



News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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

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In October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

This year's theme will be "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>

1. News from the Office of Health Transformation

As a partner agency in the Office of Health Transformation (OHT), DODD joins state agency partners: the departments of Health (ODH); Aging (ODA); Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and Job and Family Services (ODJFS); and, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in efforts to modernize the formerly fragmented system of Medicaid service delivery in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available, and to provide the best value to taxpayers.

Now in its third year of such partnerships, OHT's top priority continues to be to develop common-sense reforms that address immediate budget challenges. One result of such efforts is transitioning residents who want to move out of larger, more institutional settings and into home- and community-based settings.

HOME Choice

A study of states participating in the federal [Money Follows the Person demonstration program](#) found Ohio to be, "...A national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home- and community-based settings," as reported by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM).

Ohio's **HOME Choice** program is funded by a federal grant which supports various needs and helps individuals leave larger facilities to enter community living. Ohio's program was found to rank first among states in the study specifically for, "... transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term care facilities into alternative settings..." and was second overall regarding the number of residents moved from institutions into home- and community-based settings, ODM reported. Since its inception in 2008 through December 2012, the Ohio program's 2,999 transitioned Medicaid beneficiaries was second only to Texas. Ohio's original goal was 2,200 residents.

According to the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA), since 2008, 298 individuals served in Ohio's DD services system have enrolled in HOME Choice, electing to access HOME Choice options.

MDA staff note, "We are working hard to increase those numbers through ongoing Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion efforts. We also refer to the HOME Choice program the names of individuals who have been determined to no longer need the services of a nursing facility."

Number of Home Choice Enrollments for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Year	Referrals	Enrollments
2008	47	47
2009	91	90
2010	38	38
2011	36	35
2012	94	88
Grand Total	306	298

HOME Choice has specific requirements regarding eligibility, including that the home must have no more than four people living in it. Sometimes service conversions occur, or individuals choose to move into settings with more than four individuals, so the numbers of referred and eligible people will not always match.

Ohio Department of Medicaid Launches New Website

Formerly a part of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS), the management of the state's Medicaid-funded programs is now overseen by the newly-formed Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). The Department now has launched Medicaid.ohio.gov, an easy-to-navigate website for Ohioans who want to know more about Medicaid, including the 2.3 million residents covered by the program, and a network for 75,000 providers doing business with the program.

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2. County Boards Needed to Participate in Insurance Enrollment Project

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in conjunction with DODD, is sponsoring a project to enroll individuals with developmental disabilities to the "Disabled Adult Child"* (DAC) insurance program managed by the Social Security Administration. DAC is a social security benefit available to adults with disabilities who have a living retired parent (or a deceased parent)

who qualifies for social security benefits. The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center is managing the project for both departments.

Since the project started last year, 37 individuals have been enrolled onto DAC, significantly enhancing the individual's monthly income, and saving the state of Ohio nearly a half million dollars. "The main advantage of the DAC program," says Debbie Jenkins, program manager at the Department, "is that the individual's monthly income is likely to increase as a result of the program since payments are based upon the parents' social security work history."

To qualify for DAC benefits the individual must:

- Have a disability that was established before the age of 22;
- Be single;
- Have a parent who is currently receiving or received Social Security benefits.

Although most individuals who qualify for DAC are automatically enrolled, about 15% of the eligible population is not enrolled.

"We estimate that there are several hundred individuals in waiver programs and ICFs that could be enrolled in DAC," observes Senior Program manager Barry Jamieson. The average individual monthly DAC benefit to date is \$876, which is significantly higher than the typical SSI monthly payment without DAC." He continues,

"An added bonus to being on DAC is that two years after establishing DAC eligibility date, the consumer qualifies for Medicare."

Marilyn Weber of MKW consulting, the enrollment contractor on the DAC initiative, indicates that providers and County Boards she has worked with have appreciated the additional benefits that go to the individual as a result of the enhanced monthly resource. "For waiver recipients, a couple of hundred dollars a month in enhanced benefits can really make a difference in the quality of life of the individual."

Over the past year, 18 private providers and nine County Boards have participated in the DAC project. Providers and County Boards who would like to participate may contact Barry Jamieson: barry.jamieson@osumc.edu or Marilyn Weber: Marilyn@MKWPATHWAYS.com.

Participation in the project is free until June 2014, when the initiative ends.

**"Disabled Adult Child" is the program terminology, and not the editorial style of DODD Pipeline.*

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3. Training Spotlights 'Things You Need to Know'

The Arc of Ohio Explores a Broad Menu of DD System Topics

Today in Worthington, an Arc of Ohio training event is brimming with information concerning services and supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, and the constantly changing Ohio DD services system. The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks introduced the morning as an exploration of 'the current' and 'the pending' – as well as the 'what could be.' A training opportunity for families and individuals served, and an information-sharing event for DD professionals, Tonks' opening remarks and advocacy update included,

“Today we will take a look at several topics that family members and providers such as yourselves have asked to learn more about. And as I see where we are now, as opposed to where we were three or four years ago in the Ohio DD system, I think we are seeing some good progress. Especially in terms of dollars funding needed programs that help families do the best they can for their family members with disabilities.”

A case in point is Respite Care through Medicaid Managed Care – an added respite benefit that has been developed to help families -- many of whom need more respite service availability than is possible through their local County Board’s Family Support Services (FSS) funds. Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) staff, Kinsey Jolliff and Christi Pepe, described the newly-developed service availability that is scheduled to be effective in January 2014. The newly-created state department has implemented Managed Care to include children with disabilities. Recognizing that families are the largest and most cost-effective providers of services, ODM has proposed providing respite care to families of children who are not currently served through waivers or living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).



Invited to ask questions at any time during the presentations ... the active group of more than 50 family members, individuals, and service providers began to do just that, as representatives from the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) presented information about “Respite Care through Medicaid Managed Care.”

TOP: ODM staffer Kinsey Jolliff, noted the goals of the New Respite Benefit, and adds, “We are working through the process for approval through CMS* and JCARR* for this to be up and running in January 2014.” He added,

“Our Director John McCarthy has listened to the concerns of families and the stakeholder community, and heard your voices. This is important to families.”

***CMS: Center for Medicaid Services; *JCARR: Joint Commission for Agency Rule Review**



LEFT: Arc staffer Dave Lewis passes the microphone to family members.

Information about goals of the respite benefit, eligibility, and the scope and limits of the proposed funding will be available online by October 1 at www.thearcofohio.org and at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/>.

Information regarding the [Transitions Developmental Disabilities \(TDD\)](#) waiver was presented by DODD lead person on the subject, Lori Horvath. Thousands of children and adults throughout Ohio, formerly served by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), are now being served through DODD and County Boards of DD. The overview looked at where we are now, and what families may expect in the coming year.

Also covered during the day: Provider Certification and what is necessary to become a certified Provider for various waivers (Angel Morgan, DODD); Special Needs Estate Planning (Kevin R. Bacon, legislator, attorney, and parent); Educational Advocacy (Blaine P. Brockman, attorney, and DD system advocate); and plenty of time for questions and answers.

DODD recognizes and appreciates the work of stakeholders such as The Arc of Ohio in informing and strengthening the knowledge base on a wide variety of subjects pertaining to Ohio's statewide system of developmental disabilities services.

For more information: <http://www.thearcofohio.org/>

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4. Preparedness Information for People with Disabilities

September, [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM), originally was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And in conjunction, FEMA's resulting [Ready Campaign](#) was developed to educate people on how to prepare for many different kinds of hazards and emergencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and [ReadyOhio](#) urge communities across the nation to take a Pledge of Preparedness.

See: [Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities](#)

The ADA National Network has announced a new training session in the webinar series, "Emergency Management and Preparedness-Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities." The presentation will discuss the access and functional needs issues that must be considered by individuals, jurisdictions, emergency managers, and transportation workers in planning evacuation and transportation in emergencies. Information about the September 26 webinar is on-line at www.adaconferences.org/Emergency.



FEMA Recommends ...

**Keep these items in a "Grab and Go" bag near your bed:
First Aid kit, flashlight, battery-powered radio, batteries, extra clothes, bottled water, canned food/opener, snacks, whistle, a list of your medical conditions, and emergency contact phone numbers. If you need to leave your home, have a one-week supply of medications readily available.**

Staff working in Ohio's diverse developmental disabilities community have noted success focusing on activities that encourage individuals to prepare and maintain an emergency supply kit, practice an emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect them. One SSA advised, "*It's very important to talk about these things when you're preparing a*

person's Individual Service Plan with them -- so that everyone involved in that person's 'circle of support' has the same information, and knows it's been discussed."

In addition, at www.ready.gov -- click the link "[Prepare for Emergencies Now: Information for People with Disabilities.](#)" There you'll find a brochure specific to people who have disabilities and other access/functional needs that could affect overall emergency preparedness.

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5. Positive Exposure: Celebrating the Spirit of Difference

The Ohio State University [Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program](#) has invited a unique gallery of photography, [Positive Exposure](#), to Columbus for two events focused on improving attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. Positive Exposure is a multimedia presentation that aims to redefine perceptions of beauty, and invite people to see individuals with genetic, cognitive, physical, and behavioral differences as vibrant and valuable members of society.

Along with the OSU Nisonger Center, DODD and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) encourage Ohioans with an interest in the positive culture of the state's disabilities community to take advantage of the opportunity to see this unique presentation at noon on Sunday, October 20. On that day the founder, director, and photographer of Positive Exposure -- Rick Guidotti -- will visit the [COSI Atrium](#) and discuss the multi-media gallery which will be on display there. In addition, Guidotti will present to medical students, faculty, and staff on October 21, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine's Prior Health Sciences Library, where a gallery of photographs will be displayed October 21 - November 27, 2013.

The organization notes that through this exhibit, medical students and staff will have the opportunity to see people with disabilities in a different light. They explain, "Often, individuals with genetic, physical, or behavioral differences are depicted in medical textbooks in ways that are dehumanizing or sad. While it is useful to learn about these conditions, it is important to consider the whole human being, not only the diagnosis."

Rick Guidotti was a fashion photographer in New York and Milan, until a chance encounter with a girl with [albinism](#) opened his eyes to the limited scope of beauty within fashion. Guidotti left the fashion world to travel around the globe challenging societal notions of beauty by photographing people with disabilities as people first and foremost -- people who do not define their lives by their conditions



Positive Exposure provides eye-opening multimedia presentations to challenge stigmas and assumptions often associated with people with disabilities. The organization's educational and advocacy programs reach worldwide to promote a more inclusive, compassionate world where differences are celebrated.



More at www.positiveexposure.org
<online photo courtesy, The Nisonger Center,
Rick Guidotti, photographer

More information at <http://nisonger.osu.edu/positive-exposure-06-2013>
Contact: Alexis Shaw, Wexner Medical Center, 614-293-3737, Alexis.Shaw2@osumc.edu

New! Pipeline Posts ...

Perry County DD Shares Progress on Bio-Digester Project

On September 17, Perry County Board of DD Superintendent David Couch reported ... "This morning we lit the heater in the bio-digester office, the first functional use of gas from Perco's bio-digester. (What's a bio-digester? Find out by clicking here: [Bio-Digester](#).) DODD Deputy Director Monty Kerr and other staff from the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction were visiting here, and were present for the event. Also visiting were students and personnel from the Southern Local School District, including the cafeteria supervisor. Southern Local, along with the other three school districts in Perry County, will begin redirecting food waste from their cafeterias to the PerCo bio-digester in the near future. A Southern Local student had the honor of igniting the first use of the biogas."

NOTE: The anaerobic processing of food scraps, adding water and heat to produce methane gas, was planned ultimately to heat the PerCo Garden Center. And, best of all, it's another job-producing project. See the original story in *Pipeline*, June 5 2013, [article #3](#).



It looks like a greenhouse,
but actually ...
"It's a cool consortium of energy,
environment, and engineering!
And best of all, it will create jobs."
-Gil Fulecki

L. to R., Gil Fulecki, Bio-Digester project coordinator; Dave Couch, PCBDD Superintendent; State Representative Bill Hayes; and DODD Director John Martin stand beside the Bio-Digester unit, gearing up for an energy-producing summer.

Pipeline Quarterly Preview...

Transformational changes in residential services around the state will be the focus of a special edition of *Pipeline Quarterly*, publishing soon, and including articles featuring such efforts across the state. The new residential services options partly result from DODD's "Grand Bargain"-- a major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program. In response to input from the DD community, this historic agreement was negotiated with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in community-based settings. It includes a commitment by the field to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. Read more in the upcoming issue, reporting on summer 2013. All issues are archived at *Pipeline Quarterly*.

*ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities



Welcome to my home!
"I just decorated for Halloween ..."
John explains, as he lights up the little skeletons surrounding his front doorway. John and Jim's home in Clinton County is one of several well-kept homes in the community where individuals are now living who previously were in larger congregate settings. Meet John and several other Wilmington-area residents who are pleased as can be living in their new environments. In the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*.



"Wait 'til you see what-all I put up for Christmas!"
-John

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PostScripts



The JJ Project – "How I Became a Pirate"

September 27-28

at the Knox County Community Theatre in Mount Vernon see this exciting, original production presented by MTV Arts. JJ is an 11-year-old boy with a dream to direct a theatre production. Now that dream is a reality.

[Click here for: Ticket and Show Information](#)

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Joni & Friends Ohio Presents “One Accord” Event, October 4-5

Individuals who have disabilities and are entrepreneurs/business owners may wish to consider being a part of the “One Accord/FUSE” conference on Friday, October 4. The first day of a two-day event will host a ‘Swappportunity,’ wherein participants will have an hour to share their information about their organizations, ideas, or projects in the process of development or marketing. It’s a way to connect with other like-minded people including those who have an interest in the disability community, and various related resources. To learn more or [to register, click here](#). Contact: Debra Petermann, Joni and Friends International Disability Center; (614) 259-5257, www.joniandfriends.org.

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! ‘Synergy’ Conference, October 2-4

The statewide *Synergy* conference is October 2-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. Each year this conference brings together a cross-section of DD system stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities, their family members, professionals from service provider agencies, County Boards of DD, and related service systems. Sessions will provide useful information about Autism; Employment First in Ohio; A Good Life; Building relationships, and more. The Synergy conference is jointly hosted by OSDA and PAR. More at www.synergyohio.org.

DON'T MISS IT! The DisAbility Jobs Summit, October 8-9

More information at: [DJS brochure 2013](#)

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/index/employers/disability-jobs-summit>

The 2013 Ohio DisAbility Jobs Summit will be October 8-9, 2013 at the Columbus Convention Center, sponsored by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission* The Summit will underscore the importance of job creation for individuals with disabilities as one of the top priorities of the Kasich Administration. Leaders from government and business will attend this event to discuss disability employment issues. It is RSC's goal for the event to bring together prospective employees and employers to forge a more mutually beneficial relationship.

**RSC will be re-named, ‘Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency’ as of October 1, 2013.*

Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities Annual Meeting, Oct. 8

In conjunction with the above DisAbility Jobs Summit, the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will be October 8, from 1:00 - 2:45 p.m. at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The organization’s annual awards also will be presented at the meeting, including: Employer(s) of the Year; Advocate of the Year; Accessible Medical Services; Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership; Karla Lortz Scholarship; and, Legislator(s) of the Year. Reserve seats by registering before October 1 at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GovsAnnualMtg> Questions, contact Donna Foster, (614) 438-1394.

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction Conference, Oct. 10-11

The OJACC conference (see www.ojacc.org) will be held at the Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus, October 10 - 11. The theme, ‘Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery,’ encompasses many topics including a keynote presentation by Sarah M. Manchak, Ph.D., examining the patient-therapist relationship and its effects on psycho-social and criminal outcomes for offenders with serious mental disorders who are mandated to treatment. Also, a presentation on ‘Reentry and Supervision’ by Phil Florian and Dr. Janet Keeler (Cuyahoga County DD) will focus on individuals with DD who are involved in the criminal justice system. The presentation will outline the characteristics, challenges, specific interviewing techniques, and strategies/interventions for supporting individuals through this process. Information and registration at www.ojacc.org. Contact Cheryl (740) 420-6444; tctaylor@mac.com.

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. Contact Columbus@autismspeaks.org or call (216) 524-2842.

Next Chapter Book Club to Hold First-Ever Conference, October 18-19

The *Next Chapter Book Club* began in Columbus and now is an internationally-known book club for adults with developmental disabilities. Affiliated clubs meet at community-based coffee shops and cafes for an hour each week to enjoy each other's company and read aloud. (See *Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2009*, p. 8) The *Next Chapter Book Club* and its parent organization, *Chapters Ahead*, are hosting a first-ever conference on literacy for adults with DD at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, October 18 -19. Registration is \$50 and can be completed at www.chaptersahead.org.

Contact: Dr. Tom Fish, (614) 685-8723, e-mail Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., in Columbus. To register for the conference go to: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. The *full Conference Agenda* will be available soon. Additional speakers will address the topics of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

The 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, one of the largest statewide housing conferences in the nation, will be held November 5-7, 2013 in Columbus. Join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) at the Conference, themed "Rising Towards Tomorrow." *For reduced rates, register before October 4.* Information and registration at: [Click Here](#). DHN also has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis & Summary. Read the report: [Click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's 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. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

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](#).

SAVE THIS DATE, TOO! OACB Annual Winter Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30- year anniversary. More details as the year progresses.

And ... Save This Date: March 4, 2014
Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

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



To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free **1-866-313-6733**. 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 ...

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