

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**May 23, 2012**  
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**Administration News**

## **1. Update from Central Office, and at the Grassroots Level**

DODD “All Staff” meetings always provide a good update on Department goals and initiatives. The May 15 meeting did even more than that, bringing in the expertise of Erie County self advocates and support staff. Drawing the DODD Central Office staff from the Rhodes State Office Tower to the William Green Building in downtown Columbus, the rest of the staff -- at Developmental Centers around the state -- was connected via teleconferencing. It was an informative program with something for everyone.

Following DODD Director John Martin’s presentation\* outlining current key projects and the state budget outlook, the Erie County team took the stage for a lively demonstration of self-advocacy in action.

**\*Much of what Director Martin noted during his presentation can be found at:**  
**[‘More Choices’ presentation](#)**

Focusing on the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities, Erie County self advocates were a well-practiced team of individuals who role-played with natural enthusiasm. They emphasized the ‘rights and wrongs’ of personal interactions and community participation, and have taken their instructional program to other groups around the state. DODD staff asked several questions following the presentation, and were especially interested to see the role-played staff, parents, and individuals receiving services as ‘real-world’ examples of how far individual expectations for people with developmental disabilities have come – and how much work in that area is still needed. Here are a few ‘scenes’ from the meeting:



Harry and Carly demonstrate invading someone's personal space –  
Violating the Right of Privacy is not a good thing! Carly is understandably agitated.  
Harry says,

"We've taught self advocates in several counties how to stand up for themselves! We picked examples that we know about first-hand."



Harry, Carly, Joe, and Linda demonstrate talking things over, not *taking* things over –  
The team acts out a skit taking everyone's feelings into consideration.

"It's much better when everyone gets to say how they feel, isn't it?"



Director Martin with “The Cast” from Erie County –  
Representing Erie County’s self advocacy efforts were (l. to r.) Superintendent Lisa Guliano, Harry Miller, Carly Sabo, and Linda Carone, and staff support (at back) Kristy Ferback and Joe Casey.

**“We’re more ready to take this on the road now, after today.”**

Leaving the All Staff meeting, several DODD staff agreed that while it is always informative to learn more about program information, budget issues, and overall Department priorities, nothing beats seeing the growth and determination of Ohio’s self advocates. And oh, yes – one of those overheard in agreement was none other than Director Martin.

More about the Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities at  
[dodd.ohio.gov/BillofRights/Pages/default.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/BillofRights/Pages/default.aspx)



## *Pipeline Profile*

### **2. A Look at the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight**

The Division of Legal and Oversight represents DODD in legal matters, and provides assistance and counsel as needed. The Major Unusual Incident (MUI) and Abuser Registry Unit, and the Office of Provider Standards and Review (OPSR) are a part of this team, providing oversight and technical assistance to County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and other service providers, as well as monitoring the health and safety of Ohio citizens receiving services. OPSR also conducts compliance reviews of licensed and unlicensed waiver-funded settings, licensed Intermediate Care Facilities, and in County Board settings.

According to the 2011 *OPSR Annual Report*, the year marked the initial implementation of a paperless review system, capable of collecting data in a more efficient way to track trends and patterns, and ensure better outcomes for individuals served. In addition, a ‘single review process’ has been implemented for all service providers, regardless of setting. This process has streamlined efforts, and allowed for increased technical assistance to providers. According to OPSR Assistant Deputy Director Kelly Miller,

**“We also are beginning to develop another phase of these reviews – hoping to gain information with the assistance of some self advocates that would drive a more outcome-based process. Our hope is, eventually, to hire self advocates to help us with the development and implementation of**

**this phase – as well as provide valuable insight into what is important to service recipients within Ohio’s DD system.”**

Rules Coordination also is a part of the Legal and Oversight Division. Administrative Rules are developed and maintained to govern the actions, roles, and requirements of state agencies, and service agencies within Ohio’s developmental disabilities system. Once rules are adopted, they become part of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) -- a compilation of the rules adopted by state agencies.

**DODD Administrative Rules are reviewed and revised as necessary on an ongoing basis, to ensure that agencies meet the needs of their constituents, and adhere to law and best practice standards.**

**(More at [DODD Rules & Laws online](#))**

According to Kate Haller, Deputy Director for the Division, “We play a supporting role within the Department -- for all Divisions -- and rules development, as well as streamlining processes, is an important part of this.”

She continues, “For example, we will be working with self advocates, County Boards, and other providers to re-evaluate the role of Quality Assurance (QA) in our system. Also we’ll be working to introduce ideas to the DD community that will provide better guidance to Service and Support Administrators (SSA’s) on monitoring issues. Haller adds,

**“Overall, Legal and Oversight is looking more and more to involve and focus on the individuals served by the system, using their input during the initial development phase of rule-making and other system-wide planning. After all, we have language in the Mid-Biennium Review (budget) that supports individuals making decisions for themselves whenever possible – and with a trusted advisor if needed – so this is all going down the same path of increasing choice and control, as appropriate, for individuals served.”**

**(See ['More Choices' presentation](#))**

She concludes, “We look forward to working with members of the DD Community in understanding how this will most effectively work to strengthen our system in the future.”



**Kate Haller**

**Deputy Director, Division of Legal and Oversight**

## Committees and Work Groups

The Division of Legal and Oversight also supports the work of several committees and work groups, including the Mortality Review Committee, featured in [Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2010, pp. 9-10](#). Scott Phillips, Assistant Deputy Director within the Division, notes, "I can't emphasize enough the importance of carefully reviewing mortality information to determine trends and patterns that might put a person in jeopardy of an accidental or otherwise avoidable death. If one person saw something that can help in the next similar situation, then the system works, and we've seen that happen. It's a good feeling when the system helps people like that."

**Information gathered by the Committee while reviewing causes and situations surrounding the death of any Ohioan receiving DD services is the result of a very detailed and systematic process designed to spot any trends and patterns that can later lead to reducing or avoiding similar emergency health and safety issues.**

Risk factors and other related details are then included in [DODD Health & Safety Alerts and Information Notices](#) that outline preventive steps and other positive approaches to assist individuals, Direct Support Professionals and family caregivers, based on this data. The entire process supports the Department's commitment to quality services. A recent Health & Safety Alert on the subject of [Falling](#) (Falls) was issued based on this kind of data.

## DODD Legal Staff Honored for Distinguished Service

As noted earlier, the DODD legal team is involved in *assuring the health and safety of individuals in Ohio's DD services system*, including abuse or crime victimization of children and adults with disabilities, and issues involving people with developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system. Recently, DODD legal team member Vicki Jenkins, Associate General Counsel, was named by the Columbus Bar Association (CBA) to receive the Bar Service Medal for distinguished service for her efforts in these areas, as well as volunteering for more than 25 years with the Columbus Bar, chairing numerous committees, and taking a leadership role in the CBA Summer Leadership Intern Program. She will accept the award at an event in June.



**Vicki Jenkins**

**According to Donna Sweet, Director of Committees and Special Events at CBA, "The summer program for Columbus Public School students interested in the legal profession requires ongoing weekly volunteer hours, and Vicki is always the first person in line to help. She is a flawlessly reliable volunteer who gives more than 100% with every project she tackles."**

*Legal and Oversight Division contact: [kate.haller@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:kate.haller@dodd.ohio.gov)*



### 3. Family Advisory Council Learns More, Asks Questions

*The DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) continues its commitment to providing families a forum for the information they need to improve the service system, statewide, and make good decisions for family members with developmental disabilities.*

If there's one thing the DODD Family Advisory Council meetings are known for, it's the open forum for questions posed to Director John Martin -- and his candid, sincere, and interesting responses. Often there's a story woven into the answer. The May 22 meeting was no exception, and the agenda included several topics suggested by this important stakeholder group, including:

- 'Director's Chat' with John Martin;
- How to locate a provider;
- Technology for improved independence;
- What to Expect from Your Service Support Administrator and Your ISP; and,
- Information about the new SELF waiver

While the last four bullets were quite informative, *Pipeline* will highlight here the Director's Chat segment, which closely mirrored comments on Department priorities noted in his recent ['More Choices' presentation](#). Below are a few of the questions from family members, and Director Martin's responses, paraphrased.

**Q: What can you tell us about downsizing at Developmental Centers during the coming year?**

**A:** The movement from institutions to community-based settings is continuing, and follows compliance with the [Olmstead Act](#) to provide services in the least restrictive setting. We are averaging approximately 90 individuals each year moving from DC's to community-based settings, and it is a national movement in which we have been participating over the past few years. We owe a great deal of the success in these efforts to the individuals and families served, and their flexibility in looking into new experiences, and to our DC staff for their work with each individual and family in ensuring success in these efforts.

**Q: Can you explain further what you mentioned about the current law on the subject of guardianship, and the desire to offer additional options?**

**A:** This is an often-asked question, and it is an important one as we look to offering individuals with DD more choices in their lives. In the Mid-Biennium Review (budget) we have added two additional options in terms of guardianship: 'assisted capacity,' and 'substitute decision-maker.' Briefly, these options allow an individual to have advice from a trusted family member or friend in order to make decisions about their lives, just like the rest of us do when we have difficult or major decisions to make. NOTE: Here Director Martin launched into an interesting personal story about choosing clothing -- his challenges with making the right 'matching' choices, and his son's innate ability to do so easily. His point: *Everyone* needs help with choices sometimes.

**Q: How do you see the new Employment First initiative helping people with disabilities?**

**A:** In addition to the overall effort that Governor Kasich has put forth in support of employment opportunities for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, his signing of the *Employment First* initiative moves the issue of low employment for this population to the forefront, and puts some teeth into getting transitional services needed to prepare for employment in the community. *Employment First* makes it a priority for individuals with DD to begin transition services at age 14, and provides for community-based employment to be a part of a person's Individual Service Plan (ISP) as a priority. We will be tracking the data on employment to see what's working and what's not.

Family Advisory Council meetings are open to all members of Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

To be a great advocate, stay informed! Join the FAC listserv at [joinfamilyadvisory@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:joinfamilyadvisory@list.dodd.ohio.gov)  
FAC contact is [Peggy Martin](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov). She may be reached via email at [peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov); or by phone at (614) 466-8706.



## 4. SELF Waiver Progress Continues, Training Begins

*In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles highlighting specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the third in the series. See [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 8](#) and [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 10](#) for the first two articles.*

### Background

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 is working 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.

### Progress Continues, Training Begins

In April, 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](http://registerofohio.state.oh.us) and the DODD website: [doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx](http://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx). Rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

SELF waiver training is underway, some of which is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Governments (COGs), and some of which is targeted for potential providers and families, including an online, statewide webinar. More details will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

**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 the SELF waiver. This training provides an overview of the waiver, and allows families the opportunity for comments and questions. Training for individuals and families began last week in Hamilton County, and as the schedule develops, trainings with dates and times will be posted online at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). For more information, contact Peggy Martin at (614) 466-8706; [peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov).

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



### [Division of Residential Resources](#)

## **5. Developmental Centers Offer Transitional Services**

*Pipeline continues to spotlight stories about people who have transitioned into the community from Developmental Centers. This story follows a man who previously resided at [Northwest Ohio Developmental Center \(NODC\)](#) in Toledo. His transition supports action steps set forth in DODD's [Olmstead Act Compliance Plan](#). This story is provided by NODC staff, [Tim Perna](#) and [Robin DuFresne](#).*

In September 2008, Allen DeVault was admitted to NODC after experiencing ongoing difficulties while living in the community. His family did not have the ability to provide adequate supports for Allen. While living at NODC, Allen was able to develop better skills in the areas of hygiene, cooking, and money management.



*Photo courtesy, Robin DuFresne*

**[A camera-shy Allen allows staff to snap a quick photo of him on the move.](#)**

Allen also began working at the Holland Road Adult Services Center, where his talent for drawing was encouraged – and he even sold some of his paintings. Soon, Allen became involved with Special Olympics sports, and was particularly interested in basketball and softball. With the

help of his APSI (Advocacy and Protective Services Inc.) representative, Allen made the decision to move to a house in the community with a few roommates.

In April 2010, Allen received a waiver and moved out of NODC. It was a bittersweet experience, as Allen had developed strong relationships with the staff members there, but wanted to live on his own. After almost two years of living in the community, Allen remains active in the Adult Services Center, continues to play basketball, and maintains good relationships with staff and some of his NODC peers. Gaining confidence in himself each day, Allen also has been able to re-establish a relationship with his family, as well.

NODC staff are pleased to see Allen's progress and assist others currently residing at the Developmental Center to consider various community options. NODC serves the counties of Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Sandusky, Erie, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Huron, Van Wert, Allen, Wyandot, Crawford, Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, Marion, and Morrow counties.

### **Developmental Centers as Regional Resources**

One of the roles of Ohio's Developmental Centers (DCs) is to provide short-term admissions for stabilization, for individuals who live in a community setting. Some individuals come to DCs due to behavior concerns, or for medication evaluation and adjustment. Ohio's DCs have hosted several individuals for a planned 60- to 90-day duration, and many have made successful returns to their community settings. Thoughts on the subject follow, by Ernie Fischer, Superintendent at Mount Vernon Developmental Center, and noted in [Pipeline Quarterly, Spring 2010](#):

"As professionals and caregivers to persons with developmental disabilities, we have a duty to take reasonable care to avoid injury and/or damage as a result of our actions or inactions. We have a duty to not be careless -- taking reasonable steps to avoid harm -- while supporting sensible risk-taking, as appropriate for each individual.

**"The duty involved with care sometimes seems in conflict with allowing risk, but the very notion of freedom and self-determination involves the possibility of risk."**

Of course, we're talking about prudent and reasonable risk, not putting a person in a position to fail without having taken some measure of preparation, and providing a 'safety net' if needed. Our desire to protect people with disabilities is commendable on the surface, and yet may be counterproductive or even harmful when taken to extreme.

Overprotection can smother people emotionally, create unnecessary dependence, extinguish hopes and aspirations, and rob them of their dignity...I think we must be resourceful in finding the right balance of risk for individuals. Our job is to provide people with developmental disabilities the opportunities to take some risks -- whether it's a chance for a job, a new home, or just going for a walk without supervision. We will be there to celebrate with them when they succeed, support them if or when they don't, and encourage them to try again."

*-Ernie Fischer, MVDC Superintendent*

**More about Developmental Centers in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*,**

**Spring 2011-2012 ... Publishing in late June.**

**[Pipeline Quarterly is archived at \[dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx\]\(http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx\)](http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx)**



## 6. May is National Foster Care Month

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or in other support roles. It also is important to note that not only children are in need of good foster homes -- more than 100,000 adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home’ through hardships or other circumstances beyond their control.

The “Home Sharing” concept emphasizes the value, and the day-to-day support that ‘adult foster care’ or ‘adult foster support’ provides, rather than focusing on a funding stream’s billing code language (Medicaid’s ‘Adult Foster Care’). Home Sharing includes these desired 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, and back-up coverage for emergencies;
- Respite available for the Host Family

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at  
[www.fostercaremonth.org/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fostercaremonth.org/Pages/default.aspx)



**5123:2-9-33**

Click on the rule noted above for language on the subject of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers – Adult Foster Care under the Individuals Options (IO) Waiver.



### Employment

## 7. News from the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy

*Theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has announced the official theme for this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October):

**"A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"**

The theme promotes the benefits of a diverse workforce that includes workers with disabilities, who, collectively represent a skilled talent pool. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, Kathy Martinez, stated,

**"Early announcement of the national theme helps communities plan local events in October, some of which will continue throughout the year."**

These activities include public awareness programs and job fairs that showcase the skills and talents of workers with disabilities.

### Background

Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to lead the observance. In 1962, the word 'physically' was removed from the name to acknowledge the employment needs of *all* Americans with disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month, and changed the name to "National Disability Awareness Month," which later evolved to its current name. In 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is built around the agency's mission:

**ODEP's mission is to provide national leadership by developing and influencing disability-related policies and practices to increase the employment of people with disabilities.**

### And, on the State Employment Scene...

On May 4, *J. Gumbo's* restaurant held its Grand Opening celebration in downtown Delaware, Ohio, on S. Sandusky Street. The Cajun-style restaurant includes a unique twist to the business model: Housed within the restaurant is the BELL (Business Education ~ Learning Liaison) Training Program for adults with developmental disabilities. This innovative approach starts with each applicant learning skills pertaining to the restaurant business, and augmenting their own personal growth at the area's [Life Builder's Day Support Program](#). Participants must apply for the training to learn job skills that can be utilized in any setting.

Once accepted, participants focus on core skill areas, and visit other businesses to gain an understanding of different career choices. Volunteer opportunities may provide further career exploration, as well. The BELL Training Program is located in *J. Gumbo's* restaurant to provide an authentic work environment. After initial core skill areas are mastered, trainees decide their career focus. Goals are designed to fit each trainee and career desired. There is no set length for the training, and individuals progress at their own pace until they reach their goals.



### Grand Opening Day

At left, inside *J. Gumbo's* in Delaware County are (l. to r.) owner, Richard Upton; Mason (peeking between shoulders); Patricia Smith; and, Nathalie Gidlow. At right, the announcement of the Cherie and Joseph Scherler II 'BELL Development Scholarship' that will be awarded to an Ohio Wesleyan University student each year. The Scherlers are the parents of a young man currently in the BELL program.

Following the BELL Training Program, the community employment phase begins. Participants may apply to work at *J. Gumbo's*, start their own micro-enterprise business, or work in another career field of their choice. Assistance is provided in acquiring employment, transitioning to the workforce, and maintaining the position -- a long-term approach to ensure success.

Delaware *J. Gumbo's* owner Richard Upton has created a scholarship to be awarded to an Ohio Wesleyan University student each year. The scholarship is offered to strengthen ties between the University and the community, and facilitate opportunities for trainees in the BELL Program.

The *J. Gumbo's/ Life Builders* partnership offers these training and employment opportunities in line with the spirit of the *Employment First initiative* signed by Governor Kasich, which states:

**“Community employment shall be the priority, and the preferred outcome, for working-age Ohioans who have disabilities.”**

Contact: Wilma Justice at Life Builders, LLC; [wjustice@lifebuilders.us](mailto:wjustice@lifebuilders.us); [www.LifeBuilders.us](http://www.LifeBuilders.us)

## ***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 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.

### **☞ Online Survey to Provide Information Concerning Down Syndrome**

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center is conducting a survey of the health status, and access to healthcare, of adults with Down syndrome. Data from the survey will help the Center learn more about specific risk factors and any special medical needs of adults with Down syndrome. Information obtained by the survey also will be used to look for ways to improve access to healthcare for people with Down syndrome. Potential participants in the online survey may include parents, caregivers, grandparents, adult siblings, and direct support staff. The survey may be completed only once for each adult with Down syndrome. *All answers are anonymous and confidential.* The Nisonger Center notes that as a token of appreciation for completing the survey, they will offer participants a \$5 gift card to a sporting goods store, and enter the adult with Down syndrome for one chance to win one of three Wii + Wii Fit bundles.

**[The survey is online and accessible at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DS\\_Health\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DS_Health_Survey)**

**[For more information, contact Marc Tasse at marc.tasse@osumc.edu](mailto:marc.tasse@osumc.edu)**

### **☞ Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Accepting Applications**

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities [www.gcpd.ohio.gov](http://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](http://www.gcpd.ohio.gov) or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; [Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.OADSP.org), or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at ( 800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

### **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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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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Developmental Disabilities**