April 2, 2014
Volume 8, Issue 7

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1. Creating Work Opportunities, Learning from Change
Strategic Planning Leadership Group Forum focuses on experiences from the states of Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma

Yesterday, at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources complex in Columbus, the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group hosted a forum titled, “Creating Work Opportunities, Learning from Change,” attended by more than 200 people. Speakers from Vermont, Rhode Island, and Oklahoma were on-hand to discuss their experiences and answer questions on subjects currently being explored by the Strategic Planning Leadership Group.

Presenters included Andrew McQuaide, State Coordinator, U.S. Dept. of Justice Interim Settlement Agreement (RI); Bryan Dague, University of Vermont, and Michelle Paya, director of supported employment services, Champlain Community Services in Vermont; and Regina Chace, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Services Division, and Joseph Davis, Bios Corporation, in Oklahoma.
McQuaide kicked off the morning with a dynamic presentation via Skype that emphasized the importance of current efforts to address many issues outlined in the Interim Settlement Agreement (see Olmstead enforcement, Rhode Island). Among many excellent points shared with the Forum attendees, McQuaide noted, “We have closed the front door to our traditional sheltered workshops – closed to any new entrants. Eventually, we will close the doors to all our workshops in the state.” In doing so he observed,

“Struggling with the transformation is OK, I think. Too often we’re focusing on the finish line. Here we are establishing the start line, and looking towards the marathon. We have to ‘meet the people where they are at now,’ and assess accordingly.”

Dague and Paya of Vermont spoke to attendees regarding sheltered workshop conversion activities toward the preferred outcome of community-based employment. They noted, “In our state, when we closed workshops in 2003, we focused on conversion rather than closure. It was a matter of changing expectations, and the family reactions -- and those of the individuals involved -- were all across the board.” They added,

“Now, ten years later, we see that the people who are working in the community have found new confidence and social connections, and see that for many, their ‘family voices’ are positive. One family stated, “People with disabilities need to be appreciated by the community… not hiding away somewhere working on projects.”

And, Oklahoma representatives Chase and Davis spoke enthusiastically about accessing employment through an outcome-based system. Following the filing of a class-action suit in 1985 against an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), the development of community-based services across the state led the state to develop a unique rate structure that reimburses the service provider for *hours worked or participation*, *rather than hours of service the job coach or other staff provides*. They explained, “Our process has held everyone accountable for outcomes. The whole system is based on the expectation of being in the community with everyone else.”

DODD Director John Martin moderated questions and answers during the Forum, noting,

“Today we’re all here in a ‘national community of learning’ on the subjects at-hand, and we greatly appreciate all we have heard today from our state partners across the nation. We can move forward in our strategic planning now, from a more informed position.”

The day-long Forum was captured on video, and will be posted online at the DODD Website Newsroom. For this and other Strategic Planning Leadership Group information, the URL is [http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx).
A mix of individuals, family members, DD system professionals, and other service providers packed the space and made for many new and interesting conversations.

A summation of the forum involved the meeting participants in defining a key characteristic, value, or concept that they would like to see as describing Ohio’s DD services ten years in the future. This information was gathered for discussion at the next Strategic Planning Leadership Group meeting in May.

2. Mid-Biennium Review – Budget Process Continues

The Ohio legislature yesterday finalized work on the $2.4 billion capital appropriations measure for the 2015-16 fiscal biennium, passing the bill quickly through both Chambers with no significant amendments. Governor John Kasich will sign the bill (HB497) today, at Columbus’ historic Reeb Elementary School, for which $2 million in capital funds has been earmarked in the budget.
In the capital bill, DODD is allocated a total of $20.4 million, a high percentage of which would be used for community housing assistance.

DODD Director John Martin’s MBR Testimony was given on March 26 to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriations. Within the testimony he noted key recommendations, including *Helping Ohioans with Autism*…

“The language found in HB 483 allows the Department to establish a voluntary online training and certification program to ensure providers are properly trained to work with and meet the needs of individuals with autism. Free for all Ohioans, the training and certification program will increase access to care in an area where the demand for well-qualified personnel exceeds the supply.”

Director Martin added that the program has received start-up funding from the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation’s (OHT) Health Innovation Fund and will be self-sustaining when up and running due to fees other states will pay to access the system. “With your support, we can take a few more steps in making Ohio’s DD System more comprehensive, more efficient, and more transparent for those we serve,” he said.

See Director Martin’s complete MBR Testimony, given on March 26, 2014 here.
The URL for Director Martin’s testimony is http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx

3. Autism Awareness Month – Educational Programs are Key

The cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder is still puzzling.

“It is likely that a single cause of autism will not be identified, but rather several factors, so it is important to understand what services or actions can help support individuals as contributing members of their communities. Through continued research efforts more effective strategies, interventions and lifetime supports are being discovered.” –Excerpted from The Ohio Autism Recommendations, “Quality Lives.”

In a report just released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*, the prevalence of autism appears to remain on the rise. The report indicates that *one in 68* children have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This newest estimate is based on the CDC’s evaluation of health and educational records of all children of age eight, in 11 states: Alabama, Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah, and New Jersey. The new statistics reflect nearly a 30 percent rise in rates of the developmental disorder over the course of only two years.

The CDC report suggests that most children identified with ASD are not diagnosed until after age four, even though children may be diagnosed as early as age two. It is known that the earlier children are identified and receive Early Intervention services, the better.
**ADEP Facilitates Partnerships**
Ohio is taking action. Through support from the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Funds, the Autism Diagnosis Education Project (ADEP) is increasing the likelihood of children getting identified and evaluated for a diagnosis at a younger age.

**ADEP facilitates unique partnerships between community-based physicians and professionals providing early intervention and early childhood services to increase opportunities for children to receive timely and comprehensive evaluations.**

Currently, 47 counties are participating in ADEP, forming community-based diagnostic partnerships. Since January 2013, these partnerships have seen more than 135 children through this process, providing local answers for families from the time they first suspect autism, to when they receive a diagnosis from a local partner physician. Under the coordination of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) and Akron Children’s Hospital -- with support from DODD and the Ohio Department of Health -- community-based diagnostic partnerships participate in ongoing monthly webinars. These online opportunities focus on project updates, data analysis, training on the ADOS-2 (a diagnostic tool), and current research from the field on Autism Spectrum Disorders.**

**State Implementation Grant**
Ohio also is focusing on a unique educational opportunity for medical students -- the next generation of physicians to provide health care for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. This opportunity is made possible through a federal grant awarded to DODD in collaboration with a host of partners, for a *State Implementation Grant for Improving Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Other Developmental Disabilities*. It is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Through this grant, the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University has developed an ASD curriculum that is now incorporated into the education program of *all third-year medical students* at the university during their Family Medicine rotation.

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**Word Doodle Makes Collective Statement**
The Ohio State medical students completed a survey after they finished the autism course work, which includes writing a reflection about what they learned from the course. This ‘word doodle’ was created from their responses and depicts the most frequently-used words in the students’ comments. The graphic was formed using 147 student responses.

This experience for the students includes instruction, video-taped patient exams, standard patient encounters, and panel discussions centered on the healthcare needs of children and adults with
ASD. Each panel covers a range of topics including impact of diagnosis, therapies, healthcare barriers, and transition services. As a result of this curriculum, 293 medical students have been educated specifically about autism, as well as other developmental disabilities. Adults with ASD and their families who volunteered to be part of this unique educational experience for the medical students have been key to the success of this program. The Nisonger project team now is in the final stages of completing an Autism Curriculum Guide for clinician educators, medical students, and families around the state.

*The complete CDC Report is at http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsautismdata/

** More on this project at www.ocali.org/ade; contact Courtney Yantes, courtney_yantes@ocali.org

4. Partners in Justice Training Draws Interest
Ohio Partners in Justice (PIJ) offered a free training titled, “Supporting Individuals who have Developmental Disabilities and Sex Offending Behaviors,” on March 28 at the Ohio Department of Transportation’s West Broad Street auditorium in Columbus. Well over 100 people attended, representing several County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, and supervisory and management staff of various provider agencies.

Presenters on the subject included Dr. Randy Shively, Vice President Clinical Services, Alvis House; Melissa A. Daley, Director, Community Based Services; Patricia Hill, Director of Quality Assurance and Training, Alvis House; and, Barbara J. Thomas, Director, TECS Education Center. Key areas addressed included: Components of a good risk assessment; how to develop an effective behavior support plan; common obstacles; case studies on effective plans; and, the role of teaching healthy sexuality. Shively stated in the morning presentation,

“The main principles we employ in working with this population are respect, honesty, and accountability. We let them know that the person is valued, but the current or past behavior is not.”

Assisting individuals with the co-occurring diagnoses of DD and sex-offending behaviors has been an often-requested training topic, and treatment information continues to expand in scope.
Forums such as this one are strongly supported by DODD and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Special thanks to the DD Council for funding this training opportunity.

Related Conference Information: “Two Days in May” – Registration Now Open
Registration is now open for the 2014 Ohio Attorney General’s Two Days in May Conference, May 12-13. This year’s theme, Access to Justice for Victims of Crime, spotlights many organizations and service providers that are assisting victims in Ohio, while underscoring that many people in need remain unaware of these services. Register online, here.

The conference is an excellent opportunity to connect professionals from disability services and victim services in a learning environment. Dr. Nora Balderian will discuss the findings of a 2012 National Survey on Abuse of People with Disabilities. The survey sought information on abuse of people with any type of disability, experiencing any type of abuse, across the life-span. Findings confirmed that people with disabilities are abused at far higher rates than others, and response to abuse at all levels is inadequate. Recommendations for improvement will be addressed in an open discussion during the second part of the presentation.

Contact venica.miller@ohioattorneygeneral.gov with conference questions.

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5. Lengel and Mattison, New in DC Superintendent Roles
Frank Lengel at Tiffin; Dana Mattison at Mount Vernon
The DODD Division of Residential Resources has announced new Superintendents at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) and at Mount Vernon Developmental Center (MVDC) – Frank Lengel at Tiffin, and Dana Mattison at Mount Vernon. As part of an ongoing restructuring of the Division’s resources, both of these roles were vacated by staff who are now involved in further Department efforts to connect residential services to local communities. Ernie Fischer (formerly at Mount Vernon) is now involved with several projects including capital expenditure efforts spearheaded by the Division and centered on community inclusion, and Sara Lawson (formerly at Tiffin) now is heavily involved in managing the efforts of Community Resource Coordinators (see Pipeline, December 4, 2013), also centered on community inclusion.
Frank Lengel came to TDC from the Southwest Ohio DC in Batavia, Ohio. Frank says that he, “… unintentionally began his career in the field of developmental disabilities when he was 11 years old by volunteering with a friend for many years at a summer program developed at a Hamilton County Board of DD school.” Frank was graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education, and earned a Master of Education degree in Educational Administration from Ashland University. His experience also includes employment with a private Intermediate Care Facility, at two County Boards of DD, and with DODD Developmental Centers in several roles including Program Director. Frank says, “Being back at Tiffin Developmental Center has been like coming home. There are so many warm and familiar faces in a community that truly includes and embraces the Center.”

Dana Mattison recently began her role as Superintendent at MVDC after having joined the staff there in 2010, as Program Director. Dana earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work and a Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Management from The Ohio State University. Her entire career has involved serving people with developmental disabilities—including work with Advocacy and Protective Services Inc., and the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review. Dana observes, “When I became Program Director here in 2010, it was my first experience in residential services, and over the past four years I have learned so much from the individuals, families, and staff of this Center. We are committed to bringing in new ideas and delivering the best possible services and opportunities for individuals and for staff.”

Brent Baer, Deputy Director in the Division of Residential Resources, adds this regarding the staffing announcements: “We are excited about the opportunities that both Frank and Dana will bring to the Developmental Centers as Superintendents, as they utilize their related backgrounds and experience working within the developmental disabilities system.”

More about Ohio’s Developmental Centers at http://dodd.ohio.gov/residential/Pages/default.aspx

Spotlight on Hancock County

6. Administration Dollars Support Community Inclusion

The Hancock County Board of DD Blanchard Valley Center reports that they have been ‘in the news’ in a good way – by having a proposal included in the state’s upcoming Capital Budget. According to HCBDD Superintendent Connie Ament, their Kan Du Studio proposed expansion and renovation of space in downtown Findlay so that all artists, especially those interested in the visual arts, are included in a Community Arts Center. Says Ament, “We see this as another step toward full integration of people with developmental disabilities into the community as a whole.”

A press conference was held at Kan Du Studio on March 24 to announce the proposal’s inclusion in the Capital Budget, and was attended by Senator Cliff Hite and Representative Robert Sprague as well as other local dignitaries.
Ohio’s proposed $2.4 billion Capital Budget bill includes funding for typical brick-and-mortar projects, as well as for projects that would help educate and train the state’s workforce, and support community centers for the arts. The budget committee reportedly received 170 applications, with requests approaching $200 million. A total of $33 million in projects were recommended to the Governor.

It is estimated that it will take about $780,000 to renovate a building to house the proposed arts center, with the balance of the money possibly earned through fundraising. A site has not yet been selected. Ament notes that the project will likely need to be completed in steps. Erika Miklovic, Kan Du Studio Director, added that the Arts Center would serve the entire community, with Kan Du operating alongside other center activities, studios, and artists.

Community projects, and those involving the arts in particular, often are among the first to be cut when state funds are limited. In fact, Ohio did not issue bonds for a Capital Budget from 2007 to 2012, due to the recession. While capital dollars returned in 2013 and 2014 for colleges and universities, this is the first time since 2006 that the state has been in a position to allocate money to community projects.

Acknowledgements to http://thecourier.com/opinion/couriers-view/2014/03/20/for-arts-sake/

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PostScripts .................................................................

CMS Issues Guidance Toolkit
See it at www.medicaid.gov\hcbs.

The new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule on Home- and Community-Based Services took effect March 17 (See Pipeline, March 19, 2014.) To assist with the rule roll-out process, CMS has released new guidance in a toolkit at www.medicaid.gov\hcbs. It includes: A summary of the regulator requirements of fully-compliant HCB settings and those settings that are excluded; additional technical guidance on regulatory language regarding settings that isolate; exploratory questions that may assist states in the assessment of residential settings; and, additional helpful information.
Health Policy Institute of Ohio Releases New Information

HPIO has released a new brief titled “Health and disabilities basics: Overview of health coverage, programs and services.” The brief is the first in the HPIO’s three-part analysis of health and disability. In this installment, HPIO presents the current landscape of health coverage, programs and services for people with disabilities, including an overview of the state entities that provide, coordinate and/or fund public services. The paper also explores demographics, eligibility criteria and scope issues. The second brief, to be released later this year, will look at challenges for people with disabilities in achieving optimal health. The third brief will examine current state and federal policies.

Ohio Provider Resource Association Spring Conference, April 8-9

Registration is now open for the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA) Spring Conference, April 8-9 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin. This well-attended conference provides updates and new information on many subjects of interest to Ohio’s statewide community of service providers, as well as showcases the providers, themselves. More information at www.opra.org

Ohio Waiver Network Training

Additional SSA Rule Training Dates have been added!
Visit: https://www.ohiowaivernetwork.com/training-opportunities.html to register.
In-person trainings facilitated by Kelly Mosley-Miller, Deputy Director of the Office of Provider Standards and Review, and Jean Tuller, national person-centered planning expert, have already reached more than 800 SSAs, supervisors, and providers. Now, Additional dates have been added to meet demand. Join Kelly and Jean in Cuyahoga Falls (Summit County) on April 9, or in Columbus (Franklin County) on April 10, for a review of the new SSA rule, and an overview of its person-centered focus. The training is sponsored by the Ohio Waiver Network. Training runs from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.. Cost is $30 for Ohio Waiver Network members, and $40 for non-members.

PAR Regional Trainings Continue in April and May

Several PAR (Professionals, Advocates, Resources) regional trainings are set for April and May. They include: Transition: Life Beyond School on April 3 at the Delaware County Board of DD and on April 17 at ESC, Valley View. Presenters for this training are Connie Morris, Creative Life and Work Services, David Zwyer, Community Fund Management Foundation, Chris Filler, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), and Suzanne Beck, Independent Consultant. And, Principles of Anger Management: Learning from our Clients training will be April 29 at ESC, Valley View, and on May 13 at the Delaware County Board of DD. Presenter is Randy Shively, Alvis House.

Ohio SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6

The SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat is a weekend where students with disabilities (ages 17-22) and their siblings (ages 15-25) can explore transition topics and enjoy time together. Participants will learn about the transition process, get to know their siblings better, and develop more self-awareness and confidence about the future. Activities include group discussions, teambuilding challenges, and
advocacy. The retreat will be held at YMCA Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Siblings pairs are asked to donate $50/each to help offset the cost of the weekend, but any additional donation would be appreciated. Contact thomas.fish@osumc.edu or sahall@ashland.edu for more information or to register.

A link to a video from last year's retreat: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-6hUh2w9Y

APSI Now Accepting Nominations for Ron Kozlowski Award
Nominations will be accepted through April 30

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. Nominations are being accepted for this year’s recipient now through April 30, and the award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June. To access the APSI nomination form, click here.

Multiple Perspectives Conference, April 16-17

The Ohio State University will host the Annual Multiple Perspectives Conference (exact location to be announced) April 16-17. Individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals and educators in the disabilities field, and community members are welcome. The annual conference will present workshops and keynote speakers on a variety of topics, including housing, education, transportation, and employment. The conference schedule is currently being finalized. For more information: Follow this link to visit the Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office Web-site. Sponsored by The Ohio State University ADA Coordinator's Office.

Annual NADD Conference, ‘Call for Presenters’ due April 18

Call for Presentations: Now seeking 90-minute presentations and 3-hour skill-building workshops.
NADD Online submission deadline is Friday, April 18: Go to http://thenadd.org/cfp-ohio/
All proposals will be considered. A limited number are selected. Notification will be e-mailed by April 30.
The State of Ohio 12th Annual MI/DD Conference sponsored by NADD (formerly the National Association for Dual Diagnosis) on the subject of Mental Health Aspects Treatment and Support will be September 16-17 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus/ North. See the ‘Call for Presenters’ information above. Workshops given by Primary Presenters receive a complimentary daily conference registration fee. Primary presenters who have clients/consumers in case examples are not required to pay a registration fee. More information at http://thenadd.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Spring Employment Conference, April 23

A Spring Employment Conference will be hosted at the Xenos complex in Columbus on April 23. The conference will feature Joyce Bender, founder and CEO of Bender Consulting Services, Inc., a firm that recruits and hires people with disabilities in the public and private sectors, headquartered in Pittsburgh. She is the immediate past-chair of the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and host of “Disability Matters with Joyce Bender,” at www.voice.voiceamerica.com. Details will be available soon. Please share this announcement with people interested in employment of Ohioans with disabilities. For more information or to register, email ODEA2013@gmail.com after March 20.

Absolute Care to Host Paint-A-Palooza, April 26

Absolute Care will host Paint-A-Palooza 2014 on Saturday, April 26, 12-6 p.m. at Absolute Care, 600 Lakeview Plaza Blvd, in Worthington. This agency flies in an artist from Wisconsin, who brings with him
special adaptive art equipment that allows all individuals with disabilities the opportunity to create their own print design and paint it on a 100-foot canvas. Along with this masterpiece to be created throughout the day, an adaptive sports coalition, TAASC, will provide kayaking and bicycling. The Bill Foley Band will be on-hand, and there will be games and food. Visit www.absolutecare.org for more details, or contact Caitlin Weasel at cweasel@absolutecare.org. Prior to the start of Paint-A-Palooza, Absolute Care hosts a “Walk for Wounded Warrior Project.” The walk starts at 10:30 at Absolute Care. Funds go directly to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register by April 20 at www.absolutecare.org.

SAVE THE DATE! OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23
Mark your calendars! The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) is pleased to announce their 2014 Spring Conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration begins April 1, but you may reserve hotel rooms now. More information at www.oacbddd.org.

ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9
Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum, June 9, 8:30 am - 4:00 p.m. at Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center, 10561 Sawmill Parkway in Powell, OH. Cost is $50/person (includes lunch) Space is limited to 200 participants. Six ‘contact hours’ are available. The workshop will offer information about the implementation of technologies that support learning for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and will highlight strategies to support implementation of assistive technologies in school environments including free and low-cost resources.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Arc of Ohio Day at Cedar Point, May 22
The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, “Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date.” Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.

SAVE THE DATE! Governor's Council on People with Disabilities Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7; Applications must be received by March 31.
The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, may be viewed and printed here.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or 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 ... 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. To subscribe to Pipeline, email: 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

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

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