsel we have received from families, self-advocates, providers, County Boards, and legislators -- as we continue to shape and improve our system."*

In addition, Director Martin emphasized the need to restore the as-introduced budget, noting that all of the outlined initiatives are related, and are needed to achieve the Department's policy objectives. Advocates also testified and attended the budget hearings to show support and air concerns. [Learn more about their comments online.](#)

*For more information check the online [DODD Newsroom](#). We also invite you to [share your feedback](#).*

## National Foster Care Month: Ten Tips for Family Caregivers

National Foster Care Month spotlights the thousands of adults and children in the U.S. foster care system – many of whom have disabilities. DODD encourages people to “Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care” – the theme for National Foster Care Month 2015. The Department supports the host home concept, which emphasizes the value and day-to-day support that a family home provides. Current Medicaid billing terminology used to describe such support is ‘Adult Foster Care,’ and we are working to transition that language to Ohio Shared Living, which better describes this residential service option.

DODD salutes Ohio’s foster families, and the many individual mentors who offer excellent care to individuals with and without disabilities in a community-based environment. Learn more about Ohio Shared Living in the [Summer 2014](#) issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, and read about related rules online, at Rules in Effect, [5123:2-9-33](#).

### Ten Tips for Family Caregivers

Here are ten tips for family caregivers, assembled from conversations among family members at the DODD Family Advisory Council, and materials from various disability advocacy organizations:

1. Choose to take charge of your life, and don’t let your family member’s illness or disability *always* take center stage.
2. Remember to be good to yourself. You deserve some quality time, too.
3. Watch for signs of depression, and don’t delay in getting professional help when you need it. Signs include ‘feeling down’ for more than a couple of weeks, or losing interest in favorite hobbies or activities.
4. When people offer help, accept the offer and suggest *specific* things they can do to help you. *Example:* “Thank you! You can help me by being available on Friday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. so I can run some errands.”
5. Educate yourself about your family member’s condition. New research is often available online, or at conferences. Information is empowering!
6. Know the difference between caring and doing. Be open to technologies and ideas that can promote independence for people with developmental and other disabilities.
7. Trust your instincts. Most of the time they will lead you in the right direction.
8. Grieve for your losses, and then allow yourself to dream new dreams.
9. Stand up for your rights as a caregiver and as a person.
10. Seek support from other caregivers. There is great strength in knowing you are not alone.

Please share these tips with other caregivers, and let us know if you have others! Send an email with your thoughts to Kerry Francis at [Kerry.Francis@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Kerry.Francis@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Next Meeting of Family Advisory Council is June 16

Speaking of family caregivers, the next DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting is June 16 at Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street. The agenda will include an update on the budget, and related news at the state and national level, presented by Director John Martin. For more

information about FAC or this upcoming meeting, contact Tom Hess at [Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov), or Michele Kanode at [Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Michele.Kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Employment First Spotlight – Darke County

*Since March 2012, when Governor John Kasich signed the Employment First initiative into law, the culture of Ohio's developmental disabilities community has shifted significantly toward community-based, integrated employment – and not only in large metropolitan areas. DODD is pleased to spotlight success, and we thank the Darke County Board of DD for sharing this story.*

Village Green Healthcare Center in Greenville strongly supports the Employment First initiative in Darke County. After receiving her training through the Bridges to Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Public/Private Partnership grant, Village Green Executive Director Nick Anderson gave Erika Smith an opportunity for employment.

She originally was hired at Village Green in the housekeeping department, as a part-time aide. The healthcare center staff immediately noticed Erika's dedication – filling in wherever she was needed – her work ethic, and her passion for the job. They decided that she would be a better fit on their full time schedule. With the excellent training and support of Village Green administrative staff and co-workers, Erika began her full time position in the housekeeping department.



*Employee Erika Smith has been featured in local newspapers during National Disability Employment Awareness Month last October, and in the DODD [Pipeline Quarterly, Autumn 2014](#).*

Village Green again showed their support for Employment First when hiring Lauren Warner. Lauren is a part-time employee in the dietary department, and has demonstrated the skills and abilities necessary to succeed. When asked what makes Erika and Lauren such great employees, Anderson stated, "Their work ethic, their personalities, and their positive attitudes are contagious. Erika opened a lot of doors and windows for others at Village Green."

Anderson also has reached out to the Darke County Board's Community First department when in need of volunteers at Village Green. They note that volunteerism is open to anyone wishing to donate their time, according to Darke County Board staff. Volunteerism can build on experience and help

develop social skills in the process – furthering opportunities for individuals to move forward in the spirit of Employment First.

DODD lead person for the Employment First initiative Stacy Collins observes,

*“We applaud Village Green Healthcare Center for recognizing that Erika and Lauren are skilled, contributing members of the workforce. There is a pool of talented and skilled workers waiting to be hired. Congratulations to Erika and Lauren!”*



***Employment Partners -- The Darke County Board of DD and Village Green Health Center***

*(L to R): Erika Smith, full-time employee; Nick Anderson, executive director, Village Green; Tamala Marley, employment advisor, Darke County Board of DD; Lauren Warner, employee; and Rodney Willis, Community First director, Darke County Board of DD.*

*Photo and story acknowledgements to Eric Lee, Darke County Board of DD, [ericl@darkedd.org](mailto:ericl@darkedd.org)*

## **DODD Website Updates: New Content, New Easy Read Tools**

As the next phase in our [DODD.ohio.gov](http://DODD.ohio.gov) website redesign, all old content is being removed. Benefits include:

- *A better user experience.* The website has a streamlined design, and is easier to navigate.
- *Improved search functionality.* With all content in one environment, your searches will capture all relevant results without capturing outdated content.
- *Updated content.* All content is streamlined - information exists on one page that's linked across the site. This ensures that updates are consistent across the website.

Any outdated content will be removed after close of business, May 28. You'll see a new landing page when you go to log in to any DODD application. The page includes key links, and a link back to the homepage.

**NOTE!** *Due to this change, any previous bookmarks to these pages no longer will work. All content has been updated and added to the [DODD.ohio.gov](http://DODD.ohio.gov) website – you can bookmark any of these new pages.*

You also may access applications, such as the Provider Certification Wizard (PCW) and the Medicaid Services System (MSS), by clicking on the Log In button at the top of the screen. In addition, a [reference guide has tips on where to find often-used information](#).

## My DODD, New Easy Read Tools

Easy Read is a format that uses simple, clear language and pictures to convey important information to the widest possible audience. DODD has developed Easy Read versions of information for:

- Five Key Parts of Person-Centered Planning
- Self-Determination
- Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities

These are available on the [My DODD](#) page of the website, with more Easy Read tools in development for posting later this summer. We hope you find the new website easier to use. If you have questions or comments, please send an email to [webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@list.dodd.ohio.gov).

## Pipeline Pix

### The Arc of Ohio, Annual Day at Cedar Point



#### ***Addison and Jackson show the way!***

*Welcoming the thousands who attended from the many chapters of The Arc of Ohio, Addison (left) and Jackson share the showmanship of their grandpa – The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks! He noted that in addition to the thousands of Ohioans who attended The Arc Day at Cedar Point on May 20, The Arc/ Mercer flew in from a sister chapter in Trenton, New Jersey!*



### ***No fear!***

*Thanks to The Arc of Ohio for another wonderful day at Cedar Point - it was a little chilly, but everyone had a great time. DODD was honored to be a part of the fun, and help The Arc offer families this wonderful opportunity. Above are two men from Creative Foundations, a provider that brought more than 100 individuals to enjoy the day. See more photos and information on [The Arc of Ohio's Facebook page](#).*

## **PostScripts**

### **Level of Care (LOC) - Online Training Available**

This training is required for LOC Evaluators before July 1, 2015! [Two online courses for Level of Care evaluators now are available](#) on the DODD website. The courses are free, and should take between two and three hours to complete. Successful completion of both courses provides access to a certification test, required for current evaluators before July 1, 2015. For questions about the new LOC Rule or this new evaluator training, contact DODD at [LOC@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:LOC@dodd.ohio.gov).

### **The Arc of Ohio Training**

[Registration now is open](#) for the Arc of Ohio training titled, "Ohio State Budget (Independent Providers, Waivers, Medicaid) - Act II," Thursday, June 25. The training will be hosted at the Hollywood Casino, 200 Georgesville, Rd., in Columbus. Specific topics will be addressed by several presenters, including DODD Director John Martin. The Arc reminds everyone that you must be age 21 or over to attend this venue.

### **Last Call! Strong Families, Safe Communities RFP -- Apply by May 29, 5 p.m.**

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), together are seeking collaborative community proposals to establish treatment models of care that focus on crisis stabilization for

children and youth with intensive needs. This is the third round of funding for the [Strong Families, Safe Communities \(SFSC\)](#) initiative, serving Ohio youth in-crisis through local, community-driven solutions. The two agencies funded a total of 40 projects in State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2014-15. For the 2016-17 biennium, proposals are welcomed from previous RFP responders, as well as new collaborative groups. Proposals must meet the guidelines and requirements of the [SFY 16-17 Strong Families, Safe Communities RFP](#). The deadline to apply is May 29, at 5:00 p.m. Supporting information and the RFP are [online now](#). See an [SFSC 2014 video](#) in the [DODD News Room](#) for examples of this initiative in action. Descriptions of previous projects are online, at the [DODD Initiatives and Partnerships link](#).

## Summer Recreation with You in Mind

What's an Ohio summer without at least one trip to an amusement park or zoo? A helpful fact sheet for people with disabilities is now available from Disability Rights Ohio! [COMMUNITY INTEGRATION: Amusement Parks, Zoos, and Recreation Places](#) focuses on rights of people with disabilities, and accessibility options to consider while enjoying the traditions of summer.

## In the News

Items in the news concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

[People with disabilities fight for fair wages](#), (WOIO-TV CBS 19 - Cleveland © May 20, 2015); [Nine graduate from Project SEARCH internship program](#), (Springfield News Sun © May 18, 2015); [DD services in most integrated setting](#), (Greenville Daily Advocate © May 14, 2015); [Ohio State program gives students a feeling of inclusion](#), (Columbus Dispatch © May 14, 2015).

## Register Now! Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit, June 17

DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will host the Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit on June 17, at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus. The Summit, "Creating Environments of Resiliency and Hope in Ohio," is designed to promote a shared understanding of the concept of trauma and a trauma-informed approach, as well as to contribute to a better understanding of the principles of TIC. Presentations will provide an update on the TIC initiative during the past year. [View complete conference details and registration online now](#).

## Camp Blue Skies – Overnight Camp for Adults, September 14-18

Registration now is open for Camp Blue Skies, an overnight camp for adults, age 21 and over, who have developmental disabilities. This five-day camp offers adults the opportunity to make friends, participate in fun and unique activities, and develop skills for healthful and independent living within a traditional camp setting. Activities include fishing and canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, bingo, field games, campfire, and much more. Camp Blue Skies takes place September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited, a fully accredited camp in Ashley, Ohio. More details are available in this [brochure](#) and at the Camp Blue Skies [website](#).

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 9, Issue 12

John L. Martin, Director

June 11, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Senate Sub Bill Introduced
- New Adult Guardianship Rules, Training
- DD Council Seeks New Members
- Advocacy United Launches New Blog
- Pipeline Pix: Recognizing Ongoing Contributions to Ohio's DD Community
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Senate Sub Bill Introduced

Tuesday, members of the Senate Finance Committee released a substitute version of the FY2016-2017 biennial budget bill, HB 64. The Sub Bill makes several changes to the As Introduced and As Passed by House versions of HB 64.



The [text of the Senate version of HB 64](#), as well as the [Budget in Detail](#) and [Comparison Document](#) created by the Legislative Services Commission, offer full details of the Sub Bill. Updates on some key provisions include:

### Direct Care Staff Rate Increase

The 6 percent rate increase for Homemaker Personal Care was amended to implement the increase over two years - 3 percent beginning on January 1, 2016, and an additional 3 percent beginning on January 1, 2017.

**What this means:** Direct Care Staff would get the full increase, but wouldn't see the full increase until January 1, 2017.

### Developmental Center Closure Commission

The As Passed by House version of HB 64 established a new process to close any Developmental Center (DC). The process includes a new 13-member commission that would review specific criteria and submit a recommendation to the Governor within 30 days of the notice of the intent to close a DC. The Senate amended the language to extend the time the Commission has to provide its report to 90 days (from 30 days),

and to require that one member of the Commission be a family member of a person who is living in the Developmental Center.

**What this means:** If enacted, the new closure process, including the DC Closure Commission, will be implemented in 90 days.

### **Intermediate Care Facilities Program Changes**

The As Introduced version of HB 64 included provisions designed to modernize the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) Program, including a flat rate for those with the least significant disabilities, moving all ICFs to two per bedroom, and redesigning the reimbursement model. Families said they felt some of these changes would limit access to the ICF program, and reduce the level of service their family member receives.

In response to that feedback, the Department and Providers amended many of the provisions; these changes were included in the As Passed by House version of HB 64. The Senate retained the amended language, with the exception of the provision that exempted children from the two-per-bedroom clause – the Senate increased the age to which the exemption applies from 18 years old to 21.

**What this means:** The changes that will take place have been agreed to by stakeholders and the Administration, and will balance modernizing the program with the desire of families to maintain the type of service they currently receive.

### **Bill of Rights**

The As Passed by House version of the budget made changes to the Bill of Rights of People with Developmental Disabilities. However, advocates said that the changes could limit their rights. They also said that the Bill of Rights has served people for more than 20 years, and that they should be a part of the process to make any changes. The Senate removed the changes to the Bill of Rights.

**What this means:** The changes to the Bill of Rights of People with Developmental Disabilities currently are not part of HB 64.

### **Independent Provider Changes**

The As Introduced version of the budget laid out a process to transition independent providers to a new model where the individual receiving services is the employer of record. This move would expand self-direction, and ensure the State is in compliance with federal labor laws. After hearing feedback from individuals, families, and providers, the House removed this provision from the budget. The Senate did not add the provision back into the budget.

**What this means:** The Senate version of the budget does not contain a provision to transition independent providers to a new model. Because self-direction helps individuals have more control over who provides their care and how their care is provided, the State will continue efforts to add a self-directed option to all waivers.

## **Next Steps**

In the next few weeks, the Sub Bill will work its way through the Senate, then through Conference Committee. The deadline for the Governor to sign the budget is June 30. As the process continues, the Department will continue to share updates.

If you have questions, please call the DODD Budget and Developmental Center Closure Hotline toll-free at 855-611-6446 (OHIO).

## New Adult Guardianship Rules, Training

[New rules](#) to bring uniformity and consistency to Ohio's adult guardianship practices became effective June 1. Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio Sup.R. 66.01 through 66.09 and Sup.R. 73 provide clear guidance for best practices in adult guardianship cases, and regulate guardianship compensation. The new rules:

- Require courts to institute a comprehensive complaint process
- Instruct guardians to exercise due diligence, avoid conflicts of interest, and act with integrity and above reproach
- Emphasize person-centered planning and making least restrictive, most normalizing decisions possible on behalf of adult wards
- Underscore the importance of educated and knowledgeable guardians

### Required training for guardians of adults

Under the new rules, guardians are required to complete a one-time fundamentals course, as well as continuing education. To help guardians meet these requirements, the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College will host a [six-hour guardian fundamentals course](#); separate tracks will be offered for professional guardians (i.e., attorneys, social workers) and for lay-person guardians (i.e., family members, volunteers). Sessions will be hosted in regional locations across the state and offered free of charge. [Register online](#). If you don't have access to a computer, contact your local court, or call the Judicial College at 614-387-9445.

The three-hour continuing education seminars will be available in early 2016; they also will be hosted in regional locations across the state and offered free of charge.

Read the frequently asked questions for more information about the [new rules affecting guardians of adults](#).

## Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Seeks New Members

The [Ohio Developmental Disabilities \(DD\) Council](#) is recruiting new members.

Do you know any self-advocates that would be interested in making a difference?  
One who would like to become a leader and/or Chairperson of a Council Committee?  
One who would have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. and tell their story to their State Representative?

If you know of someone that would answer yes to all of these questions, then ask them to join our team!

Apply today! You can [apply online](#), download a [paper application](#) and mail it to the DD Council office, or contact Carla Cox at 614-644-5538 or [carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:carla.cox@dodd.ohio.gov). Learn more about [membership on DD Council](#).



## Advocacy United Launches New Blog

Advocacy United launched a new blog, [Let's Give 'em Something to Talk About](#), to do just that! The blog is another way self-advocates can share their thoughts about advocacy efforts.

The first post was written by Diana Lynn Mairose, co-chair of Advocacy United, president of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and a well-known advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Self-advocates regularly will share their thoughts on different topics about advocacy, so check back often.

*The Mission of Advocacy United is to help move people with disabilities into places of power so that their voices will be heard.*

## Pipeline Pix

### Recognizing Ongoing Contributions to Ohio's DD Community



Regarded as the "mother of services" for people with developmental disabilities in Allen County, long-time DD advocate Mary Ann Brown recently was inducted in to the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Over the years, Mary Ann has brought comfort to families facing the challenges of a child with disability. In addition to serving as director of The Arc of Allen County from 1953 to 1995, Mary Ann guided the formation of a sheltered workshop, helped secure federal funding for group homes and apartments, and laid the groundwork for an ICF that today bears her name.

This Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) program celebrates outstanding older Ohioans for their achievements and contributions to others. Since 1977, more than 400 individuals have been recognized for their contributions the benefit the local, state, and national community. Read more about [Mary Ann's contributions and the Hall of Fame](#) on ODA's website.

## PostScripts

### Training

#### ICF-IID Direct Billing Training – July 15 and 23

[ICF-IID Direct Billing Training](#) is July 15 and July 23. Both classes will take place 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio. To register, email your provider name, provider number, and each attendee's name to [Ombudsmen\\_training@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Ombudsmen_training@medicaid.ohio.gov). Seating is limited, so register soon to guarantee the date you want.

The July 23 session also will be offered via webinar. [Register online](#) - after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you're unable to attend any of the sessions, an online replay of the webinar will be available.

### Level of Care Evaluator Online Training – June 30 Deadline

All Level of Care (LOC) Evaluators must complete two online courses before July 1, 2015. [Module 1](#) covers LOC processes and requirements for LOC evaluators, and [Module 2](#) covers areas of assessment and assessment scoring. For questions about the new LOC Rule or this training, contact DODD at [LOC@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:LOC@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit – June 17

The Second Annual Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Summit is June 17 in Columbus, Ohio. Learn more about [conference details and registration information](#).

## Conferences and Events

### Arc of Ohio Spring Conference – June 25



The Arc of Ohio spring training, Ohio State Budget (Independent Providers, Waivers, Medicaid) - Act II, is Thursday, June 25 at Hollywood Casino in Columbus, Ohio. Due to the venue, attendees must be 21 years old. [Learn more and register online](#).

### NEW DATE: Family Advisory Council – July 21

The Family Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 has been moved to Tuesday, July 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location has not changed.

### Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18



[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

### 6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event – September 16



The sixth annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event is September 16, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Xenos Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. Hosted by the Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, this event focuses on DSPs, and shares ideas on how to live happier lives, reduce stress, and improve health and wellbeing. [Register online](#). If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

## In the News

- [The generation gap in care for developmentally disabled Ohioans](#), WKSU, May 25, 2015
- [Grants aim to bring Ohio youth out of the shadows](#), *The Marion Star*, May 30, 2015
- [Seclusion practices to end; legislation, lawsuits, pressure from parents lead to change for developmentally disabled](#), *New Philadelphia Times Reporter*, June 7, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free: 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, if you feel it is a conflict – or that potentially a County Board may be involved in the allegation – you can report your concerns through the hotline.

**Ohio** | Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 9, Issue 13

John L. Martin, Director

June 24, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Executive Budget, Conflict of Interest Provision
- DODD Portal, Applications Unavailable 5:00 p.m. June 25 through June 28
- Providers Can Create Free Listing on Angie's List
- Pipeline Pix: APSI Recognizes Advocacy Efforts
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Executive Budget, Conflict of Interest Provision

### Executive Budget Process

June 16, the Senate Finance Committee released the Omnibus Amendment to the 2016-2017 Executive Budget. Several changes were made to provisions affecting DODD. Those changes include:



- **Rate Increase for Direct Care Staff:** The language that would phase in the 6 percent rate increase for Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) was removed. New language authorizes the Director to implement a 6 percent increase between January 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, subject to the availability of funds. This gives the Director the ability to implement the full 6 percent rate increase as long as funds are available.
- **General Funding:** DODD's budget was restored to the As Introduced version, plus \$8 million (FY2016) and \$12 million (FY2017) for the Tangible Personal Property (TPP) earmark. With the Senate reduction of \$5 million per year, this is a net gain of \$3 million (FY2016) and \$7 million (FY2017) over the As Introduced version.
- **Developmental Center Closure Commission:** Language inserted in the Senate Omnibus Amendment requires that the Closure Commission be appointed within seven days of announcement, or the effective date of the legislation for current pending closures. It also clarifies that the Closure Commission would apply to the Montgomery and Youngstown and Developmental Centers. The Commission would review the closure of Montgomery and Youngstown Developmental Centers - the Commission would be appointed within seven days of the effective date of the legislation, which is 90 days after the Governor signs the budget.

Last week, the full Senate voted on House Bill 64, approving the changes made in the omnibus amendment. The Budget currently is being reviewed by Conference Committee. After Conference Committee amends, as needed, and approves HB 64, the full House and Senate will vote on the Conference Committee report before it is sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor is required to sign the budget by June 30.

## New tools explain how budget will benefit Ohioans

New tools explain how the Executive Budget moves Ohio forward. The new tools include:

- A new infographic shows [what gains would be possible with the Executive Budget](#).
- In a video, [Director Martin explains how the \\$316 million investment in Ohioans with developmental disabilities will benefit individuals](#).
- On [DODD's Facebook page](#), the Department will post testimonials from individuals and families who talk about how the initiatives in the Executive Budget can - and in some cases already have – already changed lives.

## Conflict of Interest Provision: CMS Approves Extended Timeline for Compliance

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently granted the State an extension to come into compliance with the Conflict of Interest provision. The regulation, released by CMS last year, states that providers of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) cannot also provide case management. CMS asked for a plan as to how Ohio would come into compliance.

As a part of that plan, the State asked for more time than CMS had originally given to come into compliance. CMS recently approved the extension, and the State has until 2024 to meet the requirements. This is positive, and allows more time for individuals and County Boards to transition, and to build up provider capacity.

### What this means:

- Individuals who already, or are scheduled to, participate in County Board programs can continue to do so until 2024.
- County Boards will have nine years to help individuals who receive services from the County Board transition to new providers.
- County Boards can continue to provide services to an individual when no other qualified (certified) provider is willing to do so; CMS will require documentation to support the fact that no qualified provider agreed to serve the individual.

DODD and County Boards will work together to ensure a smooth transition. Service and Support Administrators (SSA) will work one-on-one with individuals to help them select new providers, and plan for a safe transition.

## DODD Portal, Applications Unavailable 5:00 p.m. June 25 through June 28

The DODD portal and all applications will be unavailable beginning at 5:00 p.m. June 25 through June 28 to allow for the implementation of the Level of Care (LOC) application.

DODD is making enhancement to current applications, and introducing the new LOC application. To complete all implementation activities across DODD applications, **the portal and all applications will be unavailable during this entire duration, including Friday, June 26**. We expect all applications and the portal to be available by 8:00 a.m. on June 29. The DODD website will be available during this time.

**Please note:** Because the Incident Tracking System (ITS) will be down during this time, you will not be able to file Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) online. MUIs that were to be filed during this time should be filed in ITS on June 29. The Department will grant an extension so these reports will not be late. Please make sure all immediate actions, notifications and other investigation protocols are followed during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Providers Can Create Free Listing on Angie's List



Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Providers now can register and create a listing on [Angie's List](#) at no charge. According to Angie's List, one of the most well-known online consumer review sites, more than 2 million households nationwide check Angie's List reviews to find the best local service providers.

The effort to add Medicaid HCBS Providers to Angie's List was led by the Franklin County Board, with the help of Lisa Ryan, a parent.

"This is a great tool for everyone," said Jed Morrison, superintendent and CEO of the Franklin County Board. "Providers can use it to market their business, and individuals and families can rate their current providers, and get information about new providers."

Some key points about Angie's List:

- Only members of Angie's List can review service provider ratings.
- Anyone can review a provider, whether or not they are a member of Angie's List.
- Reviews cannot be anonymous. Names of reviewers are not listed publicly, but are released to the provider they are reviewing.

If you are a provider, you can create a listing at no charge by calling 888-944-5478, and asking for the Business Center. Providers likely would be included in the Home Health Care or Home Health Aid listings. Be sure to include "developmental disabilities" in your listing so that you can be easily found when someone does a keyword search.

If you are an individual or family member who would like to join Angie's List, call 888-944-5478 and ask for the Member Care Team, or visit [angieslist.com](http://angieslist.com).

## Pipeline Pix

### APSI Recognizes Advocacy Efforts

June 10, Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (APSI) recognized David A. Zwyer and Rick Russo for their advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

#### Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award



*David received a proclamation from Senator Kevin Bacon recognizing his advocacy efforts.*

David, associate director of the Ohio pooled trust program-Community Fund Management Foundation (CFMF), received the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award. This award is given annually to a person or entity outside of APSI who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities, and who has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the service system. David has been a life-long advocate through his many roles with different organizations in the field, including APSI, DODD, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, and as Of Counsel to the law firm Kincaid, Randall & Craine. He is responsible for drafting provisions of Ohio law

dealing with supplemental needs trusts and the personal liability of guardians.

Shari Cooper is one of many individuals who worked with David. He encouraged her to join the National Developmental Disabilities Council.

"I must admit, at first I thought being on the national board was going to be hard for me, but turns out it was just what I needed to strengthen my voice," she said. "I am soaring in my advocacy efforts because of you (David)!"

#### Russell Kinnebrew Advocacy Award

Rick, a Protective Services Representative in Highland Hills, received the Russell Kinnebrew Advocacy Award. This award is given annually to an APSI program staff member who demonstrates exemplary efforts in advocacy, and who has been employed by APSI for five years or more. He was nominated by Wendy Gue, the parent of an individual Rick serves. This is a bit unusual, as the nominations for this award typically come from fellow APSI staff members.

Rick's strong advocacy for the people he serves is clear, and he makes sure family members are aware of and in agreement with proposed services.

According to Wendy, "Rick is not afraid to question or challenge any person who stands in the way for people with disabilities, and he loves those whom he serves. He is not just an APSI rep, but a father, uncle, best friend and brother to all."



*Rick Russo accepts the Russell Kinnebrew Award.*

## PostScripts

### Training

#### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Many of DODD's online applications are being updated so they are easier to use, and are better integrated with other statewide systems such as Ohio Benefits, the Ohio Department of Medicaid's new eligibility system. This includes the Individual Data System (IDS) application. As applications are updated, they will be moved to a dynamic new platform called Customer Relationship Management (CRM).

Training on the new IDS /CRM now is available to help you prepare for this transition. Courses that currently are available include [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training. As additional courses are added for IDS and other systems, they will be posted on the [training page of DODD's website](#).

If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

#### ICF-IID Direct Billing Training – July 15 and 23

[ICF-IID Direct Billing Training](#) is July 15 and July 23. To register for an in-person session, email your provider name, provider number, and each attendee's name to [Ombudsmen\\_training@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Ombudsmen_training@medicaid.ohio.gov). The July 23 session also will be offered via webinar. [Register online](#) - after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An online replay of the webinar will be available.

#### Level of Care Evaluator Online Training – June 30 Deadline

All Level of Care (LOC) Evaluators must complete two online courses before July 1, 2015. [Module 1](#) covers LOC processes and requirements for LOC evaluators, and [Module 2](#) covers areas of assessment and assessment scoring. For questions about the new LOC Rule or this training, contact DODD at [LOC@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:LOC@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Conferences and Events

#### Arc of Ohio Spring Conference – June 25



The Arc of Ohio spring training, Ohio State Budget (Independent Providers, Waivers, Medicaid) - Act II, is June 25 at Hollywood Casino in Columbus, Ohio. Due to the venue, attendees must be 21 years old. [Learn more and register online](#).

#### Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18



[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

#### 6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event – September 16



The sixth annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event is September 16. [Register online](#). If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

## In the News

- [InvenTeam gives e-reader to woman who inspired them](#), *Marysville News* © June 15, 2015
- [Families urged to rate providers of in-home care on Angie's List](#), *The Columbus Dispatch* © June 20, 2015
- [Developmental center supporters team up](#), WFMJ – Youngstown © June 20, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

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



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 9, Issue 14

John L. Martin, Director

July 8, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Administration Update: Executive Budget Process Concludes
- Background Checks Made Easier with ARCS
- Renewing County Board User Accounts
- 101ARC Wellness & Healthy Lifestyles: Making Health and Wellness Fun
- Share Your Feedback: DODD Mobile App
- Pipeline Pix: Historic Investment in Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Administration Update: Executive Budget Process Concludes

June 30, Governor Kasich signed the FY2016-2017 Executive Budget, bringing to close the budget process. This budget makes a historic investment in Ohioans with developmental disabilities, investing \$286 million over the next two years to increase opportunities for individuals to live and work the community.

Many of the initiatives that have been covered over the last several months are a part of the final budget. Approximately 3,000 new waivers will help reduce the waiting list, and help individuals who currently live in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) and want to move into a home in the community with a waiver to do so. The budget will provide for a much-deserved wage increase for Direct Care Staff. Individuals who live in ICFs will have more space and privacy, and work will begin on a new reimbursement model. Read this [summary of DODD's budget initiatives](#) for complete details.

The Governor did veto 44 items in the budget. Two of those vetoes affect DODD:

- **Developmental Center Closure Commission:** The Governor vetoed the Developmental Center Closure Commission language. We believe this is in the best interest of everyone - the Commission would potentially create barriers to the right-sizing of the system. Over time, this will allow the Department to redirect funds to expand both the services we offer, and the number of individuals we are able to serve, while maintaining services for those residing at the remaining Developmental Centers.
- **Sheltered Workshops:** The Governor also vetoed the language around sheltered workshops that would have prohibited private providers from decreasing the number of individuals they serve, and prohibited the State from decreasing the payment rate for adult day services. We believe this is in the best interest of the individuals we serve, as well as providers - removal of these prohibitions will allow providers to ensure that they are offering services that reflect the choices of the individuals they serve. This does not mean the Department is going to be closing sheltered workshops.

The focus now will shift to implementing these initiatives. There is much work to be done, such as determining how to distribute the state-funded waivers, developing the ICF reimbursement model, and designing new

employment and day services. The Department will continue to gather input from stakeholders as the work continues.

## Background Checks Made Easier with ARCS

County Boards and providers are required to conduct pre- and post-hiring registry checks of employees, which includes checking six different registries. The Automated Registry Check System (ARCS) makes this process easier by checking all required registries at once, rather than searching six different websites. ARCS checks the following registries:

- Excluded Parties List System (U.S. General Services Administration)
- List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (U.S. Office of Inspector General)
- Ohio Sex Offender and Child Victim Database (Ohio Attorney General's Office)
- DODD Abuser Registry Verification (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities)
- Ohio Nurse Aide Registry (Ohio Department of Health)
- ODRC Inmates Database (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction)

Setting up access to ARCS is easy - follow these [steps to set up your access](#). For more information about ARCS, read the [ARCS User Guide](#).

## Renewing County Board User Accounts

County Board user accounts now can be renewed without contacting the help desk.

As of May 1, 2015, designated approvers from each County Board have the ability to renew user accounts online, rather than contacting the help desk. Every month on the first of the month, County Board approvers will receive an email requesting that user accounts for their county be renewed. Approvers can renew accounts by clicking on a link in that email.

This user guide maps out the [steps to renew the accounts](#).

If you have questions, contact the Support Center at [security-support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:security-support@dodd.ohio.gov), or 800-617-6733.

## 101ARC Wellness & Healthy Lifestyles: Making Health and Wellness Fun



Achieving optimal health is important for everyone, but brings special meaning to individuals with developmental disabilities.

According to the National Core Indicators (NCI) Adult Consumer Survey, only 22 percent of Ohioans with developmental disabilities engage in 30 minutes of moderate exercise three days a week. When individuals' Body Mass Index (BMI) was measured, 31 percent are overweight (compared to 29 percent across NCI states) and 35 percent are obese (compared to 33 percent).

To help individuals live healthier lives, the Board of Directors of ARC Industries, an affiliate of the Franklin County Board, recently approved funding to develop Healthy Lifestyles, a wellness program focusing on four areas: Exercise, nutrition, caregiver education and community integration.

“Helping individuals and caregivers understand the importance of staying healthy and giving them the tools to live healthy lives can improve outcomes,” said Mary Jane Timmons, director of Healthy Lifestyles. “We want to make getting and staying healthy easy and fun.”

All ARC consumer-employees can participate in activities, including Health Fairs, the Virtual Walk, and the Discover My Abilities 5K.

- **Health Fairs:** June 23, 24, and 25, individuals attended an on-site health fair, where they learned about healthy eating, exercise, and more.
- **The Virtual Walk:** Between July 6 and September 18, individuals will walk the distance from Columbus to Disneyland. Participants will track their progress on a large map posted in each of the facilities.
- **Discover My Abilities 5K:** September 13, individuals can participate in a 5K, presented by ARC Wellness and New Leaf Wellness Team. The 5K benefits the Special Olympics of Franklin County.



*Domenic Buccilla with Hero USA helps an ARC consumer-employee learn more about kayaking at the ARC South health fair.*

In addition to the activities for all ARC consumer-employees, between July 6 and November 20, 12 individuals from each facility will participate in a pilot program. Pilot activities will cover:

- **Nutrition.** Weekly hands-on activities will teach the value of healthy foods, and offer the opportunity to touch and feel different foods. Participants will get take-home information to refer to later.
- **Movement.** Weekly sessions will incorporate a warm-up, cardio/aerobic session, cool down, and stretching/flexibility. Participants will learn a new exercise each week.
- **Community Integration.** Program leaders are developing partnerships with the YMCA, Community Connections, Local Matters, Wellness Matters, Cooking Matters, including planning off-site activities.
- **Personal Wellness Portfolio.** Participants will receive weekly ‘in good health’ information. At the conclusion of the program, they will receive a personalized wellness program to follow going forward.
- **Caregiver Education.** Caregivers will receive information they can use to supplement the program on an ongoing basis.

Mary Jane said the team will look at the results from the pilot to make changes and hopefully expand the program next year.

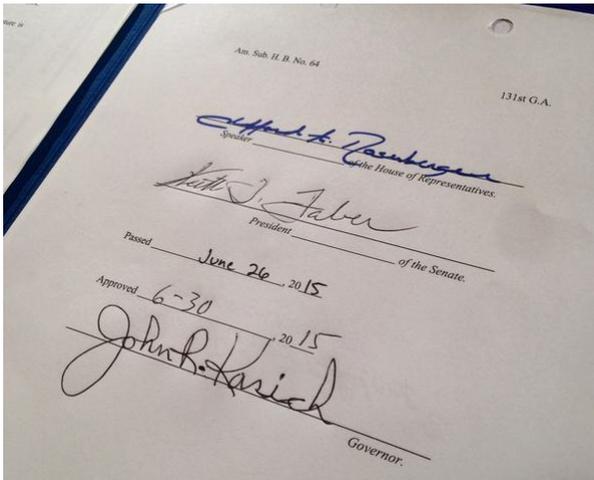
For more information, contact Mary Jane at [mj1timmons@gmail.com](mailto:mj1timmons@gmail.com) or 614-270-7588

## Share Your Feedback: DODD Mobile App

DODD has a mobile app that you can use to quickly connect to tools and information. The Department is preparing to make changes and enhancements to the mobile app, and would like your thoughts to identify what changes would make the app more useful to you. Please share your feedback about the app, **even if you weren't aware of or don't use it**. Complete this [short survey to share your feedback](#) – it will take less than 5 minutes to complete.

## Pipeline Pix

### Historic Investment in Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities



June 30, Governor John R. Kasich signed the FY2016-17 Executive Budget, investing \$286 million in Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The largest one-time investment in the system will increase opportunities for individuals to live and work the community. It adds 3,000 new waivers, and allows for a much-deserved wage increase for Direct Care Staff.

## PostScripts

### Training

#### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in a series of online trainings that focus on Behavior Support Strategies that Include Restrictive Measures now is available. The first module reviews the new rule [\(5123:2-2-06\)](#), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public.

Additional modules will be available on the [Training](#) page of DODD's website.

#### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

The Individual Data System (IDS) application is being enhanced, and moved to a dynamic new platform called Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Training on the new IDS /CRM now is available to help you prepare for this transition. Courses that currently are available include [Login and search](#), [Creating a new](#)

[record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training. If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

### **ICF-IID Direct Billing Training – July 15 and 23**

[ICF-IID Direct Billing Training](#) is July 15 and July 23. To register for an in-person session, email your provider name, provider number, and each attendee's name to [Ombudsmen\\_training@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Ombudsmen_training@medicaid.ohio.gov). The July 23 session also will be offered via webinar. [Register online](#) - after registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An online replay of the webinar will be available.

## **Conferences and Events**

### **Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18**



[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

### **6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event – September 16**



The sixth annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event is September 16. [Register online](#). If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

## **In the News**

- [What is community?](#), *Sidney Daily News* © July 6, 2015
- [Promoting Recycling Through Art at Kan Du Studio](#), Findlay Area Family © June 2015
- [Life After School experienced](#), *Greenville Daily Advocate* © July 4, 2015

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation. In those instances, the hotline number can be used to report concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 9, Issue 15

John L. Martin, Director

July 22, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Celebrating 25 Years of the ADA
- DODD Work Space
- Attend NCCJD's Webinar: Sex Offenders with I/DD
- OCALICON Registration Now is Open
- Pipeline Pix: Innovative Things are Happening in Northern Ohio
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Celebrating 25 Years of the ADA



July 26 marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities, similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA and ADAAA also ensure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.

Four sections of the ADA guarantee basic rights for individuals with developmental and other disabilities:

- Title 1 guarantees the same employment opportunities and benefits available to people without disabilities.
- Title 2 ensures equal access to programs, services and activities operated by state and local governments.
- Title 3 ensures equal access to public programs, services, buildings and activities operated by private businesses.
- Titles 2-3 of the ADA ensure equal access to public and private transportation, including buses, trains, taxis and subways.
- Title 4 ensures telecommunications – such as internet, phone and video – is accessible to people with disabilities.

There are several ways you can celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA:

- **Sign the pledge:** Individuals, businesses and organizations, and faith-based organizations can sign a pledge recommitting to living the principles of the ADA – equal opportunities for all. Sign the pledge [www.adaanniversary.org/pledgeon](http://www.adaanniversary.org/pledgeon).
- **Attend the ADA fair:** Stop by Columbus Commons on Thursday, July 26 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at the ADA Vendor Fair, sponsored by the ADA 25 Celebration Planning Committee. DODD, Opportunities for Ohioans with

Disabilities, and the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, along with other disability-related vendors and organizations, will participate. This also is a stop on the ADA Legacy Bus Tour, a traveling exhibit designed to raise awareness and build excitement about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA.

Follow DODD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information about the ADA and its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## DODD Work Space

Have you visited the [DODD Work Space](#)? It includes training and tools offered in support of Ohio's disability professionals, including the Brown Bag Thursday webinar series library. [Sign up for the DODD Work Space Update](#) to receive the monthly newsletter featuring information about new and upcoming online and in-person trainings.

## Attend NCCJD's Webinar: Sex Offenders with I/DD

Register for The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD) webinar, "Sex Offenders with I/DD: Problems and Solutions from Around the Nation" on July 30 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The webinar will highlight current issues in the field, as well as promising practices from across the country. Participants will be the first to obtain NCCJD's white paper on sex offenders with I/DD, which delves even deeper into the issues addressed on the webinar. NCCJD's previous white paper on [Violence, Abuse, and Bullying](#) also is available online.

Find [more information about the webinar, including registration information](#), online.

## OCALICON Registration Now is Open

# OCALICON 2015

OCALICON, the nation's premier event in autism, AT, and low-incidence disabilities, is November 18-20 in Columbus.

OCALICON is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan.

Connect with more than 1,500 thoughtful, passionate, creative, and energized leaders, practitioners, and change agents from across the nation. Participate in more than 150 sessions presented by world-class leaders and scholars. Get the latest data, research, and findings in the Research Symposium. Learn about new products and services from 70+ leading companies and organizations. Discover new ideas, practices, and strategies that will positively impact how you think and what you accomplish for individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities.

Early Bird Registration closes July 31. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## Pipeline Pix

### Innovative Things are Happening in Northern Ohio

Last week, Director Martin visited several providers in northern Ohio to thank them for their hard work, and their efforts to move Ohio's developmental disabilities system forward. During his visit, he learned about several innovative things providers are doing to increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

**Left:** Residents of the Our Lady of the Wayside waiver home in Lyndhurst presented Director Martin with a shirt. Our Lady of the Wayside has converted small Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) to waiver homes, offering more space and privacy while ensuring the same level of care. Three residents live in this home at the end of a quiet neighborhood street.

**Middle:** Residents at Echoing Lake made cookies for Director Martin's visit. Echoing Lake is an 8-person ICF in Lorain – the provider is implementing person-centered planning in all locations, and residents shared some of the changes they've requested and have seen implemented. Also pictured: Amber Fisher, superintendent of the Lorain County Board.

**Right:** Director Martin met Pathways Participant John K. while he was enjoying lunch outside with fellow participants. In this integrated day services program, individuals come together in the morning, then break into groups to participate in community activities such as visiting the zoo and going to concerts.

Watch DODD's social media channels for more snapshots of the individuals Director Martin met on his visit.



## PostScripts

### Training

#### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in the Behavior Support Strategies series reviews the new rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public. Additional modules will be available on the [Training](#) page of DODD's website.

### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Training on the new Individual Data System (IDS) application/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) now is available. If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training, including [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Conferences and Events

### Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Ohio Conference – August 8



The Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Ohio 2015 conference is August 8 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Columbus. This year's conference will feature Dr. Jennifer Miller, a noted Prader Willi Syndrome (PWS) specialist, and Mary Sentelle from Dynamic Pathways. Dr. Miller will present an overview of PWS and its complications, and diet/supplements and the latest research. Mary will discuss what those at Dynamic Pathways Inc. have found to be most tricky in supporting people with PWS in the community, including living with roommates, finding work and attending school or training programs. CEUs will be offered. [Learn more and register](#) online.

### Recreation Unlimited Autism Youth & Typical Sibling Weekend Camp – August 14-16



The Autism Camper & Typical Sibling Weekend Camp is for youth ages 8-22 on the Autism Spectrum and their typical sibling. The published fee is \$412 per weekend camp, plus a \$35 non-refundable reservation fee; due to the generosity of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation, the camp fee of \$412 will be waived. Complete this [registration form](#).

Contact Recreation Unlimited at 740-548-7006 or [info@recreationunlimited.org](mailto:info@recreationunlimited.org) with questions.

### Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18



[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

### 6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event – September 16



The sixth annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event is September 16. [Register online](#). If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

## In the News

- [Melanie is chasing her dream](#), *Delaware Gazette* © July 14, 2015
- [Summit Developmental Disabilities Board changing the way it provides services](#), *Akron Legal News* © July 14, 2015
- [Richland Newhope evolves amid changes](#), *Mansfield News Journal* © July 20, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation. In those instances, the hotline number can be used to report concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

Volume 9, Issue 16

John L. Martin, Director

August 5, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Ohio Ranks in Top 10 in Community Inclusion
- Home Buyers Value Accessible Housing Features, Study Shows
- Find Grant Opportunities on DODD's Website
- Pipeline Pix: The ADA Turns 25
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Ohio Ranks in Top 10 in Community Inclusion

Ohio jumped 38 places in United Cerebral Palsy's (UCP) [The Case for Inclusion](#) report and now ranks 10<sup>th</sup> on the annual ranking of how well State Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and their families.

UCP cites Ohio's dramatic increase in the share of individuals (from 63 percent to 83 percent) and resources (from 50 percent to 64 percent) dedicated to the community, the closure of a state-operated Developmental Center, the reduction of the number of individuals served in large institutions (from 18 percent to 6 percent), and participation in the National Core Indicators survey as reasons for the increase in ranking.

"We're excited that UCP's report recognizes all of the progress we've made, but we're still focusing on how we can do even better," said John Martin, Director of DODD. "Many of the initiatives coming out of the operating budget will help us strengthen these areas even further."

*The Case for Inclusion* measures five areas, which are aligned with the University of Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living's four key aspects of a high functioning and effective Medicaid program. They include:

- **Promoting Independence:** People with disabilities will live in and participate in their communities. This category accounts for 50 percent of the overall score – Ohio ranks 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Promoting Productivity:** People with disabilities will have satisfying lives and valued social roles. This category accounts for 12 percent of the overall score – Ohio ranks 33<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Keeping Families Together and Reaching Those in Need:** People with disabilities will have sufficient access to needed support, and control over that support so that the assistance they receive contributes to lifestyles they desire. These categories account for 8 and 16 percent of the overall score – Ohio ranks 4<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, respectively.
- **Tracking Health, Safety, and Quality of Life:** People will be safe and healthy in the environments in which they live. This category accounts for 14 percent of the overall score – Ohio ranks 17<sup>th</sup>.

"The report didn't find that similar characteristics were necessary to be ranked in the top ten – these states are both large and small, rich and poor, low spenders and high spenders, have high and low tax burdens, and are politically diverse," Director Martin said. "This is very heartening because it means we can continue to see progress and aim for the top of the list – the only barriers are the ones we place on ourselves."

One area where many states including Ohio could do better is reducing the waiting list for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Nationally, there are more than 322,000 people on waiting lists for HCBS services, which is 5,000 more than last year; Ohio's waiting list has more than 40,000 people, approximately 20,000 of whom need services now. The report cites that states' would need to increase HCBS programs by 44 percent to significantly reduce or eliminate waiting lists.

"The additional state-funded waivers that were included in the FY2016-17 Executive Budget will help us being to address this issue," Director Martin said. "As we continue to transform our system and services to become more efficient, we will reinvest savings back into the system so we're able to serve more people."

### **About the Case for Inclusion**

The Case for Inclusion rankings were developed through a broad, data-driven effort. Demographic, cost, utilization, key data elements and outcomes statistics were assembled for all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Ninety-nine individual data elements from numerous governmental non-profit and advocacy organizations were reviewed. Dozens of Medicaid, disability and ID/DD policy experts were consulted as well as members of national advocacy and research organizations.

They were asked to consider the attributes of top performing Medicaid programs and offer opinions and recommendations on key data measures and outcomes.

To comprehensively determine the top-performing States, a weighted scoring methodology was developed. Thirty key outcome measures and data elements were selected and individually scored in five major categories on a total 100-point scale. If a person is living in the community, it is a key indicator of inclusion; therefore the "Promoting Independence" category received half of all possible points.

## **Home Buyers Value Accessible Housing Features, Study Shows**

When given the choice between a house with accessible features and a house without accessible features, homebuyers and homeowners would opt for a house with accessible features – and would be willing to pay more for those features, according a new study being released by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, and funded by DD Council.

The study examines the perceived value of including visitable features in new home construction and the cost to modify existing housing to accommodate people with ambulatory challenges.

Visitable housing is a substantial issue for people with disabilities and will become a growing problem in Ohio over the next 25 years, when it is expected that 5 million Ohioans will deal with some sort of ambulatory challenge.

Dr. Jack Nasar, professor emeritus of City & Regional Planning at The Ohio State University and primary author of the study, said that his goal was to look at the issue from multiple angles. The team spoke to builders, homeowners, buyers and people in real estate to get their take on the costs, perceived value and preferred design options.

Nasar said this study is the first to look at how the presence of visitable features may determine the value that a buyer is willing to assign to a home. When given a choice between homes with visitable features and those without, consumers overwhelmingly chose the visitable home, even when accounting for additional costs.

Carolyn Knight, executive director of DD Council, said the Council funded the study to help advocates better understand if there is truly a market for visitable housing.

“There have been a lot claims around what consumers actually want and are willing to pay for in the housing market with regard to accessibility,” Knight said. “This study shows that the cost is not prohibitive and that Ohio consumers, when given the option, actually want visitable features.”

Read the [full report](#) online.

## Find Competitive Grant Opportunities on DODD’s Website

You now can find competitive grant opportunities on DODD’s website.

The [Initiatives and Partnerships page](#), which highlights many of the programs in which DODD partners with other state agencies and outside organizations, now features competitive grant opportunities. A chart highlights current opportunities, offering a brief overview, the entities that are eligible to apply, the open and close dates, and a link to more information.

Current opportunities include:

- **Addressing Barriers to Providing Evidenced-Based Early Intervention Using a Core Early Intervention Professional Team:** This grant opportunity seeks to continue moving early intervention programs toward evidence-based services.
- **Building Capacity to Serve People with Intense Support Needs:** This grant opportunity seeks to improve support for individuals with complex needs in Home and Community-Based residential settings.

Check back often for more competitive grant opportunities.

## Pipeline Pix

### The ADA Turns 25

Sunday, July 26 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There were many celebrations across the country. DODD joined in on the celebrations on July 23.

**Top Left:** Director Martin and Director Miller (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities – OOD) presented Mark Seifarth, DD Council Chair, and Jim Lutz, operator of the 19<sup>th</sup> floor café at the Riffe Center, with a proclamation from Governor John Kasich honoring the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADA. *(Left to right: Mark Seifarth, Director Miller, Jim Lutz, Director Martin)*

**Top Right:** People First shared information about their organization at the ADA vendor fair at the Columbus Commons. More than 50 disability-related agencies and organizations participated, including DODD, OOD, and the Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities.

**Bottom:** More than 50 disability-related agencies and organizations participated in the ADA vendor fair at the Columbus Commons. Sponsored by the ADA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee, the fair also was a stop on the National ADA Legacy Bus Tour.



## PostScripts

### Training

#### Ohio Department of Health Good Lookers Training – September 1

Good Lookers! Helping Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairments to Use Their Remaining Vision is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. September 1 in Caldwell. This one-day interactive workshop for providers, parents, service coordinators, advocates, students and early childhood professionals will cover various types of visual impairments common in young children, including cortical visual impairment, and strategies for helping little ones to use their vision optimally. Five DD and four Social Work hours have been approved for this course.

There is no cost to attend, but space is limited. [Register online](#) – search for course ID# 1034397. Contact Karen Auble at [karen.auble@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:karen.auble@odh.ohio.gov) or 614-728-9183 with questions.

**Note:** This workshop will be held December 3 in Medina.

### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in the Behavior Support Strategies series reviews the new rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public. Additional modules will be available on the [Training](#) page of DODD's website.

### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Training on the new Individual Data System (IDS) application/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) now is available. If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training, including [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Conferences and Events

### Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Ohio Conference – August 8

The Prader Willi Syndrome Association of Ohio 2015 conference is August 8 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Columbus. CEUs will be offered. [Learn more and register](#) online.

### Recreation Unlimited Autism Youth & Typical Sibling Weekend Camp – August 14-16



The Autism Camper & Typical Sibling Weekend Camp is for youth ages 8-22 on the Autism Spectrum and their typical sibling. The published fee is \$412 per weekend camp, plus a \$35 non-refundable reservation fee; due to the generosity of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation, the camp fee of \$412 will be waived. Complete this [registration form](#).

Contact Recreation Unlimited at 740-548-7006 or [info@recreationunlimited.org](mailto:info@recreationunlimited.org) with questions.

### Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18

[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

### 6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event – September 16

The sixth annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event is September 16. [Register online](#). If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

### OCALICON – November 18-20

OCALICON, the nation's premier event in autism, AT, and low-incidence disabilities, is November 18-20 in Columbus. The conference is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan. Early Bird Registration closes July 31. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## In the News

- [Retail jobs mean more than 'Just A Buck' to workers with developmental disabilities](#), Cleveland.com, © July 31, 2015
- [Bill would give Ohioans grants to make homes more accessible](#), Columbus Dispatch © July 29, 2015
- [Families share their stories of living with the ADA](#), Cincinnati Enquirer © July 24, 2015

- [New federal law to help disabled bolster finances](#), *Columbus Dispatch* © July 28, 2015

## **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation. In those instances, the hotline number can be used to report concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Volume 9, Issue 21

John L. Martin, Director  
October 14, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Save the Date: Strong Families, Safe Communities Virtual Town Hall
- Complete the 2015 Abilities Task Force Needs Survey
- Watch for Changes to *Pipeline* Next Week
- Traumatic Events, Stress and Resiliency Webinar Online Replay
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Save the Date: Strong Families, Safe Communities Virtual Town Hall

### Kids in Crisis: Preventing tragedies through earlier intervention



Chardin. Sandy Hook. Umpqua Community College. What more can be done to prevent tragedies like these from happening in our communities? One approach that Ohio has successfully implemented is increasing the services that families can engage **before** they reach a crisis point.

Children at risk – those struggling and teetering on the edge of self-harm or aggression – often aren't in treatment programs, and are not yet known as someone in need of care and support. To identify those children and help them access the support they need, DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) developed the [Strong Families, Safe Communities initiative](#).

The program, now entering its third year, funds local collaborative projects that provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth who are considered “at-risk” due to a mental illness or developmental disability. The project is unique in that it focuses on the end goal – supporting families in crisis – rather than specifying how the work should be accomplished. This approach offers local communities the flexibility to focus on the services that are needed in their community, and to engage the agencies that can best provide those services.

While the program's structure allows for flexibility, reviews of the projects from the first two years have shown consistency both in the types of services needed, and the benefits to families and communities. DODD and OhioMHAS have broadly shared these findings so that all counties and all Ohioans can benefit.

Join DODD Director John Martin and OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck November 2 from 10:30-11:30 for *Kids in Crisis: Preventing tragedies through earlier intervention*. You can attend this free virtual town hall from your desk to learn more about the origins of the project, hear from project partners about successes and lessons-learned as well as how best practices are being shared across the state, and see the list of FY2016 grantees. The town hall also will feature families who will share how the services have made a difference in their lives. An interactive session at the end will allow attendees to ask questions.

[Register online](#). Once you register, you will receive an email with more information, including system requirements and the steps to join the meeting on November 2.

## Complete the 2015 Abilities Task Force Needs Survey

The Abilities Task Force is conducting an [online survey](#) to collect information from community members and professionals who work with and for individuals who are part of the deaf and/or disabilities community about the needs they see in their communities. Information from the survey will help the Task Force plan future activities – the Task Force is committed to providing relevant training and information to address issues affecting individuals who are part of the deaf or disability community.

Complete the [online survey](#) by November 20 to share your thoughts on the needs of the developmental disabilities community. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Teresa Lopez with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at [teresal@odvn.org](mailto:teresal@odvn.org) or 614-781-9651, ext. 229.

The Abilities Task force is co-convened by Ohio's state coalitions, Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) and Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) along with the Ohio School for the Deaf. The Task Force focuses on bringing together professionals working with the deaf and/or disabilities communities, members of the deaf and/or disabilities community, and advocates from domestic violence and sexual violence.

## Watch for Changes to *Pipeline* Next Week

Changes to *Pipeline* are coming to make it easier for you to get the news you need. Here are few things that are changing:

- *Pipeline* will be sent once a week so that you can read important news quickly. It now will come out on Monday instead of Wednesday.
- A new online calendar will list conferences, events, and training. You can page between months, and click on the item to get the full details. This will replace the PostScripts section of the current format.
- A shorter, easier to read email format will help you quickly skim the news and see what's most important to you. A link will take you directly to the full article so you can get more information.
- A *Did You Know* feature will share quick facts and statistics.

What won't change is the type of information you will find in *Pipeline*. It still will have DODD news, updates on rules, and information about training and events.

The new weekly format will begin Monday, October 19. Watch your email inbox for the new *Pipeline*!

## Traumatic Events, Stress and Resiliency Webinar Online Replay



An online replay of the September 18 webinar, [Traumatic Events, Stress and Resiliency](#), is available. The webinar was hosted by [Red Treehouse](#).

During this webinar, Carol Taylor, educator and trainer with the Franklin County Family and Children First Council, presented some of the basic concepts of the Neurosequential Model developed by Dr. Bruce Perry, including basic aspects of brain development, the stress response system, the importance of recognizing and reducing toxic stress, and ways to help adults and children manage the stress response system.

In addition to the [recorded webinar](#), additional resources are posted on the Red Treehouse website, including [Helping Traumatized Children: A Brief Overview for Caregivers](#), by Dr. Bruce Perry, and the [ChildTrauma Academy](#).

## PostScripts

### Training

#### State-Funded Waivers: SELF Waiver Training – Through November 9

The FY2016-17 Executive Budget adds 3,000 state-funded waivers to begin to reduce Ohio's waiting list. About 1,000 of those waivers are Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers, Ohio's first participant-directed waiver. Five in-person training sessions will cover the unique aspects of the SELF Waiver. There is no charge to attend. Dates and locations include:

- **October 22, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Camden Falls Reception and Conference Center, Tiffin – [Register online](#)
- **October 27, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties, Akron – [Register online](#)
- **November 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg – [Register online](#)
- **November 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Athens County Library, Athens – [Register online](#)

#### Representing Clients in Guardianship Actions: Winning the Case for Supported Decision Making – October 20



Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship where older adults and people with disabilities work with trusted friends, family members, and professionals to help them understand the situations they face and the choices they must make so they can make their own decision, without the need for a guardian.

[Representing Clients in Guardianship Actions: Winning the Case for Supported Decision Making](#) is a free webinar offered by the [National Consumer Law Center](#). This webinar will

help you learn how to win the case for Supported Decision-Making at three critical stages: 1. when helping the people you work with access supports and services to live independently, 2. when a petition for guardianship has been filed, and 3. when the person you're working with is under a guardianship.

Join Jonathan Martinis, Legal Director, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities and Project Director-National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making, and Dr. C. Rick Ellis, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Psychologist at Spectrum Psychological and Forensic Service, on October 20 at 2:00 p.m. [Register online](#).

This webinar is a sequel to the September 22 webinar, [The Fine Art of Balancing Protection with Self Determination](#); the online replay is available for viewing on-demand.

If you have any questions, send an email to [trainings@nclc.org](mailto:trainings@nclc.org).

### Conferences and Events

#### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future – October 23

Services for Independent Living, Inc. (SIL) will present The Americans with Disabilities Act at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on October 23 in Warrensville Heights. Cost is \$35 per person. Read the event brochure for [more information and registration details](#).

### Healthy U in ASL for Deaf Community – November 3-December 16

Healthy U Ohio is a free, six week workshop to help you learn to manage chronic health conditions and feel healthier. The workshop will be offered in American Sign Language. Workshop and Completion Party sessions are November 3, 10, 17, and 24, and December 1, 8, and 16. All sessions are 1:30-4:00 p.m. and take place at the Columbus Colony Housing Library in Westerville. Learn more at an information session on October 20 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

If you have questions, contact Pam Groth at 614-515-2932 (videophone) or [DeafHealthPAH@gmail.com](mailto:DeafHealthPAH@gmail.com), or Rosalind Gjessing at 614-688-2928 or [Rosalind.Gjessing@osumc.edu](mailto:Rosalind.Gjessing@osumc.edu).

### OPRA 2015 Fall Conference – November 3-4, 2015

Registration now is open for the Ohio Provider Resource Association's (OPRA) Fall Conference, November 4-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Open to direct support professionals, program directors, HR staff, County Board staff, consultants, and more, the conference is an opportunity to network, engage around the latest issues facing providers, find beneficial resources, and learn from first-rate speakers. Review the conference program for [complete session details](#).

Registration fees start at \$107.50. [More information, including how to register](#), is available on OPRA's website. If you have questions, contact OPRA at 614-224-6772 or [opra@opra.org](mailto:opra@opra.org).

### OCALICON – November 18-20

OCALICON is November 18-20 in Columbus. The conference is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## In the News

- [Riverside awarded for telepsychiatry service](#), *Piqua Daily Call* © October 9, 2015
- [Grant to help expand services for developmentally, physically disabled](#), *Columbus Dispatch* © October 7, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, if you feel that there is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation – please call the hotline to report your concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Volume 9, Issue 18

John L. Martin, Director  
September 2, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Changes to Provider Certification for Independent, Agency Providers
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness, Prevention
- Celebrate National Direct Support Professionals Week
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Changes to Provider Certification for Independent, Agency Providers

[Changes to the Provider Certification Rule \(5123:2-2-01\)](#) will go into effect October 1, 2015. The changes, which implement recommendations made by a panel convened to examine the health and safety system, are designed to improve the wellbeing of individuals who receive services.

There are significant changes that affect all providers, including:

- Providers must disclose in writing if they are a related party of a person or entity for which certification has been denied or revoked.
- Providers must maintain a current email address on file with the Department.
- Topics of the initial eight-hour training for independent providers and direct services staff of agency providers have been adjusted.
- Independent providers and direct services staff of agency providers must annually complete training in role and responsibilities with regard to services including person-centered planning, community integration, self-determination, and self-advocacy.
- The term of initial certification changed from one year to three years.

In addition to these changes, there are changes that are specific to independent providers and agency providers. [A full summary of the changes](#) is available online, as well as a [timeline for implementation](#).

Providers should read and understand the entire rule and what's changing so they can continue to meet all of the requirements to maintain their certification – new providers who submit an application to the Department for initial certification on or after October 1, 2015, will be required to meet all requirements set forth in the new rule.

[More information about these changes](#) is available on the Providers section of DODD's website. If you have questions about the new rule, please contact the Department's Support Center at 800-617-6733.

## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness, Prevention



September 9 is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This day was chosen to mark the ninth day of the ninth month of each year to remind people, worldwide, that women should abstain from alcohol during the nine months of pregnancy.

In the U.S. alone, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) affects more than 40,000 infants each year. FASD is a general umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications. Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential,

lessen secondary issues, and help family members to better understand the issues.

Ohio's FASD initiative, Not a Single Drop, aims to establish efficiency in state systems resource allocation, coordination of services and augmentation of available resources to address FASD. Visit the Not a Single Drop website for [more information and resources](#).

### Join the conversation

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) are hosting a Twitter chat in recognition of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day. Join [Dr. Kenneth Warren, NIAAA Deputy Director](#), September 9 at 1:00 p.m., and follow the hashtag [#NIAAAchat](#).

## Celebrate National Direct Support Professionals Week



Direct support professionals (DSP) are on the front lines, and work with individuals every day to help them meet their goals. National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is a good reminder to pause and thank direct support staff for all they do. This year, National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is September 13-19.

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) is marking the week with the 6th Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event on September 16. More than 400 DSPs from around Ohio enjoy a day that includes lots of fun, lots of spirit, and a stimulating and creative program. The event offers a chance for DSPs to get the acknowledgement and appreciation they deserve. DSPs leave this event with a renewed sense of purpose, motivation, inspiration, and a greater sense of belonging to an important and worthy field. [More information about the event](#) is available online. If you have questions, contact Katrina Sacay at 866-862-2322, extension 5, or [ksacay@oadsp.org](mailto:ksacay@oadsp.org).

## PostScripts

### Training

#### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in the Behavior Support Strategies series reviews the new rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public. Additional modules will be available on the [Training page](#) of DODD's website.

### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Training on the new Individual Data System (IDS) application/ Customer Relationship Management (CRM) now is available. If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training, including [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Conferences and Events

### Family Advisory Council Meeting – September 8

The next Family Advisory Council Meeting is September 8, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the training room at Columbus Developmental Center in Columbus. To RSVP, contact Michele Kanode at 614-644-0265 or [michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:michele.kanode@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Camp Blue Skies Overnight Camp for Adults – September 14-18

[Camp Blue Skies](#), an overnight camp for adults (age 21 and over) who have developmental disabilities, is September 14-18 at Recreation Unlimited in Ashley, Ohio. Learn more about [camp life, activities, and how to register](#).

### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future – October 23

Services for Independent Living, Inc. (SIL) will present The Americans with Disabilities Act at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on October 23 in Warrensville Heights. The morning features a panel discussion about best practices and practical applications. The afternoon features a sessions with Robert Silverstein, Director of the Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy, who will talk about the enactment of the ADA from a historical, political, and policy perspective; the Emerging Disability Policy Framework; and strategies on how to impact public policy.

Cost is \$35 per person. Read the event brochure for [more information and registration details](#).

### OCAICON – November 18-20

OCAICON is November 18-20 in Columbus. The conference is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## In the News

- [Special Olympian does swimmingly](#), *Sentinel-Tribune* © August 20, 2015
- [Disability Housing: Living, Supporting, and Loving Intentionally](#), *Huffington Post* © August 28, 2015
- [Board of DD seeing increase in clients finding work](#), *Circleville Herald* © August 21, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation. In those instances, the hotline number can be used to report concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Volume 9, Issue 19

John L. Martin, Director  
September 16, 2015

## In This Issue:

- State-Funded Waivers: SELF Waiver Training
- ICF Pre-Admission Counseling Referral Process – Effective September 29
- New Health and Welfare Alert: Transition Planning
- Report on Maine’s Decision to End State-Funded Sheltered Employment
- 70 Years of National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## State-Funded Waivers: SELF Waiver Training

The FY2016-17 Executive Budget adds 3,000 state-funded waivers to begin to reduce Ohio’s waiting list. About 1,000 of those waivers are Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers. The SELF Waiver is Ohio's first participant-directed waiver, or the first waiver that lets people direct where and how they receive services.

As individuals begin to enroll in the new waivers, service providers will want to learn more about the SELF Waiver and how it works. Five in-person training sessions will cover the unique aspects of the SELF waiver including Participant-Direction, Employer Authority, Budget Authority, Financial Management Services, Support Brokers, and SELF waiver services.

All sessions are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There is no charge to attend. Dates and locations include:

- **September 30:** Butler County Board, Hamilton – [Register online](#)
- **October 22:** Camden Falls Reception and Conference Center, Tiffin – [Register online](#)
- **October 27:** American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties, Akron – [Register online](#)
- **November 4:** Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg – [Register online](#)
- **November 9:** Athens County Library, Athens – [Register online](#)

## ICF Pre-Admission Counseling Referral Process – Effective September 29

A change to the Ohio Revised Code designed to ensure individuals considering moving into a large Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) and their families are aware of their options goes into effect September 29.

[Admissions as Resident in an ICF/IID in Peer Group 1, \(O.R.C. § 5124.68\)](#) requires that County Boards complete a new pre-admission counseling process with an individual who is considering moving into a large ICF (nine or more beds). The process is designed to ensure individuals and families are aware of all of their options, and to support individuals and families in making informed choices. It **does not** prevent an individual who wants to move to an ICF from doing so – the final decision about where to live is up to the individual, parent or guardian.

The pre-admission counseling process:

- Only applies when individuals are seeking a new admission to a large ICF (nine or more beds)
- **Is not** required for individuals transferring from one ICF to another, including transfers from a state-operated Developmental Center
- **Is not** required for a person seeking admission to an ICF with eight or fewer beds
- **Is** initiated when a large ICF has a current vacancy or anticipates a vacancy within the next six months.

## Next Steps

Representatives from County Boards, ICFs, and DODD are in the final stages of creating the process and supporting tools, including a [pre-admission referral counseling form](#), [guidance document](#), process flow chart, and a brief training video. These tools will be posted on the training page of the DODD website. Watch for more information throughout the rest of September. To receive updates in your inbox, [subscribe to email updates](#).

## New Health and Welfare Alert: Transition Planning



With any major transition, health and safety needs must be given top priority. A new Health and Welfare Alert – [Transition Planning \(#44-09-15\)](#) – focuses on ways to help individuals safely change providers, services, or settings. The Alert covers what types of changes could require a transition plan, things to know before the transition, things to consider when planning for a transition, and the four steps in making a transition.

Health and Welfare Alerts provide critical information about areas where there is an identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare. They provide data, resources, and guidance on what caregivers can do to avoid or minimize risk. County Boards and providers are required to review current Health and Welfare Alerts during annual MUI training.

[All Health and Welfare Alerts](#) are posted on DODD's website so individuals, families, providers, and County Boards can easily access them at any time. If you have questions about the Alerts, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at 614-995-3810.

## 70 Years of National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to celebrate contributions of employees with disabilities. This year marks 70 years since the first observance. This year's theme – "My Disability is One Part of Who I Am" – makes the point that it matters what people can do and not their disability that matters.

DODD and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) will celebrate NDEAM again this year. Watch for more information.

County Boards and providers can celebrate as well – the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) offers a range of [resources](#) including an [official poster in English and Spanish](#), sample articles, a press release, proclamation, and social media content.

## PostScripts

### Training

#### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in the Behavior Support Strategies series reviews the new rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public. Additional modules will be available on the [Training page](#) of DODD's website.

#### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Training on the new Individual Data System (IDS) application/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) now is available. If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training, including [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

### Conferences and Events

#### The Arc of Ohio Fall Conference – October 1



The Arc of Ohio Fall Conference is 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on October 1 at the Xenos Center in Westerville.

[Register online.](#)

#### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future – October 23

Services for Independent Living, Inc. (SIL) will present The Americans with Disabilities Act at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on October 23 in Warrensville Heights. Cost is \$35 per person. Read the event brochure for [more information and registration details](#).

#### OCALICON – November 18-20

OCALICON is November 18-20 in Columbus. The conference is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## In the News

- [Developmentally disabled adults often abused and ignored](#), *The Columbus Dispatch* © September 6, 2015
- [Developmental Disabilities of Clark County finds homes for residents](#), *Springfield News-Sun*, © September 7, 2015
- [AG DeWine names advisory committee for crime victims with disabilities](#), *The Columbus Dispatch* © September 8, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, if you feel that there is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation – please call the hotline to report your concerns.



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

# Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Volume 9, Issue 20

John L. Martin, Director  
September 30, 2015

## In This Issue:

- Celebrating Abilities: National Disability Employment Awareness Month Begins Tomorrow
- Enhancements to *Pipeline* Coming Your Way
- PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day – October 9
- Competitive Grant Opportunity: Developing Capacity Through Trauma Informed Care
- Pipeline Pix: DSPs Make Happy Happen
- PostScripts: New Opportunities and Reminders for Your Calendar

## Celebrating Abilities: National Disability Employment Awareness Month Begins Tomorrow

October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "My Disability is One Part of Who I Am." 2015 marks 70 years since the first observance of NDEAM.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has [more information about NDEAM and resources you can use to create your own celebration in your area.](#)

Be sure to be on the lookout for our fall edition of Pipeline Quarterly, where we will take an in-depth look at NDEAM, and employment in our system in Ohio.

## Enhancements to *Pipeline* Coming Your Way

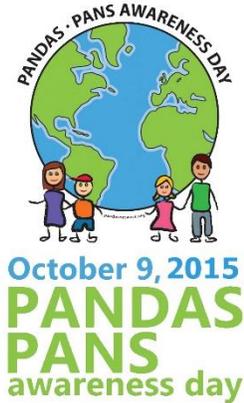
Changes to *Pipeline* are coming to make it easier for you to get the news you need. Here are few things that are changing:

- *Pipeline* will be sent once a week so that you can read important news quickly.
- *Pipeline* now will come out on Monday instead of Wednesday.
- A shorter, easier to read email format will help you quickly skim the news and see what's most important to you. A link to more information will get you more details.

What won't change is the type of information you will find in *Pipeline*. It still will have DODD news, updates on rules, and information about training and events.

*Pipeline* will follow the current schedule and come out today and October 14. The new weekly format will begin Monday, October 19. Watch your email inbox for the new *Pipeline*!

## PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day – October 9



October 9 is PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day. The [PANDAS Network](#) established the day to increase awareness of PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) and PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome). The Annual Awareness Day began in 2013, and is gaining momentum across the country.

The PANDAS Network estimates that PANDAS/PANS affects as many as 1 in 200 children. A diagnosis of PANS or PANDAS means a child has had a sudden, acute onset in multiple neuropsychiatric symptoms which are caused by a misdirected autoimmune response. Early treatment within the first year of the onset of symptoms helps most children. Untreated, the child often will struggle with lifelong neurological and psychological problems affecting social, medical, educational, and family systems.

This fact sheet offers more information and PANDAS/PANS, including [diagnostic criteria, testing and treatment options, and resources](#).

Individuals and families can participate in PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day by promoting awareness, supporting research, and more. Learn more about [PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day, including how you can participate](#).

### More about PANDAS/PANS\*

#### What is PANDAS?

PANDAS occurs when strep triggers a misdirected immune response that results in inflammation on a child's brain; the child quickly begins to exhibit life-changing symptoms such as OCD, anxiety, tics, personality changes, decline in math and handwriting abilities, sensory sensitivities, restrictive eating, and more.

#### What is PANS?

PANS occurs when an infectious trigger, environmental factors, or other possible triggers create a misdirected immune response that results in inflammation on a child's brain. In turn, the child quickly begins to exhibit life-changing symptoms such as OCD, severe restrictive eating, anxiety, tics, personality changes, decline in math and handwriting abilities, sensory sensitivities, and more.

#### What's the difference?

PANDAS occurs in the specific instance when strep is connected to the sudden onset of OCD and/or tics along with other listed clinical symptoms. PANS removes the emphasis of the etiologic factor and concentrates on the clinical symptoms. PANS can be triggered by any infectious agent (NOT only strep) in addition to non-infectious triggers which are yet to be fully determined, but may include metabolic disorders and environmental factors. PANS symptoms cannot be explained by any other neurological or medical disorder.

#### How is PANDAS/PANS diagnosed?

Currently, there is not a definitive test for PANDAS or PANS. It is a clinical diagnosis, and is based on the collection of signs, symptoms, medical history, and laboratory findings. It is not solely based on a diagnostic test such as a blood test.

Tests for PANDAS/PANS may include tests for strep, bacteria and other viruses, an immunological workup, an MRI, an EEG, the Cunningham Panel of tests, and a review of the onset, severity, and duration of symptoms.

Learn more about [diagnostic tests](#) on the PANDAS Network website.

### What is the treatment for PANDAS/PANS?

Treatment varies based on the child, and can include antibiotics and other medications, cognitive behavioral therapy and counseling, and, in some cases, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) or plasmapheresis.

Learn more about [different treatment options](#) on the PANDAS Network website.

### What's the long-term prognosis for children diagnosed with PANDAS/PANS?

PANDAS/PANS are newly-identified illnesses (1998), and there currently is no long-term study on the outcomes of the illnesses, though there are indications that symptoms decline after puberty for many children. Until more is known, parents should continue treatment throughout childhood, and protect their children from contracting strep.

Learn more about the [long-term prognosis of children diagnosed with PANDAS/PANS](#) on the PANDAS Network website.

\*Source: [PANDAS Network](#) © 2015

## Competitive Grant Opportunity: Developing Capacity Through Trauma Informed Care

A competitive grant opportunity, [Developing Capacity Through Trauma Informed Care](#), seeks to increase the number of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) residential provider agencies who have implemented a trauma-informed approach, and are committed to serving people with complex support needs; this will result in better outcomes for people and organizations. Awardees agree to develop and implement a plan to increase their capacity to serve individuals with complex needs using a trauma-informed approach, report progress and data, have at least one staff member who is a trained Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) trainer, and participate in conferences and trainings such as the [Regional TIC Collaborative](#).

This grant expands the work of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and DODD's partnership on a statewide [TIC Initiative](#). This initiative aims to expand opportunities for Ohioans to receive trauma-informed interventions by increasing efforts for practitioners, facilities, and agencies to become competent in trauma informed practices.

Applications are due October 5. [More information, including the complete details of the grant](#), is available on the Initiatives and Partnerships page of DODD's website.

## Pipeline Pix

### DSPs Make Happy Happen

Direct support professionals (DSP) make happy happen by working with the individuals we serve every day. September 16 marked Direct Support Staff Recognition Day, a day to pause and thank DSPs for all they do. To celebrate the day, the Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Direct Support Professional Recognition Event on September 16. At the event, DSPs gathered to celebrate each other, and learn tips for living a happier life, reducing stress, and improving their own health and well-being.

Also at the event, graduates from OADSP's DSPaths program were recognized for earning their Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) or Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP). The CIP requires completion of 60 hours of classroom instruction focusing on the knowledge, skills, and confidence of direct support professionals, and the development of a DSPaths Professional Portfolio to demonstrate mastery of specific skills. The CAP, designed

for direct support professionals who have completed the CIP and are interested in attaining a higher level of learning and skills, requires an additional 60 hours of classroom instruction, and the development of a portfolio to demonstrate mastery of specific advanced skills. There is a significant time commitment to earn the certificates, showing graduates' commitment to improving the lives of the individuals they serve.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!



## PostScripts

### Training

#### State-Funded Waivers: SELF Waiver Training – Through November 9

The FY2016-17 Executive Budget adds 3,000 state-funded waivers to begin to reduce Ohio's waiting list. About 1,000 of those waivers are Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers, Ohio's first participant-directed waiver. Five in-person training sessions will cover the unique aspects of the SELF Waiver. There is no charge to attend. Dates and locations include:

- **October 22, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Camden Falls Reception and Conference Center, Tiffin – [Register online](#)
- **October 27, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties, Akron – [Register online](#)
- **November 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg – [Register online](#)
- **November 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:** Athens County Library, Athens – [Register online](#)

#### Behavior Support Strategies Training – Online

The [first module](#) in the Behavior Support Strategies series reviews the new rule ([5123:2-2-06](#)), the principles of person-centered planning, restricted and prohibited measures, and the roles and responsibilities of QIDPs, Human Rights Committees and DODD. This module takes 20-30 minutes to complete, and is free and open to the public. Additional modules will be available on the [Training page](#) of DODD's website.

#### Customer Relationship Management/Individual Data System Training – Online

Training on the new Individual Data System (IDS) application/Customer Relationship Management (CRM) now is available. If you use IDS, you are encouraged to complete this training, including [Login and search](#), [Creating a new record](#), [Edit information](#) and [Individual Transfer Record \(ITR\)](#). If you have questions about the IDS training, send an email to [IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:IDS.Support@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Conferences and Events

### 2015 Celebrate Kids! Conference – October 14-16

[Ohio CASA](#) (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is hosting the 2015 Celebrate Kids! Conference on October 14-16 at the Doubletree by Hilton Worthington in Columbus. The 2015 Celebrate Kids! Conference addresses the diverse facets of the work of child advocates. The conference offers two plenary sessions – Biologies & Behaviors of Addiction presented by Andrea Boxill, and ReMember: We All are Ambassadors of Our Culture presented by Jason Barger – as well as breakout sessions focusing on general information, intermediate information, and information for CASA staff. Download the conference brochure for more information, including [session descriptions and registration costs](#).

The following continuing education certifications are available: RULE 48 – 12 credit hours pending; CLE – 12 credit hours pending; CPE – 10.25 credit hours pending. ALL CEC forms and instructions will be provided at the conference.

If you have questions or wish to register, email Alexandra Gilbert at [agilbert@ohiocasa.org](mailto:agilbert@ohiocasa.org).

### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future – October 23

Services for Independent Living, Inc. (SIL) will present The Americans with Disabilities Act at 25: The Past, The Present & The Future from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on October 23 in Warrensville Heights. Cost is \$35 per person. Read the event brochure for [more information and registration details](#).

### OPRA 2015 Fall Conference – November 3-4, 2015

Registration now is open for the Ohio Provider Resource Association's (OPRA) Fall Conference, November 4-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Open to direct support professionals, program directors, HR staff, County Board staff, consultants and more, the conference is an opportunity to network, engage around the latest issues facing providers, find beneficial resources, and learn from first-rate speakers.

This year's keynote speakers include author and comedian Jan McInnis, who will show attendees how to instantly diffuse tension, kick off tough conversations, and facilitate harmony by using humor, and DODD Director John Martin, who will review current issues and activities for the DODD, Medicaid, and the budget.

Breakout sessions include MUI Collaboration: Provider & County Investigations, 6055/6056 Reporting: The Rubber Meets the Road, Med Administration in Community Settings: The Role of the Non-Nurse, Creating a Safety-Conscience Workplace, and Introduction to the World of Grants & Grant-Writing. Review the conference program for [complete session details](#).

Registration fees start at \$107.50. [More information, including how to register](#), is available on OPRA's website. If you have questions, contact OPRA at 614-224-6772 or [opra@opra.org](mailto:opra@opra.org).

### OALICON – November 18-20

OALICON is November 18-20 in Columbus. The conference is a face-to-face gathering of national leaders, educators, parents, service providers, self-advocates, scholars, and policy makers to examine common concerns and share proven solutions that address issues faced by individuals with autism and low-incidence disabilities across their lifespan. [Learn more and register](#) online.

## In the News

- [1 in 10 women admits imbibing while pregnant](#), *Columbus Dispatch* © September 27, 2015
- [Advocates Press Congress To Address Wandering](#), *Disability Scoop* © June 16, 2015
- [Richland Newhope sets benchmarks for transition plan](#), *Richland Source* © September 25, 2015
- [I don't focus on my disability. It's just a part of me](#), *Cincinnati Post* © September 20, 2015

## DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or Other Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs, call toll-free 866-313-6733. MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board, however, if you feel that there is a conflict -- or that a County Board potentially may be involved in the allegation -- please call the hotline to report your concerns.



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