



John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Progress Continues

While the Medicaid services expansion within the Ohio Jobs Budget proposed by Governor John Kasich remains stalled, legislative leaders have indicated a willingness to further discuss options, and note that they may need more time than the budget process allows to discuss the many issues surrounding Medicaid expansion within the state, under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have created subcommittees to study the issue, with a goal of producing an alternative plan by autumn 2013. However, it has been made clear by the Governor’s Office that decisions should be made by the end of June, in order for an expansion to begin on Jan. 1, 2014. According to the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, at least six months will be needed to roll out a Medicaid expansion implementation.

Yesterday, the Ohio House subcommittee -- named the ‘Healthier Ohio Working Group’ -- heard a presentation on the current status of Ohio's Medicaid system by directors of the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), and Office of Medical Assistance (Medicaid). At the hearing, emphasis was on the Medicaid populations with the greatest potential to obtain the income and resources that enable them to graduate to greater self-sufficiency, including accessing private health care services rather than Medicaid.

While it is difficult to determine what type of timeline lawmakers could be looking at for any potential new legislation under the recent House-added budget amendment, lawmakers would have until early October to introduce a bill, and take steps needed to arrive that point.

Testimony

Directors of Ohio's major health and human services departments continue to offer testimony to Senate members in an effort to effect changes to the House-passed budget bill, [HB59](#). DODD Director John Martin testified as part of a panel with directors from the departments of Job & Family Services, Aging, Health, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services, and Office of Medical Assistance. Witness testimony can be found on the subcommittee [website](#) under 'April 24.'

During the panel discussion, OHT Director Greg Moody explained to committee members that Ohio's current health care payment system ... "promotes volume over quality, and is unsustainable." Director Moody compared health care costs to those of other products, noting that if a gallon of milk or a dozen eggs grew at the same pace, they would cost \$48 and \$55, respectively. He added that ...

"Overall, there has been a 76% increase in health care costs in the past decade, alone, while personal income grew by just 30%."

According to Director Moody, spending on health care and Medicaid has not simply outpaced other areas of the economy, but is displacing other state budget priorities.

In continuing testimony, several organizations testified on May 2, as interested parties regarding DODD initiatives in [HB59](#), before the Senate Medicaid Finance Subcommittee. Testimony was heard from Disability Rights Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards, Ohio Provider Resource Association, and others, and is available on the subcommittee's [website](#) (see item labeled 'Committee Documents' under members' photos.) The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council also presented testimony on May 1.

Governor John Kasich and key Administration staff continue to support the need for Medicaid expansion, highlighting the importance of expanded medical coverage to new Medicaid enrollees – estimated at approximately 275,000 Ohioans. The Medicaid expansion plan as originally proposed by Governor Kasich would have drawn into the state an estimated \$13 billion in federal funds over seven years. *More at www.healthtransformation.gov.*

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2. Employment Update – Small Employers Take Big Steps

Ohio's [Employment First](#) initiative has spotlighted the priority of community-based employment as the preferred option for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the desire to find new and innovative ways to help pave the way for such opportunities in communities throughout the state. Since the Employment First executive order was signed in March 2012, Ohio's County Boards of DD and other service providers have taken a stronger approach to assure that the intent of the initiative moves forward. Here are a few examples of these efforts.

[Fairfield County Works at 'Square Seven'](#)

The Fairfield County Board of DD opened 'Square Seven' coffee house this month in the location already hosting its creative studio 'Art & Clay on Main' in downtown Lancaster with a

formal grand opening scheduled for May 14. The new coffee house will offer a lunch menu and pastries, along with coffee and fruit smoothies.

Square Seven will be staffed with individuals served by Fairfield County DD, as well as with individuals not served by the organization. Fairfield DD Business Development Director David Uhl notes that the Square Seven name derives from the days when the city was platted (laid out) in squares. Art & Clay on Main sits on the seventh square of the downtown area.

According to Fairfield County program participants, Art & Clay on Main already has carved out a loyal following as an integral part of the downtown community, and so the coffee house idea was launched as a natural extension and employment opportunity. The popular *Stauf's* brand of coffee will be served, and Art & Clay general manager Temple Montanez notes,

“What we’ve been doing the last couple of weeks is working very closely with Stauf’s, learning the menu and how to prepare the drinks, because there is quite a science to all of this.”



Happy to Serve You.



Square Seven employee Jessi Bash mixes up a coffee drink at Square Seven in downtown Lancaster. She also works at the Art & Clay center, where all employees have now been cross-trained in the art of coffee-drink preparation.

Photo courtesy, John Bossler, FCBDD

M & A Small Engine Repair Shop Opens in Greenfield, Ohio

A late-March open house for M & A Small Engine Repair Shop in Greenfield, Ohio (Highland County) resulted in a huge influx of business that filled the downtown location front to back! Business owners Michael and April Richards are now surrounded with enough lawn mowers and weed-whackers to provide work for, “A good long while,” according to Mike. He notes that the shop was made a reality only through the collaborative assistance of the Highland County Board of DD, HighCo Inc., the Ohio Rehabilitations Services Commission (RSC) and the allied Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BVSI). Mike explains that he began his quest to become a Briggs & Stratton Master Service Technician a while back, started working on various machines and engines long ago in a shed behind his house, and then the ball got rolling on the downtown business location. Read more about this business and the great story behind it in the next issue of ...

***Pipeline Quarterly* ... publishing in late June.**



Business is Good!

“I know if I didn’t have all this support behind me I wouldn’t be here in this shop today!”

-Mike Richards



<Mike is shown with Kelli Williamson, SSA with the Highland County Board of DD, along with some of the many rototillers, lawn mowers, and weed whackers he has recently repaired.

Contact: kwilliamson@highdd.org

Double Play Sports in Washington Courthouse

Opened in 2011, and working on an original business model based on consignment and used sports equipment, *Double Play Sports* in Washington Courthouse (Fayette County) moved forward in the past year to include a high percentage of reasonably-priced new equipment purchased for low prices through careful sourcing and some internet sleuthing. Director of Fayette County Board of DD Adult Services Mark Schwartz, is pleased to note that over the last year or so, the addition of two indoor batting cages and the sponsorship of local Little League teams, have improved business overall. The non-profit organization Fayette Progressive Industries owns the store and employs individuals to work in customer service and sales roles. Speaking of which, it’s pretty hard to beat the salesmanship of Chuck Stackhouse (see accompanying photo). Read more about this business, and the great story behind it, in the next issue of ...

Pipeline Quarterly ... publishing in late June.



“Take a Swing with This One!”

If Chuck Stackhouse can’t sell you a baseball bat, no one can!



About 75% of the sporting goods at Double Play Sports are new, and the rest are consignment or used donated items in good condition.

Contact: mschwartz@fayettetdd.com

Send news of your local community-based employment efforts for consideration in future DODD publications to Sherry Steinman, DODD Public Information Officer, at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or contact her at (614) 644-0262. Information may include links to local news media/online articles.

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3. 'One Accord, Focus on Friendships' - Changing the Culture

Business leaders, government officials, leaders in the religious community, and others attended "One Accord: Focus on Friendships," a May 7 conference on the subject of serving and including individuals with disabilities in the community. Speakers from state and county-based agencies joined others from businesses and non-profit organizations in presenting a call to shed a 'business as usual' mentality, and consider innovative and collaborative ways to work together that include and serve people with disabilities. The free conference was hosted yesterday at Columbus Vineyard Church in Westerville, and sponsored by the Ohio chapter of *Joni & Friends*, an international disability center.

Speakers included Tracy Ensign, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; Monty Kerr, Deputy Director, DODD Office of Policy & Strategic Direction; and Scott Osterfeld, Butler County Board of DD; along with service providers offering different approaches to services, and linking individuals with various interests in their communities.

Regarding the overall intent of the gathering, Tracy Ensign noted that the Governor's Office is aware that "... There is a lot of untapped potential when people with disabilities are not connected to their communities. She stated,

"We realize that we need to do a better job of helping people with disabilities have their needs met. Not just as a funder of services, but as a connector – including health options, faith-based options, and job readiness. It is a privilege to serve the state in this way."



**"The people I work with at DODD believe that one of the best ways we can be of value to Ohioans with developmental disabilities is to support initiatives that will help them feel welcomed and valued in their communities. After all, what do you and I value most?
Relationships!
And we all want to feel that we belong."
-Monty Kerr**

**"Within the heart of each community,
everyone belongs."
-Ohio Public Images, 1995 Awareness theme**

DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr made several points regarding new approaches the Department is taking toward assisting County Boards of DD and other service providers -- including to listen first to what people with disabilities are saying they want and need, and then find ways to connect them with those things. "My challenge to you here today is to listen better, and to keep listening," he said. Attendees included more than 100 people who provide services to individuals with disabilities, as well as self advocates and family members.

*More information at ohio@joniandfriends.org;
Also at www.governor.ohio.gov – Look under 'Priorities & Initiatives'*

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4. People First of Ohio Spreads Word on Employment First

People First of Ohio held their annual meeting on May 4 including elections for the state board of the organization, and a training session on the [Employment First initiative](#). The meeting was held at Robert's Convention Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. People First has been involved in planning for the statewide employment initiative since its outset beginning last year, and will continue to offer their input as invited by the Administration, according to People First Executive Director Sadie Hunter.

Chuck Beatty, an advisor to People First, participated in the annual meeting by presenting information about [Medicaid Buy-In for People with Disabilities \(MBIWD or MBI\)](#), along with possible changes that may happen in the future. Self-advocate Mike Riggle commented that people with disabilities, must fight to keep Medicaid Buy-In -- noting that many of his friends want to work, and have the right to be employed in the community.

People First of Ohio President Bill Adams told members, "We must continue to fight so that there will be a time when everyone is only offered community employment -- but right now we must educate our members to advocate in their Individual Service Plan (ISP) meetings that they have a choice of employment." He added,

"Advocates also must have training to keep them safe, and reinforce how to keep a job."



**-People First of Ohio Annual Meeting-
Conversations during lunch included active discussions regarding employment options.**



Bill Adams, People First of Ohio President (seated) and Mike Riggle, Sergeant at Arms, prepare to present a few points to help guide members in their personal quests for work opportunities.

Mark Your 2014 Calendar

Board members voted to approve the 2014 People First of Ohio Conference to be held next year on March 13 -15. The theme for 2014 will be, “Time to Take Action with Advocacy.”

For more information go to www.peoplefirstohio.org or contact Sadie Hunter at shunter@columbus.rr.com

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5. Rules Rule! New Mobile App Launched

Rules in Effect, the compilation of the Department’s administrative rules, is one of the most frequently-viewed sections of the DODD website ([See Rules in Effect](#)) . In response to requests from system stakeholders, site users now can view and search rules from a mobile device. In the below graphic, click on the green link to view the [new mobile application](#) (app).



The mobile app is simple to download, and allows users to read the full text of currently effective rules, as well as search for words or phrases used within rules.

Enhancement of the mobile app provides yet another way for stakeholders to access information. Those who are ‘less mobile’ can continue to access rules at the [DODD website](#).^{*} Information about proposed and pending rule actions is also available at the website; go to [Rules Under Development](#).

The *DODD Rules Notification listserv* is yet another option for keeping apprised of rule-making activities. Subscribers receive email notifications of public hearings on proposed rule actions, and copies of adopted final rules. To subscribe to the listserv, simply send an email to join-rules.notice@list.dodd.ohio.gov or to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator, at becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov.

JCARR’s New RuleWatch Ohio

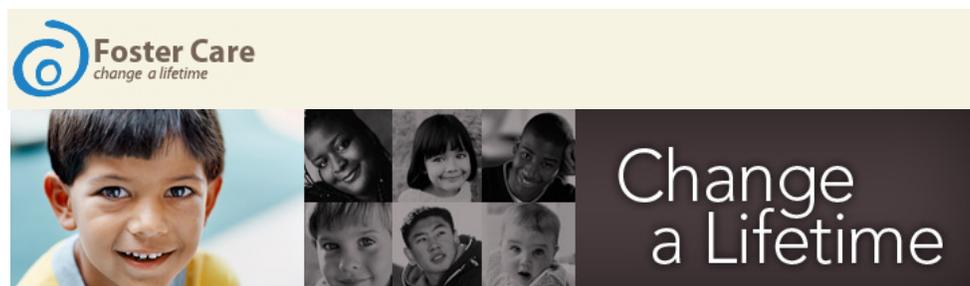
Stakeholders interested in rules of other state agencies will want to check out the new Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) *RuleWatch Ohio* system. This initiative is designed to better connect families and businesses to regulatory changes that might affect them. The system enables people to follow rule actions by subject, or by specific rule number. Anyone who signs up for the online service will receive an email notification whenever there is activity on selected rules. Learn more and sign-up here: [JCARR RuleWatch Ohio](#).

**If you need the specific information in the longer link it is: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>*

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6. Thank a Care Giver – May is National Foster Care Month “You Can Change a Lifetime!”

National Foster Care Awareness Month spotlights the experiences of the more than 400,000 children in the national foster care system, and encourages people to get involved – by being foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or serving in other support roles. Service providers around the state focus attention on the subject this month, noting that not only are children in need of good foster homes, but so are more than 100,000 adults who have developmental disabilities. Through various hardships or other circumstances beyond their control, a growing number of adults with developmental disabilities find themselves in need of a ‘family home,’ as well.



The National Foster Care Month campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of children and adults – with and without disabilities – who are in the foster care system.

Learn more about National Foster Care Month at <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>

Among the many service providers around the state that take time to recognize National Foster Care Month is REM Ohio. The organization 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. Host-Home families, in turn, gain a new family member and friend – a person who can add a new dimension to the family’s daily life.

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.

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

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7. Alcohol & Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness Week, May 12

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Alcohol and Drug-Related Birth Defects Awareness Week is May 12-18 ... 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.

When women consume alcohol or other drugs during pregnancy, newborn babies can come into the world with severe health issues that remain lifelong challenges. The reality is harsh and sad. NCADD and DODD believe that children deserve better!



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/>

Some 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;
- Changes in facial features;
- Visual and perceptual problems;
- Difficulty with fine motor skills.

According to a study in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, every hour, 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, has jumped in the past decade. Read the JAMA report: [click here](#).

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

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PostScripts

[Employment First Conference June 4-5, ‘Changing Expectations’](#)

DODD and the Ohio Employment First Advisory Committee announce the inaugural Employment First Conference, “Changing Expectations” – at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, June 4 and 5. The event will feature noted speakers and offer a platform for Employment First partners to discover answers and opportunities for a shift in expectations and stronger community employment outcomes.

[Register for the conference at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org](#)

Opening keynote speaker will be author Dale DiLeo, discussing, “*How do we begin to make the changes necessary to support and sustain Employment First?*” Sessions will cover topics including employer and community engagement, person-centered planning, interagency agreements, post-secondary options for students with DD, benefits planning, and using mobile technology to improve employment outcomes.

[Conference Scholarships Available – Deadline to Request is May 24](#)

Individuals with a disability or family members of individuals with a disability who wish to attend the Employment First Conference may request a scholarship to cover the registration fee. To request a scholarship, email Scholarship Committee Chair Donna Owens at donna_owens@ocali.org. Deadline for request is Friday, May 24 - *or* until scholarship funds have been spent - *or* until conference capacity is reached. Scholarships are limited!

[SAVE THE DATE! Direct Support Professionals Event, September 11](#)

The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) announces that the fourth annual DSP Recognition Event at the Xenos Complex in Columbus will be held on September 11. A writer, and sibling to a sister with DD, Rachel Simon will be the keynote speaker, and the energetic Scott Osterfeld will again MC the event. DODD Director John Martin will speak, and several additional presenters and

surprises are planned. More than 400 DSPs attended last year. Contact: Amy Gerowitz at (513) 484-2772 agerowitz@me.com or event coordinator Lisa Barnes, (866) 862-2322 LisaB4DSPs@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) has announced the dates for this year's *DisAbility Jobs Summit* – October 8 and 9, at the Columbus Convention Center. This event will include program tracks that will offer educational experiences for all attendees. Details will be forthcoming as the dates draw nearer. Until then, mark your calendars for the 2013 *DisAbility Jobs Summit*.

WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS – October 13

Join 'Autism Speaks' on Sunday, October 13, at Huntington Park in Columbus, and walk to change the future for people with autism. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is a family-friendly event and helps to fund research that will lead to answers surrounding the many questions posed by Autism Spectrum Disorder. Previous years' participants say, "Whether you strive to join the new "Grand Club" (walkers that raise \$1,000 or more), sell lemonade, or create your own unique event, you can become a part of the solution!" Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

ADA Announces New Resource

The ADA National Network has announced a new resource booklet -- "*The Americans with Disabilities Act Questions and Answers*." The document is designed to provide answers to frequently-asked questions about the ADA. Produced by the 10 regional members of the ADA National Network, the information has been adapted from the 2008 booklet by the same name, produced by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The new resource is available on-line in HTML format with an option to download/print a PDF version at: www.adata.org

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free **1-866-313-6733**. 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 the hotline number is there to be used for reporting.

Pipeline feedback ... direct 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. *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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