



John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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[See our new **DD Service System Guide!**](#)

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Note: See the [Pipeline EXTRA](#), published earlier today, for the results of Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues on yesterday's ballots.

1. Employment First Partnership Takes Next Steps

DODD – OOD Partnership Moves Employment First Counselors to Forefront

Work at the grassroots level is now underway as Ohio accelerates its priority emphasis on competitive, integrated employment. On October 30, the Employment First New Counselors' Training Kick-Off was hosted by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) agency, in partnership with DODD, and driven by the momentum of Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#).

Counselors who will be working directly with adults in Ohio's statewide developmental disabilities system are completing their training, preparing them to begin their work identifying competitive employment opportunities that offer community engagement, and utilize each person's abilities. The October 30 event marked the end of an intensive training period, preparing the Employment First counselors for locations around the state, and kicked-off the next phase at the grassroots level. Addressing the counselors-in-training, DODD Director John Martin noted,

“This effort you are involved in represents a significant wedge – a ‘tipping point’ if you will – for the development of integrated employment opportunities, and the importance of these opportunities to the state and national workforce. The nation will be watching what we are doing here, in Ohio, for it is a unique partnership.”

The Employment First partnership includes a commitment by DODD to fund the training of counselors located around the state who will work closely with individuals currently employed in traditional workshop settings, toward the goal of gaining a community-based job. OOD Director Kevin Miller made the analogy that DODD formed, "...the roots of the partnership, providing foundational strength and the strategic dollars needed." The outcome desired by all is that these efforts result in an opportunity for 1500 Ohioans with developmental disabilities to obtain community-based jobs each year, who previously were in traditional workshop settings.



Directors of Foundational Change
OOD Director Kevin Miller (left) and DODD Director John Martin at the OOD Learning Center, have just described that the Employment First partnership is much like a healthy tree. Director Miller gestures for the tree top, while Director Martin gestures for the roots. They agree that when you see a large tree, there's much below for foundation. (The Directors also illustrate that sometimes you can have a lot of fun, while still working very hard.) Director Martin noted, "This partnership for Employment First will make Ohio stand out in the national developmental disabilities community – It's a significant and important effort in moving the system forward."



A Roomful of Change Agents
Counselors-in-training pack the OOD Learning Center as they enjoy an inter-active work setting. OOD Deputy Director Susan Pugh noted,

"What you have signed up to do is get people jobs! Not to over-think and over-plan, but to truly engage people in identifying and assessing their skills, and helping them to be successful in community jobs."

The October 30 Employment First New Counselors' Training Kick-Off also offered input from DODD lead-person on the Employment First initiative, Kristen Helling. She encouraged each of them to continue to build on their enthusiasm and initiative noting,

"I am energized by the counselors themselves. They are prepared to make this happen!"

More information at <http://ohioemploymentfirst.org/>

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2. National Family Caregivers Month Celebrates Many

“Family Caregivers – Now More Than Ever!”

DODD salutes the day-to-day efforts of Ohio’s many family caregivers and notes that each year, more and more Americans are caring for a family member with a chronic condition due to a disability, or issues related to advancing age. It is estimated that there are as many as 90 million family caregivers in the U.S. today. With that number in mind, the theme was set for National Family Caregivers Month, November 2013 ... “Now More Than Ever.”

As caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members, Ohio’s developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts by so many, and for so many.

In 1994, the [National Family Caregivers Association](#) (NFCA) began spotlighting the role of family caregivers during the week of Thanksgiving. As interest grew in family caregiving issues, National Family Caregivers Week became National Family Caregivers *Month*. NFCA coordinates National Family Caregivers Month as a time to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the Nation’s long-term care system, providing an estimated \$450 billion worth of (unpaid) care each year. That’s twice as much as home-care and nursing home services combined. With the ranks of family caregivers growing every year, DODD spotlights the importance of the role played by family caregivers – “Now More Than Ever.” At a recent DODD Family Advisory Council meeting, one participant stated,

“Caregiving can be as intense as providing 24-hour care for a person with dementia, or as simple as taking your neighbor to a doctor’s appointment. It often means juggling many things at once, such as taking care of our own families and holding down jobs, plus giving your time and care to another family member or friend.”

Family Advisory Council Meets November 12 – And YOU Are Invited

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio’s DD system. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

The next DODD Family Advisory Council meeting is November 12 at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The meeting will include updates and information from: DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan; Icilda Dickerson from ODJFS on the Ohio Respite Program; Lori Horvath, DODD, regarding the State Plan; Dave Zwyer, regarding Community Funds; Carolyn Knight on the subject of DD Council and the Waiting List Survey; and, Lara Palay with OCALI, regarding Trauma and Crisis.

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov; More resources at www.caregiveraction.org

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3. Strategic Leadership Team to Set Direction

DODD continues to engage the statewide developmental disabilities community in processes to help set strategic direction, and improve the overall service system. As a part of that process, Director John Martin and key staff have worked with stakeholders to develop a leadership group aimed at planning, and providing oversight for this work as we move into calendar year 2014.

According to Director Martin, “One of the strengths of the Ohio system is the richness and diversity of our stakeholder community. This leadership group will be balanced to represent this diversity while still being manageable in size.”

Approximately 20 people representing more than ten organizations will comprise the new strategic leadership team. An introductory meeting was hosted yesterday, and captures a broad mix of people involved in providing services, individuals participating in services, family members, and agency staff representatives. Planning to meet monthly over the next 12 months, the group’s focus will include the following:

- What do we need to learn more about? Plan learning opportunities that would be open to the statewide DD community.
- Evaluating what we do well in Ohio, and what we do not do so well.
- Establishing a vision for the future -- what could/should we look like in 10 years? -- and preliminary steps (next biennium) to get us there.

The November 5th meeting in the training room at Columbus Developmental Center included a presentation by Director John Martin that concluded asking a few questions, and observing that the group’s tasks will include examining roles, values, and philosophies, and establishing a 2-year and a 10-year Vision. He noted,

“Thank you for taking some time to ‘step off the treadmill’ and take a look at where we are now, and where we would like our system to be in the future. We appreciate you coming to the table with us, and look forward to working together with you toward shared goals.”

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4. OPRA Conference Spotlights System Growth, Change

The [Ohio Provider Resource Association](#) (OPRA) Fall Conference last month was designed to support an information-packed ‘learning module’ format, and featured a broad assortment of several educational tracks geared for professionals in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community, including such areas as Direct Support, Program Management, and Supported Employment. Speakers represented many national and state organizations, including DODD Director John Martin, Deputy Directors Patrick Stephan and Kate Haller, and Project Manager in the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, Molly Kurtz.

Along with the varied presentations and learning opportunities, OPRA turned the spotlight on recognizing excellence in the state’s service provider network. The annual OPRA Awards this year included presentation of the Maureen Corcoran Award to *Amanda Hogan, Direct Support Professional with the Heinzerling Memorial Foundation* in Columbus. The award recognizes an

outstanding [PATHS](#)*-credentialed Direct Support Professional who demonstrates prescribed competencies; upholds the [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) Code of Ethics](#); and, exhibits exemplary overall professionalism. Amanda's career as a Direct Support Professional spans 16 years, during which she has shown a consistent commitment to enriching the lives of individuals with whom she works.



At the Heinzerling Foundation, Amanda has worked with a man named Dustin, and they each share a love for art. Last year, after much planning, Amanda helped Dustin to host his first art show. Members of the community attended, and money was raised for the Heinzerling Activity Fund. The event also raised awareness about the residents and staff at Heinzerling. Amanda states her philosophy ...

“If, at the end of the day, what I have done has made the lives of our individuals better, then it has made my life better as well.”

Several outstanding volunteers, teams, supervisors, direct support staff, and others had the opportunity to step into the OPRA Awards spotlight at the conference, having earned a moment of recognition. The two-day event also offered an opportunity for learning about exhibitors' products and services, and sharing and refreshing their individual enthusiasm for working with the people they serve.

As a statewide association of service providers within Ohio's developmental disabilities community, OPRA works to build a collaborative service system that meets the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Currently, membership consists of more than 150 organizations, providing services to more than 15,000 Ohioans. Overall, OPRA represents approximately 70% of the state's community-based providers.

**PATHS is the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services credentialing program for Direct Support Professionals. More information at <http://www.opra.org/>*

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5. Raising the Bar: Lawyers Develop 'O.P.E.N. Court'

Educates Developmental Disabilities Community via Web Series

For many, the legal system can be a complicated and confusing structure. The process can be even more overwhelming for young members of the developmental disabilities community, as well as for the police officers, attorneys, and court personnel who encounter them.

The [Ohio State Bar Association](#) is taking steps to relieve this stress through their 'O.P.E.N. Court' [online resource](#) designed to, "Orient young People with Exceptional Needs about court." Through a series of three videos following Henry, a young man with autism who finds himself navigating the juvenile court system, the series teaches young viewers, with and without developmental disabilities, about courtroom behavior, their rights, and how to assert them. Each video is less than ten minutes in duration.

In addition to the videos, the website provides a resource guide for teachers, parents, attorneys, juvenile court personnel, and social-service professionals to engage in best practices to help young people gain the confidence and skills to navigate the process successfully from beginning to end. O.P.E.N Court is the brainchild of the Bar Association's charitable arm, the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF), which selects 40 'Fellows' each year from their new members to create and execute a project designed to enhance public understanding of the law, and improve the justice system.

The 2011 Class chose to direct their efforts towards young people with developmental disabilities, some of whom have autism, as well as other developmental disabilities. In all, the group volunteered nearly two years of their time to develop the web series.

According to said David Gromley, Delaware Municipal Court Judge and 2011 OSBF Fellow, "There was a need here for some information for this group." Regarding the decision to use video as the medium for their project, he added, "That's kind of a neat way to present the information, and that's the way so many folks get information, especially young people."

Video was suggested by experts in the developmental disabilities community whom the Fellows group enlisted to help them develop the project. They suggested the information be presented to individuals with developmental disabilities in this way because, "Videos can be played over and over again, and the written materials reinforce the lessons," Gromley said.

As a web resource, the series of videos and accompanying materials are available to the Ohio's DD community, and to anyone seeking information on how best to educate young people on the juvenile court process. Above all, Gromley hopes that anyone who provides services to youth within or outside of the court system -- and with or without developmental disabilities -- will use the resource to educate young people and themselves. He stated, "You have to meet people where they are, and try to educate them."

**To view the O.P.E.N. Court video series, visit <http://www.osbf.net/opencourt>.
For more information about the Ohio State Bar Association, visit <http://www.osbf.net/>.**

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[Health & Welfare](#)

[6. Anticipating Winter Weather, and Flu Season](#)

Ohio's health and safety system for individuals with developmental disabilities is built on incident prevention, providing timely care when needed, as well as appropriate reporting.

The purpose of **[DODD Health and Welfare Alerts](#)** is to provide critical information to caregivers on specific subjects for which DODD has identified a risk to individuals' health and welfare.

(Note: Health & Safety Alerts were re-named to align with broadening the scope of information.)

The periodic Alerts provide data, additional resources, and guidance to the field on what can be done to avoid or minimize a risk.

Alerts are one more step to keep our partners in the statewide DD community informed of the health and welfare challenges that affect individuals with disabilities, and what we can do to help.

Health and Welfare Alerts are derived from Ohio data, and are created to give all Ohio providers of DD services an opportunity to have consistent and up-to-date information. Sharing it allows the system to be proactive in avoiding future negative outcomes.

See: [Winter Weather Alert](#); [Preventing the Flu](#)

Employees within Ohio's developmental disabilities system are required to be trained, annually, on identification and reporting of Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) and Unusual Incidents (UIs) prior to unsupervised contact. Scott Phillips, DODD Assistant Deputy Director, MUI/Registry Unit, notes that "The foundation for Ohio's health and welfare system is *reporting*, and it is critical for employees to have a good understanding of *what* to report and *how* to report. Providing training and education to new employees upon hiring, and to current employees annually, helps assure that timely reporting takes place to protect individuals served."

He added, "Failing to report incidents involving risks to health and welfare for individuals supported in our system can result in administrative investigation and even criminal charges." Training includes the review of any Health and Welfare Alerts released since the previous calendar year's training. Training is now in development for 2014. Phillips emphasizes,

"In sharing DODD Health and Safety Alerts we can help service providers by giving them the opportunity to prevent a harmful outcome. *Education is the key!* For example, the Alerts provide information that can prompt a provider to... test a hot water tank to assure that an individual can't get burned... take the time to modify a diet texture so a person won't choke...or contact 911 immediately when significant signs or symptoms of illness exist." He concludes,

"Each time someone takes action as a result of critical information shared in a DODD Health and Welfare Alert, a serious injury – or even a death – can be avoided. That's why we believe that the Health and Welfare Alerts are so important!"

For questions or comments regarding DODD Health & Welfare Alerts, contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810. More information: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/Documents/31-09-12.pdf>

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New! Pipeline Posts ...

Call for Artists – Design a Logo for a New Publication

[Guiding People through Systems – Deadline November 18, 2013](#)

The Ohio Department of Health, in collaboration with the Nationwide Children's Hospital/Autism Treatment Network, Family Voices, University of Cincinnati/UCEDD and The Ohio Medical Home Project is working on a virtual care notebook website, "*Guiding People through Systems*" or *GPS*. The purpose is to provide an organizational tool for families and individuals to maintain and manage information and records in a notebook fashion. The GPS will organize concise information for members of an individual's healthcare team, and will help them to access resources related to transition, recreation, and other services. The tool is designed as a stand-alone website that will empower the individual/family/professional partnership.

[Ohio artists with disabilities have the opportunity to design a logo for the GPS website. The logo will be displayed there and on any print copies generated from the GPS system. The Ohio Arts Council will provide a \\$250 Artist Award to the winner of this logo contest!](#)

Entries should be submitted as full-color, high-resolution images that are print-ready. The logo should be sized at three inches square, and easy to view at that size. Artists may submit *one (1) entry* each. Submit entries and one-paragraph biography to Amy Hess, amy.hess@nationwidechildrens.org, by *November 18*.



-Next Issue-
**The Annual Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline,
Publishing Nov. 20, 2013**

Here's last year's issue: [Pipeline, November 21, 2012](#)

Again this year we invite *you* to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit items for consideration by Nov. 14, to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, is best. ☞

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PostScripts

☞ **Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9**

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference, November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel, is an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Visit www.ohiosibs.com for more information.

☞ **Living with Epilepsy Symposium, November 9**

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month

A 'Living with Epilepsy Symposium' will be presented by Riverside Methodist Hospital, OhioHealth, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus on Saturday, November 9, at Riverside Methodist Hospital/Bing Cancer Center, 500 Thomas Lane, in Columbus. *November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month and highlights the advances made in the management and treatment of epilepsy.* Leading medical practitioners will present current and new treatments, research to find a cure, and strategies for dealing with the challenges that living with epilepsy presents. Cost is \$10 per person and \$40 for professionals seeking contact hours and CEUs. Registration includes presentations, exhibits, free parking, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships available. For information call (613) 315-0437. To register, go online at www.epilepsy-ohio.org or [click here](#).

☞ **Will You Be 'Up All Night for Autism'? November 9**

"Up All Night for Autism" is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster's Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information [click here](#).

☞ **OCALICON – November 20-22**

"OCALICON 2013," a national autism and disabilities conference, will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, November 20th - 22nd. The conference will feature more than 100 concurrent panel, and interactive discussion sessions. For more information, call (614) 410-0321, or visit www.ocali.org.

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