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**May 14, 2014**  
**Volume 8, Issue 10**

**In This Issue ...**

- 1. Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month
- 2. Strategic Planning Leadership Group Forums and Updates
- 3. Teresa Kobelt to Join DODD Leadership Team
- 4. Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness
- 5. Health & Safety: Summer Weather Information

*Pipeline Pix & PostScripts: News Briefs and Updates for Your Calendar*

## 1. Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month

**The 2014 Theme is, “Building Blocks to Permanent Families.”**

National Foster Care Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system. The National Foster Care Coalition encourages people to get involved by being foster or adoptive parents, mentors, or serving in other support roles. Around the nation, children and adults with developmental disabilities are in need of good foster homes! In fact, it is estimated that more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities are in need of a family home through circumstances beyond their control.

This year, the theme for National Foster Care Month is "*Building Blocks to Permanent Families.*" DODD supports the ‘Host Home’ concept which emphasizes the value, and the day-to-day support that adult foster care or adult foster support provides. While the Medicaid billing code terminology is ‘Adult Foster Care,’ it encompasses many elements involved in sharing a home. A good Home Sharing situation follows these guidelines:

- Screening/matching methods between individuals and host families for compatibility;
- Requiring background checks for all adults who live in the home;
- Pre-home visitation. Homes must be clean, plumbing and electrical systems must be modern, and homes must have smoke detectors and marked fire exits;
- Staff training that is individual-specific, and emphasizes community engagement;
- A system for oversight must be in place, as well as back-up coverage for emergencies;
- Respite available for the Host Family.

Click on DODD rule [5123:2-9-33](#) for language on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care, under the Individual Options (IO) Waiver.\*

One of the many Ohio service providers that recognize National Foster Care Month, REM Ohio offers a Host-Home program that matches individuals who have developmental disabilities with dedicated caregivers in the community, referred to as mentors. Individuals residing with families in Host-Homes have opportunities to forge connections to a home and community while receiving the services they need to live as independently as possible. In return, Host-Home families gain a new family member and friend – a person who can add a new dimension to the family’s daily life.



### Meet Christine, in *Pipeline Quarterly*

In the Spring 2014 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing this week, you’ll meet Christine, who is in the care of a foster family in the Erie County area. Christine is among the young people who have taken the SELF waiver road to success in their communities. Look for *Pipeline Quarterly* at [dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx)

During National Foster Care Month, DODD salutes the many foster families and other individual mentors who offer excellent care to individuals with and without disabilities, in a supportive environment.

*\*This is under DODD ‘Rules in Effect’ at <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>  
Learn more about National Foster Care Month at [www.nationalfostercare.org/national-foster-care-month.html](http://www.nationalfostercare.org/national-foster-care-month.html), and at [www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/)*

[Return to Top](#)

### [Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#)

## 2. Creating Opportunities for Community Living

An Open Forum on the subject of *Creating Opportunities for Community Living* was hosted by the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG) on May 6, at the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. Part of an ongoing series of informational gatherings on subjects of statewide and national interest, this Forum featured presenters from Colorado and Arizona.

Barbara Ramsey, Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities, and Lori Thompson, Assistant Director for Program Services in the Division for Developmental Disabilities, focused on the evolution of the residential service system in Colorado. Their presentation highlighted three areas of interest: *Host Homes*; *Support to People with Complex Health Issues*; and *Conflict of Interest*. Attendees showed particular interest in how a stakeholder group developed recommendations for resolving conflict-of-interest issues inherent in the system.

Barbara Brent, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and former State Director of Arizona, provided an overview of Arizona DD Services, which operates as a managed care system that has virtually no Intermediate Care Facilities or state-operated institutions. In addition, Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Autism United (AZA United) offered an overview of how AZA United provides services within this managed care system, using a ‘service cooperative’ structure.



### What Should Services Look Like in 2024?

Meeting in small groups during the afternoon session, attendees shared the results of their Café Conversations on topics relating to how services for Ohioans with DD could be improved, long-term.



### Time to Circulate!

Sharing ideas with different people is part of the SPLG process.

As Director John Martin stated earlier in the day,

**“You don’t get new ideas by talking to the same people all the time!”**

## Strategic Planning Leadership Group, June 11 Forum Announced Family Supports and Listening to People

The next Open Forum to be hosted will be on June 11, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Fair Academy Auditorium, 8995 E. Main St., in Reynoldsburg.

### Presenters

*Sheli Reynolds* is the Director of Individual Advocacy and Family Support at the University of Missouri/Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, a University Center on

Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Her knowledge and experience within a state developmental disabilities system stems from growing up as a sibling of a brother with developmental disabilities. Sheli also serves in a leadership role working with six states to develop systems of support for families throughout a family member's lifespan. The 'Supporting Families' project operates under a five-year grant awarded to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS).

Her presentation will highlight:

- Why Family Supports Matter
- Family Centered Thinking: How Systems and Organizations Can Support It
- The 'Supporting Families' Community of Practice: Key Findings So Far

*Hanns Meissner* is the Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Rensselaer County in Eastern New York State. His agency's story is one of relentless commitment to leveraging a way of out of group-based services by creating an organizational culture of appreciation and innovation. His recently-released book, *Creating Blue Space*, tells the story of how the agency promoted individualized services and community membership.

His presentation will highlight:

- Blue Space and Why it Matters
- Organization Culture and Change: What Helps
- The Intentional Journey to Individualized Supports

The afternoon will include opportunities to engage in conversations with presenters and session participants to help generate ideas and enthusiasm for exploring these concepts in Ohio.

### **Registration Information**

The forum is free, but registration is first come/first served, and space is limited. Lunch is on your own. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E55616613347>. The presentations will be video-taped and made available following the forum. Funding and planning support for this forum is provided by several partners and stakeholders in Ohio's developmental disabilities community. The SPLG greatly appreciates their generosity.

*If you have questions, please contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or [melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov)*

**[Return to Top](#)**

## **3. Teresa Kobelt to Join DODD Leadership Team**

The DODD Office of Policy and Strategic Direction will welcome Teresa Kobelt as Assistant Deputy Director in July. Teresa currently serves as the Director of Adult Services for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and as CEO of the agency's ARC Industries. Her responsibilities will include spearheading the [Strong Families, Safe Communities](#) and [Positive Culture](#) initiatives, as well as the Department's efforts in the areas of Autism, Telepsychiatry/ Telemedicine, and other key initiatives within the scope of policy and strategic direction. We look forward to her leadership and input.



### Speaking Up at the Recent Strategic Planning Leadership Group Meeting

Teresa participated in the small group exercise and reported her group's 'Picture of 2024' at the recent SPLG Forum. Her depth of knowledge concerning Ohio's developmental disabilities community will serve DODD well as she steps into her new role with the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, reporting to Deputy Director Monty Kerr. Her group noted that it is ...

**“...Time to increase expectations and expand opportunities for individuals in our statewide system.”**

More about DODD initiatives at: [www.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Initiatives-and-Partnerships](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/Initiatives-and-Partnerships)

[Return to Top](#)

## 4. Alcohol and Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness

### Week of May 11 Celebrates Mothers and Healthy Babies

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week is May 11-17 ... not coincidentally, the week beginning with Mother's Day. Each May, NCADD and its national network of affiliates provide up-to-date information to people about the dangers of consuming alcohol and using drugs during pregnancy.

Research has shown that when women consume alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy, babies can be born with severe health issues that remain lifelong challenges. Examples of characteristics found in babies whose mothers have consumed alcohol or taken drugs while pregnant include:

- Cognitive impairments;
- Growth deficiencies before and after birth;
- Developmental delays, intellectual challenges;
- Behavioral problems; and,
- Difficulty with fine motor skills.



To learn more about Alcohol & Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, [click here.](#)



Related information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is at: <http://www.notasingledrop.org/>

According to a study in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), every hour of every day, a baby is born in the United States with symptoms of opioid withdrawal. The study found the number of pregnant women who are addicted to opioids, and the number of infants born with opioid withdrawal symptoms have both increased in the past decade.

**A sobering fact: In the United States, 20 percent of pregnant women smoke cigarettes; another 18 percent drink alcohol during pregnancy; and another 6 percent use an illicit drug at least once while pregnant.**

For more information read this: [Fact Sheet on Alcohol & Other Drug Related Birth Defects.](#)

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and DODD join other agency partners in the Governor's Office of Health Transformation in providing information to reinforce healthy lifestyles, and reach women who are pregnant or who are of child-bearing age. For more ways to improve the health status of women, infants, and children in Ohio, see the information online at the [Child and Family Health Services Program](#).

[Return to Top](#)

## 5. Summer Weather Health and Safety Information

Knowing what to do before severe weather strikes can save lives. DODD Health & Welfare Alerts\* (formerly 'Health & Safety' Alerts) provide critical information to caregivers in areas for which DODD has identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare. Alerts provide data, additional resources, and guidance regarding what can be done to avoid or minimize risk.



Ohio's health and safety system for the statewide developmental disabilities community is built on incident prevention, providing timely care when needed, and appropriate reporting.

The best way to guard against heat-related issues is preparedness and prevention.

Here are a few helpful reminders when extreme heat conditions exist:

- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothes that cover most of the body.
- Limit intake of caffeinated or alcoholic beverages - they can add to dehydration.

- Drink two to four cups of water every hour while working or exercising outside.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who may not have air conditioning or are alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in vehicles.

*For questions regarding Health and Welfare Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.*

[Return to Top](#)

## *Pipeline Pix* .....



### **Self Advocates Update DODD Central Office Staff on Legislation Efforts**

*Left:* Self Advocate Christine Brown describes the legislative work she has been involved with, including speaking with several legislators about bills of special interest to Ohio’s developmental disabilities community (See [HB265](#); [HB84](#); [SB321](#)). The presentation was given May 8 to the DODD Division of Policy & Strategic Direction, and Legislative Affairs & Communication. *Right:* Self Advocate Lee Butcher assisted Christine in the presentation and shared photos of inaccessible parking spaces that he had taken with his cellphone. DODD staff Monty Kerr (foreground) and Charlie Flowers view them here. We thank Christine and Lee for the excellent information and examples provided, and for their fine work on behalf of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

## *PostScripts* .....

### **Family Advisory Council Launches Facebook Page Facilitating More Helpful Conversations**

DODD Family Advisory Council members have expressed an interest in making the current Family Chat online format easier to use. We have listened, and now are offering an opportunity for families to connect with one another via [Facebook](#). The pages are designed especially for families to access and continue conversations with each other. DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin says, “If you do not use Facebook, we will still offer Family Chat through our Family Advisory listserv – contact me with any questions at [peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov).”



The new Facebook group allows communication in real time and group members can post, add events, photos, and files to the page, as well as ask questions via a poll. It is another way to access open and free communication where families can express concerns, get advice, and share ideas.

**Membership: Just as with Family Chat—FAMILIES ONLY!**

Click here to join Family Chat on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FamilyAdvisory/>



### **The Employment First Survey Needs Your Input**

Employment First has awarded a grant to create resources for providers to assist individuals with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities who are seeking employment. This short survey will help to ensure that resources meet the needs of providers who are working with these individuals. Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ohioemploymentfirst>

**And, Speaking of Employment ...**

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced the 2014 official theme of **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)**: *"Expect. Employ. Empower."* Look for more about Ohio's recognition of NDEAM as October draws nearer. *Additional information at [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/)*



### **Healthy Lifestyles 'Train the Trainer' Workshop, June 9 -10**

The Ohio Disability and Health Program is hosting its second Healthy Lifestyles Train-the-Trainer Workshop in Shaker Heights. The Healthy Lifestyles curriculum was designed by and for people with disabilities to help develop confidence and skills to stay on a journey toward a healthy and happy life. The 2-day workshop is free, fun, and educational. Presenters include Master Trainers, Angela Weaver from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health, and Joe Basey from the City of Eugene Adaptive Recreation. Participants will receive a certificate as a "Certified Lead HL Trainer" and receive all the necessary training materials. Go to: <http://nisonger.osu.edu/odhp> for registration requirements. Contact Erica Coleman at (513) 803-4399; [erica.coleman@cchmc.org](mailto:erica.coleman@cchmc.org) for more information.



### **Job Coach Academy Announced for June 14**

Norwich Consulting Services Senior Employment Consultant Mike Heifner will be offering a one-day training specifically for Job Coaches, Employment Specialists, Enclave Supervisors, and Work Crew Supervisors on June 13, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Quest Business Center/Polaris, in Columbus. Cost is \$119 per person and includes training materials and lunch. Heifner has utilized his many years as an employment services professional to develop this training. Practical skills will be taught, and attendees

will learn skills that will immediately improve their coaching and retention outcomes. Go to the [www.norwichcs.com](http://www.norwichcs.com) Events Page to register.



### **Ohio DD Council Needs Your Input – Online Survey**

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is developing a Five-Year State Plan for 2017-2021. Take a minute to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RNMQQ2N>, to help create a plan that reflects what you think DD Council should focus on to fund projects that will meet the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



### **Reminder: OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 2014 Spring Conference, will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Registration and more information at [www.oacbdd.org](http://www.oacbdd.org).



### **ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9**

The OCALI Summer Workshop Series, *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, will begin June 9, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell. Cost is \$50/person and includes lunch. Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight assistive technologies in school environments.



### **Mark Your Calendar! OPRA Conference, October 21-22**

Planning is underway for the 2014 OPRA Fall Conference, October 21 - 22, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. OPRA Conferences offer an opportunity to engage around the latest issues facing providers, and learn from first-rate speakers. To suggest a topic or a speaker, contact [Teri Derry](#) at (614) 224-6772. OPRA also invites interested speakers to [submit a proposal](#) by July 3.



### **DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)**

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs 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.

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

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