

*Pipeline* is published at least twice monthly. Issues are archived at [www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline)  
Share your thoughts with us at [feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov); Visit us at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)  
[Click here for Pipeline Audio](#)

November 20, 2013  
Volume 6, Issue 24

**In This Issue ...**

- 1. Family Advisory Council Honors Family Caregivers
  - 2. Ohio Medicaid to Begin Online Family Enrollment Ahead of Schedule
  - 3. *Special Feature:* Giving Thanks – Shared Stories from Around the State
- Pipeline PostScripts:* Events & Opportunities for Your Calendar

## Happy Thanksgiving!

This annual Thanksgiving issue shares that for which we are ...



### National Family Caregivers Month

## 1. Family Advisory Council Honors Family Caregivers

### **DODD salutes the efforts of Ohio's family caregivers.**

*National Family Caregivers Month recognizes the many family caregivers who balance full lives, including family caregiving responsibilities. More at <http://www.nfcares.org/>*

Across Ohio and the nation, recognition of National Family Caregivers Month continues, highlighting the many individuals and families responsible for the health and well-being of individuals with developmental disabilities, the elderly population, and others in need of special care. More than 65 million family caregivers across the nation bring comfort, social engagement, and stability to their family members. Ohio's developmental disabilities community is keenly aware of these selfless efforts *by* so many, and *for* so many.

At the DODD Family Advisory Council (FAC) meeting on November 12 at the [Columbus Developmental Center](#), attendees included many long-time family caregivers, as well as professionals, and others with an interest in Ohio's DD community. At the inter-active meeting, family members offered many interesting questions for presenters to consider. For example, DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Development and Administration Patrick Stephan, received several questions on the subject of waiver services, provider and parent responsibilities, and gaps being addressed in the overall service system. He observed,

**"It is very important to communicate at the local level with your service and Support Administrator (SSA) so that they know if your family's needs have changed, and if those changes would affect your waiver services. For example, if you are on the waiting list for services, certain changes or needs could affect your place on that list."**



### All in the Family

A 'blue ribbon group' of family caregivers paused momentarily at the Family Advisory Council meeting to be formally recognized for their efforts, during National Family Caregivers Month. Many are professionals in the field as well as parents or siblings to an individual with DD. Sporting blue ribbons, they acknowledged the many joys and challenges involved, and the collective strength of collaborative groups such as FAC.

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin reinforced Stephan's advice and added, "And as a parent, you need to ask your service providers questions about their qualifications. Be pro-active, and carefully interview people who are going to be coming in to your home." (See additional helpful information online at: [Service Provider Interview Guide](#))

The meeting also included updates and information from Icilda Dickerson (Department of Medicaid) on the Ohio Respite Program; Lori Horvath, DODD, regarding the State Plan; Dave Zwyer, regarding Community Funds; Carolyn Knight on the subject of DD Council and the Waiting List Survey; and, Lara Palay with OCALI, regarding Trauma and Crisis.

Family Advisory Council welcomed several new faces at the meeting, and they participated actively – offering comments and questions, including:

**"One thing to empower yourselves as parents is to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask your providers questions. Then trust your gut feelings. I think we need to trust our guts!"**

FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's developmental disabilities system. We especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Contact Peggy Martin, [Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov); More resources at [www.caregiveraction.org](http://www.caregiveraction.org)

**[Return to Top](#)**

## 2. Ohio Medicaid to Begin Online Family Enrollment

### Agency is Ahead of Schedule

*The Office of Health Transformation was created in 2011, and is charged with carrying out the need to address Medicaid spending issues, plan for the long-term efficient administration of the Ohio Medicaid program, and act to improve overall health system performance in Ohio.*

*DODD is proud to be a state agency partner in this collaborative effort.*

The Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) announced last week that low-income families will be able to apply for Medicaid benefits on the state's new online eligibility system beginning December 9, nearly one month ahead of schedule. Individuals who will newly-qualify for Medicaid under recent eligibility changes also may begin applying on December 9.

The online enrollment options are part of a new eligibility system that Ohio launched October 1. *Ohio Benefits* is a simple, self-service internet site that makes it easier for Ohioans to learn what type of health care coverage may be available to them. Originally, children and parents were scheduled to be allowed to apply for Medicaid benefits on the system starting January 1, 2014.

OHT Director Greg Moody has observed, "Ohio's health care coverage website is working well. That means we can extend the convenience of being able to start a Medicaid application online to more Ohio families, and ahead of schedule." The goal is for most Medicaid applications to be completed online, however, until the new federal system is functioning reliably, some cases will need to be resolved by county case managers. (View the OHT [Press Release](#))

**While enrollment for the newly-eligible group is set to begin in December, coverage will not start until January 1, 2014. Beginning on December 9, prospective enrollees are encouraged to visit [www.benefits.ohio.gov](http://www.benefits.ohio.gov) to see if they qualify.**

State agency partners in the Office of Health Transformation include the Ohio departments of: Job and Family Services; Medicaid; Developmental Disabilities; Mental Health and Addiction Services; Aging; and, Health.

*More information on this and other related subjects at [www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov)*

**[Return to Top](#)**

### **[Special Feature](#)**

## 3. Giving Thanks – Shared Stories from Across the State

In this issue closest to Thanksgiving Day, we highlight a few of the things for which we, at DODD, are thankful ... and for which you, our *Pipeline* readers, have told us you are thankful. We also take this opportunity to thank you for your input during the year – many *Pipeline* articles are the result of reader input.



### 150 Years of Thanksgiving History

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as probably the first 'Thanksgiving' celebration in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national 'Thanksgiving Day' to be held each November. So, we have been celebrating officially for 150 years!

## Thankful for Siblings

### Ohio SIBS Give Thanks for Their Families

The 13th Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (Ohio SIBS) Conference in Columbus, November 8-9, recognized and strengthened the unified voice for adult siblings of Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Long-time SIBS conference attendee and presenter Peggy Martin shared that participants tell her each year that they are thankful for the opportunity to gather together and learn from each other. She noted, “The focus of the sibling conference is to talk about planning ... and having conversations with family members, early-on, about what will happen when their parents are gone. I spoke with two adult siblings who had recently lost their parents, and were looking for information. One of them had not had that advance conversation ... and now is dealing with the loss of her father, as well as with the needs of her sibling. She was especially thankful that the conference allowed her to find support in talking with others.”

Ohio SIBS' Linda Martens added, “Siblings enjoy the conference especially because they meet others with similar stories and experiences. This year, we spent time in small groups based on where people live, so that people from the Cincinnati area could meet others from the Cincinnati area, for example. Those groups plan to get together during the coming year to socialize and to provide support to each other.”



#### **Sibling Sisters**

**Autumn (left) and Samantha Wilson attended the Ohio SIBS conference to support their brother Kristopher, age 19, from Richland County.**

**Ohio SIBS provides advocacy, education, leadership, and other useful information to promote enhanced quality of life for adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their family members.**

## Ohio County Boards Give Thanks to Their Communities

### Thankful for Volunteers

**From: Ross County Board of DD**

The Pioneer Center (Ross Co. Board of DD) expresses its appreciation for Ginger Johnson and her Tiger Tracks organization. The Ross County Board serves more than 500 individuals, all of whom greatly benefit from the philanthropic efforts of Ginger Johnson and her group of volunteers. Ginger's most recent project was transforming a 21-stable barn into a Haunted House for the students of Pioneer, and adults in Easter Seals' Adult Day Support Program, bringing a crew of 15 volunteers, several of whom are individuals with DD, and dozens of local high school students. According to Patrick McFadden at the Ross County Board, “Without her help in so many projects, we wouldn't be able to offer the same level of opportunities to the families we have served over the past several years.”



### **Volunteer Honored**

**Ginger Johnson, at left, with RCDBB's Director of Education, Stacy Guerra.**

**“Her creative ideas, financial support, numerous hours, and unprecedented enthusiasm, enhance the image of the Pioneer Center and our community.”**

*-Patrick McFadden, Ross County Board of DD*

### **Program Participants Give Back to Community**

**From: Henry County Board of DD**

Last month, individuals served by the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities/HOPE Services and staff participated in a Wellness Walk to benefit United Way's Cancer Care program. Donations were collected to support this fine service that provides direct financial assistance to cancer patients in Henry County. Through this endeavor, staff and friends of HOPE Services were able to give back to Henry County citizens, and say 'thank you' to United Way for its continued support of programs benefiting individuals with DD.



### **Happy to Give Back**

**Staff, participants, and friends of HOPE Services in Henry County say 'thank you' to United Way for its continued support of programs benefiting individuals with developmental disabilities.**

*Photo courtesy, Kaye Shroyer-Wesche, Hope Services, Henry County Board of DD*

### **Thankful for an Accessible Playground**

**From: Preble County Board of DD**

The sixth annual 'Track-n-Treat' had plenty of pirates, cheerleaders, vampires, super heroes and other characters gathering candy last month. Sponsored by the Preble County Board of DD, Track-n-Treat draws hundreds of children ages 0-10, and their families, from throughout the area. The Halloween event is held on the Susan Melzer Walking Path, located adjacent to the Accessible Playground in Eaton. "We are a small community, and Track-n-Treat happens because we are blessed with wonderful volunteers and staff that contribute to make it all happen," said Diane Knupp, Superintendent. "We continue to hear only positive comments from participants, and our goal is to add new attractions each year, to keep it exciting."



### Thankful for Accessible Fun

Heather (left) and Kellie enjoy the Track-n-Treat event on the walking path of the accessible playground area in Preble County.

### Thankful for Greater Independence

From: [Ottawa County Board of DD](#)

Michael Metzger, a participant in Ottawa County Board of DD services, recently took a moment to think about what he is thankful for. He answered, "Family, friends, and my ability to drive and have fun!" Mike enjoys spending time with his mom, his brother, his girlfriend and best friend of 14 years -- Lisa, and his support team members at the County Board. Mike lives with three roommates and his cat, Garfield, in Port Clinton. He explained that his relationship with Lisa works well because they use their strengths to take care of each other. One thing they especially enjoy together is Weird Al Yankovich concerts... and recently saw him perform in the Akron area. Lastly, Mike doesn't take for granted the ability to drive, as it allows him to do many things in the community. He works, attends self-advocacy meetings, helps his mother with doctor appointments, and of course, drives for dates! When not working, Mike is very involved in self-advocacy groups in both Ottawa and Erie Counties, and is thankful for the opportunity to begin attending Project STIR this month.



### Thankful for Self-Advocates Like Mike & Lisa

Mike also is grateful to staff who have helped him connect with others to learn additional skills and become more independent. He is working hard at becoming more independent so that one day, he may live on his own and marry his best friend, Lisa!

## Thankful for a Caring Community

**From: Butler County Board of DD**

Butler County staff member Scott Osterfeld shares this: “Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we have a tradition of reaching out to those individuals with disabilities and their families who are in need. Our goal is to give them a clear message that they are valued and loved. There are several ways we ask our community to participate, and they include providing a basket of supplies so a family can prepare their own meal ... cooking a meal for an individual or family ... and/or purchasing a prepared Thanksgiving meal at a store that makes complete Thanksgiving meals for families in need. By encouraging and supporting these efforts, many Butler County families will have a heartier holiday.”

## **Residents at Ohio Developmental Centers Give Thanks**

**Residents Weigh-In on Being Thankful**

**From: Cambridge Developmental Center**



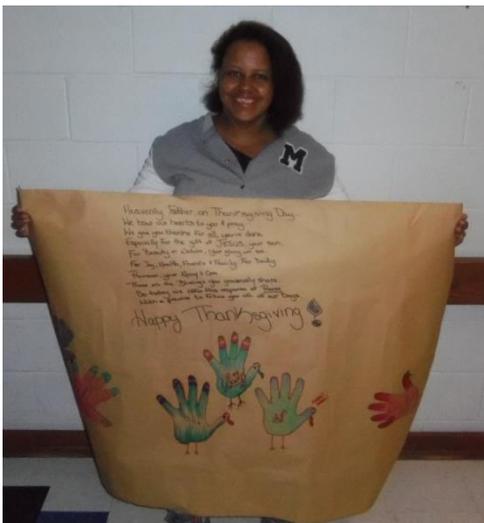
Shane (far left), a resident at Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC), sends this note along ...

“I am thankful for my family, my home, and my staff that help me.”

Walter, also a CaDC resident, adds ...

“I am thankful for my health, my family, and all the great people in my life. Be grateful for all the things you have.”

**From: Columbus Developmental Center**



### **A Poem of Thanks**

CDC resident Wuby Fisher wrote a poem to share with her family at Thanksgiving. She said, “I am SO thankful for my parents who adopted me from another country, and brought me to a place that I Love! When my family gets together they talk, play games, and love each other.” Wuby adds that she also is very thankful for her extended family at CDC.

**From: Tiffin Developmental Center**



### **Tiffin Thanksgiving Tree**

Tiffin Developmental Center senior citizens created a “Thanksgiving Tree” this year to celebrate the holiday. Each of them made a leaf with their name on it to hang on the tree ... illustrating that they are all thankful for each other.

Pictured are three of the seniors who helped make the tree, (left to right), Moses G., John H., and David N.

## **Service Providers Share Their Thoughts**

### **Thankful for the Opportunity to Serve Others**

**From: Midwest Innovations – Thankful for Andrew’s Progress**

According to staff at Midwest Innovations, “Andrew has been doing so well this past month. He was able to participate in all of the many activities and outings that we had planned. And, he is always so upbeat! For example, last week he told us that he loves to work here, ‘...because all the beautiful girls work here too.’ Andrew even surprised us all by walking with one of the staff members to and from a tree to pick some apples at Bauman Orchards (Medina/Wayne County).”



### **Progress Afoot!**

Andrew is shown here walking with a staff member to pick apples at Bauman Orchards.

Andrew usually uses a wheelchair, but can walk for short distances if someone holds his hand for balance. He thought it was cool that he could walk and pick this apple (staff person is holding it so Andrew can balance on the walk back).

**Way to go, Andrew!**

**From: TAC Industries Inc., Clark County**

Michael Rose, an employee at TAC Industries in Clark County shared his thoughts with guests during their annual Veteran’s Day Recognition Event. “Good Morning. My name is Michael Rose, and I am a member of the TAC Advisory Board. I am very proud and thankful for all the military servicemen and women that have fought and are fighting to preserve our freedoms. Veteran’s Day reminds us of all the brave soldiers who fought and died so that America’s families could feel safe and protected. More than ever before, our brave servicemen and women deserve our heartfelt thanks for the dangerous work that they do every single day. Thank you for your service!”

**From: Multiple Providers, Franklin County**

A large Provider Fair was held in Franklin County last week, offering an aggregate opportunity for individuals and families to meet with more than 100 service providers and related vendors. The event drew a large crowd, and according to Lilian Beck at the Franklin County Board of DD, “We are very pleased with this first effort at a large-scale event like this, and we’ve already been asked to keep this momentum going and contribute ideas to similar efforts, elsewhere!”



**Thankful for Service Providers**

“I’m hoping that many more of these collaborative gatherings are made available to individuals and families around the state, so that face-to-face communication can occur between people who have specific needs and interests, and those that provide them. The Franklin County event was very exciting for that reason! I looked around and saw so many people connecting that way.”

*-Peggy Martin, Family Advocate*

**Moving Ahead with the Employment First Initiative**

**Thankful for New Employment Opportunities**

**From: The Statewide Jobs Summit, led by OOD**

In September, the second annual DisAbility Jobs Summit, hosted by the Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (OOD) Agency, provided many opportunities for networking, and focused on Ohio’s talented pool of potential employees with developmental disabilities that is just beginning to be tapped. And, these potential employees expressed thanks for the Kasich Administration’s *Employment First* initiative and its statewide reach. New employment opportunities for individuals around the state will help to change the culture, and offer meaningful jobs in local communities such as those noted below, from earlier issues of *Pipeline*.



**“What do I need? More employees like Mark!”**  
**-Mike LaRosa**



**Thankful for Great Employers and Employees**

(Left) Michael Richards, with a customer in his own M&A Small Machine Repair Shop, in Highland County; Mark Kayes, an employee with LaRosa's Pizza, with owner Mike LaRosa, in Cincinnati.

## Ohio Artists with DD Share Their Talents

### Thankful for Artistic Opportunities

From: [The Rendville Art Works Annual Gallery Show at Granville's Bryn Du Mansion](#)

This past weekend, the [Rendville Art Works](#) artists visited Granville for the seventh November in a row. The artists make the trip up Route 13 North from their busy art studio in Perry County to the spacious Bryn Du Mansion in Granville (Licking County) for their annual gallery show and sale. This is no small feat, as there are many pieces to be packed and unpacked - some quite large. Many of the talented artists attend and help set up the gallery. Rendville Art Works Director Joel Yeager explains, "There's probably no more receptive a community in which to stage an art show!" All proceeds from art purchases go to the Rendville artists, themselves.



### Thankful for Artistic Talent

Created by various [Rendville studio artists](#), this colorful piece was part of a large, inter-active assemblage. Gallery attendee and self-advocate, [Christy Riley](#), illustrates size of the piece, including one large slab of wood.

Color it WILD!

## Brutus Buckeye is Thankful for ... Left-Overs

... And the fact that The Big Game is *after* Thanksgiving, and there are plenty of left-overs for him to enjoy while watching. Here, a bronzed Brutus is lounging, permanently, on a bench in the OSU Student Union on Main Campus, main floor.



### Did You Know?

The Ohio State University's student union building has been ranked in third place in the "Top 25 Most Amazing University Student Unions" in the country, by *The Best College Reviews*.

Oklahoma State University and West Virginia University were ranked first and second, respectively.

## Thankful for People like Alice Herz Sommer

At age 108, Holocaust survivor Alice Herz Sommer still practices piano for three hours every day. At age 104, she had a book written about her life: *"A Garden Of Eden In Hell."* At age 83, she had cancer. Alice survived the concentration camps through her music, her optimism and her gratitude for the small things that came her way - a smile, a kind word, the sun. When asked about the secret of her longevity, Alice said, "I look where it is good."

See the story and link shared by Tina Evans, DODD: <http://www.dailygood.org/more.php?n=5763a>

## PostScripts .....

### ☞ Ohio Public Images' Call for Entries, Media and Awareness Awards

Ohio Public Images, Inc. (OPI), an information and advocacy organization encouraging positive perceptions of people with developmental disabilities, has announced the 'Call for Entries' for its annual *Media and Awareness Awards* for the period *December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013*. Entries eligible for consideration in this competition must have been published, broadcast, scheduled, produced, or occurred during that timeframe. Look for the official 'Call for Entries' on the OPI website at [this link](#). More information is at <http://www.publicimagesnetwork.org/>. 2

### ☞ OCALICON – November 20-22

"OCALICON 2013," a national autism and disabilities conference, will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, November 20th - 22nd. The conference will feature more than 100 concurrent panel, and interactive discussion sessions. For more information, call (614) 410-0321, or visit [www.ocali.org](http://www.ocali.org).

### ☞ SAVE THE DATE! OACB Annual Conference, December 4-6

The Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (OACB) Annual Conference will be December 4-6 at the Hilton Easton hotel in Columbus. It will celebrate the organization's 30-year anniversary. Among the many scheduled presentations will be the *Disability Housing Network's track of housing sessions on Thursday, December 5, 2013*. Details for the three-day event are now at <http://www.oacbddd.org/>

## And, Save This Date: March 4, 2014 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day

The graphic features a dark blue banner at the top with the text "DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY" in white. Below this is a vertical gold bar on the left with the text "SAVE THE DATE" written vertically. To the right of the bar is a photograph of a classical column. Text to the right of the photo reads "Details Coming Soon!", "Tuesday, March 4, 2014", and "Ohio Statehouse". Below the photo, it says "Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness" and "Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations including The Arc Ohio, Disability Rights Ohio, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, ucedd, and Ohio SIBS.

### ☞ Save the Date! SIBS Looking Forward: Transition Retreat, April 4-6, 2014

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](mailto:thomas.fish@osumc.edu) or [sahall@ashland.edu](mailto: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>*

### **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.*

To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: [join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov](mailto: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.**