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Pipeline PostScripts: Several updates for your calendar.

Today is the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech.
The Ohio Senate recently adopted a resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a key development in the Civil Rights Movement that culminated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.
(Read the Speech: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>)

1. Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Moves Forward

DODD Director John Martin and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Dr. Ted Wymyslo announced last week the finalization of the *Help Me Grow Early Intervention Project Management Plan*, which outlines the new and stronger partnership between ODH and DODD for administering the state's [Early Intervention](#) program.

The [document describing the plan](#) is posted on the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) website under "Operating Protocols." It includes information regarding the reasons for developing the plan, the targets to be accomplished, a work plan, operating protocol, and stakeholder representation.* DODD and ODH together acknowledge and appreciate the many stakeholders who have contributed recently, and over many years, to creating the vision of a coordinated, collaborative, and statewide Early Intervention system. The Project Management Plan is designed to:

- Implement past Early Intervention stakeholder recommendations;
- Maintain full compliance with the federal [Part C, IDEA regulations](#);

- Be responsive to the needs of families with infants and toddlers who have developmental disabilities or delays; and,
- Be innovative and forward-thinking in implementing practices that truly make a difference -- for a lifetime -- for children with disabilities and their families.

Lead staff members for the Early Intervention partnership efforts are Katrina Bush at DODD, and Wendy Grove at ODH. Contact: Katrina.Bush@dodd.ohio.gov, (614) 466-8359; Wendy.Grove@odh.ohio.gov, (614) 728-9152.

*Specific link at: <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/CurrentInitiatives/StreamlineHHS.aspx>

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2. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness, Prevention

September 9th is FASD Awareness Day

Each year on September 9th, International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day is observed during *FASD Awareness and Prevention Month*. This day is chosen on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, to draw attention around the world to the fact that *during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol*.

In the U.S. alone, FASD affects more than 40,000 infants each year. Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of life-long birth defects and developmental disabilities, including cognitive impairments.



FASD Prevention and Awareness Month raises awareness that NO AMOUNT of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy, and that help is available for those families already affected.



< This baby is pleased to report that Governor Kasich has designated September as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Prevention and Awareness Month in Ohio.”

**For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources: www.NotASingleDrop.org
FASD is 100 percent preventable!**

FASD is an ‘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. According to [Dr. Sterling Clarren](#), one of the world's leading researchers into the effects of FASD, “What Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is about is brain damage. It is a global brain damage caused by the intra-uterine exposure to alcohol that results in abnormal neurochemical balance. It interferes with behavior, and the ability to function normally.”

Ohio's FASD Initiative

Early diagnosis and treatment for FASD can help affected children reach their fullest potential, lessen secondary issues such as substance abuse and disrupted school experiences, and help

families to better understand and cope. DODD works closely with agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) in support of [Ohio's FASD Initiative](#) to promote a message of prevention, enhance early detection and referral for services, and increase effective and evidenced-based intervention strategies.

To learn about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, visit the FAS Community Resource Center website www.come-over.to/FASCRC and www.fasday.com

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3. FAC Statewide Participation Fosters System Improvement

What's on the minds of DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) members? DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan can tell you that the answer to that is ... "A lot." Here are just a few examples, as shared at the August 20 FAC meeting in Columbus last week.

"The transition period with my child has been difficult. You go from 'warm and fuzzy' to the adult world, and it's different. I'm working through it as best I can."

"What I'm worried about is how health care reform will affect my family, and our service providers."

"Direct care staff from different cultures – they can do an excellent job, very caring, and yet it's important to realize the cultural differences that can be barriers beyond language, and work to understand those. It goes both ways. Some training offered on that would be helpful."

"On this Waiting List survey – is 1000 enough for a random sample? Will you get a picture of what specific services people are waiting for? People will need to feel safe in answering the questions."

Family Advisory Council has long been known as an information forum for individuals, families, and other stakeholders in Ohio's DD community, and this month's meeting was no exception. As DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin has noted, "Since we have the attention of Director Martin and several key staff at these meetings, it is a great opportunity for them to hear from you ... and have your input on policy decisions. They are very committed to the Council."

Hearing conversations at this meeting, it was clear that while a lot of progress is being made in the area of transition services for teens and young adults, and toward more competitive employment opportunities for adults in the community, there is a lot of work yet to be done. Director Martin stated, "We do know, for example, that more than one-half of the people on the Waiting List for services are under the age of 21. It's critical to get specific on what services and supports they need now, and will need later." He added,

"[The National Core Indicators \(NCI\)](#) data we have gathered over the past few years also will be helpful in pinpointing where our efforts and our dollars should be placed most effectively. Focusing on current unmet needs, and how those gaps can be closed, will be most important in terms of improving the lives of the individuals and families served."

In response to FAC members' questions and comments, DODD staff on-hand noted that online resources currently available at www.dodd.ohio.gov include the [Service Provider Interview](#)

[Guide](#) developed specifically for families, by families ... information in the online [DODD Newsroom](#) that further describes recent grants to help families and children with specific challenges ... and, information about Ohio's competitive employment efforts at the [Employment First website](#).

Other topics covered at the August meeting included a presentation by DODD Division of Residential Resources staff regarding Developmental Center downsizing, and ICF conversion efforts (*see article #4 below*); Telepsychiatry helping individuals in remote areas around the state; and, an update on the Employment First initiative.



The next Family Advisory Council Meeting is November 12, 2013

FAC Meetings are held at the Columbus Developmental Center training room, and are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served throughout the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin at Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-8706.

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[Pipeline Quarterly Preview](#)

4. ICF Conversion Efforts = Homes in Pike County

Did DODD Director John Martin drive to Pike County on an August day just to eat Alesia's red velvet cake? Perhaps -- it's that good! However, it's more likely that he was headed that way to see the exciting residential upgrades in Pike County, following the purchase of property by *Provider Services/Empowering People*, in and around Lucasville. One such facility renovation, Scioto Trails, was the first stop in the rural community, and the neatly-trimmed grounds loomed into view among the open fields, revealing several new home-like cottages.

The Scioto Trails setting is an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) with three new 8-bed homes and one existing 8-bed home, 'The Manor', which has a slightly larger potential capacity. Currently The Manor has two residents who are moving out as soon as their waiver-funded home is completed. *Empowering People* began the facility conversion following a December 2011 purchase, and promised their Board that new homes would be built within two years.

Finishing the homes six months ahead of schedule, the new campus-style facility now serves the residential needs of approximately 35 individuals -- all of whom were thrilled to learn they would have their own bedrooms, and bathrooms within their rooms. *Provider Services/Empowering People* CEO, Brian Colleran, said plainly ... "They're adults, and deserve their own rooms."



Alesia's Red Velvet Cake had Director Martin's name on it, or so it seemed.

One of the high points of the visit to Scioto Trails homes was the sharing of sweet treats in the homey kitchens where residents pitched in and helped with everything. Here, Director Martin waits patiently for Alesia to serve the first slice of cake, after which she sat down with visitors and staff to talk about her many interests. A consummate hostess, Alesia encouraged us to return soon.



An upstairs deck sweeps around this home-in-progress near Lake White, in Pike County.

Total renovation of a large family home is underway in Chillicothe, as a result of partnerships between public and private entities in Pike and Ross counties. The collaborative effort soon will be a home to three gentlemen. Read more in the Summer 2013 *Pipeline Quarterly*.

< Shown l. to r.: Director Martin, Mike Schiller, Gary Roberts, Scot Crace, Dave Rastoka, Shayla Becze.



Read more about the transformational changes in residential services in Pike County and around the state, in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Summer 2013, and publishing in late September.

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5. MUI Rule Revision Focus is on Reducing Risk of Harm

See the rule at: 5123:2-17-02 Effective 2013-09-03

Revisions to the Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) Rule (*O.A.C. 5123:2-17-02*) will be effective on September 3, 2013. The re-named rule, titled *Addressing major unusual incidents and unusual incidents to ensure health, welfare, and continuous quality improvement* establishes the requirements for all MUI's and Unusual Incidents with a focus on preventing or reducing the risk of harm to individuals.

Many individuals and constituent groups participated in offering suggestions to improve the MUI Rule, according to Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director. He noted, “I was very impressed with the level of cooperation and collaboration that was shown in an effort to move the revised rule forward. The health and safety of individuals served in Ohio’s DD system is our top priority, and the revised rule language clearly reflects this.”

DODD has prepared several new resources for the field, providing details on changes from the previous version of the rule. These resources can be accessed at www.dodd.ohio.gov – Click on ‘Health and Safety Toolkit’ at the left of the homepage. Then look to the lower right side of the screen for the [MUI Rule Revision Updates](#)

Resources include: A complete version of the revised rule; a PowerPoint presentation outlining the changes; a video presentation regarding the changes; interpretive guidelines; and, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s). In addition, the 2012 MUI/ Registry Unit Annual Report has been posted, and is located within the Health and Safety Toolkit -- click on [Annual Reports](#).

For more information: MUI.UNIT@dodd.ohio.gov

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6. Improved Signage Movement Gathers Momentum

One might say that the movement to change public signage from using the former terminology, “handicapped,” to the improved, “accessible,” is rolling ever more quickly across the State of Ohio. Following up on the Franklin County-based article in [Pipeline, July 17 2013](#), titled “Self Advocates Speak Up, Ask Questions,” and reaching way back to 2010 when Hamilton County self advocates pioneered these efforts, ([Pipeline, April 28, 2010](#)). Grove City now has weighed-in on the subject with a resolution, “Supporting People with Disabilities Through the Use of Appropriate Signage in all City Facilities.”

According to Grove City Councilman Jeff Davis*, the City leadership is acting on the... “Understanding that the words we use to describe one another can have enormous impact on the perceptions people have about themselves and others, and on how welcome people feel in their communities.”

The resolution states that, “Discontinuing the use of the word ‘handicapped’ would change the nature of the signage so that it *no longer describes the person* using a service or facility at all, but *rather describes the nature of the facility or fixture itself* as accessible to residents with disabilities.” In addition, language in the resolution notes that the use of correct and appropriate terminology communicates respect and dignity.



An effort to revamp the icon that’s long symbolized accessibility on everything from parking lot signs to bathrooms is gaining traction. New York City is adopting the new look, and it is catching on elsewhere around the country.

Will Ohio be next?

More at: www.accessibleicon.org and at [Pipeline](#), June 5, 2013

**Davis is also Director of Government Relations for the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA).*

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7. Reminder: Waiting List Survey Underway

Study to Evaluate Needs of People Waiting for Services

As noted in the [July 31, 2013 Pipeline, article #5](#) more than 40,000 Ohioans with disabilities are waiting for a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver in Ohio. The number often raises eyebrows among advocates and policymakers, but little is known about what services people actually are waiting for or need.

Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has commented, “It’s disheartening when you hear the number, but it’s just a number. It doesn’t tell the whole story about who is on the list and what they really are waiting for.” DD Council, in partnership with DODD, the Government Resource Center, and Kent State University, is funding a study to examine the current and future needs of people with disabilities who are on the waiting list for an HCBS waiver.

The study will include a telephone survey of 1000 individuals who have been randomly selected from the HCBS waiver waiting list. People with disabilities or their family members, caregivers, or guardians will be asked a series of questions about what they need to help them be more independent, or what they might need in the future.



The surveys begin this month, and are expected to be finished sometime in November.

< “Here, Mommy! These people want to know what you are waiting for.”

Kent State University will be conducting the telephone interviews, and all personal information will be kept confidential. The survey is voluntary, and participation would not change a person’s position on the waiting list, or the services they are waiting to receive. The study will help DODD and local County Boards to identify needs that can be addressed in the future.

When all surveys have been completed the Government Resource Center will compile an analysis of the responses received, and estimate the current and future needs of all Ohioans with disabilities who are currently on the waiting list. Study findings will be made available in 2014.

For more information: <http://www.ddc.ohio.gov/>

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PostScripts

☞ **Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11**

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, "Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery," encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. In addition a presentation on "Reentry and Supervision" by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County Board of DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals with DD through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. OJACC Awards nominations are accepted through September 20, [online](#), or contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; email tctaylor@mac.com.

☞ **Direct Support Professionals Recognition 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 work they do. See: [Directions for sharing videos](#).

Register at www.dspaths.org. Contact: Amy Gerowitz, (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

☞ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 'Synergy' Conference, October 2-4**

The statewide 'Synergy' conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of all system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, DD professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Keynote speaker Rob Snow will employ his comedy background and talk about raising a child with a disability. Sessions will provide entertaining and useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The Synergy conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR.

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.

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2013. Contact stravis@eriecbdd.org.

All nominations are confidential. Please do not tell anyone about being nominated!

☞ **SAVE THE DATE! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9**

RSC - the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission – and soon-to-be 'Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency' – 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 online soon at <http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/>

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. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

Next Chapter Book Club to Hold First-Ever Conference, October 18-19

The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each others' company and read aloud. (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009, p. 8*) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with IDD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. The purpose of the conference is to share insights, on literacy and lifelong learning, and will feature brief, dynamic presentations. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org. Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

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 for more information on the conference.

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! 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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