
Pipeline

News from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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Pipeline PostScripts: Updated Events & Opportunities for Your Calendar

Just Ahead: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October 2012 theme: "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

Each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. More at www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam

Administration News

1. Addressing Employment First, Other Key Topics

Governor Kasich Addresses DisAbility Jobs Summit Attendees ...

"Contact my office if you don't see the Employment First initiative working for you in your town. I mean it. If you have not noticed a difference, you send me a letter. It really is in your hands, people at the local level ... because we cannot run it from here. And next year, I want to see more employers here -- we need more employers to step up!"

- Governor John Kasich

In addition to Governor John Kasich's energetic address to those attending the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) *DisAbility Jobs Summit*, September 17 at the Columbus Convention Center, a panel of state agency Directors well-versed on the subject of employment fielded a variety of thoughtful questions. As a panel member, DODD Director John Martin, was pleased to respond to questions regarding how the *Employment First* initiative, has changed the way the Department operates. And, as community-based employment is a key priority in this Administration, and a major focus of stakeholder efforts, Director Martin stated,

"One of the things that *Employment First* has done is to cause us to look at our system through a different prism. Our system was de-emphasizing supported employment and rewarding the opposite - sheltered workshop settings. Our Individualized Service Plans and our waivers need to put employment as a priority. We need to have our system support community employment outcomes. And now, we are beginning to transform our thinking within Ohio's DD system."

Later during the panel discussion, Director Martin had an opportunity to address another DODD priority subject in support of Early Intervention (E.I.) services for young children with developmental disabilities, noting the correlation found between those services in a person's life and their subsequent ability as an adult to gain skills for jobs in the community. He noted, "With E.I. we *establish hope early on*. That's important. Hope for the family, and the child." He added,

"DODD works with our system partners – including RSC, and the state educational system in the case of Early Intervention – and only by working closely with them, and continuing to find new and better ways of doing so, will we be successful in moving children along to reach their potential. Again, I cannot stress enough the need for strong 'service partnerships' in order to make a difference in peoples' lives."



Photo courtesy, Louise Czatt, RSC

Bringing Key People to the Table

State agency directors, including DODD Director John Martin (far left) fielded several questions from attendees at last week's DisAbility Job Summit.

The two-day *Summit* attracted more than 500 attendees, and included several tracks that featured people with disabilities who are successful in the business community telling their stories, and challenging attendees – including employers, professionals in the DD field, and other individuals with disabilities – to "Be persistent ... don't give up ... and, if you aren't being heard, find someone else who will listen."

Seminar and panel participants offered fresh insights and good old-fashioned common sense, including,

"If you want to get a certain job, or get into a certain kind of work, here's what I do ... find someone who is in a position that you want to be in, and talk to them. Then, volunteer for that kind of work somewhere. Volunteering got me out of being bored and depressed when I graduated from Wright State and couldn't find a job. It got me known. Now I'm working at the Medina County Board of DD, and I love it." - Courtney Jordan

"Go to school and get knowledge that most people don't have! That's what I did. I got a paralegal certificate. I was willing to put the work into learning something new, even though I already had a degree. My disability actually helps me do a better job in researching criminal records, and as a bail bondsman – I'm slower, and absorb all the details." - Greg Powers

"Before my accident I was really active – had my own construction business, and was in professional (car) racing. I can't be as active now, but I can do a lot of the 'thinking work' that's behind the same kinds of jobs – just not the physically active part. So I work, and also am on the RSC Consumer Advisory Council – we advise from our perspective as service recipients."

- Mike Snapp



More Key People at the Table -- This Consumer Panel Means Business!

(L. to R.) Mike Snapp, Greg Powers, Courtney Jordan, and Regenia Huffman provided numerous tips on everything from how to combine different kinds of waivers to get services you need, to obtaining reliable transportation alternatives so you can get to work if you can't work from home. Regenia says,

“Network! I had a spinal cord injury 30 years ago. I have an old van that I can drive, but I need to replace it. It's my primary concern right now, and I just heard about something today that may help me get it replaced. That's what networking is all about!” - Regenia Huffman

Indeed, the inaugural two-day event provided many opportunities for networking, and it is hoped that future such events draw even more employers, eager to take advantage of the talented employee pool that is just beginning to be tapped. Referring to the *Employment First* initiative and its intent, Governor Kasich was clearly on-message as he emphatically stated in his opening comments, “We have a tremendous opportunity to change the culture.”



2. Autism Funding - \$1.3 Million from Transformation Fund

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism affects one in every 88 children in the United States, and is the fastest growing developmental disability in the nation.

Last week slightly more than \$1.3 million was released from the Health Transformation Innovation Fund to ramp-up autism services. The funding is provided for three innovative projects that will help improve early diagnosis and interventions for individuals with autism.

The Autism Diagnostic Education Project (ADEP)

ADEP trains pediatricians to correctly identify the early signs of autism, to aid in early intervention. ADEP facilitates unique partnerships between community-based primary care practices and professionals providing early intervention and early childhood services to increase opportunities for children to receive timely and comprehensive evaluations. ADEP was originally piloted through funds from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and administered by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. ADEP has formed these Diagnostic Partnerships in 30 counties across Ohio. The Health Transformation Funds will support the existing partnerships, and allow more expansion in resource-poor regions of the state.

Specialized Training for Early Intervention Professionals

Funds for this program will be used to train professionals in serving infants and toddlers in a play-based approach that nurtures the critical parent/child relationship early in the child's development. The training is part of the Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (P.L.A.Y.) Project, and will bring a new level of specialized expertise within the County Boards of Developmental Disabilities' early intervention programs. These trained professionals will be better equipped to assist and empower families, encourage and nurture the child's social interaction, and ultimately increase the likelihood of the child enjoying a successful and inclusive life. Nearly 100 intervention specialists across 34 counties have received training and follow-up coaching. Funding will be used to reach at least 80 percent of the state over the next three years.

The Governor's *Employment First* Executive Order

The *Employment First* Executive Order challenges Ohio to increase the likelihood that youth with developmental disabilities successfully exit high school directly to community integrated employment. State funds will be used to launch a training series for stakeholders to further the understanding and implementation of *Employment First*. These training opportunities will allow for a diverse group of professionals and families to understand the importance of the critical years, beginning at age 14, during which adolescents prepare for life beyond high school. Growing the capacity of trained professionals will result in increased awareness of the necessary components and skills development that will lead to integrated employment.

More information at: www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/



3. Family Advisory Council Meeting an Inter-Active Forum

Yesterday's meeting of Family Advisory Council (FAC) saw much interaction from attendees, as presenters offered information requested by family members around the state, many of whom were in attendance. Meeting at the Columbus Developmental Center, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin welcomed the group, highlighting an agenda offering updates on Guardianship, Quality Assurance, Home Health Services, and much more.

Kate Haller, DODD Deputy Director for Legal and Oversight, discussed changes in the law pertaining to guardianship issues, and noted that changes in statute will mean that individuals with developmental disabilities will now have more opportunity to seek advice in decision-making – just as most people do. “Decision-making in the DD system used to offer individuals little room for soliciting help, and we felt it was a hindrance to only offer assessments of either ‘fully competent’ or needing a guardian.” She added,

“We have worked with a large group of stakeholders to craft language on the subject of guardianship that will allow an individual to have avenues of support and advice, helping the person to make good decisions, without automatically determining that they must have a guardian named. This is still a work-in-process, and we are now working to update a guardianship handbook and prepare a presentation to get the word out in a consistent manner.”

Haller fielded several questions and comments from family members – many of whom are guardians of adult children – noting that the past mindset in Ohio's DD community has been more or less an expectation or philosophy to name a guardian when an individual with DD turns 18. She stated,

“That ‘blanket assumption’ is not the direction in which we are headed now, and it will be a major education reversal. A comment that we have heard repeatedly from self-advocates is that they want to have more of a say in this – in how these decisions are made.”

FAC participants also heard updates on Medicaid-funded waivers, provided by DODD Medicaid Development and Administration staff member Charlie Flowers; and on the subject of Home Health Services, Marilyn Henson RN, of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), walked the group through information on the subject of Home Health Services. As the group paused for lunch and looked toward a full afternoon of additional requested topics, conversations and questions among the mix of moms, dads, and professionals included these:

**“I wonder if the SELF* Waiver will pave the way for more self-directed services in other waivers?”
(The consensus was that if the SELF Waiver is successful in its first year of operation, such an approach would likely find its way into other Medicaid-funded waivers.)**

***(Self Empowered Life Funding)**

Marilyn Henson, on the subject of Home Health Services, noted some general things to remember ...

“Good record-keeping is very important! Be consistent with your caregivers, and remember that some agencies and some hospital staff do not know all there is to know about every service option available to you. You need to know what your family member is eligible for, and what they need. Then, gently direct others to help you get that.”

And, Peggy Martin emphasized that having a conversation with your Service and Support Administrator (SSA) about the waiting list for waiver services is very important. She encourages family members to ...

“Be sure you sit down with your SSA and talk about what your family member needs! Be an advocate for what’s needed, and know what services are not needed. There is only one waiting list now for Medicaid-funded waiver services, so an understanding up-front with your SSA of what’s available, and what fits your particular situation is really critical.”

The next FAC meeting is December 4. These meetings are open to everyone!

Meetings are at the Columbus Developmental Center (CDC) Training Room

Contact: Peggy.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov



Provider News, ViaQuest

4. “Great by Choice” – Spotlights Achievements of Many

Cuyahoga County Board of DD Superintendent, Dr. Terry Ryan, Honored
The ViaQuest Inc. Annual Conference is an overwhelmingly people-oriented event. Multiply that times 15, as the provider organization celebrates its 15th year of such motivational efforts, and you will have some idea of the excitement and enthusiasm engendered by service providers who are striving to be “Great by Choice,” - this year’s theme.

ViaQuest serves people with developmental disabilities; children and adults with mental and behavioral healthcare needs; and aging adults through Home Health and Hospice services. At the September 20 Annual Conference in Columbus, representatives of various state agencies, County Boards of DD, provider agency partners, and about 500 ViaQuest staff honored many

achievements, including those of 2012 Conference Honoree, Cuyahoga County Board of DD Superintendent, Dr. Terry Ryan.

Noting a career that spans more than 35 years, speakers included Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) Executive Director Dan Ohler, who said of Dr. Ryan,

“Aside from being an outstanding County Board Superintendent, Dr. Terry Ryan also is a sibling (has a brother with a disability), and is a strong community leader. The programs they have put in place in Cuyahoga County are unmatched in this field, and the respect for him across the state -- and I have seen it also across the nation -- is great. As a real leader, it’s never about Terry.”

DODD Director John Martin had this to say about Dr. Ryan,

“I’ve always been impressed by Terry’s leadership, and his support of Department initiatives has been much appreciated. He is not afraid to give input and direction, and his commitment to the people he serves is second to none.”

Others commenting included Franklin County Board of DD Superintendent Jed Morison, who commented, “I think he’s one of the best communicators you’ll ever know. He knows how to advance discussions and get things done.” He added,

“He has a talent to connect with people at every level, and he’s a passionate leader. Terry Ryan is just one first-class guy.”

And Dr. Ryan, himself, was offered some time at the podium. In acceptance of the recognition, he stated, “I am, indeed, very passionate about the people we serve. And, I have great respect for the provider community – you are all to be commended for your efforts to serve individuals with disabilities, day in and day out. We need to continue moving forward in public-private partnerships that do more to offer opportunities to these individuals.”



Temporarily Basking in the Glow of Well-Deserved Attention.

(L. to R.) ViaQuest President and CEO Rich Johnson, and CCBDD Superintendent, Dr. Terry Ryan, listen attentively to a long list of Dr. Ryan’s achievements and accolades brought about by hard work, creative thinking, and a strong dose of “New York-Irish persistence.” Johnson’s remarks included,

“Thanks to Dr. Ryan, Cuyahoga County’s DD program has seen a massive expansion of waiver-supported services, and the leveraging of many thousands of federal dollars to stretch County Board services. He’s a true visionary.”

Following the presentation honoring Dr. Ryan, internationally known speaker Scott Burrows took the stage and was introduced by ViaQuest Assistant Director for Program Development, Ryan Miller. He noted that Burrows ... “Will inspire new thinking, and take you on a journey that shows you how he refused to be sidelined by a serious accident resulting in quadriplegia ... he challenges you to stretch your goals, and focus on being a part of something important.”

[For more about Scott Burrows, click on: Scott's Story](#)



"I am a very grateful recipient of many health care professionals' services."

Scott Burrows, who experienced quadriplegia following a car accident at age 19, told his story compellingly and sincerely, thanking the ViaQuest audience for the services of those in the health care and direct support professions, such as themselves, who continue to assist in his progress years later. He ultimately has been able to restore mobility to his limbs.

Last year's ViaQuest Conference Honoree was DODD Family Advocate, Peggy Martin, and previous awardees include individuals served, such as Bill Withrow, a.k.a. "Gahanna Bill."*

Service providers such as ViaQuest, who regularly honor and recognize service and commitment within their own organizations, help to elevate and encourage the careers of direct support professionals across the state. DODD salutes these efforts.

* See: *Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 21 October 13, 2010 and Pipeline Volume 5 issue 22 October 12, 2011.*



[September is FASD Awareness Month](#)

5. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Message is Clear **Awareness and Prevention - 'Not A Single Drop'**

Governor John Kasich has declared September 2012, *FASD Prevention and Awareness Month* in Ohio, and underscored the fact that annual spending related to the care of persons with FASD in Ohio is estimated at approximately \$300 million. The Ohio Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Steering Committee's event earlier this month, '*Not A Single Drop Day*,' (see [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 20](#) September 12, 2012) at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) in Columbus, was but one example of a cohesive overall effort.

FASD is an 'umbrella term' broadly describing the range of physical, behavioral, and mental effects that can result from prenatal exposure to alcohol.

The Steering Committee is an example of state government partners working together with a strong message supported by both professionals and families – to make a difference to the health of Ohio citizens, and those yet to be born.

FASD State Coordinator Melinda Norman has observed, “Due to the nature of FASD, it is everybody’s issue. The importance of getting information out and educating people cannot be overstated. The Steering Committee has been in existence since 2004, and we have had excellent membership representation, including the Family and Children First Council.” She continues,

“Our volunteer Committee members are passionate about the FASD initiative, and that’s the key to the sustainability of our efforts, and their success, long term.”

See: Governor Kasich's 'Not A Single Drop' Resolution

According to Tina Evans, Steering Committee member representing DODD’s Office of Policy and Strategic Direction, several online tools are being developed and updated to help individuals and families who have a family member with FASD, as well as offer prevention information. She notes, “Information about Ohio’s FASD initiative is included at www.NotASingleDrop.org, along with helpful contact information for parent network representatives.”

For more information and up-to-date FASD news and resources, go to www.NotASingleDrop.org; <http://www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/>; CDC information; www.ocali.org

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is a life-long disorder that causes physical and/or behavior and learning issues. It can be prevented 100% simply by not consuming any alcohol during pregnancy.

For more information, contact Statewide FASD Coordinator, Melinda Norman, at melinda.norman@ada.ohio.gov; (614) 644-8318; at DODD, Tina Evans, Tina.Evans@dodd.ohio.gov



**🌀 In the Next Issue of Pipeline, October 10 🌀
Coverage of the OPRA Fall Conference, September 25 - 26**



PostScripts

Pipeline PostScripts are organized by month, unless the item is a general announcement that is not dependent upon a date.

🌀 2012 National Forum on Disability Issues, September 28

The National Forum on Disability Issues is an historic event, and will be both an in-person and streaming-online event on September 28. It builds on the success of the first-ever forum organized by the national disability community in 2008. This year’s forum will focus on the disability positions of the 2012 Presidential candidates. Candidates for the U.S. Senate seat from Ohio also will be invited to participate. All will be given an opportunity to provide their positions directly to the disability community on a wide variety of issues. The Forum is FREE, and registration is required. For more information contact Sue Hetrick, (866) 575-8055; shetrick@abilitycenter.org

The Forum is both an in-person opportunity and an online opportunity.
To register to attend the event and to view the live webcast, go to www.nfdi.org

PAR & OSDA 'SYNERGY' Conference, October 3-5

The annual PAR & OSDA (Professionals, Advocates, Resources, & the Ohio Self Determination Association) conference is set for October 3-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 5100 Upper Metro Place, in Dublin. The conference theme will be 'Synergy.' For more information go to www.par-ohio.org, or www.ohiosda.org. Each year at this conference, several exciting awards will be presented to individuals from across the state.

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.

Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Annual Meeting October 16, Statehouse Atrium

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities (GCPD) will be held October 16, at 1:30 p.m., in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Awards to be presented at the meeting will include the GCPD Employer(s) of the Year; Advocate of the Year; Accessible Parking Enforcement; the Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award; the Karla Lortz Scholarship; and Legislator(s) of the Year. Reserve your seat by registering at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GovCouncilAnnualMeeting>
For more information, contact Donna Foster at (614) 438-1394.

SAVE THE DATE! Ohio Partners in Justice Offers Free Training October 19

Ohio Partners in Justice, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health, is providing a free training on October 19, at the Mt. Carmel West Hospital Auditorium, 793 W. State Street, in Columbus. The purpose of this training is to assist forensic monitors and County Board of DD professionals to develop a better understanding of each other's roles, rules, and responsibilities, as well as how they can better work together for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities. Registration is at 9:00 a.m., and conference hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Disability Housing Network: Housing Funding Symposium, October 24

The Disability Housing Network (DHN) has announced the 2012 Housing Funding Symposium, October 24, 8:30-4:30, at the Xenos Complex, 1340 Community Park Dr., in Columbus. Following recommendations of the 2011 Symposium attendees, DHN developed a roundtable format for this year's event, allowing people to participate in small-group training and discussions for the various development funding sources. Sessions will include information about the DODD Community Capital Program, an update on Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (HUD 811), and more.

For more information and to register: <http://www.click here to register>



Supporting housing corporations
that provide safe and affordable housing
for individuals with disabilities

DHN has received approval for CEUs in: Adult Services; Early Intervention; Investigative Agent; SSA; Supt./Asst. Supt. (Services, Programs, Supports Stream); and, County Board Members. Contact: Jacalyn Slemmer, Exec. Director, Disability Housing Network, jacalynslemmer@disabilityhousingnetwork.org.

Annual Ohio Adult Sibling ('SIBS') Conference, 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. Questions regarding the conference or Ohio SIBS may be directed to Linda Martens, at 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) Annual Winter Conference will be December 5-7 at the Hilton Hotel at Easton Town Center in Columbus. More information as the event draws nearer. Contact Kim Linkinhoker, OACB Associate Director, (614) 431-0616; 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 or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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