
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

Pipeline is published at least twice monthly. All issues are archived at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline>
Share your thoughts with us at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov; Visit us at www.dodd.ohio.gov

March 27, 2013
Volume 7, Issue 7

In This Issue ...

- 1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Discussions Continue
- 2. Employment First Seeks Local Leaders' Input
- 3. DD Awareness Month – Glimpses of Awareness and Advocacy Efforts Around the State
- 4. "I Have A Voice" – Information and Training for Individuals and Families
- 5. DODD Family Advisory Council to Change Meeting Format

Pipeline PostScripts: Update Your Spring Calendar

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Thanks to all who shared information about local activities contained in this issue.

1. Ohio Jobs Budget ... Discussions Continue



Budget documents and fact sheets are at <http://JobsBudget.Ohio.Gov>

Hearings on Ohio's executive budget proposal (HB 59) before the Health and Human Services Subcommittee have continued over the past two weeks with a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed expansion of Medicaid coverage in the state. Governor John Kasich, in speaking with legislators and various stakeholder groups, has stressed the importance of the human factor in making the decision to support expanding Medicaid coverage, and explained the expected resulting benefits for Ohioans who currently are not eligible for coverage.

Specifically, Governor Kasich said the state needs to address the issues faced by the working poor who cannot afford private health insurance offered by their employers, or who are not offered coverage. In addition, he has stressed the need for assistance to individuals struggling with substance abuse and needing treatment.

DODD Director John Martin has echoed the Governor's comments in presentations this month, and highlighted several other benefits of expanding Medicaid, including keeping taxpayer dollars in Ohio, and cutting down on emergency room and uncompensated care costs.

Budget Perspective, Autism Issues

Autism Society of Ohio board member Marla Root, and Michael Bell, President of the Scioto County Autism Project testified this month that expansion of the state's Medicaid program through the Affordable Care Act will assist families who currently have no access to medical care and needed behavioral health services.

Bell said the bill would provide relief for families with autistic children that have struggled in obtaining health care coverage. He explained, "I know families that have been denied health care for their child with autism because the insurance companies considered it a previous illness or injury, or they were turned down for any health care coverage due to having a child on the autism spectrum." He added, "Many people probably think that a child with autism can just get on SSI and receive a Medical Card. It doesn't work like that."

More information at: [DODD Budget input](#)

[↻ Return to top](#)

2. Employment First Seeks Local Leaders' Input

Ohio's Employment First Taskforce is asking local leaders to become involved in developing an action plan that enables their communities to improve employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participating communities will receive expert guidance regarding how to enhance local resources, while helping to build statewide models that benefit everyone.

Six implementation sites will be selected around the state in which local leaders will develop specific plans that take into consideration the unique aspects of their community's employment scene, population/demographics, and other factors that can facilitate desired work opportunities.

[Interested parties are asked to apply for local leadership participation beginning April 1, at \[www.ohioemploymentfirst.org\]\(http://www.ohioemploymentfirst.org\)](#)

Once the six teams have been selected, a self-assessment process will begin in July. The implementation sites will benefit local communities by creating statewide training models and determining ways to utilize local resources more effectively. With the assistance of a facilitator, teams will craft a local inter-agency agreement, complete a self-analysis of their community's strengths and needs, and develop an action plan to implement community employment strategies.

DODD Project Manager for Employment First, Kristen Helling, explains,

"Employment First will be strongest when communities are supported to build sustainable partnerships among agencies, employers, families, and individuals. Local leaders can best develop plans that strengthen local collaboration to make community employment possible for people with developmental disabilities."

Helling suggests local teams include members from County Boards of DD, service providers, school districts, private sector employers, individuals served and their families, rehabilitation services counselors, County Boards of Mental Health and related providers, and Job and Family Services staff. It is hoped that through this structured approach the *Employment First Initiative* can be the path to a cultural change where community employment is the primary expected outcome for people with developmental disabilities.

Ohio's *Employment First* Website Has Launched!

www.employmentfirst.org



Shifting Expectations ... Transforming Culture

Visit www.ohioemploymentfirst.org for information to create opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to work within the community.

 [Return to top](#)

[‘Looking Beyond’ Columbus...](#)

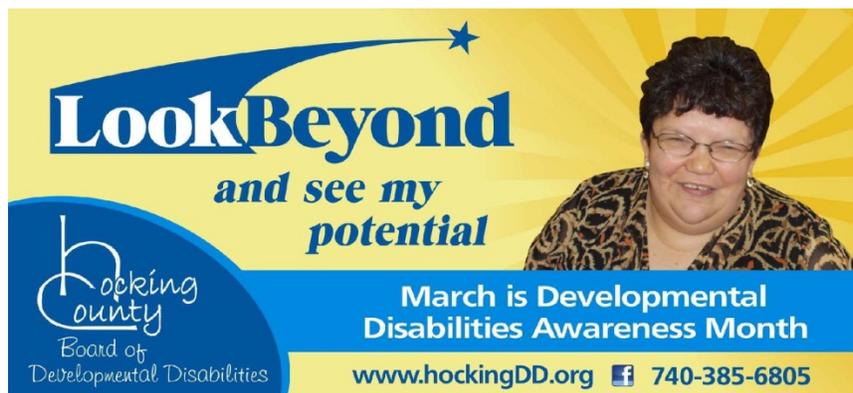
3. Awareness & Advocacy Celebrated Around the State

A brief potpourri of DD Awareness Month activities and events around the state -- thanks to all who have shared information and photos of local activities this month.

[Hocking County Billboard Looks Beyond – and Sees Potential](#)

As the weather improves (finally!) it's more fun to drive around the state and spot a few great billboards telling the 2013 DD Awareness Month *‘Look Beyond’* story. In Hocking County, they're not only *Looking Beyond*, they're looking right at you! Specifically, it's the engaging face of Marsha Mace and she's plainly enjoying life in the community.

Submitted by Brianna Chambers, Hocking County Board of DD, BChambers@HockingDD.org



Her name is Marsha Mace ... She lives with the Shepler family in their home, has a cat named Yum-Yum, and is learning to use an iPad. Bill and Sandy Shepler invited Marsha to live with them in 2012 (see *Pipeline Quarterly*, [Summer 2012](#), p. 7). The Sheplers' daughter Kimberly, says,

“Marsha has started vocalizing freely, and is learning to use the iPad for communication.”

[Ottawa County](#)

Ottawa County Board of DD Superintendent Melinda Slusser writes, “During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we encourage people to learn more about the 322 people we serve in this community, and to recognize that *all of us* have goals and dreams. When we look

beyond and use our talents to assist each other we all succeed. This is a time when our organization focuses on encouraging the local community to better understand the people we serve.” To kick off Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the Ottawa County Board hosted an Open House and Provider Fair, which included music performances by individuals with DD. Also available was screening for developmental milestones for young children to determine any need for services or supports.

REM Ohio Looks Beyond

Statewide service provider, REM Ohio, celebrates DD Awareness Month with the goal of reducing the stigma of having a disability, and replacing that with an understanding of each individual’s abilities. REM Executive Director Jo Spargo explains, “DD Awareness Month offers an opportunity for increasing education, awareness, and community inclusion that paves the way toward improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. We host several opportunities this month with that goal in mind.” She continues,

“It is, after all, often a lack of knowledge and attitudinal barriers that typically result in isolation of citizens and disconnection within a community.”

REM Ohio Inc., Akron West Side Leader, March 13, 2013

Monroe County Celebrates by Working

Dan Lollathin at the Monroe County Board of DD says they’re celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month there ... by working! He notes, “Last April, Jeanette Harter, Director of the local Job & Family Services (JFS) center offered employment opportunities for two positions at their Woodsfield office. They contacted our County Board about it, and we were grateful for the consideration. We were immediately on-board for placing two MACO (County Board adult services) employees for the positions. The inter-agency collaboration has been great.” The hard-working team was spotlighted this month in the *Monroe County Beacon*. Contact Dan Lollathin, Monroe County Board of DD, macoinc@firewireinternet.com



“The work experience has increased responsibility and self-esteem for Yvonne and John in their everyday lives.”

(L. to R.) John Anderson, Jeannette Harter, Yvonne Craig and Jaime Hill, as pictured this month in the *Monroe County Beacon*.

Lake County Looks to the Library

As part of the area’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Celebration, a viewing of the film “[The Teachings of Jon](#)” and a panel discussion was held this month at Lake County’s Willoughby Public Library. Describing the film’s star, Jon, his Dad says,

“He stirs up what’s good in you ... and when that happens, you grow.”

The film and discussion were presented in partnership with the Lake County Board of DD, Willoughby-Eastlake Schools and the local library branch, and Ohio Special Initiatives by Brothers & Sisters (SIBS).

More at www.teachingsofjon.com Copyright © 2006-2013 Waking Heart Films All rights reserved.

Belmont County

Belmont County Commissioners adopted a proclamation honoring Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, noting that opportunities for citizens with developmental disabilities to learn, work, live, and volunteer in their community increase with the support and encouragement of its citizens. Pat Jobb, president of the Belmont County *People First* Chapter, and Past President of the statewide organization *Ohio People First*, accepted the proclamation. He talked with the Commissioners about the importance of acknowledging the person, not the disability.



Shown with Belmont County Commissioners and representatives of the local County Board of DD are Pat Jobb (center) and friend Sally Smith, who is holding the Awareness Month proclamation.

At the Commissioners' office, the group also discussed the use of *People First Language* ... choosing language that reflects the dignity of people with disabilities.

Click on: [People First Language](#)

Ross County

In March, the Ross County Board of DD Pioneer Center celebrated people with developmental disabilities - and the people who work with them - at an awards event honoring many individuals and groups. This year's honorees included a *Special Recognition Award* for *Rickenbacker Air Force Base's Red Tail Dining Hall*. The Dining Hall has employed several individuals with developmental disabilities through a contract with [First Capital Enterprises](#). Introducing the award, Ross County Pioneer Center staff noted that, "The military personnel there consistently have gone out of their way to help these employees, taking a down-to-earth approach, and treating the individuals like they're family -- even 'being there for them' during personal losses."

Looking Beyond Ohio ...

This upbeat video showing the potential for employing individuals with disabilities was shared with *Pipeline* by DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin. We can't imagine who would not want to visit this restaurant in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

Click on: [THE FRIENDLIEST RESTAURANT IN AMERICA](#)

Tim Harris was born with Down Syndrome. With his natural loving demeanor and some help from his family, he runs the friendliest restaurant in America: Tim's Place in Albuquerque!

[Return to top](#)

4. The Arc of Ohio Brings Families to the Table

The Arc of Ohio brought more than 100 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families to the table for a day of legislative training and budget information at The Sheraton on Capitol Square in Columbus last week. The program theme, “*I Have A Voice*,” included presentations by DODD Director John Martin, who provided information about Governor Kasich’s proposed budget and how it relates to Ohioans with DD and their families, as well as presentations by other DODD staff, and representatives from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services/Office of Medical Assistance regarding Managed Care. Sessions also offered information on disability rights issues and waiver services, and included plenty of time for attendees to air concerns and get answers.

Examples - Q & A

Medicaid Expansion - On the subject of Governor Kasich’s proposed expansion of Medicaid benefits to a broader citizen base (‘Medicaid Expansion’), Director Martin explained that relevant data point to the fact that ...”Medicaid Expansion can improve the lives of Ohio citizens with developmental disabilities. People currently living without health care coverage within our system, for a variety of reasons, would be eligible for the preventive care that can keep them healthier, and reduce more expensive emergency room visits.” He also noted that the federal dollars that would come into Ohio with that expansion would help up to manage it, stating,

“The cost of not going ahead with Medicaid Expansion here in Ohio is estimated to be about \$400 million. That’s a lot of money.”

Developmental Centers - On the subject of Ohio’s Developmental Centers, a parent asked Director Martin what he saw happening with these facilities in the future. He responded that Ohio’s Developmental Centers have been downsizing over the past few years, and the intentional census reduction has resulted in placement of many individuals into smaller community-based residential settings that meet their needs, and provide less-restrictive living environments.

He commented, “We are keenly aware that we need to continue to move away from large congregate settings. We have, in fact, recently issued a ‘Request for Interest’ to solicit parties for participation in a project to operate one -- or up to 20 -- six-bed capacity Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IIDs).” *Deadline for submitting Statement of Interest is 4 p.m., March 29, 2013. [Read more.](#)*

Following the day of interactive sessions, a legislative reception provided an informal opportunity for state legislators to visit with individuals and families, and discuss subjects of interest as raised during the day. *The Arc of Ohio* Executive Director Gary Tonks was heard to say to one group conversing ... “We called this event “*You Have a Voice*” – because you do! And now, we encourage you to use it to speak up for yourselves and others.”

More information at www.thearcofohio.org

 [Return to top](#)

The Movers and Shakers

5. DODD Family Advisory Council to Change Format

Mark Your Calendars for May 7th!

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is more than a little enthusiastic about the next meeting of Family Advisory Council (FAC). She explains, “The May 7th meeting is going to be a *unique*, and very important for family members to attend. We are changing-up our agenda.” She added,

“ Instead of Director John Martin’s ‘Director Chat’ we will have ‘Director Listens!’ ”

She continues, “We want to hear what is working in your county and what is not. This is not to be a complaint session, but an informational session to allow state policy makers in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community to learn how the service system is working for you and your family members. It’s also an opportunity to share any new and exciting things that are happening in your area that others could build on.”



**- FAC in 2010 -
Saadi and Cheryl Alikahn,
FAC participants and presenters.**

From their own experiences with family members, Saadi and Cheryl focused on advocacy with an accent on persistence to gain results – as well as on a service monitoring plan designed to ensure quality care. They said,

“Families staying involved with their family members – it’s so important!”



According to the May 7th FAC preliminary agenda, following the conversational ‘Director Listens’ session, attendees will organize into four groups including a representative of the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration. Peggy explains, “Our system is dependent on Medicaid funding and we rely on it for most of our services. It also can be very confusing and complex, so this should be helpful for everyone.”

Peggy adds, “I thought this would be helpful not only for families, but for our staff to hear these real stories from the field. Having an opportunity to see how their work translates to helping individuals with their lives should be mutually interesting, and beneficial.”

As Director Martin has stated previously, FAC has traditionally also welcomed DD professionals to these meetings, however the emphasis for this group continues to be on constituents in Ohio’s developmental disabilities community – the individuals served and their families. Working both as an advisory council for Department employees’ ‘continuing education’, and as a venue for providing updated information to families, the Family Advisory Council continues to play a key role in the system.

Developmental Disabilities professionals that attend the May 7 meeting are encouraged to bring a family member or friend with them who is served by the DD system -- we want to make certain we are connecting with ... The Movers & Shakers!

Contact DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin at peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov

[Return to top](#)

PostScripts

[OPRA 2013 Spring Conference, April 16 – 17](#)



Network, learn more about the latest issues facing providers, and expand your knowledge listening to great speakers at the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin Ohio, April 16-17. Sponsors and exhibitors provide opportunities to learn about new products and services. [Read more here about Conference sessions!](#)

Special Note: RN Train the Trainer

In conjunction with DODD, OPRA is offering a 2-day *RN Train the Trainer* course at the conference. This is the [program of instruction](#) required for RNs to become certified by DODD to train unlicensed DD personnel for Medication Administration. LPNs working with unlicensed DD Personnel are encouraged to attend Day 1 and Day 2, but are not eligible to become certified trainers. Non-nurses, such as employee supervisors and SSAs, who have significant roles in the systems that support the administration of medications by unlicensed DD personnel, are strongly encouraged to attend Day 1, as it provides extensive information about core legal and systematic provisions. *Train the Trainer* content runs concurrently with conference sessions. [Learn more here!](#)

[Nominations Now Being Accepted for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award](#)

In 2010, the Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI) Board of Directors created the *Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award* in recognition of his lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and have a long-term connection with advocacy efforts within the DD service system. The award is now presented annually to a person or entity outside of APSI.

APSI is now accepting nominations for this year's recipient, *through April 19, 2013*. The award will be presented at the agency's All Staff Luncheon in June, in conjunction with APSI's 30th year Celebration.

[The nomination form is at www.apsiohio.org](http://www.apsiohio.org)

[See the link on the homepage for the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award.](#)

Questions? Contact: Cindy Ison at 614-262-3838, or scan and email to cison@apsiohio.org.

[Ohio SIBS Looking Forward – Weekend Retreat, April 5-7](#)

Ohio SIBS “*Looking Forward Weekend Retreat*” is April 5-7, at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine. 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 weekend 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 accompanying siblings should be ages 16 to 25. Registration is at <http://www.ohiosibs.com/> or contact Tom Fish at Thomas.Fish@osumc.edu.

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Meeting - April 10 – 11

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities invites you to provide your input at one of two meetings designed to listen to the members of Ohio's DD community, April 10, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and April 11, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Both meetings are at the Rehabilitation Services Commission, 400 East Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and in front of the building. For questions regarding any needed accommodations contact Donna Foster, at donna.foster@rsc.ohio.gov or call (614) 438-1394.

Ohio Partners in Justice - Free Conference, April 12

A free one-day conference is sponsored by *Ohio Partners in Justice* on April 12 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad Street, Columbus, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The subject is Re-entry and Ex-Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities, and featured speaker is Carol Blessing of the Employment & Disability Institute, Cornell University. Discussion will include how person-centered practices can facilitate successful re-entry of offenders with intellectual disabilities into their communities. For more information contact Vicki Jenkins at Vicki.jenkins@dodd.ohio.gov. The free conference is funded by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council.

OSU Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University's annual *Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion & Disability* conference is April 16-17, at the OSU Main Campus in Columbus. The conference is a catalyst for positive change, and a springboard for collaboration with partners in education, business, and public service.

Multiple Perspectives 2013: Intersections & Independence

Click Here for information and registration > <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences.htm>

Each year, a series of unique workshops provides a forum for individuals and organizations to expand their knowledge and perspectives on access and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, along with an opportunity to improve community resources through the synergy of collaboration. Sessions include subjects such as, 'Municipal Housing Policies and Zoning Practices that Harm People with Disabilities in Ohio'; and 'Exclusion Through Inclusion – The Status and Future of American Sign Language.' *Contact L. Scott Lissner, Office Of Diversity & Inclusion, Lissner.2@osu.edu*

People First Annual Meeting, May 4

The *People First of Ohio* annual meeting is May 4th at Roberts Convention Center in Wilmington Ohio, from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The annual meeting includes speeches and election of new board members for the statewide *People First of Ohio* organization. There also will be training on the *Employment First* initiative. Cost for lunch is \$20.00 per person.

New Employment Posters Available from ODEP

The U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has produced posters in conjunction with the *Campaign for Disability Employment* and the new *Because* public service announcements. The posters are available free at <http://promotions.usa.gov/odep.html>.

SAVE THE DATE! The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point' – May 22

Details for this annual event will be available soon. The Arc of Ohio says, "Mark your calendars now, and schedule transportation! The ticket booth will be open at 9:30 a.m. on May 22, with admission to the park at 10:00 a.m. Nearly 10,000 people attended in 2012!

SAVE THE DATE! Employment First: Changing Expectations, June 4-5

The Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, will host an Employment First conference on June 4 and 5 featuring noted speakers on the subject of employment, and addressing topics including interagency collaboration, school-to-work transition, employer engagement, changing culture, and more.

Registration for the event is now open at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

☞ MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 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, 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

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

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

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

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov, or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

To subscribe to Pipeline, send an email to: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. *To discontinue your subscription to Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of Pipeline at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>



The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of Services.

DODD is proud to be a part of the network of Ohio.gov resources.