



John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**July 17, 2012**  
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*Pipeline PostScripts*: Events & Opportunities for Your Calendar

July 26th will be the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The U.S. Department of Justice provides free ADA materials. Printed materials may be ordered by calling the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (Voice), or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD). The publications are available in standard print, as well as large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disk.  
Visit <http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>

## *Pipeline Profile*

### **1. Fiscal Administration Gears Up for FY 2013-'14**

Management of a \$3.1 billion budget is the top priority for the DODD Division of Fiscal Administration, a team of approximately 20 staff at the Columbus-based Central Office led by Deputy Director Ann Rengert. With the recent transfer of the Transitions Waiver and funding for Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs) moving from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to DODD, the Division's responsibilities increased from managing a budget of about \$1.9 billion, to the \$3.1 billion figure.

Rengert notes, "Fiscal keeps in mind two core goals of funding sustainability and streamlined service delivery." She adds,

**"Fiscal is in the background in an agency-wide support role, and we take seriously the responsibility of basing fiscal decisions on data. Reliable data-driven decision-making allows us to better understand and anticipate the needs of County Boards and other service providers. In looking at trends, along with budget constraints, we can develop collaborative efforts that help support the delivery of needed services."**

Rengert continues, "DODD Director John Martin is always clear about the 'business side' of the Department needing to study and analyze data, such as the ongoing survey information provided through [National Core Indicators](#). We use data such as this to ensure that we are supporting

effective programs that individuals with developmental disabilities indicate they need and want. Our new Data Warehouse project is working to inform our decision-making in that direction.”

### The Data Warehouse

For about the past year, the Division of Fiscal Administration – along with the DODD Division of Information Technology – has developed a data collection and analysis tool referred to as the Data Warehouse. According to Rengert, Fiscal staff leads on the project, Clay Weidner and Hope McGonigle, have worked with other system partners to build the system so that information can be gathered, accessed, and shared widely -- both within the Department and beginning with County Boards of DD.

She explains, “The Data Warehouse is a collection of statistical and other information that is now beginning to be used to answer questions, inform decisions, and broaden planning efforts as emerging trends become apparent. It is one of the more concrete projects that will be ongoing and that is yielding good results already, as we develop project-based planning groups. We are then able to ask ourselves questions like, “Are we better off keeping this funding separate, or rolling it into a combined initiative or program area?”



“We are all about looking at ways to sustain our system and make the most of the funding we have. Seeking federal match money and grant opportunities is part of the work and the challenge in Fiscal Administration.”

Ann Rengert  
Deputy Director, Division of Fiscal Administration

With the completion of the Mid-Biennium Budget Review prior to the July 1, 2012 start of the 2013 Fiscal Year, the Fiscal Administration staff now turn their collective attention to the broader picture of longer-range planning, including the 2014-2015 budget. Rengert notes, “As partners in the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (OHT), we are working with other state agencies to share resources, streamline, and simplify our system. If there’s an issue that needs attention, we have a pool of professionals (*see chart below*) with experience in various aspects of the Medicaid system to talk with and learn from.”

### OHT Partnership Approach

For example, the recently-initiated Statewide Data Sharing Project is establishing business and technical standards to integrate information across all of the state’s health and human services agencies, and strengthen the overall system. The first priority is to integrate ‘decision support’ efforts, so that information about the whole person being served is available in the right place/at the right time to get the best results for that person. This person-centered approach is a departure from the agency-centered solutions of the past. (*More at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/oht.htm>*)

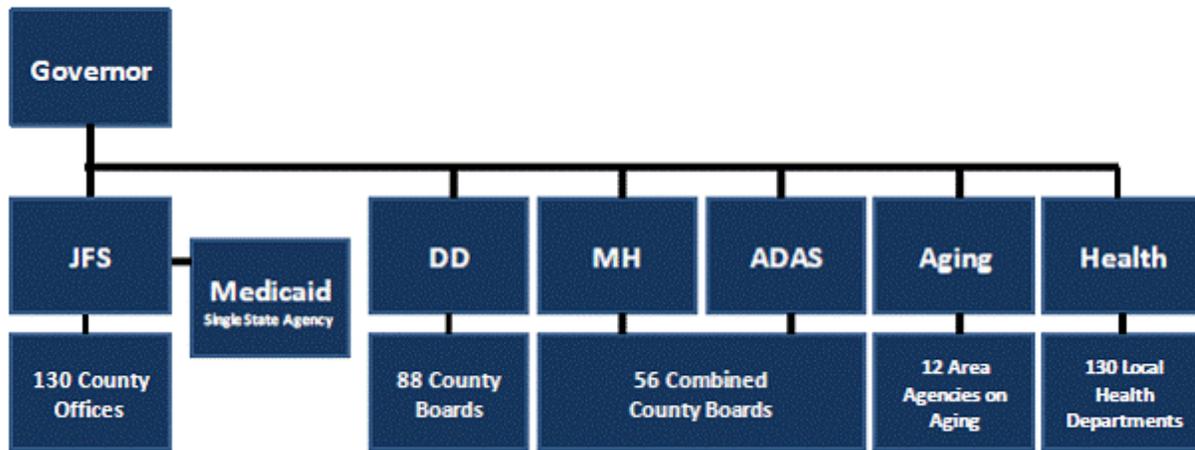


Illustration above shows Ohio agencies utilizing the Medicaid funding stream.  
 From: *Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 4 February 16, 2011; Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Begins Work*

Summing up the months ahead, Rengert comments, “While we have a lot of day-to-day work to keep on top of the volume of provider billing and other payments, purchasing, staff payroll, and other more routine Fiscal accounting and reporting requirements, we try to maintain our focus on the reason we are here ... to help make the system work smoothly for more than 80,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families.”

More information about the state budget is at <http://obm.ohio.gov/> and <http://dodd.ohio.gov/oht.htm>  
 DODD Fiscal Administration contact: [Ann.Rengert@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Ann.Rengert@dodd.ohio.gov)



## County Boards’ Collaborative Efforts

### **2. Shared Services/Shared Resources Gain Momentum**

Exploration into the sharing of certain key administrative functions across two or more County Boards of Developmental Disabilities has been a topic of much discussion over the past couple of years, as the concept gains momentum around the state.

*Rising costs and decreasing revenue continue to dictate the need for greater efficiencies within the system of support for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.*

#### **Belmont, Harrison, Noble**

Among the shared services/shared resources conversations are discussions regarding how the sharing of Superintendent functions, and sharing other administrative functions and services across county boards and borders, can create greater efficiencies while preserving quality operations. Monty Kerr, now DODD Deputy Director of the Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, was the first to serve three county boards as Superintendent (Belmont, Harrison, and Noble) during his years of service at the local level. Late last year, Kerr joined forces with the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG) in Chillicothe, and invited County Board Superintendents, County Board staff and Board members, and others to learn more about effectively sharing resources. Attendees left with a lot of collaborative ideas to consider. *See Pipeline Volume 5 issue 20 September 14, 2011, “SOCOG: Focus on Shared Functions.”*

#### **Knox, Coshocton**

Knox and Coshocton County Boards’ Superintendent, Steve Oster, is another DD professional who continues to find ways to share services and resources across County Boards. At a meeting last year in Knox County with DODD Director John Martin in attendance, Oster explained, “We

wanted to share with Director Martin some resources we've found to be especially helpful. The Department is always interested in *what* is working, and *why* it's working. So, we wanted to share the good results we've had with collaborative efforts serving children with special needs ... including partnerships that have provided accessible and safe playground equipment, and other learning resources.”



Photo courtesy, Alan Reed, Mount Vernon News, 2011

**In 2011: Representatives from partnering agencies in the Knox County area discuss collaborative efforts with DODD Director John Martin, at New Hope Early Education Center. Director Martin is third from front, on left.**

Director Martin also shared the Department's belief in investing in children *early in their development*, increasing the young person's chances of improvements both cognitively and physically. He noted, "We know that early intervention techniques and related services help children and save dollars in the long run, as fewer services may be needed later when they are adults."

#### **Fayette, Highland**

And Fayette County Superintendent Fred Williams reports that with the recent addition of Superintendent responsibilities for Highland County as well,

**"Sharing services has changed my/our mindset. I think more broadly now in terms of finding ways 'to share' – and it goes beyond the two counties with which I am associated. For example, Clinton, Fayette, and Highland now share an Investigative Agent. Brown and Highland counties now share an Early Intervention Specialist."**

He added, "Sharing services also influences how we think about work for individuals. Recently, Fayette County's non-profit had contract work with a local hospital that involved some very tough work and tight deadlines. It became clear that Fayette County was not going to be able to meet the deadline without compromising quality, and potentially jeopardizing future work. In this case, the Adult Services Directors were able to partner and share the work load. In the end, all parties benefited and are satisfied. The work continues."

Williams also acknowledged that there are challenges to the shared services/collaborative efforts, as there is always some reluctance in any community or workplace to try new or different approaches. "Sometimes it is a slow and arduous process. It takes time to build trust and credibility. In assuming responsibility for the leadership of the Highland County Board, along with myself, the Fayette County Business Manager and SSA Director also now serve Highland -- and we are working every day to establish rapport and build relationships there. While there are some challenges in that process, we see progress every day."

*The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) supports and encourages shared resource/shared service models across the state, and has recognized Ohio's County Boards of DD for their pioneering efforts in this area. See [www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/)*



## Health & Safety

### **3. Update on Ohio's Severe Storms, Recovery**

*Many areas of the state continue to deal with the aftermath of the June 29 storms. DODD thanks our partners in the Ohio Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and other agency partners and direct service providers for their many extra efforts during this difficult time.*

#### **From the Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Emergency Operations Center**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is making disaster assistance available to low-income families, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities in 45 counties that were hit hardest by the severe storms on June 29.

Assistance is available in the following counties: Allen, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Paulding, Perry, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wyandot.

Low-income families with children, including women who are pregnant, may be eligible for up to \$1500 in assistance, per household. Elderly individuals and those with disabilities may be eligible for up to \$750 in assistance, per household. The funds may be used for a range of necessary expenses and essential purchases. More at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/>

#### **Federal Government Grants Request for Replacement Food Assistance**

ODJFS also has been granted a federal waiver to issue food assistance replacement benefits to individuals enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 34 Ohio counties hit hardest by the June 29 storm and resulting power outage. SNAP recipients in those counties will receive a prorated 13.3% of their monthly benefit.

Assistance recipients will receive the benefit automatically-deposited into their accounts. SNAP recipients in the following 34 counties are affected: Allen, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Clinton, Coshocton, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Hancock, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Paulding, Pike, Preble, Putnam, Ross, Shelby, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wyandot.

Program recipients who lost food during the power outage *but do not reside in one of the 34 counties listed above* still may be eligible for replacement benefits, and should contact their local county Department of Job and Family Services office as soon as possible.

**A directory of county agencies is available online at [http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County\\_Directory.pdf](http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.pdf).**

#### **FEMA Approves Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Governor Kasich adopted the 2012 update of the *State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan* in early June, which contains information on natural hazards that could impact the state, including high-priority hazards such as flooding, tornadoes, drought, severe summer storms, and other issues. The Plan identifies actions that all levels of government and the private sector must undertake to help protect people and property from natural hazards and their effects.

According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all states must have a natural hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to maintain eligibility for federal disaster assistance and mitigation funds.

Ohio's 2012 Plan update meets the 'enhanced' Plan criteria, which enables the state to qualify for additional funds following future disaster declarations. *Ohio is one of only nine states that currently meet enhanced plan criteria*, and the 'enhanced' status designation has been earned due to the comprehensiveness of the state's Hazard Mitigation Plan. For more information, go to <http://ohiosharpp.ema.state.oh.us/ohiosharpp/>.

### **Freedom Festival Honors First Responders**

At the Coshocton County Board of DD's Fourth Annual Freedom Festival on July 13, the Hopewell Employee Council honored local First Responders in appreciation for all they do each day to assist the local DD community, as well as for their many extra efforts during the recent severe storms. The Coshocton County Sheriff, Coshocton Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Director, Coshocton Fire Chief, West Lafayette Police Chief, and leaders from several volunteer fire departments were on-hand to be honored and presented a Certificate of Appreciation.



*Photo courtesy, Coshocton Tribune*

### **At the Coshocton County Freedom Festival ...**

The Hopewell Employee Council honored local First Responders. Several state and local elected officials, fire engines, an ambulance, a new sheriff cruiser, and even a K9 Officer with police dog, were part of this year's Freedom Festival – which, thankfully, was storm-free!

[More event photos at www.coshoctontribune.com](http://www.coshoctontribune.com)

According to Coshocton County Board Adult Services Director Bob Nicholson, “Our Hopewell Industries parking lot was filled with more than 350 individuals, families, and community members. We raised \$602 from a silent cake auction (100% goes to local charities), and more than 100 lbs. of food was donated to local food pantries by attendees.” He added, “We had many participants from County Boards in Knox, Guernsey, Jefferson, and Muskingum counties ... plus the usual strong participation in Coshocton County.”

Contact: Bob Nicholson, CCBDD, [bnicholson@coshdd.org](mailto:bnicholson@coshdd.org)

### **Respite Connections Appreciates Community Support Following Storm**

Service providers for individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state have scrambled to accommodate many abrupt changes, including re-location, following the June 29

storms and resulting lack of electrical power. A report from Christe Snyder, CEO of Respite Connections Inc., a private, not-for-profit service provider in the Westerville area, notes that the storm caused a tree to fall across the roof of the agency's main building. Damage to the building was significant and has required the agency to temporarily move two of their day service programs, along with administrative offices, to other locations. Snyder adds, "Even with the disruption and relocation of services, the employees of RCI have teamed together creatively to provide services to our clients." She adds,

**"Two churches, the local recreation center, and the availability of many area activities have helped us to continue providing services during the first two weeks after the storm until we were able to secure a more permanent setting while we rebuild. We estimate that the rebuilding could take anywhere from eight weeks to six months."**

Respite Connections, Inc. specializes in support services to adults and children with DD, with particular expertise in serving individuals within the deaf community. Approximately fifteen individuals were relocated for day services, ten of whom are hearing-impaired.

### **Food Safety, Heat Advisories**

This information is offered for direct care staff and family members during these hot summer days, courtesy of state agency partners including the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), along with the DODD team providing Health & Safety information within the Division of Legal and Oversight.

- Always, always, always wash hands *and* food preparation areas before preparing foods!
- Pack foods directly from the refrigerator into a cooler.
- Do not put a cooler in the trunk. Carry coolers in an air-conditioned car. When outdoors, keep coolers in the shade and refill ice often.
- Do not leave perishable food un-refrigerated for more than two hours. Put perishable foods back into a cooler or refrigerator as soon as you finish eating. And remember, regarding freshness ...

### **When in Doubt - Throw it Out!**

See more helpful resources online at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov), click on 'Summer Safety'. At [www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm), click on 'Keeping Safe in the Summer' Parts I and II.



**Enjoy a summer picnic without worrying about foodborne illnesses.**  
See More Health & Safety Information Online at <http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/health/alerts.htm>

### **Use Caution In Extreme Heat ... Heat-Related Symptoms Begin Quickly**

ODH Director Ted Wymyslo, M.D. cautions, "When temperatures are extremely hot and there is high humidity, the body has to work extra hard to try to maintain a normal temperature. We see heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion when the body is overwhelmed."

Follow these tips from ODH and Ohio EMA to help beat the heat:

- *Drink Cool (not ice cold) Fluids:* Active people should drink 2-4 glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids every hour. Plain water is best. Do not take salt tablets without a

physician's advice. Avoid beverages that contain alcohol or caffeine – they can add to dehydration and increase the effects of heat illnesses.

- *Monitor or Limit Outdoor Activities:* Young children may become preoccupied with outdoor play and not realize they are overheated. Adults should make sure children take frequent breaks, and bring them indoors to refresh with cool drinks. *Youth involved in team sports should be closely monitored for signs of heat stress.* Consider modifying practices or games.
- *Know How to Treat Heat Exhaustion:* Symptoms include heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, dizziness, headache, nausea, or fainting. People with these symptoms should be moved to a shady or air-conditioned area. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool cloths. Have the person sip cool water every 15 minutes. If the person refuses water, vomits, or loses consciousness, call 911.
- *Know How to Treat Heat Stroke:* Symptoms include a body temperature of 103 degrees or higher; gray skin color or red, hot and dry skin with no sweating; rapid pulse; headache; dizziness or nausea; confusion; and unconsciousness. *Heat stroke is a life-threatening situation! Call 911 immediately.* Until medical help arrives, cool the person by any means possible, such as spraying person with water from a garden hose.

**For more information on how to beat the heat:**

**The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov);**

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency website at [www.fema.gov/areyouready/heat.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/heat.shtm); and,**

**The Ohio Department of Health website at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov).**



## **4. SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins, Statewide**

Enrollment for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began July 1. To prepare for a smooth statewide roll-out for the new Medicaid-funded waiver, DODD Medicaid Development and Administration staff have worked with the Department's Information Technology team to develop and update the infrastructure/systems needed to support implementation. References to the SELF waiver in each of the following areas now incorporate the necessary references:

- Individual Data System (IDS);
- Preliminary Implementation Component Tool (PICT);
- Waiver Management System (WMS);
- Provider Certification Wizard (PCW);
- Medicaid Services System (MSS);
- Payment Authorization for Waiver Services (PAWS);
- Medicaid Billing System (MBS); and,
- Incident Tracking System (ITS)

County Boards now may access the necessary systems in order to enroll individuals on the new waiver, and providers now may submit applications for certification (for SELF waiver services), using the DODD online Provider Certification Wizard. According to staff at DODD Central Office, applications for enrollment on the waiver, as well as applications to become certified as a provider under the SELF waiver are beginning to roll in.

## ☞ Coming Soon! ☞

Pipeline will feature a story about the first individual enrolled on the SELF Waiver.

Information and outreach efforts supporting the SELF waiver include a series of regional trainings around the state, and online 'webinars' for County Boards and providers. The two-day training opportunities began in May, and cover details concerning policies and procedures associated with the waiver, as well as walking through system-specific technical information that County Board staff and providers need to know. See the new Technical Guide at: [SELF Waiver Technical Guide](#)

Coinciding with the statewide regional trainings for County Boards and providers, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, and The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks, have scheduled presentations for individuals and family members who want to learn more about the new waiver. Feedback has been very positive in terms of having questions answered, and having an opportunity to discuss the new services available. Supplemental documents also are posted online to provide information for those who may not be able to attend trainings. See [SELF Waiver](#) at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov).



**The SELF waiver means more opportunities and choices for individuals served.**

In addition, DODD has contracted with national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed by Public Partnerships Limited to ensure that the unique role of the Support Broker is fully understood. The first type of training is a 2 ½ hour informational session for stakeholders interested in learning more about the Support Brokerage function. Individuals, family members, County Board staff, and other potential providers are encouraged to attend this training, which discusses Support Broker responsibilities, and what role the Support Broker plays as a part of the SELF waiver. Also covered are how a Support Broker inter-relates with individuals and family members, and with County Board Service and Support Administrators.

The second type of training is a day-long Support Broker Certification session for people interested in becoming certified to deliver these services. As a requirement for certification, all persons who plan to provide Support Brokerage services, either on a paid or unpaid basis, must successfully complete this Support Broker Certification training. Attendees must pass a Support Brokerage competency test, given as part of the training, to receive the required Certificate of Completion. Wherever the trainings are presented, the 2 ½ hour informational session will be conducted a few days prior to the Support Broker Certification session. To sign up for this training, go to [https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG\\_Main.asp](https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG_Main.asp).



## Self-Advocacy

### 5. Erie County Project STIR Graduates Eighteen

In Sandusky, the Self-Advocacy group at the Erie County Board of DD recently celebrated its first *Project STIR - Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility* graduation. Eighteen individuals receiving services from Erie County DD participated in the ceremonies, each receiving a Certificate of Completion.



*Photo Courtesy, Robin Yokum*

#### **Erie County Project STIR recent graduates and trainers.**

**Front row, from left: Heather Miller, Jeb McFarlin, Harry Miller (trainer), Justin Culbertson, Rachel Abel, Deb Graves, Laurie Ward; Row Two: Chris Collins, Cari Miller, Carly Sabo (trainer), Julie Cyrek, Viola Walker, Lisa Bilger and Linda Sprau; Row Three: Cody Spicer, Mike Metzger, Jeff Hartman, Heather Tkach, Adam Holcomb and Linda Carone (trainer). Not pictured: Chrissy Balek.**

*Project STIR* teaches self-advocacy and leadership skills to individuals, and provides them with tools to motivate others to advocate for themselves. Participants learn the material and then share it with their peers in a consistent format, covering such areas as:

- Getting to know yourself
- Communication and assertiveness
- Problem solving
- Rights and responsibilities

The training in Sandusky was led by Erie County DD self-advocates, Harry Miller, Carly Sabo and Linda Carone. Community Support Specialist Joe Casey noted,

**“Individuals involved in Project STIR benefit from learning to be more assertive, and the trainers, in turn, benefit from helping fellow advocates stand up for themselves.”**

*Project STIR* representatives meet quarterly to forward the mission of self-determination. The next meeting of Project STIR graduates, ‘Ohio Leaders,’ is July 20<sup>th</sup> at the administrative offices of the [Delaware County Board of DD](#) in Lewis Center. To participate in *Project STIR*, contact Dana Charlton at [dcharlto@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dcharlto@columbus.rr.com) or click on ‘Contact Us’ at [www.ohiosda.org](http://www.ohiosda.org).



## Developmental Centers as Community Resources

### **6. Gallipolis Developmental Center Residents Happy to Help**

A group of Gallipolis Developmental Center (GDC) residents dedicated their time in late June (before the storms!) to help the City of Gallipolis in the upkeep of the area's Pine Street Cemetery. The effort to help clean and clear away debris from the many headstones in the cemetery is the first of the community volunteer projects participated in by GDC residents and staff through a new program named 'GDC Gives Back.' They plan to be involved in many such projects as a way to care for their community.

GDC Residential Care Supervisor Matt Easter, recently met with Gallipolis City Manager Randy Finney, to find out what a group of individuals who wanted to give back to the community could do to help the City. Finney noted the need to clean grave monuments within the local cemeteries. The group was eager to volunteer their time in the community during their regular relaxation period, and got busy right away cleaning the cemetery in preparation for the Fourth of July holiday.



#### **GDC Gives Back.**

**According to Matt Easter, a residential care supervisor at GDC, the effort to help clean the headstones in the Pine Street Cemetery is the beginning of 'GDC Gives Back,' a community volunteer program. These gentlemen are taking a well-deserved break after ably wielding brooms and other tools.**

*Photo courtesy, Gallipolis Daily Tribune*

Finney reported, "With the number of headstones we have to take care of, it was a huge help for them to come out and help clean up. The grass gets on there and will not come off after we weed-eat, without wiping them off or brushing them off. The folks at GDC have been a tremendous help to us."

*Read more: [Gallipolis Daily Tribune - GDC gives back](#)  
More about GDC online at: [Gallipolis Developmental Center](#)*

From the [Pipeline Quarterly](#) Photo Archives, Summer 2008



Ready for July 4, 2008

From [Pipeline Quarterly, Summer 2008](#) ... the ongoing spirit of GDC residents and staff.

Read More about Developmental Centers  
in the newest [Pipeline Quarterly](#) reporting on Spring 2012  
Archived at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)



## 7. Get On Board Now for Electronic Benefit Checks

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced that all federal benefits will be paid electronically, beginning in March 2013. Anyone who has applied for federal benefits on or after May 1, 2011, was directed to choose an electronic payment method at the time they applied for their benefit. Anyone else currently receiving paper checks (these would be people who applied before May 1, 2011) needs to switch by March 1, 2013.

People already receiving benefit payments electronically do not need to take further action. They will continue to receive their payment as usual on their payment date.

This change makes it more important than ever for senior citizens, veterans, people with disabilities, and others receiving federal benefits to sign up for electronic payments now.

- Have a bank or credit union account? Sign up for direct-deposit of benefit payments into checking or savings accounts by going to [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org), calling (800) 333-1795, or visit your local bank or credit union.
- Prefer a prepaid debit card? The Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card is an FDIC-insured prepaid debit card that provides a safe, low-cost alternative to paper checks for federal benefits payments. Cardholders can make retail purchases, pay bills, and get cash

back. No bank account or credit check is required. To sign up for the card, or learn about its fees and features, go to [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org), or call (800) 333-1795.

People who do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, or at the time they apply for federal benefits, may receive their payments via the Direct Express® card so they will not experience any interruption in payment at the outset of the changeover.

Visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org) for details and free informational materials.



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

*Pipeline PostScripts generally are organized chronologically, unless the item is a general announcement that is not dependent upon a date.*

### **Public Notice of Changes to Ohio Legal Rights Service; Public Hearing Set**

#### **Ohio Legal Rights Service Soon to Become 'Disability Rights Ohio'**

Governor John Kasich has issued a public notice to re-designate the Ohio Protection and Advocacy System (P&A) and the Client Assistance Program (CAP) for people with disabilities. This is a legal announcement about changes the Governor would like to make to Ohio Legal Rights Service.

[Click here to read the Notice of Intent to Re-designate](#)

*What the Public Notice means:* Each state and territory has a P&A program and a CAP. Ohio Legal Rights Service is the P&A and CAP for Ohio. Right now Ohio Legal Rights Service is an independent state government agency. Governor Kasich would like to change Ohio Legal Rights Service to a non-profit corporation. *This change will happen on October 1, 2012.*

The agency's new name will be *Disability Rights Ohio* and will continue to provide client-directed advocacy to people with disabilities. Also, *Disability Rights Ohio* will:

- Work more closely with people with disabilities to decide the kind of work *Disability Rights Ohio* should do;
- Be more involved in individual and systemic advocacy issues; and,
- Better meet federal requirements required by the P&A and CAP.

*Questions or comments about this Notice?* Send to Ohio Legal Rights Service by *August 31, 2012*: Public Comments, Ohio Legal Rights Service, 50 W. Broad Street, Suite 1400, Columbus, OH 43215. You also may offer comments at a Public Hearing:

Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 10:00 a.m.  
Rhodes State Office Tower, First Floor Hearing Room  
30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

[Click here to read the Notice of Public Hearing; http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/](http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/)

*For additional information about the transition, visit their website at <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/>*

### **Autism Speaks - First National Conference, August 3-4**

Autism Speaks has announced that its first National Conference for Families and Professionals will be Friday and Saturday, August 3 - 4, 2012 at the Hilton Columbus. The theme of the conference will be *Treating the Whole Person: Providing Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents with ASD*. [Full Announcement Here](#). More information at [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

### **SAVE THE DATE! September 12, Direct Support Professionals Event**

The third annual Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) recognition event will be hosted at the Xenos Complex in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This event is *not to be missed* for celebrating the workers who care for and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Details available soon at [www.OADSP.org](http://www.OADSP.org), or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at ( 800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! RSC DisAbility Jobs Summit, September 17-18**

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is hosting a *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting & Building Partnerships*, September 17-18, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus. The Summit is designed to benefit employers, developmental disabilities professionals, vocational rehabilitation counselors, mental health professionals, educators, and individuals with disabilities and their families. Contact Chris Glover at [Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov](mailto:Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov); call (614) 438-1430.

## **Direct Service Workforce Applied Research Conference, October 4**

The Government Resource Center and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, announce a conference, "*Developing Ohio's Long Term Care Direct Service Workforce*," October 4, at the OSU Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus. The conference may interest individuals involved in: Behavioral Health; Nursing Homes; Home Health; Developmental Disabilities Providers; Direct Service Workers; Researchers, and anyone interested in long term care and the future of Ohio's direct service workforce. Contact Courtney Downing, Wexner Medical Center, [Courtney.Downing@osumc.edu](mailto:Courtney.Downing@osumc.edu).

## **Annual Ohio Adult Sibling ('SIBS') Conference Set for October 26-27**

Featured speakers at the Twelfth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) conference, October 26-27, at the Columbus Airport Marriott will include Dr. Ann Kaiser, Scott Osterfeld, and Rob Snow. More information about the conference is now online at [www.ohiosibs.com](http://www.ohiosibs.com). Questions regarding the conference or Ohio SIBS may be directed to Linda Martens, at [lmartens@ohiosibs.com](mailto:lmartens@ohiosibs.com).

See 'Sibling Stories'- Essays about siblings by people with disabilities, at <http://siblingstories.blogspot.com/>

## **SAVE THE DATE! Annual OCALI Conference, November 14-16**

'OCALICON 2012' is scheduled for November 14-16, 2012 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. OCALICON is a national forum on autism, assistive technology, and low-incidence disabilities including visual impairments, hearing impairments, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Current research, trends, ideas, and solutions to improve the lives of individuals with autism and other disabilities will be shared. The event includes more than 150 sessions, a pre-conference workshop, a National Autism Leadership Summit and a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Summit. More at: <http://conference.ocali.org>.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR! December 5-7, OACB Winter Conference**

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Serving Individuals with DD announces the dates for its Annual Winter Conference: December 5-7, 2012. The event will be held at the Hilton Hotel at Easton Town Center in Columbus. More information as the event draws closer. Contact: Kim Linkinhoker, OACB Associate Director, (614) 431-0616; [klinkinhoker@oacbdd.org](mailto:klinkinhoker@oacbdd.org).

## **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 ... 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](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov) or [sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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.*

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