
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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Pipeline Postscripts: Including Many New Updates for Your 2014 Calendar

Governor Kasich to Hold ‘State of the State’ Address in Medina

Governor John Kasich will deliver his third State of the State Address in Medina, taking the speech on the road and ‘to the people,’ for the third straight year. The annual address is planned for the evening of February 24 at the Medina Performing Arts Center. The speech is expected to coincide with the Administration’s unveiling of the Mid-Biennium Review budget, also planned for late February.

1. DODD - Revisiting Our Roots at the Start of 2014

The Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

Since 2011, at the outset of the Kasich Administration, DODD has continued to build its foundation on the *Mission* statement above, and the *Vision* noted below, along with five specific goals. These foundational elements have remained consistent, and have been revisited many times since 2011 to provide guidance and assure clear direction in the Department’s operation and planning. As 2014 ramps up, we share these with *Pipeline* readers once again, and look forward to the work building on this platform this year through our Strategic Planning Leadership Group (See *Pipeline Volume 7 issue 26 'Year in Review'*), as well as with other important stakeholder groups.

Vision

Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families will experience lifestyles that provide opportunities for personal security, physical and emotional well-being, full community participation, productivity, and equal rights.

NOTE: In 2014, one example of supporting this *Vision* is that DODD will be implementing a Service & Support Administration rule (ORC 5123:2-1-11) which will clearly define person-centered services and encourage self-direction and self-advocacy within Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Five Goals

Goal 1: Create less complex service delivery, with fair and logical payment systems that are federally compliant.

Goal 2: Continue to be good stewards of limited resources.

Goal 3: Provide quality outcomes through a combination of people and processes.

Goal 4: Design service delivery models in response to choices made by the people served, in alliance with community supports.

Goal 5: Develop a system-wide vision and long-range strategic plan by listening to our funding partners, constituents, and stakeholders.

NOTE: In 2014, one example of supporting these *Five Goals* is the exploration and development of targeted workgroups within the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration, to work with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other state and federal agencies to improve the delivery of services through Medicaid-funded waivers. One such effort specifically is focused on the Transitions "TDD" waiver for services to youth and young adults.

Over the course of the past few years, DODD Director John Martin has noted that with the guidance of the agency's *Mission, Vision, and Five Goals*, and the input of active stakeholder groups within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, the state will continue to be a leader in areas such as regional service collaboration, and employment opportunities. Referring to a partnership between DODD and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency in October 2013, he stated,

"This partnership for Employment First will make Ohio stand out in the national developmental disabilities community – It's a significant and important effort in moving the system forward."

It is with much enthusiasm that DODD looks forward in 2014 to making the most of our system's strengths, and to continuously improving the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

More about DODD Vision, Goals, etc. at: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/directorscorner/Pages/Mission,-Vision,-Values>.

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2. Administration Spotlights Human Trafficking Awareness



"Trafficking happens here in Ohio ... and there *is* something that we can do about it."

- Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The quote noted above is indicative of the aggressive approach taken on *Human Trafficking Awareness Day* in Ohio earlier this month, at an event hosted by State Representative Teresa Fedor. The awareness campaign during the month of January, "Ohio's Tragic Reality," is spearheaded by Governor John Kasich, and utilizes social media, posters, advertisements, billboards, and fact sheets that highlight the issues of human sex and labor trafficking. The campaign also directs individuals to national anti-trafficking organization [Polaris Project](#) for more information.

Strengthening the statewide effort are partnerships with entities including the Ohio Turnpike Commission -- which is placing materials at roadside service plazas and on toll booths -- as well as with state departments of Youth Services, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Job and Family Services. In addition, public libraries, state licensing boards, and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks are supporting and promoting the issue with access to information at points of contact in hopes of reaching individuals directly affected. Ohio Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Elizabeth Ranade-Janis recently stated,

"These partnerships only work if you guys take this out and spread the message that human trafficking is Ohio's tragic reality."

Representative Fedor also has proposed a bill, [HB 130](#) – the "End Demand Act" – which seeks to curb demand for the sex trade. The legislation would bar placement of children under a public children's services agency with any parent convicted of a prostitution-related offense, and establish new offenses for trafficking that involves individuals with developmental disabilities. The bill was passed by the Ohio House in June, and heard for the first time by the Ohio Senate Criminal Justice Committee last Tuesday.

As noted in [Pipeline, January 8, 2014](#), the illegal trade of people for commercial sex exploitation is expected to surpass illegal drug trade as a top crime in less than five years. People who are exploited each year include an estimated 1,078 Ohio children. HB 130 increases the penalty for solicitation of a minor for commercial sex, and enforces a third degree felony on anyone who knowingly purchases or obtains advertising for sex for hire that depicts a minor.

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 this crime. Ohioans are urged to report any suspicious activity that may indicate human trafficking, and may learn more about spotting and reporting such behavior per information on the [Ohio Attorney General's website](#). In addition, suspicious activity may be reported to the DODD Major Unusual Incident toll-free hotline, (866)313-6733.

More information at: <http://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx> and at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov>
More on the subject from a national perspective at <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

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3. Office of Health Transformation – More Rebalancing

New Medicaid Waiver Rule Clarifies HCBS

When Governor John Kasich took office, Ohio was spending more of its Medicaid budget on high-cost nursing homes and other institutions than all but five states, and Ohio taxpayers were spending 47 percent more for Medicaid long-term care than taxpayers in other states. The [Office of Health Transformation](#) is working to “rebalance” Medicaid long-term care spending toward less expensive home- and community-based services (HCBS).

A new federal rule recently brought forward works to support this ultimate goal for seniors and people with disabilities to live in their own home, instead of a higher-cost nursing home.

In a long-awaited move, federal officials are clarifying what counts as ‘home and community-based services’ for people with disabilities. Under a [new rule](#), housing for people with disabilities not only will be judged by its location or physical characteristics, but also will need to meet specific ‘outcome-oriented’ criteria in order to qualify under Medicaid HCBS waivers.

The rule states, “Home and community-based settings do not include a nursing facility, institution for mental diseases, or an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. The new federal requirements also state that homes, “...must exhibit specific qualities to be eligible sites for delivery of home and community-based services.”

More specifically, the rule states that the settings must be integrated in, and provide full access to, the community – and be places where individuals choose to live.

The language also specifies that individuals with disabilities receiving Medicaid home- and community-based services do so through a person-centered planning process. Homes also must offer personal rights to privacy and dignity and allow individuals to independently make choices about daily activities, their physical environment, and with whom they interact.

In making the announcement regarding the rule language, federal officials noted that while the new rule has been ‘in the works’ for years, they were prompted to move forward more quickly after hearing reports of homes being built on the sites of former institutions that were being labeled as ‘community-based.’

More: <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-Sheets/2014-Fact-sheets-items/2014-01-10-2>.

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4. DODD Family Advisory Council – Focuses on Providers

The DODD statewide Family Advisory Council (FAC) began its twelfth year of meetings in 2014 with standing-room-only attendance on January 14 at Columbus Developmental Center. Included on the agenda was an open discussion with a panel of several service providers -- including independent providers and provider association representatives – as well as an overview of the Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit, and Administration updates from DODD Director John Martin. Referring to several data-driven observations, Director Martin noted,

“One of the things we’re looking at is how County Boards of DD are being impacted in terms of levy dollars, and other economic impacts that are being felt across the state. We also are looking at where the responsibilities are drawn for DODD as a state agency, and what responsibilities are County Boards’ – and so how can we work together in the most mutually helpful way?”



A Voice from Ross County

Jessica Hawk, Ross County parent advocate, takes the microphone to ask a question about regulations for the use of durable medical equipment.

She also shared her thoughts on other subjects as a long-time advocate for people with disabilities and their families. She observed,

“We have to ask questions, and the right questions!”



A ‘full house’ at the January 14 Family Advisory Council meeting ... included several first-time attendees representing counties throughout the state. While professionals in the DD community also attend the meetings, most participants are family members of individuals with developmental disabilities.



A 'provider panel' answered many questions from family members, and offered insight into current issues affecting Ohio providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. (L. to R.: Kathy Phillips; Mark Davis (standing); Betty Holland; Steve Mould; Tom Rickels, and Dan Ohler.

Per requests in 2013 from several FAC members, a panel representing service providers spoke to the group and addressed a variety of questions and concerns. Representing providers were Kathy Phillips, Dan Ohler, and Tom Rickels of the Ohio Waiver Network (OWN); Mark Davis of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA); Steve Mould of the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA); and, Betty Holland of the Values & Faith Alliance. Comments included these:

“What kind of training is out there for providers – for direct support staff – to help build relationships with the families of people they serve? We want to feel welcomed and valued when we visit our sons and daughters.” -A parent advocate

“Who is holding providers accountable? Really accountable. The regulations are confusing to me.” -A parent advocate

“As an Association, do we try to influence ‘best practices’? Yes. Can we as an Association enforce them? No. But we can and do work together with those who can.” -Mark Davis, OPRA

“You are right – the system is too complex. The Ohio Waiver Network was recently organized, and that is one of the reasons – we want to figure out ways to simplify the provision of services to people with DD, and we’re working on some ideas.” -Tom Rickels, OWN

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, coordinator of the FAC meetings, emphasized to the group that [Family Chat*](#) online conversations between families who are served by Ohio’s DD service system are another good forum for these discussions. DODD Communications team members noted that the online discussion group may move on to a Facebook format in the future, facilitating more such interaction.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community. DODD especially appreciates the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

*Family Chat is at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/INF/gethelp/joinfamilychat/Pages/default.aspx>

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5. Fairfield County's 'DiscoverU' Hosts Grand Opening

DODD Director John Martin was on-hand in Fairfield County last week to participate in the grand opening of *DiscoverU* at the River Valley Mall -- a unique approach to community-based employment and training spearheaded by JobFusion, the employment division of the [Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#). He observed, "This is really an innovative project that we think is going to make significant differences in the lives of folks with disabilities, and helping them get jobs." He continued,

"As we all know, with jobs come income and money. And with money comes independence. So all of those things work together. It's really impressive to have the community businesses, political leadership, and County Board ... all working together to create this."

DiscoverU offers opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive training and hands-on experience through a variety of classroom activities and internships. In addition to Director Martin, other state and local leaders attended the grand opening, including Lancaster Mayor Dave Smith; Lancaster/Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce President Travis Markwood; Specialty Leasing Manager at River Valley Mall Kelly Broeg; Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency Director Kevin Miller, and others in support of the local collaborative efforts.



< Left to Right: Kevin Miller, John Martin, Richard Clemons, and Kathy Dennison prepare to speak at the Grand Opening of DiscoverU at the River Valley Mall in Lancaster. Richard stated,

"Before I started here, there was no way I could get in front of a crowd and speak. I feel like I've opened up working at Elder-Beerman."

Below: A good time was had by all at the Discover U Grand Opening.

Photos courtesy, Pam Whiteley



More about this story on our DODD Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Department-of-Developmental-Disabilities/124333821004961>

See related article, *Lancaster Eagle Gazette*, 1-14-14

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Publishing today, in the newest issue of
Pipeline Quarterly ...

you'll meet Cory and other individuals around the state, who are enjoying more independence with Remote Monitoring support services.

Go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/default.aspx>

PostScripts

More News About DD Awareness & Advocacy Day, March 4

Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day, March 4 at the Ohio Statehouse, will showcase self-advocates' stories of personal growth and achievement. The program is planned this year by many partners in Ohio's developmental disabilities community, including DODD, the Ohio DD Council, Ohio Special Initiatives for Brothers and Sisters, The Arc of Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, Ohio Self Determination Association, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, People First of Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Participation is free, and open to anyone, but will be limited to the first 350 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.

Every person planning to attend must register – Deadline to register is February 14, 2014.

The theme for the event is, “*What Are You Waiting For?*” and refers 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 day will begin with check-in and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., the program at 10:00 a.m., and legislative meetings immediately follow the program. Speakers will discuss achievements in advocacy, education, self-determination, and employment. Event participants will have opportunities to meet with their state legislators to discuss key advocacy topics for 2014, including what the Waiting List means for people with disabilities.

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

Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop, March 21-22 and 24-25

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting a Healthy Lifestyles two-day Train-the-Trainer Workshop at the Ohio State University in Columbus March 21-22, and again March 24-25. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help people develop confidence and skills to stay on a journey toward a healthy and happy life. This 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational for people who will commit to teaching people with disabilities about Healthy Lifestyles. The training will feature Master Trainers, Angela Weaver, from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey, from the City of Eugene, Adaptive Recreation. Participants will learn about the history of the national, evidence-based Healthy Lifestyles© (HL) program; experience many of the hands-on practical aspects of the workshop; receive a certificate as a “Certified Lead HL Trainer”; receive all the necessary HL training materials; and have the opportunity to network with peers. *Registration opens January 30!* Contact: Erica Coleman, (513) 803-4399; erica.coleman@cchmc.org

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 .

FUSE and One Accord to Host Deafness Awareness Event February 22

‘Deaf, Deaf World,’ February 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

A free adventure to have a “no speaking allowed” experience, designed to develop sensitivity to and increase awareness of communication methods of deaf and hearing-challenged people. Hosted at Vineyard Columbus, 600 Cooper Rd., Westerville, on Saturday February 22, 2014, Joni & Friends Ohio, and Deaf Services are working together to increase Deaf Awareness. “Deaf, Deaf World” is modeled after an event that was held at Wright State University years ago. Each participant will enter a room where they will learn about Deaf Culture. Each attendee will be given a Passport to enter Deaf, Deaf World

where no talking is allowed. A person can sign, charade or write things out but no one will be allowed to talk. For more info, contact Deb Petermann, 614.259.5257 or Marsha Moore Deaf Services, 614.841.1991 (V/TTY). Also see: www.joniandfriends.org and www.vineyardcolumbus.org.

2014 Statewide 2014 DD Awareness Month 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.



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.

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.

WrightChoice Invests in the Future of Ohio Youth

WrightChoice, Inc. has launched "*Future1st and Career Access Program*" a Career Pathways Initiative funded by Ohio Means Jobs Columbus. *Future1st* is designed to help income eligible youth ages 17 to 21 return to school or get on track toward a career. Participants may choose to work toward a certification in warehouse logistics, Information Technology, customer service, obtain their GED or enroll in college. They also may receive cash incentives for earning a certification. Tutoring is available for those who need it. Participants who choose to get their certification then become eligible for paid employment upon successful completion. Interested individuals should complete the on-line pre-registration form at www.wrightchoice.org. Click the "Future1st" logo to get started. Contact (614) 802-2364.

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 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

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