

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Administration Update

1. Legislative Advocacy Day, A Forum for New Directions

Event Theme: "Get Your Voice Heard."

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) annual Legislative Advocacy Day, hosted yesterday in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, welcomed more than 400 advocates and self advocates who were there to *get their voices heard* on key issues. In addition to a short introductory program, attendees were provided helpful information to prepare for scheduled visits with legislators on subjects such as the *Employment First* initiative ([Senate Bill 316](#)) and *Visitability* ([House Bill 332](#)). Information was provided in several formats so that individuals had many ways to communicate their thoughts and ideas to legislators who may not be as familiar with these subjects as others.

Employment First (See [Pipeline, March 28, 2012](#)) will, among other things, require Individual Service Plans (ISPs) to include a goal of competitive, integrated employment - a job working beside people without disabilities and making a similar wage. And, *Visitability* describes making a home or other facility more accessible for people with disabilities, especially those who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids. It does not include all the elements of the better-known terminology, 'Universal Design,' but is a similar concept.

Sue Willis, representing the AXIS Center for Public Awareness – the organization that worked in collaboration with DD Council to develop and host the event – stated, "We are hopeful that people will make the most of today's opportunity to speak with legislators about things that are important to them."

And it appeared that people were there to do exactly that. Tonya Dillon, a self advocate from Licking County and active in *People First of Ohio*, noted,

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



Having their voices heard.

Renee Wood (center) and husband Floris, (left) speak with Chuck Beatty. Renee is the DD Council Chairperson this year, and Chuck is a longtime advocate and advisor to Ohio's developmental disabilities community.



Even Mark's tie can be heard!

Mark Seifarth, former DODD Legislative Liaison, current member of Ohio DD Council, and Legislative Affairs Specialist at the National Council on Disability in Washington D.C., sports a colorful Noah's Ark tie, and relates it to the subject at-hand, noting,

"We're all in the same boat. Let's work together to have our voices heard!"



Lets' get together and talk with Senator Schaffer!
Enthusiastic participants gather in the right corner of the Statehouse Atrium to speak with Senator Tim Schaffer at Legislative Advocacy Day.

A group from Athens County made the trip up together and was well-prepared to meet with their area's legislators. Athens County Board of DD staffer, Steve Koch, noted that Senator Troy Balderson had generously given the group of self advocates more than their scheduled half-hour of time, and everyone had a chance to talk. He added,

"We really appreciated this opportunity to advocate for employment opportunities on behalf of people with DD, and acknowledge his support in this area."



And self advocate Micah Hetrick, no stranger to rubbing elbows with high-ranking officials (Micah's recently met both President Obama and Governor Kasich), spoke to the crowd about working in the community, saying,

"I'm not afraid to talk to people in Washington ... and I've told them about my job at Sam's Club. It's important to me to get paid like everyone else, and I do a good job! So can lots of other people like me."



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

Contact AXIS at (614) 263-8076; or axiscenter@columbus.rr.com
Contact DD Council at <http://ddc.ohio.gov/>



2. Autism Awareness Event Spotlights Progress

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

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

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

-Representative Lou Terhar

He added, "Ohio must move forward on assuring these important services are available, and that funding is there to support these services."

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

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

Several organizations supporting individuals with developmental disabilities hosted information and outreach tables at the event. One service provider serving Mahoning and Trumbull counties, Turning Point Residential Inc., provided imaginatively decorated puzzle pins (see photos, this article) for all attendees, made by individuals with DD, signed by them, and packaged with the phrase ...

**"When you remember me it means that you have carried
a piece of who I am with you."**



The pins represent the pieces of the 'autism puzzle,' emblematic of the many questions surrounding ASD. Among the pieces of the puzzle there is hope for more progress on the challenges ahead through strong leadership and advocacy within Ohio's autism community. Collaborative efforts such as the *Employment First* partnership and the *Interagency Workgroup on Autism* (IWGA - www.iwg-autism.org/) represent just two of the many efforts that hold promise in improving opportunities for individuals with ASD and their families.



Proudly displaying their puzzle pins...

Adam Herman, Ohio Association of County Boards; Peggy Martin, DODD.



Photo courtesy, Adam Herman

Dr. Angela Denny, President, Autism Society - Central Ohio Chapter, and parent of a daughter on the autism spectrum, introduced Zach, a young man who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, and whose powerful comments included,

"I am a lot less stressed now with my education situation, where the school I attend is more quiet and calm. My situation now has helped me connect the dots that were scattered before."



Ohio Seeks Public Comment on Autism Needs

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

*Open Forum on State Autism Recommendations
May 17, 2012, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI)
470 Glenmont Ave., Columbus, OH 43214*

Recommendations are also available for review and comment online at
http://www.ocali.org/ohio_recommendations

More information at www.autismspeaks.org; www.autismohio.org; www.autism-centralohio.com; or,
www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/columbus.



3. Employment - Opportunities and Initiatives

U.S. Department of Labor announces availability of \$20 million in grants through Disability Employment Initiative

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the availability of approximately \$20 million in grants to fund cooperative agreements that will improve educational, training, and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. These grants represent the third round of funding through the Disability Employment Initiative, a joint program of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration and its Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Grants will be awarded to state agencies, which will collaborate with local workforce investment boards. The Labor Department anticipates awarding six to ten grants, ranging from \$1.5 to \$6 million, to be spent over a three-year period.

Complete information is at www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm.

Opportunity for Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding the recently-submitted Evaluation of State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Administration of Supported Employment Programs. Comments are due to the U.S. Office of Budget and Management for review. Comments are needed by May 18, 2012 and may be submitted at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-18/html/2012-9308.htm>.

Some Good News on the State Employment Scene

Excerpted from the *Hamilton Journal-News*, April 29, 2012

Jeremy Anderson depends on an electronic wheelchair for mobility, so when he was without his for eight months due to repairs, it was frustrating. Anderson has turned that frustration into a new business in Hamilton, thanks to a partnership between the Butler County Board of DD and the Ohio Rehabilitation Service Commission (RSC).

His business repairing electronic wheel chairs, 'Anderson Prime Mobility,' in Hamilton, Ohio, will be opening soon. He already has rehabbed and sold a chair to a friend and put the money back into the business. Anderson says,

"I know what it is like to be without a chair. I have experienced it from where I am sitting. I want to provide a local service that is fast and at a good price."



Hamilton Journal-news, photo by E.L. Hubbard

“I see where the problem is!”

Jeremy Anderson works on a wheelchair at the shop he plans to open on Main St. in Hamilton, Ohio

He continued, “You have to work for what you want in life. I want to be totally on my own.”

The Butler County Board of DD is one of six host sites statewide for a grant administered by Griffin Hammis Associates, which offers training and funding locally to create employment and opportunities for adults with significant developmental disabilities.

The County Board and RSC have partnered to train providers to become certified for *customized employment*, which means that the providers are able to do specific skills and interest assessments, and develop small businesses for individuals based on that information.

For more information: Wendy Planicka, Butler County Board of DD, wkplanicka@butlerdd.org

Excerpted from: [Grant allows Hamilton man to open wheelchair business](#)



[National Scene, Dual Eligibility](#)

4. Serving Individuals Eligible for Both Medicare, Medicaid

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) recently released a request for proposals for the plan to revamp how the state serves individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (See [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 8](#) April 11, 2012). DJFS submitted its proposal to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April, and is awaiting approval.

Seventeen health plans submitted letters of intent to CMS, and are eligible to apply for the *Integrated Care Delivery System* that will be implemented in certain regions of the state starting in January 2013.

Plan responses are due by May 25, and DJFS expects to release scoring results June 18 with tentative selections made July 25. Readiness reviews would be conducted in the interim, and the planned signing of agreements is planned for September 20, according to the request.

The proposal is for a three-year pilot project that will transform how the state serves Ohioans dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The pilot will be conducted in 29 counties in seven regions surrounding the state's major urban areas.



Ohio Department of Mental Health Director, Tracy Plouck, and DODD Director John Martin, at a recent symposium in Cuyahoga County.

On the Subject of Dual Eligibility - Symposium in Cuyahoga County

A symposium on the subject of *Maximizing System-Wide Efficiency and Treatment Effectiveness* for people with developmental disabilities, including individuals who are dually-eligible for services, was hosted in Cuyahoga County (Independence, Ohio), on April 24. The emphasis was on collaborative, coordinated, and data-driven innovations. Sponsors include DODD and the Ohio Department of Mental Health, among others. The focus of this informative symposium was community-based care, and included an afternoon panel discussion in which DODD Director John Martin participated.

For more information: Richard Cirillo, Ph.D., (216) 736-2693 cirillo.richard@CuyahogaBDD.org



5. SELF Waiver Progress – Public Hearing May 17

In anticipation of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles prior to the waiver launch. The series will include information about the waiver itself, and highlight specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the second in the series.

Background

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

The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.



The SELF Waiver will mean more opportunities and more choices.

Public Hearing May 17

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

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Any written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review.

Written comments may be submitted by email to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator at becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov; by fax, to (614) 644-5013; or by U.S. Mail to 30 E. Broad St., 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.

The rules are available at the Register of Ohio website: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us> and the DODD website:

<https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>. Rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

More information about the SELF waiver is online at [SELF Waiver](#)



6. PATHS North Central Region Celebrates New Graduates

The North Central Region of the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services (PATHS) credentialing program for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) recently celebrated its second graduating class. Eighteen DSPs earned *Certificates of Initial Proficiency*. Additionally, thirteen of the graduates earned credits to apply toward their Adult Services certification. The PATHS North Central Regional Council consists of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and providers in the geographical area contained within [Clearwater COG](#) (Council of Government), headquartered in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Graduating were: Tammy Stoltzfus, Amanda Javens, Janet Grossman, Donna Emans, and Heather Clark, Marion County Board of DD; Sandi Williamson, Morrow County Board of DD;

Janis George, Tina Bradley, and Betty Lewis, Renaissance House Inc.; Samantha Wolf, Ya'Shaca Brown, Peggy Heim, Shelley Miller, and Jody Butler, Double S Industries; Melanie Wilson and Paula Ward, First Choice of Ohio; Tasha Booher, Mercer Residential Services Inc.; and Abby Abel, Sandusky County Board of DD.

The graduates completed a challenging curriculum designed to improve skills and opportunities for Direct Service Professionals, and, in turn, positively affect the individuals with developmental disabilities whom they serve.

DODD enthusiastically supports the PATHS credentialing program in its efforts to continuously improve and strengthen the statewide DD services community.

The PATHS curriculum Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) includes 60 hours of classroom instruction in a variety of topics including community living skills and supports; service facilitation; self determination; documentation; advocacy; and, personal ethics. Students also complete an extensive portfolio of work samples that demonstrate their skills.

Feedback from this graduating class included these comments ...

“The training made me see things through the eyes of many, rather than just through my eyes. The overall message was very helpful.”

“The course made me realize things we usually overlook that can devalue a person. Consequently, I've corrected these things.”



A representative sampling of the 18 new PATHS graduates.

(L. to R., seated): Tammy Stoltzfus, Samantha Wolf, Ya'Shaca Brown, Shelley Miller.

(L. to R., standing): Sandi Williamson, Amanda Javens, Janet Grossman, Melanie Wilson, Tina Bradley, Janis George, Tasha Booher, Peggy Heim.

For more information on PATHS visit their website at <http://www.ohiopaths.org/>



Division of Residential Resources

7. Developmental Centers as Community Resources

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

By Rob Robbins, CaDC

Dreams can come true! All that is needed is - well the dream, of course - a desire to work for what you want, and people that believe in you. In July 2011, David B. realized one of his dreams. He was able to move from the Developmental Center into a home in Cambridge. He shares his new home with three other men, and Daisy - a Rottweiler dog with three legs - that has lived with David for several years.



David and Daisy, at home.

Recently, David returned to CaDC to provide Disc Jockey services for our Fall Festival. While he was here I sat down with him to ask how he was doing. During our conversation, David reminded me that he has lived at Cambridge Developmental Center off and on for a number years beginning in 1993, and that his most recent stay was his seventh!

This made me remember that, over the years, there have been family members and CaDC staff who strongly believed that David could not be successful living outside the DC. In fact, it was this thinking that drove David's CaDC team to make sure that he would have every support he needed to succeed this time.

So far, things are going well for both David and Daisy. He continues to work through Guernsey Industries, Inc., although he is thinking about a new job in residential/commercial lawn care, or at a new work opportunity in West Lafayette.

David's Insights

During our conversation, David offered the following insights on his life at the DC, and his life now. What he likes the most about his new home: "Daisy and I have our own room; Daisy can

sleep in my bedroom with me; Daisy is happy; I can go to bed when I want to, or stay up and watch TV; It is quiet – not a lot of noise from other people.”

What he misses about living at the DC: “My friends; Going to see my Dad in Coshocton; and, eating pizza with Brenda, Heidi, and Rob.”

David still has dreams. He says he wants to get married someday, but not until he finds the right girl. When I asked what made a girl “right,” he laughed and said, “One that won’t cheat on me.”

Over the years, I have been privileged to see David grow in his ability to make good decisions, and to advocate effectively for himself. Does he always make the right decision? Not always, but, then, neither do I! There is one thing that I can count on, though. I know that David will call me almost every weekend to see how I am doing, and to ask about my family. That is one of David’s strongest gifts, *loyalty*, and he deserves my loyalty and support in return. Good luck, David. You deserve it! –*Rob Robbins*



8. May is National Foster Care Month

National Foster Care Awareness Month, spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention on the subject this month, noting that not only children are in need of good foster homes -- so are more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities. Through hardships or other circumstances beyond their control, a growing number of adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home.’



‘There’s No Place Like Home’

Paul Kelly, Artist – Toward Independence, Xenia, OH

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at
<http://www.fostercaremonth.org/Pages/default.aspx>

REM Ohio Inc., among other service providers, takes this opportunity each year to make their local service-area communities aware of adult foster care needs and services. For example, REM Ohio offers a Host-Home program that matches individuals who have developmental disabilities with dedicated caregivers in the community, referred to as ‘mentors.’ According to REM Ohio Executive Director Carla Parker,

“Individuals who chose to live in an adult Host Home often maintain close relationships with their biological families, but the mentor plays an additional, very important support role in their lives.”

She adds, “Adults with developmental disabilities may require special care and an extraordinary commitment from their mentors. Our agency’s history of services in a Host-Home setting clearly demonstrates that *everyone* can benefit and thrive in a safe and stable family environment.”

Individuals residing with families in Host-Homes have the opportunity to forge a connection to a home and community, while receiving the services they need to live as independently as possible. Host-Home families, in turn, gain a new family member and friend – a person who can add a new dimension to the family’s daily life. During National Foster Care Month, service providers across Ohio salute the many mentors who offer outstanding care in a supportive environment.

5123:2-9-33

Click on the rule noted above for language on the subject of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care under the Individuals Options (IO) Waiver.

More about Foster Care at www.fostercaremonth.org

Acknowledgments to the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette May 1, 2012



Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR)

9. OPSR Issues Annual Report

The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR), a part of the Division of Legal and Oversight, has published an Annual Report for calendar year 2011.

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

According to the Report, 2011 marked the implementation of a paperless review system, capable of collecting data in a more efficient way to track trends and patterns, and ensure better outcomes for individuals served. In addition, a ‘single review’ tool and notification process for service providers has streamlined efforts, and allowed for increased technical assistance to providers. Improvements in system processes help to support the DODD Mission:

Our Mission is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

*The DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review is a part of the Division of Legal & Oversight
The complete URL for the Annual Report link is
<https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/PRV/compliance/Documents/2011%20OPSR%20Annual%20Report.pdf>*

PostScripts

Autism Speaks First National Conference August 3-4

Autism Speaks has announced that its first National Conference for Families and Professionals will be Friday and Saturday, August 3 - 4, 2012 at the Hilton Columbus. The theme of the conference will be *Treating the Whole Person: Providing Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents with ASD*. **[Full Announcement Here](#)**. More information at www.autismspeaks.org

FREE Training Sponsored by OPRA and Ohio Partners In Justice, May 18

A one-day *free training* on the subject of working with *individuals who are developmentally disabled and also have sex offending issues* will be hosted by the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) and Ohio Partners in Justice on Friday, May 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Ohio Department of Transportation, 1980 W Broad St., in Columbus.

Click here to register today for this training!

Or, click link below*

The one-day training will provide a wealth of information including sessions presented by several speakers within Ohio's health and human services community -- including Lee Balser, David Berenson, Nicole Chambers, Randy Shively, Bill Weisler, and DODD's Scott Phillips. Each will address key concerns for counties struggling with issues regarding safely housing and treating individuals who are developmentally disabled and also have sex offending issues, specifically highlighting staff, training, and systems concerns that arise while trying to keep communities safe. Discussions will touch on MUIs, risk factors, obstacles to treatment, legal issues, and residential options.

*<https://asoft403.securesites.net/secure/opra/index.php?src=forms&id=2012%20Partners%20In%20Justice%20IDD-SO%20Conference%20-%20May%2018>

FREE Eye Exams for Service Dogs, OSU Veterinary Medical Center

Veterinary ophthalmologists from The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) will offer free sight-saving eye exams for service dogs in May. *Service Dog handlers and owners must pre-register before April 29* with the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists at www.acvoeyeexam.org. Service dogs include those that assist people who have physical limitations, as well as search and rescue dogs, police dogs, lead dogs, and pilot dogs. In order to participate, dogs must be active 'working dogs' that were certified by or currently enrolled in a formal training program or organization; owners or agents for the dog(s) must register the animal online at www.acvoeyeexam.org. Once registered, the owner or agent can call The OSU Veterinary Medical Center at (614) 292-3551 to schedule an appointment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Arc of Ohio Annual Day at Cedar Point, May 23

The Arc welcomes Ohioans with disabilities, their families, friends, providers, and support staff to [The Arc of Ohio](#) annual day at [Cedar Point](#) on May 23, *rain or shine!* The day is open to *everyone*. Cedar Point has donated a limited number of admission tickets and free picnic lunches, and tickets for these we will be distributed as fairly as possible. All others can participate for \$28, which is about half the regular admission price, and buy picnic lunches for \$9.50 each.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Accepting Applications

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities www.gcpd.ohio.gov is accepting applications for appointments effective September 1, 2012. The Council exists to: Advise the Governor and General Assembly on state wide disability issues; Educate and advocate for partnerships at the state and local level; Promote equality, access and independence; Develop employment opportunities; Promote the value of diversity, dignity and the quality of life for people with disabilities; Be a catalyst to create systemic change on issues that ultimately benefit all Ohio citizens. Visit <http://gcpd.ohio.gov> for an application form, and details on Council membership.

SAVE THE DATE! September 12, Direct Support Professionals Event

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

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, July 2012

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities invites high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to apply to attend its annual Youth Leadership Forum, to be held in Columbus this year, July

16th - 19th. Forty students will be selected. All their expenses will be paid. To be eligible, students must have a disability, be in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2011, have demonstrated leadership potential, and reside in Ohio. This year's forum in Columbus will prepare students to take advantage of new and different community-based opportunities, and develop as constructive, contributing members of society. To learn more about the program, go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614) 438.1394 or 1.800.282.4536 ext.1394.

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

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

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

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

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**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**