

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Pipeline PostScripts: Update Your 2012 Calendar – Events and Opportunities

March is just around the corner, with the celebration of ...

⌘ Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month ⌘

We hope you will share information and a photo of your local activities ...

Please send information to: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov for possible inclusion in one of the March issues of *Pipeline* – March 14 and 28. Thank you!

Administration Update

1. Office of Health Transformation Priorities

On February 27, Ohio Medicaid issued a draft Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) demonstration proposal that builds on a conceptual model, and reflects individual and family caregiver recommendations to protect and enhance existing benefits. The proposal is a work-in-progress and will be posted for public comment on the OHT Website at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov. Two public hearings will be held to seek feedback that will be used to prepare the final ICDS proposal Ohio submits to the federal government on March 30, 2012.

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) recently provided updated information to its partner agencies regarding Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy's recent [testimony](#) to the Joint Legislative Committee, including a [timeline](#) to implement a new Integrated Care Delivery System for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees. Among the many subjects covered in the testimony was modernizing eligibility determination systems. Current eligibility processes for health and human services programs in the state are fragmented, overly-complex, and rely on outdated technology. It was stated that Ohio uses more than 160 categories to determine

eligibility for Medicaid funding, and two separate processes are used to determine Medicaid eligibility based on disabling conditions.

Also reinforcing the need for transformational change, Ohio's Enhanced Client Registry Information system, which supports eligibility determination for Medicaid funding and other public assistance programs, is more than 30 years old. It was reported that the current system will not be capable of processing eligibility for the estimated 935,000 Ohioans who will become newly-eligible for Medicaid in 2014 as a result of the federal health care law.

Looking at the broader picture, OHT is leading an initiative to simplify eligibility based on income, streamline the eligibility-determination process, and modernize eligibility system technology. These efficiencies will benefit Medicaid funding recipients, and significantly reduce the costs associated with eligibility determination.

Supporting this process, OHT also will issue a 'white paper' in early March, followed by a waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This process will produce business and technical requirements sufficient for a Request for Proposals (RFP) to design and implement a new eligibility system prior to the federally-mandated Medicaid eligibility expansion in January 2014.

More at www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov



2. Tomorrow's Statehouse Kickoff of DD Awareness Month



'Together' theme materials are now available at www.publicimagesnetwork.org

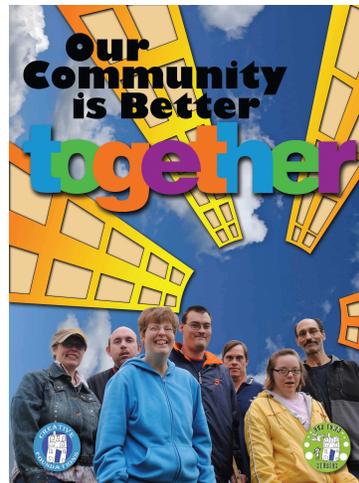
The Ohio Statehouse Atrium will host the annual kickoff celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month tomorrow, March 1, from 10 a.m. – noon. The statewide theme for this year's Awareness Month activities, "*Our Community is Better Together*," encourages communities to welcome individuals' differences, as well as their similarities. The event will focus on the many opportunities emerging in this spirit throughout the state, and raise public awareness of the many *abilities* that people with disabilities can bring to a community.

In 2011 nearly 500 attendees participated from across Ohio,
and a similar number is expected tomorrow.

DODD and Ohio Public Images (OPI), a statewide information and advocacy organization promoting positive images of people with disabilities, sponsor the kick-off celebration each year. The two organizations work in collaboration with many other stakeholders within Ohio's DD community to provide a venue for diverse agencies and providers to share ideas and information. Self advocates participating in the annual event also enjoy the opportunity to share their individual successes and challenges, and network with legislators, agencies, and others with an interest in Ohio's disability services community. At last year's event, DODD Director John Martin noted,

"I think that the selection of this month's theme, "Together," is significant – in that as we move through this difficult budget year, it is important that we stay together, and that we listen together. It is my commitment to you that we as a Department will listen, will tell you the truth, and will be fair in our decision-making."

–John Martin, at the 2011 event



"I pledge allegiance ..." The TAC Choir (Clark County) will lead the Pledge of Allegiance again this year. (2011 above, left). At right is a posterized example of what one organization, Creative Foundations, has done with the 2012 Awareness Month theme. Their *People First* members will be among those welcoming participants to the Kickoff Event at the Statehouse tomorrow

Self advocates from around the state will be spotlighted throughout the program, and will share their unique experiences. Participating professionals within Ohio's developmental disabilities system will represent service providers and support organizations that have worked with individuals who have reached out to their communities and found success. And, in addition to the main program, attendees to this free public event will have time to visit with stakeholder groups that host a variety of information tables, providing opportunities to learn about programs that may benefit them.

*Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month contact at DODD: sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov
Contact at OPI: Mary Pat Riker, MaryPat@publicimagesnetwork.org*



3. Ideas, Services, Products to Enhance Employment Options for People with Disabilities

\$ It's tax time -- What should you know? \$

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) options are two vital resources that, when used in tandem, can be a proven strategy to help low-income individuals improve their financial position. Lack of information, and misunderstandings about the tax system, are two of the most common reasons that the EITC and VITA are under-utilized by eligible individuals. Some basic information follows.

What is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?

The EITC is the largest federal support program for low-income individuals and families. *It is a refundable credit.* What this means is that if you qualify based on your income -- even when you have no tax liability -- you will receive a tax refund. You must file your taxes to receive this refund, even if you do not have any tax liability.

For more information visit: www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96406,00.html

Five Myths of the Earned Income Tax Credit – these are ALL FALSE:

- You must be married or have children to be eligible.
- You must owe taxes to be eligible.
- You do not have to file to get your tax refund.
- The EITC refund will impact other public benefits.
- You cannot be self-employed and receive the EITC.

To learn whether an individual is eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, access the link below, answer the questions, and provide basic income information.

www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=130102,00.html

What is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program?

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers, sponsored by various organizations, receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing.

To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040. In many areas of Ohio, residents also may dial 211 and ask for the nearest VITA Location.

More Information & Resources

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) offers 'issue briefs' to the series on its website at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm>. The series includes:

- [Work Opportunity Tax Credit: An Under-Utilized Employer Tax Incentive to Hire Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- [The Earned Income Tax Credit: Capitalizing on Tax Incentives](#)

Publications, available in the [ODEP Briefs](#) section of its [Publications](#) library at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm>, are designed to increase awareness of ideas, services, and products that enhance employment opportunities for all workers, including workers with disabilities. Each ODEP Brief provides a subject overview and a link to a more information.

Information developed in conjunction with the National Disability Institute under a grant awarded to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



[Pipeline Quarterly Preview](#)

4. Hattie Larlham Programs Expand to Pre-School, Work

[Hattie Larlham](#) a non-profit corporation serving about 1500 children and adults with DD in Northeast Ohio, and headquartered in Summit County, has added many programs to its menu of opportunities since founder Hattie Larlham established the self-named Foundation in 1963. Prior to that time, Larlham – a registered nurse – had become concerned with the lack of assistance programs for children with severe disabilities. She reached a turning point after seeing a family struggle with intensive, 24-hour care needed for their baby, and Larlham took the child into her own home to provide the specialized care.

She soon earned a reputation for caring for children with disabilities, and at one point had more than ten children living in her three-bedroom farmhouse. Following 1963, the Hattie Larlham Foundation built a facility capable of caring for 50 people with disabilities. And now, decades later, the organization’s programs include a pre-school for children on the Autism Spectrum, a booming restaurant business with nine “Hattie’s Cafés,” gardening and pet care businesses that train and employ individuals with disabilities, community living options for adults, and more.



“Let me show you what I learned!”

(Left) Students participating in the Hattie Larlham Autism Pre-School are intent on working with their iPads, and will not disengage from them without a really good reason!

Those are some big paws.

(Right) At Hattie's Doggie Day Care & Boarding, each dog receives the attention and affection of the staff, which includes people with developmental disabilities who are pursuing jobs in animal care.

More about Hattie Larlham and other community-based programs in the next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, Winter 2011-2012 ... Publishing in late March.

Pipeline Quarterly is archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx>



5. Bill of Rights for People with Developmental Disabilities

For the updated Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities poster, [download here](#).

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, March, it is a good time to revisit the 24 rights clearly stated in the updated *Bill of Rights for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. Following the 2009 removal of the words 'mental retardation' from the description of Ohio's state agency and county boards that serve people with developmental disabilities, the updating also includes simpler overall language.

Right #16: Be able to learn new things, make friends, have activities to do, and go out in your community

In addition to being posted for reference on the Ohio Public Images (OPI) website at www.publicimagesnetwork.org, and at dodd.ohio.gov/BillofRights/Pages/default.aspx on the DODD Website, the ideas set forth are common sense reminders that people with developmental disabilities are *people first*, and deserve respect and equal treatment as citizens within their communities. The *Rights* also reinforce that individuals with developmental disabilities have reciprocal responsibilities within their communities, and toward others in general.

- On the subject of making friends - Inclusion is Not a Place, It is a Feeling

Troy Daniels' Senior Speech, presented May 13, 2002

Unedited – First published in the newsletter of 'Parent to Parent', Williston, Vermont, Summer 2002
This story has been shared and reprinted often. It is worth revisiting as we approach DD Awareness Month.

My name is Troy Daniels, but my friends call me TD. I have Down syndrome. Because my heart is bad I use a wheelchair. I do not speak very good. I am a person with disabilities, and when I say "my friends" I mean friends, real friends, just like everyone else – I have friends. Most of you think all people have friends, but for people with disabilities, friends are not always real. I want you to know I have friends.

No too long ago people with disabilities could not go to school with other kids. They had to go to 'special' schools. When I came to school here there was a law that says all kids go to school in the place they live. I started school here in Northfield with all of the senior class – we were all little kids together.

The law says that I can come to school, but no law can make me have friends.

When I came to school here some kids started to think I was OK. First it was just one or two kids who were nice to me. They found out I cared about them and loved my school. I told them I wanted to have real

friends. Others started to hang out with me and they found out we could be friends. We started to learn together that in some ways we're different but in some ways we were the same. They called me 'friend' and made sure I was in everything I wanted to be in at school.

I want all people to know and see that these kids I call my friends are the real teachers. They are showing you how it should be. They are the teachers for all of you to follow. Yes, I am a person with a disability, and the law says that I am included, but it is my friends who say,

"TD, come sit by me."

More about Troy Daniels' speech at <http://www.dsansw.org.au/downloads/Winter%202003.pdf>, page 8.



6. Disability Housing Network (DHN) Launches New Website

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) is pleased to announce a new website, focused on being a strong new resource for Ohio Housing Corporations, County Boards, and others who develop community-based housing for people with disabilities.



Visit the new website at <http://disabilityhousingnetwork.org/>

According to DHN Executive Director, Jacalyn Slemmer, "Users can access the website to download best practice examples for housing corporations and non-profit boards, access the County Housing Plan and Self Assessment Tool templates, and review research completed by DHN and its partners. In addition, users of the new site can download DHN membership applications and participate in a question and answer forum for members."

Slemmer adds, "The DHN Board of Directors and I would like to thank the many organizations that have shared their policies and procedures to help make the new website a more useful tool for all of Ohio's non-profit housing organizations serving people with disabilities."

Contact: jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org



7. Reminder: County Board of DD Levies on March 6 Ballot

Ballot issues on March 6 ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community include:

- Fulton County: 2 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1 mill, renewal
- Marion County: .5 mill, renewal
- Morrow County: 1.25 mills, additional

- Sandusky County: 2 mills, additional
- Seneca County: .5 mill, renewal

On March 7, a *Pipeline Extra* will carry the results of these levies.

Absentee Ballot Information provided by The Arc of Ohio

If you want to vote early using an Absentee Ballot you can still request one, but do it today! Contact your local [county board of elections](#) ... your request *must be received by noon on Saturday, March 3*. Also, *the deadline for voting early in person is 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 2*. Locations and regular business hours for in-person absentee voting vary from county to county. Check with your local [county board of elections](#) for details. For more information, see the [Voting Absentee](#) section of the Ohio Secretary of State website.

According to Brett Harbage, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator with the Ohio Secretary of State’s office, 2012 will be a busy election year, and the office is stepping up its efforts to educate people with disabilities about voting and the election process, including two new publications available online:

Two new publications, [2012 Options for Voting](#) and [2012 Voter Access Guide](#) are available to educate individuals with disabilities about their voting rights and responsibilities.

The Secretary of State website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a wealth of voting information, including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

***PostScripts***

🌀 Civic Engagement Initiative Kickoff Event, March 15

The Ohio Department of Aging will be hosting a statewide kickoff event for the state’s new *Civic Engagement Initiative* on March 15, from 9:30am-noon. Attend in person at the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, 30 West Spring Street, 2nd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215. More information about the event is available at:

<http://www.aging.ohio.gov/services/civicengagementinitiative/>

The Kickoff event is broad in scope and seeks to engage anybody with an interest in improving employment, volunteer, and lifelong learning opportunities for Ohioans age 50 and older. Interested parties can participate in Columbus or at one of 11 satellite locations (Bureau of Workers’ Compensation field offices) It would be especially beneficial for advocates to attend the afternoon discussions in the local community to encourage retirees to volunteer to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Contact: Tiffany Dixon tdixon@age.state.oh.us or John Ratliff, Ohio Department of Aging (614-466-9614) jratliff@age.state.oh.us.

🌀 People First of Ohio, “Blazing New Trails” Conference, March 22-24

Mark your calendar for the *People First of Ohio* Conference, "Blazing New Trails," March 22-24, at Roberts Convention Centre, Wilmington, Ohio. Sessions will include information about voting, employment, leadership, Medicaid Buy-In, and more. Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, is a featured speaker. *Who should attend?* SSA's, providers and other professionals, families, County Board staff, and self advocates. CEU's will be awarded for trainings.

Registration is now open! [Click here> People First Conference Registration Form](#)

Registration materials available via U.S. Mail and on the *People First* website at www.peoplefirstohio.org or by calling (740) 397-6100; email Carrie Swingle at carrie@peoplefirstohio.org.

Goodwill Columbus Workshop: Look to the Future, March 24

March 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Goodwill Columbus will host a “Look to the Future” workshop at 1331 Edgehill Road, Columbus. *Families & Friends Network* of Goodwill Columbus is presenting the annual spring workshop for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Sessions include:

- Financial: Government & Private Pay (discussion of Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, housing, and other programs) with panelists Tanya Chiles, Jennifer Goodwin, Anne Russell, and Al Simmons;
- Jobs & Employment (how to help persons with special needs train for, locate and keep a job) with panelists Meg Griffing, Lutrell Jolly, and Evette Simmons-Reed; and,
- Retaining Benefits & Funds, with speaker David Zwyer, JD

Cost for up to two family members is \$10 members, \$20 non-members (portion of fee waiver available) Contact Pat Karshner, (614) 885-2291; pkarshner@columbus.rr.com to register.

APSI Requests Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award Nominations

The APSI Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in 2010, in recognition of the agency’s former Executive Director’s lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award is given annually to a person or entity outside of APSI who has *demonstrated a lifetime achievement in advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities*, and has a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system.

APSI is accepting nominations for this year’s recipient, through March 30.

Access the nomination form at www.apsiohio.org

The award will be presented at the APSI’s All Staff Training and Luncheon in June. Contact Cindy Ison, cison@apsiohio.org for more information.

Twelfth Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference April 24-25

The theme for the Twelfth Annual *Multiple Perspectives Conference*, “Experience Understood in Image, Poetry, Narrative, and Research,” reaches across disciplines and professions for a fuller understanding of disability. The April 24-25 event on the OSU Columbus campus offers a twelve-year exploration of disability as a reflection of the human condition, seen through various lenses of understanding. Past programs and conference updates, as they become available, at ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm. The Multiple Perspectives Conference is made possible through the generosity of the Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation Endowment Fund and ongoing support from The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

To be on the mailing list for the conference, e-mail ADA-OSU@osu.edu

Contact: L. Scott Lissner, Ohio State University ADA Coordinator, The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (614) 292-6207(v); (614) 688-8605(tty) (614) 688-3665(fax); <http://ada.osu.edu>

SAVE THE DATE! DD Council Legislative Advocacy Day, May 8th

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) has scheduled their annual Legislative Advocacy Day for Tuesday, May 8, in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. Registration begins at 10:00 am; Program at 10:30. For more information contact: AXIS Center, axiscenter@columbus.rr.com.

Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities, July 2012

The Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities is inviting high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to apply to attend its annual Youth Leadership Forum, to be held in Columbus this year, July 16th - 19th. Forty students will be selected. All their expenses will be paid. To be eligible, students must have a disability, be in 11th or 12th grade as of December 31, 2011, have demonstrated leadership

potential, and reside in Ohio. This year's forum in Columbus is geared to prepare students to take advantage of new and different community-based opportunities, and develop as constructive, contributing members of society. To learn more about the program, go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov or contact Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator; Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us; (614) 438.1394 or 1.800.282.4536 ext.1394.

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

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline feedback ... 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. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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