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Coming December 18 – The Year in Review A walk through 2013, via Pipeline

DCs as Community Resources

1. Community Resource Coordinators Strengthen Efforts

A long-term commitment to ensure successful community placements.

The DODD Division of Residential Resources (see [Pipeline](#), February 15, 2012) is continuing its focus as a statewide community resource for individuals served in Ohio's Developmental Centers and their families, with the creation of ten Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) positions. Each of the new CRCs has been assigned to a Developmental Center (DC) to serve as a liaison between that facility and the local community.

One of the first major projects several of the Community Resource Coordinators are involved with is the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Homes Project. Currently, there are seven DCs at which interested residents will have opportunities to move into a smaller, six-bed ICF home. These smaller settings will be operated by private providers who will be closely involved with the CRCs. According to the Division's Deputy Director, Ginnie Whisman,

“This represents a long-term commitment for both DODD and the provider to ensure community placement is as successful as possible.”

Whisman explains that efforts toward the voluntary conversion of ICFs, and the gradual downsizing at DODD-operated Developmental Centers are moving forward with the focus on a more holistic approach to individuals' needs in community-based, smaller settings. At the outset of this process she commented, “I think that what the Division of Residential Resources is bringing to the table now, is a more integrated approach to services – to ensure that appropriate

services are available to individuals according to their needs – and in their communities. We are looking at all the elements of how we operate on a daily basis to assure this approach.”

Another area several CRCs are overseeing is smaller waiver-funded homes. These homes also are operated by a designated private provider, and have long-term agreements with DODD to help ensure that the transition of an individual from the Developmental Center to a new home is successful. According to Sara Lawson, DODD Residential Resource Administrator,

“One of the most important areas the Community Resource Coordinators now oversee is the follow-up after an individual leaves a Developmental Center. This entails meeting with the individual, speaking with the family or guardian, the service provider, and the appropriate County Board about the individual’s progress after leaving a DC.”

She continued, “There is a series of required reviews set forth by the Department, and special reviews can be completed based on individual situations. This ensures the close monitoring of an individual’s health and safety, and assists in a smooth transition.”



They’re Ready to Hit the Road!

Prior to embarking on their new assignments (one to each Developmental Center), the new Community Resource Coordinators are packed up and ready to go.

Back row, from left: Tim Perna (Northwest Ohio DC); Jan Ieraci (Youngstown DC); Esther Adkins (Montgomery DC); Kim Morgan (Warrensville DC); Kelly McGuire (Gallipolis DC); Arlene Bowen (Mount Vernon DC);

Front row, from left: Rob Robbins (Cambridge DC); Roz Gase (Tiffin DC); Heather Krenwinkle (Southwest Ohio DC); and Amanda Kelley (Columbus DC).

According to Whisman, many of the Community Resource Coordinators have been involved in related efforts, including being part of the following statewide DODD projects:

- The *Supports Intensity Scale* (SIS) – More than 600 interviews were completed over the three years of this grant designed to evaluate supports needed for a person to participate fully in life, rather than focusing on what a person is unable to do. See related SIS story in [Pipeline, October 24, 2012](#).
- The *Individual Assessment Form* (IAF) – more than 6000 assessments were completed with private ICF homes;
- The *Ohio Developmental Disability Profile* (ODDP) and *Acuity Assessment Instrument* (AAI) – helping providers completing these assessments in the conversion of ICF Homes to IO waiver-funded homes; and,

- *Regional Resources* - Assisting individuals in the community if they become involved in crisis situations. This includes assessment, assistance with families and County Boards of DD, and as-needed, assisting in a short-term stabilization admission at a DC.

Brent Baer, Assistant Deputy Director in the Department's Division of Residential Resources, sums up the statewide approach to service improvement via the Community Resource Coordinators,

“With assistance from many of our stakeholders, including the residents we serve, we continue develop and create new community-based options. The Community Resource Coordinators are a dedicated group of individuals who believe in their work, and in the creation of those options. They work to support the mission that all of their actions and expectations are to assist individuals to be safe, happy and successful in their own ways.”

More about Ohio's Developmental Centers at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/default.aspx>

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2. Provider Fairs - A Growing Venue for Expanding Choices

Largest-Ever Franklin County Provider Fair Creates Interest in Replication

A Franklin County Provider Fair held November 14th, from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus was the first comprehensive county-wide effort in more than eight years. Organized by the Franklin County Board of DD (FCBDD) the fair was designed to provide an opportunity for individuals, families, Service Coordinators, and other DD professionals to meet with a broad range of providers, with the goal of reducing the level of stress and difficulty in finding ‘the right provider’ for an individual’s needs.

According to one of the lead event planners, FCBDD Service Coordinator Lilian Beck,

“There are approximately 4000 providers of waiver services in Franklin County, and at any given time there are many thousands of individuals enrolled on various waivers ... so the provider selection process can be daunting! We tried to organize the Provider Fair to be easy to navigate, and easy to locate providers of specific services that an individual or family might be most interested in.”

The Franklin County Provider Fair included 110 agency and independent providers, representing waiver services for the Individual Options (IO), Level 1, Transitions DD, Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF), and Ohio Home Care waivers. Service areas defined in statute, such as Homemaker-Personal Care, Non-Medical Transportation, Supported Employment services, Adult Day Support, and Nursing, were color-coded by balloons at each provider’s table, as well as on a master list provided to each guest attending the fair. This system made it easier for guests to find the specific services they were looking for, and meet as many potential providers as possible. Several FCBDD Service Coordinators also volunteered at the fair to serve as guides, and provide assistance with attendees’ questions.

According to planners, at least 500 people attended the fair, representing approximately 200 individuals receiving services, along with family members, FCBDD staff, and other DD community professionals. Augmenting the overall fair experience, a collaborative community art mural was created and displayed on-site, and members of the [Ohio Self Determination Association](#) (OSDA) provided information and support at the event.

Replicating a Comprehensive Provider Fair Experience

The Franklin County Provider Fair was organized by a planning committee headed by FCBDD Service Coordination staff including Lilian Beck, Alex Corwin, Lindsay Holt, Amy Yenkin, and Renee Aukerman, and FCBDD Administration staff Larry Macintosh and Joni Sparks, along with a small group of representatives from the area's provider agencies. Because many providers within the state's DD community specialize in certain waiver services, and because system changes prompt different approaches to services offered, events such as this one likely will become increasingly useful for individuals and families.



Making Meaningful Connections

Due to the success of the recent Franklin County Provider Fair, the FCBDD planning committee looks forward to collecting all of the event feedback and ideas, and then to begin spreading the word for the next one. Feedback like this was frequently noted on event follow-up surveys:

“This is awesome! I learned so much! The map with service colors matching the balloons at the tables was very helpful. Everyone was so informative, and if they could not help me they directed me to someone who could.”

Following the Provider Fair, FCBDD Superintendent Jed Morison commented, “It is so important for individuals and families to have opportunities to talk face-to-face with potential service providers. Negotiating the world of waiver services -- and so many potential providers -- is not easy. We're very pleased to have been able to organize a venue like this as a good resource for them.”

According to planners Beck and Corwin, “We have met to de-brief from this fair and have decided to plan another one in Spring/Summer 2014. We're thinking it will be a ‘niche’ fair -- maybe focusing on Employment and Adult Day Support, or services for children/youth. In any event, the providers told us that they wanted ... ‘More opportunities like this fair to get in front of people who need services ...’ and we're going to make sure that opportunity is offered.”

County Boards and other partnering geographic entities that may wish to follow the model of organization developed by planners of this successful fair are invited to contact:
Lilian.Beck@fcbdd.org or Alex.Corwin@fcbdd.org.

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3. HOME Choice Program Empowers Community Living First Conference of Its Type in Ohio

The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council hosted a community living conference on November 21, in Columbus, focused on providing information to people with disabilities and older adults who are considering moving from nursing homes or other institutions to independent community living -- through help from the HOME Choice program. This was Ohio's first such conference, as noted during welcome comments by John McCarthy, Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Participants included more than 200 HOME Choice service and health care providers, vocational rehabilitation professionals, and many individuals served in the statewide system, along with their families and caregivers. Informational sessions featured topics including:

- Changes in funding structures within Medicaid, including a single point-of-entry for Managed Care plans/waivers;
- Developing best practices in working with personal care attendants;
- Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities;
- Respite care; and,
- HOME Choice eligibility criteria.

In addition, the conference debuted two new videos featuring four 'stories of recovery,' ultimately showcasing independence gained through Ohio's HOME Choice program. According to conference attendee Elizabeth Sammons, even the more light-hearted keynote address by Alex Valdez, a comedian who is blind, focused on the importance of independence in everyone's lives, and addressed the disability that can be most harmful -- "the paralysis of fear" -- and how to combat risk-avoidance with a little support.

*More information at <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOROHIOANS/Programs/HomeChoice.aspx>
Acknowledgements to elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov*

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4. Public Hearing on Rules, Including Employment First

A public hearing on proposed rule actions will be held December 27, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Lobby Hearing Room of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration. They include:

Rule 5123:2-2-05 entitled "Employment First" is a proposed new rule. The rule implements Ohio's Employment First policy, established in Section 5123.022 of the Revised Code, that employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities be directed at community employment and that individuals with developmental disabilities are presumed capable of community employment.

Rule 5123:1-1-03 entitled "Distribution of Community Assistance Funds for the Acquisition of Housing" is proposed for rescission and replacement by a new rule of the same

number. The rule sets forth a process for the Department to make community assistance funds available to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities to acquire housing for individuals receiving supported living. The rule has been updated to correct references and citations, including references to the Department, and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

**The proposed new rules are posted on the DODD website at: [Rules Under Development](#)
It is anticipated that the new rules will be effective in early February, 2014.**

As part of the process to successfully implement Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#) in a consistent manner across the state, DODD has drafted the new administrative rule *5123:2-2-05* in collaboration with stakeholders.

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. "Stakeholders have told us that the importance of the Employment First initiative warranted a new rule, rather than burying the information within an existing rule," noted DODD Administrative Rules Coordinator Becky Phillips.

In addition, Kristen Helling, DODD Community Advisor in the Division of Policy and Strategic Direction and lead person for the Employment First initiative, noted, "The new Employment First rule will help to assure that all individuals with a developmental disability have an opportunity to achieve their desired employment goals."

More about DODD Rules at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/Pages/default.aspx>

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5. 30th Annual OACB Convention Spotlights Collaboration

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference is today through December 6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus, and celebrates the Conference's 30th year. The many scheduled informational sessions and presentations focus on ideas and information designed to help attendees continue to improve services for individuals and families in their communities, and around the state. Details about the conference are at [OACB conference information](#).

At today's opening session, DODD Director John Martin highlighted a few points in his presentation, focusing on examples of OACB's transformational changes over the Association's 30 years of service within the state's developmental disabilities system. He stated,

"The role OACB has played over the years has been a remarkable one. What I have observed is that you all have changed and evolved as a collective and collaborative system, while maintaining your strengths as individual County Boards. I also appreciate your creativity in meeting financial and other challenges over the years, and the resulting sharing of ideas and other resources that continues to benefit the people we serve."

Director Martin added that OACB members can be especially proud of the support that local communities have shown through the passage of many local County Board levy issues during the 30-year period. He noted, "Looking at the data, it is clear that local taxpayers have seen the value in what you do for people with developmental disabilities in your communities, and are willing to support those efforts. That is a strong, positive message."

More conference information at <http://www.oacbdd.org/>

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[Health & Safety](#)

6. Tips for Safe and Happy Holidays

Many residential service providers and families caring for individuals with developmental disabilities have shared with DODD over the years that the holiday season offers one of the best opportunities to involve those individuals in special activities such as decorating, baking, singing carols, and attending unique faith-based programs. To assure that all of these opportunities are safe and happy ones, the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Registry Unit provides these reminders for an extra measure of care and safety during the holidays.



- Never use lighted candles near an inside evergreen tree ('live' or not!), or near wrapping paper, or where candles can be blown or knocked over.
- Before lighting a fireplace, check to see if the flue is open, and keep a screen in front of it while the fire is burning.
- Never burn wrapping paper - it ignites quickly and burns intensely.
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety. Check old lights and cords for cracks, frays or bare wires – if you find any, discard! Do not overload extension cords. Turn off lights when you leave the house and before going to bed.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, and keep “bubbling” lights away from children -- they are a temptation.
- Practice an escape plan in case of an emergency. Even if you may have done so before the holidays, decorations and trees may change the path to doors and windows.

DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips notes, “During the holiday season, our enthusiasm sometimes causes us to forget to keep ourselves -- and those in our care -- safe. Take the time to share important safety information with everyone in your home, and be mindful of potential hazards.”

Minimize Risk!

A helpful chronological listing of seasonal and other Health & Welfare Alerts, covering areas in which DODD has identified a risk to people, and what can be done to avoid or minimize that risk, is online at [Health & Welfare Alerts](#).

Additional information is at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Pages/Information-Notices.aspx>

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DD Awareness Month Theme Announced for 2014

The 2014 theme is, "Ability@Work." The concept is designed to be used all year, if desired.

Ohio Public Images (OPI), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in 1983 to promote positive perceptions and awareness of people with developmental disabilities.

Each year *Ohio Public Images* creates a statewide theme for the March celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. In 2013 the theme has been "Look Beyond," and was used widely throughout the state, often customized by local County Boards of DD and other service providers, to unify and brand their local efforts. OPI prepares posters and other materials to standardize artwork and yet allow for customization. The basic artwork is available free, online at www.publicimagesnetwork.org. This year OPI is encouraging a year-long DD awareness effort, and will roll out sample ideas and information this month, both online, and at events to be scheduled in 2014.

Call for Entries, Media and Awareness Awards – Entry Deadline, January 10, 2014

The OPI 'Call for Entries' for the organization's annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013* is now underway. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. Look for the official 'Call for Entries' on the OPI website at [this link](http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org). More information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/> - click on 'Ohio Awards.'

DODD Family Advisory Council, Next Meeting is January 14, 2014

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) will be 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.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day 2014

Save the Date! March 4, 2014

DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Details Coming Soon!

Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Ohio Statehouse

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness
Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

The Arc, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, Ohio SIBS, ucedd

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.*

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