
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
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Welcome 2014 - Happy New Year!

As we step into the New Year, remember ...

“If everything seems under control, you’re just not going fast enough.”

-Mario Andretti, race car driver

1. [Kasich Administration Works to Stem Human Trafficking](#)



It may be a little difficult to watch or listen to the video linked below, 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.

<http://powerhost.powerstream.net/008/00153/HumanTrafficking.wmv>

In support of *Human Trafficking Awareness Month* in January, DODD joins its state agency partners in educating Ohio citizens, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about the realities of human trafficking in Ohio. [Recommendations](#) to combat human trafficking -- *the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and/or forced labor* -- were presented to Governor John Kasich by Ohio’s Human Trafficking Task Force in 2012, at his request. The Task Force had been re-convened by Ohio Attorney General

Mike DeWine in 2011. Task Force recommendations are the foundation for the state's coordination of efforts to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking; creation of a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate these crimes; and, provision of services and treatment to trafficking victims.

A summary of those recommendations states that human trafficking is ...“One of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide, and is on pace to surpass the drug trade in less than five years. Ohio is not immune to this plague.” The summary continues,

“Each year an estimated 1,078 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, and 3,016 more are at-risk.”

Governor Kasich is committed to aggressively addressing this problem, and acting on the Task Force recommendations. Most recently, the Human Trafficking Commission helped pass [House Bill 262](#), also known as the ‘Safe Harbor Law.’ It will increase the penalties for traffickers and improve care for victims. Ohioans are urged to report any suspicious activity that may indicate human trafficking, and may learn more about spotting such behavior per information on the [Ohio Attorney General's website](#). In addition, suspicious activity may be reported to the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) hotline, toll-free at 1-866-313-6733.

Reporting any suspicious activity, and help for those who need it are key to the success of awareness efforts. Look for posts on DODD's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages throughout January, linking to informative and timely articles about the issue of human trafficking, its prevention, and help for those who need it.

*More information at: <http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx> and at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov>
Recommendations:<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/news/OhioHumanTraffickingTaskForceReport.pdf>*

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2. Updates from the Office of Health Transformation

Workgroup Submits Direct Care Worker Recommendations

Governor John Kasich proposed, and the Ohio General Assembly established, a workgroup to identify the core competencies required for direct care workers as a condition of receiving Medicaid payment. The *Direct Care Worker Advisory Workgroup*, representing home health consumers and providers, submitted its recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly on December 30, 2013. DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Legal and Oversight Kate Haller was a participant in this process. [Read the report](#) as released by the Office of Health Transformation.

Additional CHIPRA Funds Awarded

The Office of Health Transformation also reports that Ohio will receive \$10,829,869 in 2014 as a performance bonus for increasing the number of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the award early last week.

The bonus funding is awarded as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), and is in its final year. In addition to being tied to the

percentage increase of children enrolled in Medicaid, the awards consider eight factors which, according to CMS, are the strongest indicators that children have better access to health care. Ohio consistently has met five of those criteria, including continuous eligibility, liberalization of asset requirements, elimination of an in-person interview, same application and renewal forms, and presumptive eligibility.

More at <http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>

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3. Additional Funding to Support Direct Care Staff

After successful negotiations by the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), the Ohio General Assembly approved additional funds to support front line staff serving individuals with developmental disabilities (HB 59, Operating Budget). DODD formed a workgroup with representatives of OPRA, The Arc of Ohio, Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Health Care Association, Ohio Self-Determination Association, and the Values and Faith Alliance to determine how the funds would be best utilized.

The workgroup recommended that the initial phase should increase the base rates for two commonly utilized services -- Homemaker/Personal Care ‘on-site/on-call,’ and Transportation -- for both independent and agency providers serving individuals enrolled in the Individual Options and Level One Waivers. Homemaker/Personal Care ‘on-site/on-call’ is a component of Homemaker/Personal Care (HPC) that is paid at a lower rate than routine HPC services, as it is typically delivered overnight, when the individual being served is asleep.

The new rates are effective January 1, 2014.



The specific rate information is contained in appendices to rules 5123:2-9-24 (Transportation) and 5123:2-9-30 (Homemaker/Personal Care) available at DODD’s [Rules in Effect webpage](#).*

Debbie Hoffine, Operations Administrator within DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, observes, “DODD and its stakeholders are very pleased to see these rate increases made available to support and enhance services to individuals.” She adds, “The next phase of this funding will be utilized to increase the base rate for routine Homemaker/Personal Care services for both agency and independent providers. The increase for that service is planned to be effective on July 1, 2014.”

*The Rules URL is <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>

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4. Ohio Medicaid Strengthens Case Management Efforts

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has announced changes pertaining to two ODM-administered waivers -- the Ohio Home Care Waiver, and the Transitions Carve-Out Waiver. Effective January 1, 2014, ODM has contracted with two additional case management agencies to provide case management services in two more ODM-administered waiver regions. The goal in doing so is to provide individuals enrolled on these waivers a broader choice of case management agencies.

In July 2013, ODM divided the state into four 'waiver case management regions' -- Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Marietta. With the addition of two more case management agencies, the Cincinnati and Marietta regions now will include the Council on Aging, and CareSource, respectively.

ODM also noted in making the announcement that in July 2013, they had contracted with a provider oversight agency, Provider Consulting Group (PCG), to ensure that providers offer high-quality care to individuals on ODM-administered waivers, meet eligibility requirements, and follow all program rules and requirements. PCG services are statewide.

More information at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/>

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[Mark Your Calendars!](#)

5. Update on DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4

In 2013 a new partnership blended the annual statewide *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* in March, and the annual *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities previously held separately at the Ohio Statehouse. The program was organized by DODD, Ohio Public Images (OPI), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council), Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders. This year, the event planners include many from 2013*, with DD Council and Ohio SIBS taking the lead.

The theme for this year's event is "*What Are You Waiting For?*" ... referring to the release of a highly-anticipated study that evaluates the state's waiting list for Home and Community Based Services Waivers. Held in the Statehouse Atrium, the event begins with check-in and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., the program begins at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings immediately follow the program. The agenda promises to energize the state's disability community, and share stories of personal growth and achievement. Scheduled speakers include DODD Director John Martin, and self-advocates Christine Brown, Adam Moss, Renee Wood, J.J. House, and others. They will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment.

Participants at the event also will have an opportunity to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities.

Participation is free to anyone, but will be limited to the first 350 people who register.

Registration is now open and can be completed online by visiting www.ddc.ohio.gov or www.ohiosibs.com. Advocates interested in more information can also 'like' the event's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OhioDDAwareness.

Each person planning to attend must register. The deadline to register is Friday, February 14, 2014.

Click here for a video from the 2013 event.

**Planners include: The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Ohio Special Initiative for Brothers and Sisters (SIBS), the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, The Arc of Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards, the Ohio Provider Resource Association, the Ohio Self Determination Association, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, People First of Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.*

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Health & Safety

6. Winter Weather Safety – Technology Tips, Reminders

As Ohio 'weathers' the Office of Legal and Oversight, Major Unusual Incident Unit reminds everyone to keep Health & Safety *Priority #1*. It is important to exercise extra caution when transporting individuals outdoors in cold weather, and providing cold weather care in general. *Preparation* and *planning* helps keep people safe, and new technologies can help to assure that plans are followed and more options are available.

For outdoor activities and trips, bring along extra clothing, blankets, and warm liquids. Also, chemical pouch hand-warmers, such as those used for hunting and camping, provide instant warmth when needed. Keep a portable phone charger in your vehicle, along with your cellphone, when traveling any distance – even just a few blocks. Anything can happen!



“I’m stuck, and I’m only four blocks from the house!”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) emphasizes integrating technology into individual, family, and business preparedness plans.

[Click here> Winter Weather Alert Information](#)

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) reminds SmartPhone users to, “...Turn the technology in their purse or pocket into a life-saving tool to use in an emergency.” For example:

- *Learn how to send updates via text* from your cell phone to your contacts and social channels, in case voice communication is not available;

- *Store important electronic documents* such as personal and financial records on a ‘flash’ or ‘jump’ drive that can be readily available and accessed anywhere.

In addition, the DODD MUI Registry Unit offers these reminders:

- *Prepare your home for winter.* Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Review your homeowner’s insurance policy.
- *Prepare winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle.* Refresh food and bottled water stored in your winter emergency kits. They should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, a battery-operated or hand-crank radio, First Aid kit, and enough water and nonperishable food to sustain each person for at least three days. Maintain at least a tank half-full of fuel in vehicles.
- *Update disaster preparedness plans.* Every home, school, business, and organization should have written plans for disasters. Practice drills that require sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Update emergency contact lists, and be sure any new phone numbers are entered into your cell phone contacts directory.

‘Well-Informed’ – New Health & Safety Publication Debuts

The health and safety of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities continues to be Priority One. Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director, MUI Registry Unit, has announced publication of a new Quarterly newsletter, “*Well Informed*” (see it [here](#).) He observed, “As we welcome 2014, the DODD MUI Registry Unit is working hard to provide information to the field regarding various health and welfare concerns. The first issue of our new quarterly newsletter, *Well Informed*, was distributed on December 20, and addresses health and wellness issues that we hope will help to improve outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities in Ohio.”

Topics will vary from issue to issue and will include:

- Frequently asked questions
- Facts and research findings
- Wellness guidance
- Compliance updates
- Safety strategies
- Trend information

Phillips adds, “Our goal is to provide another resource, in addition to DODD [Health & Welfare Alerts](#), to educate and empower individuals, families, and our statewide stakeholder community.” Suggestions for topics to include in *Well Informed* may be directed to Connie McLaughlin at connie.mclaughlin@dodd.ohio.gov.

Learn how to best help older Ohioans in your neighborhood with these [tips from the Ohio Department of Aging](#).

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[Attn: County Boards of DD](#)

7. Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Offers Grants

Ohio EPA's [Clean Diesel School Bus Fund](#) offers grants of up to \$300,000 to retrofit diesel school buses with pollution control equipment and 'idle reduction equipment' such as pre-heaters, to save fuel and reduce student and driver exposure to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust. *The next application deadline is March 1, 2014.* Applicants should note that a 5 percent cash or in-kind match is required.

Public School Districts and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities are eligible to apply. The 2014 grant application is posted at:
<http://epa.ohio.gov/oe/EnvironmentalEducation.aspx>



Priority for funding is given to applicants that already have "anti-idling policies" in place for their buses, as well as applicants located in the 27 Ohio counties that do not currently meet national air quality standards for fine particulates (soot particles). A map of these counties may be accessed [here](#). Buses must be operating at least 5,000 miles per year, and grant recipients must commit to continue to operate the bus for a period of four years after the retrofit.

In addition, Ohio EPA's [Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant](#) program offers grants covering 80 percent of the cost to retrofit or replace older diesel school buses with newer clean diesel technology, or alternative fuel technology. These grants are funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality dollars, and are available only to applicants in 35 eligible counties and two additional eligible townships. A map of the eligible counties is posted [here](#).

For more information contact Kristopher Weiss, Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov, (614) 644-3769.

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Meet Todd, and learn about his success
with Remote Monitoring support services ...
Coming soon, in

Pipeline Quarterly

Postscripts



A POSTSCRIPT FOR 2013

Larry Farmer is waving 'Hello' to by-standers in Mechanicsburg, Ohio, at the recent Christmas parade for which he was Grand Marshal. This was especially cool, according to DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr -- a friend of Larry's -- because Gary loves parades, and is very social. Greg Kimball, Mayor of the Village of Mechanicsburg, was kind enough to share this great photo with *Pipeline*, and we also thank Larry's service provider CRSI, for letting us surprise Larry with this bit of publicity about his Grand Marshal activities.

☞ Ohio Disability and Health Program Needs Disability Advocates

Representing the disability perspective on a public health committee is a crucial step to improving inclusiveness, and ensuring that people with disabilities are considered in public health matters.

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is dedicated to raising awareness and improving knowledge regarding the needs of Ohio's disability community, specifically among staff at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Building relationships with the leaders of state-level public health committees within ODH is important to this effort, and the disability community must be represented on these committees. By appointing people with disabilities and their guardians, caregivers, and/or other disability advocates as members on these committees, the Ohio Disability and Health Program will be better informed to do its work. There are six committees currently requesting a representative from the disability community, and most committees meet bi-monthly or quarterly. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact health policy specialist, Anureet Benipal at ODH-- (614) 644.9848; Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov .

☞ Entry Deadline January 10, for OPI Media and Awareness Awards

The Ohio Public Images (OPI) "*Call for Entries*" for the organization's annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013* is underway, with *entries due by January 10, 2014*. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. The official 'Call for Entries' on the OPI website [at this link](#).

The 2014 DD Awareness Month (March) theme is, "Ability@Work."

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and theme-related efforts throughout the year. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for local customization. Artwork is available free, online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org. OPI encourages a year-long DD awareness effort, and provides sample ideas and information both online, and at events to be scheduled in 2014.

☞ DODD Family Advisory Council – Next Meeting, January 14, 2014

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) is in its 12th year in 2014, and starts the year with a meeting on January 14th. Included on the agenda will be an open discussion with service providers and provider association representatives, as well as an overview of the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit. *FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities community*. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meeting, January 23

You are invited to attend and provide input at the January meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities on January 23, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the office of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), 150 East Campus View Boulevard, Third floor, Commissioners Conference Room, in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need accommodations, contact Donna Foster, via e-mail at donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov or by phone at 614-438-1394, by Wednesday, January 15.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness. 'Like' on Facebook: *DD Awareness & Advocacy Day*. See the article (#5) in this issue of *Pipeline* for additional information.

Save the Date! People First Conference, March 13-15

The 2014 *People First Conference* is March 13-15, at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington, Ohio. This year's conference theme is "*Advocacy, the Time to Change is Now!*" The agenda this year is focused on self advocates' discussions of Employment First, Transition Services, and many other exciting topics of interest to self advocates, their families, friends, and staff. Look for more information posted online at www.peoplefirstohio.org as the date draws nearer.

Different Needz Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

The *Different Needz Foundation* 2014 grant application period is now open. The Foundation accepts applications for grants from individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that serve them that are in need of medical services or equipment. *Applications must be post marked no later than March 1, 2014.* Grant applications are available on the Foundation's website at www.differentneedzfoundation.org. Grant awards will be announced in May 2014. The Different Needz Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose primary mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that support them with medical equipment, therapy devices, adaptive toys and/or services. Contact information: info@differentneedzfoundation.org (216) 904-5151.

Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

The *SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat* is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate \$50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y>

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 ... 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. *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.* To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>



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