

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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[Mid Biennium Review Completed](#)

1. House Bill 487 Focuses on Management Efficiency

The product of a ‘top-to-bottom review of state government operations,’ the Mid Biennium Review (MBR) package was signed by Governor John Kasich on June 11, and moves forward many initiatives begun earlier by the Administration, while taking steps to streamline and improve the overall management of state government. As one of the Governor’s Cabinet-level agencies, DODD was heavily involved in this process, reviewing system-wide operations and focused on efforts to improve efficiencies and streamline service delivery. In addition, as a partner in the state’s Office of Health Transformation, DODD worked with other partnering agencies to improve communication, and share resources wherever possible.



In preparing the MBR, Governor Kasich instructed Cabinet directors to analyze spending and seek reductions wherever possible. The majority of the resulting Management Efficiency Plan was included in [House Bill 487](#) and contains many appropriation changes related to proposed program reforms. While increases in a few agency programs were identified to meet unanticipated needs, the overall result is a net reduction in agency appropriations for FY2013. The Plan is designed to improve state-run programs, streamline regulations, consolidate duplicative efforts, and lessen unnecessary ‘red tape’ to save taxpayer dollars and make government more efficient.

In the area of strengthening protections for Ohioans who receive home- and community-based health care services, the newly-signed package addresses current laws for criminal background checks and past convictions for home health care workers which were inconsistent, enabling

potentially dangerous criminals to work with vulnerable individuals. The Plan resolves gaps and inconsistencies, and creates stronger, more uniform standards to protect the health and safety of thousands of Ohioans receiving these services.

In addition, the Administration's budget aims to enhance statewide data-sharing, and generally improve the sharing of information between all state agencies. Current law requires state agencies that administer health and human services to enter into fairly cumbersome agreements to share basic data needed to inform decisions and implement program improvements. The Management Efficiency Plan authorizes and encourages the sharing of data, personnel, funding, and other operating resources among designated state agencies in support of cross-agency work for health transformation purposes.

According to an Administration [Fact Sheet](#), the 'bottom line' in the MBR package is this...

"Ohio and its state government have urgent needs than cannot wait for the next biennial budget cycle in 2013. The Management Efficiency Plan, through HB 487, accelerates Governor Kasich's reform agenda by helping government streamline operations, reduce costs, and improve delivery of services for Ohio taxpayers."

Before signing the legislation, Governor Kasich exercised his veto authority on some language, including a \$30 million Medicaid appropriation for nursing homes. A total of 13 items were removed from the main Mid Biennium Review budget bill.

Learn more about DODD budget and planning priorities in Director Martin's recent 'More Choices' presentation. Additional budget information is posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/oht.htm>



2. Three Earn APSI's Annual Advocacy Awards

Advocacy and Protective Services Inc. (APSI) this month presented the agency's 2012 Advocacy Awards, including The Ron Kozlowski Award and The Russell Kinnebrew Award, at an APSI All-Staff event on June 7.

The Kozlowski Award honors Ron Kozlowski's lifetime of advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, during 24 years as APSI Executive Director. He retired in 2010. The award is presented to a person not employed by APSI, who demonstrates a long-term connection with advocacy efforts in Ohio's developmental disabilities service system. The 2012 recipient is Carolyn Knight, Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') and longtime advocate for the state's developmental disabilities community.

The nomination by Michael Schroeder of the Ohio Department of Mental Health noted, "*Lifetime achievement in advocacy* is an apt description of Carolyn's ongoing service, dedication, and accomplishment in working for and with persons with disabilities. Since 2008, Carolyn has been serving as the Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, where she is responsible for the oversight and administration of more than 25 grant-funded projects designed to promote self determination and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life."

Schroeder added,

“Carolyn always has been ‘somebody who brings people together to solve problems.’ I cannot think of an area of policy in which she has not been a leader in advocacy for individuals with disabilities.”



The 2012 Ron Kozlowski Award Presentation

(l. to r.) APSI Director, Karla Rinto; Carolyn Knight; APSI Board President, Nevalyn Nevil.

Carolyn’s leadership has been called ‘trail-blazing advocacy.’ It includes working to improve individuals’ access to Medicaid; increased opportunities for community living; and, protecting people from seclusion and restraint. Her nomination for the Ron Kozlowski Award noted,

“As a result of her 30+ years of tireless advocacy, leadership, and support, people with disabilities are leading better lives because of Carolyn Knight.”

In recognition of Russell Kinnebrew’s 30 years of service and advocacy as an APSI employee, the award in his name is given to an APSI staff member who demonstrates exemplary advocacy efforts, and who has been employed with the agency for at least five years. The two recipients this year are Amanda Nagy and Kathryn Adkins. Nagy is a Protective Service Representative who has worked in the Cambridge office for nine years. The nomination letter noted, “Mandy has always been willing to help out in any way she can, and is always cheerful and positive.” In addition, it was noted that she had, “... helped support several individuals to continue to live in a community-based home that was disputed by hostile neighbors.”

Kathryn Adkins is a Protective Service Representative, and has served individuals through APSI’s Gallipolis office for 28 years. Her nomination letter stated, “Kathryn can be tough, but she’s fair to all her clients and she never gives up on themever! She will keep fighting for them when everyone else has given up. She doesn’t give an inch when it comes to their care, and I respect her for that.” It was also stated that,

“... When Kathryn is ‘on a mission’ she will not hesitate to track down the Judge or the Doctor at one of the local restaurants over the lunch hour!”



The 2012 Russell Kinnebrew Award Presentation
(l. to r.) APSI Director, Karla Rinto; Kathryn Adkins, Russell Kinnebrew, Amanda Nagy, and APSI Board President, Nevalyn Nevil.

More about APSI at www.apsiohio.org; Contact Executive Director Karla Rinto at krinto@apsiohio.org



3. SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins Next Month

In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline has featured a short series of articles highlighting various aspects of the waiver. This article is the last in the series. See the [Pipeline archive](#) for all articles.



The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their waiver budget and direct where and how they receive those services.

Handbook Available, Training Continues

Training for the SELF waiver is well underway. Statewide training opportunities include in-person and online sessions, some of which is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Government (COGs), and some of which is targeted to potential providers, individuals and families. The new SELF waiver handbook also has been

prepared to use in tandem with the training, and as a general resource. It is online at [SELF Waiver Handbook](#).

Registration for the Regional Trainings must be done online using this link:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SELFWaiverTrainingRegistration>

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with *The Arc of Ohio* to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding this new waiver, including time for families' comments and questions. Training is free, and dates and times are posted online at www.dodd.ohio.gov. This week includes:

SELF Training, Summit and Portage Counties

Thursday, June 21, 2012

7:30 p.m.

Stow Council Chambers - City Hall

3760 Darrow Rd., Stow, OH 44224

RSVP to (330) 836-5863

Thearc@thearco.org

Support Broker Training

DODD has contracted with a national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed to ensure that interested parties in Ohio's developmental disabilities system have the opportunity to learn more about this new function. Training will be conducted regionally around the state, beginning in late June.

The first type of Support Broker training is a 2 ½ hour informational session for stakeholders interested in learning more about the Support Brokerage function. Individuals, family members, County Board staff, and other potential providers are encouraged to attend this training, which discusses Support Broker responsibilities, and what role the Support Broker plays as a part of the SELF waiver. The training also will cover how a Support Broker inter-relates with individuals and their family members, and with County Board Service and Support Administrators.

The second type of training is a day-long Support Broker Certification session for people interested in becoming certified to deliver Support Brokerage services. As a requirement for certification, all persons who plan to provide Support Brokerage services, either on a paid or unpaid basis, must successfully complete this Support Broker Certification training. Attendees must pass a Support Brokerage competency test, given as part of the training, to receive the required Certificate of Completion.

Scheduled trainings are arranged for each region so that the 2 ½ hour informational session will be conducted a few days prior to the Support Broker Certification training.

To sign up to attend this training, go to: [SELF Waiver Support Broker Training](https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG_Main.asp)
https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG_Main.asp

More information about the SELF waiver is online at [SELF Waiver](#)



Emerging County Board Best Practices

4. Paper Becoming Scarce at Delaware County Board of DD

Agency has completed its goal to be as paperless an agency as possible.

Those previously ubiquitous 8-1/2" x 11" white rectangles known as 'sheets of paper' are appearing less and less frequently on the desks of employees at the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DCBDD). The agency is the first of Ohio's 88 County Boards to have implemented electronic Board Meeting packets, and to scan and index all client records.

It Began in 2005

The automation process began seven years ago with Board Meeting agenda packets 'going digital.' Copying, binding, and mailing the paper packets previously cost more than \$2500 per year, not to mention the copier equipment and staff time involved. Today, the packets are prepared in just a few hours, emailed at no cost, and received by DCBDD Board members in minutes, instead of days. Packet information also is posted on the Board's website at www.dcbdd.org, for viewing by any interested citizen.

Scanning the client records began in April 2007 and was completed in March 2008, involving more than two million pieces of paper, weighing more than 48,000 pounds. For example, replacement of paper personnel records has reduced DCBDD Superintendent Robert Morgan's 28 years of history with the agency to a mere 115 MB of space on the agency's server – replacing a file folder several inches thick (and, Bob, we mean *several!*). Employees receive their own paper personnel files as the agency completes scanning and indexing.

Improved Safety & Security

The agency's shift to electronic storage has eliminated inherent dangers of paper storage, including fire, water damage, and exposure to light – not to mention storage/space costs. Documents are backed-up on the DCBDD computer system servers with the safeguard of an off-site document storage grid to further assure against document loss. In addition to the cost savings realized by not purchasing new file cabinets and reducing copying and paper costs, the new business model allows convenient off-site/electronic access to records when DCBDD employees are meeting with individuals and families in the community.

The agency has realized considerable cost savings associated with the transfer of paper documents to an electronic business model. Automating the previous paper trail is one of the reasons that DCBDD's operating Cost Per Individual Served has been reduced every year since 2008.

The final stage of the project will be to set up a digital record system of the Delaware County *Family & Children First Council* and the *Help Me Grow* program, which will transfer under the Board's administrative authority on July 1 of this year.



This DCBDD staffer has been BUSY!
Robyn Davis, records coordinator, has prepared thousands of files for scanning.

Thanks to DCBDD's Sue Munday for this information. Contact: Sue.Munday@dcbdd.org



Health & Safety

5. Safeguarding Individuals - Protecting Against Fraud, Theft

National newspapers often contain stories describing wrong-doing against individuals with developmental disabilities who are scammed or defrauded by unscrupulous individuals - some of whom, unfortunately, serve in positions of trust with the individual. The subject of protecting vulnerable individuals from fraud, scams, or theft of their identity or belongings, and empowering individuals to be aware of and help thwart such attempts, is in the spotlight more than ever now, as technology affords new tools to unscrupulous perpetrators.

Misappropriation of funds, and other similar actions, is dealt with firmly within Ohio's developmental disabilities system. It is important to note that theft from an individual served by the system is elevated to a felony offense, and also can result in placement on the State of Ohio's Abuser Registry.

See DODD Health & Safety Alert #32-10-11: 'Misappropriation'

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Documents/32-10-11.pdf>

In a June 13 article appearing in Hamilton County area news media, *Protecting people with disabilities from scams, fraud*, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services' Superintendent Alice Pavey, wrote in a guest column, "People with disabilities in our society have not been excluded from the increase in fraud and scams experienced by the general population in recent years. Individuals with disabilities are often more vulnerable, with less support and capacity to protect themselves."

She continues, "The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, which collects misappropriation data state wide, reported that the number of substantiated thefts involving individuals with disabilities is on the increase. The thefts are primarily identity, medications, and personal property. To stem this dramatic increase, we want to share information that can help prevent fraud."

As part of a local coalition created to stop fraud, scams and abuse, Pavey also noted that protecting an individual's personal information is the only way to reduce or block identity theft. Social Security numbers, birth certificates, checking and savings account numbers, and personal identification numbers (PINs) all must be protected. In this age of camera phones and other devices, this key information can be captured easily if individuals don't think about or stay alert to those possibilities. She cautions,

“Many individuals with disabilities require assistance from caregivers for daily needs. As a result, personal information is often accessible to many (authorized and) unauthorized people. We urge that access to personal information be restricted to the highest degree, and that a shredder be used to discard sensitive data that is no longer required.”

The following are some recommendations to assure greater safety and security:

- Because theft of medications from individuals with disabilities is a concern, it is important to establish a strict system for monitoring their handling. All medications should be stored securely and safely, and overstocking medications should be avoided, as this presents a greater risk of theft.
- Safeguard personal property, including cash, checks, credit and ATM cards, as well as jewelry, electronics, clothes, and furniture. Cash should be secured appropriately, and accounts reconciled on a frequent, scheduled basis to make sure expenses are appropriate and balances are accurate.
- Electronics and furniture should be inventoried and tracked by the family or provider, including any serial and model numbers. *And, to empower and protect themselves, individuals need education regarding the risks of sharing information with strangers.*
- Make sure individuals know how to report a theft. Provide access to appropriate phone numbers to local law enforcement, County Board Service and Support Administrators, and hotline numbers. If the individual has a cell phone, include in their cell phone 'contacts list' a speed-dial number for 'Help if Something is Stolen,' in addition to having that information posted by the home phone.

According to staff in the DODD Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Investigations Unit within the Division of Legal and Oversight, it should also be noted that the transfer of an individual into a new living situation (as noted Health & Safety Alert #44-05-11, '[Transition Issues](#)') could bring issues into play immediately, as individuals then have new people in their lives with whom they do not yet have a relationship of trust.

Robert Archer, Executive Director of Toward Independence, a service provider headquartered in Xenia, points out that not only is it important to have safeguards in place, but the consistency of the checks and balances is equally important. He states,

“Consistency, frequency, and different levels of checks and balances are all so important. Staff should be made aware that financial accountability is a top priority that can and will be carefully reviewed and documented.”

For example, he notes, “Having a policy of bank account withdrawals only with approved agency I.D. and person-to-person teller transactions may be the answer to avoid ATM scams or drive-through banking issues. We also make sure that when items are purchased for an individual, that the sales receipt reflects what would be appropriate for the person, and not any other miscellaneous items.”



When people get upset or nervous, as most are in a theft situation, it's good to have reporting steps made as easy as possible for them.

The DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) is 1-866-313-6733.

The MUI Registry Unit hosted training on June 13th for Investigative Agents across the state, focused solely on misappropriation. Many case studies were shared during the training to help educate investigators on what is happening across Ohio. Theft reports are more challenging than ever, as criminals become more creative in how they try to take advantage of others. It will take a concerted effort on behalf of individuals, families, providers, County Boards, law enforcement, and DODD to bring about justice, and hold people accountable for their actions. DODD Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips comments,

"I'm very proud of the collaborative efforts that we have seen across the state, between Investigative Agents and local law enforcement entities regarding theft. These quality working relationships will go a long way in helping to support individuals and bring about positive change."

The DODD 'Misappropriation' Health and Safety Alert also notes that many substantiated thefts have an unknown perpetrator. Now more than ever it is critical to have good financial tracking systems in place to provide accountability and increase the likelihood of catching those taking advantage of others. Prevention is the key to reducing the number of theft allegations.

Acknowledgements: Cincinnati.com, 6-13-2012, *Protecting people with disabilities from scams, fraud*



6. Capacity-Building Mini Grants Awarded

The *Foundation for the Challenged* has announced two recipients of the organization's Capacity-Building Mini Grants: The *Autism Society of Ohio (ASO)*, and the *Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA)* each received a grant, which must be used for activities that will improve each organizations' capacity to serve people with developmental disabilities. *ASO* will use the grant funds to host a series of planning meetings to update their strategic plan and incorporate new geographic areas that have been added to their service territory. *OSDA* will use the grant funds to improve their existing website, and will hire a person who has a disability to perform the technical work.

The Foundation's Executive Director Fran Wesseling notes, "These organizations have taken the initiative to function more effectively so that more people with disabilities will be served. That's what the mini-grant program is all about."

In addition to the Mini Grant awards, the *Foundation for the Challenged* has announced that their newly-updated website at www.ffcoho.org includes "The Transformation Station," a

feature by which organizations within the developmental disabilities community can log in, create a simple profile, and access free and low-cost tools, including an exclusive fundraising primer and corresponding workbook, and a public relations toolkit.

For more information about Capacity-Building Mini Grants, go to www.ffcoho.org.



Talk about (garden) capacity-building!

From the *Pipeline Quarterly Photo Archive*, Spring 2010

Pipeline Quarterly is archived at dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx



May 2010 ... 'Life is Looking Up' at *Downsize Farm* in Champaign County

So, this is 'day hab'? Growing vegetables, herbs, and other attractive plants, these avid gardeners also have decided to paint and decorate the propane tank! It's definitely a 'green' operation.

"They like to work together in teams. Teamwork is what's needed on a farm." -Bob Custer



Coming Soon! *Pipeline Quarterly*, reporting on Spring 2012

PostScripts

The Arc of Ohio to Host Medicaid Waiver Training, June 29

The Arc of Ohio will host a training day featuring the latest information on Medicaid waivers affecting Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities and their Families on June 29, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn – Columbus/Worthington, 7007 N. High St., in Worthington. The training theme is “Surviving Change” and includes speakers addressing changes currently underway in Ohio's Medicaid Program as it moves to a Managed Care System; information about the Transitions Waiver; and, information about the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, effective next month.

[Register by Clicking Here](#)

The training is for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, their families, service and support professionals, and educators with an interest in the subject. Speakers also will allow time to address questions and provide informational handout materials.

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, July 2012

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities invites high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to apply to attend its annual *Youth Leadership Forum*, to be held in Columbus July 16 - 19. Forty students will be selected. All their expenses will be paid. To be eligible, students must have a disability, be in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2011, have demonstrated leadership potential, and reside in Ohio. This year's forum will prepare students to take advantage of new or different community-based opportunities. To learn more, go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614) 438 -1394 or 1 (800) 282-4536 ext.1394.

Autism Speaks - First National Conference, August 3-4

Autism Speaks has announced that its first National Conference for Families and Professionals will be Friday and Saturday, August 3 - 4, 2012 at the Hilton Columbus. The theme of the conference will be *Treating the Whole Person: Providing Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents with ASD*. [Full Announcement Here](#). More information at www.autismspeaks.org

SAVE THE DATE! September 12, Direct Support Professionals Event

The third annual Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) recognition event will be hosted at the Xenos Complex in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free, fun, interactive, and motivational -- this event is *not to be missed* for celebrating the workers who care for and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Details available soon at www.OADSP.org, or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at (800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! RSC DisAbility Jobs Summit, September 17-18

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is hosting a *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting & Building Partnerships*, September 17-18, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., in Columbus. The Summit is designed to benefit employers, developmental disabilities professionals, vocational rehabilitation counselors and coordinators, mental health professionals, educators, and individuals with disabilities and their families. More than 500 attendees are expected. Contact: Chris Glover at Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov, or call (614) 438-1430.

Twelfth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference Set for October 26-27

Featured speakers at the Twelfth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) conference, October 26-27, at the Columbus Airport Marriott will include Dr. Ann Kaiser, Scott Osterfeld, and Rob Snow. More information about the conference is now online at www.ohiosibs.com. Questions regarding the conference or Ohio SIBS may be directed to the organization's new executive director, Linda Martens, at lmartens@ohiosibs.com.

Check out 'Sibling Stories'- Essays about siblings by people with disabilities, at <http://siblingstories.blogspot.com/>

SAVE THE DATE! Annual OCALI Conference, November 14-16

'OCALICON 2012' is scheduled for November 14-16, 2012 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. OCALICON is a national forum on autism, assistive technology, and low-incidence disabilities including visual impairments, hearing impairments, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Current research, trends, ideas, and solutions to improve the lives of individuals with autism and other disabilities will be shared. The event includes more than 150 sessions, a pre-conference workshop, a National Autism Leadership Summit and a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Summit. More at: <http://conference.ocali.org>.

Ohio Legal Rights Service to Become 'Disability Rights Ohio'

Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) soon will become 'Disability Rights Ohio' -- a non-profit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Ohioans with disabilities. Disability Rights Ohio will replace Ohio Legal Rights Service as Ohio's Protection and

Advocacy (P&A) system and Client Assistance Program (CAP) by October 1, 2012. For additional information, contact email disabilityrightsohio@gmail.com.

 **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. *The 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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