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**August 14, 2013**  
**Volume 7, Issue 16**

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*Pipeline PostScripts: Nearly a dozen updates for your calendar.*

## 1. Autism Diagnostic Education Project Expands Further

**ADEP Diagnostic Partnerships in local communities improve how children access comprehensive evaluations to obtain an accurate diagnosis at the earliest signs of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

After expanding the Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP) earlier this year (*see Pipeline, January 30, 2013*) with the support of Innovation Funds through the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are pleased to announce further opportunities for program expansion across the state.

DODD Director John Martin explained that 13 additional counties formed Diagnostic Partnerships in their local communities this past spring, bringing the current total of participating Ohio counties to 41. In the coming months, the joint effort seeks ten additional Diagnostic Partnership teams. He stated,

**“These Partnerships enable families to access comprehensive diagnostic evaluations in closer proximity to their homes, meaning less travel time, less wait time, and earlier intervention.”**

Begun as a pilot project supported through the commitment of ODH and the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the original pilot had launched nearly 30 Diagnostic Partnership teams. These teams bring together the expertise of physicians and early intervention professionals to assure timely and comprehensive diagnostic evaluations at the earliest signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

In order to build effective new Diagnostic Partnership teams and support existing ones, free ADEP training opportunities will be available following applicant selection in September, and

continuing through December. For more information, contact Courtney Yantes by email at [Courtney\\_yantes@ocali.org](mailto:Courtney_yantes@ocali.org).

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

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## 2. More About 'Strong Families, Safe Communities'

### Directors Martin and Plouck visit community partnership sites.

As announced last month (see [Pipeline, July 31, 2013](#)) DODD and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)\* have awarded nearly \$3 million of a total \$5 million grant to seven community partnerships for implementing the 'Strong Families, Safe Communities' project, and to provide care coordination and crisis intervention services for youth at-risk of harming themselves or others due to a mental illness or developmental disability.

Joining forces to accomplish results more efficiently, the agencies' selected projects include more thorough care coordination, rapid response team efforts, family mentoring and support, screening for high-risk children, and therapeutic services.

'Strong Families, Safe Communities' is funded by Governor John Kasich's initiative to commit money awarded from the state's Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) to develop targeted strategies to stabilize youth in crisis, ages 8-24, and develop long-term treatment plans that help these children and their families.

**The seven partnerships selected will serve families in 20 counties, and represent collaboration among public and private providers.**

See: [Press Release and Fact Sheet](#)

Directors Martin and Plouck are visiting each of the community partnerships this summer to officially award the grants and share more about each project with local communities. The remaining schedule includes:



Aug 14, 10:00 a.m.: St. Clairsville, (Director Martin)

Aug 19, 10:30 a.m.: Newark (Director Martin)

Aug 19, 1:00 p.m.: Mount Vernon (Director Martin)

Aug 28, 10:30 a.m.: Massillon (Director Plouck)

Aug 30, 10:30 a.m.: West Chester (Director Plouck)

*\*Effective July 1, 2013, OhioMHAS was formed by the consolidation of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health.*

More information at: [DODD and ODMH Announce Strong Families Safe Communities Grant Awards](#)

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### 3. Self Advocate John Hannah Attends National Convention Ohio delegate sets the pace for other states.

At *The Arc of the U.S. convention* last week in Bellevue, WA, Ohio self-advocate John Hannah was the sole self-advocate delegate participating who is also President of a state (*Arc of Ohio*) chapter. Never one to 'hide his light under a barrel,' John was on-hand in a big way networking among nearly 600 attendees. Under the theme, "Achieving Momentum," conventioners from across the country enjoyed three days of informative sessions, including how to create and sustain positive momentum in personal and professional lives using innovations in technology, and other helpful tools and techniques.



Photo courtesy, CRSI

John rests momentarily upon return from his responsibilities at The Arc of the United States Convention.

Back at his desk at Champaign Residential Services Inc. (CRSI), John resumes his duties as Consumer Advocate, as well as work involved as President of the Arc of Ohio. As John would say,

"I may be 'resting here momentarily,' but my mind is always busy thinking of something interesting!"

According to CRSI staffer Kathy Rader, John reported that there also were interesting sessions on the subject of cultural diversity and employment; helping people who serve individuals with DD become stronger and more effective advocates; and, how to help individuals and families tackle concerns about relationships, bullying, and planning for the future. No doubt John was an integral part of any session he attended. Congratulations to John for enthusiastically representing the State of Ohio at the national convention!

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### 4. New Employment First Rule to Implement, Clarify Policy

As part of the process to successfully implement the *Employment First initiative* in a consistent manner across the state, DODD has drafted an administrative rule in collaboration with stakeholders. It is currently in the review process. The proposed new rule and the related Business Impact Analysis are posted on the Department's website at: [Rules Under Development](#).

**New rule 5123:2-2-05 will implement Ohio's Employment First Policy, established in section 5123.022 of the Ohio Revised Code, which requires employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities to be directed at community employment.**

**Written comments must be submitted by August 16.**

**Submit to: [CSIPublicComments@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:CSIPublicComments@governor.ohio.gov) AND to [Becky.Phillips@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Becky.Phillips@dodd.ohio.gov).**



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

According to the Department's Office of Legal and Oversight -- within which the Rules Administration function resides -- the purpose of a new stand-alone rule is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to be engaged in competitive employment that takes place in integrated settings, and that the language used to assure these opportunities is clearly defined and consistently used.

Rules Administrator Becky Phillips explains, "DODD and the stakeholders who have helped to draft this rule felt that the Employment First concept, and its reality for individuals served, was too important to bury within an already existing and larger set of Adult Services rules. We believe this rule is as clear and brief as possible in order to achieve that outcome."

DODD will review and consider feedback received during the comment period that ends on August 16, make adjustments if indicated, and then move forward to file the rule. Once the rule is filed, a public hearing notice will be disseminated to members of the DODD Rules Notification listserv. To subscribe to the listserv, send an e-mail to [join-rules.notice@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:join-rules.notice@list.dodd.ohio.gov) with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

For more information: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/>

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## [Health & Safety](#)

### 5. Food-Related Choking Among Children is Increasing

#### **Pack Back-to-School Lunches and Snacks with this Information in Mind**

*The DODD Division of Legal & Oversight, Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit provides this timely information along with other safety agency partners, including the Ohio Department of Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital.*

According to a new study by researchers at the Research Institute at *Nationwide Children's Hospital* and research colleagues at the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, non-fatal food-related choking among children 14 years of age or younger is increasing. The study examined data during the period from 2001-2009, indicating that more than 12,000 children were treated each year in U.S. emergency departments for injuries from choking on food. This is equivalent to 34 children each day.

**According to the study, published in the [July online issue of \*Pediatrics\*](#) hard candy caused the most choking episodes (15 percent), followed by other candy (13 percent), meat other than hot dogs (12 percent), and bones (12 percent). These four food types alone accounted for more than half of all the choking episodes in the study.**

Other high-risk foods such as hot dogs, seeds, and nuts, were noted as more likely to require hospitalizations. According to the study, these foods have high-risk characteristics that make them more likely to block a child's airway or make them more difficult to chew, which can lead to more serious choking events.

More than 60 percent of the choking episodes occurred among children 4 years of age and younger. The study also reported that although legislation and regulations are in place to protect children from nonfood-related choking such as choking on small toys, no similar monitoring systems, legislation, or regulations currently exist to address food-related choking among children. The researchers also noted:

- Children, especially under age five, should be supervised when eating meals and snacks. Teachers, parents, and other caregivers should be aware of food choking prevention recommendations and guidelines.
- Warning labels should be placed on foods that pose a high choking risk;
- Children younger than age five should not be given hard candies or gum, and raw fruits and vegetables should be cut into small pieces.



[More choking prevention tips are available at Health & Safety Alerts, click on #18, 'Choking.'](#)

The Center for Injury Research and Policy of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital works to reduce injury-related pediatric death and disabilities.

See all the Health & Safety Alerts at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/>

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## [National News](#)

### **6. U.S. Social Security Administration Updates Terminology**

The Social Security Administration will become the latest federal agency to start using the term 'intellectual disability' in place of 'mental retardation.' In a [final rule](#) published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2013, Social Security officials said they approved the change in terminology citing "... widespread adoption of the term 'intellectual disability'." They added, "Advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities have rightfully asserted that the term 'mental retardation' has negative connotations, has become offensive to many people, and often results in misunderstandings about the nature of the disorder and those who have it."

Under the new rule, all references to 'mental retardation' and 'mentally retarded children' will be replaced with 'intellectual disability' and 'children with intellectual *disability*' (*wording also follows [Person First language](#)*) within Social Security's 'Listing of Impairments' and other agency rules. The change in terminology will not impact how claims are evaluated for those with a developmental disability.

More at [Social Security To Drop 'Mental Retardation'](#), and online at [www.disabilitycoop.com](http://www.disabilitycoop.com)

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Who are these lovely ladies?\*

Find out in the next issue of  
*Pipeline Quarterly*,  
reporting on summer 2013.

Read all issues at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)



**\*Hint:** All three are involved with the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA). The organization develops regional opportunities for local advocacy groups to come together to share and learn, and assists in starting or strengthening local advocacy groups.

## *PostScripts* .....

Check out the **NEW** DODD Mobile App Today!    
Click [HERE](#) for more info.

### **DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting, August 20**

The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) will host its next meeting on August 20 at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.. The meeting agenda will include information about Developmental Center downsizing efforts, as well as our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion and other topics. DODD Director Martin also will be on-hand for a Question & Answer session, along with Deputy Director Patrick Stephan. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community, and we especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. Contact Peggy Martin, [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov) or (614) 466-8706.

### **Advocacy and Service Awards, Nominations due by August 16**

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) *Ben Bonanno Disability Advocate Award* honors outstanding advocacy accomplishments by non-employees of RSC. Bonanno was a former RSC Commissioner who advocated for improved employment possibilities for persons with disabilities. The award recognizes a person whose advocacy efforts have significantly improved employment possibilities for Ohioans with disabilities. RSC also has established the *Denise Joanne Weisenborn Service Award* to honor non-employees of RSC who provide outstanding service to Ohioans with disabilities. The award is in memory of Denise Weisenborn, RSC Commissioner, 1997 - 2006. For both awards, *deadline for submitting nominations is August 16, 2013*. Contact Shirley Marchi, (614) 438-1477 or e-mail [shirley.marchi@rsc.ohio.gov](mailto:shirley.marchi@rsc.ohio.gov).

### **NEW Ohio Waiver Network, Introductory Meetings August 20 & 21**

The new Ohio Waiver Network (OWN) is being developed by a group of Ohio waiver providers committed to collaboration, system simplicity, and quality outcomes. OWN creators believe that the waiver service model represents the future of service delivery in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, and have a desire to help shape that future by influencing policy and developing relationships

that enable people to succeed. Informational, introductory meetings have begun around the state. Regions and dates remaining are August 20th – Northwest, Bowling Green; and August 21st – Central, Columbus. Meetings are 9 a.m. to noon, and locations are posted at [www.ohiowaivernetwork.com](http://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com).

### **Training, August 26-27: Building Understanding, Resiliency, and Hope**

A training opportunity, “Building Understanding, Resilience and Hope,” is geared toward developmental disabilities professionals as well as mental health professionals -- including case managers, SSAs, and other County Board of DD staff, program managers of day service and residential support agencies, and mental health clinicians. New approaches for understanding and supporting people with complex neurobehavioral conditions and histories of trauma and toxic stress will be discussed at the two-day training, August 26 – 27, at the Xenos Center, 1340 Community Park Dr., Columbus, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. [Click here for registration information.](#)

### **SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11**

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) annual DSP Recognition Event will be at the Xenos Center in Columbus, on September 11. Rachel Simon, writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, will be the keynote speaker. The energetic Scott Osterfeld will again be Master of Ceremonies.

**The event is free for DSPs!...**

**... and will reinforce that today's most successful Direct Support Professionals foster partnerships with individuals who have developmental disabilities to help them reach their goals.**

DODD Director John Martin and several additional presenters are on the agenda. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. This year's theme is *Direct Support Professionals Help Create Life Stories*, and DSP's will have an opportunity to share stories of the great work they do. See: [Directions for sharing videos](#). Register at [www.dspath.org](http://www.dspath.org). Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 [agerowitz@me.com](mailto:agerowitz@me.com) or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 [LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PAR/OSDA 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4**

Two non-profit organizations, PAR and OSDA, are hosting a statewide conference October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Both organizations have held annual conferences for many years and have provided training, professional development, and advocacy in the DD field. This year's combined 'Synergy' conference will bring together a cross-section of all stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and DD professionals.

**The Annual ESDY Awards will be presented at this conference. To nominate someone ...**

Eligibility: Individuals or entities that have promoted the principles of self-determination which affected their own lives or the lives of others. Details on the OSDA website at [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org), coming soon.

*Completed nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013.* Contact [stravis@eriecbdd.org](mailto:stravis@eriecbdd.org). All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

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

RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission – and soon-to-be Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks offering educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

### **WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS, October 13**

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact [Columbus@autismspeaks.org](mailto:Columbus@autismspeaks.org) or call (216) 524-2842.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7**

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be held November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus. Go to <http://oaas.org/> or <http://ohioapse.org/> for more information.

### **SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9**

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com) for more information on the conference.

### **SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6**

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) annual Winter Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

**And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014**

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse**

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



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

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

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