Pipeline News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor John L. Martin, Director

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Administration, Budget News

1. Mid Biennium Review Continues on Path to Finalization

An overview of the major provisions in Ohio's current budget bill, now being reviewed by a Conference Committee comprised of House and Senate members,
(See information at Mid Biennium Review)

The Mid Biennium Budget Review (MBR) currently awaits Governor Kasich's signature, and as of July 1, Ohioans will begin a new budget year with several challenges and opportunities. In preparation for the budget year ahead, an informative June 29 conference titled *"A New State Budget – How Will It Affect Me?"* will explore how the new budget will affect Ohioans with disabilities. At the conference, leaders and policy-makers representing the state's developmental disabilities community will provide information and answer questions on the subject, and offer input regarding specific service enhancements and changes.

"A New State Budget – How Will It Affect Me?"
Register at: www.thearcofohio.org
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday, June 29, 2012
Holiday Inn, Worthington, OH

Sponsored by *The Arc of Ohio*, the program will include presentations by the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody; DODD Director John Martin, and Deputy Director Patrick Stephan; Department of Education Office of Exceptional Children Associate Director Thomas Lather, and others. The program also will address additional services within the Individual Options waiver, and funding for the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.

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. Project STIR Honors 57 Graduates in Franklin County

The 57 graduates of Franklin County's Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) leadership course celebrated completion of their training on May 18 with a graduation ceremony at the Franklin County Board of DD offices in Columbus. Superintendent Jed Morison was Master of Ceremonies, Self Advocate Christine Brown provided welcome comments, and Self Advocate Ruben Garcia was the keynote speaker.

During his keynote address, Garcia stated,

"This tells me that self-advocacy is going to last forever. You guys are the next generation."

Organized and supported by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and others with whom they partner, Project STIR training is designed to provide individuals with the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others toward positive efforts, and gain leadership skills and experience. Superintendent Morison noted,

"Project STIR has been very well-received, and will continue to be a focus of our Self Advocate Advisory Council in Franklin County. Special thanks to Seneca County Board of DD Superintendent Lew Hurst for his leadership in promoting Project STIR in Ohio."

Photo courtesy Mike Davis, FCBDD

A room full of graduates, ready to STIR things up a little!
Representing most of the 57 Franklin County Project STIR graduates, the individuals in this photo proudly display their graduation certificates and confident attitudes.

They've Earned and Learned

Each of the graduates earned Certificates of Completion, and learned a lot about themselves, according to the Project STIR participants. Training activities include setting general organizational rules to be followed during the training, including being on-time to each session, not talking when someone else is talking, and other guidelines the participants feel are important to learning. The group also discusses advocacy concepts including:

- Knowing yourself
- Communication - Listening to others

- Negotiating with others
- Problem solving
- Rights and responsibilities
- Starting a self advocacy group

Commenting at the graduation event, OSDA Executive Director Dana Charlton noted,

"Project STIR is the most exciting thing I have been involved with in more than 30 years! People are finding their voices, starting to network with others, and are actively engaged in community service and educating policymakers."

DODD applauds the efforts of Project STIR and its steadily increasing efforts across the state, providing consistent training in self advocacy and emphasis on community participation.

Congratulations to ALL Ohio graduates of Project STIR, now representing 37counties around the state. Since April 2010, 399 people have participated in Project STIR leadership training.

For more information about Project STIR or the Ohio Self Determination Association, visit www.ohiosda.org or call (614) 563-0788.

SELF Waiver Update

3. SELF Waiver Continues on Pace for July Launch

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

In December 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver had been approved. *(See Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011).* As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD has worked closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

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

The SELF waiver will mean more opportunities and more choices.

Training Continues

In April 2012, DODD filed administrative rules to implement the SELF waiver. Two rules have been proposed for amendment, eight have been filed for adoption, and all are on track for a July 1 effective date. (See Pipeline, April 25, 2012). SELF rules are available at the Register of Ohio website at registerofohio.state.oh.us, on the DODD website at SELF Rules, and are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Currently, training for the SELF waiver is underway. Some is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Governments (COGs), and some is targeted to potential providers and families. Statewide training opportunities include in-person and online sessions.

Registration for 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, and allows time for families' comments and questions. Training dates and times are posted online at www.dodd.ohio.gov. For more information, contact Peggy Martin at (614) 466-8706; peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

More information about the SELF waiver is online at SELF Waiver

Division of Residential Resources

4. Developmental Centers Provide Support Services

Pipeline continues to spotlight stories about people who have transitioned into the community from Developmental Centers. This story begins at Montgomery Developmental Center (MDC) in Huber Heights, and ends in a neighboring community. The gentleman's transition to living in the community supports specific action steps set forth in the DODD Olmstead Act Compliance Plan.

Thanks to Dot Lemmings, social worker at MDC, for this story.

"It's all about freedom and choices."

by Dot Lemmings

Justin moved to Montgomery Developmental Center (MDC) from the Necco Center, a non-profit psychiatric residential treatment program, after he was graduated from high school. His dreams included living in his own home and working for fair wages. Well, just ask Justin – dreams can come true! Recently, I visited Justin in his own home, and explained that I would like to

interview him for an article in the DODD *Pipeline*, about individuals who have succeeded in community-based living. He agreed to talk with me.

Justin began by explaining that what he liked most about living in the community was 'freedom' and 'choices.' He said, "It's all about freedom and choices! I get to do more, and can choose where we go. I like to go to the mall, the park, movies, and ride my bike. I get to choose how I want to spend my money. I get to make more choices about my weekends. I might spend it with my Mom or visit my Dad, or - like this weekend - I am staying home and going to Kings Island with my house mates." Justin was on a roll now! He continued,

"I like my schedule, and get more choices in it. I help choose meals and actually go to the grocery. I like to cook on the grill – especially hamburgers."

Next, Justin wanted to talk about his house. "The thing I like best about the house is my bedroom," he explained. Decorated with many of his favorite things, the room includes a flat screen television with 'blue ray' disc player, and a large collection of DVDs, CDs, and games.

Justin's favorite room includes …
Dale Earnhardt pictures from his grandfather, family pictures, and various items displaying logos from the Dayton Dragons, Marshall University, Cedar Point, Kings Island, and classic Mustangs. His pride was apparent as he talked about each item.

Moving on to the subject of work, Justin notes, "I decided to change jobs. I'm now working at Good Samaritan Homes and I like it better … because, well, I get paid more than I did at my other job!"

When asked what he missed about living at MDC, Justin quickly answered, "The staff. You know when I moved to MDC, I was excited to leave Necco. And, when I left MDC I was excited to be in my own home, but I do miss the people at both places. I think I'm lucky - I have made friends wherever I've been."

What's Next for Justin?

Looking to the future, Justin is starting to think about moving to an apartment one day, probably with a roommate, and spend more time with friends and family He adds, "And, I'd like to make more money working."

His friends at MDC (myself included) hope that Justin's dreams will continue to come true. We are proud of Justin's success and pleased to be among the people to have helped him along his journey, so far. - *Dot Lemmings, Montgomery Developmental Center*

Speaking of Residential Opportunities…

5. *Creative Housing* Marks 20 Years; DHN Adds Board Members

"This is the life!"
Amanda Stover will tell you that she's pretty happy living in her apartment!

In 1992, a dramatic need for additional housing options for individuals served in Franklin County was recognized by the County Board's leadership, as state and federal funding shifted from a facility-based model to client-based waiver services. As a result, FCBDD partnered with an agency named Creative Housing. Twenty years later, the partnership and foresight has fostered success for many individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and become one of the most comprehensive housing programs of its type, in the nation.

According to Creative Housing CEO Patrick Rafter, "By listening to people with disabilities and their families we have been able to create a community environment that offers many accessible properties in and around Columbus. We're proud of the number of diverse housing options we

have been able to develop in partnership with the Board." Creative Housing now provides housing to nearly 1500 people in more than 900 locations around Franklin County. Rafter adds,

"What we have done over the years has worked well here, and can be replicated elsewhere around the state with good local leadership and planning. Particularly in these economic times, I expect that other counties will be thinking, "Why can't this happen here?"

Over a 20-year period, the agency has applied for and been awarded more than $6 million in HUD (Housing & Urban Development) grants, which has enabled them to develop fully-accessible apartment buildings in seven Franklin County locations, and another breaking ground soon in Grove City. Creative Housing also has secured funding through the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, resulting in a $750,000 annual operational subsidy.

Renovations & Accessibility

A few years ago, Creative Housing developed a new division, Creative Renovations, to respond to a growing market for accessibility renovations, including ramps, improved-access bathrooms, and lift systems to aid caregivers. Now, some 250 renovations later - within Franklin and contiguous counties – they also renovate for senior citizens who are receiving home-based services in order to avoid nursing home placement.

See related story in Pipeline Quarterly, Winter 2009 regarding accessible options.

The agency also is expanding use of 'home automation' products to better assist individuals, including perimeter security systems to alert families if a child has exited the safety of their home space, as well as voice-activated features that allow a person to perform functions from a wheelchair or remote location, such as welcoming guests into their home, or controlling household temperature.

DODD is interested in such technology-based assistance, and expects an increase in these kinds of accommodations as new and more affordable products become available -- which is likely to reduce reliance on paid staff. Services such as *remote monitoring* can provide needed safety and security options for individuals who reside in more independent community-based settings.

More about Creative Housing/Creative Renovations at www.creativehousing.org

DISABILITY HOUSING NETWORK

DHN Appoints Three New Board Members

The Board of the Disability Housing Network (DHN), a nonprofit organization assisting housing corporations serving Ohioans with developmental disabilities, has announced the appointment of three new Board Members. DHN Board Chairperson Jill LaRock stated, "We are pleased to welcome Greg Williamson, Ross County Board of DD; Lisa Guliano, Erie County Board of DD; and Alice Pavey, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services. Their experience and knowledge as professionals in the developmental disabilities system, and in the area of housing will be invaluable now and in the years ahead.

New DHN Board Members
(L. to R.) Alice Pavey, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services; Greg Williamson, Ross County Board of DD; and, Lisa Guliano, Erie County Board of DD.

A state-wide member-driven organization, the Disability Housing Network mission is to promote and support education and best practices in the development and management of rental housing provided by nonprofit housing development corporations for individuals with developmental disabilities. More about DHN at www.disabilityhousingnetwork.org.

6. At Sinclair Community College, Fun Fosters Learning

Fun and Relationship-Building are Key to Enriching O.T. Curriculum

Sara Casey, Certified Occupational Therapy (O.T.) Assistant and faculty member at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, is loving the organized chaos that is 'Fun Night' in the O.T. clinical classroom on Tuesday night, June 5. She remarks, "It's the last time this school year that our group of 11-15 participants and our O.T. students will have together before the Annual Picnic next week …" and here she is interrupted by a chorus of voices excitedly repeating "Picnic!" No matter – they still are focused on their games of UNO, and making 'Super Sammies' ('designer' PB&J sandwiches) so learning continues, mixed in with picnic anticipation.

Occupational Therapy class was never so much fun before several families got together nine or ten years ago with Sinclair staff to begin what has evolved into a regularly-scheduled 'Fun Night,' where elements of the OT curriculum, focusing on improvement of fine and gross motor skills and other goals, was rolled into a plan for relationship-building and learning for O.T. students, and adults with developmental disabilities. As the Sinclair curriculum says, *"Help Others Learn Independently as an Occupational Therapy Assistant!"* Photos below are a sneak preview to the larger story …

Featured in the next issue of ***Pipeline Quarterly***, Spring 2011-2012 …

Publishing in late June.

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

Checking In
Joyce Brun (left) and daughter, Janice (center) arrive for Fun Night and bring their $2 activity donation for snacks and supplies.

"Are You Looking at My Hand?"
Evelyn Bourbakis (with red scarf) partners with O.T. student, Tracy, during an enthusiastic game of UNO. Evelyn's mom, Despina, notes, "My daughter has participated in the Fun Night activity for at least nine years, and she loves it!"

Bobby plainly likes being the only guy at Fun Night!
Bobby and Winse (WIN-see) catch up on their ongoing friendship before sharpening their fine motor skills preparing 'Super Sammies' (designer PB&J sandwiches).

Marcia and Beth
Marcia (left) and Beth prepare their 'Super Sammies', although Marcia seems to be much more into the sandwich than Beth, who would rather 'interview' her friends!

PostScripts .....

ꕥ 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.

☙ 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 at the Holiday Inn - Columbus (Worthington), 7007 N. High St. in Worthington.

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 will address questions and provide informational handout materials.

☙ Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Accepting Applications

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities *www.gcpd.ohio.gov* is accepting applications for appointments effective September 1, 2012. The Council exists to: Advise the Governor and General Assembly on state wide disability issues; Educate and advocate for partnerships at the state and local level; Promote equality, access and independence; Develop employment opportunities; Promote the value of diversity, dignity and the quality of life for people with disabilities; and, be a catalyst to create systemic change on issues that ultimately benefit all Ohio citizens. Visit http://gcpd.ohio.gov for an application form, and details on Council membership.

☙ Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Accepting Applications

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council') is currently seeking applicants for membership. Terms begin January 2013, and *applications are due by June 29, 2012*. More information about DD Council and membership qualifications is at: http://ddc.ohio.gov/new%20membership.htm

☙ 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 about the program, 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.

☙ SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! 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 North High Street 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. To

request exhibit space or sponsorship opportunities email Chris Glover at Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov, or call (614) 438-1430 before June 29th.

☙ 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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