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[See our new **DD Service System Guide!**](#)

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Celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month

2013 theme, "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task."

See the U.S. Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) "31 Things You Can Do" to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)."

[Click here to view the "What you CAN do!" NDEAM daily calendar](#)



1. Disability Employment Awareness, Raising Expectations

Disability Employment Awareness Around the State, and Beyond

Ohio is embracing the culture of increased emphasis on community-based, competitive employment as a priority within developmental disabilities services, and driven by Governor John Kasich's [Employment First initiative](#). Around the state, advocates and self advocates are raising expectations and opening as many doors as possible to identify paid work opportunities that offer community engagement and make good use of each person's abilities.

Most recent in a series of disability employment recognition events around the state, an Employment First Kickoff was well-attended in Canton last week, co-hosted by DODD and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The agencies jointly announced the partnership to provide practical job support for 1500 working-age individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state. Made possible through funding earmarked in the 2014-2015 state budget, it supports individuals in obtaining jobs in their communities, as a preference to traditional adult services workshops or other more segregated settings.

With this partnership, DODD and OOD have created a job counseling/job placement support network for adults with developmental disabilities in each of Ohio's 88 counties. DODD will fund counselors employed by OOD, and each of those counselors will focus only on serving individuals with DD in sheltered work settings to find integrated employment in the community.

Raising Expectations ... and Some Healthy Produce

In other emerging employment efforts across the state, expectations of community-based employment and training are rising. For example, in Cuyahoga County, Rising Harvest Farms supervisor Andrea Heim, recently was quoted in a [Cleveland Plain Dealer article](#), explaining, "I have really high expectations for them. When they leave here, they are ready to get a job!" Rising Harvest Farms in Cleveland is operated by [Koinonia Homes Inc.](#), a private provider of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Six people from Koinonia's employment services department participate in four-month internships, learning agricultural skills that can be used to land jobs in related areas, such as working at a nursery.

In fact, urban gardening and sustainable food-sourcing is getting high marks for developing employment and training opportunities around the state. Since its ribbon-cutting ceremony two years ago, a Clark County venture -- TAC Enterprises Town & Country Farms' Greenhouse in Springfield -- has seen great success. Clark County Board of DD Superintendent Jenny Rousculp notes, "We're growing more than lettuce here! We're growing jobs -- we're growing relationships." At the outset, the TAC Greenhouse supplied about 400 lbs. of lettuce each week for the Springfield City Schools' lunch program, serving 6000 students at 17 locations. Now, customers also include several high-end restaurants. TAC is a non-profit stand-alone 'day service' agency which grew out of its beginnings with the Clark County Board. See [Autumn 2011 Pipeline Quarterly](#), for that story.

More examples of new community-based employment efforts around the state are at www.ohioemploymentfirst.org/

DiLeo Addresses BHN Alliance

And, a compelling employment message was delivered last week in St. Clairsville by nationally-recognized author and disability consultant [Dale DiLeo](#). He spoke at an in-service on October 18 to an audience of nearly 200 people representing the BHN Alliance (Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities), providers, educators, and others, at Ohio University, Eastern. DiLeo provided evidence and examples of how jobs in the community improve the lives of working-age people with disabilities. He stated that the system of support can provide the knowledge, facilitation, ideas, and nurturing that will help all people be successful on the job. DiLeo urged attendees to expect people with disabilities to learn a skill

that can be used at a 'real job' in the community, explaining that when people are given opportunities to work alongside others, they rise to the level of expectation of their employer. DiLeo is the author of [Raymond's Room](#), a book about ending segregation of people with disabilities and other related publications.



Focusing on Employment
Dale DiLeo (center) was the keynote speaker at the BHN Alliance's Fall In-Service last week at Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville.

Pictured with DiLeo are Kristen Helling, DODD Employment First Project Manager, and Stephen Williams, Superintendent of the BHN Alliance. Helling presented an update on Ohio's Employment First initiative.

Photo courtesy, BHN Alliance

National and International Career Advancement

From a national and international perspective, in recognition of NDEAM and the role of 'international exchange' in career advancement for people with disabilities, [Mobility International USA](#) (MIUSA) has produced an online publication, *A World Awaits You: Go Abroad, Find Your Career Path*. It follows twelve people with disabilities on their paths from exchange experiences to employment, and how these individuals leveraged their experiences studying, volunteering, and working abroad to get a foothold in chosen careers. Additional information is at <http://www.miusa.org/ncde/ncdenews/ndeam2013>.

A Little History

NDEAM began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month, and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

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2. October Moves Administration Priorities Forward

Governor's Cabinet Sets Transformation Priorities

Governor John Kasich's Health and Human Services Cabinet met in early October to discuss transformation priorities in 2014. ([View the presentation](#)) These priorities include:

- Continuing to modernize Medicaid and improving overall health system performance;
- Coordinating programs that support the best possible start for Ohio's children;
- Creating a unified workforce system that supports business in meeting its workforce needs; and,
- Sharing services within and beyond boundaries to improve program efficiency.

The [Health and Human Services Cabinet](#) is comprised of several state agencies that work together on programmatic and project areas, as defined under the overall Health and Human Services purview. DODD is a part of this collaborative effort.

Ohio's Plan to Extend Medicaid Coverage

In late September, the Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted a State Plan Amendment (SPA) seeking to extend Medicaid coverage. On October 10, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio's SPA. As a result, federal funds were made available to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014. On October 11, the Director of Ohio Medicaid submitted a Controlling Board request seeking authorization to spend federal-only funds to extend Medicaid coverage. Controlling Board approval on October 21, was required to extend Medicaid coverage in Ohio beginning January 1, 2014.

On Oct. 21, Governor Kasich asked the seven-member legislative-spending oversight panel to provide the authority to spend federal money to cover an estimated 275,000 low-income Ohioans under Medicaid.

[The Controlling Board approved the administration's funding authorization request to expand Ohio's Medicaid eligibility up to 138% of the federal poverty level.](#)

The seven-member panel voted 5-2 to approve the Department of Medicaid request to spend federal funds totaling \$561.7 million in fiscal year 2014 and nearly \$2 billion in FY 2015 to extend program eligibility. The expansion would be 100 percent federally-funded for the first three years, and bring in an estimated \$13 billion in federal money over seven years. More on this subject this week on the [Office of Health Transformation website](#).

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3. Inter-Organization Collaboration Offers Positive Exposure

Presentation Celebrates the Spirit of Difference

The Ohio State University [Nisonger Center's Health Promotion and Healthcare Parity program](#) invited a unique gallery of photography, [Positive Exposure](#), to Columbus this month, focusing on improving peoples' attitudes toward and understanding of people who have a disability. DODD, along with the Ohio Department of Health, join the Nisonger Center in encouraging Ohioans with an interest in the [positive culture](#) of the disabilities community to take advantage of the opportunity to see this unique presentation on display now at [COSI](#).

The free, colorful multimedia presentation hopes to redefine peoples' perceptions of beauty 'beyond the traditional,' as noted by founding photographer Rick Guidotti, who visited [COSI](#) October 20. He introduced the overall approach in the collection as, "...challenging people to think differently," and added,

["There is a new equation: Self-acceptance = Self-esteem = Self-advocacy. I have seen these children and adults absolutely blossom when their individuality is celebrated, and their own unique beauty is captured."](#)

[More at www.positiveexposure.org](http://www.positiveexposure.org)

Guidotti also presented to medical students, faculty, and staff on October 21, at The Ohio State University College of Medicine's Prior Health Sciences Library, where a gallery of photographs will be displayed through November 27, 2013. In that gallery the photos depict children and adults who have unique disorders or challenges as, "...more than just a person standing up against a blank wall, as in a textbook photo." The display urges medical students to see people as more than their disability, and evolve their future practices to welcome them, equally, as patients.



“Change How You See. See How You Change.”

Down a main hallway of the first floor at COSI, the “Positive Exposure” photographic display captures volumes about the subjects photographed, with a paragraph about each of them. “More than what they look like, it’s who they are,” says photographer, Rick Guidotti.

**The organization’s educational and advocacy programs reach worldwide to promote a more inclusive, compassionate world, where differences are celebrated.
More at www.positiveexposure.org**

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4. Resource Group Assists Regarding Privatization

Statewide Assistance Provided as Requested

The [Ohio Privatization Support Group](#) (PSG) has developed over the past two years, to discuss issues that impact Adult Services for individuals with developmental disabilities when the services are ‘privatized’, or moved from operation by County Boards to other, private service providers. The group started as a result of conversations following a conference in 2010, then grew and was formalized due to members recognizing common issues faced by leaders of Adult Services organizations that were undergoing this kind of change. Laura LaGodney at [Ability Works](#) in Sandusky, Ohio, notes that the PSG mission is ...

“To provide resources to Adult Services programs that are in varying stages of privatization from the traditional County Board programs in Ohio.”

She adds, “We tackle topics including business practices in the private sector; Worker’s Compensation; PERS issues; billing; staffing, and benefits. We’ve learned that operating our programs as private businesses is quite different from operating as part of a County Board. And, in the past year we have made an extra effort to let other programs know our members -- who have experience in privatization -- are available as a resource.”

**The Ohio Privatization Support Group meets regularly in Worthington. To contact any current members of the PSG group, visit the website at www.psgohio.org
PSG will be presenting at the OACB conference in December.**

Contact: Laura LaGodney, LLaGodney@ability-works.com or Van Viney at vviney@matcoserv.com

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[Updated Information](#)

5. Ohio County Board of DD Levy Issues, November 5th

There will be levy issues in twelve counties on the November 5 election ballots affecting Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- *Ashland County*: 1.5 mills, renewal
- *Clark County*: 1.75 mills, additional
- *Clermont County*: 0.75 mill, renewal
- *Coshocton County*: 2.8 mills, renewal (Hopewell School)
- *Greene County*: 3.5 mills, renewal
- *Harrison County*: 1 mill, renewal
- *Lucas County*: 1.8 mills, replacement*
- *Marion County*: 2.95 mills, replacement
- *Madison County*: 1 mill, renewal
- *Morrow County*: 2.5 mills, replacement
- *Portage County*: 2 mills, renewal, AND .9 mill, renewal
- *Wood County*: 2.95 mills, additional

** Lucas County: Rolling two continuous levies into one and adding 1 mill, in a replacement levy totaling 1.8 mills. The issue will appear on the ballot as a single proposal.*

Your vote is very important!

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains a great deal of information about the November 5th election, regarding voting in general, and including specific information for Voters with Disabilities.

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New! Pipeline Posts ...

Six - Question Survey to Assist Advocacy Efforts

The Ohio Self Determination Association, in partnership with other advocacy organizations, is interested in hearing from people with disabilities, family members, and others about:

- The supports that work well;
- Those things that are concerns;
- How you would like things to be different.

To hear from as many as possible, a simple six-question survey has been created. It asks that you share information about yourself at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AdvocatesSpeakOut>. This information will help OSDA and partnering advocacy organizations to better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. 🌀



The Annual Thanksgiving Issue of Pipeline, Publishing Nov. 20, 2013

Here's last year's issue: [Pipeline, November 21, 2012](#)

Again this year we invite *you* to tell us what you are thankful for. Please submit items for consideration by Nov. 14, to sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov A short paragraph and a photo, if appropriate, is best. ☞

Fellowship Application Deadline Extended to December 31

The deadline to apply for the American Psychological Foundation's (APF) 2013 Scott and Paul Pearsall Fellowship, which supports graduate work that seeks to increase the public's understanding of the psychological pain and stigma experienced by adults with physical disabilities, *has been extended to December 31, 2013*. Link: <http://www.apa.org/apf/funding/pearsall.aspx>

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PostScripts

☞ Next DODD Family Advisory Council Meeting is November 12



The DODD Family Advisory Council next meeting is November 12 at [Columbus Developmental Center](#), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The meeting will include a wealth of new and updated information on subject of interest to Ohio's DD community, and DODD Director Martin will be on-hand for a Question & Answer session. FAC meetings are open to anyone with an interest in Ohio's DD system, and we especially appreciate the attendance of individuals and family members served by the statewide system.

☞ DHN ANNOUNCES: 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, Nov. 5-7

Contact Peggy Martin, Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov

The 15th Annual Ohio Housing Conference, one of the largest statewide housing conferences in the nation, will be held November 5-7, 2013 in Columbus. Join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) at the Conference, themed "Rising Towards Tomorrow." *For reduced rates, register before October 4.* Information and registration at: [Click Here](#). DHN also has released the 2012 County Housing Plan Analysis & Summary. Read the report: [Click here](#).

☞ OAAS-APSE Conference, November 6-7

The Ohio Association of Adult Services (OAAS) and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) conference will be November 6 - 7, at the Crowne Plaza North, 6500 Doubletree Ave., in Columbus. To register for the conference go to: <http://bit.ly/14hb1SWT> Keynote speaker will be Tony Gentry, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Director, Assistive Technology for the Cognition Laboratory Department of Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. *The full Conference Agenda* will be available soon. Additional speakers will address the topics of increasing and supporting community employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and physical challenges.

☞ Ohio SIBS Conference, November 8-9

The 13th annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) Conference is set for November 8-9 at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel. It's an opportunity to meet and partner with other adult siblings and disability professionals for a uniquely informative experience. Learn useful information, strengthen advocacy skills, expand community inclusion, and connect with other siblings from around the state. Ohio SIBS serves as

a unified voice and partner for Ohio adult siblings of people with developmental disabilities and their families. As the date draws nearer, go to www.ohiosibs.com for more information on the conference.

∞ Living with Epilepsy Symposium, November 9

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month

A 'Living with Epilepsy Symposium' will be presented by Riverside Methodist Hospital, OhioHealth, and the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus on Saturday, November 9, at Riverside Methodist Hospital/Bing Cancer Center, 500 Thomas Lane, in Columbus. November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month and highlights the advances made in the management and treatment of epilepsy. Leading medical practitioners will present current and new treatments, research in the effort to find a cure, and strategies for dealing with the challenges that living with epilepsy presents. The day offers a broad range of topics to ensure that all participants can choose the subjects that best meet their needs. Cost is \$10 per person and \$40 for professionals seeking contact hours and CEUs. Registration includes presentations, exhibits, free parking, continental breakfast, and lunch. Scholarships available. For information call (613) 315-0437. To register, go online to www.epilepsy-ohio.org or [click here](#).

∞ Will You Be 'Up All Night for Autism'? November 9

"Up All Night for Autism" is planned by the Autism Society of Ohio, November 9, at Dave and Buster's Hilliard location, 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (well, not quite ALL night!) A silent auction, raffle and more is also planned beginning at 9 p.m.. The evening also will include a DJ, photo booth, food, and free game play. For complete information [click here](#).

∞ 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. More details soon.

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

DD AWARENESS & ADVOCACY DAY

SAVE THE DATE

Details Coming Soon!
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
Ohio Statehouse

Updates on Twitter @OhioDDAwareness
Like Us on Facebook: DD Awareness & Advocacy Day

The Arc, Ohio Disability Rights, OACB, SPRA, Manager Center, Ohio SIBS, ucedd

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

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

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

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