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**January 16, 2013**  
**Volume 7, Issue 2**

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**Administration Update**

## **1. Autism Services Update, More State and National News**

### **Ceremonial Signing, Autism Services Mandate**

Following Governor John Kasich's announcement last month regarding insurance coverage for services to Ohio children with autism and their families, the Governor last week joined autism advocates and state lawmakers at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus for the ceremonial signing of the document that authorizes health insurance companies to cover autism therapies and treatments in the coming years.

#### **For Meaningful and Successful Lives**

Governor John Kasich commented following the signing of the ceremonial document,

**"This is going to help so many people, so many children, so many moms and dads. To stop them from bankruptcy and bickering and divorce and all the challenges that come with seeing your children unattended in many ways. So today it's family day ... in Ohio."**





**Supporting Ohioans with Autism**  
At the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) office in Columbus, the signing ceremony involved key state officials and advocates, including Sondra Williams, Director for the Young Leaders Division at Autistic Global Initiatives, shown at the podium.

The state will require this coverage for private insurers in 2014, as well as for state employee health plans, which will take effect once approved by Ohio unions. The original letter outlining the proposal was sent to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on December 26, 2012.

Senator Kevin Bacon, parent of a child with autism, joined Governor Kasich at the event and described the expanded benefits as, "A good start." Senator Bacon praised the Governor for moving forward on these efforts, despite pushback from critics. Insurance companies doing business in Ohio will be required to cover autism treatments such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy, providing intensive interventions to help children develop more typically.

According to advocates, ABA therapy, which can cost families many thousands of dollars each year in out-of-pocket expenses, has been proven to help children diagnosed with autism live more independent lives. These benefits now will extend more opportunities to Ohio families who were previously unable to afford these costly but important treatments.

### **Governor Kasich, Director Moody Convene Health Leaders to Coordinate Payment Innovation**

Last week, Governor Kasich and Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody met with Ohio business executives, health care leaders, and patient advocates to coordinate a strategy for health care payment innovation. OHT analysis of the current fee-for-service system finds that it rewards 'more care' not 'better care.' Working to improve this system, the Governor's Advisory Council on Health Care Payment Innovation will play a lead role in the Administration's efforts to advance innovative payment strategies that reward value as measured by better health, better care, and cost savings through improvement.

**For more information click on: [Transforming Payment for a Healthier Ohio](http://www.healthtransformationohio.gov)**  
[www.healthtransformationohio.gov](http://www.healthtransformationohio.gov)

### **On the National Scene**

**'Because' Media Campaign Encourages Youth with Disabilities to Pursue Career Goals**

'Because' is a new public service announcement from the Campaign for Disability Employment from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) that features seven people with disabilities who are pursuing and realizing their goals because someone believed in them and urged them to set high expectations.

Focused on transition-age youth, 'Because' challenges viewers to re-think what people with disabilities can accomplish, and suggests how each of us can inspire others to success. The PSA reflects one of ODEP's priorities to increase expectations of youth with disabilities, their parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors -- as well as future employers -- about what people with disabilities can achieve in their careers. More information at [www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep).

[Click to ... View the PSA ... Read the news release](#)

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## [Part II of a Series](#)

### **2. Expanding Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project, Statewide**

#### **Now Includes All 88 Ohio Counties, Children Under Age 18**

As noted in Part I ([Pipeline Volume 6 issue 26 December 5 2012](#)) of this series, DODD and Wright State University's Consumer Advocacy Model (CAM) Program, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council ('DD Council'), and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have developed *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project*. In fact, DD Council's involvement goes back to 2003 and, as a long-term grant funder, has supported the initiative and concept development now for nearly ten years, underscoring the importance of new ways to address children's health issues.

**[The goal of the overall Tele-psychiatry Project is to provide access to high-quality psychiatric care and community mental health services for people affected by co-occurring mental illness/developmental disabilities \(MI/DD\) who reside in remote areas across the state.](#)**

Begun in February 2012, the project is currently serving approximately 78 adults and 16 children residing in 27 Ohio counties, where there are few if any such services available by qualified practitioners.

#### **Background**

At the project's outset, DODD Director John Martin stated, "The lack of appropriate care severely impacts the quality of life for people in these areas while also inflating the cost of care due to increased staffing needs, unnecessary hospitalizations, forced institutionalization, and expenses to transport the person out of the local area for treatment."

The project also was developed to encourage collaborative relationships between local County Boards of DD and local Boards of Mental Health that could bridge the gap in services to people with complex issues. These inter-disciplinary teams then can offer a more comprehensive approach to treatment. Through this collaborative effort it is hoped that treatment and ongoing local support can be provided to as many as 120 under-served individuals by the end of FY2013.

### 2013 Brings Aggressive Expansion

Furthering this effort in 2013, Director Martin announced on December 24 of last year that *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project* has been expanded to include children from all 88 counties. The initial project was offered to all but the top 13 counties (based on size), in an effort to reach underserved populations throughout Ohio. He stated,

**"I have heard from many of you that children with co-occurring issues are vastly underserved in Ohio, even in the larger counties where specialized healthcare services are typically more accessible. In order to better serve this particular group, the project now will accept referrals for children and adolescents under the age of 18 from all county boards, effective immediately."**

Currently, referrals for *adults* with co-occurring issues will continue to be restricted to the original 13 target counties in order to meet the goal of reaching adults in more remote areas.

#### Key Benefits Explored - The Miami County Experience

The most exciting outcomes in *Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project* will be told over time by the individuals served and their families, and by the participating physicians at Wright State's CAM Program. The Miami County experience is one scenario that has started off on a highly positive note from the beginning.

According to LeighAnne Wenning, Behavior Support Coordinator/SSA Team Supervisor at the Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities, "This is definitely a program that I have been excited about since I first learned about it in 2010. I have always been an advocate, and have stressed the importance of access to quality and timely mental health services. No matter who you are, mental health matters as much as any other physical or medical issue any of us may experience. Access to the team of qualified clinicians participating in the tele-psychiatry project has had a very positive impact on the people MCBDD serves."

She continues, "In fact, we have served more than 30 individuals using tele-psychiatry and tele-therapy now, and have been serving children in this manner since early 2012. We also have one individual who accesses the services directly from her home. The convenience and benefits of this service to the DD community are numerous."

Wenning goes on to explain that the positive financial impact for individuals, families, and service providers should not be overlooked:

**"...These services not only help individuals receiving residential services, but those that used to have family members driving them to and from multiple appointments each month. In addition to the cost savings, we now have access – essentially at our finger tips – to specialized clinicians that understand the impact of mental illness on a person with an intellectual disability. That is the real value of this service."**

The MCBDD Office in Troy, Ohio, has two rooms equipped for tele-psychiatry and tele-therapy. The assigned Service & Support Administrator coordinates the appointments and reserves the equipment. Individuals can have the room to themselves, or team members may be present to help provide information to the clinician. Miami County staff note that an individual can be seen in person at any point during the process if there are concerns, or lack of comfort with using the service. It is up to the doctor or the individual.

Wenning notes, “We had one instance in which an individual had a tele-psychiatry appointment in the morning and the doctor noticed that the person was experiencing some recurring facial tics. The doctor scheduled an appointment at her office that same day to check him out.”

**Ohio's Tele-psychiatry Project, Miami County**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w69CP05YQRY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w69CP05YQRY&feature=youtu.be)

To see tele-psychiatry in action, click on the link above, and you'll learn why participants say,

**“With the equipment, everyone on her team can be assembled in one place for an appointment. And, it's not as intimidating as it sometimes is, going to a doctor's office. With the drive, and a wheelchair and all, sometimes we were exhausted before we even got in to see the doctor.”**

**“The doctor asks her questions, and we go back and forth for solutions. It's just so convenient! She also likes to see herself on-camera – it feels important.”**

As more counties gain experience with tele-psychiatry and have experiences to relate, this *Pipeline* series will share and explore their efforts and outcomes.

*Special thanks to LeighAnne Wenning, MCBDD, [LeighAnne.Wenning@riversidedd.org](mailto:LeighAnne.Wenning@riversidedd.org); Pam Berry, Senior Policy Advisor, DODD, [Pam.Berry@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Pam.Berry@dodd.ohio.gov); Nicole Duff, Outpatient Services Coordinator, Consumer Advocacy Model Program, [nicole.duff@wright.edu](mailto:nicole.duff@wright.edu)*

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## [Health & Safety](#)

### **[3. Updated Alerts and Precautions for Improved Safety](#)**

In a continuing effort to provide timely and updated information on subjects affecting the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers, DODD has re-issued *Health & Safety Alert* #37-01-03 on the subject of Hot Water Burns. The purpose of this Alert is to heighten awareness to the danger of burns from hot water. Most commonly, hot water burns occur during baths or showers, but can also result from cooking accidents. It is important to remember that individuals vary in their perception or sensitivity to hot water, and that age and other factors can contribute to the degree of injury, if any. See the Alert for more information.

**Children can get third-degree burns on exposure to hot water in less than ¼ of a second at 160 degrees, and in just over 3 minutes at 120 degrees. The severity of a burn injury depends on the temperature of the liquid, length of time exposed, age of the person, and the size of the area affected. Only cooling stops the skin from burning.**



**[Flu Shots and Children with Developmental Disabilities, Neurologic Disorders](#)**

The [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#) reports that one in five Americans will get the flu this winter, with more than 200,000 sick enough to be hospitalized. Yet, for a variety of reasons, or due to lack of information, many people still do not get vaccinated. And according to the [Ohio Department of Health](#), parents and other caregivers of children who are more likely to develop acute respiratory illness should consult a health care provider as soon as possible during influenza season to prescribe antiviral medications immediately if influenza is suspected.\*

**Antiviral treatment works best if started shortly after the onset of influenza illness. While influenza vaccine is not 100% effective, it is the best prevention method available.**

Here are four of the most common misconceptions about the flu shot, along with the facts:

**Myth:** Only the elderly and those at high risk need to be immunized.

**Fact:** Influenza can make anyone -- including the healthiest among us -- seriously ill. Even if you don't develop symptoms yourself, you can pass the virus on to others.

**Myth:** The flu shot, itself, can give you a case of the flu.

**Fact:** The virus used in the vaccine is grown in chicken eggs and killed before it reaches your bloodstream. There's absolutely nothing in it capable of causing the flu.



<http://healthyliving.msn.com/diseases/cold-and-flu/flu-infographic>

**Myth:** You need a doctor's appointment for a shot. Who has time?

**Fact:** Drug stores, grocery stores, and health clinics across the country provide walk-in vaccinations, and more local health organizations are setting up drive-through flu shot clinics.

**Myth:** If I have a cold, I should postpone getting a flu shot.

**Fact:** As long as you're not suffering from a major illness or running a temperature higher than 101°F, the flu shot doesn't present a health risk for you, according to experts.

In addition, ODH officials note that the most important habit one can practice to minimize the spread of influenza germs is to thoroughly wash hands often during the day. The most recent DODD Health & Safety Alerts on the subject of 'Preventing the Flu' are online at [dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/](http://dodd.ohio.gov/healthandsafety/). Click on [Health-and-Safety-Alerts](#).

For more information please check out these resources: Flu: A [Guide for Parents](#) of Children or Adolescents with Chronic Conditions and [Letter from CDC](#) to Providers Regarding Neurologic Disorders and Developmental Disabilities.

*Acknowledgements to the Ohio Department of Health, [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov); and Julie Rose, Champaign Residential Services, Inc., [jrose@crsi-oh.com](mailto:jrose@crsi-oh.com)*

### **Facilities Address Safety, Security**

Following the recent shooting tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, schools and other public facilities across the nation are making changes to better ensure the safety of children and staff members. Among them is Fairhaven School in London, Ohio (Madison County). *The Columbus Messenger*\* reported that effective this month, the facility for preschool-aged children is completely locked down during school hours. No one, including parents and family members of students, is allowed to enter unless they have business with the school, and have made advance arrangements.

Mike Mast, children services supervisor for the Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities stated,

**“Before, our doors were always unlocked. But with all that’s been going on, we finally decided we just can’t take that chance anymore – because you never know.”**

A doorbell has been installed at Fairhaven’s entrance and a staff person will admit only those who ring the bell and have business with the school. Mast added, “Eventually, we would like to install an intercom system and security cameras.” Fairhaven also has made changes to student drop-off and pick-up procedures that more strictly limit parents’ access to the building.

Public facilities that serve people with developmental disabilities, including larger residential settings, are among those looking at how to improve safety and security for the individuals served and those that care for them. Sometimes it is simply a matter of better control of traffic flow through a building, or providing deterrents such as improved lighting, and awareness and safety training for staff.

Providers and other facilities that have stepped-up safety and security via facility upgrades and/or staff training are invited to share their comments at [feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or on our new [Facebook page](#).

*\*Acknowledgements to the Columbus Messenger, Schools address safety and security*

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### **Developmental Centers as Community Resources**

## **4. Cambridge Developmental Center – Alonzo’s Story**

Alonzo H. moved out of Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC) in 2011, and the facility’s Superintendent Cathy Ballinger says, “It’s a profound story. Alonzo is from our home county, Guernsey,\* and had many challenges in the local community dating back several years. He had made some bad choices and had been affiliated with some illegal activity resulting from peer pressure and being taken advantage of. His story is especially heartfelt, as we came across many obstacles -- but someone then gave him a chance, and now he is thriving.”



**“Someone then gave him a chance, and now he is thriving!”**

**Alonzo H. displays a tray of congratulatory cupcakes – and looks forward to pizzas back on the counter – commemorating his new home in the community.**



**Thanks to CaDC support staff Rob Robbins, along with Amber Bresiger of provider, Paramount Services, for helping to make Alonzo’s transition into community living a success.**

**Have you ever wanted something badly, but others just couldn’t see it as being possible, or wise?**

According to Rob Robbins, CaDC staff support person and friend to Alonzo, “From time to time, there are individuals who have dreams of living on their own, but their history clouds the outlook of family members and team members. Alonzo comes to mind. He had big dreams ... wanted to live in his own place, have a girlfriend, and get his driver’s license! There were those who did not think that these dreams were possible, or they that were wise or safe. Others did not want to take a chance on Alonzo’s behalf.”

However, Alonzo continued to express his dreams, and to advocate for himself. After many long support team meetings, Alonzo finally realized his dream of leaving the Developmental Center to live with a foster family. Then, after about a year, he returned to CaDC for a short time, because his foster family’s situation changed. It was a short-term setback, because after that, Alonzo really did get his own place.

Alonzo now lives in a 3 bedroom home in Scio, Ohio, with his cat. Oh, and the girlfriend...he got that wish, too!

Staff assist him in his home 24-hours a day, to help support a more independent life than was possible in the Developmental Center. Some time ago, he called a staff member late on a Sunday night, just to say that he *loved* his home, and that he “...got to invite his girlfriend over for dinner whenever he wanted.”

The driver’s license...well that dream is still being dreamed. Rob Robbins notes, “It’s safe to say that life is sweet now for Alonzo. And for me, it is a privilege to be a ‘dream-facilitator.’ I say thank you on behalf of all the individuals who have touched our lives at Developmental Centers around the state, on their way to realizing their own dreams.”

**Cambridge Developmental Center serves Ohio counties in Region 5, which includes Knox, Holms, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Licking, Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, Muskingum, Coshocton, Guernsey, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington.**

More about CaDC at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/Cambridge-Developmental-Center->

*Special thanks to Rob Robbins, CaDC and Amber Bresiger, Paramount Services.  
Contact: Cathy Ballinger, Superintendent, CaDC, [cathleen.ballinger@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:cathleen.ballinger@dodd.ohio.gov)*

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[Plan to Attend March 5<sup>th</sup>!](#)

## 5. Awareness & Advocacy Event Theme, 'Look Beyond'

DODD, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio, and other stakeholders are pleased to announce a new partnership in which the 2013 *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff* and statewide *Legislative Advocacy Day* activities will be hosted together. The *Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event* will be March 5, 2013, at the Ohio Statehouse, combining the events previously held separately. The event theme, "Look Beyond" invites people to see the potential in everyone, looking beyond a first glance, or a pre-conceived notion.



Online registration is now available. [Click Here](#) to register now.

**The Awareness event program will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, and participation is open to everyone, however, people who wish to meet with their legislators must register in advance so that Advocacy meetings can be scheduled and coordinated.**

**Registration deadline is Friday, February 15. Register now to ensure a meeting with your legislator!**

At the Statehouse that day, advocates, family members, and DD professionals from across Ohio will celebrate *Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*, learn about DD services and programs, and share personal stories with policymakers and their staff. Awareness event speakers will include DODD Director John Martin, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Executive Director Kevin Miller, state legislators, self-advocates, and providers. Governor John Kasich has been invited, and his appearance at the event is pending availability.

New this year, participants will be invited to participate in the "Look Beyond Video Diary," where they'll be able to tell their personal story on camera for others to see and hear. The Awareness program will be in the Atrium as always, and headquarters for individuals meeting with legislators will be headquartered nearby in the Statehouse 'Museum Gallery' area, allowing for an accessible and continuous flow between venues.

*Event contacts: Sherry Steinman, DODD, [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov) (Awareness program);  
Linda Martens, Ohio SIBS [lmartens@ohiosibs.com](mailto:lmartens@ohiosibs.com) (Advocacy efforts); and  
David Lewis, The Arc of Ohio, [dlewis@arcoho.org](mailto:dlewis@arcoho.org) (Story-sharing videos)*

**SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013.**

**The Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Event at the Ohio Statehouse.**

More information and DD Awareness Month products at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>  
Below is one of four posters available.



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## ***PostScripts*** .....

### **☞ Project STIR - Next Training, Feb. 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park**

The Ohio Self Determination Association is again sponsoring training for Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility) ... an interactive training for self advocates who want to gain or strengthen their leadership skills, and learn effective advocacy tools. The training is February 4-7 at Deer Creek State Park. For more information and registration go to [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org). and click on "Project STIR."

### **☞ Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat April 5-7**

Ohio SIBS announces a "Looking Forward Weekend Retreat," April 5-7, 2013 at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, OH. Transition following high school is a critical time for students with disabilities, and this retreat offers a unique chance to highlight the importance of the sibling relationship. The retreat is designed to show siblings of students with disabilities how they can help their brothers or sisters become more independent, engaged in the community, and ready for employment. Students with disabilities who are ages 17 - 22 are eligible, and the accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. *Registration deadline is March 15.* For more information and registration, go to <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at [Thomas.fish@osumc.edu](mailto:Thomas.fish@osumc.edu).

### **☞ SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point, May 22**

Details for this annual event will be available soon, but The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! Our ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. We had close to 10,000 people attending in 2012. Let's make this year even bigger!"

### **☞ Youth Leadership Forum, July 15-18**

The annual *Youth Leadership Forum* creates a no-cost, life-changing leadership experience for current high school juniors and seniors from across Ohio, with any type of disability. This year it will be held

July 15-18 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, and *deadline for application is March 31*. Individuals currently receiving services via the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, and those currently applying for services are especially encouraged to apply for this opportunity at [YLF application](#) or contact [donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov](mailto:donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov)

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### **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, remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

### ***Pipeline feedback ... direct from you to the state ...***

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